



Civil Service Institute | Pala | Thiruvananthapuram | South India's Premier Civil Service Coaching Institute | www.civilservicepala.com



Kerala's new language Bill is unconstitutional : Karnataka

The Hindu: 08/01/2026 - Page 5

SC in 'disagreement' with Justice Varma's claims on LS Speaker

The Hindu : 08/01/2026- Page 1

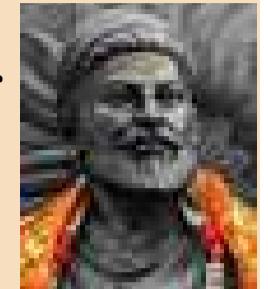


Why silver prices surged at 160% wave in 2025

The Indian Express: 08/01/2026 - Page 10

Oxford Press apologises over content on Shivaji

The Hindu : 08/01/2026- Page 10



Growth outlook for FY26 - High estimates amid tariff concerns

In the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of GDP for 2025-26, Union government has estimated 7.4% real GDP growth for the current financial year, increasing from 6.5% recorded in the previous year.

First Advance Estimates, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation forms the basis for various metrics used in Budget calculations. FAE is basically a financial forecast for the full year based on data available upto the point of its calculation. A thorough understanding of the financial situation will be provided when the Provisional Estimates for 2025-26 based on the full-year's data will be released on May 30.



Based on the current assessments, Union government projects full year growth rate at 7.4%. This implies that the growth rates for first two quarters of the present financial year Q1 and Q2 - 7.8% and 8.2% respectively, shall be balanced by a slower growth rate of around 6.8% in the second half of the year. Presently, India is facing the 50% tariff levied by U.S. on Indian imports. It is prominently affecting labour intensive industries of apparels, textiles and engineering goods. Subsequently, shrinkage is visible across consumer spending, regardless of tax rate cuts made to boost demand. Latest estimates pin their hope on the teritary sector, expecting them to reach a growth rate of 9.1% in 2025-26 from 7.2% in 2024-25. Within the teritary sector, 'Financial, real estate and professional services' as well as 'public administration, defence and other services' are expected to lead the trail, by reaching 9.9% growth in 2025-26. Comparitively, there are less hopes for trade,hotels, transport and communication category as they are to grow at a relatively slower rate of 7.5% in 2025-26.

Malayalam Bhasha Bill is unconstitutional : Karnataka



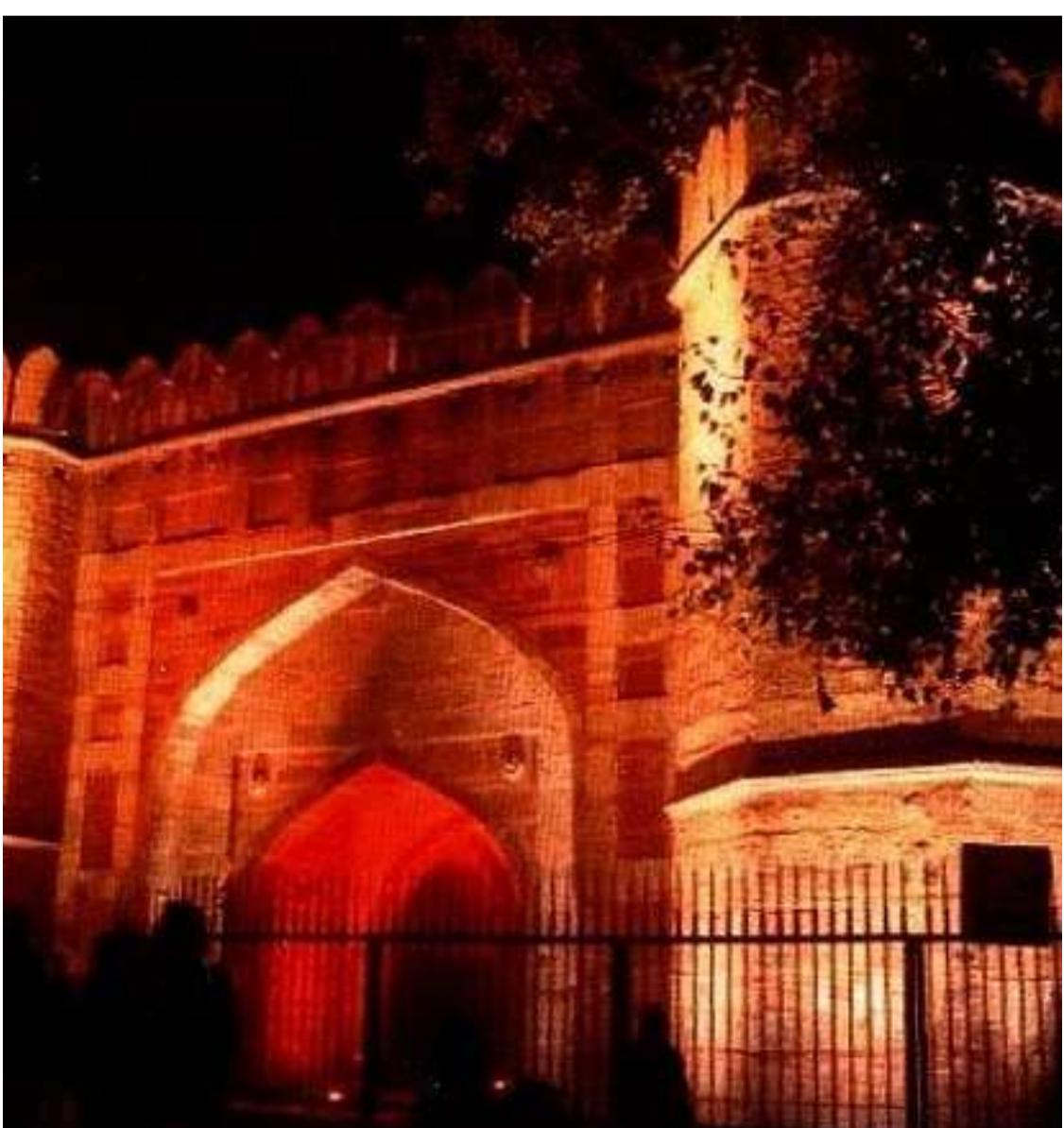
Karnataka has raised objection to Kerala's Malayalam Bhasha Bill, 2025, that makes Malayalam the compulsory first language in all schools across Kerala. In response, a delegation team from the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority met with the Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and urged him to reject the bill as a state bill received final nod from the governor. In 2017, a similar bill was rejected by the president after it was passed in the state legislature. Karnataka is asking for the Kasargod district with a majority of kannada speakers to be excluded from the purview of the bill.

