

1. National News

Samudra Manthan Mission: ₹84,084-Crore Push for Deep-Sea Hydrocarbon Exploration

- **Context:** The Government of India launched the **Samudra Manthan Mission** with a dedicated outlay of ₹84,084 crore to accelerate deep-sea oil and gas exploration in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- **Detailed Explanation:**
 - **Acreage Unlocked:** The government has opened nearly 99% of offshore areas previously classified as "No-Go" zones due to defense or maritime restrictions, freeing over 1 million sq. km of India's EEZ for commercial exploration.
 - **Key Target Basins:** Ultra-deepwater operations led by ONGC and Oil India target water depths down to 5,000 meters in the **Andaman-Nicobar Basin** (estimated base of 371 MMTOE), **Krishna-Godavari (KG)**, and **Cauvery Basins**.
 - **Economic Impact:** Aims to boost domestic oil and gas output from 62 MMTOE to 80 MMTOE annually. Commercial success is projected to reduce crude oil import expenditure by nearly ₹1 lakh crore (\$11-12 billion) per year.
 - **Exam Relevance:** UPSC GS Paper-3 (Energy & Economy) | SSC/Banking General Awareness.

Practice Question (UPSC / Banking):

Q. Which offshore region in India was recently targeted for deep-sea hydrocarbon exploration under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) and OALP rounds to tap an estimated 371 MMTOE resource base?

- A) Gulf of Kutch
- B) Andaman-Nicobar Basin

C) Cambay Basin

D) Palk Strait

Answer: B) Andaman-Nicobar Basin

Explanation: The Andaman-Nicobar frontier deepwater basin holds an estimated 371 MMTOE hydrocarbon resource base and is a primary target under the Samudra Manthan Mission.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls

- **Context:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has initiated the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** across multiple states to ensure clean, accurate, and duplicate-free voter rolls.
- **Detailed Explanation:**
 - **Objective:** To remove dead, shifted, and duplicate voters using field verification combined with GIS mapping and demographic analysis.
 - **Mechanism:** Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) conduct door-to-door verification, cross-referencing death registries and Aadhaar-linked databases under the Election Laws (Amendment) Framework.
 - **Constitutional Provision:** **Article 324** grants the ECI powers of superintendence, direction, and control of electoral rolls.

Practice Question (SSC / Railway):

Q. Under which Article of the Constitution of India is the Election Commission vested with the power of superintendence and preparation of electoral rolls?

- A) Article 312
- B) Article 324
- C) Article 352
- D) Article 280

Answer: B) Article 324

Explanation: Article 324 vests the superintendence, direction, and control of the preparation of electoral rolls in the Election Commission of India.

2. International News & Geopolitics

German Unity Day (Tag der Deutschen Einheit) & NATO Enclave Dynamics

- **Context:** October 3 marks **German Unity Day**, commemorating the formal reunification of East and West Germany in 1990.
- **Detailed Explanation:**
 - **Historical Context:** Following the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, the Unification Treaty (Einigungsvertrag) came into force on October 3, 1990, integrating the German Democratic Republic (GDR) into the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG).
 - **Modern Geopolitical Context:** Strategic discussions surrounding European defense highlight **Kaliningrad**, Russia's heavily fortified exclave sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania (NATO members), underscoring ongoing NATO-Russia security developments in East-Central Europe.

Practice Question (SSC / UPSC): Q. The Russian strategic exclave of Kaliningrad, frequently mentioned in NATO-Russia diplomatic relations, is geographically located on which sea?

- A) Black Sea
- B) Baltic Sea
- C) Caspian Sea
- D) North Sea

Answer: B) Baltic Sea

Explanation: Kaliningrad is a Russian exclave bordered by Poland and Lithuania on the coast of the Baltic Sea.

3. Economics & Banking

RoDTEP Scheme (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products)

- **Context:** The Ministry of Commerce & Industry reaffirmed the role of the **RoDTEP Scheme** in strengthening export competitiveness.
- **Detailed Explanation:**
 - **Nodal Authorities:** Notified by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and implemented by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) under the Ministry of Finance.
 - **WTO Compliance:** Replaced the legacy Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS). Unlike MEIS, RoDTEP remits un-refunded central, state, and local taxes/duties on exported goods, making it strictly compliant with WTO rules prohibiting export subsidies.
 - **Key Feature:** Issued as transferable electronic scrips (e-scrips) maintained in a ledger by CBIC.
 - **Exam Relevance:** Banking / RBI Grade B / UPSC GS Paper-3.

