

## National News

**Q1. To revolutionize the verification of rural asset creation under MGNREGA, the Ministry of Rural Development deployed the 'BhuPRAHARI' digital platform. This platform has been developed in technical collaboration with which institution?**

- (a) IIT Bombay
- (b) IIT Delhi
- (c) ISRO (NRSC)
- (d) IISc Bengaluru

**Answer: (b) IIT Delhi**

**Detailed Explanation:** The 'BhuPRAHARI' system is a state-of-the-art satellite and ground-based geographic monitoring system developed in joint collaboration between the Ministry of Rural Development and IIT Delhi. It facilitates real-time asset tracking, preventing the duplication or fraudulent billing of rural infrastructure assets (like Amrit Sarovars) under MGNREGA by utilizing advanced spatial AI data analytics.

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Census-2027 initiative officially soft-launched by the Union Home Ministry:**

1. It will be the first population enumeration exercise in India to be conducted entirely through digital platforms.
2. The government has officially unveiled 'Pragati' and 'Vikas' as the dual mascots for Census-2027.
3. For the first time since independence, it will completely omit any socio-economic parameters.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

**Detailed Explanation:** Statements 1 and 2 are absolutely correct. Census-2027 is historically significant as it introduces smartphone applications, a custom digital ecosystem, and options for citizen-led self-enumeration to reduce manual data errors. The official mascots are 'Pragati' and 'Vikas'. Statement 3 is incorrect because the upcoming digital census is designed to include comprehensive data matrices, including complex socioeconomic paradigms and long-awaited updated parameters.

**Q3. In response to sudden industrial safety hazards, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced an ex-gratia relief package following a massive explosion at a major ammunition factory in Raulgaon. In which district of Maharashtra is Raulgaon located?**

- (a) Pune
- (b) Thane
- (c) Nagpur
- (d) Nashik

**Answer: (c) Nagpur**

**Detailed Explanation:** A tragic industrial accident occurred at an explosives and ammunition manufacturing firm in Raulgaon village, located within the Nagpur district of Maharashtra. The blast resulted in the unfortunate loss of 17 lives and critical injuries to 18 others, prompting the state administration to initiate immediate structural audits of all regional hazardous industrial units.



**Q4. Following intense airspace closures over West Asia due to the U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) took which unprecedented step on March 2, 2026?**

- (a) It cancelled all board examinations permanently for the year.
- (b) It postponed Class 10 and 12 board examinations across multiple Middle East test centers.
- (c) It shifted all international students to an online automated proctoring portal.
- (d) It merged the board syllabus with regional international boards.

**Answer: (b) It postponed Class 10 and 12 board examinations across multiple Middle East test centers.**

**Detailed Explanation:** Due to the rapidly deteriorating security situation, commercial airspace shutdowns, and active projectile interceptions across West Asia, CBSE officially postponed the ongoing Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations across several Middle Eastern countries. This was done to guarantee the physical safety of Indian diaspora students.

**Q5. Due to the geopolitical conflict in the West Asian energy corridor, India witnessed a structural LPG supply shock. Approximately what percentage of India's total LPG requirements are met through imports routed via the Strait of Hormuz?**

- (a) 30% (b) 45% (c) 60% (d) 90%

**Answer: (c) 60%**

**Detailed Explanation:** The West Asian war has exposed India's energy vulnerabilities. India imports nearly 60% of its total domestic LPG consumption, and out of these total imports, an overwhelming 90% are traditionally routed directly through the Strait of Hormuz—the

critical global maritime chokepoint currently facing military blockade threats from Iran.

## 2. International News

**Q6. On March 2, 2026, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) convened an extraordinary emergency meeting in Vienna. Which nation formally requested this session following military strikes on Iranian assets?**

- (a) China
- (b) Russia
- (c) India
- (d) France

**Answer: (b) Russia**

**Detailed Explanation:** Following a wave of high-intensity military strikes launched by U.S. and Israeli forces targeting the perimeter of several nuclear installations and governmental networks in Tehran, Russia officially requested an extraordinary emergency session of the IAEA in Vienna, Austria, to address the immediate threat to global non-proliferation frameworks.

**Q7. Following the elimination of top leadership figures in Tehran, Iran issued an official maritime warning vowing to attack any commercial or military vessel attempting to transit through which strategic global strait?**

- (a) Strait of Malacca
- (b) Strait of Gibraltar
- (c) Strait of Hormuz
- (d) Bab-el-Mandeb

**Answer: (c) Strait of Hormuz**

**Detailed Explanation:** Amidst expanding regional hostilities, the Iranian military command issued an ultimatum declaring that it would target any vessel passing through the

vital **Strait of Hormuz**. This narrow channel connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, serving as the world's most critical transit route for crude oil and liquefied natural gas.

