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Exams**

1. The Board of Directors of HDFC Bank has approved the appointment of Rajiv Kumar to which position?

एचडीएफसी बैंक के निदेशक मंडल ने राजीव कुमार को किस पद पर नियुक्त करने की मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Managing Director and CEO
- (b) Executive Director
- (c) Whole-Time Director and Part-Time Chairman
- (d) Additional Director (Independent Director) and Part-Time Chairman
- (e) Chief Financial Officer

Ans. d

Sol. Rajiv Kumar Appointed Part-Time Chairman of HDFC Bank

The Board of Directors of HDFC Bank has approved the appointment of Rajiv Kumar as an Additional Director (Independent Director) and Part-Time Chairman, succeeding Atanu Chakraborty.

Rajiv Kumar served as Finance Secretary of India until his retirement in 2020 and later became the 25th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, overseeing the country's electoral process.

2. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has constituted a study group under whose chairmanship to assess the challenges and opportunities before the Indian cinema industry?

भारतीय सिनेमा उद्योग के समक्ष मौजूद चुनौतियों और अवसरों का अध्ययन करने के लिए सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय ने किसकी अध्यक्षता में एक अध्ययन समूह का गठन किया है?

- (a) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (b) Aamir Khan
- (c) Rajkumar Hirani
- (d) Prasoon Joshi
- (e) Anurag Basu

Ans. d

Sol. Centre Unveils Model Cinema Regulations, Forms Prasoon Joshi Panel to Boost Film Infrastructure

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has prepared Model State Cinema Regulations and shared them with all State Governments to promote uniform rules and accelerate the development of cinema infrastructure across India.

The Ministry has constituted a study group chaired by Prasoon Joshi to examine the challenges and opportunities facing the Indian film industry and submit its report within three months.

The model regulations were drafted after consultations with stakeholders and aim to reduce regulatory differences among states, while the Centre has offered assistance to states for their effective implementation.

3. Which public sector bank has recently inaugurated its International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City, Gujarat?

हाल ही में किस सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक ने गुजरात के गिफ्ट सिटी में अपना इंटरनेशनल फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज सेंटर (IFSC) बैंकिंग यूनिट (IBU) शुरू किया है?

- (a) Punjab National Bank
- (b) Bank of Baroda
- (c) Canara Bank
- (d) State Bank of India
- (e) Central Bank of India

Ans. e

Sol. Central Bank of India Opens IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City

Central Bank of India has inaugurated its International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City to strengthen its international banking operations. The new IBU will cater to the foreign currency funding requirements of corporate clients by offering services such as foreign currency loans, trade finance, treasury operations, and risk management solutions.

The initiative is aimed at expanding the bank's global financial services portfolio and providing comprehensive international banking solutions to meet the evolving needs of businesses and corporate customers.

4. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded what year-on-year growth rate in May 2026?

सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI) के अनुसार, मई 2026 में भारत के औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP) में वर्ष-दर-वर्ष कितनी वृद्धि दर्ज की गई?

- (a) 4.2%
- (b) 4.5%
- (c) 4.9%
- (d) 5.1%
- (e) 5.8%

Ans. d

Sol. India's Industrial Output Grows 5.1% in May 2026

According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 5.1% year-on-year in May 2026, up from 4.9% in April 2026, driven mainly by improved manufacturing activity.

The strongest growth was recorded in the electricity and gas supply sector (9.9%), while manufacturing and water supply, sewerage & waste management each expanded by 5.5%. However, the mining and quarrying sector contracted by 1.6%. The Quick Estimate of IIP stood at 122.7 in May 2026, compared to 116.7 in May 2025, indicating continued growth in India's industrial production and overall economic activity.

5. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with which organization to implement the Embark India Development Fellowship?

सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI) ने एम्बार्क इंडिया डेवलपमेंट फेलोशिप के तहत किस संगठन के साथ स्टेटमेंट ऑफ इंटेंट (Sol) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) NITI Aayog Foundation
- (b) PRS Legislative Research
- (c) National Productivity Council (NPC)
- (d) Centre for Policy Research (CPR)
- (e) Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM)

Ans. e

Sol. MoSPI Signs Fellowship Agreement with GRAAM to Strengthen Policy Research
The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with the Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement to engage two fellows under the Embark India Development Fellowship.

The fellowship aims to strengthen policy research, governance innovation, data governance, and capacity-building initiatives, while providing research-driven support for MoSPI's developmental programmes.

Under the programme, the selected fellows will work on public policy, programme implementation, and governance-related projects, gaining hands-on experience in government functioning and contributing evidence-based recommendations.

6. In July 2026, which AI-powered fintech platform has recently received approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to operate as a Third Party Application Provider (TPAP)?

हाल ही में किस AI-संचालित फिनटेक प्लेटफॉर्म को नेशनल पेमेंट्स कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (NPCI) से थर्ड पार्टी एप्लिकेशन प्रोवाइडर (TPAP) के रूप में कार्य करने की मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) CRED
- (b) BharatPe
- (c) PhonePe
- (d) Navi
- (e) JUMPP

Ans. e

Sol. NPCI Approval as UPI TPAP

JUMPP, an as a Third Party Application Provider (TPAP), enabling users to access UPI payment services directly through the JUMPP app.

Founded in 2025 by Sarvjeet Singh Virk, JUMPP offers digital investment solutions, including Digital Gold, Mutual Funds (MFs), and Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs).

7. Herbalife International India Pvt. Ltd., in collaboration with IIT Madras, has launched India's first Centre of Excellence (CoE) dedicated to which technology?

हर्बालाइफ इंटरनेशनल इंडिया प्रा. लि. ने IIT मद्रास के सहयोग से भारत का पहला सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस (CoE) किस प्रौद्योगिकी के लिए स्थापित किया है?

- (a) Artificial Intelligence Technology
- (b) Nanotechnology for Drug Delivery
- (c) Renewable Energy Storage Technology
- (d) Agricultural Biotechnology
- (e) Plant Cell Fermentation Technology

Ans. e

Sol. Herbalife India & IIT Madras Launch India's First Plant Cell Fermentation Centre
Herbalife International India Pvt. Ltd. and Indian Institute of Technology Madras have jointly launched India's first Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Plant Cell Fermentation Technology to promote research in sustainable biomanufacturing and plant-based health solutions.

The Centre will support the development of herbal biomass, enriched herbal extracts, and high-value plant compounds, while bringing together researchers, students, entrepreneurs, and industry experts to translate scientific innovations into commercial applications.

The initiative aligns with the Government of India's BioE3 and Atmanirbhar Bharat programmes by promoting innovation, reducing import dependence, and encouraging environmentally sustainable manufacturing practices.

8. Which Indian institution has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with the State University of New York (SUNY) Old Westbury to strengthen academic and research collaboration?

किस भारतीय संस्थान ने स्टेट यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ न्यूयॉर्क (SUNY) ओल्ड वेस्टबरी के साथ शैक्षणिक एवं अनुसंधान सहयोग को मजबूत करने के लिए लेटर ऑफ इंटेंट (LoI) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) IIT Delhi
- (b) IIT Madras
- (c) IISc Bengaluru

(d) IIT Kanpur

(e) IIT Bombay

Ans. e

Sol. IIT Bombay Signs Lol with SUNY Old Westbury

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and State University of New York at Old Westbury signed a Letter of Intent (Lol) in New York to enhance academic and research collaboration.

The partnership aims to promote joint research and educational cooperation in engineering, Artificial Intelligence (AI), multidisciplinary research, and higher education, strengthening academic ties between India and the United States.

9. National Doctors' Day is observed every year on 1 July in India to honour the dedication, service, and invaluable contributions of doctors and healthcare professionals to society. National Doctors' Day in India is observed to commemorate the birth and death anniversary of which eminent physician and Bharat Ratna awardee?

भारत में हर साल 1 जुलाई को नेशनल डॉक्टर्स डे मनाया जाता है। यह डॉक्टरों और हेल्थकेयर प्रोफेशनल्स के समाज के प्रति समर्पण, सेवा और अमूल्य योगदान को सम्मान देने के लिए मनाया जाता है। भारत में नेशनल डॉक्टर्स डे किस मशहूर डॉक्टर और भारत रत्न से सम्मानित व्यक्ति के जन्मदिन और पुण्यतिथि के उपलक्ष्य में मनाया जाता है?

(a) Dr. Shraddha Joshi Raj

(b) Dr. Verghese Kurien

(c) Dr. M. Visvesvaraya

(d) Dr. Homi J. Bhabha

(e) Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy

Ans. e

Sol. 1 July - National Doctors' Day

National Doctors' Day is observed every year on 1 July in India to honour the dedication, service, and invaluable contributions of doctors and healthcare professionals to society.

Theme 2026 - Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers

The day commemorates the birth and death anniversaries of Bidhan Chandra Roy (1 July 1882 – 1 July 1962), a renowned physician, freedom fighter, and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, who was awarded the Bharat Ratna.

Instituted by the Government of India in 1991, the day highlights the vital role of doctors in safeguarding public health and expresses gratitude for their selfless service, compassion, and commitment to saving lives.

10. Chartered Accountants' Day (CA Day) is observed every year on 1 July to commemorate the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of

India under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949. Chartered Accountants' Day is celebrated to commemorate the establishment of which statutory body in India?

चार्टर्ड अकाउंटेंट्स डे (CA डे) हर साल 1 जुलाई को चार्टर्ड अकाउंटेंट्स एक्ट, 1949 के तहत इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ चार्टर्ड अकाउंटेंट्स ऑफ इंडिया की स्थापना की याद में मनाया जाता है। चार्टर्ड अकाउंटेंट्स डे भारत में किस कानूनी संस्था की स्थापना की याद में मनाया जाता है?

- (a) Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)
- (b) Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)
- (c) National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)
- (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (e) Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)

Ans. e

Sol. 1 July - Chartered Accountants' Day

Chartered Accountants' Day (78th CA Day) is observed every year on 1 July to commemorate the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India was established on 1 July 1949 as the statutory body responsible for regulating the Chartered Accountancy profession in India and is one of the world's largest professional accounting bodies.

11. National Postal Workers' Day is observed every year on 1 July to recognise and appreciate the dedication and hard work of postal employees who ensure the timely delivery of letters, parcels, and essential services, even under challenging conditions. National Postal Workers' Day was first established in which year?

नेशनल पोस्टल वर्कर्स डे हर साल 1 जुलाई को मनाया जाता है। इसका मकसद पोस्टल कर्मचारियों की लगन और कड़ी मेहनत को पहचान देना और उनकी तारीफ करना है, जो मुश्किल हालात में भी चिट्ठियों, पार्सल और ज़रूरी सेवाओं की समय पर डिलीवरी पक्का करते हैं। नेशनल पोस्टल वर्कर्स डे सबसे पहले किस साल शुरू किया गया था?

- (a) 1991
- (b) 1995
- (c) 1997
- (d) 2000
- (e) 2005

Ans. c

Sol. 1 July - National Postal Workers' Day

National Postal Workers' Day is observed every year on 1 July to recognise and appreciate the dedication and hard work of postal employees who ensure the timely delivery of letters, parcels, and essential services, even under challenging conditions.

The observance was first established in 1997 by postal carriers in Seattle, Washington (USA) to honour the invaluable contribution of postal workers and encourage public appreciation for their service.

12. DRiV has appointed which Indian cricket legend as its National Brand Ambassador?

DRiV ने किस भारतीय क्रिकेट दिग्गज को अपना राष्ट्रीय ब्रांड एंबेसडर नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) Virat Kohli
- (b) Rohit Sharma
- (c) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- (d) KL Rahul
- (e) Jasprit Bumrah

Ans. c

Sol. MS Dhoni Becomes National Brand Ambassador of DRiV

DRiV, the dedicated aftermarket business division of Tenneco and a leading global automotive parts manufacturer, has appointed Mahendra Singh Dhoni (MS Dhoni) as its National Brand Ambassador.

This is DRiV's first-ever association with a celebrity brand ambassador, highlighting the company's strategic focus on strengthening its presence in the Indian automotive aftermarket.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- Shreyanka Patil - KLF Nirmal, a coconut hair oil brand
- Shah Rukh Khan - Visa (for 'Infinitely More' campaign)
- Shreyas Iyer - F1 programme in India by Mumbai Falcons Racing Limited.
- Carlos Alcaraz - Infosys
- Smriti Mandhana - Agilitas Sports for One8 Brand
- Blanka Vlašić - World 10K Bengaluru 2026

13. State Bank of India (SBI) recently raised \$300 million by issuing senior unsecured floating rate notes with what maturity period?

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (SBI) ने हाल ही में 300 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर के सीनियर अनसिक्योर्ड फ्लोटिंग रेट नोट्स जारी किए। इन नोट्स की परिपक्वता (Maturity) अवधि कितनी है?

- (a) 1 Year
- (b) 2 Years
- (c) 3 Years
- (d) 5 Years
- (e) 10 Years

Ans. c

Sol. SBI Raises \$300 Million Through 3-Year Floating Rate Notes

State Bank of India (SBI) has successfully raised \$300 million by issuing 3-year senior unsecured floating rate notes to attract foreign currency investments.

The notes carry a coupon rate of SOFR + 100 basis points (bps) per annum, with interest payable quarterly in arrears, and have been issued under Regulation-S.

The bonds will be issued through SBI's London branch on July 6, supporting higher-interest Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] deposits from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).

14. Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Bhupender Yadav, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, laid the foundation stone for the Amber-Ascent-K Circuits manufacturing plant in which city of Uttar Pradesh?

केंद्रीय मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव और भूपेंद्र यादव तथा उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने एम्बर-असेंट-के सर्किट्स मैन्युफैक्चरिंग प्लांट की आधारशिला उत्तर प्रदेश के किस शहर में रखी?

- (a) Noida
- (b) Ghaziabad
- (c) Kanpur
- (d) Jewar
- (e) Lucknow

Ans. d

Sol. Foundation Stone Laid for Amber-Ascent-K Circuits Manufacturing Plant in Jewar
Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Bhupender Yadav, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, laid the foundation stone for the Amber-Ascent-K Circuits manufacturing plant in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh.

The new manufacturing facility is expected to strengthen India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem and support the Make in India initiative by boosting domestic production.

Speaking at the event, Bhupender Yadav said that India has emerged as a trusted global manufacturing hub, driven by political stability, transparent policies, skilled youth, and world-class infrastructure.

15. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched the "Go East" initiative to boost industrial investment in Odisha and eastern India through a dedicated investment facilitation mechanism. The "Go East" initiative announced by the Odisha Government stands for:

ओडिशा के मुख्यमंत्री मोहन चरण माझी ने एक खास इन्वेस्टमेंट सुविधा सिस्टम के ज़रिए ओडिशा और पूर्वी भारत में इंडस्ट्रियल इन्वेस्टमेंट को बढ़ावा देने के लिए "गो ईस्ट" पहल शुरू की। ओडिशा सरकार द्वारा घोषित "गो ईस्ट" पहल का मतलब है:

- (a) Government of Odisha – Economic and Sustainable Transformation
- (b) Government of Odisha – Eastern Investment Accelerator and Special Task Force
- (c) Government of Odisha – Enterprise and Industrial Scheme for Trade
- (d) Growth of Eastern States through Technology
- (e) Government of Odisha – Export and Investment Strategy Team

Ans. b

Sol. Go East Initiative: Odisha Launches Investment Acceleration Programme
Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched the "Go East" initiative to boost industrial investment in Odisha and eastern India through a dedicated investment facilitation mechanism.

The initiative establishes a high-level Special Task Force, a "Go East Cell" within IPICOL, and a digital "Go Swift" platform for real-time monitoring of investment approvals and project implementation.

The proposed amendments to the Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR)-2022 classify 15 economically backward districts as Thrust Sector areas for non-mineral-based industries, providing them with priority incentives and faster industrial approvals.

About Odisha

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** – Mohan Charan Majhi (replace Naveen Patnaik)
- **Deputy CM** - KV Singhdeo and Pravati Parida
- **Governor** – Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati

16. In the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, an agreement for the construction and implementation of the Yamuna Water Project was signed in New Delhi between which two state governments?

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह की उपस्थिति में नई दिल्ली में यमुना जल परियोजना के निर्माण एवं क्रियान्वयन के लिए किन दो राज्य सरकारों के बीच समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए?

- (a) Punjab and Haryana
- (b) Haryana and Rajasthan
- (c) Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan
- (d) Haryana and Delhi
- (e) Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

Ans. b

Sol. Haryana–Rajasthan Sign Yamuna Water Project Agreement

In the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan signed the Yamuna Water Project Agreement in New Delhi, resolving a nearly 30-year-old inter-state water dispute through mutual dialogue.

Under the agreement, around 580 Million Cubic Meters (MCM) of Yamuna water will be supplied to Rajasthan through three underground pipelines from the Hathnikund Barrage via the Western Yamuna Canal system during the monsoon season. The project will provide long-term drinking water security to water-scarce districts of Rajasthan, including Churu, Sikar, and Jhunjhunu, while also benefiting people in Haryana.

17. Gujarat Police signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which organisation to improve public safety, traffic management, and urban mobility?
गुजरात पुलिस ने सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा, यातायात प्रबंधन और शहरी गतिशीलता को बेहतर बनाने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ समझौता (MoU) किया है?

- (a) Ola Cabs
- (b) Uber India
- (c) Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited (Bharat Taxi)
- (d) Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC)
- (e) Indian Railways

Ans. c

Sol. Gujarat Police Signs MoU with Bharat Taxi to Enhance Public Safety and Urban Mobility

Gujarat Police signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Taxi (Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited) to strengthen public safety, traffic management, and urban mobility across the state.

The MoU was signed during the launch of Bharat Taxi in Gandhinagar in the presence of Amit Shah, highlighting collaboration between law enforcement and the cooperative transport sector.

18. Which prestigious international award, popularly known as the "Green Oscar", was recently conferred on Indian conservationists Parveen Shaikh and Barkha Subba?

भारतीय संरक्षणवादियों परवीन शेख और बरखा सुब्बा को हाल ही में कौन-सा प्रतिष्ठित अंतरराष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार प्रदान किया गया, जिसे लोकप्रिय रूप से "ग्रीन ऑस्कर" कहा जाता है?

- (a) Goldman Environmental Prize
- (b) Whitley Award
- (c) Ramon Magsaysay Award
- (d) UNEP Champions of the Earth Award
- (e) Blue Planet Prize

Ans. b

Sol. Parveen Shaikh and Barkha Subba Win Prestigious 'Green Oscar' (Whitley Award) for Wildlife Conservation

Indian conservationists Parveen Shaikh and Barkha Subba were among six global winners of the prestigious Whitley Award, popularly known as the "Green Oscar", for their outstanding community-based wildlife conservation efforts.

Parveen Shaikh received the award for protecting the endangered Indian Skimmer through the "Guardians of the Skimmer" initiative, launched with the Bombay Natural History Society along the Chambal River, where local volunteers safeguard bird nesting sites.

The initiative has delivered significant conservation results, increasing the local Indian Skimmer population from around 400 birds in 2017 to nearly 1,000 birds, while substantially improving nest survival rates by reducing threats such as sand mining, pollution, predators, and human disturbance.

Other Winners are Moreangels Mbizah (Zimbabwe); Issah Seidu (Ghana); Marina Kameni (Cameroon); Paola Sangolqui (Ecuador) and Farwiza Farhan (Whitley Gold Award).

Recent Awards

- **Highest honour of World Meteorological Organization, IMO Prize - Florence Rabier (France)**
- **Seychelles' Highest Environmental Honour – 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' - PM Narendra Modi**
- **Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI) Medal - Viswanathan Anand**
- **Wolf Prize in Physics - Jainendra K. Jain**
- **Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026 - Sudarsan Pattnaik (first Indian to receive the prestigious international sand art award)**

19. Mission ShakthiSAT, recently launched with the support of several Indian institutions, is recognised as the world's first:

हाल ही में कई भारतीय संस्थानों के सहयोग से शुरू किया गया मिशन शक्तिसैट (ShakthiSAT) विश्व का पहला किस प्रकार का मिशन है?

- (a) All-women Mars exploration mission
- (b) All-girls international lunar mission
- (c) Student-led Earth observation mission
- (d) Private commercial lunar mission
- (e) International space station mission

Ans. b

Sol. Mission ShakthiSAT: World's First All-Girls International Lunar Mission

Gautam Buddha University, the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA), Space Kidz India, and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation

Centre have partnered to support Mission ShakthiSAT, the world's first all-girls international lunar mission.

Mission ShakthiSAT aims to promote space technology, STEM education, and women-led leadership by encouraging greater participation of girls in the global space sector.

The mission seeks to empower 12,000 girls from 108 countries through hands-on training in satellite development, space technology, and scientific research, fostering the next generation of women space leaders.

20. The Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Akshay, recently commissioned into the Bharatiya Tatrakshak Fleet, belongs to which category of vessel?

हाल ही में भारतीय तटरक्षक बेड़े में शामिल किया गया ICGS Akshay किस श्रेणी का पोत है?

- (a) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)
- (b) Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)
- (c) Landing Craft Utility (LCU)
- (d) Missile Corvette
- (e) Survey Vessel

Ans. b

Sol. ICGS Akshay Commissioned into Indian Coast Guard Fleet

The Indian Coast Guard commissioned the new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICGS Akshay into the Bharatiya Tatrakshak Fleet at Goa, strengthening India's maritime security capabilities.

ICGS Akshay is equipped to perform a wide range of missions, including maritime law enforcement, coastal security, search and rescue (SAR), marine environmental protection, and assistance to mariners in distress, ensuring safe, secure, and clean seas.

Designed and built by Goa Shipyard Limited, the vessel marks another milestone in indigenous shipbuilding and reflects the Government's commitment to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

21. The Indian women's cricket team recently became one of the first teams to qualify for which major international sporting event?

भारतीय महिला क्रिकेट टीम हाल ही में किस प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय खेल आयोजन के लिए क्वालीफाई करने वाली पहली टीमों में शामिल हुई है?

- (a) ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2028
- (b) Commonwealth Games 2028
- (c) Asian Games 2026
- (d) Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games
- (e) ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2029

Ans. d**Sol.** Indian Women's Cricket Team Qualifies for LA 2028 Olympics

The Indian women's cricket team has secured qualification for the 2028 Summer Olympics, becoming one of the first teams to book a place in the women's T20 cricket competition alongside Australia, Great Britain, and South Africa.

The women's qualification was decided through the ongoing Women's T20 World Cup, where the best-performing eligible team from each continent earned a direct Olympic berth, unlike the men's event, which is based on ICC T20 rankings.

For the men's event, India must finish as Asia's highest-ranked eligible team in the ICC Men's T20 rankings by the end of the year to secure direct qualification. Cricket will return to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles 2028 after a 128-year gap, with six teams each competing in the men's and women's T20 tournaments.

22. State Bank of India (SBI) celebrated which Foundation Day on 1 July 2026?**स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (SBI) ने 1 जुलाई 2026 को अपना कौन-सा स्थापना दिवस मनाया?**

- (a) 68th Foundation Day
- (b) 69th Foundation Day
- (c) 70th Foundation Day
- (d) 71st Foundation Day
- (e) 72nd Foundation Day

Ans. d**Sol.** State Bank of India Celebrates 71st Foundation Day

State Bank of India celebrated its 71st Foundation Day on 1 July, marking over seven decades of service as India's largest public sector bank.

Established on 1 July 1955, SBI was formed through the nationalisation of the Imperial Bank of India under the State Bank of India Act, 1955.

SBI plays a vital role in India's banking sector by providing retail banking, corporate banking, digital banking, financial inclusion, and international banking services across an extensive domestic and global network.

23. Which Indian institution has partnered with Sorbonne University, France, to launch a joint Master's programme in Biological Science and a joint PhD programme?**फ्रांस के Sorbonne University के साथ संयुक्त मास्टर एवं पीएचडी कार्यक्रम शुरू करने के लिए किस भारतीय संस्थान ने साझेदारी की है?**

- (a) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
- (b) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- (c) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)
- (d) Jawaharlal Nehru University

(e) University of Delhi**Ans. b****Sol.** IIT Delhi and Sorbonne University Launch Joint Master's & PhD Programmes

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and Sorbonne University have launched a joint Master's programme in Biological Science and a joint PhD programme to strengthen academic collaboration, advanced research, innovation, and student mobility. A high-level IIT Delhi delegation led by Director Prof. Banerjee visited Sorbonne University to deepen bilateral cooperation and explore collaborations in Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, Robotics, Material Science, Informatics, and other interdisciplinary fields.

The partnership is anchored by the France-Indian Integrated Health Campus, which promotes interdisciplinary research by bringing together experts in engineering, medicine, life sciences, social sciences, and digital technologies to develop innovative solutions for modern healthcare challenges.

24. The Union Cabinet recently approved an additional investment of ₹30,000 crore in which organisation to support the creation of new infrastructure-focused funds?

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने नए अवसंरचना-केंद्रित फंडों के निर्माण के लिए हाल ही में किस संगठन में ₹30,000 करोड़ के अतिरिक्त निवेश को मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)
- (b) National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)
- (c) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- (d) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- (e) Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC)

Ans. b**Sol.** Union Cabinet Approves ₹30,000 Crore Additional Investment in NIIF

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved an additional ₹30,000 crore investment in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund, increasing the Government of India's total commitment to ₹60,000 crore.

The additional investment will support the launch of NIIF Infrastructure Fund II, a successor to its flagship infrastructure fund, with a target corpus of around ₹30,000 crore for investments in transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, urban infrastructure, and e-mobility.

The fresh capital infusion will enable NIIF to raise larger funds, attract global investors, and expand new bilateral and strategic fund initiatives, strengthening long-term infrastructure financing and economic growth in India.

25. Who assumed charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) of the Indian Air Force on 1 July 2026?

1 जुलाई 2026 को भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) के Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) का पदभार किसने ग्रहण किया?

- (a) Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari
- (b) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
- (c) Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh
- (d) Air Marshal S. P. Dharkar
- (e) Air Marshal Tejinder Singh

Ans. b

Sol. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Takes Charge as Vice Chief of the Air Staff

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit assumed charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) of the Indian Air Force on 1 July 2026. He was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on 6 December 1986.

During his nearly four-decade-long career, he has participated in major operations such as Operation Safed Sagar, Operation Rakshak, Cope India, and Operation Sindoor, and has been honoured with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (2026), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (2023), Vishisht Seva Medal (2011), and Vayu Sena Medal (2006) for his distinguished service.

Recent Appointments in Defence Sector

- **Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB)** - Mahesh Dixit (replcae Tapan Kumar Deka)
- **Chief of the Army Staff** - Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth (replcace General Upendra Dwivedi)
- **Additional DG of Military Nursing Service** - Maj Gen Rachel Thomas (Maj Gen Lissamma PV)
- **20th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command** - Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty
- **48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)** - Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar

26. World UFO Day is observed every year on which date?

विश्व UFO दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 30 June
- (b) 1 July
- (c) 2 July
- (d) 5 July
- (e) 3 July

Ans. c

Sol. 2 July - World UFO Day

World UFO Day is observed annually on 2 July to raise awareness about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), encourage scientific inquiry into unexplained aerial phenomena, and promote discussions on the possibility of extraterrestrial life. The date commemorates the Roswell incident of 2 July 1947, when an alleged unidentified flying object reportedly crashed near Roswell, making it one of the most famous UFO incidents in history.

27. National Anisette Day is celebrated every year on which date to recognize the history and cultural significance of the traditional anise-flavoured beverage?

पारंपरिक सौंफ-स्वाद वाले पेय के इतिहास और सांस्कृतिक महत्व को सम्मान देने के लिए नेशनल एनीसेट डे प्रत्येक वर्ष किस तिथि को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 30 June
- (b) 1 July
- (c) 2 July
- (d) 4 July
- (e) 10 July

Ans. c

Sol. 2 July - National Anisette Day

National Anisette Day is observed annually on 2 July to celebrate Anisette, a sweet, anise-flavoured liqueur traditionally enjoyed in several European and Mediterranean countries.

Anisette is made by infusing anise seeds or star anise with alcohol and sugar, giving it a distinctive liquorice-like flavour. It is commonly served as an after-dinner digestif or used in cocktails and desserts.

28. The Durand Cup will be held from 25 July to 23 August 2026 across Kolkata, Ranchi, Imphal, Shillong, and Guwahati, with Kolkata serving as the tournament's main hub. Which of the following teams is among the debutants in the 135th Durand Cup?

डूरंड कप 25 जुलाई से 23 अगस्त 2026 तक कोलकाता, रांची, इंपाल, शिलांग और गुवाहाटी में होगा, जिसमें कोलकाता टूर्नामेंट का मेन हब होगा। इनमें से कौन सी टीम 135वें डूरंड कप में पहली बार हिस्सा ले रही है?

- (a) Mohun Bagan Super Giant
- (b) Bengaluru FC
- (c) Defenders FC of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces
- (d) East Bengal FC
- (e) FC Goa

Ans. c

Sol. 135th Durand Cup to Begin on 25 July 2026

The Durand Cup will be held from 25 July to 23 August 2026 across Kolkata, Ranchi, Imphal, Shillong, and Guwahati, with Kolkata serving as the tournament's main hub. For the first time, Ranchi will host Durand Cup matches, with the Birsā Munda Stadium staging league matches and one quarter-final, marking the city's debut as a tournament venue.

The teams include Indian Super League clubs, I-League sides, Services teams, emerging domestic outfits and overseas teams. Defenders FC of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and Meghalaya Premier League champions Nongkseh Sports, Social and Cultural Club are among the debutants.

29. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL)?

हिंदुस्तान कॉपर लिमिटेड (HCL) के नए चेयरमैन और मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर (CMD) के तौर पर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (b) Amitava Mukherjee
- (c) Pramod Agrawal
- (d) Amarendu Prakash
- (e) Anupam Misra

Ans. e

Sol. Anupam Misra Takes Charge as CMD of Hindustan Copper Limited

Anupam Misra has assumed charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), succeeding Sanjiv Kumar Singh.

Sanjiv Kumar Singh retired (superannuated) on June 30, after which Anupam Misra officially took over the leadership of HCL.

30. Which body approved the one-year extension of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's tenure?

किस संस्था ने विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिसरी के कार्यकाल को एक साल बढ़ाने की मंजूरी दी?

- (a) Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
- (b) Election Commission of India (ECI)
- (c) Cabinet Secretariat
- (d) Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
- (e) Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)

Ans. e

Sol. Government Extends Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's Tenure by One Year

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a one-year extension in the tenure of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

The extended tenure will be effective from 15 July 2026 to 14 July 2027, ensuring continuity in India's diplomatic leadership.

31. Who has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with effect from 1 July 2026?

1 जुलाई 2026 से भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) के कार्यकारी निदेशक के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Ishika Bansal
- (b) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (c) T. Rabi Sankar
- (d) Rajesh Bansal
- (e) Ravi Shankar

Ans. e

Sol. RBI Appoints Ravi Shankar as Executive Director Effective July 1, 2026

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Ravi Shankar as its Executive Director with effect from 1 July 2026.

Before his appointment, Ravi Shankar served as Adviser-in-Charge of the Department of Statistics and Information Management (DSIM) and will continue to oversee the department as Executive Director.

Recent Appointments in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **Additional Director (Independent Director) and Part-Time Chairman** – Former CEC Rajiv Kumar (replace Atanu Chakraborty)
- **CMD of General Insurance Corporation of India** - Hitesh Rameshchandra
- **Director of Central Board of RBI** - Sanjay Lohiya
- **Deputy Governor of RBI** - Swaminathan Janakiraman (for 2 years)

32. To ensure that no worker receives wages below the prescribed minimum, what interim base wage rate has been introduced under the VB-G RAM G scheme?

यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि किसी भी कर्मचारी को तय न्यूनतम वेतन से कम वेतन न मिले, VB-G RAM G योजना के तहत कौन सी अंतरिम आधार वेतन दर लागू की गई है?

- (a) ₹500 per day
- (b) ₹400 per day
- (c) ₹290 per day
- (d) ₹450 per day
- (e) ₹300 per day

Ans. e

Sol. Centre notifies minimum wage ₹300/day under VB-G RAM G

The Central Government has notified revised wage rates under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-G RAM G), which came into force on 1 July 2026, replacing MGNREGA.

The national average daily wage has been increased to ₹327.4 from ₹298.8 under the repealed MGNREGA, reflecting an average hike of over 10%.

A new interim base wage rate of ₹300 per day has been introduced, ensuring that no notified wage under the scheme falls below this level.

States such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh have recorded wage increases ranging between 15% and 25% under the revised rates.

33. India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in June 2026 increased to approximately how much?

जून 2026 में भारत का ग्रॉस गुड्स एंड सर्विसेज़ टैक्स (GST) कलेक्शन बढ़कर लगभग कितना हो गया?

- (a) ₹1.71 lakh crore
- (b) ₹1.80 lakh crore
- (c) ₹1.85 lakh crore
- (d) ₹2.00 lakh crore
- (e) ₹1.95 lakh crore

Ans. e

Sol. India's Gross GST Collection Rises 13.9% to ₹1.95 Lakh Crore in June 2026

India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue increased by 13.9% year-on-year to ₹1.95 lakh crore (₹1,94,812 crore) in June 2026, compared to ₹1.71 lakh crore in June 2025.

GST collections from domestic transactions rose 6.5% to ₹1,34,774 crore, while GST revenue from imports surged 34.6% to ₹60,038 crore, reflecting strong domestic demand and external trade.

GST Collection of Previous Months

- January 2026 – ₹1.93 lakh crore
- February 2026 - ₹1.83 Lakh Crore
- March 2026 – ₹2 lakh crore
- April 2026 - ₹2.42 lakh crore
- May 2026 - ₹1.94 lakh crore
- June 2026 – ₹1.95 lakh crore

34. What was the total value of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in June 2026, according to NPCI?

NPCI के अनुसार, जून 2026 में यूनिफाइड पेमेंट्स इंटरफेस (UPI) ट्रांज़ैक्शन की कुल वैल्यू क्या थी?

- (a) ₹24.03 lakh crore
- (b) ₹26.75 lakh crore
- (c) ₹28.90 lakh crore
- (d) ₹29.90 lakh crore
- (e) ₹26.90 lakh crore

Ans. c

Sol. UPI Transactions Moderate to ₹28.9 Lakh Crore in June 2026, Register 20% Annual Growth

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions were valued at ₹28.9 lakh crore in June 2026, slightly lower than the record ₹29.9 lakh crore recorded in May 2026.

In volume terms, UPI processed 22.72 billion transactions in June 2026, compared to 23.2 billion transactions in the previous month.

Despite the monthly moderation, the value of UPI transactions recorded a 20% year-on-year growth, rising from ₹24.03 lakh crore in June 2025 to ₹28.9 lakh crore in June 2026.

35. Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, and Indian Bank—paid a combined dividend of ₹9,439 crore to the Government of India for FY 2025–26. Which public sector bank paid the highest dividend among the four banks for FY 2025–26?

पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, केनरा बैंक, बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा और इंडियन बैंक ने मिलकर वित्त वर्ष 2025–26 के लिए भारत सरकार को ₹9,439 करोड़ का डिविडेंड दिया। वित्त वर्ष 2025–26 के लिए इन चार बैंकों में से किस पब्लिक सेक्टर बैंक ने सबसे ज़्यादा डिविडेंड दिया?

- (a) Punjab National Bank (PNB)
- (b) Canara Bank
- (c) Indian Bank
- (d) Bank of Baroda (BoB)
- (e) All gave equal dividends

Ans. d

Sol. Four Public Sector Banks Pay ₹9,439 Crore Dividend to Government for FY 2025–26

Four leading public sector banks—Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, and Indian Bank—paid a combined dividend of ₹9,439 crore to the Government of India for FY 2025–26.

The dividend cheques were presented to Nirmala Sitharaman. Among the four banks, Bank of Baroda paid the highest dividend of ₹2,811 crore, followed by Punjab National Bank (₹2,416 crore) and Canara Bank (₹2,397 crore).

Indian Bank also contributed its dividend for FY 2025–26, reflecting the strong financial performance of India's public sector banks.

36. Which regulatory body has granted the Certificate of Registration to Prudential HCL Health Insurance to operate in India?

भारत में काम करने के लिए प्रूडेंशियल HCL हेल्थ इंश्योरेंस को किस रेगुलेटरी बॉडी ने रजिस्ट्रेशन का सर्टिफिकेट दिया है?

- (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (c) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- (d) Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- (e) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

Ans. e

Sol. IRDAI Grants Registration to Prudential HCL Health Insurance as Standalone Health Insurer

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has granted a Certificate of Registration to Prudential HCL Health Insurance to operate as a standalone health insurance company in India.

Prudential HCL Health Insurance is a joint venture in which Prudential Plc holds a 70% stake, while the HCL Group holds the remaining 30% stake through Vama Sundari Investments.

37. Which regulatory authority has proposed the 'One KYC' framework to simplify customer onboarding and KYC compliance in GIFT IFSC?

GIFT IFSC में कस्टमर ऑनबोर्डिंग और KYC कंप्लायंस को आसान बनाने के लिए किस रेगुलेटरी अथॉरिटी ने 'वन KYC' फ्रेमवर्क का प्रस्ताव दिया है?

- (a) International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- (d) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Ans. a

Sol. IFSCA Proposes 'One KYC' Framework for GIFT IFSC to Simplify Customer Onboarding

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has proposed a 'One KYC' framework for GIFT IFSC to simplify and streamline customer onboarding.

Under the new framework, customers will need to complete the Know Your Customer (KYC) process only once, allowing the same verified KYC records to be used across multiple IFSCA-regulated financial entities.

From 1 September 2026, all new customers in GIFT IFSC must be onboarded through the KYC Registration Agencies (KRA) system, while the KYC records of all existing active customers must be uploaded to the KRA by 30 October 2026.

38. HiWiPay has received in-principle approval from which regulatory authority to establish a PSP subsidiary at GIFT City?

HiWiPay को GIFT सिटी में PSP सब्सिडियरी स्थापित करने के लिए किस रेगुलेटरी अथॉरिटी से सैद्धांतिक मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- (d) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- (e) International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)

Ans. e

Sol. HiWiPay Receives IFSCA In-Principle Approval to Set Up PSP Subsidiary at GIFT City

HiWiPay has received in-principle approval from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to expand its operations in India's international financial hub.

The approval allows HiWiPay to establish a wholly owned Payment Services Provider (PSP) subsidiary at GIFT City (GIFT IFSC).

39. Recently, Ravi Agrawal has been re-appointed on a contract basis as the Chairman of which statutory body responsible for administering direct taxes in India?

हाल ही में, रवि अग्रवाल को भारत में प्रत्यक्ष करों के प्रशासन के लिए जिम्मेदार किस वैधानिक निकाय के अध्यक्ष के रूप में संविदा (Contract) के आधार पर पुनर्नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
- (b) Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
- (c) National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)
- (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Ans. b

Sol. Ravi Agrawal Re-Appointed as CBDT Chairman

Ravi Agrawal has been re-appointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on a contract basis for six months, effective 3 July 2026 to 31 December 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

The re-appointment has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), ensuring continuity in the leadership of the CBDT, the apex body responsible for direct tax administration in India.

40. Recently, the Government of India has appointed Somnath Ghosh as the next High Commissioner of India to which country?

हाल ही में, भारत सरकार ने सोमनाथ घोष को किस देश में भारत का अगला उच्चायुक्त (High Commissioner) नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) Singapore
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) Thailand
- (d) Malaysia
- (e) Vietnam

Ans. d

Sol. Somnath Ghosh Appointed as India's Next High Commissioner to Malaysia
The Government of India has appointed Somnath Ghosh, a 1997-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, as the next High Commissioner of India to Malaysia. Currently serving as the Consul General of India in Chicago, Somnath Ghosh is expected to assume his new diplomatic assignment in Malaysia shortly, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

About Malaysia

- **Capital** - Kuala Lumpur
- **Currency** – Ringgit
- **Prime Minister** - Anwar Ibrahim

41. Recently, HDFC Bank launched its in-house generative AI platform with which name?

हाल ही में, HDFC Bank ने अपने इन-हाउस जनरेटिव AI प्लेटफॉर्म को किस नाम से लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Astra
- (b) Shraddha
- (c) FinGPT
- (d) Neev
- (e) Sarthi

Ans. d

Sol. HDFC Bank Launches In-House AI Platform 'Neev' and Real-Time Fraud Detection System

HDFC Bank has launched its in-house generative AI platform, Neev, along with a custom real-time fraud detection system to enhance operational efficiency, strengthen cybersecurity, and improve fraud prevention.

By developing these technologies internally, HDFC Bank aims to reduce dependence on third-party vendors while tackling the growing threat of digital banking fraud and accelerating its technology-led transformation.

42. Recently, how many traditional products of Himachal Pradesh were granted the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag?

हाल ही में, हिमाचल प्रदेश के कितने पारंपरिक उत्पादों को भौगोलिक संकेतक (GI) टैग प्रदान किया गया है?

- (a) Five
- (b) Six
- (c) Seven
- (d) Eight
- (e) Ten

Ans. d

Sol. Eight Traditional Products of Himachal Pradesh Receive GI Tag

Eight traditional products of Himachal Pradesh have been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag, recognising their unique origin, authenticity, and cultural heritage. With the latest additions, the total number of GI-tagged products from Himachal Pradesh has increased to 17, strengthening the state's identity in traditional crafts and agricultural products.

The newly GI-tagged products are: Seabuckthorn (Spiti), Salooni Safed Makka, Chamba Metal Art, Sirmauri Loiya, Kinnauri Topi, Sepuvadi, Kinnauri Apple, and Kinnauri Jewellery.

43. Recently, which state government launched the 'Gyanodaya – Shiksharu Samruddhi' Scheme?

हाल ही में, 'ज्ञानोदय – शिक्षारु समृद्धि' योजना किस राज्य सरकार द्वारा शुरू की गई है?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Chhattisgarh
- (d) West Bengal
- (e) Odisha

Ans. e

Sol. Odisha Launches 'Gyanodaya – Shiksharu Samruddhi' Scheme to Promote Free Education

The Odisha Government has launched the 'Gyanodaya – Shiksharu Samruddhi' Scheme, approved by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, to promote equitable access to education across the state.

Under the scheme, eligible students will receive a complete waiver of admission fees, reducing the financial burden on families and encouraging higher enrolment.

The initiative supports the Odisha Government's vision of providing free education from Kindergarten (KG) to Postgraduate (PG) level, ensuring inclusive and affordable education for all.

About Odisha

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** – Mohan Charan Majhi (replace Naveen Patnaik)
- **Deputy CM** – KV Singhdeo and Pravati Parida
- **Governor** – Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati

44. Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. inaugurated its new vehicle manufacturing facility at which location?

मारुति सुजुकी इंडिया लिमिटेड ने अपना नया वाहन निर्माण संयंत्र किस स्थान पर शुरू किया?

- (a) Sanand, Gujarat
- (b) Chakan, Maharashtra
- (c) IMT Kharkhoda, Haryana
- (d) Hosur, Tamil Nadu
- (e) Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Ans. c

Sol. Maruti Suzuki Inaugurates Mega Vehicle Manufacturing Plant at IMT Kharkhoda, Haryana

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. inaugurated its state-of-the-art vehicle manufacturing facility at IMT Kharkhoda, Haryana, marking one of India's largest automobile production investments.

The facility was jointly dedicated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, highlighting the strong India–Japan industrial partnership.

The plant has an initial annual production capacity of 5 lakh vehicles, expandable to 10 lakh vehicles, with a planned investment of ₹35,000 crore.

45. Who represented India at the funeral ceremony of former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei?

पूर्व ईरानी सर्वोच्च नेता अयातुल्ला अली खामेनेई के अंतिम संस्कार समारोह में भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व किसने किया?

