

1. Important Days

27th Kargil Vijay Diwas (26 July 2026)

Detailed Context: On 26 July 2026, India commemorated the **27th Kargil Vijay Diwas**. The day marks the successful culmination of **Operation Vijay** in 1999, during which the Indian Armed Forces evicted Pakistani intruders who had illegally occupied high-altitude mountain posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kargil-Dras sector of Ladakh.

Key Exam Facts:

- **Operation Vijay** was launched in May 1999 and formally ended on July 26, 1999.
- Four Indian bravehearts were awarded the **Param Vir Chakra (PVC)** for extraordinary valor: Captain Vikram Batra (Posthumous), Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey (Posthumous), Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav, and Rifleman Sanjay Kumar.
- Following the recommendations of the post-war **Kargil Review Committee** (headed by K. Subrahmanyam), India created the post of **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** and set up the **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)**.

Practice MCQ

Q1. Operation Vijay, observed every year on 26th July, is associated with which military event?

- (A) 1971 Indo-Pak Liberation War
- (B) 1999 Kargil Conflict
- (C) 1984 Siachen Conflict (Operation Meghdoot)

- (D) 2016 Surgical Strike

Answer: (B) 1999 Kargil Conflict

Explanation: Operation Vijay was the official codename of the Indian military operation that successfully cleared Pakistani infiltrators from high-altitude posts along the LoC in Kargil on July 26, 1999.

2. Defense News

Defense Capabilities & Indigenous Achievements Highlighted in *Mann Ki Baat*

Detailed Context: In his 112th broadcast of *Mann Ki Baat* on 26 July 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized that India is emerging as a trusted global defense partner. The PM highlighted key milestones, including the successful flight-testing of the **Pinaka Long-Range Guided Rocket System** and the **Kusha Long-Range Air Defense System** by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Key Exam Facts:

- **Defence Production & Exports:** Domestic defense procurement now accounts for over 65% of overall military hardware acquisition, while exports crossed ₹38,000 crore.
- **Kusha Missile System:** DRDO's long-range surface-to-air missile project designed to intercept enemy aircraft, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles at ranges up to 350 km.
- **Vikram-1 Launch:** India's private space sector milestone, marking commercial orbital launch capabilities.



Practice MCQ (Defense / SSC)

Q2. Project Kusha, recently highlighted by DRDO, refers to which type of indigenous defense asset?

- (A) Nuclear-powered Attack Submarine
- (B) Long-Range Air Defense Missile System
- (C) Unmanned Aerial Combat Vehicle (UCAV)
- (D) Anti-tank Guided Missile

Answer: (B) Long-Range Air Defense Missile System

Explanation: Project Kusha is an indigenous long-range surface-to-air missile system developed by DRDO to provide multi-layered defense against incoming air threats at ranges up to 350 km.

3. National News & Governance

Cabinet Reassignment & Union Education Ministry Update

Detailed Context: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi officially assumed charge of the **Union Ministry of Education** at Kartavya Bhavan, New Delhi. Minister Joshi simultaneously holds portfolios for **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and New and Renewable Energy**.

Key Exam Facts:

- The Ministry of Education (formerly Ministry of Human Resource Development) oversees higher education and school literacy initiatives including the implementation of **NEP 2020**.
- Ministry headquarters relocated to Kartavya Bhavan, New Delhi as part of the Central Vista redevelopment.

Practice MCQ (SSC / Banking)

Q3. Who officially assumed charge as the Union Minister for Education on July 26, 2026?

- (A) Dharmendra Pradhan
- (B) Pralhad Joshi
- (C) Piyush Goyal
- (D) Ashwini Vaishnaw

Answer: (B) Pralhad Joshi

Explanation: Union Cabinet Minister Pralhad Joshi officially took charge of the Union Ministry of Education on 26 July 2026.

4. International News & Global Affairs

Black Sea Maritime Safety Concerns & Diplomatic Updates

Detailed Context: Escalating drone and missile strikes targeting commercial maritime traffic in the Black Sea led to security alerts for civilian merchant crews operating in Eastern Europe. The Indian Embassy monitored emergency responses after cargo vessels carrying international seafarers were impacted.

