

Part 1: International News & Relations

Q1. NASA's highly anticipated 'Artemis II' mission, slated for deployment in 2026, represents a critical leap in lunar exploration. Which of the following statements accurately describes its core operational mandate?

- A) It will execute a fully autonomous robotic surface-rover landing on the lunar South Pole.
- B) It will carry a four-member crew to execute a flyby loop around the Moon without landing.
- C) It will establish the core structural module of the Lunar Gateway Space Station in orbit.
- D) It will land the first woman and person of color on the lunar surface for a 14-day stay.

Correct Answer: B) It will carry a four-member crew to execute a flyby loop around the Moon without landing.

Detailed Explanation:

- **The Context:** In April 2026, NASA finalized the flight parameters for its **Artemis II mission**, which marks the first time since Apollo 17 (1972) that humans will travel beyond low-Earth orbit.
- **Mission Breakdown:** Artemis II is a crewed test flight utilizing the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and the Orion capsule. The 10-day mission carries 4 astronauts into deep space to perform a lunar flyby, test life-support systems, and safely re-enter Earth's atmosphere.
- **Other Phases:** Artemis I (2022) was an uncrewed test. Artemis III (scheduled for 2027-2028) will be the actual human landing phase.

Q2. India and which Central Asian nation recently conducted the 5th round of Foreign

Office Consultations (FOC) in Dushanbe to boost strategic trade and connectivity corridors?

- A) Uzbekistan
- B) Tajikistan
- C) Kazakhstan
- D) Turkmenistan

Correct Answer: B) Tajikistan

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The **5th round of India-Tajikistan Foreign Office Consultations** was hosted in Dushanbe. The Indian delegation was led by Pawan Kapoor, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Key Focus:** Deliberations centered heavily around optimizing the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), expanding capacity-building under the ITEC program, and enhancing regional security coordination, especially regarding stabilizing counter-radicalization channels across Central Asia.

Q3. In response to a deepening economic shock and rising inflation, which global leader appointed Roman Gofman to take active leadership over strategic state intelligence operations?

- A) Israel
- B) France
- C) Argentina
- D) Germany

Correct Answer: A) Israel

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Major intelligence transitions occurred in West Asia as **Roman Gofman** was formally appointed to take up a vital

leadership role over Israel's national security and strategic intelligence coordination apparatus.

- **Significance:** This deployment comes amidst a highly volatile security and financial climate in the region, focusing on cross-border logistics disruption management and security stabilization.

Q4. Global supply chains experienced severe bottlenecks as a critical shortage hit the international Helium market, resulting in a 35–50% price spike. India sources nearly 50% of its Helium imports from which single country?

- A) United States
- B) Qatar
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) Australia

Correct Answer: B) Qatar

Detailed Explanation:

- **The Crisis:** Escalating maritime and territorial tensions in West Asia disrupted shipping lanes, triggering a severe Helium supply crisis.
- **India's Vulnerability:** India has negligible domestic production and is completely import-dependent for Helium. **Qatar supplies nearly 50% of India's imports** (and holds roughly 34% of global export shares). Helium is an inert, non-toxic gas essential for cooling superconducting magnets in MRI machines, high-tech semiconductor manufacturing, and fiber optics.

Part 2: National News & Polity

Q5. The Union Ministry of Education has officially granted the status of "Deemed to be University" under a distinct special category to which premier national educational institution?

- A) National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA)
- B) Association of Indian Universities (AIU)
- C) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- D) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)

Correct Answer: C) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Exercising powers under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956, the Central Government, on the advice of the UGC, declared **NCERT a Deemed to be University**.
- **Impact:** This transformative upgrade permits NCERT to design its own multi-disciplinary higher education courses, start global PhD programs, set up dedicated teacher-training lines, and directly confer degrees, aligning completely with the core integration pillars of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

Q6. The Rajasthan High Court recently issued a landmark contempt notice to the State Election Commission (SEC) over unjustifiable delays in local governance polls. Which Article of the Indian Constitution establishes the SEC for Panchayats?