**Q8. The Amondawa tribe, recently featured in international sociological research for living completely without abstract concepts of time, calendars, or numerical age tracking, is indigenous to which country?**

- (a) Kenya
- (b) Brazil
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Peru

**Answer: (b) Brazil**

**Detailed Explanation:** The Amondawa tribe lives deep within the Amazon rainforest of Brazil. Linguistic and anthropological studies highlighted that their language contains no native words for time, weeks, months, or years. Instead of tracking age numerically, individuals shed their names and assume new titles as they progress through different biological and social stages of life.

**Q9. Which global tech conglomerate officially launched 'Project Indus 2.0', an advanced localized multilingual AI engine tailored specifically for low-resource tribal languages of South Asia?**

- (a) Microsoft
- (b) Google
- (c) Tech Mahindra
- (d) Meta

**Answer: (c) Tech Mahindra**

**Detailed Explanation:** Tech Mahindra expanded its indigenous AI footprint by announcing

'Project Indus 2.0'. The system integrates with rural e-governance setups to process dialects and highly specific, endangered tribal languages, enabling seamless service delivery to isolated indigenous communities in their native tongue.

### **3. Economics and Banking**

**Q10. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) introduced the 'Deferred Customs Duty Payment Facility' effective from March 1, 2026. What is the operational duration window specified for this scheme?**

- (a) 1st March 2026 to 31st December 2026
- (b) 1st March 2026 to 31st March 2028
- (c) 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027
- (d) 1st March 2026 to 28th February 2031

**Answer: (b) 1st March 2026 to 31st March 2028**

**Detailed Explanation:** The CBIC rolled out a business-friendly deferred customs payment mechanism designed exclusively for Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMIs). Valid from March 1, 2026, until March 31, 2028, the scheme allows certified manufacturers to clear imported capital goods and raw materials immediately without upfront duty deposits, shifting payments to a monthly consolidated cycle to improve domestic working capital efficiency.

**Q11. To compensate victims of sophisticated cyber financial crimes, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed a baseline monetary compensation structure. What is the maximum proposed compensation cap for a single digital fraud incident under these new guidelines?**

- (a) ₹10,000
- (b) ₹25,000
- (c) ₹50,000

(d) ₹1,000

**Answer: (b) ₹25,000**

**Detailed Explanation:** In a move to strengthen digital banking trust, the RBI proposed a standard safety-net compensation of up to a maximum cap of **₹25,000** for small digital frauds, provided the customer demonstrates timely reporting and lacks individual negligence, placing greater cybersecurity accountability on commercial banking ecosystems.

**Q12. To qualify for the newly proposed RBI digital fraud financial compensation framework, a consumer must formally lodge an official complaint within how many days of the unauthorized transaction?**

- (a) 2 days
- (b) 3 days
- (c) 5 days
- (d) 7 days

**Answer: (b) 3 days**

**Detailed Explanation:** According to the draft operational rules of the Reserve Bank of India, it is mandatory for an affected bank account holder to flag and officially report an unauthorized electronic or digital transaction within a strict window of **3 days** from the occurrence of the fraud to minimize customer liability and qualify for institutional remediation.

**Q13. According to global credit rating giant S&P Global, what is India's projected Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for the upcoming Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27)?**

- (a) 6.2%
- (b) 6.5%
- (c) 7.0%

(d) 7.4%

**Answer: (c) 7.0%**

**Detailed Explanation:** Affirming strong macroeconomic fundamentals, S&P Global released its updated growth forecast, projecting India's GDP to expand at a robust **7% for FY27**. The rating agency cited structural manufacturing resilience, healthy corporate balance sheets, and aggressive government-led capital expenditure as key drivers, despite global headwinds.

**Q14. Which major Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) in India officially became a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) on March 2, 2026, committing to its core anti-corruption and environmental domains?**

- (a) Shriram Finance
- (b) Bajaj Finance
- (c) L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF)
- (d) Muthoot Finance

**Answer: (c) L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF)**

**Detailed Explanation:** L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF) achieved a sustainable governance landmark by formally joining the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). By becoming a signatory, the company commits to integrating the UNGC's ten core principles across four key areas—human rights, labor standards, environmental protection, and anti-corruption—into its core corporate lending and business strategies.

## 4. Sports

**Q15. Which corporate entity led the high-value consortium that officially completed the acquisition of the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise in March 2026?**

- (a) Adani Group
- (b) Tata Group
- (c) Aditya Birla Group (ABG)
- (d) Reliance Industries

**Answer: (c) Aditya Birla Group (ABG)**

**Detailed Explanation:** In one of the biggest corporate acquisitions in domestic sports history, the Aditya Birla Group (ABG) successfully acquired a controlling stake in the iconic IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), marking the conglomerate's direct entry into premier league sports ownership and sports asset management.