Calling the bill 'unconstitutional', karnataka considers the move as a violation of linguistic minority rights of Kannada speakers in Kasaragod under Article 350A. Part XVII of the Constitution deals with the official language in Articles 343 to 351. Within this, Constitution provides that every state and a local authority in the state should provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups. The president is authorised to issue necessary directions for this purpose.

Demolitions near Turkman Gate as India marks 50 years of 1976 Massacre.

Demolition of encroachments around the Faiz-e-ilahi mosque near Turkman Gate, New Delhi resulted in a police-crowd standoff. Police officials released statement that the demolition processed were in accordance with the Delhi High court order.

The still standing Turkman Gate is one of the gates of the famous city known as Shahjahanabad, built by Mughal emperor Shahjahan when he shifted his capital from Agra to Delhi in 1683 CE. The gate is called Turkman gate because it lies near the tomb of Shah Turkman, a saint of Mughal era. The monument gained a national recognition after the massacre of 1976, during the times of emergency. The locals fought against the police as the government had directed to remove the illegal encroachments there. This year marks 50 years since the darkest chapter from its past.



Supreme Court disagrees with Justice Varma's claims on Speaker



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA



The Supreme Court made it clear that it *prima facie* disagreed with Justice Yashwant Varma's claims against Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla over constitutional procedure for impeachment. Justice Varma is currently facing impeachment motion for alleged recovery of burnt currency from his residence. He had approached the Supreme Court against L.S speaker, stating that the speaker had overstepped the limitations of the Judges Inquiry Act by unilaterally constituting a committee to check into the impeachment charges against him.

In July 2025, two separate notices of motion made by 140 L.S MPs were submitted to both the houses of the parliament. On August 12, 2025 Mr. Birla constituted a three-member inquiry committee for the purpose after the deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha rejected the notice of motion submitted in the Upper house. At present, Justice Varma is arguing that the L.S speaker cannot constitute a committee for inquiry as section 3(2) of the Judges Act clearly states that "the inquiry committee had to be constituted jointly by the Speaker and the Chairman." SC countered this argument by stating that the Judges Act did not have any specific prohibition that prevented the Speaker from constituting the inquiry panel after the rejection of the motion submitted in the Rajya Sabha.

According to Article 124(4) of the Indian constitution, grounds for removal of Supreme Court and High Court judges are provided under Proved misbehaviour or incapacity. In this regard, Justice Varma's claims and the stand taken by the apex court on this matter underscores the importance of following due process for judicial removal.

China bans dual-use goods export for Japanese military

According to the statement issued by China's Commerce Ministry, the country has banned exports of dual-use items to the Japanese military. This step comes as a retaliatory move following Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi's remarks on Taiwan. Dual-use items include goods, software or technologies that have both civil and military applications. A classic example would be the rare earth elements used for making drones and computer chips.