- A) Article 243I
- B) Article 243K
- C) Article 243ZA
- D) Article 243D

Correct Answer: B) Article 243K

Detailed Explanation:

- **Polity Angle:** The Rajasthan High Court acted against the SEC for delaying mandatory Panchayat and Urban Local Body polls.
- **Constitutional Provision:** **Article 243K** governs the constitution of the State Election Commission for Panchayats (superintendence, direction, and control of electoral rolls). **Article 243ZA** handles elections for Municipalities. The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor, but can only be removed in the same manner and on like grounds as a Judge of a High Court.

Q7. In a major judgment, the Madras High Court reiterated that the Governor's pardoning/remission power is strictly bound by the aid and advice of the State Council of Ministers. Which Article defines the Governor's pardoning power?

- A) Article 72
- B) Article 143
- C) Article 161
- D) Article 213

Correct Answer: C) Article 161

Detailed Explanation:

- **Legal Grounding:** The High Court relied heavily on landmark Supreme Court rulings like *Shamsher Singh (1974)*, *Maru Ram (1980)*, and *A.G. Perarivalan (2022)* to clarify that under **Article 161**, the Governor cannot exercise executive clemency independently. The Governor must act strictly in accordance with the collective aid and advice of the Council of Ministers (Article 163). Article 72 covers the pardoning power of the President of India.

Q8. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has developed the

unified 'India SDG Dashboard'. Which apex agency collaborated with MoSPI to launch this platform?

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) World Bank Development Group
- C) United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO)
- D) World Economic Forum (WEF)

Correct Answer: C) United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** MoSPI, in formal partnership with UNRCO, deployed the India Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Dashboard.
- **Utility:** This platform acts as a centralized data repository designed to map, track, and visualize the real-time provincial and national progression of SDG indicators. It is fully cross-referenced with India's localized SDGs-National Indicator Framework (NIF).

Part 3: Economics, Banking & Corporate Finance

Q9. The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) concluded its review meeting in early April 2026. What is the current policy Repo Rate maintained by the central bank?

- A) 6.00%
- B) 6.25%
- C) 6.50%
- D) 6.75%

Correct Answer: C) 6.50%

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee decided to maintain a steady

approach to manage inflationary expectations, keeping the benchmark **policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50%**.

- **Stance:** The committee retained its stance focused on the "withdrawal of accommodation" to ensure inflation progressively aligns with the medium-term consumer price index (CPI) target of 4%, while continuing to support macroeconomic growth.

Q10. As per the macro-transactional data released on April 2, 2026, India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) achieved a historic milestone by crossing what total transaction value mark?

- A) ₹15 lakh crore
- B) ₹18.41 lakh crore
- C) ₹20.07 lakh crore
- D) ₹24.15 lakh crore

Correct Answer: C) ₹20.07 lakh crore

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Demonstrating the deep penetration of digital retail banking in India, **UPI transactions scaled an all-time peak of ₹20.07 lakh crore** in total processed value. This represents a massive double-digit year-on-year surge, driven heavily by peer-to-merchant (P2M) transactional micro-volumes.

Q11. Which asset management firm received formal statutory clearance from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) to operate as a registered pension fund manager under the National Pension System (NPS)?

- A) Zerodha Fund House
- B) PPFAS Asset Management Company

- C) Groww Mutual Fund
- D) Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund

Correct Answer: B) PPFAS Asset Management Company

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** **PPFAS AMC** (Parag Parikh Financial Advisory Services) received official clearance from the apex regulator, **PFRDA**, allowing it to establish a dedicated subsidiary to manage retirement pools under the **National Pension System (NPS)**. This expansion widens choices for retail pension subscribers looking for long-term equity and debt allocations.

Q12. To curb rampant cyber-fraud, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) revised its compliance timeline, requiring all Over-The-Top (OTT) communication apps to execute mandatory SIM-binding by which extended date?

- A) 30 June 2026
- B) 30 September 2026
- C) 31 December 2026
- D) 31 March 2027

Correct Answer: C) 31 December 2026

Detailed Explanation:

- **Policy Update:** The DoT extended the final deadline for OTT platforms to complete **Subscriber Identity Module (SIM)-binding to 31 December 2026**.
- **The Change:** Crucially, the DoT discarded an earlier rule that automatically logged out users after six hours, moving instead to a **risk-based security mechanism**. Under this updated approach, sessions are only terminated when fraud patterns or

suspicious multi-device mirroring are flagged by automated systems.