Key Exam Facts:

- The **Black Sea** is bordered by six countries: Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, and Georgia.
- **Key Straits:** The Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits (controlled by Turkey under the 1936 Montreux Convention) connect the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea via the Sea of Marmara.

Practice MCQ (UPSC / International Relations)

Q4. Which international treaty governs the transit of commercial and military naval vessels through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits connecting the Black Sea to the Mediterranean?

- (A) Treaty of Lausanne
- (B) Montreux Convention of 1936
- (C) UNCLOS 1982
- (D) Treaty of San Francisco

Answer: (B) Montreux Convention of 1936

Explanation: The 1936 Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits gives Turkey control over the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits and regulates the transit of naval warships.

5. Economics, Banking & Financial Markets

NSE Launches India's First Domestic Natural Gas Futures Contract

Detailed Context: The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) introduced India's first domestic benchmark-based **Natural Gas Futures Contract**, following regulatory clearance from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.

Key Exam Facts:

- **Objective:** Allows domestic industrial gas consumers, city gas distribution networks, and fertilizer producers to hedge price risks based on local demand-supply dynamics rather than depending entirely on international benchmarks like Henry Hub (US) or TTF (Europe).
- **Regulatory Body:** SEBI regulates commodity derivatives markets in India.

Metric Parameter /	Details
Underlying Contract	Domestic Natural Gas Benchmark

Metric Parameter /	Details
Trading Exchange	National Stock Exchange (NSE)
Market Regulator	SEBI
Primary Beneficiaries	Fertilizer plants, power plants, city gas utilities

Practice MCQ (Banking / Financial Awareness)

Q5. Which regulatory authority approved the launch of India's first domestic benchmark-based Natural Gas Futures Contract on the NSE?

- (A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (C) Forward Markets Commission (FMC)
- (D) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

Answer: (B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Explanation: SEBI is the sole regulator of commodity derivatives exchanges in India and granted approval for the NSE's natural gas futures contracts.

6. Government Schemes & MoUs

Assam Cabinet Approves Complete Stamp Duty Waiver for SHGs

Detailed Context: The Assam State Cabinet approved a 100% stamp duty waiver on individual loan agreements up to **₹10 lakh** for Self-Help Group (SHG) members under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).

Key Exam Facts:

- **Objective:** Reduces transaction costs for rural women entrepreneurs and speeds up institutional credit delivery.
- **NRLM Scheme:** Launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2011 (renamed Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - DAY-NRLM) to promote micro-enterprises and self-employment among rural poor households.

Practice MCQ (Banking / State Exams)

Q6. Under the approved scheme by the Assam Cabinet, what is the loan ceiling up to which individual SHG loan documents receive a 100% stamp duty waiver?

- (A) ₹2 Lakh
- (B) ₹5 Lakh
- (C) ₹10 Lakh
- (D) ₹15 Lakh

Answer: (C) ₹10 Lakh

Explanation: The Assam Cabinet waived 100% stamp duty on loan documents up to ₹10 lakh for Self-Help Group members under the rural livelihood mission.

7. Sports News

India Reclaims No. 1 Spot in ICC Men's T20I Rankings

Detailed Context: India reclaimed the **No. 1 ranking** in the ICC Men's T20I Team Rankings after securing a 2-0 lead in their international series.

Additional Sports Update: Indian weightlifter **Rishikanta Singh** clinched the **Silver Medal** in the men's 60kg weightlifting category at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Practice MCQ (Sports / Railways / SSC)

Q7. Indian athlete Rishikanta Singh won a Silver Medal for India in which sporting event at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games?

- (A) Boxing
- (B) Men's 60kg Weightlifting
- (C) Wrestling
- (D) Archery

Answer: (B) Men's 60kg Weightlifting

Explanation: Rishikanta Singh secured the silver medal in the men's 60kg weightlifting category at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

8. Art, Culture & UNESCO World Heritage

Sarnath Added to UNESCO World Heritage List

Detailed Context: Sarnath in Varanasi district, Uttar Pradesh, received formal inscription as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** after spending 28 years on the tentative list.