- (a) S. Jaishankar and Amit Shah
(b) Pabitra Margherita and Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain
(c) Rajnath Singh and Jagdeep Dhankhar
(d) Kiren Rijju and Arif Mohammed Khan
(e) Nirmala Sitharaman and Ajit Doval

Ans. b

Sol. India Represents at Funeral of Former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita and Bihar Governor Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain represented India at the funeral ceremony of former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran.

They paid their respects on behalf of the Government and the people of India after Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in US-Israeli strikes on February 28, was laid to rest.

46. Harshavardhan G.B. became which numbered Grandmaster (GM) of India?
हर्षवर्धन जी.बी. भारत के कौन से नंबर के ग्रैंडमास्टर (GM) बने?

- (a) 95th
(b) 96th
(c) 97th
(d) 98th
(e) 99th

Ans. c

Sol. Harshavardhan G.B. Becomes India's 97th Grandmaster

Harshavardhan G.B. from Chennai became India's 97th Grandmaster (GM) after achieving his final GM norm at the 2nd Chola Chess GM Norm Round Robin Tournament in Chennai.

He also crossed the 2500 FIDE Elo Rating, fulfilling the final requirement to earn the prestigious Grandmaster title.

Previous Chess Grand Masters

- 96th Grandmaster - Ethan Vaz (Goa)
- 95th Grandmaster – Aronya Ghosh (Kolkata, West Bengal)
- 26th Woman Grandmaster - Sarayu Velpula (Warangal, Telangana)
- 94th Grandmaster - Mayank Chakraborty (Guwahati, Assam)
- 93rd Grandmaster - Aarav Dengla (Mumbai, Maharashtra)

47. Indian athlete Ancy Sojan recently created history by breaking whose 22-year-old National Record in the women's long jump?

भारतीय एथलीट एंसी सोजन ने हाल ही में महिलाओं की लॉन्ग जंप में किसका 22 साल पुराना नेशनल रिकॉर्ड तोड़कर इतिहास रचा?

- (a) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (b) Anju Bobby George
- (c) Nayana James
- (d) Jyothi Yarraji
- (e) Dutee Chand

Ans. b

Sol. Ancy Sojan Breaks 22-Year-Old National Record in Women's Long Jump

Ancy Sojan created history by breaking Anju Bobby George's 22-year-old National Record in the women's long jump at the 2026 National Inter-State Athletics Championships.

Ancy recorded a 6.88-metre jump, surpassing the previous National Record of 6.83 metres set by Anju Bobby George.

The earlier record was set by Anju Bobby George at the 2004 Athens Olympics, while the 2026 National Inter-State Athletics Championships were held at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

48. Swiss Tennis legend Stan Wawrinka has announced that he will retire from professional tennis after a remarkable career spanning more than 20 years on the ATP Tour. How many Grand Slam singles titles did Stan Wawrinka win during his professional career?

स्विस टेनिस के दिग्गज खिलाड़ी स्टैन वावरिका ने घोषणा की है कि वे ATP टूर पर 20 से ज्यादा सालों के शानदार करियर के बाद प्रोफेशनल टेनिस से संन्यास ले लेंगे। स्टैन वावरिका ने अपने प्रोफेशनल करियर के दौरान कितने ग्रैंड स्लैम सिंगल्स टाइटल जीते?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5
- (e) 6

Ans. b

Sol. Stan Wawrinka Announces Retirement After Illustrious Tennis Career

Swiss tennis legend Stan Wawrinka has announced that he will retire from professional tennis after a remarkable career spanning more than 20 years on the ATP Tour.

Wawrinka won three Grand Slam singles titles—the Australian Open, French Open, and US Open—cementing his place among tennis greats.

He also won the Olympic Gold Medal in Men's Doubles alongside Roger Federer at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

49. Which Indian Navy ships recently arrived at Changi Naval Base in Singapore as part of the Eastern Fleet's operational deployment?

ईस्टर्न फ्लीट के ऑपरेशनल डिप्लॉयमेंट के हिस्से के तौर पर हाल ही में सिंगापुर के चांगी नेवल बेस पर इंडियन नेवी के कौन से जहाज़ पहुँचे?

- (a) INS Shraddha, INS Raj and INS Nisha
- (b) INS Udaygiri, INS Kavaratti, and INS Shakti
- (c) INS Kolkata, INS Mumbai, and INS Kochi
- (d) INS Talwar, INS Teg, and INS Trikanth
- (e) INS Satpura, INS Sahyadri, and INS Kamorta

Ans. b

Sol. Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet Ships Arrive in Singapore to Strengthen Maritime Cooperation

Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet ships Udaygiri, Kavaratti, and Shakti arrived at Changi Naval Base, Singapore as part of the Navy's ongoing operational deployment in the South East Asia Region.

The visit highlights the strong and long-standing ties between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

50. Skyroot Aerospace has unveiled Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket, named in honour of Dr Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme. What is the name of Vikram-1's maiden launch mission, which means "Arrival" in Sanskrit?

स्काईरूट एयरोस्पेस ने भारत के पहले निजी तौर पर विकसित ऑर्बिटल रॉकेट 'विक्रम-1' का अनावरण किया है। इसका नाम भारत के अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम के जनक डॉ. विक्रम साराभाई के सम्मान में रखा गया है। विक्रम-1 के पहले लॉन्च मिशन का नाम क्या है, जिसका संस्कृत में अर्थ "आगमन" (Arrival) होता है?

- (a) Shraddha
- (b) Prarambh
- (c) Aagaman
- (d) Gaganyaan
- (e) Sankalp

Ans. c

Sol. Skyroot Aerospace Unveils Vikram-1, India's First Privately Developed Orbital Rocket

Skyroot Aerospace has unveiled Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket, named in honour of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme.

The rocket's maiden launch mission, named "Aagaman" (a Sanskrit word meaning "Arrival"), is scheduled to be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota.

Vikram-1 is capable of placing satellites weighing up to 350 kg into Low Earth Orbit (LEO), marking a major milestone for India's private space sector.

51. World Sports Journalists Day is observed every year on 2 July to recognise the contribution of sports journalists in promoting sports and delivering accurate sports coverage. What is the theme of World Sports Journalists Day 2026?

खेलों को बढ़ावा देने और खेलों की सटीक कवरेज देने में खेल पत्रकारों के योगदान को मान्यता देने के लिए हर साल 2 जुलाई को 'विश्व खेल पत्रकार दिवस' मनाया जाता है। विश्व खेल पत्रकार दिवस 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Sports for Peace and Development
- (b) Journalism Beyond Boundaries
- (c) Championing Fair Play: Reporting with Integrity and Impact
- (d) Inspiring the Next Generation Through Sports
- (e) Media for Global Sporting Excellence

Ans. c

Sol. 2 July - World Sports Journalists Day

World Sports Journalists Day is observed every year on 2 July to recognize the contribution of sports journalists in promoting sports and delivering accurate sports coverage.

Theme 2026 - Championing Fair Play: Reporting with Integrity and Impact

The day commemorates the establishment of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) on 2 July 1924 during the Paris Olympics.

The occasion highlights the importance of ethical sports journalism, press freedom, and the role of media in inspiring athletes and sports enthusiasts worldwide.

52. The Digital India Programme completed how many years on 1 July 2026?

1 जुलाई 2026 को डिजिटल इंडिया प्रोग्राम ने कितने साल पूरे कर लिए?

- (a) 9 years
- (b) 10 years
- (c) 11 years
- (d) 12 years
- (e) 15 years

Ans. c

Sol. Digital India Programme Completes 11 Years with Focus on AI and Semiconductor Manufacturing

The Digital India Programme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 July 2015, completed 11 years on 1 July 2026 and is implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

The programme aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, with an increased focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and semiconductor manufacturing.

Digital India is built on three key visions: accessible and secure digital infrastructure for every citizen, on-demand digital government services, and promotion of digital literacy and universal digital access.

53. Which ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Google India to promote India's tourism through AI and digital technology?

AI और डिजिटल टेक्नोलॉजी के ज़रिए भारत के पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस मंत्रालय ने Google India के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Ministry of Culture
- (b) Ministry of Civil Aviation
- (c) Ministry of Tourism
- (d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (e) Ministry of External Affairs

Ans. c

Sol. Ministry of Tourism Partners with Google India to Boost Tourism Through AI and Digital Technology

The Ministry of Tourism signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Google India to strengthen the digital promotion of India's tourism destinations.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, marking a significant step towards technology-driven tourism promotion. The partnership will leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI), data-driven insights, analytics, and Google's digital platforms to enhance the global visibility of India's tourism sector.

54. Which regulatory body has constituted an Expert Working Group to review the regulatory framework governing debenture trustees?

किस रेगुलेटरी बॉडी ने डिबेंचर ट्रस्टीज़ को रेगुलेट करने वाले रेगुलेटरी फ्रेमवर्क की समीक्षा के लिए एक एक्सपर्ट वर्किंग ग्रुप का गठन किया है?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (d) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- (e) National Stock Exchange (NSE)

Ans. c

Sol. SEBI Constitutes Expert Group to Review Debenture Trustees Regulations

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted an Expert Working Group to review and strengthen the regulatory framework governing debenture trustees under the SEBI (Debenture Trustees) Regulations, 1993.

The Expert Working Group is chaired by Ananta Barua, former Whole-Time Member of SEBI, and co-chaired by Rajnish Kumar, former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI).

55. Which Indian cross-border payments platform has launched Google Pay Card Payments on its International Payment Gateway?

किस भारतीय क्रॉस-बॉर्डर पेमेंट प्लेटफॉर्म ने अपने इंटरनेशनल पेमेंट गेटवे पर Google Pay कार्ड पेमेंट की सुविधा शुरू की है?

- (a) Razorpay
- (b) CCAvenue
- (c) PayGlocal
- (d) Cashfree Payments
- (e) PayU India

Ans. c

Sol. PayGlocal Launches Google Pay Card Payments for International Transactions

PayGlocal, India's leading cross-border payments platform, has launched Google Pay Card Payments on its International Payment Gateway, becoming one of the first payment platforms in India to enable Google Pay for international transactions.

With Apple Pay already available on its gateway, PayGlocal now enables Indian merchants to reach over one billion customers across key global markets, including the US, UK, Australia, Canada, UAE, Singapore, and Western Europe.

Google Pay supports transactions in 86+ countries and 60+ currencies, allowing global customers to make single-tap payments in their local currency, thereby simplifying international checkout for Indian merchants.

56. National Fried Clam Day is observed every year on which date?

नेशनल फ्राइड क्लैम डे हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 1 July
- (b) 2 July
- (c) 3 July
- (d) 4 July
- (e) 5 July

Ans. c

Sol. 3 July - National Fried Clam Day

National Fried Clam Day is observed every year on 3 July to celebrate one of the most popular seafood delicacies, fried clams.

The day recognizes the popularity of crispy, deep-fried clams, a traditional coastal dish that is especially famous in the United States, particularly in New England.

57. Which Indian public sector bank has entered into a strategic partnership with Mizuho Bank for M&A financing and related services?

किस भारतीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक ने M&A फाइनेंसिंग और संबंधित सेवाओं के लिए मिजुहो बैंक के साथ रणनीतिक साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Punjab National Bank
- (b) Canara Bank
- (c) Bank of Baroda
- (d) Union Bank of India
- (e) Indian Bank

Ans. c

Sol. Bank of Baroda and Mizuho Bank Forge Strategic Partnership for M&A Financing Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Mizuho Bank, the banking arm of Mizuho Financial Group (Japan), have entered into a strategic partnership to strengthen collaboration in mergers and acquisitions (M&A) financing and related financial services.

The partnership combines Mizuho's global network and structured finance expertise with Bank of Baroda's strong domestic presence, enabling joint origination, structuring, co-underwriting, syndication, and M&A advisory for cross-border transactions.

About Bank of Baroda (BOB)

- **Founded** - 1908
- **Headquarters** - Vadodara, Gujarat
- **MD & CEO** - Debadatta Chand
- **Tagline** - India's International Bank

58. Which Indian private sector bank has announced the acquisition of Deutsche Bank India's retail and wealth business?

. किस भारतीय प्राइवेट सेक्टर बैंक ने ड्यूश बैंक इंडिया के रिटेल और वेल्थ बिज़नेस को खरीदने की घोषणा की है?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) Axis Bank
- (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- (e) IndusInd Bank

Ans. d

Sol. Kotak Mahindra Bank to Acquire Deutsche Bank India's Retail and Wealth Business

Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) has announced the acquisition of Deutsche Bank India's retail banking, private banking, and wealth management business for ₹281.7 crore. The acquisition is expected to be completed by September 2027, strengthening Kotak Mahindra Bank's presence in the retail and wealth management segments.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank

- **Founded** – 21 November 1985
- **Founders** - Uday Kotak
- **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra

59. IIT Bombay has partnered with which company to establish the 'Bharat AI & Cyber Innovation Hub for Insurance'?

IIT बॉम्बे ने 'इंश्योरेंस के लिए भारत AI और साइबर इनोवेशन हब' स्थापित करने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) LIC of India
- (b) HDFC Life Insurance
- (c) SBI Life Insurance
- (d) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- (e) Max Life Insurance

Ans. c

Sol. IIT Bombay & SBI Life Establish 'Bharat AI & Cyber Innovation Hub for Insurance'
IIT Bombay and SBI Life Insurance have partnered to establish the 'Bharat AI & Cyber Innovation Hub for Insurance' to develop indigenous Artificial Intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity solutions for India's insurance sector.

The hub aims to build AI-powered cyber defence systems that are designed, developed, and owned in India, supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and strengthening digital security in insurance.

60. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) successfully conducted India's first Satellite-Based Landing System (SLS) approach on an Airbus A320 at Udaipur using the GAGAN navigation system. What is the full form of GAGAN?

डायरेक्टरेट जनरल ऑफ़ सिविल एविएशन (DGCA) ने GAGAN नेविगेशन सिस्टम का इस्तेमाल करके उदयपुर में एयरबस A320 पर भारत का पहला सैटेलाइट-बेस्ड लैंडिंग सिस्टम (SLS) अप्रोच सफलतापूर्वक पूरा किया। GAGAN का पूरा नाम क्या है?

- (a) GPS-Aided GEO Augmented Navigation
- (b) Global Aviation Geo Augmented Network
- (c) Geo-Assisted GPS Air Navigation

(d) Ground-Assisted Geo Aviation Network**(e) Global Augmented Guidance and Navigation System****Ans. a**

Sol. DGCA Conducts India's 1st SLS Approach Trial on Airbus A320 Using GAGAN System at Udaipur, Rajasthan

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) successfully conducted India's first Satellite-Based Landing System (SLS) approach on an Airbus A320 at Udaipur using the GAGAN navigation system.

The GAGAN (GPS-Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) system was jointly developed by ISRO and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and enables precision-like aircraft landings without requiring an Instrument Landing System (ILS).

Based on Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) technology, SLS provides accurate horizontal and vertical landing guidance, enhancing aviation safety, particularly at secondary and remote airports.

61. India has approved its first Private Point-in-Space (PinS) instrument approach procedure for helicopter operations at which heliport?

भारत ने किस हेलीपोर्ट पर हेलीकॉप्टर संचालन के लिए अपनी पहली प्राइवेट 'पॉइंट-इन-स्पेस' (PinS) इंस्ट्रुमेंट अप्रोच प्रक्रिया को मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Jakkur Heliport
- (b) Pawan Hans Heliport
- (c) Undavalli Heliport
- (d) Begumpet Heliport
- (e) Katra Heliport

Ans. c

Sol. India Approves First Pins Instrument Approach Procedure for Safer Helicopter Operations

India has approved its first Private Point-in-Space (PinS) instrument approach procedure for helicopter operations at Undavalli Heliport Andhra Pradesh, enabling safe and precise satellite-based instrument approaches without conventional landing infrastructure.

The PinS procedure, developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), enhances flight safety and ensures reliable helicopter operations, especially in adverse weather and areas lacking ground-based navigation aids.

The approval is expected to boost emergency medical services, disaster relief, tourism, offshore operations, pilgrimage services, corporate aviation, and regional connectivity, while supporting India's vision of a modern, technology-driven helicopter ecosystem.

62. The Odisha Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, approved the Deep Sea Fishing Mission with an outlay of ₹2,295.45 crore to promote the Blue Economy and establish Odisha as a leading marine export hub. The Deep Sea Fishing Mission will be implemented over which period to unlock the state's offshore fisheries potential?

मुख्यमंत्री मोहन चरण माझी की अध्यक्षता में ओडिशा कैबिनेट ने 'ब्लू इकोनॉमी' को बढ़ावा देने और ओडिशा को समुद्री निर्यात का प्रमुख केंद्र बनाने के लिए ₹2,295.45 करोड़ के बजट वाले 'डीप सी फिशिंग मिशन' को मंजूरी दी। राज्य की ऑफशोर मछली पकड़ने की क्षमता का पूरा लाभ उठाने के लिए 'डीप सी फिशिंग मिशन' किस अवधि में लागू किया जाएगा?

(a) 2025–2030

(b) 2025–2035

(c) 2026–2036

(d) 2027–2037

(e) 2028–2038

Ans. c

Sol. Odisha Cabinet Approves Deep Sea Fishing Mission

The Odisha Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, approved the Deep Sea Fishing Mission with an outlay of ₹2,295.45 crore to promote the Blue Economy and establish Odisha as a leading marine export hub.

The mission will be implemented during 2026–2036 by the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Department to harness the state's offshore fisheries potential and boost marine exports.

About Odisha

- **Capital** – Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister** – Mohan Charan Majhi (replace Naveen Patnaik)
- **Deputy CM** - KV Singhdeo and Pravati Parida
- **Governor** – Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati

63. Which Union Minister inaugurated the Common Incubation Centre at Parbhani, Maharashtra?

किस केंद्रीय मंत्री ने महाराष्ट्र के परभणी में कॉमन इनक्यूबेशन सेंटर का उद्घाटन किया?

(a) Shivraj Singh Chouhan

(b) Piyush Goyal

(c) Dharmendra Pradhan

(d) Nitin Gadkari

(e) Chirag Paswan

Ans. e

Sol. Union Minister Inaugurates Common Incubation Centre in Maharashtra

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan inaugurated an advanced Common Incubation Centre at the College of Food Technology, Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (Maharashtra) under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme. The Common Incubation Centre will provide shared food processing infrastructure, entrepreneur training, product development, and quality testing facilities, enabling micro and small food processing enterprises to access modern technologies. The centre is specially designed for jaggery, sugarcane juice, and spices processing, promoting value addition to agricultural produce, strengthening local food processing industries, and supporting entrepreneurship in the region.

64. The Ayushman Sarathi PM-JAY Chatbot is a _____-based digital platform designed to provide beneficiaries with 24×7 access to services under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

आयुष्मान सारथी PM-JAY चैटबॉट एक _____-आधारित डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म है जिसे लाभार्थियों को आयुष्मान भारत प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना (AB PM-JAY) के तहत सेवाओं तक 24×7 पहुँच प्रदान करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है।

- (a) Telegram
- (b) WhatsApp
- (c) Facebook Messenger
- (d) SMS
- (e) Email

Ans. b

Sol. Ayushman Sarathi PM-JAY Chatbot Launched

Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the Ayushman Sarathi PM-JAY Chatbot on 29 June 2026 in New Delhi. Developed by the National Health Authority (NHA), the WhatsApp-based chatbot provides 24×7 digital access to Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) services.

The chatbot enables beneficiaries to check PM-JAY eligibility, apply for and download Ayushman Cards, complete eKYC, link Aadhaar, and lock or unlock PM-JAY cards, making health services more accessible and user-friendly.

Users can access the chatbot by sending "Hi" to +91 72908 23838 on WhatsApp or scanning the official QR code. It also allows users to view wallet balance, check treatment history, locate nearby empanelled hospitals, and register, track, or withdraw grievances

65. Lt Gen (Retd.) Madan Mohan Lakhera, who passed away recently at the age of 88, had served as the Governor of which Indian state from July 2006 to September 2011?

लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल (रिटायर्ड) मदन मोहन लखेरा, जिनका हाल ही में 88 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया, ने जुलाई 2006 से सितंबर 2011 तक किस भारतीय राज्य के राज्यपाल के रूप में कार्य किया था?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Nagaland
- (c) Mizoram
- (d) Tripura
- (e) Arunachal Pradesh

Ans. c

Sol. Lt Gen (Retd.) Madan Mohan Lakhera Passes Away at 88

Lt Gen (Retd.) Madan Mohan Lakhera, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, former Governor of Mizoram and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, passed away at the age of 88 in Dehradun.

For his exceptional service to the nation, he was honoured with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), and Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM). He also played key roles during Operation Blue Star (1984) and in restoring peace during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Kanpur.

After retiring from the Army, he served as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry (2004), held additional charge as Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and served as Governor of Mizoram from July 2006 to September 2011.

66. Puviyarasu, who recently passed away, was primarily associated with which language?

हाल ही में गुजरे पुवियारसु मुख्य रूप से किस भाषा से जुड़े थे?

- (a) Telugu
- (b) Kannada
- (c) Malayalam
- (d) Sanskrit
- (e) Tamil

Ans. e

Sol. Renowned Tamil Poet and Two-Time Sahitya Akademi Awardee Puviyarasu Passes Away

Renowned Tamil poet, translator, screenwriter, and actor Puviyarasu passed away, leaving behind a significant legacy in Tamil literature and arts.

He received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2007 for "Puratchikaran", the Tamil translation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's The Revolutionary.

He won the Sahitya Akademi Award again in 2010 for his acclaimed Tamil poetry collection "Kaiyoppam (Signature)".

67. International Day of Cooperatives is observed every year on:

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहकारिता दिवस हर साल कब मनाया जाता है:

- (a) The first Monday of July
- (b) The second Saturday of July
- (c) The last Friday of June
- (d) The first Sunday of July
- (e) The first Saturday of July

Ans. e

Sol. 4 July - International Day of Cooperatives

International Day of Cooperatives was observed on 4 July 2026 across the world. The day is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of July to highlight the role of cooperatives in promoting sustainable development and inclusive economic growth. Theme 2026 - Cooperatives for a peaceful world!

The observance recognizes the contribution of cooperative enterprises in generating employment, reducing inequality, and strengthening local communities.

68. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL) in which district of Rajasthan?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने राजस्थान के किस जिले में HPCL राजस्थान रिफाइनरी लिमिटेड (HRRL) का उद्घाटन किया?

- (a) Jodhpur
- (b) Barmer
- (c) Bikaner
- (d) Jaisalmer
- (e) Balotra

Ans. e

Sol. PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates India's First Greenfield Refinery in a Decade at Rajasthan's Pachpadra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (India's 24th Refinery) at Pachpadra, Balotra district, Rajasthan, marking the commissioning of India's first greenfield refinery in a decade.

Built at a cost of ₹79,459 crore, the refinery is expected to enhance India's refining and petrochemical production and support the country's expanding refining capacity. HRRL is a joint venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and the Government of Rajasthan, with HPCL holding a 74% stake and the Rajasthan Government holding 26%.

69. In July 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of ₹63.6 lakh on which bank for non-compliance with KYC norms and Fair Practices Code?

जुलाई 2026 में, रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया (RBI) ने KYC नियमों और फेयर प्रैक्टिस कोड का पालन न करने के लिए किस बैंक पर ₹63.6 लाख का जुर्माना लगाया?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) Punjab National Bank
- (c) Canara Bank
- (d) Union Bank of India
- (e) Bank of Baroda

Ans. e

Sol. RBI Imposes ₹66 Lakh Penalty on Bank of Baroda and GIC Housing Finance for KYC Violations

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a ₹63.6 lakh penalty on Bank of Baroda (BoB) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Fair Practices Code for Lenders and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

The RBI also levied a ₹3.1 lakh penalty on GIC Housing Finance Ltd for non-compliance with certain provisions of the KYC guidelines.

Recent Penalties imposed on Financial Institution

- **Canara Bank (₹2.49 Lakh) by RBI** - for Delayed Currency Chest Reporting
- **Nissan Renault Financial Services India (₹1 crore) by IRDAI** - for violations related to motor insurance service guidelines and other regulatory norms.
- **City Union Bank (₹10.10 lakh) by RBI** - for non-compliance with regulatory directions
- **Mintifi Finserve (₹3.10 lakh) by RBI** - for non-compliance with regulatory directions

70. World Zoonoses Day is observed every year on 6 July to raise awareness about zoonotic diseases. What are zoonotic diseases?

ज़ूनोटिक बीमारियों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए हर साल 6 जुलाई को 'विश्व जूनोसिस दिवस' मनाया जाता है। जूनोटिक बीमारियाँ क्या हैं?

- (a) Diseases transmitted through water only
- (b) Diseases affecting plants only
- (c) Diseases spread only by insects
- (d) Diseases caused by vitamin deficiency
- (e) Diseases transmitted from animals to humans

Ans. e

Sol. 6 July - World Zoonoses Day

World Zoonoses Day is observed every year on 6 July to raise awareness about zoonotic diseases—diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans. The day commemorates Louis Pasteur's successful administration of the first rabies vaccine on 6 July 1885, marking a milestone in medical science. The observance promotes disease surveillance, vaccination, hygiene, and the One Health approach to prevent and control zoonotic diseases such as rabies, avian influenza, and COVID-19.

71. World Rural Development Day is observed every year on which date?

विश्व ग्रामीण विकास दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 4 July
- (b) 5 July
- (c) 6 July
- (d) 7 July
- (e) 8 July

Ans. c

Sol. 6 July - World Rural Development Day

World Rural Development Day is observed every year on 6 July to highlight the importance of rural development in achieving sustainable economic growth and improving the quality of life in rural communities.

The day promotes inclusive development, focusing on better agriculture, education, healthcare, infrastructure, employment, and poverty reduction in rural areas.

72. Project SAMARTH (Silicon and Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research and Training Hub) is being established at which institution?

प्रश्न 1. प्रोजेक्ट SAMARTH (Silicon and Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research and Training Hub) किस संस्थान में स्थापित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) IIT Madras
- (b) IIT Delhi
- (c) IIT Bombay
- (d) IIT Gandhinagar
- (e) IIT Hyderabad

Ans. d

Sol. Project SAMARTH Launched at IIT Gandhinagar to Boost India's Semiconductor Talent and R&D

Project SAMARTH (Silicon and Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research and Training Hub) is being established at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat with a total budget of ₹190 crore to strengthen India's semiconductor manufacturing, research, and skill development ecosystem.

The project is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat, and IIT Gandhinagar, with construction work beginning on 2 March 2026. The centre aims to train 10,000 people over five years, including students, technicians, and engineers, while making engineering graduates fab-ready through hands-on training and supporting indigenous semiconductor R&D. L&T Semiconductor Technologies, which partnered with IIT Gandhinagar in August 2024, is collaborating on research, development, and capacity building under the SAMARTH initiative, with training to be offered at nominal cost.

73. According to the Ministry of Commerce, which Indian state emerged as the fastest-growing merchandise exporting state in FY26, driven by strong growth in smartphone and electronics exports?

पवाणिज्य मंत्रालय के अनुसार, स्मार्टफोन और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स निर्यात में मजबूत वृद्धि के कारण FY26 में भारत का सबसे तेज़ी से बढ़ने वाला मर्चेंडाइज़ (वस्तु) निर्यातक राज्य कौन-सा बना?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Andhra Pradesh
- (e) Tamil Nadu

Ans. e

Sol. Tamil Nadu Becomes India's Fastest-Growing Merchandise Exporting State in FY26

Tamil Nadu emerged as India's fastest-growing merchandise exporting state in FY26, recording total exports of \$59.3 billion, a 13.7% year-on-year (YoY) increase despite global trade tensions and geopolitical challenges.

The state became India's largest exporter of electronic goods, with electronics exports worth \$19.9 billion, registering an impressive 36% YoY growth.

Strong growth in smartphone and telecom equipment exports, particularly to the United States, played a key role in boosting Tamil Nadu's overall export performance. With nearly \$20 billion in electronics exports, Tamil Nadu accounted for 42% of India's total electronic goods exports in FY26, reinforcing its position as the country's leading electronics manufacturing and export hub.

74. Consider the following pairs regarding Small Savings Schemes and their interest rates for the July–September 2026 quarter:

जुलाई-सितंबर 2026 तिमाही के लिए छोटी बचत योजनाओं और उनकी ब्याज दरों से जुड़ी नीचे दी गई जोड़ियों पर विचार करें:

Scheme	Interest Rate
--------	---------------

1. Public Provident Fund (PPF)	7.1%
2. National Savings Certificate (NSC)	7.7%
3. Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	7.5%
4. Post Office Savings Deposit	5.0%

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (e) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans. d

Sol. Government Keeps Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes Unchanged for July–September 2026 Quarter

The Finance Ministry has kept interest rates unchanged on all government-backed small savings schemes for the July–September 2026 quarter (Q2 of FY2026–27), providing stability for millions of investors.

This is the ninth consecutive quarter in which the government has not revised the interest rates, with the same rates continuing from the April–June 2026 quarter.

The decision covers major small savings schemes, including the Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS), Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP), Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (POMIS), Post Office Time Deposits, and Post Office Recurring Deposit (RD).

These government-backed schemes remain popular for offering safe, secure, and guaranteed returns, making them a preferred investment option for long-term and risk-averse investors.

Saving Schemes Interest rates for July 2026 – September 2026

- *Post Office Savings Deposit- 4 per cent*
- *Post Office Monthly Income Account- 7.4 percent*
- *1-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 6.9 percent*
- *2-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 7.0 percent*
- *3-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 7.1 percent*
- *5-Year Post Office Time Deposits- 7.5 percent*
- *5-Year Recurring Deposits- 6.7 percent*
- *Senior Citizens Savings Scheme- 8.2 per cent*
- *Sukanya Samriddhi Account- 8.2 per cent*
- *National Saving Certificates (NSC)- 7.7 percent*
- *Kisan Vikas Patra- 7.5 percent (will mature in 115 months)*
- *Public Provident Fund- 7.1 per cent*

75. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) report 'Labour Market Dynamics in Million-plus Cities', which two cities recorded an unemployment rate of more than 20%?

सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI) की रिपोर्ट 'Labour Market Dynamics in Million-plus Cities' के अनुसार, किन दो शहरों में बेरोजगारी दर 20% से अधिक दर्ज की गई?

- (a) Lucknow and Kanpur
- (b) Delhi and Jaipur
- (c) Chennai and Bengaluru
- (d) Prayagraj and Patna
- (e) Hyderabad and Indore

Ans. d

Sol. MoSPI Report: Prayagraj and Patna Record Highest Unemployment Among India's Million-Plus Cities

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the report "Labour Market Dynamics in Million-plus Cities", based on the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025, covering 46 cities with a population of over 10 lakh, using data from more than 19,000 households and around 60,000 persons (aged 15 years and above).

Prayagraj and Patna recorded the highest unemployment rates (above 20%), whereas Ahmedabad and Kolkata reported the lowest unemployment rates (below 2.5%). The average unemployment rate across all 46 million-plus cities stood at 6.8%, broadly matching India's overall urban unemployment rate.

Female unemployment was significantly higher than male unemployment in the worst-performing cities. In Prayagraj, female unemployment exceeded 31% compared to around 23% for males, while in Patna, female unemployment was over 36% against around 18% for males under the Current Weekly Status (CWS) approach. Employment patterns showed that regular wage/salaried employment was much higher in million-plus cities (58.5%) than the urban India average (47.6%), while casual employment was considerably lower (6.3% vs. 12%). Female participation in regular salaried jobs was also higher in million-plus cities (65.1%) than in urban India (50.9%).

Labour force participation data revealed that male LFPR in million-plus cities stood at 75.3%, while female LFPR was 25.8%. Among women outside the labour force, 68.7% cited childcare and homemaking responsibilities as the primary reason for non-participation, whereas 53.5% of men outside the labour force were pursuing education.

76. The Government of India has decided to divest up to what percentage of its stake in Cochin Shipyard Ltd through an Offer for Sale (OFS)?

भारत सरकार ने ऑफर फॉर सेल (OFS) के माध्यम से कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड में अपनी कितनी प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी बेचने का निर्णय लिया है?

- (a) 2.52%
- (b) 3.50%
- (c) 4.00%
- (d) 5.04%
- (e) 7.50%

Ans. d

Sol. Government to Sell Up to 5.04% Stake in Cochin Shipyard Through Offer for Sale (OFS)

The Government of India has announced an Offer for Sale (OFS) to divest up to 5.04% stake in Cochin Shipyard Ltd as part of its disinvestment programme.

Under the base offer, the government will initially sell 2.52% of Cochin Shipyard's paid-up equity share capital.

The OFS also includes a green-shoe option of an additional 2.52% stake, allowing the government to increase the size of the sale if investor demand is strong.

77. Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) and International Resources Holding (IRH) have signed an MoU with which state government to develop a greenfield aluminium project?

प्रश्न 1. अदाणी एंटरप्राइजेज लिमिटेड (AEL) और इंटरनेशनल रिसोर्सेज होल्डिंग (IRH) ने ग्रीनफील्ड एल्युमिनियम परियोजना विकसित करने के लिए किस राज्य सरकार के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Chhattisgarh
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Gujarat
- (e) Odisha

Ans. e

Sol. Adani Enterprises and Abu Dhabi's IRH to Invest ₹1.08 Lakh Crore in Odisha's Greenfield Aluminium Project

Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) and International Resources Holding (IRH), Abu Dhabi, have signed an MoU with the Government of Odisha to develop an integrated greenfield aluminium project with an investment of \$11.5 billion (₹1.08 lakh crore) through a 50:50 joint venture.

The project, which marks the Adani Group's entry into the aluminium sector, is expected to become Odisha's largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposal and India's largest FDI in the metallurgy sector.

The project includes a 4 MMTPA alumina refinery in Rayagada, a 2 MMTPA aluminium smelter, a 4,000 MW captive power plant, and a 1 MMTPA downstream manufacturing park in Sundargarh, with bauxite sourced from Odisha Mining Corporation and Adani-owned mines.

78. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 230 million loan to modernise and expand water supply and sanitation infrastructure in Chennai, benefiting approximately 4.5 million residents in the Greater Chennai area. The ADB project aims to support which of the following Government of India flagship urban development programmes?

एशियन डेवलपमेंट बैंक (ADB) ने चेन्नई में पानी की सप्लाई और सफ़ाई के इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को मॉडर्नाइज़ और बढ़ाने के लिए USD 230 मिलियन के लोन को मंजूरी दी है, जिससे ग्रेटर चेन्नई एरिया में लगभग 4.5 मिलियन लोगों को फ़ायदा होगा। ADB प्रोजेक्ट का मकसद भारत सरकार के नीचे दिए गए फ्लैगशिप अर्बन डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम में से किसका सपोर्ट करना है?

1. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0
2. Urban Challenge Fund
3. Smart Cities Mission
4. Jal Jeevan Mission

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans. b

Sol. ADB Approves USD 230 Million Loan to Modernise Chennai's Water Supply and Sanitation System

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 230 million loan to modernise and expand water supply and sanitation infrastructure in Chennai, benefiting approximately 4.5 million residents in the Greater Chennai area.

The project aims to improve access to safe and reliable drinking water, strengthen sanitation services, enhance climate resilience, improve public health, and create a more efficient and financially sustainable urban water system.

The initiative supports the Government of India's urban development programmes, including Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 and the Urban Challenge Fund, while building on ADB's earlier investments in Chennai.

About Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- **Founded** - 19 December 1966
- **Headquarters** - Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- **President** - Masato Kanda
- **Member Countries** - 69 (Israel)

79. The Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) flagship digital mental healthcare initiative, ICMR-MINDS, received the Gold Award at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026 under which category?

आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद (ICMR) की प्रमुख डिजिटल मानसिक स्वास्थ्य पहल ICMR-MINDS को राष्ट्रीय ई-गवर्नेंस पुरस्कार 2026 में किस श्रेणी में गोल्ड अवार्ड प्राप्त हुआ?

- (a) Excellence in Digital Health Governance and Service Delivery through e-Governance Platforms
- (b) Innovation in Digital Healthcare Delivery through Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies
- (c) Best Public Health Innovation for Digital Inclusion and Citizen Welfare
- (d) Digital Transformation in Healthcare Services through Technology Adoption
- (e) Innovation by Use of AI and Other New Age Technologies for Providing Citizen-Centric Services

Ans. e

Sol. ICMR-MINDS Wins Gold Award at National Awards for e-Governance 2026 for AI-Powered Mental Healthcare

ICMR-MINDS, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) flagship AI-powered digital mental healthcare initiative, received the Gold Award in the "Innovation by Use of AI and Other New Age Technologies for Providing Citizen-Centric Services" category at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026.

The award, instituted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), was presented by Jitendra Singh during the 29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2026 held in Jaipur.

ICMR-MINDS uses an Artificial Intelligence-enabled Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS) to assist frontline healthcare workers in screening, assessing, and managing mental and substance use disorders, while integrating mental healthcare with the treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

80. The Indian Navy will commission INS Mahendragiri (F38), the sixth indigenous stealth frigate under Project 17A, at Visakhapatnam on 11 July, further strengthening India's naval capabilities. INS Mahendragiri has been built by which Indian shipbuilding company?

इंडियन नेवी 11 जुलाई को विशाखापत्तनम में प्रोजेक्ट 17A के तहत छठे स्वदेशी स्टील्थ फ्रिगेट INS महेंद्रगिरी (F38) को कमीशन करेगी, जिससे भारत की नेवी की क्षमताएं और मजबूत होंगी। INS महेंद्रगिरी को किस भारतीय शिपबिल्डिंग कंपनी ने बनाया है?

- (a) Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)
- (b) Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)
- (c) Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)
- (d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)
- (e) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL)

Ans. e

Sol. Indian Navy to Commission Indigenous Stealth Frigate INS Mahendragiri Under Project 17A

The Indian Navy will commission INS Mahendragiri (F38), the sixth indigenous stealth frigate under Project 17A, at Visakhapatnam on 11 July, further strengthening India's naval capabilities.

Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, the warship features a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion system and has over 75% indigenous content, reflecting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Named after the Mahendragiri mountain range in the Eastern Ghats, the stealth frigate will act as a force multiplier for the Indian Navy, enhancing maritime security and supporting India's strategic role in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and the Indo-Pacific.

81. India and Japan recently signed their first-ever Defence Co-Development Agreement for the joint development and licensed production of which advanced defence system?

भारत और जापान ने हाल ही में किस उन्नत रक्षा प्रणाली के संयुक्त विकास एवं लाइसेंस प्राप्त उत्पादन के लिए अपना पहला रक्षा सह-विकास (Defence Co-Development) समझौता किया है?

- (a) Akash Weapon System
- (b) Advanced Radar Communication Network
- (c) Integrated Naval Surveillance System
- (d) Maritime Satellite Communication Terminal
- (e) UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna)

Ans. e

Sol. India and Japan Sign First-Ever Defence Co-Development Agreement for UNICORN Communication Mast

India and Japan have signed their first-ever Defence Co-Development Agreement, marking a major milestone in bilateral defence cooperation and indigenous defence manufacturing.

The first project under the agreement involves the joint development and licensed production of the UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna), an advanced shipborne integrated communication mast developed by Japan.

Under the agreement, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) will manufacture the UNICORN communication mast in India in collaboration with Japanese partners, strengthening the Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives in the defence sector.

82. What is the name of the first orbital technology demonstration mission of Cosmoserve Space, which aims to demonstrate Active Debris Removal (ADR) technology by performing the world's first soft robotic capture in orbit?

प्रश्न 2. कॉसमोसर्व स्पेस के उस पहले ऑर्बिटल प्रौद्योगिकी प्रदर्शन मिशन का नाम क्या है, जिसका उद्देश्य Active Debris Removal (ADR) तकनीक के तहत दुनिया का पहला सॉफ्ट रोबोटिक कैप्चर इन ऑर्बिट प्रदर्शित करना है?

- (a) Mission Prarambh for In-Orbit Satellite Servicing
- (b) Mission Udaan for Space Robotics Demonstration
- (c) Mission Suraksha for Orbital Sustainability
- (d) Mission Sankalp for Space Technology Validation
- (e) Mission Embrace

Ans. e

Sol. Skyroot's Vikram-1 to Carry Mission Embrace for World's First Soft Robotic Space Debris Capture Demonstration

Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket, will carry Mission Embrace, the first orbital technology demonstration mission by Indian startup Cosmoserve Space, during Mission Aagaman.

Mission Embrace aims to demonstrate the world's first soft robotic capture in orbit, a breakthrough technology for Active Debris Removal (ADR) to tackle the growing problem of space debris.

Cosmoserve Space is developing a dual-spacecraft robotic servicing system capable of capturing and removing defunct satellites at around one-tenth the cost of comparable solutions, supporting the long-term sustainability of Earth's orbital environment.

83. Neymar Jr announced his retirement from international football after which major football tournament?

नेमार जूनियर ने किस प्रमुख फुटबॉल टूर्नामेंट के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय फुटबॉल से संन्यास की घोषणा की?

- (a) UEFA Euro Cup 2026
- (b) Copa America 2026
- (c) FIFA Club World Cup 2026
- (d) AFC Asian Cup 2026
- (e) FIFA World Cup 2026

Ans. e

Sol. Neymar Jr Announces International Retirement After Ending Career as Brazil's All-Time Top Scorer

Neymar Jr. announced his retirement from international football after Brazil's 2–1 defeat against Norway in the Round of 16 of the FIFA World Cup 2026.

Neymar concluded his international career as Brazil's all-time leading goal scorer, scoring 80 goals in 130 appearances for the national team.

84. Who was honoured with the AAPI Humanitarian Award in the United States for her contributions to healthcare, education, sports, culture and community development?

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में स्वास्थ्य सेवा, शिक्षा, खेल, संस्कृति और सामुदायिक विकास में योगदान के लिए AAPI ह्यूमैनिटेरियन अवार्ड से किसे सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (b) Ishika Bansal
- (c) Nita Ambani
- (d) Indra Nooyi
- (e) Sudha Murty

Ans. e

Sol. Nita Ambani Honoured with AAPI Humanitarian Award in the US for Contributions to Healthcare and Social Impact

Nita Ambani received the AAPI Humanitarian Award in Tampa, Florida, USA, for her contributions to healthcare, education, sports, culture, and community development through humanitarian initiatives.

The honour was presented by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, recognising her long-term commitment towards social impact, compassion, and dignity-based service.

Jane Castor also presented Nita Ambani with the Key to the City of Tampa, one of the highest civic honours in the United States, acknowledging her meaningful contributions to society.

85. World Kiswahili Language Day is observed every year on which date?

विश्व किस्वाहिली भाषा दिवस प्रत्येक वर्ष किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 5 July
- (b) 6 July
- (c) 7 July
- (d) 8 July
- (e) 10 July

Ans. c

Sol. 7 July- World Kiswahili Language Day

World Kiswahili Language Day is observed every year on 7 July to celebrate the importance and global contribution of the Kiswahili (Swahili) language.

The day was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to promote linguistic diversity, multilingualism, and the cultural heritage associated with Kiswahili.

Kiswahili is one of the most widely spoken African languages and serves as an official language in several countries, including Tanzania, Kenya, and other parts of East Africa.

86. Conservative leader Keiko Fujimori has been elected as the President of which country?

रूढ़िवादी नेता केइको फुजीमोरी किस देश की राष्ट्रपति निर्वाचित हुई हैं?

- (a) Chile
- (b) Ecuador
- (c) Peru
- (d) Bolivia
- (e) Argentina

Ans. c

Sol. Keiko Fujimori Wins Peru Presidential Runoff, Set to Become Country's Next President

Peru has elected conservative leader Keiko Fujimori as President after she won the presidential runoff election, securing victory in her fourth attempt.