Q13. The Government of India announced a major trade policy update by approving a full customs duty exemption on imports of which specific industrial feedstock?

- A) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
- B) Select Petrochemical Crudes and Inputs
- C) Lithium-Ion Cell Components
- D) Coking Coal Grates

Correct Answer: B) Select Petrochemical Crudes and Inputs

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** To support domestic downstream manufacturing and boost export competitiveness across textile, plastic, and chemical manufacturing pipelines, the government implemented a **100% customs duty waiver on critical petrochemical feedstocks**. This structural intervention insulates domestic businesses from pricing volatility in international supply chains.

Part 4: Defence & Security News

Q14. India's defense sector recorded its highest-ever performance milestone with defense exports skyrocketing to a historic high of _____ in the financial year 2025-26.

- A) ₹23,622 crore
- B) ₹32,110 crore
- C) ₹38,424 crore
- D) ₹45,000 crore

Correct Answer: C) ₹38,424 crore

Detailed Explanation:

- **The Data:** Moving closer to defense self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat), **India's defense exports hit a record ₹38,424 crore.**
- **Growth:** This represents an extraordinary **62.66% growth** compared to the previous fiscal year's baseline of ₹23,622 crore. India now exports military hardware—including BrahMos missiles, advanced light helicopters, artillery systems, and digital surveillance gear—to more than 80 countries.

Q15. The 5th meeting of the Joint Defence Working Group (JDWG) between India and which African nation was held from April 1-2, 2026, to scale up maritime domain awareness?

- A) Kenya
- B) South Africa
- C) Mozambique
- D) Madagascar

Correct Answer: C) Mozambique

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The **5th India-Mozambique Joint Defence Working Group meeting** concluded in Maputo.
- **Outcomes:** The strategic talks focused on expanding structured military exchanges, enhancing deep-sea joint training patrols, and improving **maritime domain awareness (MDA)** across the Western Indian Ocean to deter piracy and illegal maritime trafficking.

Q16. Which frontline naval combat vessel, the first of the eight indigenously constructed Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), was successfully handed over by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)?

- A) INS Mahe
- B) INS Malwan

C) INS Mangrol

D) INS Mulki

Correct Answer: B) INS Malwan

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** In a boost to coastal defense capabilities, the protocol of delivery and handover for **INS Malwan** was finalized at CSL, Kochi. INS Malwan is designed specifically for subsurface surveillance in coastal waters, anti-submarine warfare operations, and coordinated minelaying missions.

Q17. The Indian Parliament recently passed the 'Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026'. What is a primary objective of this piece of legislation?

- A) Merging all CAPFs under the operational control of the Indian Army.
- B) Establishing a unified administrative and promotions cadre across all seven CAPF wings.
- C) Replacing the civilian leadership of CAPFs exclusively with IPS officers.
- D) Converting CAPFs into a completely commercial security-leasing corporation.

Correct Answer: B) Establishing a unified administrative and promotions cadre across all seven CAPF wings.

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Parliament cleared the **CAPF (General Administration) Bill, 2026** to resolve long-standing administrative and career-progression issues. The legislation standardizes recruitment, coordinates inter-force postings, and streamlines promotions across all seven CAPF branches (including BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, NSG, and Assam Rifles) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Part 5: Environment, Science & Technology

Q18. The global conservation summit 'CMS COP15' concluded with key international environmental decisions. Which country officially assumed the presidency of CMS for the next three years?

- A) Germany
- B) India
- C) Brazil
- D) South Africa

Correct Answer: C) Brazil

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The 15th Conference of the Parties to the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP15)** concluded in Campo Grande, Brazil.
- **Presidency:** **Brazil** officially took over the **CMS Presidency** for the next three years to oversee the implementation of the newly adopted wildlife protections. Additionally, **Germany** was confirmed as the host for **CMS COP16** in 2029, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the Bonn Convention (1979).

Q19. According to the alarming "State of the World's Migratory Species Report 2026" released at CMS COP15, what percentage of the planet's migratory species populations are currently in decline?

