

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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National Productivity Council 68th Foundation Day

- The National Productivity Council (NPC) will celebrate its 68th Foundation Day on 12 February 2026. The council will also observe National Productivity Week from 12 to 18 February 2026 across India.
- This year's theme is "**Clusters as Growth Engine: Maximizing Productivity in MSMEs.**" The focus is on strengthening Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through cluster-based development.
- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and NPC President Piyush Goyal has emphasized boosting MSMEs, improving manufacturing capacity, and promoting sustainable industrialisation.
- Cluster-based development helps:
 - Create economies of scale
 - Improve supply chain integration
 - Encourage technology adoption
 - Enhance export readiness
- NPC was established in 1958. It works as an autonomous society under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



National Productivity Council

Swami Dayanand Saraswati 202nd Birth Anniversary

- India marks the **202nd birth** anniversary of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, a great social reformer, Vedic scholar, and founder of the Arya Samaj. He is widely regarded as one of the key figures of India's social and cultural awakening in the 19th century.
- Born in 1824, Swami Dayanand dedicated his life to promoting Vedic knowledge, social reform, and national pride.
- Swami Dayanand Saraswati was among the first leaders to give the call for "**Swaraj**" (self-rule) in 1876, advocating the idea of "**India for Indians.**" This powerful vision of self-governance later inspired national leaders such as Bal Gangadhar Tilak, who popularised the slogan "**Swaraj is my birthright.**"
- Promoted Vedic philosophy and Sanskrit learning
- Advocated Swaraj before the freedom movement gained momentum
- Founded Arya Samaj in 1875
- Inspired later nationalist leaders
- Worked for women's empowerment and education



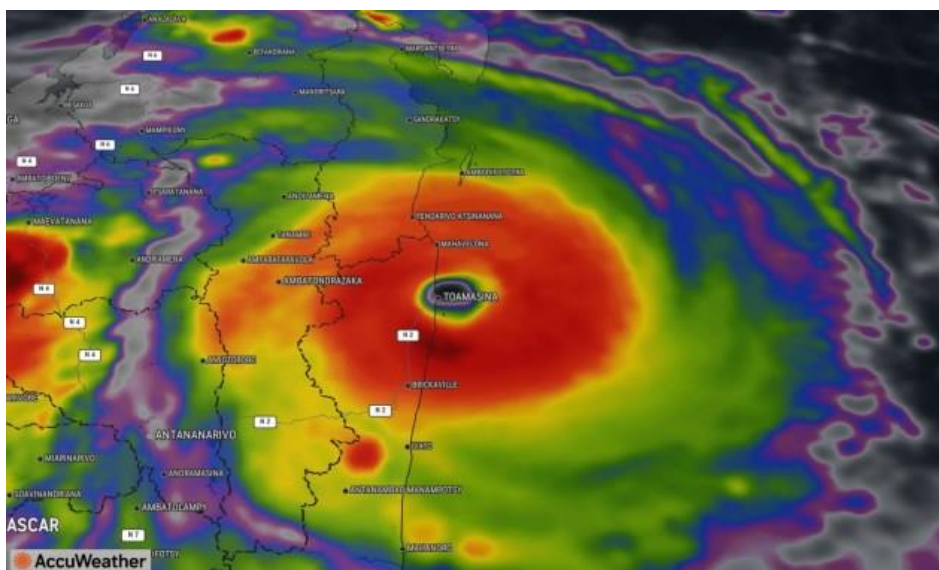
World's Largest Grain Storage Plan

- The Government of India is implementing the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector (WLGSP) to strengthen decentralized storage infrastructure at the grassroots level. The initiative aims to enhance food security, reduce post-harvest losses, and improve farmers' income.
- A 500 MT godown was constructed at Bahudeshiya Prathamik Krishi Saakh Sahakari Society Maryadit Parswada in Balaghat.
- The project was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24 February 2024.
- The godown has been hired by the Madhya Pradesh Warehousing and Logistics Corporation.
- The plan is being implemented at the PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) level by integrating various existing schemes, including:
 - Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
 - Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) Scheme
 - Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)
 - Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)



Cyclone Gezani Hits Madagascar

- Tropical Cyclone Gezani has caused widespread destruction in Madagascar after making landfall in the eastern port city of Toamasina. According to official reports, at least 20 people have lost their lives, while several others were injured as wind speeds crossed **195 km per hour**.
- Toamasina, Madagascar's main port city, suffered extensive infrastructure damage.
- Around 2,700 people were displaced
- At least 33 people were injured
- Nearly 75% of the city's infrastructure was affected
- Widespread power outages were reported