Key Exam Facts:

- **Historical Significance:** Sarnath is the sacred location where Lord Buddha delivered his inaugural sermon to his five former companions (Kaundinya, Assaji, Bhaddiya, Vappa, and Mahanama).
- **Buddhist Terminology:** This event is known as **Dharmachakrapravartana** ("Turning of the Wheel of Law").
- **Architectural Elements:** Features the massive **Dhamek Stupa** (built during the Gupta Period over an Asokan foundation), the **Chaukhandi Stupa**, and the **Lion Capital of Ashoka**, which forms India's National Emblem.

Practice MCQ (UPSC / Art & Culture)

Q8. The newly inscribed UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sarnath is associated with which major event in Buddhist history?

- (A) Mahaparinirvana (Death of Buddha)
- (B) Dharmachakrapravartana (First Sermon)
- (C) Mahabhinishkramana (Great Renunciation)
- (D) Sambodhi (Enlightenment)

Answer: (B) Dharmachakrapravartana (First Sermon)

Explanation: Sarnath is the site of Deer Park where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon, known as the Dharmachakrapravartana ("Turning of the Wheel of Law").

26 July 2026 Current Affairs MCQs

1. National & Défense Affairs

Q1. Every year on 26th July, India celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas. Which operation was successfully launched by the Indian Armed Forces in 1999 to reclaim the occupied heights in the Kargil sector?

- A) Operation Meghdoot
- B) Operation Vijay
- C) Operation Safed Sagar
- D) Operation Parakram

Answer: B) Operation Vijay

Detailed Explanation:

- **Background:** On July 26, 2026, India commemorated the 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas.
- **Operation Vijay:** Launched in May 1999, Operation Vijay was the joint land and air campaign (alongside the Indian Air Force's *Operation Safed Sagar*) executed by the Indian Armed Forces to push back Pakistani infiltrators from the high-altitude mountain posts in Kargil, Ladakh.

- **Significance:** The war officially ended on July 26, 1999, marking India's complete victory and restoration of the Line of Control (LoC).

Q2. Under Project 17A of the Indian Navy, which stealth frigate was commissioned at Visakhapatnam to boost India's blue-water capabilities?

- A) INS Nilgiri
- B) INS Taragiri
- C) INS Himgiri
- D) INS Udaygiri

Answer: B) INS Taragiri

Detailed Explanation:

- **Project 17A:** Under Project 17A (Nilgiri-class), seven guided-missile stealth frigates are being constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- **Key Features:** INS Taragiri features advanced stealth characteristics, modern sensors, anti-submarine warfare (ASW) rockets, surface-to-air missiles (Barak 8), and supersonic anti-ship BrahMos missiles.
- **Strategic Importance:** Commissioning at Visakhapatnam strengthens the Eastern Naval Command's capabilities across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Q3. Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently tested the 'Kusha' air defense missile system. What is the operational range of Project Kusha?

- A) 150 km
- B) 250 km
- C) 350 km
- D) 500 km

Answer: C) 350 km

Detailed Explanation:

- **Project Kusha:** Developed by DRDO, Project Kusha aims to deploy India's indigenous Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) defense shield, comparable to the Russian S-400 Triumf and US Patriot systems.
- **Capabilities:** It can intercept stealth fighter jets, drones, cruise missiles, and precise artillery shells at distances up to **350 km**.
- **Architecture:** The system consists of multi-tiered interceptor missiles integrated with active electronically scanned array (AESA) radars and command-control units.

2. Banking, Economics & Finance

Q4. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently revived the concessional swap window for Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] deposits. What is the primary objective of this measure?

- A) To reduce liquidity in the domestic banking system
- B) To attract foreign currency deposits from the diaspora and stabilize the Rupee
- C) To enforce capital controls on outward remittances by Indian citizens
- D) To eliminate foreign debt liabilities of public sector banks

Answer: B) To attract foreign currency deposits from the diaspora and stabilize the Rupee

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The RBI revived the FCNR(B) concessional swap window until September 30, 2026, to attract foreign currency inflows from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- **Mechanism:** FCNR(B) deposits allow NRIs to hold term deposits in designated foreign currencies (USD, GBP, EUR, JPY, AUD, CAD).