Exporter Manufactures Goods → Pays Embedded Taxes (Mandi Tax, Electricity Duty, Stamp Duty)



RoDTEP Rebate Issued via e-Scrips → CBIC Electronic Ledger → Duty Refund Made WTO-Compliant

Practice Question (Banking / RBI Grade B): Q. Which body is responsible for the actual administrative implementation and issuing of e-scrips under the RoDTEP Scheme?

- A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
- C) NITI Aayog
- D) Enforcement Directorate (ED)

Answer: B) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)

Explanation: DGFT notifies the scheme parameters, while CBIC under the Department of Revenue administers and implements the rebate process via electronic ledgers.

4. Science, Defense & Space Technology

TAPAS-1: India's First Private Thermal Imaging Payload Launched

- **Context:** Space-tech startup Satleo Labs successfully launched TAPAS-1, India's first commercial private thermal-imaging payload.
- **Detailed Explanation:**
 - **Launch Vehicle:** Deployed aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket via the Transporter-18 rideshare mission.
 - **Technology & Application:** Provides high-resolution infrared thermal imaging for agricultural health monitoring, urban heat island mapping, border surveillance, and industrial leakage tracking.
 - **Significance:** Highlights the rapid expansion of India's private commercial space ecosystem following IN-SPACe regulatory clearances.

Practice Question (SSC / Railways): Q. TAPAS-1, recently launched into orbit aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, represents India's first commercial private:

- A) Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite
- B) Thermal-imaging payload
- C) Quantum communication satellite
- D) Navigation satellite

Answer: B) Thermal-imaging payload

Explanation: TAPAS-1 is India's first private commercial thermal-imaging payload developed by Satleo Labs.

5. Environment & Wildlife News

First Tigress Translocated to Buxa Tiger Reserve

- **Context:** Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change along with West Bengal authorities released the first translocated tigress into the Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR) during Wildlife Week 2026.
- **Detailed Explanation:**
 - **Source Reserve:** The tigress was translocated from Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve to revive the declining big-cat population in North Bengal.
 - **Buxa Tiger Reserve Overview:** Located in Alipurduar district, West Bengal, bordering Bhutan and Assam. It serves as an important ecological corridor for transboundary Asian elephants and tigers.

Exam Relevance: UPSC GS Paper-3 (Environment & Biodiversity) | SSC/State PSCs.

Feature	Valmiki Tiger Reserve (Source)	Buxa Tiger Reserve (Destination)
Location	West Champaran, Bihar	Alipurduar, West Bengal
Landscape	Terai Arc Landscape (Gandak River basin)	Sub-Himalayan Dooars Belt (Borders Bhutan)
Objective	Surplus tiger population management	Species reintroduction & ecosystem restoration

6. Govt Schemes & MoUs

Haryana IoT-Based Smart Waste Management System

- Context: The Government of Haryana introduced an IoT-based waste management initiative targeting high-footfall pilgrimage and cultural sites.
- Detailed Explanation:
 - Technology: Uses smart sensors on dustbins to transmit real-time fill-level data to centralized control rooms, optimizing route collection for municipal vehicles.
 - Focus Locations: Pilgrimage hubs like Kurukshetra, sacred mela venues, and high-density public places.
 - National Alignment: Aligns with Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban 2.0) smart sanitation goals.

Exam Relevance: UPSC GS Paper-2 / State PSCs.

7. Sports News

Historic India vs. Brazil Senior Football Clash

- Context: India hosted Brazil in a landmark senior men's international football match at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium) in Kolkata on October 3, 2026.
- Detailed Explanation:
 - Historical Milestone: First senior men's international football encounter between India and Brazil.
 - Context: Head coach Khalid Jamil led the Indian squad (ranked #138) against five-time World Champions Brazil (ranked #5 under coach Carlo Ancelotti).
 - Venue Significance: Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium remains one of Asia's largest football venues.
 - Asian Games 2026 Update: On October 3, India competed in the Asian Games men's cricket gold medal match against Pakistan at Korogi Sports Park (Nagoya) and fought for LA 2028 Olympic qualification quotas in hockey and archery.

Practice Question (SSC / Bank): Q. Which stadium hosted the historic October 3, 2026 senior men's international football match between India and Brazil?