The 51-year-old daughter of former President Alberto Fujimori will become Peru's 9th President in the last 10 years, highlighting the country's prolonged political instability.

Newly Appointed Prime Ministers & Presidents

- *President of Colombia - Abelardo De La Espriella*
- *PM of South Korea - Lee Jae Myung*
- *Prime Minister of Slovenia - Janez Janša*
- *Prime Minister of Latvia - Andris Kulbergs*

87. Dilip Asbe, who has been inducted into the SWIFT Supervisory Board, is the MD & CEO of which organisation?

SWIFT के सुपरवाइजरी बोर्ड में शामिल किए गए दिलीप अस्बे किस संगठन के MD & CEO हैं?

- (a) RBI
- (b) SEBI
- (c) NABARD
- (d) NPCI
- (e) SIDBI

Ans. d

Sol. NPCI's Dilip Asbe joins Swift's global supervisory board

Dilip Asbe, MD & CEO of National Payments Corporation of India, has been inducted into the global supervisory board of Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, subject to regulatory approval expected in October.

The appointment gives India a direct role in shaping global payment policies and cross-border financial messaging standards, marking a major milestone for the country's digital payments ecosystem.

About Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)

- *Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication is a global financial messaging network that enables secure and standardised communication between banks and financial institutions for cross-border transactions.*
- *SWIFT was established in 1973 and is headquartered in La Hulpe, Belgium.*
- *It connects over 11,000 financial institutions across more than 200 countries and territories, facilitating international payments, securities transactions, and trade finance.*
- *SWIFT does not transfer money itself; instead, it securely transmits payment instructions and financial messages between participating institutions worldwide.*

88. Which city is hosting the BRICS Women Working Group (WWG) Meeting under India's BRICS Chairship 2026?

भारत की BRICS Chairship 2026 के तहत BRICS Women Working Group (WWG) Meeting की मेजबानी कौन-सा शहर कर रहा है?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Mumbai
- (e) Kochi

Ans. e

Sol. India Hosts BRICS Women Working Group Meeting in Kochi

India hosts the BRICS Women Working Group (WWG) Meeting in Kochi under its BRICS Chairship 2026, bringing together senior officials from BRICS member countries to promote women-led development.

The meeting is guided by India's BRICS Chairship theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," with discussions focusing on women in governance, digital & financial inclusion, entrepreneurship & skill development, and climate action, food security & nutrition.

BRICS currently comprises 11 member countries, contributing around 40% of global GDP and representing about 49.5% of the world's population, highlighting the strategic importance of the BRICS Women Track.

89. Which Ministry organised the 'Reforms Utsav & Chintan Shivir 2026'?

'Reforms Utsav & Chintan Shivir 2026' का आयोजन किस मंत्रालय ने किया?

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- (c) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Law and Justice
- (e) Ministry of Finance

Ans. d

Sol. Ministry of Law and Justice Concludes 'Reforms Utsav & Chintan Shivir 2026'
Ministry of Law and Justice successfully concluded the 'Reforms Utsav & Chintan Shivir 2026', jointly organised by the Legislative Department and the Department of Legal Affairs at Gyan Sarovar.

The event was inaugurated by Arjun Ram Meghwal, who addressed senior officials and emphasised reforms for strengthening India's legal and legislative framework.

90. Which of the following Indian business leaders is not among the three Indians inducted into the AI for Good Global Commission?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन-से भारतीय उद्योगपति AI for Good Global Commission में शामिल किए गए तीन भारतीय सदस्यों में शामिल नहीं हैं?

- (a) Mukesh Ambani
- (b) Shradha Joshi Raj
- (c) Sunil Bharti Mittal
- (d) Lakshmi Mittal
- (e) All of the above are members

Ans. b

Sol. Mukesh Ambani, Lakshmi Mittal & Sunil Bharti Mittal Join AI for Good Global Commission

Mukesh Ambani, Lakshmi Mittal, and Sunil Bharti Mittal are the three Indian members of the AI for Good Global Commission, a global initiative promoting responsible and inclusive use of Artificial Intelligence.

The Commission comprises over 40 founding members, including heads of state, government leaders, CEOs, senior executives, and UN agency heads, to develop practical pathways for trustworthy AI, wider access, and AI-driven solutions to global challenges.

The Commission will hold its inaugural meeting during the AI for Good Global Summit 2026 in Geneva, held as part of Digital Week (6–10 July 2026), alongside the UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance and the WSIS Forum.

91. Who will represent India at the inaugural United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance?

संयुक्त राष्ट्र के प्रथम Global Dialogue on AI Governance में भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व कौन करेंगे?

- (a) S. Jaishankar
- (b) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- (c) Piyush Goyal
- (d) Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- (e) Kirti Vardhan Singh

Ans. e

Sol. Kirti Vardhan Singh to Represent India at Inaugural UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance

Kirti Vardhan Singh will represent India at the inaugural United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance, to be held in Geneva.

The United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance is a new forum established by the United Nations General Assembly to promote international cooperation and discussions on the governance and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

92. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched which scheme as the next phase of India's regional air connectivity initiative to improve affordable air travel in Tier-2, Tier-3 cities and remote regions?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने टियर-2, टियर-3 शहरों और दूरदराज़ क्षेत्रों में किफायती हवाई यात्रा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए भारत की क्षेत्रीय हवाई संपर्क पहल के अगले चरण के रूप में कौन-सी योजना शुरू की है?

- (a) Bharat Udaan Mission
- (b) Regional Aviation Mission
- (c) UDAN 2.0
- (d) National Air Connectivity Scheme

(e) Viksit UDAN Scheme**Ans. e****Sol.** PM Narendra Modi Launches Viksit UDAN Scheme, Inaugurates New Terminal at Jodhpur Airport

Narendra Modi launched the Viksit UDAN Scheme, the next phase of India's regional air connectivity initiative, to improve affordable air travel in Tier-2, Tier-3 cities and remote regions.

The scheme has an outlay of over ₹28,840 crore and aims to develop 100+ new aerodromes and 200 helipads, significantly expanding regional aviation infrastructure across the country.

Prime Minister Modi also inaugurated the new terminal building at Jodhpur Airport, enhancing connectivity and supporting tourism, trade, and economic growth in the Marwar region.

93. Which company will establish the ₹2,500 crore defence manufacturing plant at Shivpuri to manufacture ammunition, high-tech weapons, and mission-ready missiles?

शिवपुरी में गोला-बारूद, उच्च-प्रौद्योगिकी हथियार एवं मिशन-रेडी मिसाइलों के निर्माण के लिए ₹2,500 करोड़ का रक्षा विनिर्माण संयंत्र किस कंपनी द्वारा स्थापित किया जाएगा?

- (a) Tata Advanced Systems
- (b) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- (c) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)
- (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- (e) Adani Group

Ans. e**Sol.** ₹2,500 Crore Defence Manufacturing Plant to Be Set Up in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh

Jyotiraditya Scindia and Mohan Yadav laid the foundation stone for a ₹2,500 crore defence manufacturing plant in Shivpuri, to be developed by Adani Group.

The facility, to be established at Pali village on National Highway 27, will manufacture ammunition, high-tech weapons, and mission-ready missiles, strengthening India's defence production and the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

At the event, Jeet Adani announced that the Adani Group aims to create 1.20 lakh jobs in Madhya Pradesh by 2030, boosting employment and industrial development in the state.

94. The Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA), which recently came into force, is between India and which country?

हाल ही में लागू हुआ द्विपक्षीय निवेश समझौता (BIA) भारत और किस देश के बीच है?

- (a) France
- (b) Israel
- (c) Japan
- (d) Australia
- (e) United Arab Emirates

Ans. b

Sol. India–Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement Officially Comes into Force

The Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) between India and Israel has officially entered into force, marking a significant step toward enhancing economic cooperation and promoting cross-border investments.

The agreement, signed in September 2025 in New Delhi, aims to provide a stable and transparent investment framework, strengthen investor confidence, and deepen bilateral trade and investment ties between the two countries.

95. Australia clinched the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 title, defeating hosts England by 7 wickets in the final at Lord's Cricket Ground, London. How many ICC Women's T20 World Cup titles has Australia won after winning the 2026 edition?

ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने लंदन के लॉर्ड्स क्रिकेट ग्राउंड में खेले गए फ़ाइनल में मेज़बान इंग्लैंड को 7 विकेट से हराकर ICC महिला T20 विश्व कप 2026 का ख़िताब जीता। 2026 का संस्करण जीतने के बाद ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने कुल कितने ICC महिला T20 विश्व कप ख़िताब जीत लिए हैं?

- (a) 5
- (b) 6
- (c) 7
- (d) 8
- (e) 9

Ans. c

Sol. Australia Clinches Record 7th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Title

Australia clinched the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 title, defeating hosts England by 7 wickets in the final at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, to claim a record-extending seventh championship.

Beth Mooney starred with 64 runs off 49 balls and was named Player of the Match as Australia successfully chased 151, finishing at 153/3 with 17 balls to spare.

Beth Mooney was also named Player of the Tournament, capping a dominant campaign as Australia reaffirmed their status as the most successful team in Women's T20 World Cup history.

ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026

- *Host- England*
- *Champions- Australia (Won a record 7th Women's T20 World Cup title)*

- *Runners-up- England*
- *Participating Teams- 12*
- *Total Matches- 33*
- *Player of the Tournament- Beth Mooney*
- *Most Runs- Danni Wyatt-Hodge (302)*
- *Most Wickets- Shree Charani (14)*

96. Who won the 2026 British Grand Prix?

2026 ब्रिटिश ग्रां प्री किसने जीती?

- (a) Max Verstappen
- (b) Lewis Hamilton
- (c) Lando Norris
- (d) Charles Leclerc
- (e) George Russell

Ans. d

Sol. Charles Leclerc Wins 2026 British Grand Prix, Secures Ferrari's Historic 250th Formula One Victory

Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) won the 2026 British Grand Prix held at Silverstone Circuit, United Kingdom.

The victory marked Ferrari's historic 250th Formula One Grand Prix win, making it the first team to achieve this milestone.

Charles Leclerc, who hails from Monaco, secured the 9th Formula One race victory of his career.

2026 F1 Grand Prix Winner

- *Austrian Grand Prix - George Russell (Britian)*
- *Barcelona-Catalunya Prix – Ferrari' s Lewis Hamilton (Britain)*
- *Monaco Grand Prix - Mercedes's Kimi Antonelli (Italy)*
- *Canadian Grand Prix - Mercedes's Kimi Antonelli (Italy)*
- *Miami Grand Prix - Mercedes's Kimi Antonelli (Italy)*
- *Japanese Grand Prix - Mercedes's Kimi Antonelli (Italy)*

97. Dr. Teejan Bai, who passed away recently, was renowned for which traditional folk art form?

डॉ. तीजन बाई, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, किस पारंपरिक लोक कला के लिए मशहूर थीं?

- (a) Lavani
- (b) Yakshagana
- (c) Pandavani
- (d) Bihu

(e) Nautanki

Ans. c

Sol. Padma Vibhushan Awardee and Legendary Pandavani Exponent Dr Teejan Bai Passes Away at 70

Padma Vibhushan awardee Dr Teejan Bai passed away at the age of 70 at AIIMS Raipur after a prolonged illness, marking the end of an era in Indian folk arts. Born in Ganiyari village, Durg district (Chhattisgarh), she took the traditional Pandavani folk storytelling art to audiences across India and the world. She broke social barriers by becoming one of the first women to perform the traditionally male-dominated Kapalik style of Pandavani, inspiring generations of folk artists.

She was honoured with the Padma Shri (1988), Padma Bhushan (2003), and Padma Vibhushan (2019) for her outstanding contribution to Indian folk culture and performing arts.

98. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)?

हिंदुस्तान शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड (HSL) के नए चेयरमैन और मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर (CMD) के तौर पर किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Captain Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (b) Rear Admiral (Retd.) C. Raghuram
- (c) Admiral Ishika Bansal
- (d) Vice Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi
- (e) Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan

Ans. b

Sol. Rear Admiral (Retd.) C. Raghuram Appointed CMD of Hindustan Shipyard Limited

Rear Admiral (Retd.) C. Raghuram has assumed charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Shipyard Limited.

He succeeded Captain Ganti Venkateswarlu, who had been holding the additional charge of CMD since January 2026.

About Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HAL)

- Established- 1941
- Ministry- Ministry of Defence
- Headquarters - Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- HSL is a 'Miniratna Category-I' Central Public enterprise.

99. Jalbhara (Jalbhora Sandesh), which recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, belongs to which state?

जलभरा (जलभरा संदेश), जिसे हाल ही में ज्योग्राफिकल इंडिकेशन (GI) टैग मिला है, किस राज्य से संबंधित है?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Assam
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Bihar
- (e) Tripura

Ans. c

Sol. Chandannagar's Famous Jalbhara Sweet Receives Geographical Indication Tag
Jalbhara (Jalbhara Sandesh) from Chandannagar, Hooghly district, West Bengal, received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag on 26 June 2026, recognising its 220-year-old confectionery heritage.

Jalbhara is a traditional Bengali sweet made with a soft chhena shell filled with liquid rose syrup or nolen gur (date palm jaggery syrup), making it a unique culinary speciality of Chandannagar.

In India, GI registration is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, and is administered by the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai.

100. World Chocolate Day is observed every year on which date?

विश्व चॉकलेट दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 5 July
- (b) 6 July
- (c) 7 July
- (d) 8 July
- (e) 9 July

Ans. c

Sol. 7 July - World Chocolate Day

World Chocolate Day is observed every year on 7 July to celebrate one of the world's most popular and beloved food products—chocolate.

The day is believed to mark the introduction of chocolate to Europe in 1550, making 7 July a symbolic date in chocolate's global history.

101. Global Forgiveness Day is observed every year on which date?

ग्लोबल फॉरगिवनेस डे हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 5 July
- (b) 6 July
- (c) 7 July
- (d) 8 July

(e) 9 July

Ans. c

Sol. 7 July - Global Forgiveness Day

Global Forgiveness Day is observed every year on 7 July to encourage people to forgive others, let go of resentment, and promote emotional healing.

The day highlights the importance of compassion, reconciliation, and peaceful relationships in families, communities, and society.

101. Who has been reappointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of Axis Bank for a further three-year term from October 27, 2026, to October 26, 2029, subject to his reappointment as an Independent Director?

स्वतंत्र निदेशक के तौर पर दोबारा नियुक्ति होने की शर्त पर, किसे 27 अक्टूबर 2026 से 26 अक्टूबर 2029 तक के अगले तीन साल के कार्यकाल के लिए एक्सिस बैंक का नॉन-एग्जीक्यूटिव चेयरमैन फिर से नियुक्त किया गया है?

(a) Shraddha Joshi Raj

(b) N. S. Vishwanathan

(c) iShika Bansal

(d) M. Rajeshwar Rao

(e) T. Rabi Sankar

Ans. b

Sol. RBI Approves N. S. Vishwanathan's Reappointment as Axis Bank Non-Executive Chairman Until 2029

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of N. S. Vishwanathan as the Non-Executive Chairman of Axis Bank for a further three-year term (October 27, 2026 – October 26, 2029).

The approval is subject to his re-appointment as an Independent Director of Axis Bank, as specified by the RBI.

N. S. Vishwanathan, a former RBI Deputy Governor who retired in March 2020, has been serving as Part-Time Chairman of Axis Bank since October 27, 2023. His reappointment proposal will be placed before shareholders at the bank's 32nd Annual General Meeting on July 31, 2026.

About Axis Bank

• **Founded** - 1993

• **Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra

• **MD & CEO** - Amitabh Chaudhary

• **Tagline** - Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

102. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has constituted an Expert Committee on Energy Statistics to audit and modernize India's energy data framework. Who is the Chairman of the Expert Committee on Energy Statistics?

सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI) ने भारत के ऊर्जा डेटा ढांचे का ऑडिट करने और उसे आधुनिक बनाने के लिए ऊर्जा सांख्यिकी पर एक विशेषज्ञ समिति का गठन किया है। ऊर्जा सांख्यिकी पर विशेषज्ञ समिति के अध्यक्ष कौन हैं?

- (a) R. Chidambaram
- (b) Ajay Kumar Sood
- (c) Rangan Banerjee
- (d) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (e) S. Somanath

Ans. c

Sol. MoSPI's Expert Committee Releases Roadmap to Modernize India's Energy Statistics Framework

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has constituted an Expert Committee on Energy Statistics under the chairmanship of Rangan Banerjee to audit and modernize India's energy data framework.

The committee's report recommends harmonizing energy data methodologies, adopting international standards, and addressing data gaps in key areas such as biofuels, captive power generation, and electric vehicle (EV) electricity consumption.

103. The Government of Delhi has approved the ₹8,300-crore "Clean Air, Healthy Delhi" project, a seven-year initiative (September 2026–August 2033) aimed at reducing air pollution, with _____ funding from the World Bank and the remaining _____ from the Delhi government.

दिल्ली सरकार ने ₹8,300 करोड़ के "Clean Air, Healthy Delhi" प्रोजेक्ट को मंजूरी दी है। यह सात साल (सितंबर 2026–अगस्त 2033) का प्रोजेक्ट है जिसका मकसद वायु प्रदूषण को कम करना है। इसमें वर्ल्ड बैंक से _____ और दिल्ली सरकार से बाकी _____ फंडिंग मिलेगी।

- (a) 50% and 50%
- (b) 60% and 40%
- (c) 65% and 35%
- (d) 70% and 30%
- (e) 75% and 25%

Ans. c

Sol. Delhi Government Approves ₹8,300-Crore 'Clean Air, Healthy Delhi' Project with World Bank Support

The Government of Delhi has approved the ₹8,300-crore "Clean Air, Healthy Delhi" project, a seven-year initiative (September 2026–August 2033) aimed at reducing air

pollution, with 65% funding from the World Bank and the remaining 35% from the Delhi government.

The project seeks to strengthen air quality management by establishing a Project Management Unit (PMU), enhancing air quality monitoring systems, improving data analytics, and creating an Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)-based monitoring framework.

The initiative targets major pollution sources, including transport, road dust, construction and demolition (C&D) waste, solid waste, industry, green spaces, and water pollution, while promoting electric vehicles, cleaner public transport, and advanced Pollution Under Control (PUC) monitoring systems.

104. State Bank of India (SBI) will acquire National Housing Bank (NHB)'s 10% stake in RMBS Development Company (RDCL), a middle-layer NBFC dedicated to residential mortgage-backed securitisation (RMBS). After the stake sale to SBI, NHB's shareholding in RMBS Development Company (RDCL) will decline to:

स्टेट बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया (SBI), RMBS डेवलपमेंट कंपनी (RDCL) में नेशनल हाउसिंग बैंक (NHB) की 10% हिस्सेदारी खरीदेगा। RDCL एक मिडिल-लेयर NBFC है जो रेजिडेंशियल मॉर्गेज-बैकड सिक्युरिटाइज़ेशन (RMBS) के काम में लगी है। SBI को हिस्सेदारी बेचने के बाद, RMBS डेवलपमेंट कंपनी (RDCL) में NHB की हिस्सेदारी घटकर इतनी रह जाएगी:

- (a) 49%
- (b) 39%
- (c) 35%
- (d) 29%
- (e) 25%

Ans. d

Sol. SBI to Acquire NHB's 10% Stake in RMBS Development Company

State Bank of India (SBI) will acquire National Housing Bank (NHB)'s 10% stake in RMBS Development Company (RDCL), a middle-layer NBFC dedicated to residential mortgage-backed securitisation (RMBS).

Following the transaction, NHB's shareholding in RDCL will reduce from 39% to 29%, while SBI's entry as a shareholder is expected to strengthen RDCL's role as a specialised intermediary for India's mortgage-backed securities market.

RDCL, established in 2024 with a paid-up capital of ₹500 crore, aims to deepen India's Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities (RMBS) market and is backed by leading banks, housing finance companies, NBFCs, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

105. According to the 2026 UNCTAD World Investment Report, by what percentage did India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows increase in 2025? UNCTAD की 2026 की वर्ल्ड इन्वेस्टमेंट रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 2025 में भारत में विदेशी प्रत्यक्ष निवेश (FDI) का प्रवाह कितने प्रतिशत बढ़ा?

- (a) 22%
- (b) 30%
- (c) 44%
- (d) 59%
- (e) 60%

Ans. d

Sol. UNCTAD Report: India's FDI Inflows Surge 44% to USD 39 Billion in 2025

According to the 2026 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development World Investment Report, India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows increased by 44% in 2025 to USD 39 billion, reinforcing India's position as a major global investment destination.

The report noted that FDI inflows to South Asia rose from USD 34 billion to USD 46 billion, with India accounting for the largest share of the increase due to strong investment inflows.

Globally, FDI flows increased by 6% to USD 1.6 trillion in 2025, although United Nations Conference on Trade and Development cautioned that the 2026 outlook remains uncertain because of trade policy uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, and ongoing conflicts.

Year	Inward FDI Inflows (US\$ Billion)	Global Rank (FDI Destination)	Outward FDI Outflows (US\$ Billion)	Global Rank (FDI Home Economy)
2021	44.8	8th	17.3	25th
2022	49.4	8th	14.6	23rd
2023	28.1	16th	13.9	23rd
2024	27.1	13th	24.3	20th
2025	38.9	11th	35.7	18th

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

106. Which aviation regulator has granted type certification to Embraer's larger E-Jet variants for operations in India?

किस एविएशन रेगुलेटर ने भारत में ऑपरेशन के लिए एम्ब्रेयर (Embraer) के बड़े E-Jet वेरिएंट्स को टाइप सर्टिफिकेशन दिया है?

- (a) Airports Authority of India
- (b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation
- (c) Bureau of Civil Aviation Security
- (d) International Civil Aviation Organization
- (e) Federal Aviation Administration

Ans. b

Sol. DGCA Certifies Embraer's Larger E-Jets for Commercial Operations in India
Embraer has received type certification from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the larger variants of its E-Jets, enabling their commercial entry into service in India.

At present, around 50 Embraer civil and military aircraft operate in India. Star Air, Embraer's only airline customer in the country, currently operates eight E175 jets and plans to introduce two E190 aircraft following the DGCA approval.

The certification is expected to strengthen regional air connectivity in India and expand Embraer's presence in the Indian aviation market by facilitating the induction of higher-capacity E-Jet aircraft.

107. Which Indian Institute of Management (IIM) will establish its first overseas campus in Indonesia?

कौन सा इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट (IIM) इंडोनेशिया में अपना पहला विदेशी कैंपस स्थापित करेगा?

- (a) Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad
- (b) Indian Institute of Management Calcutta
- (c) Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
- (d) Indian Institute of Management Lucknow
- (e) Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode

Ans. c

Sol. IIM Bangalore to Establish Its First Overseas Campus in Indonesia

Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM Bangalore) will establish its first overseas campus at the Singhasari Special Economic Zone, marking its first international expansion.

The overseas campus will be developed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PT Intellegensia Grahatama, the managing and development entity of the Singhasari SEZ in Malang, East Java.

108. India and Indonesia signed initial agreements for the procurement of which two indigenous missile systems?

भारत और इंडोनेशिया ने किन दो स्वदेशी मिसाइल प्रणालियों की खरीद के लिए शुरुआती समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Akash and Nag
- (b) BrahMos and Astra
- (c) Prithvi and Agni-V
- (d) Helina and Pinaka

(e) QRSAM and SANT**Ans. b****Sol.** India and Indonesia Sign Initial Agreements for BrahMos and Astra Missile Procurement

India and Indonesia signed initial agreements for the procurement of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and Astra missiles, marking a significant step in bilateral defence cooperation.

The agreements were signed during Narendra Modi's official visit to Indonesia, highlighting the growing India-Indonesia strategic and defence partnership.

The proposed procurement is expected to strengthen Indonesia's defence capabilities while boosting India's defence exports and enhancing collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region.

109. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred which highest civilian honour of Indonesia during his official state visit to the country in recognition of his contribution to strengthening India-Indonesia relations?

भारत-इंडोनेशिया संबंधों को मजबूत करने में उनके योगदान के सम्मान में प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को उनकी आधिकारिक राजकीय यात्रा के दौरान इंडोनेशिया के किस सर्वोच्च नागरिक सम्मान से सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) Bintang Mahaputera of Indonesia
- (b) Satyalancana Wira Karya of Indonesia
- (c) Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia
- (d) Bintang Jasa Utama of Indonesia
- (e) Bintang Kartika Eka Paksi of Indonesia

Ans. c**Sol.** PM Narendra Modi Conferred Indonesia's Highest Civilian Honour 'Bintang Adipurna'

PM Narendra Modi was conferred the 'Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia', Indonesia's highest civilian honour, by Prabowo Subianto.

The award recognises Prime Minister Modi's leadership and exceptional contribution to strengthening India-Indonesia bilateral relations and enhancing strategic cooperation between the two countries.

Recent Awards

- **'Green Oscar' (Whitley Award)** - Parveen Shaikh and Barkha Subba (for Wildlife Conservation)
- **Highest honour of World Meteorological Organization, IMO Prize** - Florence Rabier (France)

- **Seychelles' Highest Environmental Honour – 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon'** - PM Narendra Modi
- **Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI) Medal** - Viswanathan Anand
- **Wolf Prize in Physics** - Jainendra K. Jain

110. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi broke the long-standing record of which legendary Indian cricketer to become India's youngest men's international debutant?

वैभव सूर्यवंशी ने किस दिग्गज भारतीय क्रिकेटर का लंबे समय से चला आ रहा रिकॉर्ड तोड़कर भारत के सबसे युवा पुरुष अंतरराष्ट्रीय डेब्यू करने वाले खिलाड़ी बनने का कारनामा किया?

- (a) Sunil Gavaskar
- (b) Virat Kohli
- (c) Sachin Tendulkar
- (d) MS Dhoni
- (e) Kapil Dev

Ans. c

Sol. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes Youngest-Ever Indian to Debut in International Cricket

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became the youngest player to debut for India in international cricket at the age of 15 years and 99 days, making his debut in the second T20I against England at Old Trafford.

Sooryavanshi surpassed the long-standing record of Sachin Tendulkar, who made his international debut at 16 years and 205 days against Pakistan in 1989.

He also became the youngest Indian international cricketer overall, breaking the record previously held by Shafali Verma, who debuted at 15 years and 239 days in 2019.

111. The 36th NATO Summit 2026 was held in which city?

36वां NATO शिखर सम्मेलन 2026 किस शहर में आयोजित किया गया था?

- (a) Istanbul
- (b) Ankara
- (c) Brussels
- (d) Paris
- (e) Rome

Ans. b

Sol. 36th NATO Summit 2026 Held in Ankara, Türkiye

The 36th North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Summit was held in Ankara, Türkiye. It is Türkiye's second time hosting a NATO Summit, after the 2004 Istanbul Summit.

The summit brings together NATO member states and partner countries to discuss defence spending, strengthening collective deterrence and defence capabilities,

continued support for Ukraine, and enhanced defence industrial cooperation and innovation.

About North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- **Founded** - 1949
- **Headquarters** - Brussels, Belgium
- **Secretary General**- Mark Rutte
- **Member countries** -32 (32nd Sweden, 31st Finland)
- **Founding Members** - United States, Canada, and ten European countries, including Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom.
- **NATO** is a military alliance between North American and European countries.

112. In July 2026, who became the Sikkim mountaineer to successfully scale Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe?

जुलाई 2026 में, यूरोप की सबसे ऊँची चोटी माउंट एल्ब्रस पर सफलतापूर्वक चढ़ने वाले सिक्किम के पर्वतारोही कौन बने?

- (a) Arunima Sinha
- (b) Baljeet Kaur
- (c) Tshering Choden
- (d) Bachendri Pal
- (e) Anshu Jamsenpa

Ans. c

Sol. Sikkim Mountaineer Tshering Choden Climbs Mount Elbrus, Advances Towards Seven Summits Goal

Sikkim mountaineer Tshering Choden has successfully scaled Mount Elbrus (5,642 metres), the highest peak in Europe, adding another milestone in her pursuit of the Seven Summits challenge.

The 37-year-old mountaineer from Chongay in Gangtok had earlier summited Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, in August 2025.

She is a graduate of the Basic Mountaineering Course from the Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism (IHCAE) in Chemchey, South Sikkim.

113. Former Afghanistan fast bowler Shapoor Zadran, who recently passed away, was associated with which sport?

अफ़गानिस्तान के पूर्व तेज़ गेंदबाज़ शापूर ज़दरान, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, किस खेल से जुड़े थे?

- (a) Football
- (b) Hockey

- (c) Cricket
- (d) Tennis
- (e) Badminton

Ans. c

Sol. Former Afghanistan Fast Bowler Shapoor Zadran Passes Away

Former Shapoor Zadran, the left-arm fast bowler who represented Afghanistan in international cricket, has passed away.

Zadran played 44 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and 36 T20 Internationals (T20Is) for Afghanistan, making significant contributions to the country's cricket journey.

114. In July 2026, PM Narendra Modi addressed the Parliament of which country, becoming the first Indian Prime Minister to do so?

जुलाई 2026 में, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस देश की संसद को संबोधित किया और ऐसा करने वाले पहले भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री बने?

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Thailand
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Singapore
- (e) Vietnam

Ans. c

Sol. PM Narendra Modi Becomes First Indian Prime Minister to Address Indonesia's Parliament

Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to address the Parliament of Indonesia, where he called for a new era in bilateral relations based on shared civilisational heritage, democratic values, and a common future vision.

PM Modi highlighted the over 2,000 years of India-Indonesia civilisational ties through trade, culture, ideas, and maritime connections, and emphasized shared values such as "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (The World is One Family) and Indonesia's motto "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika" (Unity in Diversity).

115. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director & CEO of South Indian Bank from October 1, 2026?

1 अक्टूबर, 2026 से साउथ इंडियन बैंक के प्रबंध निदेशक और सीईओ के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (b) Mahesh Muralidhar Pai
- (c) Pralay Mondal
- (d) Ramesh Babu

(e) Rajesh Kumar

Ans. b

Sol. RBI Approves Mahesh Muralidhar Pai as MD & CEO of South Indian Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Mahesh Muralidhar Pai as the Managing Director & CEO of South Indian Bank (SIB) for a three-year term, effective October 1, 2026.

P R Seshadri, the present Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, has been at the helm at SIB since October 1, 2023.

About South Indian Bank

- *Founded - 1929*
- *Headquarters - Thrissur, Kerala*
- *Chairman - Jose Joseph Kattoor*
- *MD and CEO - P R Seshadri*
- *Tagline - Experience Next Generation Banking.*

116. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Economist and Economic Counsellor of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) के नए मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री और आर्थिक सलाहकार के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Kristalina Georgieva
- (b) Gita Gopinath
- (c) Silvana Tenreyro
- (d) Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas
- (e) Maurice Obstfeld

Ans. c

Sol. IMF Appoints Silvana Tenreyro as New Chief Economist and Economic Counsellor

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has appointed Silvana Tenreyro as its new Chief Economist and Economic Counsellor, succeeding Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas.

Silvana Tenreyro is currently a member of IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva's External Advisory Group and will now lead the IMF's economic research and policy analysis.

About International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- *Founded - 1945*
- *Headquarters- Washington, D.C.*
- *Managing Director - Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria, 12th)*
- *First Deputy MD - Gita Gopinath*
- *Member countries - 190 (Andorra)*

117. Who has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)?

डेमोक्रेटिक पीपल्स रिपब्लिक ऑफ़ कोरिया (DPRK) में भारत का अगला राजदूत किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Aliawati Longkumer
- (b) Sanjeev Jain
- (c) Ishika Bansal
- (d) Pavan Kapoor
- (e) Harsh Vardhan Shringla

Ans. b

Sol. MEA Appoints Sanjeev Jain as India's Next Ambassador to North Korea

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed Sanjeev Jain as India's next Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), commonly known as North Korea.

Sanjeev Jain, currently serving as India's Ambassador to the Republic of Cabo Verde, will succeed Aliawati Longkumer as India's envoy to North Korea.

Recent Appointments in Foreign

- *High Commissioner of India to Malaysia - Somnath Ghosh*
- *Ambassador of India to the Oman - Prashant Pise*
- *India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh - Dinesh Trivedi Appointed*
- *India's High Commissioner to the UK - Periasamy Kumaran*
- *India's Ambassador to China - Vikram Doraiswami*

118. Consider the following statements regarding the Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2026:

रिज़र्व बैंक-इंटीग्रेटेड ओम्बड्समैन स्कीम (RB-IOS), 2026 के बारे में इन बातों पर गौर करें:

1. It came into effect on July 1, 2026, replacing the earlier Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021.
2. The scheme has been introduced by the Ministry of Finance.
3. There is no upper limit on the value of disputes that can be brought before the RBI Ombudsman.
4. The RBI Ombudsman can award compensation of up to ₹30 lakh for consequential financial loss.
5. Compensation of up to ₹5 lakh may be awarded for loss of time, expenses incurred, harassment, or mental anguish suffered by the complainant.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Any 2 statements are correct
- (b) Any 3 statement are correct

- (c) Any 1 statement is correct
(d) Any 4 statements are correct
(e) All statements are incorrect

Ans. b

Sol. New RBI Ombudsman Scheme 2026 Comes into Effect from July 1

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the Reserve Bank–Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2026, effective July 1, 2026, with revised rules to strengthen customer grievance redressal.

Under the new scheme, there is no upper limit on the value of disputes that customers can bring before the RBI Ombudsman against regulated financial entities. The RBI Ombudsman can award compensation of up to ₹30 lakh for consequential financial loss and up to ₹3 lakh for loss of time, expenses incurred, harassment, or mental anguish suffered by the complainant.

The revised scheme applies to all banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), non-bank prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers, and Credit Information Companies (CICs).

The RBI may appoint one or more Ombudsmen and Deputy Ombudsmen, with appointments generally made for a three-year term.

119. Which authority granted the licence to Punjab & Sind Bank to establish an IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)?

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਐਂਡ ਸਿੰਧ ਬੈਂਕ ਨੂੰ IFSC ਬੈਂਕਿੰਗ ਯੂਨਿਟ (IBU) ਸਥਾਪਿਤ ਕਰਨੇ ਦੇ ਲਿਓਂ ਕਿਸ ਅਥਾਰਿਟੀ ਨੇ ਲਾਇਸੈਂਸ ਦਿਤਾ?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
(b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
(c) International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)
(d) Ministry of Finance
(e) National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)

Ans. c

Sol. IFSCA Approves Punjab & Sind Bank's IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City

Punjab & Sind Bank has received a licence from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to establish an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City, Gandhinagar.

The IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) will provide foreign currency banking, trade finance, and other international financial services to corporates, financial institutions, importers, and global investors.

120. According to the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook (WEO), India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026–27 has been revised to:

IMF की नवीनतम 'वर्ल्ड इकोनॉमिक आउटलुक' (WEO) रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 के लिए भारत की GDP वृद्धि दर का अनुमान संशोधित करके कितना कर दिया गया है?

- (a) 6.2%
- (b) 6.3%
- (c) 6.4%
- (d) 6.5%
- (e) 6.7%

Ans. c

Sol. IMF Revises India's FY2026–27 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.4%, Raises FY2027–28 Projection to 6.7%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026–27 downward by 0.1 percentage point (10 basis points) to 6.4%, according to its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO).

The IMF has raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2027–28 to 6.7%, indicating stronger medium-term economic growth prospects.

GDP Projection List 2025

- IMF – 6.4% (FY26); 6.7% (FY27)
- Goldman Sachs - 6.98% (CY26)
- World Bank – 6.6% (FY27)
- Fitch Rating - 6.4% (FY27)
- OECD – 6.3% (FY27); 6.4% (FY28)
- ICRA - 6.2%(FY27)

121. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto jointly inaugurated the restoration project at which UNESCO World Heritage Site?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और इंडोनेशिया के राष्ट्रपति प्राबोवो सुबियांतो ने संयुक्त रूप से किस यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल पर जीर्णोद्धार परियोजना का उद्घाटन किया?

- (a) Borobudur Temple
- (b) Angkor Wat
- (c) Prambanan Temple Compounds
- (d) Bagan Archaeological Zone
- (e) My Son Sanctuary

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Inaugurate India-Supported Restoration Project at Prambanan Temple

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto jointly inaugurated the India-supported restoration and conservation project at the Prambanan Temple Compounds, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Indonesia, highlighting the two countries' shared civilisational heritage.

The initiative reflects the commitment of India and Indonesia to strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through cultural diplomacy, heritage conservation, and deeper people-to-people ties.

122. Which major port has become the second in India, after Visakhapatnam Port, to achieve an operational draft of 18 metres, enabling it to handle fully laden Capesize vessels?

विशाखापत्तनम पोर्ट के बाद, भारत का कौन सा प्रमुख पोर्ट 18 मीटर का ऑपरेशनल ड्राफ्ट हासिल करने वाला दूसरा पोर्ट बन गया है, जिससे यह पूरी तरह से भरे हुए केपसाइज़ (Capesize) जहाजों को संभालने में सक्षम हो गया है?

- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru Port
- (b) Kamarajar Port Limited
- (c) Paradip Port Authority
- (d) Deendayal Port Authority
- (e) Chennai Port

Ans. b

Sol. Kamarajar Port Becomes India's Second Major Port with 18-Metre Operational Draft

Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) has become India's second major port, after Visakhapatnam Port, to achieve an operational draft of 18 metres, enabling it to handle fully laden Capesize vessels carrying up to 1,70,000 DWT.

The milestone was achieved after the successful completion of the Capital Dredging Phase VI project, executed at a cost of approximately ₹440 crore, making Kamarajar Port a deep-water, Cape Compliant port.

The project deepened the outer approach channel to 23 metres, the inner entrance channel to 22 metres, and increased the berth draft to 18 metres, enhancing the port's capacity to accommodate some of the world's largest bulk cargo vessels and strengthening India's maritime competitiveness.

123. Which 17th-century Buddhist monastery in Nepal has received the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation?

नेपाल में 17वीं सदी के किस बौद्ध मठ को सांस्कृतिक विरासत संरक्षण के लिए 2025 यूनेस्को एशिया-प्रशांत पुरस्कार मिला है?

- (a) Boudhanath Stupa

- (b) Swayambhunath Temple
- (c) Jestha Varna Mahavihar
- (d) Changu Narayan Temple
- (e) Hiranya Varna Mahavihar

Ans. c

Sol. Nepal's Jestha Varna Mahavihar Wins UNESCO Heritage Conservation Award*
Jestha Varna Mahavihar, a 17th-century Buddhist monastery in Lalitpur, Nepal, has received the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation for its successful restoration.

The monastery was damaged in the 2015 Nepal earthquake and later reconstructed with the assistance of the Government of India under its post-earthquake reconstruction programme in Nepal's cultural heritage sector.

India provided Nepalese Rupees (NPR) 13.78 crore for the reconstruction project, which was carried out in coordination with Nepali authorities and the local community.

124. Which state will host the 8th Khelo India Youth Games 2026?

8वें खेलो इंडिया यूथ गेम्स 2026 की मेज़बानी कौन सा राज्य करेगा?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Andhra Pradesh
- (e) Kerala

Ans. c

Sol. Telangana to Host 8th Khelo India Youth Games 2026 in November
Telangana will host the 8th Khelo India Youth Games 2026, scheduled to be held in November 2026, as announced by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya.

The multi-sport grassroots event is expected to witness the participation of over 8,000 athletes, coaches, support staff, and officials, making it one of India's largest youth sporting events.

About Telangana

- **Established** – 2 June 2014
- **Capital** – Hyderabad
- **Chief Minister** – Revanth Reddy
- **Deputy CM** - Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka
- **Governor** – Shiv Pratap Shukla

125. Who has become India's 98th Chess Grandmaster (GM)?

भारत के 98वें शतरंज ग्रैंडमास्टर (GM) कौन बने हैं?

- (a) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (b) Arjun Erigaisi
- (c) Aswath S
- (d) Nihal Sarin
- (e) Leon Luke Mendonca

Ans. c

Sol. Aswath S Becomes India's 98th Chess Grandmaster

17-year-old Aswath S from Kanyakumari became India's 98th Grandmaster (GM) after securing his final GM norm at the 2026 Pune International Grandmaster Round Robin.

Aswath earned the title by defeating USA's FM Kannan Vaidyanathan with the black pieces in the final round, finishing the tournament with 7 points from 9 rounds (6 wins, 2 draws, 1 loss) to secure second place.

He had earlier achieved his first GM norm at the Grenke Open and his second GM norm at the First Saturday GM Round Robin in Budapest, where he also crossed the 2500 FIDE rating mark.

Previous Chess Grand Masters

- 97th Grandmaster - Harshavardhan G.B. (Chennai, Tamil Nadu)
- 96th Grandmaster - Ethan Vaz (Goa)
- 95th Grandmaster - Aronya Ghosh (Kolkata, West Bengal)
- 26th Woman Grandmaster - Sarayu Velpula (Warangal, Telangana)
- 94th Grandmaster - Mayank Chakraborty (Guwahati, Assam)

126. Batter Tammy Beaumont has announced her retirement from international cricket, with her final match set to be the first-ever women's Test at Lord's against India. Tammy Beaumont represented which country in international cricket?

बल्लेबाज़ टैमी ब्यूमोंट ने इंटरनेशनल क्रिकेट से संन्यास की घोषणा कर दी है; उनका आखिरी मैच लॉर्ड्स में भारत के खिलाफ होने वाला पहला महिला टेस्ट मैच होगा। टैमी ब्यूमोंट ने इंटरनेशनल क्रिकेट में किस देश का प्रतिनिधित्व किया?

- (a) Australia
- (b) New Zealand
- (c) England
- (d) Ireland
- (e) South Africa

Ans. c

Sol. Tammy Beaumont Announces Retirement

England batter Tammy Beaumont has announced her retirement from international cricket, with her final match set to be the first-ever women's Test at Lord's against India.

Beaumont ends her international career with 7,325 runs and 14 centuries, and is only the second woman to score a century in all three international formats (Tests, ODIs, and T20Is).

Recently Retired Players

- Tammy Beaumont (England) – International Cricket
- Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland) - Professional tennis
- Ben Stokes (England) – International Test Cricket
- Kane Williamson (New Zealand) - International cricket
- Vijay Shankar (India) - International Cricket
- Rubel Hossain (Bangladesh) - International Cricket

127. National Fish Farmers Day is observed every year in India on which date?

भारत में राष्ट्रीय मत्स्य किसान दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 5 July
- (b) 8 July
- (c) 10 July
- (d) 15 July
- (e) 20 July

Ans. c

Sol. 10 July - National Fish Farmers Day

National Fish Farmers Day is observed annually in India on 10 July to honour the contributions of fish farmers and promote the development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The day commemorates the successful induced breeding of Indian Major Carps by Dr. Hiralal Chaudhuri and Dr. K. H. Alikunhi on 10 July 1957, a landmark achievement in Indian aquaculture.

128. Consider the following statements regarding the appointment of senior IPS officers to key police organisations:

प्रमुख पुलिस संगठनों में वरिष्ठ IPS अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. Amit Garg has been appointed as the Director of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), New Delhi.
2. Alok Kumar Mittal has been appointed as the Director General of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)

3. Sujeet Pandey has been appointed as the Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), Hyderabad.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only 1 statement is correct
- (b) Only 2 statements are correct
- (c) All 3 statements are correct
- (d) None of the statements are correct
- (e) Only 1 and 3 statements are correct

Ans. c

Sol. Amit Garg Appointed NCRB Director

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of three senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers to head key police organisations: Amit Garg as Director of NCRB, Alok Kumar Mittal as Director General of BPR&D, and Sujeet Pandey as Director of SVPNPA.