**Q16. Indian archers showcased an impressive performance at the 2026 Asia Cup, clinching two prestigious bronze medals. Which city hosted this international tournament?**

- (a) Tokyo, Japan
- (b) Bangkok, Thailand
- (c) Seoul, South Korea
- (d) New Delhi, India

**Answer: (b) Bangkok, Thailand**

**Detailed Explanation:** The Indian Archery contingent put up a strong performance at the Asia Cup Archery tournament held in Bangkok, Thailand, securing two bronze medals in highly competitive compound and recurve team event categories against top continental opponents.

**Q17. India's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports released its target export roadmap for the domestic sports goods industry. India aims to scale its total sports goods exports to what milestone value by the year 2030?**

- (a) \$3.5 billion
- (b) \$5.0 billion

- (c) \$8.1 billion
- (d) \$10.0 billion

**Answer: (c) \$8.1 billion**

**Detailed Explanation:** To transform India into a global sports manufacturing epicentre, the central government has structured a comprehensive export promotion framework aiming to scale Indian sports goods exports from its current base to a massive **\$8.1 billion by 2030**, backed by dedicated PLI incentives for sports gear and equipment.

## 5. Appointments

**Q18. Who was elected as the new President of the European Parliament following the recent institutional restructuring?**

- (a) Roberta Metsola
- (b) Ursula von der Leyen
- (c) Charles Michel
- (d) Christine Lagarde

**Answer: (a) Roberta Metsola**

**Detailed Explanation:** In European geopolitical developments, Roberta Metsola successfully secured her continued tenure/re-election to head the European Parliament, steering the highly critical legislative organ through a complex geopolitical climate dominated by trade revisions and external security crises.

**Q19. The Supreme Court of India appointed which veteran jurist to head the independent judicial committee investigating allegations of systemic land-use violations across eco-sensitive zones of the Western Ghats?**

- (a) Justice Surya Kant
- (b) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud
- (c) Justice Sanjiv Khanna

(d) Justice B.V. Nagarathna

**Answer: (a) Justice Surya Kant**

**Detailed Explanation:** Justice Surya Kant has been designated to head the high-powered independent judicial oversight committee. The panel is mandated to strike a balance between sustainable infrastructure requirements and the preservation of endemic biodiversity hotspots within the Western Ghats region.

**Q20. Who took charge as the new Director General of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on its 25th Foundation Day?**

(a) Shri Abhay Bakre

(b) Shri Krushna Chandra Panigrahy

(c) Shri Pankaj Agarwal

(d) Shri R.K. Singh

**Answer: (b) Shri Krushna Chandra Panigrahy**

**Detailed Explanation:** Senior energy administrator Shri Krushna Chandra Panigrahy officially assumed charge as the Director General of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). His appointment coincides with the body's silver jubilee celebrations and its transition toward managing India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).

## 6. Awards and Honors

**Q21. Which premium public sector undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was conferred with the 'National Sustainability Leadership Award 2026' for its green hydrogen blending projects?**

(a) NTPC Limited

(b) GAIL (India) Limited

(c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)

(d) Bharat Petroleum (BPCL)

**Answer: (b) GAIL (India) Limited**

**Detailed Explanation:** GAIL (India) Limited was honored with the prestigious National Sustainability Leadership Award for its successful real-world operational execution of blending green hydrogen into city gas distribution networks, pioneering scalable carbon-abatement pathways for India's heavy energy mix.

**Q22. The 2026 International Green City Award was presented to which Indian municipal corporation for achieving 100% processing efficiency of municipal solid waste via automated bio-methanation plants?**

(a) Indore Municipal Corporation

(b) Surat Municipal Corporation

(c) Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation

(d) Bengaluru Municipal Corporation

**Answer: (a) Indore Municipal Corporation**

**Detailed Explanation:** Continuing its clean-energy streak, the Indore Municipal Corporation was recognized on the international stage with the Green City Award. The accolade recognizes the municipality's high-capacity bio-methanation infrastructure, which successfully processes hundreds of tonnes of urban organic waste daily to fuel public transport.

## 7. Books and Authors

**Q23. Who is the author of the recently released book titled "The Water Footprint of Nations: Rethinking India's Agrarian Export Strategy", which deals with groundwater depletion?**

(a) Dr. MS Swaminathan Foundation Group

(b) Dr. Ramesh Chand

(c) Shashi Tharoor

(d) Raghuram Rajan

**Answer: (b) Dr. Ramesh Chand**

**Detailed Explanation:** Noted agricultural economist and NITI Aayog member Dr. Ramesh Chand authored this highly analytical book. The text examines how India's massive volume-based bulk exports of non-basmati rice amount to a virtual export of billions of liters of scarce groundwater, advocating for an urgent policy shift toward value-based aromatic grains.

