

Daily Current Affairs

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Israel Withdraws from Seven UN Agencies

- Israel has decided to withdraw from seven UN agencies and affiliated bodies. The announcement was made by Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar, citing bias and bureaucratic inefficiency.
- The decision followed a comprehensive internal review initiated after the United States exited 66 international organisations.
- Israeli officials said the review assessed whether continued engagement with various UN bodies served national interests.
- According to the foreign ministry, several agencies were found to have repeatedly taken positions hostile to Israel or failed to function in a neutral and effective manner.
- Some disengagements were already underway before the formal announcement.
- Israel had earlier ended cooperation with the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict after the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) were placed on a UN blacklist in 2024.
- Israel has also exited the UN Conference on Trade and Development and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. According to Foreign Minister Sa'ar, both organisations have issued persistently hostile reports against Israel.



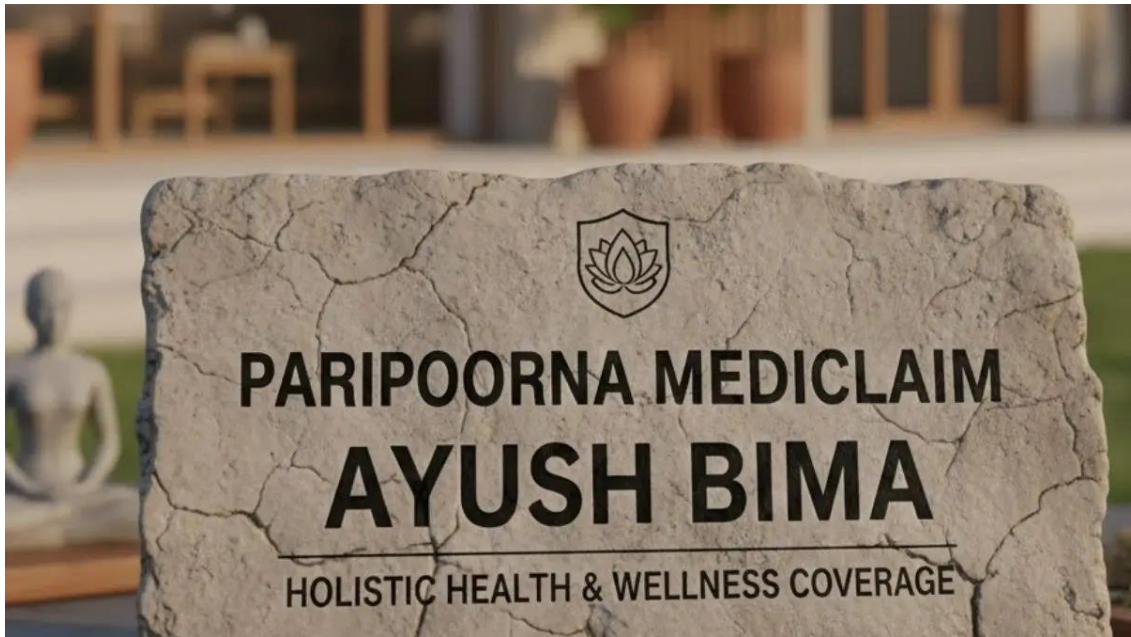
India Attracts \$51 Billion FDI

- India has received \$51 billion in FDI over the past six months, according to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, highlighting strong global confidence amid a major push for startups and manufacturing.
- Manufacturing, in particular, is gaining momentum due to innovation-led production and rising investments.
- These inflows support job creation, technology transfer, and industrial capacity expansion, reinforcing India's position as a preferred global investment destination.
- As part of its startup-focused strategy, the government will host National Startup Day on January 16, 2026.
- During the event, 75 Grand Challenges will be launched to promote innovation and problem-solving across sectors such as manufacturing, technology, and services.
- The response has been overwhelming, with over 3,000 participation requests already received.
- To recognise entrepreneurial excellence, 20 National Startup Awards will also be presented, celebrating startups that have made outstanding contributions to India's innovation ecosystem.