- A) Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai
- B) Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium), Kolkata
- C) Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar
- D) Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi

Answer: B) Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium), Kolkata

8. Important Days & Anniversaries (03 October)

Observances on 03 October

- German Unity Day:** Official national holiday celebrating German reunification in 1990.
- World Nature Day:** Dedicated to raising awareness about protecting natural habitats, flora, and fauna.
- World Temperance Day:** Promotes awareness regarding the health and social impacts of alcohol consumption.

Days Of The Year

- National Wildlife Week in India (Oct 2 – Oct 8):** Annual campaign to promote wildlife conservation across all states.

Birth & Historical Anniversaries

- Swami Ramanand Tirth (Birth: 3 Oct 1903):** Renowned freedom fighter, educator, and key leader of the **Hyderabad Liberation Movement** (Operation Polo context).
- Laxminarayan Sahu (Birth: 3 Oct 1890):** Prominent Odia litterateur, journalist, and member of the **Servants of India Society**.
- Establishment of Republican Party of India (3 Oct 1957):** Political organization formed under the ideological guidance of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Practice Question (History / UPSC Prelims): Q. Swami Ramanand Tirth, born on October 3, 1903, played a pivotal role as the principal leader in which historical freedom struggle?

- Bardoli Satyagraha
- Hyderabad State Freedom Movement
- Tebhaga Movement
- Royal Indian Navy Mutiny

Answer: B) Hyderabad State Freedom Movement

Explanation: Swami Ramanand Tirth led the Hyderabad State Congress, fighting against Nizam rule for the integration of Hyderabad into the Indian Union.

Daily Revision Summary Table

Daily Revision Summary Table

Category	Key Headline	Nodal Body / Organization	Key Highlight for Exams
National / Energy	Samudra Manthan Mission	Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas	₹84,084 Cr outlay; opens 99% EEZ No-Go zones
Elections / Governance	Special Intensive Revision (SIR)	Election Commission of India	Elector al roll purging under Art. 324
Economics	RoDTEP Scheme	DGFT & CBIC	WTO-compliant indirect tax refund via e-scripts
Space Tech	TAPAS-1 Mission	Satleo Labs & SpaceX	India's 1st commercial



Category	Key Headline	Nodal Body / Organization	Key Highlight for Exams
			private thermal payload
Environment	Tigress Translocation	Ministry of MoEFCC / W.B. Govt	Valmiki TR (Bihar) to Buxa TR (West Bengal)
Ports / Cleanliness	Plastic-Free Terminal	Mumbai Port Authority	Jawahar Dweep Marine Terminal declared plastic-free
Sports	India vs Brazil Friendly	AIFF / FIFA	Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata

(D) Muara Naval Base, Brunei

Correct Answer: (B) Subic Bay, Philippines

Detailed Explanation: The 2nd edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) commenced at Subic Bay in Zambales Province, Philippines. Conducted under the overarching theme **“Anchored in Trust, United at Sea,”** the joint exercise saw active participation from the Indian Navy (IN) and maritime assets from ASEAN member countries. The exercise aims to boost operational interoperability, strengthen maritime domain awareness, and foster peaceful sea lanes across the Indo-Pacific region.

Question 2 In September 2026, Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri made history by becoming the first female Prime Minister of which nation?

- (A) Tunisia
- (B) Morocco
- (C) Algeria
- (D) Egypt

• **Correct Answer: (B) Morocco**

• **Detailed Explanation:** King Mohammed VI of Morocco appointed **Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri** as the first female Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco. Previously serving as the Mayor of Marrakech and Minister of National Territory Planning, Land Planning, Housing and City Policy, her appointment marks a historic landmark in North African and Middle Eastern political leadership.

Question 3 When is the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons annually observed across the globe?

- (A) 21 September
- (B) 24 September
- (C) 26 September

I. International News

Question 1 The 2nd edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) was conducted at which of the following naval bases?

- (A) Changi Naval Base, Singapore
- (B) Subic Bay, Philippines
- (C) Sattahip Naval Base, Thailand

(D) 30 September

- **Correct Answer: (C) 26 September**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The United Nations observes the **International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons** on **26 September** every year. Established by UN General Assembly Resolution 68/32 in 2013 and first observed in 2014, the day provides a global platform to re-affirm international commitment to global nuclear disarmament and highlight the humanitarian consequences of atomic weapons.