Principal and interest remain denominated in foreign currency, shielding depositors from rupee depreciation risks.

- **Economic Impact:** This move helps build India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves, cushion the rupee against global monetary volatility, and offset foreign portfolio investment (FPI) outflows.

Q5. According to NITI Aayog's "Fiscal Health Index 2026", which non-Himalayan Indian state secured the top position for overall financial discipline and revenue management?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Odisha
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: C) Odisha

Detailed Explanation:

- **Fiscal Health Index:** Launched by NITI Aayog, the index evaluates states based on spending quality, revenue collection efficiency, financial discipline, debt levels, and debt sustainability.
- **Top Performers:** Odisha ranked 1st among major states due to low debt-to-GSDP ratio, strong fiscal responsibility compliance, and disciplined capital expenditure. Among North-Eastern and Himalayan States, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand topped the list.

Q6. To cushion airlines against severe volatility in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices, the Union Cabinet established an ATF Stabilization Fund with a total corpus of:

- A) ₹5,000 crore
- B) ₹10,000 crore
- C) ₹15,000 crore



- D) ₹20,000 crore

Answer: B) ₹10,000 crore

Detailed Explanation:

- **ATF Stabilization Fund:** Created under the Ministry of Civil Aviation with a corpus of **₹10,000 crore**.
- **Objective:** To buffer domestic airlines against sharp spikes in global jet fuel prices, preventing sudden ticket price surges and protecting regional air connectivity expansion under the UDAN scheme.

- **Top Wicket-Takers:** Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy jointly led the bowling charts with 14 wickets each.

Q8. Who among the following was awarded the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award for lifetime achievement in land adventure?

- A) Major Subhash Rana
- B) Bachendri Pal
- C) Sheetal Raj
- D) Arunima Sinha

Answer: A) Major Subhash Rana

Detailed Explanation:

- **About the Award:** Instituted in 1993, the **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award** is India's highest national recognition for adventure sports. It is administered annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports alongside the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna and Arjuna Awards.
- **Categories:** Given in four fields: Land Adventure, Water Adventure, Air Adventure, and Lifetime Achievement.

3. Sports & Tournaments

Q7. Which country won the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, securing its 3rd T20 World Cup title?

- A) Australia
- B) New Zealand
- C) South Africa
- D) India

Answer: D) India

Detailed Explanation:

- **T20 World Cup 2026:** Co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.
- **Final Match:** Played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, where **India defeated New Zealand** in the final to lift their 3rd ICC Men's T20 World Cup trophy.
- **Player of the Series:** Indian batter **Sanju Samson** was awarded Player of the Series for his consistent run-scoring performance.

4. International Affairs & Global Politics

Q9. Balen Shah was recently elected as the youngest Prime Minister of which neighboring South Asian nation?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Nepal
- C) Maldives
- D) Bhutan

Answer: B) Nepal

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Balendra Shah (Balen Shah), leader of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) and former Mayor of Kathmandu, was sworn in as Nepal's youngest Prime Minister.
- **Significance:** His election marks a political shift away from traditional legacy parties in Nepal towards youth-driven governance, anti-corruption reforms, and balanced foreign relations with India and China.

Q10. Under India's historic international wildlife translocation initiative "Project Cheetah", India received a consignment of 9 cheetahs from which African nation?

- A) Namibia
- B) South Africa
- C) Botswana
- D) Kenya

Answer: C) Botswana

Detailed Explanation:

- **Project Cheetah:** World's first intercontinental wild carnivore translocation project.
- **Consignment:** After initial translocations from Namibia (8) and South Africa (12), **Botswana** supplied 9 cheetahs to bolster the genetic diversity of India's reintroduced cheetah population at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

Q11. European Union (EU) data privacy regulators recently issued mandatory guidelines under the Energy Efficiency Directive targeting which sector due to massive power and water consumption?

