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National News

Supreme Court Dismisses Plea Against Ethanol-Blended Petrol:

The Supreme Court of India dismissed a petition that challenged the nationwide rollout of 20% ethanol-blended petrol (EBP-20). The court stated the initiative aligns with India's energy transition and climate goals, and refused to stay the policy.

Rupee Hits All-Time Low:

The Indian rupee plunged to a historic low against the US dollar. This was attributed to speculative market bets, hedging demands, and global uncertainties, including renewed tariff threats from Donald Trump and rising crude oil prices.

Union Minister's Controversial Remark: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari sparked a controversy after he was quoted as saying, "the one who can fool people is the best leader." Critics accused him of mocking democracy, though he later clarified his remarks were taken out of context.

Bihar Electoral Roll Exclusion: A special revision of Bihar's electoral rolls revealed that around 65 lakh voter names were excluded. While authorities claim it is to "cleanse" the rolls before elections, opposition parties allege that genuine voters are being unfairly removed.

Weather Alerts and School Closures: Heavy rainfall continues to affect many parts of northern India. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for heavy rain in some districts of Uttarakhand and a yellow alert for several districts in Bihar. Schools in Punjab and Jammu have been closed due to flooding and landslides. The Yamuna

River in Delhi is also dangerously close to the flood danger mark.

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MCQS

1. What was the Supreme Court's reason for dismissing the plea against the rollout of 20% ethanol-blended petrol (EBP-20)?

- a) The court found the petition to be frivolous.
- b) The court stated the initiative was a state government matter.
- c) The court ruled that the initiative aligns with India's energy transition and climate goals.
- d) The court declared the policy unconstitutional.

Answer: c)

The news states the Supreme Court dismissed the plea because the EBP-20 initiative is in line with India's broader objectives for energy transition and climate goals. The court saw it as a move toward a more sustainable energy mix.

2. Which of the following was NOT cited as a reason for the Indian rupee's all-time low against the US dollar?

- a) Speculative market bets.
- b) Hedging demands.
- c) A sudden increase in foreign direct investment (FDI).
- d) Renewed tariff threats from Donald Trump and rising crude oil prices.

Answer: c)

The news report attributes the rupee's historic low to speculative bets, hedging, Donald Trump's tariff threats, and rising crude oil prices. A sudden increase in FDI would typically strengthen, not weaken, a currency.

3. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's controversial remark, "the one who can fool people is the best leader," was criticized for what reason?

- a) It was seen as an attack on his political rivals.
- b) Critics accused him of mocking democracy.

c) It was viewed as an endorsement of populist policies.

d) It was interpreted as a direct threat to the opposition.

Answer: b)

The news states that critics accused the minister of mocking democracy with his statement, although he later clarified that his remarks were taken out of context.

4. What is the stated reason from authorities for the exclusion of 65 lakh voter names from Bihar's electoral rolls?

- a) To prevent a specific political party from gaining an advantage.
- b) To remove the names of non-residents from the state.
- c) To "cleanse" the rolls before the elections.
- d) To include new voters who have recently turned 18.

Answer: c)

According to the provided text, authorities claimed the exclusion of names was part of a special revision to "cleanse" the electoral rolls ahead of elections. However, opposition parties have contested this, alleging the removal of genuine voters.

5. Based on the weather alerts mentioned, which regions experienced school closures due to heavy rainfall?

- a) Uttarakhand and Bihar.
- b) Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.
- c) Punjab and Jammu.
- d) All of the above.

Answer: c)

The news specifically mentions that schools were closed in Punjab and Jammu due to the heavy rain, flooding, and landslides. While Uttarakhand and Bihar also received weather





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alerts, the text only mentions school closures in Punjab and Jammu.

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