Union Budget FY 2026-27

- India's manufacturing performance strengthened with GVA growth of 7.72% in Q1 and 9.13% in Q2 in FY 2025-26
- Medium- and high-technology industries contributing 46.3% of India's manufacturing value added
- Union Budget 2026-27 focuses on scaling up manufacturing across seven strategic and frontier sectors
- Basic Customs Duty exemption granted on inputs for products ranging from seafood to microwave ovens and footwear to aircraft manufacturing.
- Union Budget 2026-27 promotes creating champion SMEs with ₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund and ₹2,000 crore top-up to Self-Reliant India Fund
- India has emerged among the fastest-growing industrial economies, demonstrating resilience amid uneven global industrial performance. While global manufacturing output expanded modestly by **0.7%** in the third quarter of calendar year 2025, India recorded manufacturing output growth of **1.3%** during the same period.
- **Role of MSMEs in Manufacturing**
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) remain central to India's industrial economy, contributing about 35.4% of manufacturing output, 48.58% of exports, and 31.1% of GDP, while employing over 32.82 crore people across 7.47 crore enterprises, making them the second-largest employer after agriculture.
- As India's manufacturing integrates further with global markets, MSMEs play a vital role in strengthening supply chains, promoting local value addition, and supporting inclusive regional development.

India's Manufacturing Growth Story in Numbers

- ⚙ Manufacturing sector registered **8.1%** growth in December 2025.
- ⚙ Manufacturing GVA grew **7.72%** in Q1 and **9.13%** in Q2 of FY26.
- ⚙ Medium-and high-technology industries now contribute **46.3%** of manufacturing value added.
- ⚙ Strong business confidence with PMI staying in expansion zone since March 2023.
- ⚙ The Index of Eight Core Industries reached **175.7**, recording **3.7%** growth in December 2025 YoY.

Source: Economic Survey 2025-26



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The National Productivity Council (NPC) celebrates its Foundation Day on:

- A) 10 February
- B) 11 February
- C) 12 February
- D) 18 February

Answer: C) 12 February

Explanation: NPC celebrates its 68th Foundation Day on 12 February 2026.

2. The theme of National Productivity Week 2026 is:

- A) Digital India for MSMEs
- B) Clusters as Growth Engine: Maximizing Productivity in MSMEs
- C) Make in India 2.0
- D) Sustainable Growth through AI

Answer: B) Clusters as Growth Engine: Maximizing Productivity in MSMEs

Explanation: The 2026 theme focuses on cluster-based development to improve MSME productivity.

3. The National Productivity Council was established in:

- A) 1947
- B) 1950
- C) 1958
- D) 1965

Answer: C) 1958

Explanation: NPC was established in 1958 as an autonomous body under DPIIT.

4. Swami Dayanand Saraswati founded Arya Samaj in:

- A) 1824
- B) 1857
- C) 1875
- D) 1876

Answer: C) 1875

Explanation: Arya Samaj was founded in 1875 to promote Vedic teachings and social reform.

5. Swami Dayanand Saraswati gave the call for “Swaraj” in:

- A) 1857
- B) 1875
- C) 1876
- D) 1885

Answer: C) 1876

Explanation: He advocated “Swaraj” and “India for Indians” in 1876.

6. The World's Largest Grain Storage Plan is being implemented primarily through:

- A) NABARD
- B) PACS
- C) FCI
- D) SEBI

Answer: B) PACS

Explanation: The plan is being implemented at the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) level.

7. The 500 MT godown under the Grain Storage Plan was constructed in:

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

Answer: C) Madhya Pradesh

Explanation: The warehouse was constructed in Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh.

8. Cyclone Gezani made landfall in which city of Madagascar?

- A) Antananarivo
- B) Mahajanga
- C) Toliara
- D) Toamasina

Answer: D) Toamasina

Explanation: The cyclone hit Toamasina, the main port city of Madagascar.

9. MSMEs contribute approximately what percentage to India's manufacturing output?

- A) 25%
- B) 35.4%
- C) 48.58%
- D) 31.1%

Answer: B) 35.4%

Explanation: MSMEs contribute about 35.4% to India's manufacturing output.

10. The Union Budget 2026–27 announced an SME Growth Fund of:

- A) ₹5,000 crore
- B) ₹8,000 crore
- C) ₹10,000 crore
- D) ₹12,000 crore

Answer: C) ₹10,000 crore

Explanation: The Budget introduced a ₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund to promote champion SMEs.