- A) Offshore wind farms
- B) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Centers

- C) Semiconductor fabrication plants
- D) Crypto mining operations

Answer: B) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Centers

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Global electricity consumption by data centers is projected by the International Energy Agency (IEA) to exceed **945 TWh by 2030**.
- **Water & Energy Impact:** AI data centers using high-density GPUs require 1.0 to 1.5 liters of water per kWh for server cooling.
- **Regulation:** The EU directive mandates strict environmental reporting, zero-water closed-loop cooling systems, and local renewable energy matching for hyperscale facilities.

5. Government Schemes

Q12. What is the primary aim of the 'Krishi Udan Scheme' implemented by the Ministry of Civil Aviation?

- A) Free air travel tickets for small and marginal farmers
- B) Seamless air transport and logistics support for perishable agricultural produce from remote and Northeast regions
- C) Drone spraying of fertilizers across water-stressed districts
- D) Export subsidies for organic rice exporters

Answer: B) Seamless air transport and logistics support for perishable agricultural produce from remote and Northeast regions

Detailed Explanation:

- **Krishi Udan:** Launched to assist farmers by transporting agricultural products on international and national routes.
- **Focus:** The scheme provides freight waivers, landing/parking charge exemptions, and air logistics facilities at regional Tier-2/3 airports, focusing on the North-Eastern Region (NER), tribal areas, and hilly states.

Q13. Which Indian state recently became the second state in independent India to pass a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in its Legislative Assembly?

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

Answer: B) Gujarat

Detailed Explanation:

- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC):** Enshrined under **Article 44** (Directive Principles of State Policy) of the Indian Constitution.
- **Status:** **Uttarakhand** was the first state in independent India to draft and implement UCC legislation. **Gujarat** became the second state to pass its official UCC Bill establishing uniform personal laws across marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption for all communities. (Note: Goa had a Portuguese Civil Code dating back to colonial rule).

Q14. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) and NHAI launched the 'RajmargYatra' mobile application. What feature was recently added to facilitate local residents near toll plazas?

- A) Free insurance coverage on highways

- B) Online application and hassle-free generation of local monthly e-passes within 20 km radius
- C) Automatic vehicle registration renewal
- D) Discount vouchers for highway fuel stations

Answer: B) Online application and hassle-free generation of local monthly e-passes within 20 km radius

Detailed Explanation:

- **RajmargYatra App:** A unified citizen-centric mobile application by NHAI.
- **New Feature:** Local residents residing within **20 km** of national highway toll plazas can apply for and renew their discounted e-passes online without physical document verification.

6. Appointments & Resignations

Q15. Who took official charge as the Union Minister for Education at Kartavya Bhavan on July 26, 2026?

- A) Dharmendra Pradhan
- B) Pralhad Joshi
- C) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- D) Piyush Goyal

Answer: B) Pralhad Joshi

Detailed Explanation:

- **Cabinet Appointment:** Union Minister **Pralhad Joshi** formally took charge of the Ministry of Education at Kartavya Bhavan.
- **Additional Portfolios:** He also holds charge of the Union Ministries of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and New and Renewable Energy.

Q16. Who was recently re-appointed as the President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)?

- A) Union Minister for Science and Technology
- B) Prime Minister of India (ex-officio)
- C) Director-General of CSIR
- D) Principal Scientific Adviser to GoI

Answer: B) Prime Minister of India (ex-officio)

Detailed Explanation:

- **CSIR Governance:** CSIR is India's premier public research and development organisation under the Ministry of Science & Technology.
- **Structure:** By default, the **Prime Minister of India serves as the ex-officio President** of CSIR, while the Union Minister of Science and Technology serves as the Vice President.

7. Awards, Honors & Science

Q17. Which eminent mathematician was awarded the prestigious Abel Prize 2026 by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters for groundbreaking achievements in arithmetic geometry?