Amit Garg, a 1993-batch IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Director of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), New Delhi. He will hold the post until October 31, 2027 or until further orders.

Alok Kumar Mittal, a 1993-batch IPS officer of Haryana cadre, has been appointed as the Director General of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and will continue in the role until his retirement on June 30, 2029.

Sujeet Pandey, a 1994-batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), Hyderabad, and will serve until July 31, 2028.

129. InsuranceDekho has appointed whom as its Brand Ambassador?

InsuranceDekho ने किसे अपना ब्रांड एंबेसडर नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) Rahul Dravid
- (b) MS Dhoni
- (c) Virat Kohli
- (d) Kapil Dev
- (e) Sourav Ganguly

Ans. e

Sol. InsuranceDekho Appoints Sourav Ganguly as Brand Ambassador, Launches 'Khul Kar Khelo' Campaign

InsuranceDekho appointed former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly as its Brand Ambassador to strengthen its brand presence and outreach across India.

The company launched the 'Khul Kar Khelo' campaign to empower insurance advisors and enhance the insurance distribution ecosystem by encouraging greater participation and growth.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- Sourav Ganguly - InsuranceDekho for Khul Kar Khelo Campaign
- MS Dhoni - DRiV
- Shreyanka Patil - KLF Nirmal, a coconut hair oil brand
- Shah Rukh Khan - Visa (for 'Infinitely More' campaign)

130. National Commission for Women (NCW) has constituted a high-level Expert Committee to review the regulatory framework governing IVF clinics, ART centres and gamete banks. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the NCW's Expert Committee on the ART sector?

नेशनल कमीशन फॉर विमेन (NCW) ने IVF क्लीनिक, ART सेंटर और गैमीट बैंक को रेगुलेट करने वाले नियमों की समीक्षा के लिए एक हाई-लेवल एक्सपर्ट कमेटी बनाई है। ART सेक्टर पर NCW की एक्सपर्ट कमेटी का चेयरपर्सन किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Justice Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (b) Justice Hima Kohli
- (c) Justice R. Banumathi
- (d) Justice Gita Mittal
- (e) Justice Asha Menon

Ans. e

Sol. NCW Constitutes Expert Committee to Review Regulations Governing IVF Clinics and ART Centres

National Commission for Women (NCW) has constituted a high-level Expert Committee, chaired by Justice Asha Menon (Former Delhi High Court Judge), to review the regulatory framework governing IVF clinics, ART centres and gamete banks.

The committee will assess the implementation of the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021, Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, and the 2026 Amendment Rules, while identifying regulatory gaps and recommending reforms.

The panel will propose Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and best practices to ensure ethical treatment, transparency, informed consent, privacy, and protection of women's reproductive rights in the ART sector.

131. Sirsa Kinnow has become the first GI-tagged fruit of which state?

सिरसा किन्नू किस राज्य का पहला GI-टैग वाला फल बन गया है?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Rajasthan

(c) Himachal Pradesh

(d) Uttar Pradesh

(e) Haryana

Ans. e

Sol. Sirsa Kinnow Receives GI Tag, Becomes Haryana's First Exclusive GI-Tagged Fruit
Sirsa Kinnow has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

With this recognition, Sirsa Kinnow has become Haryana's first fruit and the state's first exclusive GI-tagged product.

132. Uttarakhand has recently become the ____ fully literate State in India under the ULLAS – New India Literacy Programme.

उत्तराखंड हाल ही में ULLAS – न्यू इंडिया लिटरेसी प्रोग्राम के तहत भारत का ____ पूर्ण साक्षर राज्य बन गया है।

(a) Third

(b) Fourth

(c) Fifth

(d) Seventh

(e) Sixth

Ans. e

Sol. Uttarakhand Becomes India's Sixth Fully Literate State Under NEP 2020

Uttarakhand has become the sixth fully literate State in India after achieving the prescribed adult literacy benchmarks under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the ULLAS – New India Literacy Programme.

The declaration was approved by the Governor on 8 July 2026, following the fulfilment of literacy standards set by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

With this achievement, Uttarakhand joins Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim as fully literate States.

133. Consider the following statements regarding the PM-SETU Scheme:

PM-SETU योजना के बारे में नीचे दिए गए बयानों पर विचार करें:

- 1. PM-SETU stands for Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs.**
- 2. The scheme aims to upgrade 1,000 Government ITIs through 200 hub-and-spoke clusters.**

3. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
4. The expansion of the scheme was approved by the National Steering Committee (NSC) under the MSDE.

Which of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (e) all are correct

Ans. e

Sol. Centre Expands PM-SETU Scheme to 200 ITI Clusters, Approves ₹1,237.58 Crore Investment Plans

The Central Government has approved the nationwide expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme to 200 Industrial Training Institute (ITI) clusters, along with investment plans worth ₹1,237.58 crore.

The approvals were cleared at the 4th meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), with implementation based on states' readiness and industry participation.

Five ITI clusters across Odisha, Gujarat, and Telangana were approved, with Jindal Naveen Avasar Ltd., ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, Apollo MedSkills Ltd., Siddharth Infratech & Services, and Neuland Foundation serving as anchor industry partners.

PM-SETU, approved by the Union Cabinet in May 2025, aims to upgrade 1,000 government ITIs through 200 hub-and-spoke clusters and received a budget allocation of ₹6,140.50 crore in the Union Budget 2026–27.

134. Which Union Ministry has launched the TribeX digital learning platform?

किस केंद्रीय मंत्रालय ने TribeX डिजिटल लर्निंग प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Ministry of Culture, Government of India
- (b) Ministry of Education, Government of India
- (c) Ministry of Textile, Government of India
- (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India
- (e) Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India

Ans. e

Sol. Ministry of Tribal Affairs Launches 'TribeX' Digital Platform to Preserve Tribal Heritage and Promote Skill Development

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched TribeX, a digital learning platform dedicated to tribal arts, culture, languages, traditional knowledge, and skill development, during the National Workshop on Strengthening Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs).

TribeX features a Digital Academy offering free certificate and UGC-aligned diploma courses, along with a Heritage Archive to preserve tribal literature, oral traditions, and cultural practices.

135. Global Energy Independence Day is observed every year on:

ग्लोबल एनर्जी इंडिपेंडेंस डे हर साल इस तारीख को मनाया जाता है:

- (a) 11 July
- (b) 16 July
- (c) 10 July
- (d) 15 July
- (e) 28 July

Ans. c

Sol. 10 July – Global Energy Independence Day

Global Energy Independence Day is observed annually on 10 July to promote the use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro, and bioenergy, reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Nikola Tesla, the renowned inventor and electrical engineer whose innovations in alternating current (AC) electricity revolutionised modern power systems.

136. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the Pragati Project to empower over 20,000 agricultural entrepreneurs and benefit around 20 lakh farmers across the country. The Pragati Project has been launched to support which national vision?

केंद्रीय कृषि मंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान ने देश भर में 20,000 से ज्यादा कृषि उद्यमियों को सशक्त बनाने और लगभग 20 लाख किसानों को लाभ पहुँचाने के लिए 'प्रगति प्रोजेक्ट' लॉन्च किया। 'प्रगति प्रोजेक्ट' किस राष्ट्रीय विज़न को समर्थन देने के लिए शुरू किया गया है?

- (a) Digital India
- (b) Atmanirbhar Bharat
- (c) Startup India
- (d) Skill India
- (e) Viksit Bharat

Ans. d

Sol. Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches 'Pragati' Project to Empower 20,000 Agricultural Entrepreneurs and 20 Lakh Farmers

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the Pragati Project to empower over 20,000 agricultural entrepreneurs and benefit around 20 lakh farmers across the country.

Under the initiative, the government will train 26,000 small agricultural entrepreneurs, who will work at the village level and collaborate with 100–200 farmers to improve agricultural productivity.

The project aims to promote prosperous farmers, prosperous villages, and sustainable agricultural development, supporting the vision of Viksit Bharat through grassroots agricultural transformation.

137. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) signed an agreement to provide access to the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) with which organisation?

काउंसिल ऑफ साइंटिफिक एंड इंडस्ट्रियल रिसर्च (CSIR) ने किस संगठन के साथ 'ट्रेडिशनल नॉलेज डिजिटल लाइब्रेरी' (TKDL) तक पहुँच प्रदान करने के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) European Patent Office (EPO), Germany
- (b) United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), USA
- (c) Japan Patent Office (JPO), Japan
- (d) World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Switzerland
- (e) IP Australia, the Australian Government's Intellectual Property Office

Ans. e

Sol. CSIR and IP Australia Sign Agreement to Expand Access to Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)

CSIR and IP Australia signed an agreement to provide IP Australia access to the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (CSIR-TKDL) during the 3rd India–Australia Annual Summit held in Melbourne in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), established in 2001 by CSIR and the Ministry of AYUSH, is the world's first database for protecting India's traditional knowledge from wrongful patent claims by serving as a prior art database.

The TKDL contains information on over 5.2 lakh formulations and practices from Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, and Yoga, translated into English, German, French, Japanese, and Spanish to assist patent examiners globally.

With this agreement, 18 patent offices worldwide now have access to the CSIR-TKDL under Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs), and the database has helped revoke, reject, amend, withdraw, or abandon over 375 patent applications based on documented prior art evidence.

138. Which pharmaceutical company has launched Awiqli (Insulin Icodec), the world's first once-weekly basal insulin for adults with diabetes?

किस फार्मास्युटिकल कंपनी ने डायबिटीज से पीड़ित वयस्कों के लिए दुनिया की पहली 'वन्स-वीकली बेसल इंसुलिन' (हफ्ते में एक बार ली जाने वाली बेसल इंसुलिन) 'Awiqli' (इंसुलिन आइकोडेक) लॉन्च की है?

- (a) Pfizer
- (b) Eli Lilly
- (c) Sanofi
- (d) Abbott
- (e) Novo Nordisk

Ans. e

Sol. Novo Nordisk Launches Once-Weekly Insulin 'Awiqli'

Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk has launched Awiqli (Insulin Icodec), the world's first once-weekly basal insulin for adults with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. The therapy reduces the number of basal insulin injections from 365 per year to just 52, aiming to improve treatment adherence and address the fear of daily injections.

Awiqli (700-unit pack) is priced at ₹2,611 (₹3.73 per unit), making it around 30–40% cheaper than many currently available daily basal insulin options.

Novo Nordisk has partnered with Abbott for the distribution of Awiqli in India, extending their existing collaboration for insulin products.

139. Giles Thomson, who assumed office as the President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on 1 July 2026, belongs to which country?

गाइल्स थॉमसन, जिन्होंने 1 जुलाई 2026 को फाइनेंशियल एक्शन टास्क फोर्स (FATF) के अध्यक्ष का पद संभाला, किस देश से हैं?

- (a) United Kingdom
- (b) Canada
- (c) Australia
- (d) Germany
- (e) France

Ans. a

Sol. Giles Thomson Assumes Charge as FATF President for 2026–2028 Term

Giles Thomson (United Kingdom) assumed office as the President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on 1 July 2026 for a two-year term (2026–2028).

He succeeded Elisa de Anda Madrazo of Mexico, whose tenure as FATF President ended on 30 June 2026.

About Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- **Founded - 1989**

- **Headquarters** - Paris, France
- **Membership** - 40
- **President** - Giles Thomson (United Kingdom)

140. Olympic medallist Leander Paes has been appointed as the Player Ambassador of which organisation?

ओलंपिक पदक विजेता लिंडर पेस को किस संगठन का प्लेयर एंबेसडर नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) International Tennis Federation (ITF)
- (b) All India Tennis Association (AITA)
- (c) Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP)
- (d) Asian Tennis Federation (ATF)
- (e) Davis Cup Committee

Ans. d

Sol. Leander Paes Appointed Player Ambassador of the Asian Tennis Federation

Olympic medallist Leander Paes has been appointed as the Player Ambassador of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF), the governing body for tennis in Asia.

The announcement was made during a ceremony on the sidelines of Wimbledon in London, attended by ATF President Yuryi Polskiy, senior officials, players, and members of the international tennis community.

141. Which state has made the full version of Vande Mataram and the National Anthem Jana Gana Mana compulsory in all schools from 7 July 2026?

किस राज्य ने 7 जुलाई 2026 से सभी स्कूलों में वंदे मातरम और राष्ट्रगान जन गण मन का पूरा वर्शन ज़रूरी कर दिया है?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Mizoram
- (e) Tripura

Ans. e

Sol. Tripura Makes Full Version of Vande Mataram and National Anthem Mandatory in All Schools

Tripura has made the full version of the National Song Vande Mataram and the National Anthem Jana Gana Mana compulsory in all government, government-aided, private schools, and recognised madrassas from 7 July.

Under the new school assembly protocol, the day will begin with the full rendition of Vande Mataram followed by Jana Gana Mana, with students, teachers, and staff required to stand at attention during the performance.

Infographic:

Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and appears in his novel Anandamath.

Jana Gana Mana was composed by Rabindranath Tagore.

About Tripura

- **Capital** – Agartala
- **Chief Minister** - Manik Sarkar
- **Governor** – Indra Sena Reddy Nallu

142. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (COE) on Human-Wildlife Conflict at which institution?

केंद्रीय मंत्री भूपेंद्र यादव ने किस संस्थान में मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष पर 'सेंटर ऑफ़ एक्सीलेंस' (COE) का उद्घाटन किया?

- (a) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, Karnataka
- (b) Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- (c) Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- (d) Wildlife Institute of India-Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (WII-SACON), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- (e) Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

Ans. d

Sol. Bhupender Yadav Inaugurates Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Launches National Conflict Portal

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (COE) on Human-Wildlife Conflict at the Wildlife Institute of India-Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (WII-SACON), Coimbatore.

He also launched the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Portal, a digital platform aimed at strengthening the management and mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts across India.

143. World Population Day is observed every year on 11 July to raise awareness about global population issues, including family planning, gender equality, maternal health, and sustainable development. What is the theme of World Population Day 2026?

दुनिया भर में जनसंख्या से जुड़े मुद्दों - जैसे परिवार नियोजन, लैंगिक समानता, मातृ स्वास्थ्य और सतत विकास - के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए हर साल 11 जुलाई को 'विश्व जनसंख्या दिवस' मनाया जाता है। विश्व जनसंख्या दिवस 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Leave No One Behind: Count Everyone
- (b) Harnessing the Power of Data for a Resilient Future

(c) Investing in People for Sustainable Development

(d) Population and Climate Action for a Better Tomorrow

(e) Realising the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future

Ans. d

Sol. 11 July - World Population Day

World Population Day is observed every year on 11 July to raise awareness about global population issues, including family planning, gender equality, maternal health, and sustainable development.

Theme 2026 - Realising the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future

The day was established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989, inspired by the "Day of Five Billion" marked on 11 July 1987, when the world's population was estimated to reach 5 billion.

144. AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) has partnered with which company to launch the AU Zaggle Co-Branded Retail Credit Card?

AU स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक (AU SFB) ने AU जैगल को-ब्रांडेड रिटेल क्रेडिट कार्ड लॉन्च करने के लिए किस कंपनी के साथ साझेदारी की है?

(a) Razorpay

(b) Pine Labs

(c) Zaggle Prepaid Ocean Services Ltd.

(d) MobiKwik

(e) Paytm Payments Bank

Ans. c

Sol. AU Small Finance Bank & Zaggle Launch Co-Branded Retail Credit Card on Visa and RuPay Networks

AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) and Zaggle Prepaid Ocean Services Ltd (Zaggle) have launched the AU Zaggle Co-Branded Retail Credit Card on both Visa and RuPay networks, giving customers the flexibility to choose their preferred payment network. The credit card offers a unique "Zagg Coins-to-Cashback" feature, allowing users to earn accelerated Zagg Coins on UPI and contactless transactions, along with higher cashback on achieving specified spending milestones.

145. State Bank of India (SBI) will sell a 1.42% stake in which company through a pre-IPO placement?

स्टेट बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया (SBI) प्री-IPO प्लेसमेंट के ज़रिए किस कंपनी में 1.42% हिस्सेदारी बेचेगा?

(a) SBI Life Insurance

- (b) SBI General Insurance
- (c) SBI Funds Management
- (d) SBI Cards and Payment Services
- (e) SBI Mutual Fund Trustee Company

Ans. c

Sol. SBI to Sell 1.42% Stake in SBI Funds Management Through ₹1,655 Crore Pre-IPO Placement

State Bank of India (SBI) will sell a 1.42% stake in SBI Funds Management (SBIFM) for ₹1,655 crore through a pre-IPO placement, with 29 million shares being sold at ₹574 per share, the upper end of the IPO price band.

SBI Funds Management, India's largest Asset Management Company (AMC) by assets under management, has launched an ₹11,693 crore IPO with a price band of ₹545–₹574 per share. The IPO is entirely an Offer for Sale (OFS) by SBI and Amundi India Holding.

146. Which state-owned company has raised USD 300 million through the issuance of Floating Rate Notes (FRNs)?

किस सरकारी कंपनी ने फ्लोटिंग रेट नोट्स (FRNs) जारी करके 300 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर जुटाए हैं?

- (a) REC Limited
- (b) NTPC Limited
- (c) Power Finance Corporation (PFC)
- (d) Power Grid Corporation of India
- (e) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)

Ans. d

Sol. SBI to Sell 1.42% Stake in SBI Funds Management Through ₹1,655 Crore Pre-IPO Placement

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147. The \$890 million financing package approved by the World Bank for the PM Surya Ghar programme includes an \$820 million loan from which institution?

PM सूर्य घर प्रोग्राम के लिए वर्ल्ड बैंक द्वारा मंजूर किए गए \$890 मिलियन के फ़ाइनेंसिंग पैकेज में किस संस्था से \$820 मिलियन का लोन शामिल है?

- (a) International Development Association (IDA)
- (b) International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- (c) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- (d) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- (e) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Ans. c

Sol. World Bank Approves \$890 Million to Boost PM Surya Ghar Rooftop Solar Programme in India

The World Bank has approved an \$890 million financing package to support India's PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, aimed at accelerating rooftop solar adoption across the country.

The financing package includes an \$820 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), a \$60 million concessional loan from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), and a \$10 million grant from the IBRD's Livable Planet Fund.

Launched in 2024, the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana aims to install rooftop solar systems in 1 crore rural and urban households, promoting clean and affordable electricity.

The programme supports India's climate goals, including achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070 and increasing the share of non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation to 60% by 2035.

148. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently conducted the Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test-05 (IMAT-05) for which upcoming mission?

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) ने हाल ही में किस आगामी मिशन के लिए 'इंटीग्रेटेड मेन पैराशूट एयरड्रॉप टेस्ट-05' (IMAT-05) किया?

- (a) Chandrayaan-4
- (b) Aditya-L2
- (c) Gaganyaan G1 Mission
- (d) SPADEX Mission
- (e) NISAR Mission

Ans. c

Sol. ISRO Successfully Conducts Main Parachute Airdrop Test for Gaganyaan G1 Mission

ISRO successfully conducted the Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test-05 (IMAT-05) for the Gaganyaan G1 Mission at the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) Drop Zone, Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh.

The test aimed to validate the Main Parachute System under maximum expected load conditions, ensuring the safety and reliability of the parachute system for the first uncrewed Gaganyaan G1 mission.

During the test, a simulated Crew Module payload was dropped from an altitude of 2.5 km using an Indian Air Force IL-76 transport aircraft, successfully demonstrating the parachute system's performance.

149. World Horse Day is observed every year on which date?

विश्व घोड़ा दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 8 July
- (b) 10 July
- (c) 11 July
- (d) 15 July
- (e) 16 July

Ans. c

Sol. 11 July - World Horse Day

World Horse Day is observed annually on 11 July to recognise the historical, cultural, economic, and ecological importance of horses and to promote their welfare and conservation worldwide.

The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through a resolution adopted in 2025, acknowledging the vital role of horses in agriculture, transportation, sports, tourism, and cultural heritage.

150. The BRICS Women Ministerial Meeting 2026 was held in which Indian city under India's BRICS Chairmanship?

भारत की BRICS अध्यक्षता में BRICS महिला मंत्री-स्तरीय बैठक 2026 किस भारतीय शहर में आयोजित की गई थी?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Kochi
- (d) Chennai
- (e) New Delhi

Ans. c

Sol. BRICS Women Ministerial Meeting Concludes in Kochi

The BRICS Women Ministerial Meeting concluded in Kochi, Kerala, under India's BRICS Chairmanship 2026, following a four-day engagement that included the BRICS Women Working Group Meeting and the Women Ministerial Meeting.

The meeting marked a major step in enhancing cooperation among BRICS member countries to promote women-led development and strengthen women's participation across social, economic, and leadership domains.

A key outcome of the meeting was the adoption of the first-ever Joint Statement in the BRICS Women Track, reflecting the shared commitment of BRICS countries to deepen collaboration for women's empowerment and inclusive development.

151. India inaugurated the International Centre for Civilizational Studies "Manas and Mahabharata" in which country?

भारत ने किस देश में 'मानस और महाभारत' सभ्यता अध्ययन के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय केंद्र का उद्घाटन किया?

- (a) Kazakhstan
- (b) Uzbekistan
- (c) Tajikistan
- (d) Turkmenistan
- (e) Kyrgyzstan

Ans. e

Sol. India Inaugurates 'Manas–Mahabharata' Centre in Kyrgyzstan to Deepen Civilisational Ties

India inaugurated the International Centre for Civilizational Studies "Manas and Mahabharata" in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to strengthen civilisational, cultural, and academic ties between India and Central Asia.

The Centre has been established by Kyrgyzstan's Manas National Academy in collaboration with the Centre for Studies of International Relations (CSIR), New Delhi, to promote research on the Mahabharata and the Kyrgyz national epic Manas.

As part of the initiative, the first-ever Hindi translation of the Kyrgyz epic Manas was unveiled, marking a significant milestone in India–Kyrgyzstan cultural cooperation and civilisational diplomacy.

152. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Passport Index 2026:

ग्लोबल पासपोर्ट इंडेक्स 2026 के बारे में नीचे दिए गए बयानों पर विचार करें:

1. The Global Passport Index 2026 was released by Henley Passport Group.
2. Norway secured the 1st position in the Global Passport Index 2026.
3. India was ranked 125th in the Global Passport Index 2026.

4. Somalia ranked 197th, the lowest in the index.
5. The index measures passport strength using 14 indicators.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 3 and 5 only
- (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (e) all are correct

Ans. b

Sol. Sweden Tops Global Passport Index 2026; India Slips to 125th Rank

Sweden topped the Global Passport Index 2026 with an overall score of 96.05, followed by Switzerland, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Norway, and Singapore in the top 10.

The Global Passport Index 2026, released by Global Citizen Solutions, ranked 197 countries using 14 indicators across three key pillars: Enhanced Mobility, Investment, and Quality of Living.

India slipped to 125th place in the 2026 rankings from 124th in 2025, reflecting limited improvement in the global strength of the Indian passport.

Afghanistan ranked 197th with the world's weakest passport, while Somalia (196th), South Sudan (195th), Yemen (194th), and Syria (193rd) also featured among the bottom five.

153. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched a monthly webinar series under the National Health Mission (NHM) on World Population Day 2026 to promote healthcare innovation, knowledge sharing, and strengthen public health systems across States and Union Territories. The inaugural webinar of the NHM series focused on which theme?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय (MoHFW) ने राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में हेल्थकेयर इनोवेशन और ज्ञान के आदान-प्रदान को बढ़ावा देने और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों को मजबूत करने के लिए विश्व जनसंख्या दिवस 2026 पर राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन (NHM) के तहत एक मासिक वेबिनार सीरीज़ शुरू की। NHM सीरीज़ का पहला वेबिनार किस विषय पर केंद्रित था?

- (a) Maternal and Reproductive Health
- (b) Digital Health and Telemedicine
- (c) Immunisation and Nutrition
- (d) Non-Communicable Diseases
- (e) Anemia, Child and Adolescent Health

Ans. e

Sol. MoHFW Launches Monthly NHM Webinar Series to Promote Healthcare Innovation and Best Practices

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched a monthly webinar series under the National Health Mission (NHM) on World Population Day 2026 to promote healthcare innovation, knowledge sharing, and strengthen public health systems across States and Union Territories.

The webinar series serves as a national knowledge-sharing platform to identify, document, and replicate evidence-based best practices, with technical support from the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC).

The inaugural webinar, themed "Anemia, Child and Adolescent Health," showcased successful initiatives including Jharkhand's Anemia Mukh Bharat T4 App and HBNC/HBYC programme, Chhattisgarh's Chirayu Day (RBSK), and Madhya Pradesh's adolescent obesity initiative.

154. As part of the India–New Zealand Strategic Partnership, how many agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed to strengthen cooperation in areas such as defence, trade, maritime security, agriculture, culture, and scientific research?

भारत-न्यूज़ीलैंड रणनीतिक साझेदारी के तहत, रक्षा, व्यापार, समुद्री सुरक्षा, कृषि, संस्कृति और वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान जैसे क्षेत्रों में सहयोग को मज़बूत करने के लिए कितने समझौतों और सहमति-पत्रों (MoUs) पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए?

- (a) 6
- (b) 8
- (c) 10
- (d) 12
- (e) 15

Ans. c

Sol. India and New Zealand Elevate Ties to Strategic Partnership, Sign 10 Key Agreements

India and New Zealand elevated their bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit, signing 10 agreements and MoUs covering defence, trade, maritime security, disaster management, agriculture, tourism, sports, culture, scientific research, and education, along with the launch of the India–New Zealand Roadmap to 2030.

The two countries signed a Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Cooperation to strengthen dialogue, information sharing, coordination, and joint activities in the Indo-Pacific region.

Both sides also signed agreements on hydrography and nautical cartography and concluded a Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA) to enhance defence cooperation through hydrographic data sharing, joint navigational chart production, capacity building, and reciprocal logistics support between the Indian Navy and the New Zealand Defence Force.

155. What was the name of India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission launched to assist earthquake-hit Venezuela?

भूकंप से प्रभावित वेनेजुएला की मदद के लिए शुरू किए गए भारत के मानवीय सहायता और आपदा राहत (HADR) मिशन का क्या नाम था?

- (a) Operation Maitri
- (b) Operation Shraddha
- (c) Operation Sadbhavana
- (d) Operation Amistad
- (e) Operation Samudra Setu

Ans. d

Sol. India Successfully Concludes 'Operation Amistad' Humanitarian Mission in Earthquake-Hit Venezuela

India successfully concluded Operation Amistad, its Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission to earthquake-hit Venezuela, reaffirming its commitment to supporting partner nations during humanitarian crises.

Launched on 26 June 2026, the mission deployed a 41-member medical team from the Indian Army's 60 Para Field Hospital Unit aboard two Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, carrying two BHISHM Cubes, 6 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment, and 30 tonnes of emergency relief supplies.

During the mission, the Indian medical contingent treated hundreds of earthquake victims, conducted over 8,000 medical procedures and laboratory investigations, and performed more than 20 major surgeries.

156. Who won the Wimbledon 2026 Women's Singles title, claiming her maiden Grand Slam championship?

अपनी पहली ग्रैंड स्लैम चैंपियनशिप का दावा करते हुए विंबलडन 2026 महिला एकल खिताब किसने जीता?

- (a) Karolina Muchova
- (b) Marketa Vondrousova
- (c) Barbora Krejcikova
- (d) Iga Swiatek
- (e) Linda Noskova

Ans. e

Sol. Linda Noskova Wins Maiden Grand Slam Title at Wimbledon 2026

Linda Noskova (Czech Republic) won her maiden Grand Slam title by defeating fellow Czech Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 in the Wimbledon 2026 Women's Singles Final at Centre Court, London.

At 21 years of age, Noskova became the third Czech woman in four years to win the Wimbledon women's singles title, following Marketa Vondrousova (2023) and Barbora Krejčíková (2024).

The Wimbledon 2026 Men's Singles Final will feature World No. 1 Jannik Sinner against Germany's Alexander Zverev, after Sinner defeated Novak Djokovic in the semifinals and Zverev overcame Arthur Fery to reach his first Wimbledon final.

157. The 19th Governor's Taekwondo Cup, Manipur 2026 is being organised by which organisation?

19वां गवर्नर ताइक्वांडो कप, मणिपुर 2026 किस संगठन द्वारा आयोजित किया जा रहा है?

- (a) Taekwondo Federation of India (TFI)
- (b) Sports Authority of India (SAI)
- (c) Manipur Olympic Association
- (d) Youth Affairs and Sports Department, Manipur
- (e) All Manipur Taekwondo Association

Ans. e

Sol. Manipur CM Inaugurates 19th Governor's Taekwondo Cup 2026 in Imphal
Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh inaugurated the 19th Governor's Taekwondo Cup, Manipur 2026, at Khuman Lampak Indoor Stadium, Imphal. The championship is being organised by the All Manipur Taekwondo Association and will continue until 15 July 2026.

The tournament has attracted 1,141 athletes from 29 units, including 691 men and 450 women, making it one of the largest taekwondo championships in the state.

158. Paper Bag Day is observed every year on:

पेपर बैग दिवस हर साल इस तारीख को मनाया जाता है:

- (a) 10 July
- (b) 11 July
- (c) 12 July
- (d) 13 July
- (e) 14 July

Ans. c

Sol. 12 July- Paper Bag Day

Paper Bag Day is observed annually on 12 July to promote the use of eco-friendly paper bags as a sustainable alternative to single-use plastic bags.

The day raises awareness about environmental conservation, encouraging individuals and businesses to reduce plastic pollution by adopting recyclable, biodegradable, and reusable paper bags.

Paper bags are made from renewable resources, can be recycled and composted, and play an important role in supporting sustainable consumption and waste reduction.

159. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is establishing a Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research at which location?

इंडियन काउंसिल ऑफ़ मेडिकल रिसर्च (ICMR) किस जगह पर हाई एल्टीट्यूड मेडिसिन और पब्लिक हेल्थ रिसर्च के लिए एक सेंटर बना रहा है?

- (a) Leh, Ladakh
- (b) Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Keylong, Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- (e) Gangtok, Sikkim

Ans. c

Sol. ICMR to Establish High-Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research Centre in Himachal Pradesh

Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda will lay the foundation stone of the ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research at Keylong, Himachal Pradesh, to strengthen climate-resilient healthcare and biomedical research in the Himalayan region.

The new ICMR centre will upgrade the existing Keylong field station into a multidisciplinary research hub, focusing on high-altitude physiology, acclimatisation, maternal and child health, disaster medicine, and public health research.

The centre will integrate telemedicine, digital health platforms, drone-enabled healthcare logistics, and real-time public health surveillance, while collaborating with AFMS, DRDO, the Himachal Pradesh Government, and leading research institutions to support Atmanirbhar Bharat and climate-resilient healthcare.

160. Harela, a prominent traditional festival, is primarily celebrated in which region of India?

हरेला, एक प्रमुख पारंपरिक त्योहार, मुख्य रूप से भारत के किस क्षेत्र में मनाया जाता है?

- (a) Garhwal region of Uttarakhand
- (b) Kumaon region of Uttarakhand
- (c) Jammu region of Jammu & Kashmir

(d) Kangra region of Himachal Pradesh

(e) Mithila region of Bihar

Ans. b

Sol. Harela Festival Celebrated in Uttarakhand to Mark the Beginning of the Holy Month of Sawan

Harela, one of the most significant traditional festivals of Uttarakhand's Kumaon region, is celebrated to mark the beginning of the holy month of Sawan (Shravan). The festival is dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and symbolizes prosperity, greenery, environmental conservation, and the arrival of the monsoon season.

About Uttarakhand

- **Capital** - Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)
- **Chief Minister** - Pushkar Singh Dhami
- **Governor** - Gurmit Singh

161. Which Indian state is set to develop India's first State-owned Earth Observation Satellite System, named 'AssamSAT'?

भारत का कौन सा राज्य 'AssamSAT' नाम का भारत का पहला राज्य-स्वामित्व वाला अर्थ ऑब्जर्वेशन सैटेलाइट सिस्टम विकसित करने जा रहा है?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Assam
- (d) Odisha
- (e) Telangana

Ans. c

Sol. Assam to Develop India's First State-Owned Earth Observation Satellite System 'AssamSAT'

Assam will develop AssamSAT, India's first State-owned Earth Observation Satellite System, to provide real-time satellite-based data for governance and development. AssamSAT will support disaster management, flood monitoring, agriculture, and natural resource monitoring, enhancing data-driven planning and emergency response across the state.

About Assam

- **Formation** - 26 January 1950
- **Capital** – Dispur
- **Chief Minister** – Himanta Biswa Sarma; 2nd time
- **Governor** – Lakshman Prasad Acharya

162. Which Indian state became the first to sign the 'Framework for Action – Advanced Clean Energy, Driven Sustainable Development' with the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?

इंटरनेशनल सोलर अलायंस (ISA) के साथ 'फ्रेमवर्क फॉर एक्शन – एडवांस्ड क्लीन एनर्जी, ड्रिवन सस्टेनेबल डेवलपमेंट' पर हस्ताक्षर करने वाला पहला भारतीय राज्य कौन सा बना?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Maharashtra
- (e) Tamil Nadu

Ans. c

Sol. Rajasthan Becomes First Indian State to Sign Clean Energy Framework with International Solar Alliance

Rajasthan became the first Indian state to sign the Framework for Action – Advanced Clean Energy, Driven Sustainable Development with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to accelerate clean energy expansion and modernise its power sector.

The partnership supports Rajasthan's target of 125 GW of clean energy capacity, focusing on renewable energy expansion, transmission upgrades, battery storage, smart grids, digitalisation, energy efficiency, and policy reforms during 2030–35.

Rajasthan currently has over 42 GW of installed solar capacity and a total clean energy portfolio of nearly 48 GW. The framework also includes an AI-enabled digital twin pilot at Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam to improve demand forecasting and renewable energy integration.

The initiative will also promote decentralised solar power, provide training and technical assistance through ISA, strengthen implementation of the PM KUSUM Scheme and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, and ensure affordable and reliable electricity across the state.

163. India's retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose to what level in June 2026?

कंज्यूमर प्राइस इंडेक्स (CPI) के आधार पर मापी गई भारत की खुदरा महंगाई दर जून 2026 में किस स्तर पर पहुँच गई?

- (a) 3.75%
- (b) 3.93%
- (c) 4.10%
- (d) 4.40%
- (e) 4.75%

Ans. d

Sol. India's Retail Inflation Rises to 4.4% in June

India's retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose to 4.4% in June 2026, up from 3.93% in May 2026, crossing the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 4% inflation target for the first time since January 2025.

The rise in inflation was primarily driven by higher food and fuel prices, influenced by the West Asia crisis and a weaker-than-normal monsoon, making it the highest retail inflation level in 18 months.

Previous Months CPI-based Retail inflation

- **January 2026 – 2.75% (Update : Base Year 2024 Start)**
- **February 2026 – 3.21%**
- **March 2026 – 3.4%**
- **April 2026 – 3.48%**
- **May 2026 -3.93%**

164. Which city was ranked as the world's most liveable city in the EIU Global Liveability Index 2026 for the second consecutive year?

EIU ग्लोबल लिवेबिलिटी इंडेक्स 2026 में लगातार दूसरे साल किस शहर को दुनिया का सबसे रहने लायक शहर का दर्जा दिया गया?

- (a) Vienna, Austria
- (b) Melbourne, Australia
- (c) Copenhagen, Denmark
- (d) Zurich, Switzerland
- (e) Tokyo, Japan

Ans. d

Sol. New Delhi Ranks 120th in EIU Global Liveability Index 2026; Copenhagen Tops Global List

New Delhi ranked 120th out of 173 cities in the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Global Liveability Index 2026, followed by Mumbai (121st), Chennai (123rd), and Bengaluru (127th).

Copenhagen (Denmark) retained its position as the world's most liveable city for the second consecutive year, ahead of Vienna (Austria) and Melbourne (Australia).

The EIU Global Liveability Index 2026 assessed 173 cities across 30 indicators grouped into five categories: stability, healthcare, culture & environment, education, and infrastructure.

New Delhi scored 48.1 overall, with 66.7 in education, 58.9 in infrastructure, 41.7 in healthcare, and 35.4 in culture & environment, highlighting areas requiring improvement in urban liveability.

Rank	City	Country
1	Copenhagen	Denmark
2	Vienna	Austria
3	Melbourne	Australia
4	Sydney	Australia
5	Zurich	Switzerland
6	Geneva	Switzerland
7	Osaka	Japan
8	Adelaide	Australia
9	Vancouver	Canada
10	Tokyo	Japan

165. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who passed away recently, served as the Emir of which country?

शेख हमद बिन खलीफा अल थानी, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, किस देश के अमीर थे?

- (a) Kuwait
- (b) Bahrain
- (c) Qatar
- (d) Oman
- (e) United Arab Emirates

Ans. c

Sol. Former Qatar Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Passes Away

Former Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, passed away. He served as the Emir of Qatar from 1995 to 2013, overseeing a period of significant economic growth and modernization.

Sheikh Hamad played a pivotal role in transforming Qatar into a major global energy and diplomatic hub, driven by the expansion of its natural gas industry and an active foreign policy.

166. Veteran playback singer S. Janaki, who passed away recently, was popularly known by which of the following titles?

मशहूर प्लेबैक सिंगर एस. जानकी, जिनका हाल ही में निधन हो गया, उन्हें इनमें से किस टाइटल से जाना जाता था?

- (a) Melody Queen of India
- (b) Nightingale of South India

- (c) Queen of Ghazals
- (d) Bharat Kokila
- (e) Voice of Karnataka

Ans. b

Sol. Legendary Playback Singer S. Janaki, the 'Nightingale of South India', Passes Away
Veteran playback singer S. Janaki, popularly known as the "Nightingale of South India" and affectionately called "Janaki Amma", passed away, marking the end of an illustrious musical era.

S. Janaki recorded songs in multiple Indian languages and sang the highest number of songs in Kannada, earning the popular title "Gaana Kogile" (Songbird of Karnataka).

167. Which space agency successfully conducted the first test flight of the experimental reusable rocket 'Reusable Vehicle eXperiment (RV-X)?

किस अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी ने प्रायोगिक पुनः प्रयोज्य रॉकेट 'रीयूजेबल व्हीकल एक्सपेरिमेंट (RV-X)' की पहली परीक्षण उड़ान सफलतापूर्वक पूरी की?

- (a) NASA (United States)
- (b) European Space Agency (ESA)
- (c) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- (d) China National Space Administration (CNSA)
- (e) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Ans. c

Sol. JAXA Successfully Conducts First Test Flight of Reusable RV-X Rocket

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully conducted the first test flight of its experimental reusable rocket, Reusable Vehicle eXperiment (RV-X), at the Noshiro Testing Center, Akita Prefecture, where the rocket lifted off, hovered, moved horizontally, and landed safely.

The RV-X is a 7.3-metre-long, 1.8-metre-diameter reusable rocket equipped with a high-durability engine and four shock-absorbing landing legs, developed jointly by JAXA and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to demonstrate reusable launch technology.

Development of RV-X began in 2016, with its engine completing over 160 combustion tests. JAXA aims to deploy cost-effective reusable rockets by the early 2030s, eventually replacing the H3 rocket as Japan's primary launch vehicle.

168. The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted Sourav Ganguly (India), Anjum Chopra (India), and Kevin Pietersen (England) into the ICC Hall of Fame during a ceremony held in Edinburgh, Scotland. Former India women's captain Anjum Chopra became the _____ Indian woman to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.

इंटरनेशनल क्रिकेट काउंसिल (ICC) ने स्कॉटलैंड के एडिनबर्ग में आयोजित एक समारोह में सौरव गांगुली (भारत), अंजुम चोपड़ा (भारत) और केविन पीटरसन (इंग्लैंड) को ICC हॉल ऑफ़ फ़ेम में शामिल किया। भारतीय महिला टीम की पूर्व कप्तान अंजुम चोपड़ा ICC हॉल ऑफ़ फ़ेम में शामिल होने वाली _____ भारतीय महिला बनीं।

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth
- (e) Fifth

Ans. c

Sol. Sourav Ganguly, Anjum Chopra and Kevin Pietersen Inducted into ICC Hall of Fame
The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted Sourav Ganguly (India), Anjum Chopra (India), and Kevin Pietersen (England) into the ICC Hall of Fame during a ceremony held in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Sourav Ganguly became the 10th Indian men's cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, joining legends such as Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, Virender Sehwag, Vinoo Mankad, Bishan Singh Bedi, and MS Dhoni.

Anjum Chopra became only the third Indian woman to receive the honour, after Diana Edulji and Neetu David, recognising her outstanding contribution to Indian women's cricket.

169. At the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026, held in Colombia, India won how many gold medals?

कोलंबिया में आयोजित 56वीं इंटरनेशनल फ़िज़िक्स ओलंपियाड (IPhO) 2026 में भारत ने कितने गोल्ड मेडल जीते?

- (a) Two
- (b) Three
- (c) Four
- (d) Five
- (e) Six

Ans. d

Sol. India Wins Five Gold Medals, Secures Joint Top Rank at International Physics Olympiad 2026

India won five gold medals at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026, held in Bucaramanga, Colombia.

The gold medal winners are Kanishk Jain (Pune), Riddhesh Anant Bendale (Indore), Rishit Garg (New Delhi), Shreshth Suraiya (Mumbai), and Svarit Joshi (Ahmedabad).

India secured the joint first position along with Russia, China, Kazakhstan, South Korea, and Taiwan, in the competition featuring 381 students from 87 countries.

The achievement highlights the success of India's Olympiad programme led by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), a National Centre of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), and was congratulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy.

170. The Indian Army has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for 450 Carl Gustaf Mark-IV (M4) 84mm lightweight rocket launchers, a shoulder-fired, multi-role recoilless weapon system designed for anti-armour and infantry operations. The Carl Gustaf Mark-IV (M4) lightweight rocket launcher is developed by which of the following companies?

भारतीय सेना ने 450 कार्ल गुस्ताफ मार्क-IV (M4) 84mm हल्के रॉकेट लॉन्चर के लिए 'रिकेस्ट फॉर प्रपोज़ल' (RFP) जारी किया है। यह कंधे से चलाए जाने वाला, कई तरह के काम करने वाला और रीकॉइल-लेस (बिना झटके वाला) हथियार सिस्टम है, जिसे एंटी-आर्मर और इन्फैंट्री ऑपरेशन्स के लिए बनाया गया है। कार्ल गुस्ताफ मार्क-IV (M4) हल्के रॉकेट लॉन्चर को इनमें से किस कंपनी ने विकसित किया है?

- (a) Lockheed Martin (USA)
- (b) Rafael Advanced Defence Systems (Israel)
- (c) Saab (Sweden)
- (d) BAE Systems (United Kingdom)
- (e) Thales Group (France)

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Army Seeks 450 Indigenous Carl Gustaf M4 Rocket Launchers to Boost Infantry Firepower

The Indian Army has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for 450 Carl Gustaf Mark-IV (M4) 84mm lightweight rocket launchers, a shoulder-fired, multi-role recoilless weapon system designed for anti-armour and infantry operations.

Developed by Sweden's Saab, the Carl Gustaf M4 weighs less than 7 kg, making it significantly lighter than the earlier M2 (14 kg) and M3 (10 kg) variants, which have been in service with the Indian Army since the 1970s.

The Carl Gustaf M4 will be manufactured in India at Saab's facility in Reliance MET City, Jhajjar (Haryana), India's first 100% foreign-owned defence manufacturing unit, with the system designed to operate in temperatures ranging from -20°C to +50°C

171. Aero India 2027, the 16th edition of Asia's largest airshow, will be held at which of the following locations?

एशिया के सबसे बड़े एयरशो, 'एरो इंडिया 2027' का 16वां संस्करण इनमें से किस स्थान पर आयोजित किया जाएगा?