China has emphasised that organizations or individuals violating the ban will be held legally liable. Japanese sources see this development as an attempt aiming to fuel domestic criticism of Prime Minister Takaichi. China's increasing assertiveness over Taiwan has influenced relations with all major powers of the world, including India. Some analysts view this as part of China's broader diplomatic efforts to ensure alignment from key regional partners, including India, on the issue.

Oxford Press apologises over content on Shivaji

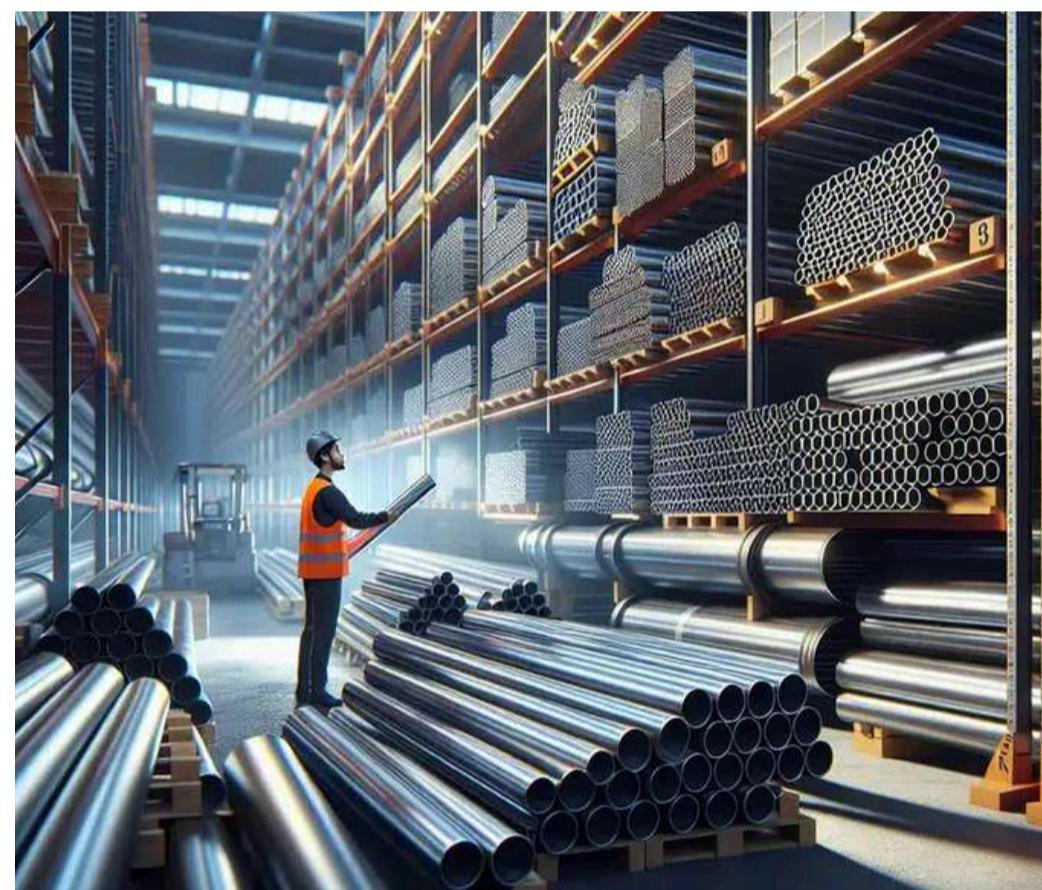


Oxford University Press (OUP) India has issued an apology to Udayanraje Bhosale, 13th descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj over certain 'unverified statements' made about the legendary Maratha king in the book "Shivaji : Hindu King in Muslim India" published in 2003. The book written by American author James Laine had triggered anger from activists over the false remarks.

History : Chhatrapati Shivaji (1627 or 1630–1680) founded the Maratha kingdom in the 17th century by challenging the Mughal dynasty. Shivaji believed he was divinely appointed to champion Hindu freedom, leading him to seize Bijapur outposts starting around 1655.

CCI probe finds breach of antitrust law by market giants

The Competition Commission of India has found market leaders Tata Steel, JSW steel, state-run SAIL and several other firms having breached antitrust law by colluding on steel selling prices over varying periods of time between 2015 and 2023. Although it was recorded on a CCI order from October 6, this is the first time that the news has been made public.



Competition Commission of India is the apex statutory body responsible of eliminating practices having adverse effect on competition in Indian market. It functions with the focus of promoting and sustain competition and thereby protecting consumers. In India, anti-competitive behavior like price collusion and unfair business practices are restricted by CCI under the Competition Act, 2002 and its amendments in 2007, 2009 and 2023. Currently, CCI officials are reviewing findings of the price collusion report. Actions, including hefty fines on the perpetrators are sure to follow.