- A) Luis Caffarelli
- B) Gerd Faltings
- C) Dennis P. Sullivan
- D) Masaki Kashiwara

Answer: B) Gerd Faltings

Detailed Explanation:

- **Abel Prize:** Often called the "Nobel Prize of Mathematics", awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.

- **2026 Winner:** German mathematician **Gerd Faltings** won the Abel Prize 2026 for his foundational contributions to algebraic geometry and number theory (notably proving Mordell's conjecture).

Q18. At the 2026 International Olympiads, Indian students achieved remarkable success by securing 100% Gold Medals in which two disciplines?

- A) Mathematics and Astronomy
- B) Physics and Chemistry
- C) Biology and Informatics
- D) Earth Science and Mathematics

Answer: B) Physics and Chemistry

Detailed Explanation:

- **Olympiad Performance:** India won 12 Gold and 7 Silver medals overall at the 2026 International Olympiads.
- **Key Highlight:** Every single Indian student participant in both the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) and International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) won Gold Medals.

8. Environment, Ecology

Q19. Farmers in Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh, were highlighted in current news for adopting sustainable harvesting techniques for 'Kutki'. What is Kutki?

- A) A high-yielding hybrid variety of apple
- B) An endangered medicinal herb (*Picrorhiza kurroa*) used in Ayurveda
- C) A drought-resistant millets crop native to cold deserts
- D) A bio-pesticide derived from pine leaves

Answer: B) An endangered medicinal herb (*Picrorhiza kurroa*) used in Ayurveda

Detailed Explanation:

- **Kutki (*Picrorhiza kurroa*):** A high-altitude medicinal herb found in the Himalayan region.
- **Sustainable Harvesting:** Farmers demonstrated harvesting side stolons (branches) instead of uprooting the entire plant, allowing the plant to regenerate and protecting the wild species from extinction.
- **Ayurvedic Utility:** Widely used in traditional medicine for treating fever, liver disorders, and respiratory ailments.

Q20. What is the name of India's indigenous satellite-based augmentation system deployed by DGCA and ISRO to enable precision aircraft landings without ground navigation hardware?

- A) NAVIC
- B) GAGAN
- C) BHUVAN
- D) ASTROSAT

Answer: B) GAGAN

Detailed Explanation:

- **GAGAN System:** GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) is jointly developed by ISRO and Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- **Utility:** DGCA mandated its deployment across regional Tier-2/3 airports to provide precision satellite guidance during adverse weather and low visibility without installing expensive ground Instrument Landing Systems (ILS).

Q21. According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) AWARe framework for

classifying antibiotics to curb Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), which category includes antibiotics reserved as a last resort?

- A) Access group
- B) Watch group
- C) Reserve group
- D) Critical group

Answer: C) Reserve group

Detailed Explanation:

- **AWaRe Framework:** Developed by WHO to optimize antibiotic stewardship.
- **3 Categories:**
 1. **Access:** First-line and second-line treatments with broad availability.
 2. **Watch:** Higher resistance potential; used for specific indications.
 3. **Reserve:** "Last-resort" life-saving antibiotics (e.g., Colistin) that must be strictly protected to prevent superbug resistance.

9. Art, Culture & Festivals

Q22. The traditional festival of 'Hemis Tsechu', famous for its vibrant Cham (masked dances) performed by Buddhist monks, is celebrated in which Indian State/UT?

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Sikkim
- C) Ladakh
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: C) Ladakh

Detailed Explanation:

- **Hemis Tsechu:** Celebrated at the Hemis Monastery in Ladakh to mark the birth

anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava (Lord Guru Rinpoche).

- **Cultural Feature:** Monks wear elaborate silk costumes and sacred wooden masks to perform the **Cham dance**, depicting the triumph of good over evil.

Q23. The 'Ambubachi Mela', an annual festival celebrating the spirit of mother earth and fertility, is celebrated at which historic temple?