- (a) Begumpet Air Force Station, Hyderabad
- (b) Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru
- (c) Hindon Air Force Station, Ghaziabad
- (d) Lohegaon Air Force Station, Pune
- (e) Sulur Air Force Station, Coimbatore

Ans. b

Sol. Aero India 2027 to Showcase India's Defence Strength at Bengaluru's Yelahanka Air Force Station

Aero India 2027 will be the 16th edition of Asia's largest airshow, to be held at Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru, Karnataka. It is a biennial event organised under the Ministry of Defence, with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) as the nodal agency.

The Government aims to achieve ₹3 lakh crore in defence manufacturing and ₹50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029–30, with Aero India playing a key role in strengthening India's indigenous defence and aerospace ecosystem.

172. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has announced the construction of a new Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) of what capacity in Mangalore, Karnataka, to strengthen India's energy security?

भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मज़बूत करने के लिए ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन (ONGC) ने कर्नाटक के मंगलुरु में कितनी क्षमता वाले नए स्ट्रैटेजिक पेट्रोलियम रिज़र्व (SPR) के निर्माण की घोषणा की है?

- (a) 1.25 million metric tonnes (MMT)
- (b) 1.50 million metric tonnes (MMT)
- (c) 1.75 million metric tonnes (MMT)
- (d) 2.50 million metric tonnes (MMT)
- (e) 4.00 million metric tonnes (MMT)

Ans. c

Sol. ONGC to Build 1.75 MMT Strategic Petroleum Reserve in Mangalore to Strengthen India's Energy Security

ONGC will build a new 1.75 million metric tonne (MMT) Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) in Mangalore, Karnataka, to strengthen India's energy security and emergency crude oil storage capacity.

India currently has 5.33 MMT of strategic crude oil storage at Mangalore, Padur, and Visakhapatnam (Vizag), managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. (ISPRL), with part of the capacity commercially leased.

India is expanding its strategic petroleum reserves through international cooperation, including with the UAE (ADNOC) and Japan, while also planning 4 MMT storage at Chandikhol (Odisha) and an additional 2.5 MMT facility at Padur.

173. From which date has the Pink Saheli Smart Card become mandatory for free travel on DTC and cluster buses?

DTC और क्लस्टर बसों में मुफ्त यात्रा के लिए 'पिंक सहेली स्मार्ट कार्ड' किस तारीख से अनिवार्य हो गया है?

- (a) 1 July 2026
- (b) 15 July 2026
- (c) 31 July 2026
- (d) 1 August 2026
- (e) 15 August 2026

Ans. d

Sol. Delhi Makes Pink Saheli Smart Card Mandatory for Free Bus Travel from August 1, 2026

Pink Saheli Smart Card is a digital travel card for women and transgender residents of Delhi (12 years and above), launched on 2 March 2026, and integrated with the One Nation, One Card (National Common Mobility Card - NCMC) framework.

From 1 August 2026, the card will become mandatory for availing free travel on Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and cluster buses, while pink paper tickets will remain valid only until 31 July 2026.

The card enables digital validation of free bus journeys and requires a Delhi Aadhaar card along with an Aadhaar-linked mobile number for registration, replacing the existing paper ticket system.

174. Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda laid the foundation stone of the ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research at which location?

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा ने ICMR के 'हाई एल्टीट्यूड मेडिसिन एंड पब्लिक हेल्थ रिसर्च सेंटर' की आधारशिला किस स्थान पर रखी?

- (a) Leh, Ladakh
- (b) Gangtok, Sikkim
- (c) Keylong, Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- (e) Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh

Ans. c

Sol. ICMR to Establish High-Altitude Medicine Research Centre in Himachal Pradesh's Keylong

Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda will lay the foundation stone of the ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research at Keylong, Himachal Pradesh.

The existing ICMR field station at Keylong will be upgraded into a multidisciplinary research hub to strengthen climate-resilient healthcare, biomedical research, and innovation in India's Himalayan region.

The centre will conduct research on high-altitude physiology, acclimatisation, maternal & child health, disaster medicine, and use telemedicine, digital health, drones, and real-time public health surveillance to improve healthcare delivery in remote areas.

The centre will collaborate with AFMS, DRDO, Himachal Pradesh Government, and national & international research institutions, supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat, tribal health, disaster preparedness, and climate-resilient health systems.

175. The Union Cabinet has approved an additional investment commitment of ₹30,000 crore to which institution with the objective of mobilising long-term capital for infrastructure and other strategic sectors?

इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और अन्य रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों के लिए लंबी अवधि की पूंजी जुटाने के मकसद से, केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने किस संस्थान के लिए ₹30,000 करोड़ के अतिरिक्त निवेश को मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)
- (b) National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)
- (c) National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)
- (d) India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)
- (e) National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC)

Ans. b

Sol. Union Cabinet Approves Additional ₹30,000 Crore Investment in NIIF

The Union Cabinet has approved an additional ₹30,000 crore investment in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), increasing the Government of India's total commitment from ₹30,000 crore to ₹60,000 crore.

The additional funding will support NIIF Infrastructure Fund II, with a target corpus of around ₹30,000 crore, to invest in transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, urban infrastructure, electric mobility, and other strategic sectors.

NIIF is India's sovereign-anchored investment platform, managed by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL), with the Government of India

holding a 49% equity stake. It has attracted investments from major global sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, and multilateral institutions.

176. Australia's largest pension fund manager, AustralianSuper, announced an investment of AU\$500 million (over ₹3,300 crore) in which of the following Indian investment platforms to support long-term infrastructure development?

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के सबसे बड़े पेंशन फंड मैनेजर, ऑस्ट्रेलियनसुपर (AustralianSuper) ने लंबे समय के इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट को सपोर्ट करने के लिए इनमें से किस भारतीय इन्वेस्टमेंट प्लेटफॉर्म में AU\$500 मिलियन (₹3,300 करोड़ से ज्यादा) के इन्वेस्टमेंट की घोषणा की?

- (a) National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)
- (b) National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)
- (c) National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)
- (d) India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)
- (e) National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC)

Ans. b

Sol. AustralianSuper Commits AU\$500 Million to India's NIIF, Boosting Infrastructure Investment

Australia's largest pension fund manager, AustralianSuper, has announced an investment of AU\$500 million (over ₹3,300 crore) in India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

With this latest investment, AustralianSuper's total exposure in India across all asset classes has increased to AU\$3.3 billion, reflecting strong confidence in India's growth potential.

As of 31 December 2025, AustralianSuper managed over AU\$410 billion in retirement savings for more than 3.6 million members across 485,000+ businesses, making it Australia's largest pension fund manager.

177. Former _____ Women's captain Heather Knight has announced her retirement from international cricket, ending a distinguished 16-year international career.

पूर्व _____ महिला कप्तान हीथर नाइट ने इंटरनेशनल क्रिकेट से संन्यास की घोषणा कर दी है, जिससे उनका 16 साल का शानदार इंटरनेशनल करियर समाप्त हो गया है।

- (a) Australia
- (b) India
- (c) England
- (d) New Zealand
- (e) South Africa

Ans. c

Sol. England Women's Cricket Legend Heather Knight Announces Retirement from International Cricket

Former England Women's captain Heather Knight has announced her retirement from international cricket, ending a distinguished 16-year international career. She retires as England Women's most-capped player, having represented the country in 320 international matches. Her final international appearance came in the Test against India at Lord's Cricket Ground, London.

Heather Knight became the first England cricketer (male or female) to score centuries in all three international formats—Tests, One-Day Internationals (ODIs), and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).

Recently Retired Players

- Tammy Beaumont (England) – International Cricket
- Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland) - Professional tennis
- Ben Stokes (England) – International Test Cricket
- Kane Williamson (New Zealand) - International cricket
- Vijay Shankar (India) - International Cricket

178. World No. 1 Jannik Sinner successfully defended his Wimbledon men's singles title in 2026, becoming the first player from which country to win the Wimbledon men's singles championship in consecutive years?

दुनिया के नंबर 1 खिलाड़ी यानिक सिनर ने 2026 में अपना विंबलडन पुरुष एकल खिताब सफलतापूर्वक बचाया। वे किस देश के ऐसे पहले खिलाड़ी बने जिन्होंने लगातार वर्षों में विंबलडन पुरुष एकल चैंपियनशिप जीती?

- (a) Spain
- (b) Germany
- (c) France
- (d) Switzerland
- (e) Italy

Ans. e

Sol. Jannik Sinner Retains Wimbledon Title, Becomes First Italian to Win Back-to-Back Championships

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner defeated Alexander Zverev in the Wimbledon 2026 men's singles final to successfully defend his Wimbledon title.

Sinner became the first Italian and only the ninth player in the Open Era (since 1968) to win the Wimbledon men's singles title in consecutive years.

After becoming the first Italian man to win the Wimbledon men's singles title in 2025, Sinner retained the championship in 2026, joining the elite list of back-to-back Wimbledon champions.

179. Which Hyderabad-based Spacetech Company became the first recipient of investment from the Antariksh Venture Capital Fund?

हैदराबाद स्थित कौन सी स्पेस-टेक कंपनी 'अंतरिक्ष वेंचर कैपिटल फंड' से निवेश प्राप्त करने वाली पहली कंपनी बनी?

- (a) Skyroot Aerospace
- (b) Agnikul Cosmos
- (c) Pixxel
- (d) Bellatrix Aerospace
- (e) Dhruva Space

Ans. e

Sol. Dhruva Space Becomes First Recipient of ₹60 Crore Investment from Antariksh Venture Capital Fund

Hyderabad-based Dhruva Space became the first company to receive investment from the ₹1,600 crore Antariksh Venture Capital Fund, securing ₹60 crore.

The Antariksh Venture Capital Fund is India's sovereign space-tech fund, anchored by IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) and managed by SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd to support private space startups.

The ₹60 crore investment is part of Dhruva Space's ₹275 crore pre-Series B funding round and will be used to expand satellite manufacturing, space infrastructure, and critical technology development. The company currently has an order book exceeding ₹500 crore.

180. China recently achieved a major milestone in reusable space technology by successfully testing an experimental rocket retrieval system using a net attached to an offshore sea platform. Which rocket was used for this mission?

चीन ने हाल ही में समुद्र में बने एक प्लेटफॉर्म से जुड़े जाल का इस्तेमाल करके एक एक्सपेरिमेंटल रॉकेट रिकवरी सिस्टम का सफल परीक्षण किया और दोबारा इस्तेमाल होने वाली स्पेस टेक्नोलॉजी में एक बड़ी उपलब्धि हासिल की। इस मिशन के लिए किस रॉकेट का इस्तेमाल किया गया था?

- (a) Long March 5B
- (b) Long March 7A
- (c) Long March 8
- (d) Falcon 9
- (e) Long March 10B

Ans. e

Sol. China Successfully Tests Reusable Rocket Retrieval System with Long March 10B

China successfully tested an experimental rocket-retrieval system, recovering the Long March 10B booster with a net mounted on an offshore platform, marking a major step toward reusable rocket technology.

The test marked China's first successful retrieval of an orbital-class rocket. The Long March 10B also successfully placed a satellite into its preset orbit before the booster was recovered.

Developed by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT), the Long March 10B is comparable to SpaceX's Falcon 9 and is designed to carry at least 16 metric tonnes to low-Earth orbit, supporting China's efforts to advance reusable launch systems.

181. Jio Platforms Ltd. (JPL) has appointed whom as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)?

Jio प्लेटफॉर्म लिमिटेड (JPL) ने किसे अपना नया मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (CEO) नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) Akash Ambani
- (b) Mathew Oommen
- (c) Sanjay Mashruwala
- (d) Kiran Thomas
- (e) Pankaj Pawar

Ans. e

Sol. Jio Platforms Appoints Pankaj Pawar as New Chief Executive Officer

Jio Platforms Ltd. (JPL) has appointed Pankaj Pawar as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Pankaj Pawar succeeds Kiran Thomas, who previously served as the CEO of Jio Platforms Ltd. (JPL).

Recent Appointments

- **President of FATF** - Giles Thomson; for 2026–2028 (replace Elisa de Anda Madrazo of Mexico)
- **Director of NCRB** - Amit Garg
- **Director General of BPR&D** - Alok Kumar Mittal
- **Director of SVPNPA** - Sujeet Pandey
- **New Chief Economist and Economic Counsellor in IMF** - Silvana Tenreyro (replace Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas)

182. According to the latest government data, Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation in India increased to what level in June 2026?

सरकार के नवीनतम आंकड़ों के अनुसार, जून 2026 में भारत में थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI) पर आधारित मुद्रास्फीति किस स्तर तक बढ़ गई?

- (a) 8.9%
- (b) 9.2%
- (c) 9.5%
- (d) 9.7%
- (e) 9.9%

Ans. e

Sol. Wholesale inflation in June surged to 9.9%

India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation increased to 9.9% in June, up from 9.7% in May, mainly due to higher fuel and food prices.

The Producer Price Index (PPI) inflation rose to 9.6% in June, compared to 9.4% in May, reflecting higher production costs across industries.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry released the All India Wholesale Price Index (Base Year 2022-23).

The major contributors to the rise in WPI inflation were mineral oils (petroleum products), food articles, manufacture of basic metals, and chemicals & chemical products. The June data is the second release under the new WPI series with base year 2022-23.

Recent WPI-based Wholesale inflation in India

- **January 2026** – 1.81%
- **February 2026** – 2.13%
- **March 2026** – 3.9%
- **April 2026** – 8.3%
- **May 2026** – 9.7%

183. On the occasion of its 45th Foundation Day, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched which programme to promote rural entrepreneurship?

नेशनल बैंक फॉर एग्रीकल्चर एंड रूरल डेवलपमेंट (NABARD) ने अपने 45वें स्थापना दिवस के मौके पर ग्रामीण उद्यमिता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कौन सा कार्यक्रम शुरू किया?

- (a) Shraddha Mission
- (b) Rural Udyam Mission
- (c) Startup Gram Bharat
- (d) Village Enterprise Scheme
- (e) Gramodyam

Ans. e

Sol. NABARD Launches 'Gramodyam' Programme to Promote Rural Entrepreneurship

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched 'Gramodyam', a rural entrepreneurship development programme, on the occasion of its 45th Foundation Day.

The programme was launched by NABARD Chairman Shaji K.V. and is being implemented in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through the Institute for Industrial Development (IID).

Gramodyam aims to identify, nurture, mentor, and empower aspiring rural entrepreneurs by providing industry-relevant skills, entrepreneurial training, and access to essential support systems.

184. Lakhanpur, recently selected for the development of a Street Food Hub under the PM SVANidhi initiative, is located in which district of Jammu & Kashmir?

हाल ही में पीएम स्वनिधि पहल के तहत स्ट्रीट फूड हब के विकास के लिए चयनित लखनपुर, जम्मू और कश्मीर के किस जिले में स्थित है?

- (a) Jammu
- (b) Samba
- (c) Udhampur
- (d) Reasi
- (e) Kathua

Ans. e

Sol. Lakhanpur in Jammu and Kashmir Selected for PM SVANidhi Street Food Hub Initiative

Lakhanpur in Kathua district, Jammu & Kashmir, has been selected among the first towns in India for the development of a Street Food Hub under the PM SVANidhi initiative.

Led by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the initiative aims to develop organised, hygienic, and modern vending spaces, while promoting local cuisine and supporting street vendors.

Under the scheme, up to 50 Street Food Hubs will be developed across India with ₹4 crore financial assistance for each project. The Lakhanpur hub will be developed in two clusters and will showcase Dogra cuisine, benefiting pilgrims, tourists, and local vendors.

185. The Department of Posts and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conduct:

डाक विभाग और टेलीकॉम रेगुलेटरी अथॉरिटी ऑफ़ इंडिया (TRAI) ने निम्नलिखित में से क्या करने के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं:

- (a) India's first satellite communication survey
- (b) India's first 6G readiness assessment
- (c) A nationwide digital literacy survey
- (d) A telecom manufacturing capacity survey
- (e) India's largest village-level telecom network performance survey

Ans. e

Sol. Department of Posts and TRAI Sign MoU for India's Largest Village-Level Telecom Network Survey

The Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications) and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conduct India's largest village-level telecom network performance survey.

The one-year survey will assess the mobile network performance of Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea (Vi), and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) across more than 5.68 lakh villages across India.

186. Which two agricultural products from North Gujarat have recently been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags by the Geographical Indications Registry of India?

हाल ही में भारत की ज्योग्राफिकल इंडिकेशन्स रजिस्ट्री ने उत्तर गुजरात के किन दो कृषि उत्पादों को ज्योग्राफिकल इंडिकेशन (GI) टैग दिया है?

- (a) Turmeric and Coriander
- (b) Cardamom and Black Pepper
- (c) Mustard and Fenugreek
- (d) Saffron and Cumin
- (e) Unjha Cumin and Unjha Fennel

Ans. e

Sol. Gujarat's Unjha Cumin and Unjha Fennel Receive Geographical Indication Tags
Unjha Cumin (Jeera) and Unjha Fennel (Variyali) from North Gujarat have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags by the Geographical Indications Registry of India. The registration has been made in the name of the Unjha Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) under Class 30 (Spices).

A Geographical Indication (GI) identifies products whose quality, reputation, or characteristics are linked to a specific geographical origin. In India, GI registration is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

Unjha, located in North Gujarat, is one of India's major spice trading hubs, particularly known for cumin and fennel. The GI tags are expected to enhance the products' market identity, authenticity, and value.

187. Who was honoured with the Fortune India Most Powerful Women Honour at the event held in Mumbai, Maharashtra?

महाराष्ट्र के मुंबई में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में 'फॉर्च्यून इंडिया मोस्ट पावरफुल वुमन' सम्मान से किसे सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) Roshni Nadar
- (b) Dr. Priti Adani
- (c) Savitri Jindal
- (d) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (e) Nita Ambani

Ans. e

Sol. Nita Ambani Receives Fortune India Most Powerful Women Honour

Nita Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of the Reliance Foundation, received the Fortune India Most Powerful Women Honour at the Fortune India Most Powerful Women event held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Top Women Leaders: The Top Five Most Powerful Women in India include Nita Ambani (1st), Roshni Nadar (2nd), the Reddy Sisters of Apollo Hospitals (3rd), Savitri Jindal (4th), and Dr. Priti Adani (5th).

Recognition of Leadership: The Fortune India honour recognises outstanding leadership, business excellence, and contributions to social impact, highlighting the achievements of India's most influential women leaders.

188. World Youth Skills Day is observed every year on 15 July to highlight the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. What is the theme of World Youth Skills Day 2026?

रोज़गार, उद्यमिता और टिकाऊ विकास के लिए युवाओं को कौशल से लैस करने के महत्व को उजागर करने के लिए हर साल 15 जुलाई को 'विश्व युवा कौशल दिवस' मनाया जाता है। विश्व युवा कौशल दिवस 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Skills for a Digital World
- (b) Youth Skills for Sustainable Growth
- (c) Empowering Youth Through Education
- (d) Skills for a Shared Future
- (e) Building Skills for Tomorrow

Ans. d

Sol. 15 July - World Youth Skills Day

World Youth Skills Day is observed every year on 15 July to highlight the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

Theme 2026 - Skills for a shared future.

The day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2014 and was first observed in 2015.

189. India and New Zealand have set a target to increase their annual bilateral trade in goods and services to how much by 2030?

भारत और न्यूज़ीलैंड ने 2030 तक सामान और सेवाओं में अपने सालाना द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को कितना बढ़ाने का लक्ष्य रखा है?

- (a) ₹35,000 crore
- (b) ₹25,000 crore
- (c) ₹40,000 crore
- (d) ₹50,000 crore
- (e) ₹30,000 crore

Ans. a

Sol. India, New Zealand Elevate Ties to Strategic Partnership

India and New Zealand elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership and set a target to double bilateral trade to ₹35,000 crore by 2030, following talks between PM Narendra Modi and PM Christopher Luxon.

Both countries signed key agreements, including a reciprocal logistics support pact, a maritime security dialogue, and a roadmap to strengthen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

The leaders welcomed the signing of the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and agreed to ensure its early implementation to boost trade and economic ties.

190. What is the name of the official mascot unveiled for the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026?

कॉमनवेल्थ टेबल टेनिस चैंपियनशिप 2026 के लिए अनावरण किए गए आधिकारिक मैस्कॉट का नाम क्या है?

- (a) Shera
- (b) Mayur
- (c) Gajraj
- (d) Veer
- (e) Garuda

Ans. b

Sol. Delhi Unveils 'Mayur' as Official Mascot for Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026

Delhi unveiled 'Mayur', inspired by India's national bird (the peacock), as the official mascot of the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026.

The championship will be held at Thyagaraj Stadium, Delhi, from 27 July to 2 August 2026, under the joint organisation of the Delhi Government and the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).

The event is expected to witness participation from over 35 countries, with Mayur symbolising energy, hospitality, and unity.

191. Which public sector bank has launched 'FinSpark'26', a national-level cybersecurity hackathon to promote innovative solutions for banking security challenges?

बैंकिंग सुरक्षा चुनौतियों के लिए नए समाधानों को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से किस सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक ने 'FinSpark'26' नामक राष्ट्रीय स्तर का साइबर सुरक्षा हैकाथॉन लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Bank of Baroda
- (b) Punjab National Bank
- (c) Bank of Maharashtra
- (d) Canara Bank
- (e) Union Bank of India

Ans. c

Sol. Bank of Maharashtra Launches 'FinSpark'26 National Cybersecurity Hackathon
Bank of Maharashtra launched 'FinSpark'26, a national-level cybersecurity hackathon for students and dropouts to develop innovative solutions for banking security challenges.

The hackathon offers a prize pool of over ₹10 lakh and focuses on cyber risk, fraud prevention, AI-driven anomaly detection, and insider threat detection in digital banking.

The top 20 teams will qualify for the grand finale in Pune, where they will present their ideas and prototypes before a panel of cybersecurity and banking experts.

192. Sahitya Akademi Award-winning Tamil writer Poomani passed away in Chennai. He was widely known for portraying the karisal bhoomi (rain-fed black-soil region) of southern Tamil Nadu. Which National Award-winning film was adapted from Poomani's novel Vekkai?

साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार विजेता तमिल लेखिका पूमानी का चेन्नई में निधन हो गया। उन्हें दक्षिणी तमिलनाडु की करिश्मा भूमि (बारिश से सिंचित काली मिट्टी वाला क्षेत्र) को चित्रित

करने के लिए व्यापक रूप से जाना जाता था। कौन सी राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार विजेता फिल्म पूमानी के उपन्यास वेक्कई पर आधारित थी?

- (a) Karnan
- (b) Jai Bhim
- (c) Pariyerum Perumal
- (d) Asuran
- (e) Viduthalai

Ans. d

Sol. Sahitya Akademi Award-Winning Tamil Writer Poomani Passes Away

Sahitya Akademi Award-winning Tamil writer Poomani passed away in Chennai. He was widely known for portraying the karisal bhoomi (rain-fed black-soil region) of southern Tamil Nadu.

Poomani received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2014 for his acclaimed novel 'Agnathi', which depicts the Kazhugumalai (1895) and Sivakasi (1899) communal riots.

His novel 'Vekkai' was adapted into the National Award-winning film 'Asuran', directed by Vetrimaaran and starring Dhanush. He also directed the NFDC film 'Karuvelam Pookal' and worked on television serials.

193. Who became the first woman to score a century in a Women's Test match at Lord's during the historic India-England Test?

लॉर्ड्स में ऐतिहासिक भारत-इंग्लैंड टेस्ट मैच के दौरान महिला टेस्ट मैच में शतक लगाने वाली पहली महिला कौन बनीं?

- (a) Harmanpreet Kaur
- (b) Smriti Mandhana
- (c) Jemimah Rodrigues
- (d) Yastika Bhatia
- (e) Shraddha Joshi

Ans. d

Sol. India Scripts History with 270-Run Victory over England in First-Ever Women's Test at Lord's

India created history by defeating England by 270 runs in the first-ever women's Test match at Lord's Cricket Ground, after bowling England out for 186 while defending a target of 457.

Sneh Rana starred with figures of 4/42, while Deepti Sharma claimed two crucial wickets as India's spinners dismantled the England batting line-up.

Kranti Gaud and Yastika Bhatia achieved historic milestones, becoming the first women to take a five-wicket haul and score a century, respectively, in a women's Test at Lord's.

194. The 'Pillale Sampada' initiative launched by the Andhra Pradesh

Government focuses on:

आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा शुरू की गई 'पिल्लाले संपदा' पहल इन पर केंद्रित है:

- (a) Population control through family planning
- (b) Population conservation and balanced population growth
- (c) Urban migration management
- (d) Skill development for youth
- (e) Digital governance reforms

Ans. b

Sol. Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu Launches 'Pillale Sampada' Initiative
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the 'Pillale Sampada' (Children are Wealth) initiative on World Population Day, advocating a shift from population control to population conservation.

The initiative aims to encourage balanced population growth to address declining fertility rates and an ageing population, recognising human resources as the foundation of sustainable development.

The Andhra Pradesh Government announced measures to support families, including ₹15,000 per child under the Talliki Vandanam scheme, strengthened nutrition through Anganwadi centres, and improved maternal and child healthcare.

About Andhra Pradesh

- **Capital** – Amaravati
- **Chief Minister** – N Chandrababu Naidu
- **Deputy CM** – Pawan Kalyan
- **Governor** – S. Abdul Nazeer

195. India and Poland recently held bilateral talks in New Delhi to strengthen cooperation in which sector?

भारत और पोलैंड ने हाल ही में नई दिल्ली में किस क्षेत्र में सहयोग को मजबूत करने के लिए द्विपक्षीय बातचीत की?

- (a) Agriculture
- (b) Defence
- (c) MSME
- (d) Renewable Energy
- (e) Tourism

Ans. c

Sol. India, Poland Hold Bilateral Talks to Strengthen MSME Cooperation

India and Poland held bilateral talks in New Delhi to strengthen cooperation in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, with discussions on technology, innovation, digital transformation, and enterprise development.

India highlighted the strength of its MSME sector, which has over 86 million registered enterprises, contributes nearly 30% to GDP, and supports the livelihoods of around 330 million people.

Both countries agreed to enhance institutional and business-to-business cooperation, while expressing confidence that the India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will further boost bilateral trade and investment.

196. Consider the following statements regarding the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath:

भगवान जगन्नाथ की रथ यात्रा के बारे में नीचे दिए गए कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. The Rath Yatra begins from the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri.
2. Lord Jagannath, Lord Bahudar and Devi Subhadra give darshan to devotees from their chariots. W
3. Bahuda Yatra is the return journey of the deities to the Shree Jagannath Temple.
4. The Rath Yatra concludes at the Shree Gundicha Temple.
5. The procession covers a distance of nearly 13 kilometres between the two temples. W

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
(b) 1, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 3, 4 and 5
(d) 2, 3 and 4 only
(e) 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans. e

Sol. World-Famous Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra Begins in Puri, Odisha

The world-famous Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra began in Puri, Odisha, marking one of India's most significant religious festivals.

During the festival, the three deities travel nearly 3 km from the Shree Jagannath Temple to the Shree Gundicha Temple, where they stay for nine days before returning during the Bahuda Yatra.

The Puri Shree Jagannath Temple Administration has made extensive multi-layered security arrangements, expecting lakhs of devotees to participate in the annual Rath Yatra.

197. World Snake Day is observed every year on:

विश्व सर्प दिवस हर साल इस तारीख को मनाया जाता है:

- (a) 8 July
- (b) 12 July
- (c) 16 July
- (d) 20 July
- (e) 28 July

Ans. c

Sol. 16 July - World Snake Day

World Snake Day is observed every year on 16 July to raise awareness about the ecological importance of snakes, promote their conservation, and dispel myths and misconceptions associated with them.

Theme 2026 - Respect, Don't Fear: Protecting Nature's Silent Guardians

Snakes play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance by controlling rodent populations and serving as both predators and prey in food chains.

198. Thailand has reduced the maximum visa-free stay for Indian passport holders from 60 days to how many days?

थाईलैंड ने भारतीय पासपोर्ट धारकों के लिए बिना वीज़ा के रहने की अधिकतम अवधि को 60 दिनों से घटाकर कितने दिन कर दिया है?

- (a) 30 days
- (b) 45 days
- (c) 90 days
- (d) 15 days
- (e) 50 days

Ans. a

Sol. Thailand Reduces Visa-Free Stay for Indian Travellers from 60 to 30 Days

Thailand will continue its visa-free entry policy for Indian passport holders, allowing travel without obtaining a visa in advance.

The maximum visa-free stay has been reduced from 60 days to 30 days for Indian travellers.

199. During his visit to New Zealand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented which two traditional Indian gifts to Prime Minister Christopher Luxon?

ज़ीलैंड की अपनी यात्रा के दौरान, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने प्रधानमंत्री क्रिस्टोफर लक्सन को कौन से दो पारंपरिक भारतीय उपहार भेंट किए?

- (a) Dhokra Tree of Life sculpture and Uttarakhandi Cap
- (b) Madhubani Painting and Banarasi Shawl
- (c) Pashmina Shawl and Channapatna Toys
- (d) Warli Painting and Blue Pottery Vase
- (e) Bastar Bell Metal Lamp and Kashmiri Carpet

Ans. a

Sol. PM Modi Gifts Dhokra Tree of Life Sculpture and Uttarakhandi Cap to New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to New Zealand, gifted a Dhokra Tree of Life sculpture from Bastar (Chhattisgarh) and an Uttarakhandi (Traditional Pahari) Cap to New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.

The Uttarakhandi Cap, handcrafted from high-quality wool, symbolises Uttarakhand's cultural heritage, pride, dignity, hospitality, and Himalayan identity, and is commonly worn during festivals and ceremonies.

The Dhokra Tree of Life sculpture represents the ancient Dhokra metal craft of Bastar, created using the lost-wax casting technique, one of the world's oldest metal-casting methods.

200. India and Australia recently finalised an Administrative Arrangement under which agreement?

भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने हाल ही में किस समझौते के तहत एक प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था को अंतिम रूप दिया?

- (a) Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement
- (b) Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement
- (c) Free Trade Agreement
- (d) Mutual Defence Cooperation Agreement
- (e) Strategic Energy Partnership Agreement

Ans. a

Sol. India and Australia Finalise Administrative Arrangement for Civil Nuclear Cooperation

India and Australia finalised an Administrative Arrangement under their Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement during the Third India–Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne.

The Arrangement operationalises the Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, which was signed in 2014 and came into force in 2015.

It enables long-term exports of Australian uranium to India for peaceful nuclear purposes under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. Australia has the world's largest uranium reserves, accounting for more than one-third of global uranium resources.

201. The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which organisation to promote joint technical research, standardisation activities, innovation, and collaborative studies in broadcasting technologies?

टेलीकम्युनिकेशन इंजीनियरिंग सेंटर (TEC) ने ब्रॉडकास्टिंग टेक्नोलॉजी में संयुक्त तकनीकी रिसर्च, स्टैंडर्डाइज़ेशन गतिविधियों, इनोवेशन और सहयोगी स्टडीज़ को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किस संगठन के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- (a) Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL)
- (b) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- (c) Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)
- (d) Prasar Bharati
- (e) Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL)

Ans. a

Sol. TEC and BECIL Sign MoU to Boost Research and Innovation in Broadcasting Technologies

The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), the technical arm of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL).

The MoU aims to promote joint technical research, standardisation activities, innovation, and collaborative studies in broadcasting technologies.

202. Which state has announced that 2027 will be celebrated as the "Year of Youth"?

किस राज्य ने घोषणा की है कि 2027 को "युवा वर्ष" के रूप में मनाया जाएगा?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Gujarat
- (e) Maharashtra

Ans. a

Sol. Madhya Pradesh Declares 2027 as the 'Year of Youth'; Announces Digital Content Awards

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav announced that 2027 will be celebrated as the "Year of Youth" during the 'My Youth, My Pride' Conclave. The initiative aims to engage more than 2 crore youth in the state's policymaking and development process.

The state government will also institute Digital Content Awards to recognise young creators producing positive and socially relevant digital content.

About Madhya Pradesh

- **Capital** – Bhopal
- **Chief Minister** – Dr Mohan Yadav (replace Shivraj Singh Chauhan)
- **Deputy CM** - Jagdish Devda & Rajendra Shukla

203. Indian-origin NASA astronaut Anil Menon launched to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard Russia's Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft, marking his first spaceflight on an eight-month mission. The Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft was launched from which spaceport?

भारतीय मूल के NASA अंतरिक्ष यात्री अनिल मेनन रूस के सोयुज MS-29 अंतरिक्ष यान से इंटरनेशनल स्पेस स्टेशन (ISS) के लिए रवाना हुए। यह आठ महीने के मिशन पर उनकी पहली अंतरिक्ष उड़ान है। सोयुज MS-29 अंतरिक्ष यान किस स्पेसपोर्ट से लॉन्च किया गया था?

- (a) Kennedy Space Center, USA
- (b) Satish Dhawan Space Centre, India
- (c) Vostochny Cosmodrome, Russia
- (d) Guiana Space Centre, French Guiana
- (e) Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan

Ans. e

Sol. Indian-Origin NASA Astronaut Anil Menon Begins First ISS Mission Aboard Soyuz MS-29

Indian-origin NASA astronaut Anil Menon launched to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard Russia's Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft, marking his first spaceflight on an eight-month mission.

The Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft lifted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, carrying Anil Menon (USA), Pyotr Dubrov (Russia), and Anna Kikina (Russia), and successfully docked with the ISS's Prichal module after a three-hour, two-orbit journey.

The crew will conduct scientific research and technology demonstrations aboard the ISS for about eight months, with their return to Earth scheduled for April 2027.

204. Bharat Tex 2026, India's largest global textile event, was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Bharat Tex 2026 was the _____ edition of the event.

भारत का सबसे बड़ा ग्लोबल टेक्सटाइल इवेंट, 'भारत टेक्स 2026', नई दिल्ली के भारत मंडपम में आयोजित किया गया था। 'भारत टेक्स 2026' इस इवेंट का _____ संस्करण था।

- (a) Third
- (b) First
- (c) Second
- (d) Fourth
- (e) Fifth

Ans. a

Sol. Bharat Tex 2026 Showcases India's Textile Strength with Global Participation
Bharat Tex 2026, India's largest global textile event, was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, marking its third edition.

International exhibitors from 14 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Portugal, Spain, New Zealand, South Korea, South Africa, and Nepal, participated in the event.

The event aims to promote India's textile and apparel industry, boost textile exports, attract global investment, and encourage innovation and sustainability.

205. India Post recorded its highest-ever first-quarter revenue of how much in Q1 of FY 2026–27?

इंडिया पोस्ट ने वित्त वर्ष 2026–27 की पहली तिमाही (Q1) में अब तक का सबसे ज़्यादा तिमाही रेवेन्यू कितना दर्ज किया?

- (a) ₹4,009 crore
- (b) ₹4,951 crore
- (c) ₹19,803 crore
- (d) ₹3,800 crore
- (e) ₹5,200 crore

Ans. a

Sol. India Post Achieves Record ₹4,009 Crore Q1 Revenue in FY 2026–27

India Post recorded its highest-ever first-quarter revenue of ₹4,009 crore in Q1 of FY 2026–27, registering a 22% year-on-year growth, as announced by Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia.

India Post achieved 81% of its Q1 revenue target (₹4,009 crore against ₹4,951 crore) and has set an annual revenue target of ₹19,803 crore for FY 2026–27, reflecting its focus on modernisation, business transformation, and customer-centric services.

206. Mangaluru International Airport has received which level of accreditation under the Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Customer Experience Accreditation Programme?

मंगलुरु इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को एयरपोर्ट्स काउंसिल इंटरनेशनल (ACI) के एयरपोर्ट कस्टमर एक्सपीरियंस एक्क्रेडिटेशन प्रोग्राम के तहत कौन सा एक्क्रेडिटेशन लेवल मिला है?

- (a) Level 5
- (b) Level 4
- (c) Level 3
- (d) Level 2
- (e) Level 1

Ans. a

Sol. Mangaluru International Airport Receives ACI Level 5 Customer Experience Accreditation

Mangaluru International Airport has received Level 5 Accreditation under the Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Customer Experience Accreditation Programme, the highest global recognition for airport customer experience management.

It has become the third airport in the Adani Airport Holdings Ltd. (AAHL) network, after Mumbai and Ahmedabad, to achieve this accreditation.

The airport is the second in Karnataka, after Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, and only the fourth airport in India to receive this prestigious global accreditation.

The ACI Airport Customer Experience Accreditation Programme is the aviation industry's only global framework that evaluates how airports integrate customer experience into their strategy, culture, governance, operations, and service delivery.

207. India's Samridh Gram Initiative has won the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2026 in which category?

भारत की 'समृद्ध ग्राम पहल' ने 'वर्ल्ड समिट ऑन द इंफॉर्मेशन सोसाइटी (WSIS) प्राइज़ 2026' किस श्रेणी में जीता है?

- (a) Enabling Environment
- (b) Digital Innovation
- (c) Smart Governance
- (d) ICT for Education
- (e) Sustainable Development

Ans. a

Sol. India's Samridh Gram Initiative Wins WSIS Prizes 2026 for Advancing Rural Digital Transformation

India's Samridh Gram Initiative, launched by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the BharatNet Project, won the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2026 in the Enabling Environment category.

The initiative delivers integrated phygital services through Samriddhi Kendras, providing healthcare, education, agriculture support, governance, financial inclusion, e-commerce, telemedicine, digital classrooms, and high-speed broadband connectivity in rural areas.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated the first Samriddhi Kendra at Umri village, Guna district (Madhya Pradesh). The initiative is currently being implemented in Ari and Umri (Madhya Pradesh), Chaurawala (Uttar Pradesh), and Narakoduru (Andhra Pradesh).

What is Samriddh Gram Initiative?

- *Samriddh Gram Initiative is a Department of Telecommunications (DoT) initiative under the BharatNet Project that delivers integrated rural services through a phygital model (physical infrastructure + digital platforms).*
- *The initiative operates through Samriddhi Kendras, which serve as one-stop service hubs providing high-speed broadband, FTTH connectivity, and public Wi-Fi in villages.*
- *These Kendras offer services such as telemedicine (healthcare), digital classrooms (education), agricultural advisory, online government services, financial inclusion (banking & digital payments), and e-commerce access.*

208. In July 2026, Indian sprinter Animesh Kujur recorded the fastest-ever 100m time by an Indian on foreign soil with a timing of:

जुलाई 2026 में, भारतीय स्प्रीटर अनिमेश कुजूर ने विदेशी धरती पर किसी भारतीय द्वारा 100 मीटर दौड़ का अब तक का सबसे तेज़ समय दर्ज किया, जो था:

- (a) 10.14 seconds
- (b) 10.09 seconds
- (c) 10.18 seconds
- (d) 10.21 seconds
- (e) 10.25 seconds

Ans. a

Sol. Animesh Kujur Clocks Fastest-Ever 100m by an Indian on Foreign Soil

Indian sprinter Animesh Kujur recorded the fastest-ever 100m time by an Indian on foreign soil at the Fast Arms Fast Legs Meet, a World Athletics Continental Tour Challenger event.

He finished second in the men's 100m final with a personal best timing of 10.14 seconds.

Animesh Kujur's 10.14-second run is the second-fastest 100m time by an Indian, behind the national record of 10.09 seconds held by Gurindervir Singh, set at the Federation Cup 2026 in Ranchi.

209. Who released the book "The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks"?

"द वॉइस ऑफ़ जस्टिस: जस्टिस गवाई स्पीक्स" किताब किसने जारी की?

- (a) Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan
- (b) President Droupadi Murmu
- (c) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- (d) Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai
- (e) Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal

Ans. a

Sol. The book 'The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks' has been released Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book "The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks" at Uprashtrapati Bhavan.

Edited by Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar and published by Thomson Reuters in association with the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (C.L.E.A.), the book compiles the speeches, lectures, and reflections of former Chief Justice of India Justice B.R. Gavai.

210. Consider the following statements regarding India's first hydrogen-powered train:

भारत की पहली हाइड्रोजन-पावर्ड ट्रेन के बारे में नीचे दिए गए बयानों पर विचार करें:

1. It was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi between Jind and Sonipat.
2. It has been developed using indigenous technology.
3. The train emits only water vapour during operation and requires continuous overhead electrification like conventional electric trains.
4. It consists of a 10-coach formation, can carry around 2,600 passengers, and is powered by a 3,200-horsepower propulsion system.
5. Germany and China currently operate hydrogen-powered trains with more coaches than India.

Which of the statements given above are INCORRECT?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 3 and 5 only
- (d) 1 and 5 only
- (e) 1, 3 and 5 only

Ans. c

Sol. PM Modi Flags Off India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train, Setting a Global Benchmark

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first hydrogen-powered train between Jind and Sonipat at Jind railway station.

The hydrogen-powered train, developed using indigenous technology, marks a major step towards clean, sustainable, and zero-emission rail mobility, with water vapour as its only by-product.

With this launch, India joins Germany, Japan, China, and the United States as countries operating hydrogen-powered trains. While countries like Germany and China typically operate 2–3 coach hydrogen trains, India has also set a global benchmark by developing a 10-coach hydrogen train with a 3,200-horsepower propulsion system, capable of carrying around 2,600 passengers.

The train is equipped with advanced multi-layer safety systems to detect hydrogen leaks, heat, flames, and smoke, while a dedicated hydrogen facility at Jind has been established to support safe and reliable operations.

211. Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 will be hosted by which organisation?

ऑपरेशन सदरन रेडिनेस 26-2 किस संगठन द्वारा आयोजित किया जाएगा?

- (a) Indian Navy
- (b) Indian Coast Guard
- (c) Indian Air Force
- (d) Border Security Force (BSF)
- (e) National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

Ans. a

Sol. Indian Navy to organise Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 in Kochi

The Indian Navy will host Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 at the Southern Naval Command, Kochi, from 20–23 July 2026, in partnership with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) under the Indian Navy-led Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154).

The four-day multinational training programme will include classroom sessions, simulator-based training, and practical exercises covering Maritime Law, Maritime Domain Awareness, Counter-Narcotics, Force Protection, Asymmetric Threats, maritime uncrewed systems, Damage Control, Firefighting, Survival at Sea, and Boarding procedures.

212. Who has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)?

पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (MoES) के सचिव के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala
- (b) Dr. Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (c) Dr. Ishika Bansal

(d) Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood

(e) Dr. R. Umamaheshwaran

Ans. a

Sol. Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala Appointed Secretary of Ministry of Earth Sciences

The Centre has appointed internationally renowned oceanographer Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala as the Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) to strengthen India's capabilities in deep-ocean exploration, climate science, oceanography, and disaster early warning systems.

Currently serving as the Head of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) Secretariat under UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in Perth, Australia, Dr Tummala has been appointed for a two-year tenure, as approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

Recent Appointments

- **CEO of Jio Platforms Ltd. (JPL)** - Pankaj Pawar (replace Kiran Thomas)
- **President of FATF** - Giles Thomson; for 2026–2028 (replace Elisa de Anda Madrazo of Mexico)
- **Director of NCRB** - Amit Garg
- **Director General of BPR&D** - Alok Kumar Mittal
- **Director of SVPNPA** - Sujeet Pandey

213. With reference to the Parivartan Scheme, consider the following statements:

परिवर्तन योजना के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. It aims to replace old polluting trucks and buses operating in the National Capital Region (NCR).
2. The scheme promotes the adoption of Bharat Stage (BS)-V-compliant and electric vehicles.
3. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the implementing ministry.
4. The total financial outlay of the scheme is ₹9,585 crore.
5. The Parivartan Scheme provides a minimum 10% OEM discount on eligible new vehicles.
6. It provides one-time financial assistance for electric replacement vehicles.