- A) 15%
- B) 24%
- C) 49%
- D) 65%

Correct Answer: C) 49%

Detailed Explanation:

- **Findings:** The report delivered sobering insights into global biodiversity health, revealing that **nearly 49% of monitored migratory species populations are declining**. Furthermore, roughly **24% are currently facing an active risk of total extinction** due to human encroachment, habitat fragmentation, and climate disruptions along global migration corridors.

Q20. India's first-ever completely 'Water Neutral' Railway Depot has been developed and put into operation. What is the name and location of this depot?

- A) Shakurbasti Depot, Delhi
- B) Kankaria Coaching Depot, Ahmedabad
- C) Wadi Bunder Depot, Mumbai
- D) Basin Bridge Depot, Chennai

Correct Answer: B) Kankaria Coaching Depot, Ahmedabad

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Under the Ahmedabad division of the Western Railway Zone, the **Kankaria Coaching Depot** became India's first 'Water Neutral' railway facility.
- **The Technology:** The depot saves an estimated 1.60 lakh liters of water daily by using an innovative biological wastewater treatment process called **Phytoremediation**. This method leverages specialized plants to naturally filter and clean water, allowing it to be recycled for coach washing.

Q21. India's network of protected wetlands expanded significantly with the addition of its 99th Ramsar Site, the 'Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary'. In which state is this site located?

- A) Bihar
- B) Madhya Pradesh

- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Punjab

Correct Answer: C) Uttar Pradesh

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The **Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary**, located in the **Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh**, was designated as India's 99th Ramsar Site under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. This addition increases the total number of Ramsar sites within Uttar Pradesh to **12**, strengthening bird conservation along the Central Asian Flyway.

Part 6: Appointments & Awards

Q22. Who has been appointed as the first-ever woman Municipal Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) in its historic governance timeline?

- A) Smita Sabharwal
- B) Ashwini Bhide
- C) Durga Shakti Nagpal
- D) Hari Chandana Dasari

Correct Answer: B) Ashwini Bhide

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Senior IAS officer **Ashwini Bhide** made history by becoming the first woman to be appointed as the **Municipal Commissioner of the BMC**. Bhide, recognized for her administrative expertise in executing large-scale infrastructure projects like the Mumbai Metro Line 3, will lead Asia's richest municipal corporation with a focus on urban governance reforms.

Q23. President Droupadi Murmu approved the presentation of the highly prestigious

'President's Police Colours' award to which state's police force?

- A) Odisha Police
- B) Kerala Police
- C) Maharashtra Police
- D) Assam Police

Correct Answer: A) Odisha Police

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The Ministry of Home Affairs announced that President Droupadi Murmu approved the **'President's Police Colours'** award for the Odisha Police in recognition of their high standards of professionalism, long-standing service, and successful efforts in countering Left-Wing Extremism (LWE). This highly coveted honor is awarded to a state police force only once in its operational history.

Q24. In early April 2026, Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth was appointed to which high-level military operational leadership post?

- A) Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff (CISC)
- B) Vice Chief of the Indian Army
- C) GOC-in-C, Western Command
- D) Director General of Military Operations (DGMO)

Correct Answer: B) Vice Chief of the Indian Army

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** In high-level defense appointments, Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth took charge as the Vice Chief of the Indian Army.
- **Other Senior Shifts:** Lt Gen Pushpendra Pal Singh assumed command as the GOC-in-C, Western Command (Chandimandir), while

Lt Gen V.M.B. Krishnan took over as the GOC-in-C, Eastern Command at Fort William, Kolkata.

Q25. Who created sports history by becoming the first-ever Indian woman to successfully cycle all the way to the Mount Everest Base Camp?

- A) Arunima Sinha
- B) Divya Singh
- C) Santosh Yadav
- D) Premlata Agrawal

Correct Answer: B) Divya Singh

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Mountaineer and endurance athlete **Divya Singh** became the first Indian woman to cycle to the Mount Everest Base Camp in Nepal. Navigating rugged terrain, high altitudes, and extreme weather conditions, her achievement highlights the growing participation of Indian women in international extreme adventure sports.

Part 7: Schemes, Initiatives & Festivals

Q26. The Delhi Government officially launched the 'Lakhpati Btiya Yojana' to ensure financial and educational security for girls. Which legacy welfare scheme does this initiative replace?