## 8. Defense News

**Q24. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted consecutive flight trials of the 'VSHORADS' missile system from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha. What does the acronym 'VSHORADS' stand for?**

- (a) Very Short-Range Air Defence System
- (b) Vertical Short Range Anti-Drone System
- (c) Velocity Stabilized High Orbit Radar System
- (d) Variable Short Range Attack Defense Shield

**Answer: (a) Very Short-Range Air Defence System**

**Detailed Explanation:** VSHORADS stands for **Very Short-Range Air Defence System**. It is an indigenously developed Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPADS) engineered by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in collaboration with domestic industrial production partners. It is a lightweight, surface-to-air missile designed to counter low-altitude aerial threats, with an effective range of up to 8 kilometers.

**Q25. The Indian Air Force (IAF) announced plans to integrate the advanced 'ASRAAM' missile onto its upgraded MiG-29 fighter fleet. What type of missile platform is the ASRAAM?**

- (a) Beyond-Visual-Range air-to-air missile
- (b) Within-Visual-Range air-to-air missile
- (c) Air-to-surface anti-radiation missile
- (d) Sub-surface cruise missile interception platform

**Answer: (b) Within-Visual-Range air-to-air missile**

**Detailed Explanation:** ASRAAM (Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile) is a state-of-the-art, high-velocity **Within-Visual-Range (WVR)** air-to-air missile. Its integration onto the IAF's frontline MiG-29 fighter jets significantly enhances close-combat dogfight capabilities, providing a substantial tactical edge over regional airborne adversaries.

## 9. Government Schemes and MoUs

**Q26. Under the freshly enacted Income-tax Rules 2026, how many major metro cities in India have been officially designated to qualify for the maximum 50% House Rent Allowance (HRA) tax exemption bracket?**

- (a) 4
- (b) 6
- (c) 8
- (d) 10

**Answer: (c) 8 cities**

**Detailed Explanation:** Under a significant structural revision in the Income-tax Rules 2026, the central government expanded the number of urban centers qualifying for the highest **50% HRA tax deduction limit to 8 cities**. This expansion moves beyond the traditional four metros (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai) to integrate fast-growing high-cost economic hubs like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, and Ahmedabad.

**Q27. The Ministry of Power's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) launched the 'RCO Portal'**



during its Silver Jubilee celebration. What does 'RCO' stand for?

- (a) Renewable Consumption Obligation
- (b) Regional Carbon Oversight
- (c) Rural Rationalized Coal Offset
- (d) Renewable Co-generation Order

**Answer: (a) Renewable Consumption Obligation**

**Detailed Explanation:** The Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) Portal was launched as a centralized digital interface to monitor green energy compliance. It allows power distribution companies (DISCOMs), open-access industrial consumers, and regulatory bodies to report, track, and trade renewable energy compliance metrics in real-time, boosting transparency in India's energy transition.

**Q28. The Punjab Government, in financial collaboration with the World Bank, officially announced 'Kranti 2.0'. What is the primary objective of this public reform scheme?**

- (a) Implementing organic farming across the border belt
- (b) Enhancing structural school education and digital classrooms
- (c) Modernizing state-run canal irrigation grids
- (d) Digitizing land-revenue registries via blockchain

**Answer: (b) Enhancing structural school education and digital classrooms**

**Detailed Explanation:** The Punjab government, backed by World Bank funding, introduced 'Kranti 2.0' as a major structural school education overhaul. The scheme focuses on converting thousands of primary and secondary government schools into smart digital learning

centers, revising STEM curricula, and training teachers in modern pedagogical techniques.

## 10. Important Days and Themes

**Q29. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), which celebrated its milestone 25th Foundation Day with major digital launches on March 1-2, 2026, was originally set up in which year under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001?**

- (a) 2001
- (b) 2002
- (c) 2005
- (d) 2010

**Answer: (b) 2002**

**Detailed Explanation:** The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) was officially established on **1st March 2002** under the statutory provisions of the landmark Energy Conservation Act, 2001. Operating under the Union Ministry of Power, the institutional body is credited with driving mass energy efficiency improvements across India through initiatives like Star Labeling ratings and the PAT (Perform, Achieve, and Trade) scheme.

**Q30. International Rescue Officers Day, which honors frontline disaster management personnel and civil protection forces globally, is observed in tandem with which major institutional day on 1st/2nd March?**

- (a) World Civil Defence Day
- (b) World Wildlife Day
- (c) National Safety Day
- (d) World Red Cross Day

**Answer: (a) World Civil Defence Day**

**Detailed Explanation:** International Rescue Officers and global civil safety frameworks are honored every year on **1st March/2nd March** under the banner of **World Civil Defence Day**.