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

- (a) 1, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 6
- (e) All are correct

Ans. c

Sol. MoHUA Approves Operational Guidelines for ₹9,585 Crore Parivartan Scheme to Replace Polluting Vehicles in NCR

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has approved the operational guidelines for the Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions (PARIVARTAN) Scheme to replace old, polluting trucks and buses in the National Capital Region (NCR) with BS-VI-compliant or electric vehicles.

The scheme has a total outlay of ₹9,585 crore, including ₹5,041 crore as Central Government support, and will be implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) through the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB). The scheme offers multiple incentives, including motor vehicle tax concessions, registration fee waivers, 5% interest subvention on vehicle loans, and a minimum 8% OEM discount on eligible new vehicles.

Additional benefits include monthly fuel voucher support for eligible diesel/CNG replacement vehicles, one-time financial assistance for electric replacement vehicles, and Certificate of Deposit (CoD) trading to encourage vehicle scrappage and reduce transport emissions.

214. With reference to the recent investment in Ather Energy, consider the following statements:

एथर एनर्जी में हाल ही में हुए निवेश के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. The Central Government will invest ₹200 crore in Ather Energy through the India-Japan Fund.
2. The investment is part of Ather Energy's proposed ₹1,200-crore preferential fundraising.
3. The investment will be made through the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd. (NIIFL).
4. Hero MotoCorp will invest through convertible warrants.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 4 only
- (e) all are correct

Ans. e

Sol. Centre to Invest ₹200 Crore in Ather Energy Through India-Japan Fund

The Central Government will invest ₹200 crore in Ather Energy through the India-Japan Fund (IJF) as part of the company's proposed ₹1,200-crore preferential fundraising.

The India-Japan Fund (IJF) is a \$600 million (around ₹4,900 crore) bilateral investment fund jointly established by the Government of India and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and is managed by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd. (NIIFL).

Under the preferential issue, the India-Japan Fund will subscribe to ₹200 crore worth of equity shares, while Hero MotoCorp will invest ₹960 crore through convertible warrants, alongside fresh capital from Ather Energy's founders.

215. Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) launched its first scheduled international flight to which destination?

नवी मुंबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (NMIA) ने अपनी पहली निर्धारित इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट किस डेस्टिनेशन के लिए शुरू की?

- (a) Abu Dhabi
- (b) Dubai
- (c) Doha
- (d) Muscat
- (e) Riyadh

Ans. a

Sol. Navi Mumbai International Airport Launches First International Flight to Abu Dhabi

Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) launched its first scheduled international flight with Air India Express' inaugural service to Abu Dhabi, marking the start of its international operations.

The Abu Dhabi route will operate three times a week, making NMIA the Mumbai Metropolitan Region's second international gateway and enhancing connectivity between India and the UAE.

Navi Mumbai International Airport is a joint venture between the Adani Group and CIDCO (City and Industrial Development Corporation, Maharashtra). It currently handles around 150 daily air traffic movements and connects 46 domestic destinations.

216. World Day for International Justice is observed every year on 17 July to promote international criminal justice and strengthen the fight against genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. What is the theme of World Day for International Justice 2026?

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्याय को बढ़ावा देने और नरसंहार, युद्ध अपराधों, मानवता के विरुद्ध अपराधों और आक्रामकता के अपराध के खिलाफ लड़ाई को मजबूत करने के लिए हर साल 17 जुलाई को 'अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्याय के लिए विश्व दिवस' मनाया जाता है।

- (a) Justice for All: A Global Commitment
- (b) Peace Through Law and Equality
- (c) Promoting Justice, Accountability, and Human Rights Worldwide
- (d) Building a Fair and Inclusive World
- (e) Strengthening Global Rule of Law

Ans. c

Sol. 17 July - World Day for International Justice

World Day for International Justice is observed every year on 17 July to promote international criminal justice and strengthen the fight against genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression.

Theme 2026 - Promoting Justice, Accountability, and Human Rights Worldwide

The day commemorates the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, the treaty that established the International Criminal Court (ICC).

217. World Emoji Day is observed every year on which date?

वर्ल्ड इमोजी डे हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 17 July
- (b) 16 July
- (c) 18 July
- (d) 20 July
- (e) 21 July

Ans. a

Sol. 17 July - World Emoji Day

World Emoji Day is observed every year on 17 July to celebrate the role of emojis in digital communication and their impact on modern online conversations.

The date 17 July was chosen because it appears on the calendar emoji used on many digital platforms.

The day encourages creativity, highlights the evolution of digital expression, and recognizes emojis as a universal language connecting people across cultures.

218. Nelson Mandela International Day is observed every year on which date?

नेल्सन मंडेला अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 18 July
- (b) 17 July
- (c) 20 July

(d) 21 July

(e) 22 July

Ans. a

Sol. 18 July - Nelson Mandela International Day

Nelson Mandela International Day is observed every year on 18 July to honour the birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2009 and was first observed in 2010.

It encourages people to dedicate 67 minutes of community service, symbolising Mandela's 67 years of public service in promoting peace, justice, equality, and human rights.

219. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 75 redeveloped railway stations under which scheme?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने किस योजना के तहत 75 पुनर्विकसित रेलवे स्टेशनों का उद्घाटन किया?

(a) PM Gati Shakti Scheme

(b) Bharatmala Pariyojana

(c) National Rail Plan

(d) Smart Stations Mission

(e) Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

Ans. e

Sol. PM Modi inaugurates 75 redeveloped railway stations across country under Amrit Bharat Scheme

PM Modi Inaugurates 75 Redeveloped Railway Stations – 4 Key Points

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated 75 redeveloped railway stations across 20 states under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) at a cost of ₹1,570 crore.

Major redeveloped stations include Jalandhar Cantonment, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Sri Muktsar Sahib, Sri Anandpur Sahib (Punjab); Pratapnagar, Godhra, Porbandar, Bhaktinagar (Gujarat); Barpali, Balangir, Paralakhemundi, Talcher, Kesinga, Bimalgarh, Baripada (Odisha), along with 9 stations under Southern Railway.

The stations have been modernised with passenger-friendly amenities while preserving local culture, heritage, and architecture under the theme "Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi". PM Modi also flagged off the Kartoli–Ambala train and Sant Ravidas Express (Amritsar–Varanasi).

About Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)

- The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) was launched by the Ministry of Railways in 2022 for the long-term redevelopment of railway stations.
- The scheme aims to modernise railway stations, improve passenger amenities, and transform stations into world-class transport hubs.
- Under the scheme, 1,340 railway stations across India are being redeveloped in a phased manner.
- **Key Features:** Redeveloped stations incorporate modern infrastructure, improved accessibility, better passenger facilities, and designs reflecting local culture, heritage, and architecture under the theme "Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi

220. What is the title of the report released by NITI Aayog on India's BioEconomy?

नीति आयोग द्वारा भारत की बायो-इकोनॉमी पर जारी रिपोर्ट का शीर्षक क्या है?

(a) BioVision India 2047

(b) National Biotechnology Mission 2035

(c) India BioGrowth Strategy 2040

(d) BioEconomy Development Framework 2035

(e) Roadmap for Building India as a Leading BioEconomy Powerhouse by 2035

Ans. e

Sol. NITI Aayog Unveils Roadmap to Make India a Global BioEconomy Powerhouse by 2035

NITI Aayog released the report titled "Roadmap for Building India as a Leading BioEconomy Powerhouse by 2035."

India's BioEconomy has grown 16-fold, from US\$10 billion in 2014 to US\$195.3 billion in 2025, and currently contributes 4.8% to India's GDP.

The report targets expanding India's BioEconomy to US\$691 billion by 2035 and US\$2.6 trillion by 2047, positioning India as a global bioeconomy leader.

221. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released India's first Trial Index of Services Production (ISP). The first Trial Index of Services Production (ISP) released by MoSPI covers which month?

MoSPI ने भारत का पहला ट्रायल इंडेक्स ऑफ़ सर्विसेज़ प्रोडक्शन (ISP) जारी किया। सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI) ने भारत का पहला ट्रायल इंडेक्स ऑफ़ सर्विसेज़ प्रोडक्शन (ISP) जारी किया। MoSPI द्वारा जारी पहला ट्रायल इंडेक्स ऑफ़ सर्विसेज़ प्रोडक्शन (ISP) किस महीने के लिए है?

(a) January 2026

(b) March 2026

(c) April 2026

(d) May 2026

(e) June 2026

Ans. c

Sol. MoSPI Releases India's First Trial Index of Services Production (ISP)

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released India's first Trial Index of Services Production (ISP), with the first trial index covering April 2026.

The trial ISP includes 19 service sub-sectors, representing about 60% of India's services sector, providing a high-frequency measure of service sector performance. 14 out of 19 sub-sectors recorded double-digit year-on-year growth, with the fastest-growing sectors being Accommodation & Food Services (37.2%), Retail Trade (30.8%), Administrative & Support Services (28.7%), Real Estate (27.7%), and Telecommunications (22.8%).

Monthly trial ISP data will be released with a lag of around 60 days and published on the 29th of every month (or the next working day if the 29th is a holiday).

222. Renowned poet, lyricist, and writer R. Vairamuthu has been selected for the 60th Jnanpith Award (2025), India's highest literary honour. R. Vairamuthu is primarily associated with which Indian language?

जाने-माने कवि, गीतकार और लेखक आर. वैरामुथु को भारत के सर्वोच्च साहित्यिक सम्मान, 60वें ज्ञानपीठ पुरस्कार (2025) के लिए चुना गया है। आर. वैरामुथु मुख्य रूप से किस भारतीय भाषा से जुड़े हैं?

- (a) Kannada
- (b) Malayalam
- (c) Telugu
- (d) Hindi
- (e) Tamil

Ans. e

Sol. R. Vairamuthu Chosen for the 60th Jnanpith Award 2025

Renowned Tamil poet, lyricist, and writer R. Vairamuthu has been selected for the 60th Jnanpith Award (2025), India's highest literary honour.

The award recognises Vairamuthu's outstanding contribution to Tamil literature, celebrated for its emotional depth, cultural richness, and distinctive poetic style developed over several decades.

The selection was made by the Bharatiya Jnanpith Selection Committee, chaired by Pratibha Ray, and the announcement was made in March 2026.

About Jnanpith Award

- The Jnanpith Award, instituted in 1961 by Bharatiya Jnanpith, is India's highest literary honour.

- It is conferred for lifetime contribution to Indian literature and is open to authors writing in any language listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- The award carries a cash prize of ₹21 lakh, a bronze statue of Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati), and a citation.

223. Which film won the Best Feature Film award at the 72nd National Film Awards (2024)?

72वें राष्ट्रीय फिल्म पुरस्कार (2024) में किस फिल्म ने सर्वश्रेष्ठ फीचर फिल्म का पुरस्कार जीता?

- (a) Kalki 2898 AD
- (b) Amaran
- (c) Chandu Champion
- (d) Captain Miller
- (e) Article 370

Ans. e

Sol. 'Article 370' Tops the 72nd National Film Awards 2024 with Best Feature Film Honour

The 72nd National Film Awards (2024) were announced, with Article 370 winning the Best Feature Film award and Yami Gautam receiving the Best Actress award for the same film.

The Best Actor award was jointly won by Mammooty (Bramayugam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion).

Rajkumar Periasamy won the Best Director award for Amaran, while Kalki 2898 AD was adjudged Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.

Randeep Hooda's Swatantrya Veer Savarkar won the Best Debut Film of a Director, while Captain Miller received the award for Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values.

In the Non-Feature Film category, Bhangaar won Best Non-Feature Film, Ram-Nami was named Best Documentary, and Kenchanuru Pradeep Kumar Shetty received the Best Book on Cinema award.

224. India achieved its best-ever performance at the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026, with all four team members winning gold medals for the first time. The 58th IChO 2026 was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 10–19 July 2026, with 363 students from 93 countries, making it the largest edition of the Olympiad. Which of the following Indian students won gold medals at the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026?

भारत ने 58वें इंटरनेशनल केमिस्ट्री ओलंपियाड (IChO) 2026 में अब तक का अपना सबसे बेहतरीन प्रदर्शन किया, जिसमें टीम के चारों सदस्यों ने पहली बार गोल्ड मेडल जीते। 58वां IChO 2026 उज़्बेकिस्तान के ताशकंद में 10-19 जुलाई 2026 के बीच आयोजित किया गया था, जिसमें 93 देशों के 363 छात्रों ने हिस्सा लिया; यह ओलंपियाड का अब तक का सबसे बड़ा संस्करण था। इनमें से किन भारतीय छात्रों ने 58वें इंटरनेशनल केमिस्ट्री ओलंपियाड (IChO) 2026 में गोल्ड मेडल जीते?

1. Shraddha Joshi Raj
2. Debadatta Priyadarshi
3. Harshit Singla
4. Ishika Bansal
5. Kabeer Chillar
6. Sandeep Kuchi

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (c) 3, 4, 5 and 6
- (d) 2, 3, 5 and 6
- (e) 3, 4, 5 and 6

Ans. d

Sol. India Creates History with Four Gold Medals at International Chemistry Olympiad 2026

India achieved its best-ever performance at the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026, with all four team members winning gold medals for the first time.

The 58th IChO 2026 was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 10–19 July 2026, with 363 students from 93 countries, making it the largest edition of the Olympiad.

India finished joint first in the country-wise medal tally alongside China, Vietnam, and Individual Participants Group B (Russia).

The four Indian gold medal winners were Debadatta Priyadarshi (Odisha), Harshit Singla (Punjab), Kabeer Chillar (Delhi), and Sandeep Kuchi (Telangana).

The Indian team was trained by the Chemistry Olympiad Cell at HBCSE, Mumbai, under the guidance of Prof. Subhajit Bandyopadhyay and Dr. Indrani Sen, with support from the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Department of Science and Technology (DST), and the Ministry of Education.

225. India's first privately developed orbital rocket Vikram-1 has been developed by which of the following?

भारत का पहला निजी तौर पर विकसित ऑर्बिटल रॉकेट 'विक्रम-1' इनमें से किसके द्वारा विकसित किया गया है?

- (a) Agnikul Cosmos
- (b) Skyroot Aerospace
- (c) NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)
- (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- (e) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)

Ans. b

Sol. India Achieves Historic Milestone with Successful Launch of Private Orbital Rocket Vikram-1

India's first privately developed orbital rocket, Vikram-1, built by Skyroot Aerospace under Mission Aagaman, successfully reached a 450 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO) after launching from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

With the successful launch of Vikram-1, India became the third country in the world to achieve private orbital launch capability, marking a major milestone for the country's private space sector.

Developed by the Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace, Vikram-1 is a three-stage solid-propellant launch vehicle with a liquid-fuelled Raman engine, designed to provide cost-effective and flexible launch services for small satellites.

226. Cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers, who passed away recently at the age of 89, represented which country in international cricket?

क्रिकेट के दिग्गज सर गारफील्ड सोबर्स, जिनका हाल ही में 89 साल की उम्र में निधन हो गया, ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट में किस देश का प्रतिनिधित्व किया था?

- (a) Australia
- (b) England
- (c) South Africa
- (d) West Indies
- (e) New Zealand

Ans. d

Sol. Cricket Legend Sir Garfield Sobers Passes Away at 89

West Indies cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers, widely regarded as the greatest all-rounder in cricket history, passed away at the age of 89 at his home in Barbados. Sobers represented the West Indies from 1954 to 1974, playing 93 Test matches, scoring 8,032 runs at an average of 57.78, taking 235 wickets, and famously becoming the first cricketer to hit six sixes in a single over in first-class cricket. Knighted in 1975, inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2009, and the namesake of the ICC Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for Men's Cricketer of the Year.

227. With reference to the FIFA World Cup 2026, consider the following statements:

FIFA वर्ल्ड कप 2026 के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

- 1. Spain won its second FIFA Men's World Cup title by defeating Argentina in the final.**
- 2. The 2026 edition was the first FIFA World Cup to feature 36 teams.**
- 3. The tournament was jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada.**
- 4. Spain became the second nation to simultaneously hold both the FIFA Men's and FIFA Women's World Cup titles.**
- 5. France's Kylian Mbappé became the first player to win the Golden Boot at multiple FIFA World Cups.**
- 6. Spain previously won the FIFA Men's World Cup in 2006.**

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

- (a) 1, 2, and 6 only**
- (b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only**
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6**
- (d) 2, 4 and 6 only**
- (e) 1, 3, 5 and 6 only**

Ans. d

Sol. Spain Defeats Argentina to Win FIFA World Cup 2026 Title

Spain won the FIFA World Cup 2026, defeating Argentina in the final to claim their second FIFA World Cup title, having previously won in 2010.

The FIFA World Cup 2026 was jointly hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, marking the first 48-team edition of the tournament.

Spain's victory ended a 16-year wait for the World Cup title and reaffirmed its status as one of the world's leading football nations.

With this victory, Spain became the first country to simultaneously hold both the FIFA Men's and FIFA Women's World Cup titles.

France's Kylian Mbappé won the Golden Boot, becoming the first player to finish as the tournament's top scorer at multiple FIFA World Cups.

Spain captain Rodri was awarded the Golden Ball as the tournament's Best Player, while Unai Simón won the Golden Glove for Best Goalkeeper.

Pau Cubarsí of Spain received the FIFA World Cup 2026 Young Player Award for his outstanding performances throughout the tournament.

228. PV Sindhu created history by becoming the first Indian shuttler to win which of the following badminton tournaments?

पी.वी. सिंधु ने इनमें से कौन सा बैडमिंटन टूर्नामेंट जीतने वाली पहली भारतीय शटलर बनकर इतिहास रचा?

- (a) All England Open
- (b) China Open
- (c) Japan Open
- (d) Indonesia Open
- (e) Malaysia Open

Ans. d

Sol. PV Sinhu Creates History, Becomes First Indian to Win Japan Open Title

PV Sindhu became the first Indian shuttler to win the Japan Open title by defeating Japan's Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-17 in the final.

The 31-year-old clinched her maiden BWF Super 750 Japan Open title, ending a more than two-year title drought.

Sindhu became the first Indian woman to reach the Japan Open final and secured her biggest title since winning the 2019 BWF World Championships.

229. National Flag Adoption Day is observed in India on 21 July every year to commemorate the adoption of the Tiranga by the Constituent Assembly on 21 July 1947. Who designed the Indian National Flag?

भारत में हर साल 21 जुलाई को 'राष्ट्रीय ध्वज अंगीकरण दिवस' मनाया जाता है, ताकि 21 जुलाई 1947 को संविधान सभा द्वारा तिरंगे को अपनाए जाने की घटना को याद किया जा सके। भारतीय राष्ट्रीय ध्वज का डिज़ाइन किसने तैयार किया था?

- (a) B. R. Ambedkar
- (b) Mahatma Gandhi
- (c) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (d) Pingali Venkayya
- (e) Rajendra Prasad

Ans. d

Sol. 21 July - National Flag Adoption Day

National Flag Adoption Day is observed in India on 21 July every year to commemorate the adoption of the Tiranga by the Constituent Assembly on 21 July 1947.

The Indian National Flag was designed by Pingali Venkayya, and its final form was approved before India's independence.

230. International Moon Day is observed every year on:

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय चंद्रमा दिवस हर साल मनाया जाता है:

- (a) 20 July

(b) 21 July

(c) 22 July

(d) 16 July

(e) 24 July

Ans. d

Sol. International Moon Day

International Moon Day is observed annually on 21 July to commemorate the first human landing on the Moon during NASA's Apollo 11 mission in 1969.

The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2021 to promote international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and sustainable use of outer space.

It aims to raise awareness about lunar exploration, scientific advancements, and the benefits of space research for humanity.

231. Recently, who became the 59th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom?

हाल ही में, यूनाइटेड किंगडम के 59वें प्रधानमंत्री कौन बने?

(a) Keir Starmer

(b) Boris Johnson

(c) Rishi Sunak

(d) Andy Burnham

(e) David Cameron

Ans. d

Sol. Andy Burnham Sworn in as 59th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Burnham became the 59th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom after being invited by King Charles III to form a new government, succeeding Keir Starmer.

Burnham was elected Leader of the Labour Party unopposed and became the seventh Prime Minister of the UK in the last decade.

232. Recently, who was elected as the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)?

हाल ही में, वेस्ट अफ्रीकन स्टेट्स के आर्थिक समुदाय (ECOWAS) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे चुना गया?

(a) Julius Maada Bio

(b) Bola Ahmed Tinubu

(c) Bassirou Diomaye Faye

(d) Patrice Talon

(e) Alassane Ouattara

Ans. c

Sol. Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye Elected ECOWAS Chairman
Senegal President Bassirou Diomaye Faye has been elected as the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), succeeding Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio.

As ECOWAS Chairman, Faye will lead the 15-member regional bloc, focusing on regional security, economic integration, and democratic governance in West Africa.

About ECOWAS –

- *ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) is a regional economic organization established on 28 May 1975 through the Treaty of Lagos to promote economic integration, regional cooperation, and peace among West African countries.*
- *Headquarters: Abuja, Nigeria | Members: 15 West African countries (currently, following the withdrawal of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger in 2025, ECOWAS has 12 active member states).*

233. Recently, Policybazaar appointed whom as its new Brand Ambassador?

हाल ही में, पॉलिसीबज़ार ने किसे अपना नया ब्रांड एंबेसडर नियुक्त किया?

- (a) Shah Rukh Khan
- (b) Amitabh Bachchan
- (c) Aamir Khan
- (d) Akshay Kumar
- (e) Salman Khan

Ans. b

Sol. Policybazaar Names Amitabh Bachchan as Brand Ambassador

Policybazaar has appointed Amitabh Bachchan as its new Brand Ambassador to strengthen awareness about health insurance and term insurance across India.

The company launched a nationwide campaign titled "Parivaar Sabse Pehle", encouraging families to prioritise financial protection by purchasing insurance at the right time.

The campaign supports IRDAI's "Insurance for All" vision, aiming to increase insurance penetration through television, digital, OTT, and social media platforms.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- *Leander Paes - Asian Tennis Federation*
- *Sourav Ganguly - InsuranceDekho for Khul Kar Khelo Campaign*
- *MS Dhoni - DRiV*
- *Shreyanka Patil - KLF Nirmal, a coconut hair oil brand*
- *Shah Rukh Khan - Visa (for 'Infinitely More' campaign)*

234. India's core infrastructure sectors recorded what percentage growth in June 2026?

जून 2026 में भारत के मुख्य इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर सेक्टर में कितने प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई?

- (a) 3%
- (b) 4%
- (c) 5%
- (d) 6%
- (e) 7%

Ans. c

Sol. India's Core Infrastructure Output Rises 5% in June

India's core infrastructure sectors recorded a 5% year-on-year growth in June 2026, the highest in five months, compared to 1.1% in June 2025.

The growth was primarily driven by higher production of cement, electricity, and iron ore.

The Index of Core Industries (ICI) has been revised with a new base year of 2022–23, replacing the previous base year of 2011–12.

Iron ore has been included in the Index of Core Industries, increasing the number of core sectors from eight to nine.

235. Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, which was seen in the news recently, is located at:

अल्लूरी सीताराम राजू अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, जो हाल ही में खबरों में था, स्थित है:

- (a) Amaravati
- (b) Vijayawada
- (c) Tirupati
- (d) Bhogapuram
- (e) Visakhapatnam

Ans. d

Sol. PM Modi to Inaugurate Bhogapuram International Airport

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, Andhra Pradesh, on 1 August 2026.

Developed by GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL), the greenfield airport has an initial capacity of 6 million passengers per annum (MPPA), expandable to over 40 MPPA in future phases.

The airport features a 3,800-metre Code 4E runway, a modern integrated passenger terminal, dedicated cargo facilities, and advanced infrastructure to handle both domestic and international flights.

236. India recently commissioned its first and deepest geothermal wells in which location?

भारत ने हाल ही में किस जगह पर अपने पहले और सबसे गहरे जियोथर्मल कुएं शुरू किए?

- (a) Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Puga Valley, Ladakh
- (c) Kutch, Gujarat
- (d) Chamoli, Uttarakhand
- (e) Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Ans. b

Sol. India Commissions First Deep Geothermal Wells in Ladakh's Puga Valley

India commissioned its first and deepest geothermal wells in Puga Valley, Ladakh.

The two wells, each 1,000 metres deep, were inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena at an altitude of over 14,000 feet.

The geothermal wells were developed by the ONGC Energy Centre and are linked to a 1 MW pilot geothermal power project, marking a significant step in India's renewable energy programme.

A maximum temperature of 135°C was recorded at a depth of 400 metres, with further testing underway to evaluate the geothermal reservoir for future electricity generation.

Geothermal energy is derived from the Earth's internal heat. India has identified major geothermal resource zones in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

237. Recently, who has been selected for the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026?

हाल ही में, लोकमान्य तिलक राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार 2026 के लिए किसे चुना गया है?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) Ajit Doval
- (d) S. Jaishankar
- (e) Nitin Gadkari

Ans. c

Sol. Ajit Doval Selected for Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval has been selected for the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026, which will be presented on 1 August 2026 in Pune on the 106th death anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

The award, instituted by the Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust, comprises a memento, a citation, and a cash prize of ₹1 lakh.

Ajit Doval has been honoured for his exceptional contribution to India's national security, counter-terrorism operations, covert missions, and border security, including his role in Operation Black Thunder, the Doklam negotiations, and the Balakot air strike.

238. Rahul Himalian, who was seen in the news recently, has been given the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of which organization?

हाल ही में खबरों में रहे राहुल हिमालयन को किस संगठन के चेयरमैन और मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर (CMD) का अतिरिक्त प्रभार सौंपा गया है?

- (a) RailTel Corporation of India Ltd.
- (b) Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)
- (c) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)
- (d) Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL)
- (e) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL)

Ans. c

Sol. Rahul Himalian Takes Additional Charge as IRCTC CMD

Rahul Himalian, Director (Tourism & Marketing), IRCTC, has been entrusted with the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of IRCTC following the resignation of Sanjay Kumar Jain.

A 1999-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, Rahul Himalian has over 26 years of experience in the Indian Railways and IRCTC and has served as a Whole-Time Functional Director on the IRCTC Board since 16 February 2024.

239. The official mascot 'Peacko', which was seen in the news recently, is associated with which sporting event?

हाल ही में खबरों में रहा आधिकारिक मैस्कॉट 'पीको' (Peacko) किस खेल आयोजन से जुड़ा है?

- (a) Thomas Cup 2026
- (b) Sudirman Cup 2026
- (c) BWF World Championships 2026
- (d) Asian Games 2026
- (e) Commonwealth Games 2026

Ans. c

Sol. Peacko Unveiled as Official Mascot of BWF World Championships 2026

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma unveiled the official mascot "Peacko" and launched

the official championship anthem for the BWF World Championships, New Delhi 2026.

Peacko, inspired by the Indian Peafowl (India's national bird), will lead BAI's nationwide fan engagement campaign ahead of the championship.

The 30th edition of the BWF World Championships will be held in New Delhi from 17–23 August 2026, featuring over 400 players from more than 50 countries.

240. The VISHWAS 2026 scheme, which was seen in the news recently, has been launched by which organisation?

हाल ही में खबरों में रही VISHWAS 2026 योजना किस संस्था द्वारा शुरू की गई है?

- (a) Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
- (b) National Pension System Trust (NPST)
- (c) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)
- (d) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- (e) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)

Ans. d

Sol. EPFO Launches VISHWAS 2026 Scheme

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched VISHWAS 2026, a one-time dispute resolution scheme for the amicable settlement of damages and penalty-related disputes between EPFO and employers.

The scheme will remain operational for six months and provides a fully digital, transparent, and time-bound mechanism to promote voluntary compliance, reduce litigation, and resolve long-pending disputes.

Under VISHWAS 2026, damages and penalties for defaults before 14 June 2024 will be recalculated at reduced rates, and applications can be submitted online through the EPFO Employer Portal using a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) or e-Sign.

241. 'Operation Jal Rahat' was launched to assist which state in flood rescue and relief operations?

बाढ़ बचाव और राहत कार्यों में किस राज्य की मदद के लिए 'ऑपरेशन जल राहत' शुरू किया गया था?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Assam
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh
- (e) Tripura

Ans. b

Sol. Operation Jal Rahat: Indian Army Launches Flood Rescue Mission in Assam

Operation Jal Rahat has been launched by the Indian Army to support the Assam Government in rescue and relief operations amid severe floods affecting over 57,100 people across seven districts.

Army and Assam Rifles teams have been deployed in the worst-hit districts of Charaideo, Sivasagar, and Jorhat, while the Indian Air Force (IAF) has been kept on standby for aerial assistance if required.

242. Which organisation has launched the Digital Local Pass facility and MargMitra Help Centre on the RajmargYatra mobile application?

. किस संगठन ने 'राजमार्गयात्रा' (RajmargYatra) मोबाइल ऐप पर 'डिजिटल लोकल पास' सुविधा और 'मार्गमित्र' (MargMitra) हेल्प सेंटर शुरू किया है?

- (a) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- (b) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- (c) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)
- (d) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- (e) Indian Road Congress (IRC)

Ans. a

Sol. NHAI Expands RajmargYatra App with Digital Local Pass & MargMitra Help Centre

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced a Digital Local Pass facility and MargMitra Help Centre on the RajmargYatra mobile application to enhance citizen-centric digital services under the Digital India initiative.

The Digital Local Pass allows eligible residents living within a 20-km radius of a toll plaza to purchase a monthly unlimited travel pass online using DigiLocker, VAHAN, FASTag, and GIS-based verification, eliminating the need to visit toll plazas.

The MargMitra Help Centre provides a single-window digital support system, enabling users to access services, register grievances, and receive assistance through text or voice in all 22 Indian languages.

The platform also offers services such as FASTag recharge, KYC, refund status, Annual/Local Pass management, complaint tracking, blacklisted FASTag status, pending e-notices, and road safety reporting, improving transparency and commuter convenience

243. Which of the following Ministries has launched the pilot phase of the nationwide "Gems of India Challenge" to identify, nurture, and promote grassroots digital creators?

इनमें से किस मंत्रालय ने ज़मीनी स्तर के डिजिटल क्रिएटर्स की पहचान करने, उन्हें आगे बढ़ाने और बढ़ावा देने के लिए देशव्यापी "जेम्स ऑफ़ इंडिया चैलेंज" का पायलट चरण शुरू किया है?

- (a) Ministry of Culture
- (b) Ministry of Tourism
- (c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- (d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (e) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Ans. c

Sol. I&B Ministry Launches 'Gems of India Challenge' to Promote Grassroots Digital Creators

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting launched the pilot phase of the "Gems of India Challenge" to identify, nurture, and promote grassroots digital creators across India.

The challenge invites citizens to submit 1–3 minute videos showcasing the unique stories, culture, and heritage of their districts through the MyWAVES section on the WAVES OTT platform from 1–31 August.

The pilot phase will be implemented in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Goa, and Ladakh, with plans for nationwide expansion based on its success.

The initiative offers ₹50,000 district-level awards (up to 20 creators per district), ₹2 lakh state-level awards, and ₹5 lakh national awards to encourage and recognize outstanding digital storytelling.

244. According to the data presented in Parliament, what was India's provisional debt-to-GDP ratio at the end of FY26, reflecting an improvement in the country's overall fiscal position?

संसद में पेश किए गए आंकड़ों के अनुसार, देश की कुल वित्तीय स्थिति में सुधार को दर्शाते हुए, वित्त वर्ष 2026 के अंत में भारत का अस्थायी डेट-टू-जीडीपी (debt-to-GDP) अनुपात क्या था?

- (a) 56.8%
- (b) 57.5%
- (c) 58.2%
- (d) 59.0%
- (e) 60.1%

Ans. c

Sol. India's Debt-to-GDP Ratio Moderates to 58.2% in FY26; Capital Expenditure Continues to Drive Infrastructure Growth

India's debt-to-GDP ratio moderated to 58.2% (provisional) in FY26, down from 58.5% in FY25, reflecting an improvement in the country's fiscal position.

As of 31 March 2026, the Central Government's total debt stood at ₹201.17 lakh crore (provisional), while the debt is projected to rise to ₹228.27 lakh crore in FY27.

The debt servicing ratio (interest payments to revenue receipts) declined from 41.6% in FY21 to 37.6% in FY26 (provisional), indicating an improved ability of the government to meet debt obligations through revenue receipts.

In the Union Budget 2026–27, the government earmarked ₹17.15 lakh crore for effective capital expenditure, which exceeds the fiscal deficit (fresh borrowings) of ₹16.96 lakh crore, implying that borrowings are being fully utilised for asset creation.

The government highlighted that capital expenditure of ₹44.03 lakh crore during FY21–FY26 has boosted infrastructure development, employment generation, logistics efficiency, and private investment, supported by initiatives such as PM GatiShakti, the National Logistics Policy, and the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI).

245. Which regulatory body has opened the continuous 'on-tap' registration window for prospective Pension Fund Managers under the National Pension System (NPS)?

नेशनल पेंशन सिस्टम (NPS) के तहत संभावित पेंशन फंड मैनेजर्स के लिए किस रेगुलेटरी बॉडी ने लगातार 'ऑन-टैप' रजिस्ट्रेशन विंडो खोली है?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- (d) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- (e) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

Ans. d

Sol. PFRDA Opens Continuous 'On-Tap' Registration Window for New NPS Pension Fund Managers

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has opened an 'on-tap' registration window for prospective Pension Fund Managers (PFMs) to manage the corpus under the National Pension System (NPS).

Under the new framework, applications for registration can now be submitted continuously, replacing the earlier system of accepting applications only during specified registration windows.

The last 'on-tap' licensing window for Pension Fund Managers was opened by PFRDA in May 2022.

The regulator stated that the continuous registration process will remain open until further notification, aiming to enhance competition and participation in the NPS ecosystem.

246. Which country will host the 14th South Asian Games (XIV South Asian Games) scheduled to be held from 23 to 31 March 2027?

23 से 31 मार्च 2027 तक होने वाले 14वें दक्षिण एशियाई खेलों (XIV South Asian Games) की मेज़बानी कौन सा देश करेगा?

- (a) India
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Nepal
- (e) Pakistan

Ans. e

Sol. Pakistan to Host 14th South Asian Games in March 2027 Across Three Cities
Pakistan will host the 14th South Asian Games (XIV South Asian Games) from 23–31 March 2027, with competitions to be held in Lahore, Islamabad, and Faisalabad, featuring over 3,500 athletes from eight South Asian nations across 27 sports. The South Asian Games are a regional multi-sport event organized by the South Asian Olympic Council (SAOC) for member countries under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) sporting framework. Pakistan will host the Games for the third time, after 1989 and 2004, and for the first time events will be held outside Islamabad, with Lahore and Faisalabad also serving as host cities.

247. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog for a period of two years by the Central Government?

केंद्र सरकार ने दो साल के लिए नीति आयोग का चीफ एग्जीक्यूटिव ऑफिसर (CEO) किसे नियुक्त किया है?

- (a) Amitabh Kant
- (b) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (c) B.V.R. Subrahmanyam
- (d) T.V. Somanathan
- (e) Anurag Jain

Ans. e

Sol. Centre Appoints Anurag Jain as CEO of NITI Aayog for Two-Year Term
The Central Government has appointed Anurag Jain, a 1989-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog for a two-year term, with the appointment approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

Before this appointment, the CEO post was being handled on an additional-charge basis by Nidhi Chhibber.

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), established on 1 January 2015, serves as the Government of India's policy think tank, replacing the Planning Commission. The Prime Minister of India is its Chairperson.

About NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)

- **Founded** - 1st January 2015
- **Preceding** - Planning Commission (15th March 1950)
- **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- **Chairperson** - Narendra Modi

248. Who has unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Museum of the City of Skopje during a state visit to North Macedonia?

नॉर्थ मैसेडोनिया की राजकीय यात्रा के दौरान स्कोप्जे शहर के म्यूज़ियम में महात्मा गांधी की मूर्ति का अनावरण किसने किया?

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- (c) S. Jaishankar
- (d) Om Birla
- (e) Droupadi Murmu

Ans. e

Sol. President Murmu unveils bust of Mahatma Gandhi in North Macedonian capital
President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Museum of the City of Skopje during her state visit to North Macedonia, highlighting India's cultural and diplomatic ties with the country.

Addressing the gathering, the President said that Mahatma Gandhi's message of truth and non-violence belongs to all humanity, emphasizing that his ideals of dialogue, compassion, and peaceful coexistence remain relevant in today's world.

249. France recently became the first European Union country to ban social media access for children below which age?

हाल ही में फ्रांस किस उम्र से कम उम्र के बच्चों के लिए सोशल मीडिया के इस्तेमाल पर रोक लगाने वाला पहला यूरोपीय संघ का देश बन गया है?

- (a) 13 years
- (b) 14 years
- (c) 15 years
- (d) 16 years
- (e) 12 years

Ans. c

Sol. France Becomes First EU Nation to Ban Social Media for Children Under 15
France's Parliament approved a law banning children under 15 years old from accessing social media, making it the first European Union country to introduce a nationwide restriction on social media use by minors.

Major social media platforms will be required to implement age verification systems to comply with the law, under France's digital regulatory framework supervised by Arcom, the country's audiovisual and digital communications regulator.

The law will be implemented in phases: from 1 September 2026, children under 15 cannot create new social media accounts, and from January 2027, the restriction will also apply to existing accounts. Online encyclopedias, educational directories, and scientific directories are exempt from the ban.

250. India is hosting the 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting in Chandigarh as a three-day event, bringing together Health Ministers and senior officials from BRICS countries to strengthen cooperation on global health issues. The theme of the 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting is:

भारत चंडीगढ़ में 16वीं ब्रिक्स (BRICS) स्वास्थ्य मंत्रियों की बैठक की मेज़बानी कर रहा है। यह तीन दिन का कार्यक्रम है जिसमें ब्रिक्स देशों के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री और वरिष्ठ अधिकारी वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य मुद्दों पर सहयोग को मज़बूत करने के लिए एक साथ आ रहे हैं। 16वीं ब्रिक्स स्वास्थ्य मंत्रियों की बैठक का विषय है

- (a) Health for All through Innovation
- (b) One Earth, One Health
- (c) Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability
- (d) Universal Health for a Sustainable Future
- (e) None of above

Ans. c

Sol. India Hosts 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting in Chandigarh

India is hosting the 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting in Chandigarh as a three-day event, bringing together Health Ministers and senior officials from BRICS countries to strengthen cooperation on global health issues.

The meeting is being held under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", highlighting India's commitment to advancing collective action on global health priorities.

Key discussion areas include health security, pandemic preparedness, digital health, affordable medicines, innovation, traditional medicine, tuberculosis, mental wellness, healthy lifestyles, and resilient health systems.

251. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the Lakadong Turmeric Mission – Golden Spice in New Delhi along with Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma. The mission, launched under the Ministry of DoNER's Unlock the Economic Potential of India's Northeast (USP) initiative, has an outlay of over ₹175 crore. The Lakadong Turmeric Mission is planned to be implemented over which period?

केंद्रीय मंत्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया ने मेघालय के मुख्यमंत्री कॉनराड संगमा के साथ नई दिल्ली में 'लाकाडोंग हल्दी मिशन – गोल्डन स्पाइस' लॉन्च किया। DoNER मंत्रालय की 'भारत के पूर्वोत्तर की आर्थिक क्षमता को अनलॉक करने' (USP) पहल के तहत शुरू किए गए इस मिशन का बजट ₹175 करोड़ से ज्यादा है। लाकाडोंग हल्दी मिशन को किस अवधि में लागू करने की योजना है?

(a) 2024–2028

(b) 2025–2029

(c) 2025–2030

(d) 2026–2031

(e) 2026–2030

Ans. c

Sol.

Centre Launches ₹175-Crore Lakadong Turmeric Mission 'Golden Spice' to Boost Northeast Economy

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the Lakadong Turmeric Mission – Golden Spice in New Delhi along with Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma. The mission, launched under the Ministry of DoNER's Unlock the Economic Potential of India's Northeast (USP) initiative, has an outlay of over ₹175 crore.

The GI-tagged Lakadong Turmeric, known for having the world's highest naturally occurring curcumin content, will be promoted through a farm-to-global-market ecosystem to enhance its quality, authenticity, scale, and global competitiveness.

The mission aims to expand cultivation to 7,000 hectares, double farmers' incomes, create over 3,000 women-led jobs, and build a ₹100-crore Lakadong Turmeric economy by FY 2028–29.

Designed as a five-year roadmap (2025–2030), the mission will be implemented in two phases—Value Chain Strengthening and Expansion & Scale-up—to promote Meghalaya's unique agricultural products and strengthen the Northeast's role in global value chains.

252. Rajasthan launched the Mukhyamantri Yuva Suyog platform in July 2026 from Jaipur to promote sports, skill development, employment opportunities, and community engagement among youth at the panchayat and ward levels.

Which of the following sports is NOT included under the Mukhyamantri Yuva Suyog platform?

राजस्थान ने जुलाई 2026 में जयपुर से 'मुख्यमंत्री युवा सुयोग' प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च किया, जिसका मकसद पंचायत और वार्ड स्तर पर युवाओं के बीच खेल, कौशल विकास, रोज़गार के अवसर और सामुदायिक भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देना था। 'मुख्यमंत्री युवा सुयोग' प्लेटफॉर्म के तहत इनमें से कौन सा खेल शामिल नहीं है?

- (a) Cricket
- (b) Kabaddi
- (c) Volleyball
- (d) Hockey
- (e) Basketball

Ans. e

Sol. Rajasthan Launches 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Suyog' Platform to Promote Youth Development and Sports

Rajasthan launched the Mukhyamantri Yuva Suyog platform in July 2026 from Jaipur to promote sports, skill development, employment opportunities, and community engagement among youth at the panchayat and ward levels.

The initiative has been launched on a pilot basis in the Bagru Assembly constituency and Baran district, with youth participation facilitated through the Yuva Suyog portal using a registration-based system.

The platform features sports such as cricket, volleyball, kabaddi, and football, with winning teams progressing from the local level to the Assembly constituency level. It also includes digital mapping of sports grounds to create a comprehensive database of sports infrastructure across rural and urban areas.

About Rajasthan

- **Capital** – Jaipur
- **Chief Minister** – Bhajan Lal Sharma (replace Ashok Gehlot)
- **Deputy Chief Minister** – Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa
- **Governor** – Haribhau Bagade

253. National Thermal Engineer Day is observed every year on:

राष्ट्रीय थर्मल इंजीनियर दिवस हर साल मनाया जाता है:

- (a) 22 July
- (b) 23 July
- (c) 24 July
- (d) 25 July
- (e) 26 July

Ans. c

Sol. 24 July - National Thermal Engineer Day

National Thermal Engineer Day is observed every year on 24 July to recognize the contributions of thermal engineers in advancing power generation, industrial processes, energy efficiency, and sustainable development.

The day highlights the vital role of thermal engineers in the design, operation, maintenance, and innovation of thermal power plants, heating and cooling systems, and energy technologies.

254. Which state has renamed the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme as the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme?

किस राज्य ने मुख्यमंत्री नाश्ता योजना का नाम बदलकर पेरुथलैवर कामराजार नाश्ता योजना कर दिया है?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Tamil Nadu
- (e) Haryana

Ans. d

Sol. Tamil Nadu Renames and Expands Breakfast Scheme as Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme

Tamil Nadu renamed the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme as the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme. The scheme was originally launched in September 2022 for students of Classes 1 to 5 in government primary schools.