- A) Sukanya Samridhi Yojana
- B) Ladli Scheme
- C) Kishori Shakti Yojana
- D) Bhagirathi Suraksha Plan

Correct Answer: B) Ladli Scheme

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The Delhi Government replaced its legacy Ladli Scheme with the newly restructured **Lakshpati Bitiya Yojana**.
- **Benefits:** The updated welfare framework provides structured financial aid from birth through higher education, accumulating up to **₹1.20 lakh (including interest yields)** for eligible girl children. The initiative aims to lower school dropout rates and prevent early child marriages.

Q27. The state cabinet of Meghalaya approved the landmark 'Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026'. Which two indigenous languages have been granted full official status alongside English under this ordinance?

- A) Khasi and Jaintia
- B) Garo and Hajong
- C) Khasi and Garo
- D) Koch and Biata

Correct Answer: C) Khasi and Garo

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The Meghalaya Cabinet passed the **Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026**, repealing the older State Language Act of 2005.
- **Legal Shift:** This historical update elevates **Khasi and Garo to full official state languages** alongside English, moving them up from their previous status as "associate" languages. The state government exercised its constitutional powers under **Article 345** to formalize these indigenous languages for administrative and legal use.

Q28. A massive administrative expansion was approved for the Union Territory of Ladakh, creating five new districts. Which of the following is NOT among the newly created districts?

- A) Zaskar
- B) Nubra
- C) Drass
- D) Hanle

Correct Answer: D) Hanle

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The Ministry of Home Affairs approved the **creation of five new districts in Ladakh: Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass**.
- **Impact:** This structural reorganization increases the total number of districts in the UT from two (Leh and Kargil) to **seven**. The expansion aims to improve administrative access, streamline decentralized funding, and support faster development across Ladakh's rugged terrain.

Part 8: Days, Anniversaries & Culture

Q29. On April 3rd, the nation commemorates the death anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who passed away in 1680 at Fort Raigad. He was formally crowned as Chhatrapati in which historical year?

- A) 1656
- B) 1665
- C) 1674
- D) 1682

Correct Answer: C) 1674

Detailed Explanation:

- **Historical Context:** April 3 marks the death anniversary of the great Maratha ruler **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** (who passed away on April 3, 1680).



- **Key Historical Fact:** He was formally crowned as the *Chhatrapati* (Supreme Sovereign) of his independent Maratha realm on **6 June 1674** at Raigad Fort, a milestone that marked the official founding of the Maratha Empire.

Q30. The completion of four years of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) was marked across trade circles. On which exact date did ECTA initially enter into force?

- A) 2 April 2022
- B) 29 December 2022
- C) 1 January 2023
- D) 15 August 2023

Correct Answer: B) 29 December 2022

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Trade data highlighting a notable 8% growth in bilateral exports marked the multi-year milestone of the **India-Australia ECTA**.
- **Key Fact:** While negotiations wrapped up earlier in the year, **ECTA officially entered into force on 29 December 2022**. The agreement provides zero-duty market access for 100% of tariff lines on Indian goods entering Australia, boosting sectors like textiles, engineering products, pharmaceuticals, and gemstones.

Summary Table for Quick Revision

| Section | Core Focus | Key Highlight / Takeaway |
|---------------|-------------------------|--|
| International | Space & Energy Security | NASA's Artemis II crewed parameters finalized; Helium supply crisis hits |

| Section | Core Focus | Key Highlight / Takeaway |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| | | imports from Qatar. |
| National & Polity | Institutional Upgrades | NCERT granted "Deemed University" status; MoSPI rolls out unified India SDG Dashboard. |
| Banking & Economy | Monetary & Digital Growth | RBI keeps Repo Rate steady at 6.50%; monthly UPI volumes cross a record ₹20.07 lakh crore. |
| Defence & Security | Export Records & Coastline | India's defense exports hit an all-time high of ₹38,424 crore; INS Malwan handed over. |
| Environment & Tech | Wildlife & Neutrality | CMS COP15 reveals 49% migratory decline; Kankaria becomes India's first water-neutral rail depot. |
| Appointments & State | Leadership & Geography | Ashwini Bhide named first woman BMC head; Ladakh territory expanded to seven districts. |