Finance Ministry Launches 'Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima'

- Ministry of Finance launched Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima, a new retail health insurance policy offering coverage of up to ₹20 lakh exclusively for beneficiaries of the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS).
- Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima is an optional retail health insurance policy designed to complement CGHS benefits. It provides indemnity-based in-patient hospitalisation coverage within India.
- Beneficiaries can choose a sum insured of ₹10 lakh or ₹20 lakh, making it suitable for both routine and high-cost medical needs.
- The policy introduces flexible co-payment models, allowing beneficiaries to choose between 70:30 or 50:50 cost-sharing between the insurer and the subscriber.
- In return, subscribers receive discounted premiums of 28% and 42%, respectively, compared to regular health insurance policies.
- The scheme is offered by state-run New India Assurance. Additional features include room rent caps of 1% of the sum insured for normal rooms and 2% for ICU per day.
- A cumulative bonus of 10% is provided for every claim-free year, up to a maximum of 100% of the sum insured.



Centre Appoints Rakesh Aggarwal as DG NIA

- The Union government has announced key leadership appointments in India's internal security framework. Senior IPS officer Rakesh Aggarwal has been appointed as the new Director General of the National Investigation Agency.
- The National Investigation Agency will now be headed by Rakesh Aggarwal, a 1994-batch IPS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre.
- Before this formal appointment, Aggarwal was serving as Special Director General in the agency and was also holding additional charge as DG, NIA.
- His elevation ensures continuity in leadership at India's premier counter-terrorism body, which handles sensitive cases related to terrorism, extremism, and national security.
- The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). According to an order issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Aggarwal will serve as DG, NIA till August 31, 2028, which marks the date of his superannuation.
- The National Investigation Agency was established in 2008 after the Mumbai terror attacks.
- It functions as a central agency to investigate terror-related offences across states without requiring special permission.
- The DG of NIA plays a crucial role in guiding investigations, inter-agency coordination, and strengthening India's counter-terror architecture.



Centre Appoints ITBP, BSF Chief

- Centre appointed Shatrueet Singh Kapoor as DG of ITBP, while Praveen Kumar was named the new DG of BSF, according to orders issued by the Ministry of Personnel.
- Shatrueet Singh Kapoor, a 1990-batch IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
- He is currently serving in his cadre state Haryana. Kapoor will succeed Praveen Kumar and will remain in office until October 31, 2026, the date of his superannuation.
- His appointment is expected to strengthen leadership in ITBP, which guards India's sensitive Himalayan borders.
- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police was raised in 1962 after the India-China conflict and specialises in high-altitude operations.
- The Border Security Force, established in 1965, is India's largest border guarding force. Both forces operate under the Ministry of Home Affairs and form a key pillar of India's internal security architecture.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. Why did Israel decide to withdraw from several UN agencies?

- A. Financial constraints
- B. Security threats from member nations
- C. Alleged bias and lack of neutrality
- D. Change in UN funding rules

Answer: C

Q2. The internal review that led to Israel's withdrawal was initiated after which country exited multiple international organisations?

- A. United Kingdom
- B. Russia
- C. United States
- D. France

Answer: C

Q3. Which UN office did Israel stop cooperating with after the IDF was placed on a UN blacklist in 2024?

- A. UN Human Rights Council
- B. Office of the Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict
- C. UN Peacekeeping Operations
- D. UNESCO

Answer: B

Q4. According to DPIIT, how much foreign direct investment did India receive in the last six months?

- A. \$38 billion
- B. \$45 billion
- C. \$51 billion
- D. \$60 billion

Answer: C

Q5. Which sector has gained significant momentum due to innovation-led investment in India?

- A. Agriculture
- B. Manufacturing
- C. Mining
- D. Tourism

Answer: B

Q6. National Startup Day 2026 will be observed on which date?

- A. January 12
- B. January 14
- C. January 16
- D. January 18

Answer: C

Q7. 'Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima' is exclusively designed for beneficiaries of which scheme?

- A. Ayushman Bharat
- B. Employees' State Insurance Scheme
- C. Central Government Health Scheme
- D. National Health Mission

Answer: C

Q8. What is the maximum insurance coverage offered under Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima?

- A. ₹10 lakh
- B. ₹15 lakh
- C. ₹20 lakh
- D. ₹25 lakh

Answer: C

Q9. Who has been appointed as the new Director General of the National Investigation Agency?

- A. Praveen Kumar
- B. Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor
- C. Rakesh Aggarwal
- D. Ajit Doval

Answer: C

Q10. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police was raised in which year?

- A. 1958
- B. 1962
- C. 1965
- D. 1971

Answer: B