From 17 September 2026, the scheme will be expanded to students of Classes 6 to 8 in government and government-aided schools, with the launch date coinciding with the birth anniversary of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy.

The expansion is expected to cover an additional 15 lakh students, taking the total beneficiaries to over 34 lakh. The expanded scheme has an estimated annual cost of ₹343.55 crore, with ₹217.63 crore sanctioned for FY 2026–27.

About Tamil Nadu

- **Formation** – 26 January 1950
- **Capital** – Chennai
- **Chief Minister** – C. Joseph Vijay (Thalapathy)
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

255. World Brain Day is observed every year on 22 July to raise awareness about brain health, neurological disorders, and the importance of early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. What is the theme of World Brain Day 2026?

हर साल 22 जुलाई को 'वर्ल्ड ब्रेन डे' मनाया जाता है, जिसका मकसद दिमाग की सेहत, न्यूरोलॉजिकल बीमारियों और बीमारी का जल्दी पता लगाने, इलाज और बचाव के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता फैलाना है। वर्ल्ड ब्रेन डे 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Brain Health for All Ages
- (b) Healthy Brain, Healthy Life
- (c) Protect Your Brain
- (d) Brain Health: Access for All
- (e) Brain Health for Everyone

Ans. d

Sol. 22 July - World Brain Day

World Brain Day is observed every year on 22 July to raise awareness about brain health, neurological disorders, and the importance of early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

Theme 2026 - Brain Health: Access for All.

The day is organized by the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) in collaboration with neurological societies worldwide to promote education, research, and improved access to neurological care.

256. Which of the following locations have been approved by the Central Government for the development of the two new Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) in Tamil Nadu?

तमिलनाडु में दो नए इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स मैन्युफैक्चरिंग क्लस्टर (EMC) के विकास के लिए केंद्र सरकार ने निम्नलिखित में से किन स्थानों को मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) Hosur and Coimbatore
- (b) Chennai and Madurai
- (c) Manallur and Pillapaikkam
- (d) Salem and Tiruppur
- (e) Tirunelveli and Erode

Ans. c

Sol. Centre Approves Two Electronics Manufacturing Clusters in Tamil Nadu Worth ₹1,012 Cr

The Centre has approved two Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) in Tamil Nadu with a combined investment of over ₹1,012 crore to strengthen the state's electronics manufacturing ecosystem and promote self-reliance.

The Manallur EMC will be developed over 474.3 acres at a cost of ₹587.47 crore, while the Pillapaikkam EMC will cover 379.3 acres with an investment of ₹424.55 crore.

India's electronics manufacturing has grown significantly, with production increasing from ₹1.9 lakh crore (2014-15) to ₹13.11 lakh crore (2025-26) and exports rising from ₹38,000 crore to ₹4.24 lakh crore, supported by PLI schemes, liberalised FDI, tax reforms, and labour reforms.

India now manufactures 99.2% of the mobile phones sold domestically, with mobile phone production reaching ₹6.27 lakh crore and exports ₹2.59 lakh crore. The sector provides employment to around 25 lakh people, while Tamil Nadu has emerged as a major electronics manufacturing hub.

About Tamil Nadu

- **Formation** – 26 January 1950
- **Capital** – Chennai
- **Chief Minister** – C. Joseph Vijay (Thalapathy)
- **Governor** – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

257. With reference to railway electrification in India, consider the following statements:

भारत में रेलवे के विद्युतीकरण के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. India has electrified 99.6% of its broad gauge railway network.
2. India is the most electrified major railway system in the world.
3. China has achieved 100% railway electrification.
4. Between 2014 and 2026, Indian Railways electrified more route kilometres than it did during the nearly six decades before 2014.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (e) 1 and 4 only

Ans. e

Sol. India Becomes the World's Second Most Electrified Major Railway Network with 99.6% Broad Gauge Electrification

India has electrified 99.6% of its broad gauge railway network, making it the second most electrified major railway system in the world after Switzerland (100%). The remaining routes are currently under electrification.

Railway electrification has accelerated significantly since 2014, with 48,072 route km electrified between 2014–2026, compared to 21,801 route km electrified over nearly six decades before 2014.

India now surpasses several major railway networks in electrification, including China (82%), Spain (67%), Japan (64%), France (60%), and the United Kingdom (39%).

Railway electrification has promoted sustainable transport, as rail emits only 11.5 grams of CO₂ per tonne-km, nearly 89% lower than road transport (101 grams).

Diesel consumption has also declined from 293 crore litres (2015–16) to 108 crore litres (2024–25).

Indian Railways is expanding renewable energy use, with 1,161 MW of solar power and 103 MW of wind power commissioned by June 2026, taking the total renewable energy capacity to over 1,260 MW.

Fifteen Railway Zones, including Central, Northern, Eastern, Western, South Central, East Coast Railways, Konkan Railway, and Kolkata Metro, have achieved 100% electrification. Several states and UTs, including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Telangana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, and Delhi, have also achieved complete railway electrification.

258. NABARD signed an MoU with which organisation to promote green and climate-resilient infrastructure in rural India?

ग्रामीण भारत में ग्रीन और जलवायु-अनुकूल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को बढ़ावा देने के लिए नाबार्ड (NABARD) ने किस संगठन के साथ MoU पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)
- (b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- (c) Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology (MAHAPREIT)
- (d) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- (e) National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD)

Ans. c

Sol. NABARD and MAHAPREIT Sign MoU to Promote Green and Climate-Resilient Rural Infrastructure

NABARD and Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology (MAHAPREIT) signed an MoU to finance and promote green, climate-resilient, and sustainable infrastructure in rural India, with a special focus on Maharashtra.

The partnership aims to identify, develop, structure, and finance sustainable projects that enhance rural prosperity, climate resilience, village infrastructure, and strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- BITS Pilani and Axis Bank Partner for Innovation Park
- IIT Bombay & SBI Life Establish 'Bharat AI & Cyber Innovation Hub for Insurance'

- West Bengal Gramin Bank Partners with Canara HSBC Life Insurance to Expand Rural Insurance Coverage
- Mahindra & Mahindra and DBS Bank India signed an MoU to launch India's first sustainability-linked dealer financing programme in the automotive sector.

259. Carnelian Asset Management & Advisors has received approval from which regulatory body to launch its mutual fund business?

कार्नेलियन एसेट मैनेजमेंट एंड एडवाइजर्स को अपना म्यूचुअल फंड बिज़नेस शुरू करने के लिए किस रेगुलेटरी बॉडी से मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- (c) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (e) Ministry of Finance

Ans. d

Sol. Carnelian Asset Management Receives SEBI Approval to Launch Mutual Fund Business

Carnelian Asset Management & Advisors has received SEBI approval to launch its mutual fund business, enabling the company to expand its investment offerings to a broader base of retail investors.

The approval strengthens Carnelian's position as an integrated wealth and asset management company, allowing it to offer a comprehensive range of investment products across different investor segments.

India's mutual fund industry continues to witness strong growth, with over 20 crore folios, around 10 crore active SIP accounts, and Assets Under Management (AUM) exceeding ₹82 lakh crore as of June 2026.

260. Which of the following expeditions became India's first-ever tri-services all-women global circumnavigation mission, successfully sailing around the world onboard IASV Triveni?

इनमें से कौन सा अभियान भारत का पहला 'ट्राई-सर्विसेज ऑल-वूमेन ग्लोबल सर्कमनेविगेशन मिशन' (तीनों सेनाओं की महिलाओं का दुनिया का चक्कर लगाने वाला मिशन) बना, जिसमें IASV त्रिवेणी पर सवार होकर सफलतापूर्वक दुनिया का चक्कर लगाया गया?

- (a) Sagar Shraddha
- (b) Samudra Setu
- (c) Samudra Shakti
- (d) Samudra Pradakshina

(e) Sagar Parikrama**Ans. d****Sol.** Rajnath Singh Hails First-Ever Tri-Services All-Women Global Circumnavigation Expedition 'Samudra Pradakshina'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually flagged off the first-ever tri-services all-women circumnavigation expedition, 'Samudra Pradakshina', onboard IASV Triveni. Led by Lieutenant Colonel Anuja Varudkar, with Squadron Leader Shraddha P. Raju as Deputy Expedition Leader, the expedition was flagged off from Gateway of India, Mumbai, on 11 September 2025 and successfully completed a 25,500+ nautical mile voyage around the globe.

The crew crossed the Equator twice, rounded the three Great Capes—Cape Leeuwin (Australia), Cape Horn (South America), and Cape of Good Hope (Africa)—and completed the journey via an open-ocean route without using the Panama or Suez Canals.

261. Who became India's 99th Chess Grandmaster after crossing the 2500 Elo rating mark at the Guwahati Smart City International Open 2026?

गुवाहाटी स्मार्ट सिटी इंटरनेशनल ओपन 2026 में 2500 Elo रेटिंग का आंकड़ा पार करने के बाद भारत के 99वें शतरंज ग्रैंडमास्टर कौन बने?

- (a) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (b) Leon Luke Mendonca
- (c) Nihal Sarin
- (d) V.S. Rathanvel
- (e) Ishika Bansal

Ans. d**Sol.** V.S. Rathanvel Becomes India's 99th Chess Grandmaster

V.S. Rathanvel from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, became India's 99th Grandmaster (GM) after crossing the 2500 Elo rating mark at the Guwahati Smart City International Open 2026.

Although Rathanvel had completed his three Grandmaster norms in 2022, he achieved the GM title only after fulfilling the 2500 Elo rating requirement, overcoming years of perseverance and mental resilience.

Previous Chess Grand Masters

- **98th Grandmaster – Aswath S (Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu)**
- **97th Grandmaster - Harshavardhan G.B. (Chennai, Tamil Nadu)**
- **96th Grandmaster - Ethan Vaz (Goa)**
- **95th – Aronya Ghosh (Kolkata, West Bengal)**

262. National Mango Day is observed every year on which date?

राष्ट्रीय आम दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 15 July
- (b) 18 July
- (c) 20 July
- (d) 22 July
- (e) 25 July

Ans. d

Sol. 22 July - National Mango Day

National Mango Day is observed every year on 22 July to celebrate the mango, India's national fruit, and to highlight its cultural, nutritional, and economic significance.

India is the largest producer of mangoes in the world, contributing around 40% of global mango production, with major producing states including Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Bihar, and Maharashtra.

263. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became the youngest player to score a T20I fifty against Zimbabwe in Harare recently. At what age did Vaibhav Sooryavanshi become the youngest player to score a T20I fifty?

हाल ही में हरारे में ज़िम्बाब्वे के खिलाफ़ T20I में अर्धशतक लगाने वाले सबसे युवा खिलाड़ी वैभव सूर्यवंशी बने। वैभव सूर्यवंशी किस उम्र में T20I में अर्धशतक लगाने वाले सबसे युवा खिलाड़ी बने?

- (a) 16 years and 56 days
- (b) 15 years and 150 days
- (c) 15 years and 130 days
- (d) 16 years and 10 days
- (e) 15 years and 118 days

Ans. e

Sol. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes Youngest Player to Score a T20I Fifty

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became the youngest player to score a T20I fifty, achieving the feat at the age of 15 years and 118 days against Zimbabwe in Harare.

Playing only his fourth T20I for India, Sooryavanshi smashed a 19-ball half-century (officially reaching the milestone in 18 balls), hitting 4 fours and 4 sixes, surpassing the previous youngest-record holder.

The previous record was held by Gibraltar's Louis Bruce, who scored a T20I fifty at the age of 16 years and 56 days against Malta in August 2021. Sooryavanshi broke the record by more than 300 days.

264. Which venue has been confirmed to host the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Final 2027?

ICC वर्ल्ड टेस्ट चैंपियनशिप (WTC) फ़ाइनल 2027 की मेज़बानी के लिए किस वेन्यू की पुष्टि की गई है?

- (a) Lord's, London
- (b) Edgbaston, Birmingham
- (c) Old Trafford, Manchester
- (d) Headingley, Leeds
- (e) The Oval, London

Ans. e

Sol. The Oval to Host ICC World Test Championship Final 2027

The Oval, London, has been confirmed as the venue for the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Final 2027, which will be held from 9–13 June 2027. It will be the second time The Oval hosts the WTC Final after 2023.

The ICC has designated England as the host of the 2027, 2029, and 2031 WTC Finals, with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) responsible for selecting the venue for each final.

In the current 2025–27 WTC cycle, Australia leads the standings with 87.50% points percentage, followed by South Africa (75%) and New Zealand (72.22%), while India is placed fifth with 48.15%.

265. Who has taken charge as the Interim President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE)?

इंटरनेशनल चेस फेडरेशन (FIDE) के अंतरिम अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसने कार्यभार संभाला है?

- (a) Magnus Carlsen
- (b) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (c) Vladimir Kramnik
- (d) Viswanathan Anand
- (e) Ding Liren

Ans. d

Sol. Viswanathan Anand Takes Charge as Interim President of FIDE

Five-time World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand has taken charge as the Interim President of FIDE (International Chess Federation) after FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich was placed on the European Union's sanctions list.

Anand will serve as Interim President for as long as Arkady Dvorkovich remains subject to the restrictive measures imposed under the applicable Swiss and European Union laws and regulations.

266. The Union Cabinet approved the BHAVYA Rasayan scheme with an outlay of ₹3,030 crore to establish three dedicated chemical parks across India during FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31. The acronym 'BHAVYA' in the BHAVYA Rasayan

Scheme stands for:

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 से 2030-31 के दौरान पूरे भारत में तीन समर्पित केमिकल पार्क स्थापित करने के लिए ₹3,030 करोड़ के बजट वाली 'भव्य रसायन' (BHAVYA Rasayan) योजना को मंजूरी दी। 'भव्य रसायन' योजना में 'BHAVYA' का पूरा नाम है:

- (a) Bharat Heavy Advanced Vision for Yields and Agriculture
- (b) Bharat High-tech Venture for Young Agriculture
- (c) Bharat Horticulture and Village Advancement Yojana
- (d) Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan
- (e) Bharat Advanced Value-added Yojana for Agrochemicals

Ans. d

Sol. Union Cabinet Approves ₹3,030 Crore BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme for Three Chemical Parks

The Union Cabinet approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan) scheme with an outlay of ₹3,030 crore to establish three dedicated chemical parks across India during FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31.

Under the scheme, ₹3,000 crore has been allocated for common infrastructure development within the chemical parks, while ₹30 crore has been earmarked for administrative expenses. The Centre will provide up to ₹1,000 crore assistance for each park.

The chemical parks will be selected through a challenge-based process and developed by state governments. Each park must have at least 2,000 acres (8 sq. km.) of contiguous, encumbrance-free land, with the respective state contributing a minimum of ₹500 crore.

The parks will adopt a plug-and-play industrial model and include facilities such as Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs), water supply systems, and logistics infrastructure to promote sustainable chemical manufacturing.

267. Which of the following states has recently approved the establishment of Vishnu Women's University, which will become the state's first private women's university?

हाल ही में किस राज्य ने 'विष्णु महिला विश्वविद्यालय' (Vishnu Women's University) की स्थापना को मंजूरी दी है, जो राज्य का पहला निजी महिला विश्वविद्यालय होगा?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Tamil Nadu

(d) Andhra Pradesh

(e) Kerala

Ans. d

Sol. Andhra Pradesh Approves State's First Private Women's University

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has approved the establishment of Vishnu Women's University, the first private women's university in the state.

The Cabinet approved a proposal to promulgate an ordinance amending the Schedule to the Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Act, 2016, to facilitate the university's establishment.

The initiative aims to expand higher education opportunities for women and strengthen the state's private higher education ecosystem through the establishment of a dedicated women's university.

268. Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed an MoU with which organisation to establish India's first Quantum Finance Innovation Hub for the banking sector?

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੇਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ (PNB) ਨੇ ਬੈਂਕਿੰਗ ਸੈਕਟਰ ਦੇ ਲਿਏ ਭਾਰਤ ਕਾ ਪਹਲਾ ਕੁਆਂਟਮ ਫਾਇਨੈਂਸ ਇਨੋਵੇਸ਼ਨ ਹਬ ਸਥਾਪਿਤ ਕਰਨੇ ਦੇ ਲਿਏ ਕਿਸ ਸੰਗਠਨ ਦੇ ਸਾਥ MoU ਪਰ ਹਸਤਾਖਰ ਕੀਏ ਹੈਂ?

(a) NITI Aayog

(b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

(c) Andhra Pradesh Quantum Mission

(d) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

(e) Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

Ans. c

Sol. PNB Partners with Andhra Pradesh to Set Up India's First Quantum Finance Innovation Hub

Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Quantum Mission to establish a Quantum Finance Innovation Hub at the Amaravati Quantum Computing Centre, becoming the first bank in India to partner with a state government for such an initiative.

The proposed hub will develop quantum technology-based solutions for the banking sector, focusing on cybersecurity, fraud detection, secure digital banking, and promoting research in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies.

The initiative supports the Andhra Pradesh Government's vision of making Amaravati a global hub for quantum technology and deep-tech innovation, while fostering collaboration among banks, industries, startups, academic institutions, research organisations, and government agencies.

269. Which bank has launched the 'Gen Z Tech Loan' scheme to help students purchase laptops and tablets for educational purposes?

किस बैंक ने छात्रों को पढ़ाई-लिखाई के लिए लैपटॉप और टैबलेट खरीदने में मदद करने के लिए 'Gen Z Tech Loan' स्कीम शुरू की है?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) Punjab National Bank
- (c) Canara Bank
- (d) Bank of Baroda
- (e) Kerala State Cooperative Bank

Ans. e

Sol. Kerala Bank Launches 'Gen Z Tech Loan' Scheme for Students at 6.99% Interest
Kerala State Cooperative Bank (Kerala Bank) will launch the 'Gen Z Tech Loan' scheme on 27 July to help undergraduate and higher-level students purchase laptops and tablets for educational purposes.

Under the scheme, students can avail of loans up to ₹1 lakh at an interest rate of 6.99%, with a 30-month repayment period, while the parent of the student must act as the guarantor.

Borrowers under the Gen Z Tech Loan scheme will also receive a 0.5% concession on the interest rate of educational loans, making higher education financing more affordable.

270. World Embryologist Day is observed every year on 25 July to recognise the contribution of embryologists in the field of reproductive medicine, assisted reproductive technologies (ART), and fertility treatments. What was the theme of World Embryologist Day 2026?

रिप्रोडक्टिव मेडिसिन, असिस्टेड रिप्रोडक्टिव टेक्नोलॉजीज़ (ART) और फर्टिलिटी ट्रीटमेंट के क्षेत्र में एम्ब्रियोलॉजिस्ट के योगदान को सम्मान देने के लिए हर साल 25 जुलाई को 'वर्ल्ड एम्ब्रियोलॉजिस्ट डे' मनाया जाता है। वर्ल्ड एम्ब्रियोलॉजिस्ट डे 2026 की थीम क्या थी?

- (a) Science for a Better Tomorrow
- (b) Advancing Medical Innovation Through Research
- (c) Fertility Care for All
- (d) Creating Hope, Advancing Fertility, Transforming Lives
- (e) Technology and Human Health

Ans. d

Sol. 25 July - World Embryologist Day

World Embryologist Day is observed every year on 25 July to recognise the contribution of embryologists in the field of reproductive medicine, assisted reproductive technologies (ART), and fertility treatments.

Theme 2026 - Creating Hope, Advancing Fertility, Transforming Lives.

The day commemorates the birth of the world's first "test-tube baby", Louise Brown, who was born on 25 July 1978 in the United Kingdom through In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) technology.

Embryologists play a crucial role in IVF procedures, including the handling of eggs and sperm, embryo development, embryo selection, and improving success rates of fertility treatments.

271. Viyona has received approval from which system to operate as a Customer Operating Unit (COU)?

वियोना को कस्टमर ऑपरेटिंग यूनिट (COU) के तौर पर काम करने के लिए किस सिस्टम से मंजूरी मिली है?

- (a) Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- (b) Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)
- (c) National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)
- (d) Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)
- (e) National Automated Clearing House (NACH)

Ans. b

Sol. Viyona Gets BBPS COU Approval

Viyona, a Hyderabad-based fintech infrastructure start-up, has received approval from the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to operate as a Customer Operating Unit (COU).

The approval enables Viyona to provide BBPS-powered bill payment services for electricity, water, gas, broadband, mobile recharges, DTH, insurance premiums, loan EMIs, educational fees, and other approved bill payments.

The certification strengthens Viyona's ability to help banks, fintechs, enterprises, and billers deliver secure, reliable, and seamless digital bill payment solutions at scale.

272. The 23rd Commonwealth Games 2026 officially began in which city?

23वें कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स 2026 आधिकारिक तौर पर किस शहर में शुरू हुए?

- (a) Birmingham
- (b) Glasgow
- (c) London
- (d) Manchester
- (e) Cardiff

Ans. b

Sol. 23rd Commonwealth Games 2026 Begins in Glasgow

The 23rd Commonwealth Games commenced in Glasgow, Scotland, with a grand opening ceremony, featuring participation from 74 nations in a 10-day sporting event.

India's 125-member contingent, led by Mirabai Chanu (flag bearer) and Lovlina Borgohain (ceremonial baton bearer), received a warm welcome during the opening ceremony.

The Games feature 10 sports across four venues, with India aiming to improve on its 61-medal haul from the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games despite a reduced sporting programme.

273. Which organisation successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenous Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) Kusha?

किस संगठन ने स्वदेशी लंबी दूरी की सतह से हवा में मार करने वाली मिसाइल (LRSAM) 'कुशा' का पहला उड़ान परीक्षण सफलतापूर्वक किया?

- (a) ISRO
- (b) HAL
- (c) DRDO
- (d) BEL
- (e) BDL

Ans. c

Sol. DRDO Successfully Tests Indigenous Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile 'Kusha'

DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenous Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) Kusha from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha, successfully intercepting a high-speed aerial target.

Project Kusha is India's indigenous air and missile defence programme, aimed at building a multi-layered national air defence shield by 2035 to counter aircraft, UAVs, cruise missiles, and other aerial threats.

The Kusha missile system, along with its radars and command-and-control centre, has been developed by DRDO and Indian industry partners, strengthening India's indigenous defence capabilities.

274. HCLTech will establish its first AI Data Centre with a planned investment of ₹14,257 crore in which state?

HCLTech किस राज्य में ₹14,257 करोड़ के प्रस्तावित निवेश के साथ अपना पहला AI डेटा सेंटर स्थापित करेगा?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Odisha

(d) Tamil Nadu

(e) Gujarat

Ans. c

Sol. HCLTech to Set Up First AI Data Centre in Odisha

HCLTech will establish its first AI Data Centre in Odisha with a planned investment of ₹14,257 crore at the upcoming Odisha Sovereign AI Park.

The project will be developed through a collaboration between HCLTech, Indian AI startup Sarvam, and the Government of Odisha to strengthen India's AI infrastructure.

The Odisha Sovereign AI Park is envisioned as a state-level AI infrastructure hub, integrating high-performance computing, Indian AI models, and real-world AI applications to provide AI services as a public utility.

275. Mohammed Shahabuddin, who was seen in the news recently after resigning from his post, was the President of which country?

मोहम्मद शहाबुद्दीन, जो हाल ही में अपने पद से इस्तीफा देने के बाद चर्चा में रहे, किस देश के राष्ट्रपति थे?

(a) Pakistan

(b) Bangladesh

(c) Sri Lanka

(d) Nepal

(e) Maldives

Ans. b

Sol. Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin Resigns

Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin resigned, citing health reasons, nearly two years before the completion of his five-year term. His resignation was accepted by Parliament Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, who will serve as Acting President until a new president is elected.

Shahabuddin, a former judge and a veteran of Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War, assumed office as the President of Bangladesh in April 2023.

About Bangladesh

- **Capital**- Dhaka
- **Currency** – Taka
- **Prime Minister** - Tarique Rahman

276. The Indian Navy recently inducted INS Malvan as the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) of which class?

इंडियन नेवी ने हाल ही में INS मालवन को किस क्लास के दूसरे एंटी-सबमरीन वारफेयर शैलो वॉटर क्राफ्ट (ASW SWC) के तौर पर शामिल किया है?

- (a) Nilgiri-class Frigate
- (b) Visakhapatnam-class Destroyer
- (c) Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft
- (d) Kamorta-class Corvette
- (e) Shivalik-class Frigate

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Navy Inducts INS Malvan, Second Mahe-Class ASW Shallow Water Craft
The Indian Navy inducted INS Malvan, the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) of the Mahe class, at Karwar, Karnataka, marking a major milestone in India's indigenous warship-building programme.

Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, INS Malvan is equipped with over 80% indigenous equipment and technology, showcasing India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

Armed with RBU-6000 rockets, DRDO-developed torpedoes, and a German-Indian sonar suite, INS Malvan will strengthen India's coastal maritime security and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

277. Which village has recently become Tamil Nadu's first fully operational Climate-Resilient Village (CRV) under the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission (TNCCM)?

तमिलनाडु जलवायु परिवर्तन मिशन (TNCCM) के तहत हाल ही में कौन सा गाँव तमिलनाडु का पहला पूरी तरह से चालू जलवायु-अनुकूल गाँव (CRV) बन गया है?

- (a) Chomu
- (b) Nagapattinam
- (c) Killai
- (d) Velankanni
- (e) Cuddalore

Ans. c

Sol. Killai Becomes Tamil Nadu's First Fully Operational Climate-Resilient Village
Killai has become Tamil Nadu's first fully operational Climate-Resilient Village (CRV) under the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission (TNCCM), serving as a model for sustainable coastal development.

The project includes solar-powered e-boats, hybrid solar power systems, scientific beekeeping, and Buckingham Canal restoration, enhancing renewable energy use, biodiversity, and ecosystem health.

Implemented at a cost of ₹230.15 lakh through the District Climate Change Mission (DCCM) and Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) funds, Killai is now a benchmark for coastal climate adaptation and resilience against cyclones, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and saline intrusion.

278. The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has launched Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) with the primary objective of:

नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज ऑफ़ इंडिया (NSE) ने इलेक्ट्रॉनिक गोल्ड रिसीट्स (EGRs) लॉन्च किए हैं, जिनका मुख्य उद्देश्य है:

- (a) Promoting gold mining in India
- (b) Formalising the gold market through a transparent and regulated trading platform
- (c) Replacing sovereign gold bonds completely
- (d) Regulating jewellery exports only
- (e) Fixing the international price of gold

Ans. b

Sol. NSE Launches Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) to Formalise Gold Market

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has launched Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) to bring greater transparency, efficiency, and formalisation to India's gold market by providing a regulated trading platform.

EGRs are dematerialised securities representing ownership of physical gold stored in SEBI-accredited vaults, with each receipt fully backed by physical gold and tradable on the stock exchange.

The new system enables investors to hold gold electronically, allows seamless conversion between physical and digital gold, and supports investment in smaller quantities, improving liquidity and accessibility.

279. Glomo, which was seen in the news recently, became India's first non-bank acquirer to receive Principal Membership from which global payment network?

हाल ही में खबरों में रही कंपनी 'ग्लोमो' (Glomo) किस ग्लोबल पेमेंट नेटवर्क से 'प्रिंसिपल मेंबरशिप' पाने वाली भारत की पहली नॉन-बैंक एक्वायरर बनी?

- (a) Mastercard
- (b) American Express
- (c) Visa
- (d) RuPay
- (e) Discover

Ans. d

Sol. Glomo Becomes India's First Non-Bank Acquirer to Receive Visa Principal Membership

Glomo, a regulated payment service provider operating from GIFT IFSC, has become India's first non-bank acquirer and the first GIFT IFSC-licensed payment service provider to receive Visa Principal Member status.

The membership enables Glomo to directly process Visa-powered card payments for merchants, facilitating secure cross-border payment acceptance and settlement through GIFT City while reducing dependence on multiple intermediaries.

280. EnKash, which was seen in the news recently, launched India's first Meal Card with which payment feature?

हाल ही में खबरों में रही EnKash ने भारत का पहला मील कार्ड लॉन्च किया, जिसमें कौन-सी पेमेंट सुविधा है?

- (a) NFC-based offline payments only
- (b) Credit card EMI facility
- (c) UPI-based payment capability
- (d) CBDC payment integration
- (e) Biometric payment system

Ans. c

Sol. EnKash Launches India's First UPI-Enabled Meal Card

EnKash has launched India's first Meal Card with UPI payment capability, allowing employees to pay directly from their meal benefit balance by scanning eligible UPI QR codes at food and grocery merchants.

With this launch, EnKash becomes the first provider in India to enable UPI payments directly from a meal benefit balance, expanding its prepaid payment infrastructure.

Under the revised Income-tax rules, employees can receive tax-free meal benefits of up to ₹200 per meal, with an annual tax-free benefit of up to ₹1,05,600, making employee meal benefits more flexible and accessible.

281. Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year on which date to commemorate India's victory in the Kargil War (1999)?

कारगिल युद्ध (1999) में भारत की जीत की याद में हर साल कारगिल विजय दिवस किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 15 July
- (b) 26 July
- (c) 26 July
- (d) 25 July
- (e) 23 July

Ans. c

Sol. 26 July - Kargil Vijay Diwas

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year on 26 July to commemorate India's victory in the Kargil War (1999) against Pakistan and to honour the bravery and supreme sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces.

The Kargil War was fought between May and July 1999 in the Kargil-Dras-Batalik sector of Ladakh, and concluded with Operation Vijay, through which India successfully recaptured all infiltrated positions.

26 July 2026 marks the 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas, with tributes paid to the martyrs at the Kargil War Memorial, Dras (Ladakh) and across the country.

282. The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is observed every year on 26 July to raise awareness about the importance of mangroves in protecting coastal ecosystems and supporting biodiversity. What is the theme of the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem 2026?

तटीय इकोसिस्टम की सुरक्षा और बायोडायवर्सिटी को बनाए रखने में मैंग्रोव के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए हर साल 26 जुलाई को 'मैंग्रोव इकोसिस्टम के संरक्षण के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस' मनाया जाता है। 'मैंग्रोव इकोसिस्टम के संरक्षण के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस 2026' की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Restore Wetlands, Restore Nature
- (b) Healthy Mangroves for Sustainable Blue Economy and Climate Resilience
- (c) Protect Forests, Protect Life
- (d) Oceans for a Sustainable Future
- (e) Green Coasts, Green Planet

Ans. b

Sol. 26 July - International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem

The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is observed every year on 26 July to raise awareness about the importance of mangroves in protecting coastal ecosystems and supporting biodiversity.

Theme 2026 - Healthy Mangroves for Sustainable Blue Economy and Climate Resilience

The observance was adopted by UNESCO in 2015, recognising the vital role of mangrove forests in climate change mitigation, coastal protection, carbon sequestration, and disaster risk reduction.

283. World Embryologist Day is observed every year on which date?

विश्व भ्रूण विज्ञानी दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 21 July
- (b) 23 July
- (c) 25 July
- (d) 28 July
- (e) 30 July

Ans. c

Sol. 25 July - World Embryologist Day

World Embryologist Day is observed every year on 25 July to recognise the vital contributions of embryologists in the fields of reproductive medicine, in vitro fertilisation (IVF), and assisted reproductive technologies (ART).

The day commemorates the birth of the world's first "test-tube baby," Louise Brown, who was born on 25 July 1978, marking a historic milestone in fertility treatment.

284. World Drowning Prevention Day is observed every year on which date in July?

'विश्व डूबने से बचाव दिवस' हर साल जुलाई में किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 10 July
- (b) 15 July
- (c) 25 July
- (d) 28 July
- (e) 30 July

Ans. c

Sol. 25 July - World Drowning Prevention Day

World Drowning Prevention Day is observed every year on 25 July to raise awareness about drowning as a major but preventable cause of death and to promote life-saving water safety measures.

The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2021 and is led globally by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to encourage action on drowning prevention.

The observance highlights the importance of swimming and water safety education, safe boating practices, and community-based interventions, particularly to protect children and vulnerable populations from drowning.

285. Pralhad Joshi assumed charge as the Union Education Minister after the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan. Which of the following portfolios does Pralhad Joshi continue to hold along with the Education Ministry?

धर्मेंद्र प्रधान के इस्तीफे के बाद प्रह्लाद जोशी ने केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री का पद संभाला। शिक्षा मंत्रालय के साथ-साथ प्रह्लाद जोशी के पास इनमें से कौन सा मंत्रालय भी है?

- (a) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- (b) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- (c) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers
- (d) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)
- (e) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

Ans. e

Sol. Pralhad Joshi Takes Charge as Union Education Minister

Pralhad Joshi assumed charge as the Union Education Minister after the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan, while continuing to hold the portfolios of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and New & Renewable Energy.

He chaired a review meeting of the Education Ministry to assess the implementation of various schemes and key initiatives, attended by Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary and senior officials.

286. Who won India's first medal at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026?
ग्लासगो कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स 2026 में भारत के लिए पहला मेडल किसने जीता?

- (a) Jhandu Kumar
- (b) Anahat Singh
- (c) Neeraj Chopra
- (d) Lovepreet Singh
- (e) Ravi Kumar

Ans. a

Sol. Jhandu Kumar Wins Bronze, Opens India's Medal Account at Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026

Indian para powerlifter Jhandu Kumar won the bronze medal in the men's heavyweight para powerlifting event at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026. Jhandu Kumar's bronze medal also opened India's medal account at the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

288. BNP Paribas Cardif has signed a definitive agreement to acquire an approximately 26% stake in which insurance company?

BNP Paribas Cardif ने किस बीमा कंपनी में लगभग 26% हिस्सेदारी खरीदने के लिए एक पक्का समझौता किया है?

- (a) SBI Life Insurance
- (b) HDFC Life Insurance
- (c) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- (d) Max Life Insurance
- (e) IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company

Ans. e

Sol. BNP Paribas Cardif to Acquire 26% Stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance from Warburg Pincus

BNP Paribas Cardif has signed a definitive agreement to acquire a 25.96% (around 26%) stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company from Warburg Pincus (Caramel Point Investments India Pvt. Ltd.), subject to regulatory approvals.

After the transaction, IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company's shareholding will be: Bank of Baroda – around 65%, BNP Paribas Cardif – around 26%, and Union Bank of India – around 9%.

Bank of Baroda, the promoter of IndiaFirst Life Insurance, informed stock exchanges that the stake transfer was executed through a Share Purchase Agreement dated 24 July 2026, pending necessary regulatory approvals.

289. Kanwar Lake (Kabartal Wetland), recently in the news, is located in which district of Bihar?

हाल ही में खबरों में रही कांवर झील (कबरताल वेटलैंड) बिहार के किस जिले में स्थित है?

- (a) Patna
- (b) Gaya
- (c) Darbhanga
- (d) Muzaffarpur
- (e) Begusarai

Ans. e

Sol. NGT Seeks Centre and Bihar Government's Response Over Deteriorating Condition of Kanwar Lake

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to the Union Government and the Bihar Government over the deteriorating ecological condition of Kanwar Lake (Kabartal Wetland/Kabar Taal) in Begusarai district, Bihar.

Kanwar Lake is widely regarded as Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake. An oxbow lake is a U-shaped water body formed when a meander of a river gets cut off from the main river channel.

Kanwar Lake is Bihar's first Ramsar Site, recognised as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

290. UNESCO has inscribed the Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh) on the World Heritage List during the 48th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Busan, South Korea. With the inclusion of Sarnath, how many UNESCO World Heritage Sites does India now have?

दक्षिण कोरिया के बुसान में आयोजित वर्ल्ड हेरिटेज कमिटी के 48वें सेशन के दौरान, UNESCO ने सारनाथ (उत्तर प्रदेश) के प्राचीन बौद्ध स्थल को वर्ल्ड हेरिटेज लिस्ट में शामिल

किया है। सारनाथ के शामिल होने के बाद, अब भारत में UNESCO वर्ल्ड हेरिटेज साइट्स की कुल संख्या कितनी हो गई है?

- (a) 42
- (b) 43
- (c) 44
- (d) 45
- (e) 46

Ans. d

Sol. UNESCO Adds Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath to World Heritage List; India's Total Rises to 45

UNESCO has inscribed the Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh) on the World Heritage List during the 48th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Busan, South Korea.

With the inclusion of Sarnath, India's total UNESCO World Heritage Sites has increased to 45, while Uttar Pradesh now has four World Heritage Sites—Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri, and Sarnath.

India currently has 69 properties on UNESCO's Tentative List and now ranks 6th globally and 2nd in the Asia-Pacific region in terms of the number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Sarnath is one of Buddhism's holiest sites, where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon, and it is also home to the Lion Capital of Ashoka (India's National Emblem) and the Dharma Chakra, which inspired the Ashoka Chakra on the Indian National Flag.

291. President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the honorary title of Doctor Honoris Causa by which institution?

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू को किस संस्थान द्वारा 'डॉक्टर ऑनर्स कॉसा' की मानद उपाधि से सम्मानित किया गया?

- (a) University of Bucharest
- (b) Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy
- (c) Babes-Bolyai University
- (d) Bucharest University of Economic Studies
- (e) Politehnica University of Bucharest

Ans. d

Sol. President Droupadi Murmu Conferred Honorary Doctorate by Romania's Bucharest University of Economic Studies

President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the honorary title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania, in recognition of her

distinguished public service, commitment to education, social inclusion, and efforts to strengthen India–Romania relations.

Accepting the honour, President Murmu dedicated the award to the 1.4 billion people of India, described education as the greatest equaliser, and urged universities to ensure that advancements in artificial intelligence are guided by wisdom, ethics, and compassion.

292. Satya Pal Kumar has been appointed as the Director of which organisation under the Ministry of Finance?

सत्य पाल कुमार को वित्त मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत किस संगठन का निदेशक नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Enforcement Directorate (ED)
- (b) Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
- (c) Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
- (d) Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)
- (e) Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

Ans. c

Sol. Satya Pal Kumar Appointed Director of Financial Intelligence Unit in Major Bureaucratic Reshuffle

Satya Pal Kumar (2005-batch IRS, Income Tax cadre) has been appointed as Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) during a major Joint Secretary-level reshuffle approved by the Union Government.

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), under the Ministry of Finance, is responsible for receiving, analysing, and sharing information on suspicious financial transactions with enforcement agencies to combat financial crimes.

293. Who became the first Indian squash player to win the World Squash Junior Championships title in 2026?

2026 में विश्व स्क्वैश जूनियर चैंपियनशिप का खिताब जीतने वाले पहले भारतीय स्क्वैश खिलाड़ी कौन बने?

- (a) Joshna Chinappa
- (b) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (c) Aryaveer Dewan
- (d) Anahat Singh
- (e) Yusha Nafees

Ans. d

Sol. Anahat Singh Creates History at World Squash Junior Championships 2026

India's top-seed Anahat Singh became the first Indian squash player to win the World Squash Junior Championships title, defeating Egypt's Ruqayya Salem 3-0 (11-3, 11-7, 11-9) in the girls' singles final at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada.

The 18-year-old ended Egypt's 16-year dominance in the girls' singles event by winning the championship without dropping a single game throughout the tournament.

Currently ranked World No. 20 on the senior PSA Tour, Anahat's historic victory comes ahead of squash's Olympic debut at the Los Angeles 2028 Games, with several Union Ministers congratulating her on the landmark achievement.

294. Mirabai Chanu won India's first gold medal at the 2026 Commonwealth Games by clinching the title in which weightlifting event?

मीराबाई चानू ने 2026 कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स में किस वेटलिफ्टिंग इवेंट में खिताब जीतकर भारत के लिए पहला गोल्ड मेडल जीता?

- (a) Women's 49 kg Weightlifting event
- (b) Women's 55 kg Weightlifting event
- (c) Women's 59 kg Weightlifting event
- (d) Women's 45 kg Weightlifting event
- (e) Women's 48 kg Weightlifting event

Ans. e

Sol. Mirabai Chanu Wins India's First Gold at Commonwealth Games 2026

Mirabai Chanu won India's first gold medal at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, clinching the women's 48kg weightlifting title with a Commonwealth Games record total lift of 190 kg (85 kg snatch + 105 kg clean & jerk).

The victory marked Mirabai Chanu's third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medal, following her triumphs at the 2018 Gold Coast Games and the 2022 Birmingham Games.

India added two silver medals in weightlifting through Chanambam Rishikanta Singh (men's 60kg, total lift 264 kg) and Raja Muthupandi (men's 65kg, total lift 286 kg).

295. Which Union Minister inaugurated the Laghu Udyog Bharati Pharma Conclave 2026 in New Delhi?

नई दिल्ली में 'लघु उद्योग भारती फार्मा कॉन्क्लेव 2026' का उद्घाटन किस केंद्रीय मंत्री ने किया?

- (a) Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda
- (b) Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal
- (c) Minister of Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh
- (d) Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Jagat Prakash Nadda

(e) Minister of Heavy Industries, H. D. Kumaraswamy

Ans. d

Sol. J.P. Nadda Inaugurates Laghu Udyog Bharati Pharma Conclave 2026

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers J.P. Nadda inaugurated the Laghu Udyog Bharati Pharma Conclave 2026 in New Delhi, highlighting the pharmaceutical sector's role in innovation, employment generation, and affordable healthcare.

He stated that India is the world's largest supplier of generic medicines, a leading vaccine producer, and a trusted pharmaceutical exporter to over 200 countries.

296. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the new Income Tax Department office complex, 'Aayakar Sindhu', in which city?

केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने किस शहर में नए इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट ऑफिस कॉम्प्लेक्स, 'आयकर सिंधु' का उद्घाटन किया?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) Kolkata
- (e) Mumbai

Ans. e

Sol. Finance Minister Inaugurates 'Aayakar Sindhu' Income Tax Office in Mumbai

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the new Income Tax Department office complex, 'Aayakar Sindhu', at Nariman Point, Mumbai, stating that the nation's treasury is strengthened by the taxes contributed by every taxpayer.

The Finance Minister urged Income Tax Department officials to simplify administrative processes, reduce unnecessary hurdles for citizens while ensuring compliance with rules, and uphold integrity and public service as their guiding principles.

297. Where was the AI Holobox of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee inaugurated?

पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी के AI होलोबॉक्स का उद्घाटन कहाँ किया गया था?

- (a) National Museum, New Delhi
- (b) Parliament Museum, New Delhi
- (c) National Archives of India
- (d) Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, New Delhi
- (e) Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum

Ans. d

Sol. AI Holobox of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Inaugurated at Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya

An AI Holobox of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was inaugurated at Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, offering visitors an immersive 3D AI-powered interactive experience showcasing his life, leadership, vision, and legacy. To mark Kargil Vijay Diwas, the Sangrahalaya is hosting a special exhibition featuring microfilms, archival videos, photographs, and personal letters highlighting the courage and sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces during the 1999 Kargil War, fought under Vajpayee's leadership.

The AI Holobox enables visitors to interact with 3D AI avatars of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, preserving and promoting the legacy of India's visionary leaders.

298. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the high-powered task force on examination reforms constituted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा गठित परीक्षा सुधारों पर उच्च-स्तरीय कार्य बल (टास्क फोर्स) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Former ISRO Chairman S. Somanath
- (b) Former IB Director Tapan Deka
- (c) Nandan Nilekani, renowned technology expert
- (d) IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti
- (e) Former Education Secretary Anita Karwal

Ans. c

Sol. PM Narendra Modi Constitutes High-Powered Task Force on Examination Reforms

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the formation of a high-powered task force on examination reforms, to be chaired by Nandan Nilekani, with the aim of making examinations trustworthy, transparent, and technology-driven.

The task force includes former IB Director Tapan Deka, former ISRO Chairman S. Somanath, IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti, former Education Secretary Anita Karwal, and logistics expert Amrit Lal Meena.