- A) Kamakhya Temple, Assam
- B) Lingaraj Temple, Odisha
- C) Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Uttar Pradesh
- D) Meenakshi Temple, Tamil Nadu

Answer: A) Kamakhya Temple, Assam

Detailed Explanation:

- **Ambubachi Mela:** One of Eastern India's largest religious gatherings held at the **Kamakhya Temple** atop Nilachal Hills in Guwahati, Assam.
- **Significance:** It marks the annual menstruation cycle of Goddess Kamakhya and celebrates earth's fertility.

Q24. 'Patan Patola', which recently received export promotion support under the GI Tag Initiative, is a world-famous double-ikat woven silk saree originating from which state?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Gujarat
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Telangana

Answer: B) Gujarat

Detailed Explanation:

- **Patan Patola:** A double-ikat woven silk saree made in Patan, Gujarat.

- **Uniqueness:** Both sides of the fabric carry identical patterns and color intensity. It has been granted Geographical Indication (GI) status and represents master craftsmanship under India's textile heritage.

10. Important Days, Memorandums (MoUs) & Anniversaries

Q25. Which day is celebrated globally on July 26 every year to raise awareness about the protection of coastal wetland ecosystems?

- A) International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem
- B) World Oceans Day
- C) World Wetlands Day
- D) Global Coral Reef Awareness Day

Answer: A) International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem

Detailed Explanation:

- **Date:** Proclaimed by UNESCO in 2015 and observed annually on **July 26**.
- **Objective:** Raises global awareness regarding the vulnerability of mangrove ecosystems as natural coastal buffers, carbon sinks, and nurseries for marine biodiversity.

Q26. Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which tech giant to provide AI-focused engineering training across Karnataka?

- A) Microsoft
- B) IBM
- C) Google
- D) NVIDIA

Answer: C) Google

Detailed Explanation:

- **MoU Details:** VTU inked an agreement with **Google** to deliver industry-oriented training in Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, and Machine Learning for engineering students.
- **Goal:** Bridging the skill gap between academia and IT industry demands.

Q27. On July 23-26, India commemorates the birth anniversaries of two major freedom fighters: Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Chandra Shekhar Azad. On which date were both born?

- A) 23 July
- B) 24 July
- C) 25 July
- D) 26 July

Answer: A) 23 July

Detailed Explanation:

- **Historical Event:** July 23 marks the dual birth anniversary of **Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak** (born 1856) and **Chandra Shekhar Azad** (born 1906).
- **Contributions:** Tilak popularized the slogan "*Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it*", while Azad led the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).

11. National Policy & Infrastructure

Q28. The Ministry of Defense commercially launched an IoT-enabled water monitoring system developed by CSIR. What does this system monitor in rural water supply schemes?

- A) Only groundwater levels
- B) Water quality, quantity, and real-time service delivery under Jal Jeevan Mission
- C) Industrial effluent toxicity in rivers

- D) Agricultural canal water flow rates

Answer: B) Water quality, quantity, and real-time service delivery under Jal Jeevan Mission

Detailed Explanation:

- **CSIR IoT Water Monitoring System:** Developed by CSIR institutes and launched for commercial deployment.
- **Functionality:** Sensors track real-time parameters such as turbidity, pH, dissolved solids, and flow volume at tap connections under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**.

Q29. What is the total number of subsidized air routes operationalized under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) regional connectivity scheme as of July 2026?

- A) 450 routes
- B) 520 routes
- C) 679 routes
- D) 800 routes

Answer: C) 679 routes

Detailed Explanation:

- **UDAN Progress:** Launched in 2016, UDAN has operationalized **679 routes** connecting 95 unserved and underserved airports, heliports, and water aerodromes across India.
- **Impact:** Has led to a 23% annual increase in express air cargo from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Q30. According to national health statistics released in July 2026, India accounts for approximately what fraction of all global oral cancer cases, prompting new national screening mandates?

- A) 1 in 10 cases
- B) 1 in 4 cases

- C) 1 in 2 cases
- D) 1 in 3 cases

Answer: B) 1 in 4 cases

Detailed Explanation:

- **Health Data:** Oral cancer accounts for nearly **1 in 4 (25%)** of global cases in India, primarily linked to smokeless tobacco consumption.
- **Initiative:** The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has prioritized early screening at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs to curb mortality rates.