Why silver prices surged a 160% wave in 2025



The year 2025 saw record growth in gold and silver prices, fuelled by global and domestic political and economic developments. While gold remains a trusted form of investment for households and central banks, silver holds inherent physical properties that make it a key component in the manufacture of batteries and solar panels.

Furthermore, silver has found a substantial demand base with the growing Artificial intelligence sector as the metallic element is used in smart grid infrastructure and data transmissions. Considering the current trends, A.I-based silver demand shall remain a consistent source for silver price growth in the upcoming years.

Looking at the supply side, there is considerable mismatch as supply of the metal has not matched its growing demand. In 2025, U.S. had added it to their list of 'critical minerals'. Similarly, China has also employed new rare metals export restrictions since January 1. In India, gold and silver exchange traded funds constitute 71.9% of total passive fund flow, marking their prominence as an investment option. With these developments continuing in 2026, silver prices are set to rise as well.

PRELIMS CORNER :

1) With reference to furnace oil, consider the following statements: (2021)

- 1. It is a product of oil refineries.**
- 2. Some industries use it to generate power**
- 3. Its use causes sulphur emissions into environment.**

Which of the statements given above are 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 States: (2015)

- 1. Arunachal Pradesh**
- 2. Himachal Pradesh**
- 3. Mizoram**

In which of the above States do 'Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests' occur?

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

Case Study

Lok Sabha M.P and former diplomat Mr. Shashi Tharoor opined that sending a black-and-white message that “every Bangladeshi player is unwelcome” is the wrong signal for India’s diplomatic ties.

This response comes as BCCI excluded Bangladeshi cricketer Mustafizur Rahman from IPL (Kolkata Knight Riders).

He urged that as citizen and sports lovers, people of India should maintain the playing field as a sanctuary for merit.



Prelims Corner: Explanations

1) Ans: option d

Statement 1 - It is a product of oil refineries: This statement is correct. Furnace oil, also known as industrial fuel oil, is a by-product of the crude oil refining process. It is produced during the distillation process and is primarily used as fuel in industrial applications.

Statement 2. Some industries use it to generate power: This statement is correct. Furnace oil is commonly used in industries, especially in power plants and boilers, to generate steam and power. It is often used in large-scale industrial applications where other fuels like natural gas or coal are not available or suitable.

Statement 3. Its use causes sulphur emissions into the environment. This statement is correct. Furnace oil contains sulfur, and when it is burned as fuel, it releases sulfur dioxide (SO_2) into the atmosphere. This can contribute to air pollution and acid rain, which are harmful to the environment and public health. Thus, all the statements are correct, and the correct answer is d) 1, 2 and 3.

2) Ans : Option C

In India, evergreen forests are found on the eastern and western slopes of the Western Ghats in such states as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. And also found in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



GOVERNMENT JOB VACANCIES

Prepare Your
Competitive Exams
Join!



More details



MP Apex Bank Recruitment 2026

- Post Name: Officers, Society Manager, Computer Operator
- Job Location: Madhya Pradesh
- Last Date to Apply: 05 February 2026

No. of
Vacancies
2076

Kerala PSC Recruitment 2026

- Post Name Lineman
- Salary: Rs. 26,500-Rs 60,700
- Last Date 04.02.2026

No. of
Vacancies
Various

Kerala NAM Recruitment 2026

- Job Type: Kerala Govt
- Salary: Rs. 11,025 - Rs. 14,700
- Walk In Interview 12.01.2026

No. of
Vacancies
Various

Arogya Keralam Recruitment 2026

- Job Type Kerala Govt
- Salary Rs 20,500-Rs 50,000
- Last Date 10.01.2026

No. of
Vacancies
Anticipated

Indian Army SSC (Tech) Recruitment 2026

- Organization: Indian Army
- Job Location: All India
- Last Date: 04 Feb 2026 (Women) / 05 Feb 2026 (Men)

No. of
Vacancies
381

MP Apex Bank Recruitment 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) ➔ [Download PDF](#)



Kerala PSC Recruitment 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) ➔ <https://www.keralapsc.gov.in/home-2>

Kerala NAM Recruitment 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) ➔ <https://www.nam.kerala.gov.in/images/careers/1767267604318.pdf>



Arogya Keralam Recruitment 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) ➔ https://arogyakeralam.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DPMSU-KKD-1861-CLERK_CUM_DEO-2019-DPMSU-6.pdf

Indian Army SSC (Tech) Recruitment 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) ➔ [Visit Website](#)

**"Your attitude, not your aptitude,
will determine your altitude."**

Zig Ziglar