Based on the task force's recommendations, the government will take steps to enhance the credibility and integrity of future examinations and strengthen the examination system.

299. The 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026 will be held in which city?

57वां अंतर्राष्ट्रीय फिल्म महोत्सव (IFFI) 2026 किस शहर में आयोजित किया जाएगा?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) New Delhi

- (c) Chennai
- (d) Hyderabad
- (e) Goa

Ans. e

Sol. NFDC Invites Entries for the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026
The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has invited entries for the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which will be held in Goa from 20–28 November 2026.

Asia's oldest film festival, IFFI 2026 will feature the Indian Panorama section, showcasing 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films, along with awards for debut directors and digital web series.

The festival has also opened global entries for international competitions, including the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal, with 31 August 2026 as the deadline for international submissions via FilmFreeway.

300. CRPF Foundation Day is observed every year on 27 July to commemorate the raising of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in 1939, originally as the Crown Representative's Police. In which year was the Crown Representative's Police renamed as the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)?

CRPF स्थापना दिवस हर साल 27 जुलाई को मनाया जाता है। यह दिन 1939 में 'क्राउन रिप्रेजेंटेटिव्स पुलिस' के तौर पर सेंट्रल रिज़र्व पुलिस फ़ोर्स (CRPF) के गठन की याद में मनाया जाता है। किस साल 'क्राउन रिप्रेजेंटेटिव्स पुलिस' का नाम बदलकर 'सेंट्रल रिज़र्व पुलिस फ़ोर्स' (CRPF) कर दिया गया?

- (a) 1947
- (b) 1948
- (c) 1949
- (d) 1950
- (e) 1952

Ans. c

Sol. 27 July - CRPF Foundation Day

CRPF Foundation Day is observed every year on 27 July to commemorate the raising of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in 1939, originally as the Crown Representative's Police.

After Independence, the force was renamed the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on 28 December 1949 under the CRPF Act, 1949.

The day honours the courage, dedication, and sacrifices of CRPF personnel in maintaining internal security, counter-insurgency operations, anti-Naxal missions, election duties, and disaster response across India.

301. World Head and Neck Cancer Day is observed every year on which date?

विश्व सिर और गर्दन कैंसर दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 24 July
- (b) 25 July
- (c) 26 July
- (d) 27 July
- (e) 28 July

Ans. d

Sol. 27 July - World Head and Neck Cancer Day

World Head and Neck Cancer Day is observed every year on 27 July to raise awareness about head and neck cancers and the importance of early detection and timely treatment.

The day promotes prevention by encouraging people to avoid major risk factors such as tobacco use, excessive alcohol consumption, and HPV infection.

It is supported by global cancer organisations, including the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS), to improve public awareness and patient outcomes worldwide.

302. Keshav Chandra has assumed charge as the Secretary of which ministry?

केशव चंद्र ने किस मंत्रालय में सचिव का पदभार संभाला है?

- (a) Ministry of Coal
- (b) Ministry of Steel
- (c) Ministry of Mines
- (d) Ministry of Heavy Industries
- (e) Ministry of Power

Ans. c

Sol. Keshav Chandra Assumes Charge as Mines Secretary

Keshav Chandra has assumed charge as the Secretary, Ministry of Mines, succeeding Piyush Goyal, who has been appointed as the Secretary General of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Chandra is a 1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the AGMUT cadre and previously served as the Chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).

303. During President Droupadi Murmu's State Visit to Romania, India and Romania signed how many agreements, and these agreements were related to which sectors?

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू की रोमानिया यात्रा के दौरान, भारत और रोमानिया के बीच कितने समझौते हुए और ये समझौते किन क्षेत्रों से संबंधित थे?

- (a) Two agreements – Defence and Space
- (b) Four agreements – Trade, Tourism, and Agriculture
- (c) Three agreements – Science & Technology, Education, and Sports
- (d) Five agreements – Energy, Banking, and Transport
- (e) Six agreements – Healthcare, Railways, and Mining

Ans. c

Sol. India, Romania Sign Three Agreements; Target to Double Bilateral Trade in Three Years

India and Romania signed three agreements to strengthen cooperation in Science & Technology, Education, and Sports during delegation-level talks between President Droupadi Murmu and Romanian President Nicușor Dan in Bucharest.

Both countries reaffirmed their 70+ years of friendship and agreed to deepen collaboration across key sectors, including manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, renewable energy, green hydrogen, agriculture, digital public infrastructure (DPI), and artificial intelligence (AI).

India and Romania have set a target to double bilateral trade within the next three years, with both leaders highlighting the potential benefits of the India–EU Free Trade Agreement for industries and skilled professionals.

304. Venezuela formally notified the United Nations of its decision to withdraw from which international organisation on 24 July 2026?

वेनेजुएला ने 24 जुलाई 2026 को किस अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठन से हटने के अपने फैसले के बारे में संयुक्त राष्ट्र को औपचारिक रूप से सूचित किया?

- (a) International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- (b) United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
- (c) International Labour Organization (ILO)
- (d) International Criminal Court (ICC)
- (e) World Trade Organization (WTO)

Ans. d

Sol. Venezuela Announces Withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC)

Venezuela formally notified the United Nations on 24 July 2026 of its decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Under Article 127 of the Rome Statute, a country's withdrawal from the ICC becomes effective one year after the UN receives the formal notification.

Acting President Delcy Rodríguez alleged that the ICC is politically influenced and disproportionately targets countries of the Global South, particularly those in Africa and Latin America.

About International Criminal Court (ICC)

- *Established: 2002*
- *Based in: The Hague, Netherlands*
- *Members - 125 countries, including Hungary.*
- *Legal Basis: Rome Statute (adopted in 1998, entered into force in 2002)*
- *Objective: To prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression*

305. The Ministry of Tourism signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which airline to promote India as a preferred global tourism destination under the 'Incredible India' brand?

पर्यटन मंत्रालय ने 'इनक्रेडिबल इंडिया' ब्रांड के तहत भारत को एक पसंदीदा ग्लोबल टूरिज्म डेस्टिनेशन के तौर पर प्रमोट करने के लिए किस एयरलाइन के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए?

- (a) IndiGo
- (b) Akasa Air
- (c) SpiceJet
- (d) Vistara
- (e) Air India

Ans. e

Sol. Ministry of Tourism Signs MoU with Air India to Boost Global Promotion of Incredible India

The Ministry of Tourism signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Air India to promote India as a preferred global tourism destination under the 'Incredible India' brand.

The partnership will leverage Air India's extensive domestic and international network along with the Ministry's tourism promotion initiatives through joint destination campaigns, co-branded marketing, stopover tourism promotion, and the proposed 'Visit India Pass'.

The MoU aims to enhance India's global tourism visibility, attract more international travellers, and showcase the country's diverse cultural, heritage, and tourism offerings through integrated digital and offline promotional campaigns.

306. Which organisation designed India's first indigenous Expendable Turbo Jet Engine in the 350 kg thrust class?

किस संगठन ने 350 किलोग्राम थ्रस्ट क्लास में भारत का पहला स्वदेशी एक्सपेंडेबल टर्बो जेट इंजन डिज़ाइन किया?

- (a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- (b) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- (c) Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)
- (d) ISRO
- (e) DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE)

Ans. e

Sol. India Develops First Indigenous 350 kg Thrust Expendable Turbo Jet Engine
India has successfully developed its first indigenous Expendable Turbo Jet Engine in the 350 kg thrust class, designed by DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), marking a major milestone in indigenous aerospace propulsion technology. The engine was manufactured and assembled by Hyderabad-based Azad Engineering, GTRE's industry partner, and was successfully delivered on 22 July 2026, showcasing strong collaboration between India's scientific and industrial sectors.

307. Gyaneshwari Yadav won her medal in which event at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026?

ज्ञानेश्वरी यादव ने ग्लासगो कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स 2026 में किस इवेंट में अपना मेडल जीता?

- (a) Women's 49 kg Weightlifting
- (b) Women's 55 kg Weightlifting
- (c) Women's 59 kg Weightlifting
- (d) Women's 53 kg Weightlifting
- (e) Women's 64 kg Weightlifting

Ans. d

Sol. Gyaneshwari Yadav Wins Silver in Women's 53 kg Weightlifting at Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026

Indian weightlifter Gyaneshwari Yadav won the silver medal in the women's 53 kg category at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026, strengthening India's medal tally.

Making her Commonwealth Games debut, the Chhattisgarh-based lifter achieved a personal-best total lift of 199 kg to secure the silver medal.

308. Which team won the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7 title by defeating Dempo Goa Challengers in the final?

किस टीम ने फ़ाइनल में डेम्पो गोवा चैलेंजर्स को हराकर अल्टीमेट टेबल टेनिस (UTT) सीज़न 7 का खिताब जीता?

- (a) Jaipur Patriots

- (b) Chennai Lions
- (c) Kolkata ThunderBlades
- (d) Ahmedabad SG Pipers
- (e) U Mumba TT

Ans. e

Sol. U Mumba TT Defends Ultimate Table Tennis Season 7 Title with Thrilling Comeback Victory

U Mumba TT successfully defended their Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7 title by defeating Dempo Goa Challengers 8–5 in a thrilling final, ending Goa's unbeaten run in the tournament.

Trailing 4–2 after the first two matches, U Mumba TT staged a remarkable comeback, led by captain Manush Shah and Anna Hursey, whose mixed doubles victory and Manush's singles win over Alvaro Robles proved decisive.

309. Veteran sports journalist Jaswinder Singh Sidhu, who recently passed away, was primarily associated with which field of journalism?

हाल ही में गुज़र चुके अनुभवी स्पोर्ट्स जर्नलिस्ट जसविंदर सिंह सिद्धू मुख्य रूप से पत्रकारिता के किस क्षेत्र से जुड़े थे?

- (a) Political Journalism
- (b) Business Journalism
- (c) Entertainment Journalism
- (d) Investigative Journalism
- (e) Sports Journalism

Ans. e

Sol. Veteran Sports Journalist Jaswinder Singh Sidhu Passes Away

Veteran sports journalist Jaswinder Singh Sidhu passed away, leaving behind a distinguished career spanning several decades in Indian sports journalism.

During his illustrious career, he worked with leading media organisations, including Amar Ujala, Hindustan Times, Dainik Jagran, and Hindustan, making significant contributions to sports reporting in India.

310. International Day for Women and Girls of African Descent is observed every year on which date?

अफ्रीकी मूल की महिलाओं और लड़कियों के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 21 July
- (b) 23 July
- (c) 24 July

(d) 25 July

(e) 26 July

Ans. d

Sol. 25 July - International Day for Women and Girls of African Descent

International Day for Women and Girls of African Descent is observed every year on 25 July to recognise the achievements, leadership, and contributions of women and girls of African descent worldwide.

The day aims to promote gender equality, combat racism and discrimination, and advance the rights, empowerment, and inclusion of women and girls of African descent.

The observance was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2024, following the recommendation of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.

311. International Day on Judicial Well-being is observed every year on which date?

न्यायिक कल्याण के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस हर साल किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

(a) 22 July

(b) 23 July

(c) 24 July

(d) 25 July

(e) 26 July

Ans. d

Sol. 25 July - International Day on Judicial Well-being

International Day on Judicial Well-being is observed every year on 25 July to promote the mental health, well-being, and resilience of judges and judicial officers worldwide.

The day highlights the importance of a healthy, independent, and efficient judiciary, recognizing that judicial well-being is essential for ensuring fair and effective justice delivery.

The observance was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2024, acknowledging the need to support the well-being of judicial professionals and strengthen the rule of law.

312. World Hepatitis Day is observed every year on 28 July to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, promote prevention, early diagnosis, and improve access to treatment and care. What is the theme of World Hepatitis Day 2026?

विश्व हेपेटाइटिस दिवस हर साल 28 जुलाई को मनाया जाता है। इसका मकसद वायरल हेपेटाइटिस के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाना, बचाव और शुरुआती पहचान को बढ़ावा देना, और इलाज व देखभाल तक पहुँच को बेहतर बनाना है। विश्व हेपेटाइटिस दिवस 2026 की थीम क्या है?

- (a) Hepatitis Can't Wait
- (b) Bringing Hepatitis Care Closer to You
- (c) Eliminate Hepatitis Now
- (d) Hepatitis Free Future
- (e) Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down

Ans. e

Sol. 28 July - World Hepatitis Day

World Hepatitis Day is observed every year on 28 July to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, promote prevention, early diagnosis, and improve access to treatment and care.

The day marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Baruch Samuel Blumberg, Nobel Prize-winning scientist who discovered the Hepatitis B virus and developed the first Hepatitis B vaccine.

Theme 2026 - Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down

313. Which country successfully launched the Gravity-1 Y4 commercial rocket, placing nine satellites into orbit?

किस देश ने सफलतापूर्वक Gravity-1 Y4 कमर्शियल रॉकेट लॉन्च किया और नौ सैटेलाइट्स को ऑर्बिट में स्थापित किया?

- (a) Japan
- (b) India
- (c) Russia
- (d) United States
- (e) China

Ans. e

Sol. China Launches Gravity-1 Y4 Rocket, Successfully Places Nine Satellites into Orbit
China successfully launched the Gravity-1 Y4 commercial rocket from the East China Sea, placing nine satellites into orbit and conducting one payload experiment, marking the first far-sea launch by a privately developed commercial rocket. Developed by ORIENSPACE, the 30-metre, 405-tonne Gravity-1 rocket lifted off from a launch vessel operated by the Oriental Aerospace Port under the direction of the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center.

The mission deployed nine satellites for remote sensing, AI-powered Earth observation, environmental monitoring, disaster response, agriculture, and urban

planning, while Lilac-3 tested next-generation satellite platform and attitude-control technologies.

314. The Union Government has approved the DISHA 2.0 (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) Scheme for the period 2026–31 with what total financial outlay?

केंद्र सरकार ने 2026-31 की अवधि के लिए DISHA 2.0 (न्याय तक समग्र पहुंच के लिए अभिनव समाधान तैयार करना) योजना को कुल कितनी वित्तीय राशि के साथ मंजूरी दी है?

- (a) ₹150 crore
- (b) ₹200 crore
- (c) ₹255 crore
- (d) ₹355 crore
- (e) ₹500 crore

Ans. c

Sol. Cabinet Approves DISHA 2.0 Scheme to Expand Technology-Driven Access to Justice

Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) 2.0 is a Central Sector Scheme with an approved outlay of ₹255 crore for 2026–31, aimed at improving access to justice across India through technology-driven legal services. DISHA 2.0 comprises four key components: Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) Programme, Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme (LLLAP), and VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonised Legal Initiatives)-Sanjeevani.

Under Tele-Law, citizens can receive free pre-litigation legal advice through the Tele-Law mobile app, toll-free number 14454, and video/teleconferencing facilities at Common Service Centres (CSCs), with Nyaya Sahayaks assisting service delivery in Aspirational Blocks.

The Nyaya Bandhu programme encourages advocates to provide free legal assistance to marginalized and disadvantaged groups. Pro Bono panels have been established in 23 High Courts, while Pro Bono Clubs are functioning in law schools and colleges across the country.

VIDHI-Sanjeevani will create a centralized integrated dashboard with real-time monitoring, integration with the Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot, and aims to benefit 50 lakh people during 2026–31 through technology-enabled legal service delivery.

315. Which bank became the first Southeast Asian bank to be named the "World's Best Corporate Bank" at the 2026 Global Bank Awards by Global Finance?

ग्लोबल फाइनेंस के 2026 ग्लोबल बैंक अवार्ड्स में "दुनिया का सर्वश्रेष्ठ कॉर्पोरेट बैंक" चुने जाने वाला पहला दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई बैंक कौन सा बना?

- (a) OCBC Bank
- (b) United Overseas Bank
- (c) Maybank
- (d) CIMB Bank
- (e) DBS Bank

Ans. e

Sol. DBS Becomes First Southeast Asian Bank Named 'World's Best Corporate Bank' by Global Finance

DBS became the first Southeast Asian bank to be named "World's Best Corporate Bank" at the 2026 Global Bank Awards by Global Finance, marking the first time a bank from the region has won the award since the category was introduced in 2005. At the 2026 Global Bank Awards, DBS also received the titles of "Asia's Best Bank" and "Singapore's Best Bank", reflecting its strong performance, management excellence, and leadership in corporate banking.

Headquartered in Singapore and operating across 19 markets, DBS offers comprehensive corporate banking services to SMEs and multinational companies through its AI-enabled capabilities, global network, and expertise in financing, trade finance, cash management, and advisory services.

316. The Government of India approved the RBI's proposal to conduct field trials of 1 billion polymer banknotes each in the ₹10 and ₹20 denominations. Under which section of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, was the proposal for polymer banknotes approved?

भारत सरकार ने ₹10 और ₹20 के मूल्यवर्ग (डिनॉमिनेशन) में 1-1 अरब पॉलीमर बैंकनोटों के फील्ड ट्रायल करने के RBI के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी। रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया एक्ट, 1934 की किस धारा के तहत पॉलीमर बैंकनोटों के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी गई थी?

- (a) Section 17
- (b) Section 22
- (c) Section 25
- (d) Section 35A
- (e) Section 45

Ans. c

Sol. Government Approves RBI Proposal for Field Trials of ₹10 and ₹20 Polymer Banknotes

The Government of India approved the RBI's proposal to conduct field trials of 1 billion polymer banknotes each in the ₹10 and ₹20 denominations.

The proposal was approved under Section 25 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, following a recommendation from the RBI Central Board.

Polymer banknotes are printed on a plastic-based substrate, making them more durable, moisture-resistant, dirt-resistant, and longer-lasting than conventional paper notes.

After successful field trials, the polymer ₹10 and ₹20 notes will be issued for regular circulation, joining India's Mahatma Gandhi Series banknotes used widely in everyday transactions.

Australia is the first country in the world to introduce and use plastic notes. It released a special 10-dollar plastic note in 1988.

317. India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded what growth rate in June 2026?

जून 2026 में भारत के औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP) ने किस विकास दर को दर्ज किया?

- (a) 5.3%
- (b) 6.1%
- (c) 7.3%
- (d) 7.8%
- (e) 10.6%

Ans. c

Sol. India's Industrial Output Surges 7.3% in June, Highest Growth in 23 Months
India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by 7.3% in June 2026, marking the highest industrial growth in 23 months, according to government data.

All four major sectors recorded positive growth, led by Manufacturing (7.8%) and Electricity & Gas Supply (10.6%), while Water Supply, Sewerage & Waste Management expanded by 6.1%.

The Mining & Quarrying sector registered comparatively slower growth of 1% during the month.

318. How much did private sector banks collect as Minimum Average Balance (MAB) penalties during FY 2025–26?

वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के दौरान प्राइवेट सेक्टर के बैंकों ने मिनिमम एवरेज बैलेंस (MAB) पेनल्टी के तौर पर कितनी रकम इकट्ठा की?

- (a) ₹2,137.92 crore
- (b) ₹3,948.71 crore
- (c) ₹4,948.71 crore
- (d) ₹5,248.71 crore
- (e) ₹6,137.92 crore

Ans. c

Sol. Private Banks Collect ₹4,948.71 Crore in Minimum Balance Penalties During FY 2025–26

Private sector banks collected ₹4,948.71 crore as penalties for non-maintenance of Minimum Average Balance (MAB) in savings and current accounts during FY 2025–26. Public sector banks collected ₹2,137.92 crore as MAB penalties during the same financial year, significantly lower than private sector banks.

Minimum Average Balance (MAB) is the minimum amount that customers are required to maintain in their bank account over a specified period, usually a month or a quarter.

Private Sector Bank	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	Total (₹ Crore)
HDFC Bank	1,036.05	1,316.80	1,518.92	1,798.14	5,669.91
Axis Bank	878.23	826.45	1,001.29	1,081.33	3,787.30
ICICI Bank	400.45	433.06	391.28	353.50	1,578.29
Kotak Mahindra Bank	192.26	261.24	254.26	290.65	998.41
Yes Bank	59.75	69.66	119.89	195.05	444.35

Public Sector Bank	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	Total (₹ Crore)
State Bank of India (Current A/C only)	211.47	302.95	418.40	477.27	1,410.09
Bank of Baroda	387.52	443.30	441.35	394.10	1,666.27
Indian Bank	295.23	367.66	503.38	299.17	1,465.44
Canara Bank	390.85	358.67	277.71	213.48	1,240.71
Punjab National Bank	486.16	674.04	417.67	206.68	1,784.55

319. Which company has launched the in-house digital Business Rules Engine (BRE) named 'Drishti'?

किस कंपनी ने 'दृष्टि' (Drishti) नाम का इन-हाउस डिजिटल बिज़नेस रूल्स इंजन (BRE) लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Axis Bank
- (b) Axis Finance Limited
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) Bajaj Finance
- (e) ICICI Bank

Ans. b

Sol. Axis Finance Launches 'Drishti' to Strengthen Digital Credit Decision-Making
Axis Finance Limited (AFL) has launched 'Axis Finance Drishti', an in-house Business Rules Engine (BRE) to enable faster, automated, and data-driven credit decision-making across retail and MSME lending.

Drishti aims to enhance risk monitoring, improve credit underwriting efficiency, ensure consistent lending decisions, and strengthen the company's digital lending capabilities.

320. Which airport became the second in India to be integrated into the Hub-and-Spoke framework for international passenger movement?

अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्री आवाजाही के लिए 'हब-एंड-स्पोक' फ्रेमवर्क में शामिल होने वाला भारत का दूसरा हवाई अड्डा कौन सा बना?

- (a) Jaipur Airport
- (b) Chandigarh Airport
- (c) Amritsar Airport
- (d) Lucknow Airport
- (e) Ahmedabad Airport

Ans. c

Sol. Amritsar Becomes India's Second Hub-and-Spoke Airport for International Flight Operation

The Ministry of Civil Aviation inaugurated Hub-and-Spoke international flight operations from Amritsar, making it the second airport after Varanasi to join India's international Hub-and-Spoke framework.

Under the new system, passengers can complete check-in, immigration, and customs at Amritsar Airport, with through-checked baggage and seamless transfers via Delhi, providing access to 20+ international destinations.

The Hub-and-Spoke model is a key part of India's International Aviation Hub Strategy, aimed at strengthening Indian airports as global transit hubs, generating 0.4 million jobs and contributing USD 30 billion to the economy by 2030.

321. Which state government has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana' to provide financial assistance and social security to fishermen engaged in reservoir fisheries?

किस राज्य सरकार ने जलाशय मत्स्य पालन में लगे मछुआरों को वित्तीय सहायता और सामाजिक सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए 'मुख्यमंत्री मछुआरा सम्मान निधि योजना' शुरू की है?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Himachal Pradesh

- (c) Punjab
(d) Haryana
(e) Rajasthan

Ans. b

Sol. Himachal Pradesh Launches 'Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana' for Fishermen

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the 'Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana' to provide financial assistance and social security to fishermen engaged in reservoir fisheries.

Under the scheme, each eligible fisherman will receive a lump-sum financial assistance of ₹3,500 during the fishing ban period.

About Himachal Pradesh

- **Capital** – Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)
- **Chief Minister** – Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu
- **Deputy Chief Minister** - Mukesh Agnihotri
- **Governor** – Kavinder Gupta

322. Which Indian para-athlete won the gold medal in the women's shot put F57 event at the 2026 Commonwealth Games?

2026 कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स में महिलाओं के शॉट पुट F57 इवेंट में किस भारतीय पैरा-एथलीट ने गोल्ड मेडल जीता?

- (a) Shraddha Joshi Raj
(b) Bhavina Patel
(c) Sharmila Dhankar
(d) Deepa Malik
(e) Simran Sharma

Ans. c

Sol. Sharmila Dhankar Creates History with Commonwealth Games Gold in Women's Shot Put F57

India's Sharmila Dhankar won the gold medal in the women's shot put F57 event at the 2026 Commonwealth Games with a season-best throw of 9.81 metres.

With this victory, Sharmila Dhankar became India's first para-athlete to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal in athletics.

Shilpa Shyla secured the bronze medal with a throw of 7.26 metres, giving India a double podium finish in the women's shot put F57 event.

323. Which Indian weightlifter won the silver medal in the men's 65 kg category at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026?

ग्लासगो कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स 2026 में पुरुषों की 65 किलोग्राम कैटेगरी में किस भारतीय वेटलिफ्टर ने सिल्वर मेडल जीता?

- (a) Shraddha Joshi Raj
- (b) Raja Muthupandi
- (c) Ajith Narayanan
- (d) Ishika Bansal
- (e) Sathish Sivalingam

Ans. b

Sol. Raja Muthupandi Wins Silver in Men's 65 kg Weightlifting at Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026

India's Raja Muthupandi won the silver medal in the men's 65 kg weightlifting event at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026, with a combined lift of 286 kg. The medal marked Raja Muthupandi's third consecutive Commonwealth Games podium finish, following his gold medals at Gold Coast 2018 and Birmingham 2022.

324. Which Indian shooter won the gold medal in the women's 25 metre pistol event at the ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) held in Hangzhou, China?

चीन के हांगझोऊ में आयोजित ISSF वर्ल्ड कप (राइफल/पिस्टल/शॉटगन) में महिलाओं की 25 मीटर पिस्टल स्पर्धा में किस भारतीय निशानेबाज ने स्वर्ण पदक जीता?

- (a) Manu Bhaker
- (b) Esha Singh
- (c) Rhythm Sangwan
- (d) Sift Kaur Samra
- (e) Anjum Moudgil

Ans. b

Sol. Esha Singh Wins Gold, Manu Bhaker Bags Bronze at ISSF World Cup in Hangzhou

India's Esha Singh won the gold medal in the women's 25 metre pistol event at the ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) held in Hangzhou, China.

Manu Bhaker claimed the bronze medal, giving India a double podium finish in the women's 25 metre pistol event.

325. Who became the first Indian athlete to win a medal in the men's 10,000 metres event at the Commonwealth Games?

कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स में पुरुषों की 10,000 मीटर स्पर्धा में मेडल जीतने वाले पहले भारतीय एथलीट कौन बने?

- (a) Avinash Sable
- (b) Gulveer Singh

- (c) Murali Sreeshankar
(d) Tajinderpal Singh Toor
(e) Neeraj Chopra

Ans. b

Sol. Gulveer Singh Creates History, Harjinder Kaur Wins Silver as India Shines at Commonwealth Games 2026

Gulveer Singh created history by winning the silver medal in the men's 10,000 metres at the Commonwealth Games 2026, becoming the first Indian athlete to win a medal in the event with a timing of 27:49.78.

Harjinder Kaur won the silver medal in the women's 69 kg weightlifting event with a combined lift of 227 kg, earning her second consecutive Commonwealth Games medal after winning bronze at Birmingham 2022.

326. The Delhi Government approved the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana to promote the economic empowerment and social security of women, under which eligible beneficiaries. Under the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana, how much monthly financial assistance will each eligible woman receive?

दिल्ली सरकार ने महिलाओं के आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण और सामाजिक सुरक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 'दिल्ली लक्ष्मी योजना' को मंजूरी दी है। इस योजना के तहत, हर पात्र महिला को कितनी मासिक आर्थिक सहायता मिलेगी?

- (a) ₹1,500
(b) ₹2,000
(c) ₹2,500
(d) ₹3,000
(e) ₹3,500

Ans. c

Sol. Delhi Government Approves 'Delhi Lakshmi Yojana' with ₹2,500 Monthly Assistance for Women

The Delhi Government approved the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana to promote the economic empowerment and social security of women, under which eligible beneficiaries will receive ₹2,500 per month.

The scheme, approved by the Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has been allocated ₹5,110 crore in the 2026–27 Delhi Budget, with the registration portal opening on 1 August 2026.

Women aged 21–60 years with an annual family income of up to ₹2.5 lakh will be eligible, and the scheme is expected to benefit over 17 lakh women by supporting education, healthcare, skill development, savings, and financial independence.

327. How much has the Government allocated under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025, for FY 2026–27?

सरकार ने वित्त वर्ष 2026–27 के लिए 'विकसित भारत – गारंटी फॉर रोज़गार और आजीविका मिशन (ग्रामीण) [VB-G RAM G] एक्ट, 2025' के तहत कितनी राशि आवंटित की है?

- (a) ₹85,692 crore
- (b) ₹90,692 crore
- (c) ₹95,692 crore
- (d) ₹99,692 crore
- (e) ₹1,05,692 crore

Ans. c

Sol. Government Allocates Record ₹95,692 Crore for VB-G RAM G Rural Employment Scheme in FY 2026–27

The Government has allocated a record ₹95,692 crore for FY 2026–27 under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025, the highest-ever Budget Estimate allocation for any rural employment programme in India.

The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 guarantees 125 days of wage employment per financial year to every willing rural household demanding work, increasing the entitlement from 100 days under MGNREGS.

The Act expands the scope of permissible works with a focus on water security, rural infrastructure, livelihood creation, and climate resilience, while promoting convergence with other Central and State Government schemes.

328. International Tiger Day (Global Tiger Day) is observed every year on: अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाघ दिवस (ग्लोबल टाइगर डे) हर साल इस तारीख को मनाया जाता है:

- (a) 26 July
- (b) 27 July
- (c) 28 July
- (d) 29 July
- (e) 30 July

Ans. d

Sol. 29 July - International Tiger Day

International Tiger Day (Global Tiger Day) is observed every year on 29 July to raise awareness about tiger conservation and the need to protect their natural habitats.

The day was established in 2010 during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia, with the objective of reversing the global decline in tiger populations.

329. World Hepatitis Day is observed every year on:

विश्व हेपेटाइटिस दिवस हर साल मनाया जाता है:

- (a) 26 July
- (b) 27 July
- (c) 28 July
- (d) 29 July
- (e) 30 July

Ans. c

Sol. 28 July - World Hepatitis Day

World Hepatitis Day is observed every year on 28 July to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, promote prevention, early diagnosis, and access to treatment.

The day marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Baruch Samuel Blumberg, who discovered the Hepatitis B virus and developed the first Hepatitis B vaccine.

Led by the World Health Organization, the observance supports global efforts to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

330. Which Ministry launched the 'DAANVEER' initiative to strengthen the digital infrastructure of Gram Panchayats?

ग्राम पंचायतों के डिजिटल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को मजबूत करने के लिए किस मंत्रालय ने 'दानवीर' (DAANVEER) पहल शुरू की?

- (a) Ministry of Rural Development
- (b) Ministry of Electronics and IT
- (c) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (e) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Ans. c

Sol. Ministry of Panchayati Raj Launches 'DAANVEER' Initiative to Digitally Empower Gram Panchayats

Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched DAANVEER, a citizen participation initiative to strengthen the digital infrastructure of Gram Panchayats, in New Delhi. The initiative was launched by Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj.

DAANVEER, available through the Meri Panchayat mobile app, enables individuals and organisations to donate standardised, quality-verified computer bundles directly to eligible Gram Panchayats via integration with the DigiHaat marketplace.

The initiative aims to make every Gram Panchayat digitally equipped, connected, and future-ready, promoting better governance, faster service delivery, greater transparency, and supporting the vision of Viksit Bharat and Digital India.

331. Machilipatnam, recently launched for the Indian Navy, is the ____ Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) in the series of eight.

हाल ही में भारतीय नौसेना के लिए लॉन्च किया गया 'मछलीपट्टनम', आठ जहाजों की श्रृंखला में ____ एंटी-सबमरीन वारफेयर शैलो वॉटर क्राफ्ट (ASW SWC) है।

- (a) Fifth
- (b) Sixth
- (c) Seventh
- (d) Eighth
- (e) Fourth

Ans. c

Sol. Indian Navy Launches 'Machilipatnam', Seventh Indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

Machilipatnam, the 7th of 8 Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) being built by Cochin Shipyard Limited for the Indian Navy, was officially launched. The warship is equipped for Underwater Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), and Mine Warfare, enhancing coastal defence and maritime domain awareness.

With over 80% indigenous content, the project highlights India's growing shipbuilding capabilities and strengthens the Indian Navy's operational readiness to safeguard maritime interests in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

332. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyaan', a 100-week nationwide Jan Bhagidari movement to build a drug-free India. Which platform will lead the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyaan'?

प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने नशा मुक्त भारत के निर्माण के लिए 100 सप्ताह का राष्ट्रव्यापी जनभागीदारी आंदोलन 'नशा मुक्त युवा फॉर विकसित भारत संकल्प अभियान' शुरू किया है। कौन सा मंच 'नशा मुक्त युवा विकसित भारत संकल्प अभियान' का नेतृत्व करेगा?

- (a) Digital India Platform
- (b) Fit India Platform
- (c) National Youth Portal
- (d) Yuva Setu Platform
- (e) MY Bharat Platform

Ans. e

Sol. PM Modi Launched 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat' Campaign

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyaan', a 100-week nationwide Jan Bhagidari movement to build a drug-free India.

The campaign will be led by the MY Bharat Platform and will involve MY Bharat volunteers, NSS volunteers, Youth Clubs, schools, colleges, universities, and over 125 spiritual organisations, making it one of India's largest youth-led anti-drug movements.

Every Sunday for 100 weeks, youth-led activities such as sports competitions, walkathons, meditation sessions, cultural programmes, art competitions, and nukkad natak will be organised nationwide, with outstanding contributors to be honoured at the 50th, 75th, and 100th week milestones.

333. According to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026, India is the world's _____ largest supplier of seafarers.

BIMCO-ICS सीफ़ेयरर वर्कफ़ोर्स रिपोर्ट 2026 के अनुसार, भारत दुनिया में सीफ़ेयरर्स (नाविकों) का _____ सबसे बड़ा आपूर्तिकर्ता है।

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth
- (e) Fifth

Ans. b

Sol. India Becomes World's Second-Largest Supplier of Seafarers: BIMCO-ICS Report 2026

India has become the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers, contributing 311,936 maritime professionals, according to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026.

India now accounts for 12.16% of the global seafaring workforce, ranking second after the Philippines, and ahead of China, the Russian Federation, and Indonesia. The achievement marks a major milestone in India's maritime sector, with its global share of seafarers rising from 5.2% in 2015 and 6% in 2021 to 12.16% in 2026.

334. Which tourist attraction in the UAE has become the first to accept UPI for e-commerce transactions?

UAE का कौन सा टूरिस्ट अट्रैक्शन ई-कॉमर्स ट्रांज़ैक्शन के लिए UPI स्वीकार करने वाला पहला बन गया है?

- (a) Dubai Frame
- (b) Museum of the Future
- (c) At the Top, Burj Khalifa
- (d) Palm Tower
- (e) Ain Dubai

Ans. c

Sol. Burj Khalifa Becomes First UAE Tourist Attraction to Accept UPI for Online Ticket Bookings

Indian travellers can now book tickets online for "At the Top, Burj Khalifa" using UPI before travelling to Dubai, making the booking process more convenient and seamless.

Burj Khalifa has become the first tourist attraction in the UAE to accept UPI for e-commerce transactions, marking a significant milestone in the global expansion of India's digital payment system.

The facility was launched by NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, in partnership with NEOPAY and Emaar Entertainment to enable secure cross-border digital payments.

335. Which regulatory body approved the acquisition of Magma General Insurance by Patanjali Ayurved and DS Group?

पतंजलि आयुर्वेद और DS ग्रुप द्वारा मैग्मा जनरल इश्योरेंस के अधिग्रहण को किस रेगुलेटरी बॉडी ने मंजूरी दी?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- (d) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- (e) Competition Commission of India (CCI)

Ans. c

Sol. IRDAI Approves Patanjali-DS Group Acquisition of Magma General Insurance

IRDAI has approved the acquisition of Magma General Insurance by Patanjali Ayurved and DS Group from Adar Poonawalla-owned Sanoti Properties, clearing the deal valued at ₹4,500 crore.

Under the share purchase agreement (SPA), Patanjali Ayurved will acquire a 73.56% stake, while DS Group will acquire a 24.50% stake in Magma General Insurance.

Patanjali Ayurved, established in 2006, manufactures and markets herbal and nature-based products, medicines and other FMCG products. DS Group has a diversified portfolio across mouth fresheners, food and beverages, confectionery, hospitality, agriculture, luxury retail, tobacco and other investments.

336. Which RBI-licensed AI-powered Business Fintech OS has launched India's first Flexi Benefits Basket on UPI for corporate employee spend management?

कॉर्पोरेट कर्मचारियों के खर्च के मैनेजमेंट के लिए UPI पर भारत का पहला 'फ्लेक्सी बेनिफिट्स बास्केट' किस RBI-लाइसेंस प्राप्त AI-पावर्ड बिज़नेस फिनटेक OS ने लॉन्च किया है?

- (a) Razorpay
- (b) OmniCard
- (c) PhonePe
- (d) BharatPe
- (e) Paytm

Ans. b

Sol. OmniCard Launches India's First Flexi Benefits Basket on UPI

OmniCard (Eroute Technologies Pvt. Ltd.) has launched India's first Flexi Benefits Basket on UPI, enabling employees to manage and spend multiple tax-efficient benefits through a single digital wallet.

The employee-controlled wallet allows benefit allocation across categories such as meals, fuel, telecom, books & periodicals, gadgets, and other eligible expenses.

The Flexi Benefits Basket supports UPI scan-and-pay at any UPI-enabled merchant, allowing seamless payments at office canteens, food delivery apps, fuel stations, bookstores, and other outlets.

337. The 2nd Bharat Green Hydrogen Summit 2026, which focused on green hydrogen, hydrogen-based mobility, and export competitiveness in the energy sector, was held in which city?

दूसरा भारत ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन समिट 2026, जो ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन, हाइड्रोजन-आधारित मोबिलिटी और ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता पर केंद्रित था, किस शहर में आयोजित किया गया था?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Hyderabad
- (e) Ahmedabad

Ans. c

Sol. New Delhi Hosts 2nd Bharat Green Hydrogen Summit 2026 to Boost Clean Energy Transition

The 2nd Bharat Green Hydrogen Summit 2026 was held in New Delhi, organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), with a focus on green hydrogen, hydrogen-based mobility, and energy export competitiveness.

Green hydrogen is produced through electrolysis of water using renewable electricity and serves as a low-carbon fuel for sectors such as refining, fertiliser production, steelmaking, long-duration energy storage, and heavy transport.

Theme: Positioning India as a Global Hydrogen Hub

338. Where was the 6th Lieutenant Governor's Cup Horse Polo Tournament 2026 held?

छठा लेफ्टिनेंट गवर्नर कप हॉर्स पोलो टूर्नामेंट 2026 कहाँ आयोजित किया गया था?

- (a) Leh
- (b) Kargil
- (c) Drass
- (d) Srinagar
- (e) Jammu

Ans. c

Sol. Ladakh Scouts Win 6th Lieutenant Governor's Cup Horse Polo Tournament 2026
The 6th Lieutenant Governor's Cup Horse Polo Tournament concluded at the Goshan International Polo Stadium in Drass, Ladakh, with 18 teams, including three women's teams, participating in the event.

The Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre of the Indian Army won the tournament, defeating the Animal Husbandry Department team 2–0 in the final to claim the championship title.

Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta announced enhanced prize money, increasing the winner's prize to ₹1 lakh for 2026 and ₹2 lakh from next year, while reaffirming efforts to promote horse polo as Ladakh's cultural heritage, adventure tourism, and women's participation in sports.

339. India finished the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun 2026 in Hangzhou, China, with a total of how many medals?

चीन के हांगझोऊ में आयोजित ISSF वर्ल्ड कप राइफल/पिस्टल/शॉटगन 2026 में भारत ने कुल कितने मेडल जीते?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5
- (e) 6

Ans. c

Sol. India Finishes ISSF World Cup 2026 with Four Medals, Esha Singh Wins Gold
India concluded its campaign at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun 2026 in Hangzhou, China, with a total of four medals—one gold, one silver, and two bronze. Esha Singh won the gold in the Women's 25m Pistol event, while Sainyam claimed silver in the Women's 10m Air Pistol. Manu Bhaker secured bronze in the Women's 25m Pistol, and the duo of Sonam Maskar and Himanshu Dhillon won bronze in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event.

340. Which IPL franchise became the first to cross a brand value of US\$300 million, according to the latest Houlihan Lokey report?

हाल ही में आई 'हूलिहान लोकी' (Houlihan Lokey) रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, कौन सी IPL फ्रेंचाइजी US\$300 मिलियन की ब्रांड वैल्यू पार करने वाली पहली टीम बनी?

- (a) Mumbai Indians
- (b) Chennai Super Kings
- (c) Kolkata Knight Riders
- (d) Royal Challengers Bengaluru
- (e) Sunrisers Hyderabad

Ans. d

Sol. RCB Becomes First IPL Franchise to Cross US\$300 Million Brand Value

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) has become the first Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise to achieve a brand value of over US\$300 million, reaching US\$312 million with a 16% year-on-year increase.

According to a report by US-based investment bank Houlihan Lokey, the IPL's overall business value has grown to US\$20.6 billion, with RCB retaining its position as the league's most valuable franchise.

Rank	Franchise	Brand Value
1	Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)	US\$312 million
2	Mumbai Indians (MI)	US\$264 million
3	Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)	US\$245 million
4	Chennai Super Kings (CSK)	US\$244 million
5	Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)	US\$168 million
6	Rajasthan Royals (RR)	US\$161 million
7	Punjab Kings (PBKS)	US\$158 million
8	Gujarat Titans (GT)	US\$157 million
9	Delhi Capitals (DC)	US\$156 million
10	Lucknow Super Giants (LSG)	US\$122 million

341. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on 30 July to raise global awareness about human trafficking and promote the protection of victims' rights. What is the theme of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2026?

मानव तस्करी के खिलाफ विश्व दिवस 30 जुलाई को मनाया जाता है, ताकि मानव तस्करी के बारे में वैश्विक जागरूकता बढ़ाई जा सके और पीड़ितों के अधिकारों की सुरक्षा को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। मानव तस्करी के खिलाफ विश्व दिवस 2026 का विषय क्या है?

- (a) End Human Exploitation Now

- (b) Protect Every Child
- (c) Trapped Behind the Scam
- (d) Freedom for All Victims
- (e) Together Against Trafficking

Ans. c

Sol. 30 July - World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on 30 July to raise global awareness about human trafficking and promote the protection of victims' rights.

2026 Theme: Trapped Behind the Scam

The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 following the adoption of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

342. What was the amount of the dividend cheque handed over by LIC to the Central Government?

LIC द्वारा केंद्र सरकार को सौंपे गए डिविडेंड चेक की राशि क्या थी?

- (a) ₹10,207.25 crore
- (b) ₹11,500.00 crore
- (c) ₹12,207.25 crore
- (d) ₹13,207.25 crore
- (e) ₹14,000.00 crore

Ans. c

Sol. LIC Hands Over ₹12,207.25 Crore Dividend Cheque to Central Government

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) handed over a dividend cheque of ₹12,207.25 crore to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, representing the Central Government's share of the final dividend for FY2025-26.

At its 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM), LIC shareholders approved a final dividend of ₹10 per equity share (face value ₹10 each) for the financial year ended 31 March 2026, with over 99.99% votes in favour.

343. World Ranger Day is observed every year on which date to honour the contribution of forest rangers across the world?

दुनिया भर के वन रेंजर्स के योगदान का सम्मान करने के लिए हर साल 'वर्ल्ड रेंजर डे' किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 29 July
- (b) 30 July
- (c) 31 July
- (d) 1 August
- (e) 28 July

Ans. c

Sol. 31 July - World Ranger Day

World Ranger Day is observed every year on 31 July to honour the dedication and bravery of forest rangers and to remember those who have lost their lives or been injured while protecting wildlife and natural ecosystems.

The day was established by the International Ranger Federation (IRF) in 2007 and is observed globally with support from conservation organisations.