II. National News

Question 4 According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the 2026 Southwest Monsoon season concluded with what overall rainfall deficit compared to the Long Period Average (LPA)?

- (A) 5% Deficit
(B) 9% Deficit
(C) 13% Deficit
(D) 18% Deficit

- **Correct Answer: (C) 13% Deficit**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) confirmed that the 2026 Southwest Monsoon season officially ended with cumulative rainfall recorded at **87% of the Long Period Average (LPA)**, representing a **13% deficit**. India received approximately **759.4 mm** of rain against the normal LPA benchmark of **868.6 mm**, making it one of the largest seasonal rainfall shortfalls recorded over the last decade.

Question 5 The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the implementation of

the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) project for which city police force at an estimated cost of ₹1,789.52 crore?

- (A) Mumbai Police
(B) Delhi Police
(C) Bengaluru City Police
(D) Kolkata Police

- **Correct Answer: (B) Delhi Police**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The CCEA, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sanctioned the implementation of the advanced **Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS)** for the **Delhi Police** with an outlay of **₹1,789.52 crore**. The ITMS leverages AI-driven traffic signals, dynamic speed management, and automated violation detection to reduce congestion, curb road accidents, and cut carbon emissions in the National Capital Region.

Question 6 As per the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2024-25 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), how many total operating factories were recorded in India's formal manufacturing sector?

- (A) 1.8 Lakh
(B) 2.2 Lakh
(C) 2.7 Lakh
(D) 3.5 Lakh

- **Correct Answer: (C) 2.7 Lakh**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2024-25, released by MoSPI, reported that the total number of operational factories in India reached **2.7 lakh**, engaging a workforce of over **1.67 crore persons**. The survey highlights steady capital formation, increased



industrial output, and robust growth in gross value added (GVA) led by automotive, chemical, and basic metals industries.

III. Economics & Banking

Question 7 For the third quarter of the Financial Year 2026-27 (October 1 to December 31, 2026), what decision was taken by the Department of Economic Affairs regarding Small Savings Schemes (SSS) interest rates?

- (A) Increased by 20 basis points across all schemes
- (B) Reduced by 15 basis points on Sukanya Samriddhi Account
- (C) Maintained status quo (Unchanged)
- (D) Increased interest rates only for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme

- **Correct Answer: (C) Maintained status quo (Unchanged)**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Department of Economic Affairs under the Ministry of Finance announced that interest rates for **Small Savings Schemes (SSS)** for **Q3 FY2026-27** (1 October 2026 – 31 December 2026) will remain **unchanged** from the previous quarter. Key rates remain intact: Public Provident Fund (PPF) at 7.1%, Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) at 8.2%, Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme (SSAS) at 8.2%, and National Savings Certificate (NSC) at 7.7%.

Question 8 Sustainable Maritime Finance Company (SMFCL) launched India's first 'Blue Bond' targeting a principal raise of ₹600 crore. What is the primary purpose of Blue Bonds?

- (A) Financing deep-sea diamond mining projects

(B) Funding ocean economy, marine sustainability, green ports, and coastal infrastructure

(C) Subsidizing offshore natural gas drilling licenses

(D) Refinancing commercial airline carrier debt

- **Correct Answer: (B) Funding ocean economy, marine sustainability, green ports, and coastal infrastructure**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Blue Bonds are specialized debt instruments designed specifically to raise capital for projects that support **marine conservation, sustainable shipping, greenfield port development, and coastal ecosystem restoration**. SMFCL's 10-year ₹600 crore blue bond issue (with a ₹500 crore green-shoe option) represents a major milestone for sustainable blue finance in India.

Question 9 Who among the following was approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in October 2026 to take over as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Kotak Mahindra Bank?

- (A) Ashok Vaswani
- (B) Anup Kumar Saha
- (C) Mahesh Muralidhar Pai
- (D) K. V. Kamath

- **Correct Answer: (B) Anup Kumar Saha**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The RBI formally approved the appointment of **Anup Kumar Saha** as the new MD & CEO of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)**. Simultaneously, **Mahesh Muralidhar Pai** assumed the leadership role of MD & CEO at **South Indian Bank** effective October 1, 2026.

IV. Sports

Question 10 Indian-origin chess prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan hit international headlines at the 46th Chess Olympiad by achieving which extraordinary milestone?

- (A) Youngest player to defeat a World Champion
- (B) Youngest Woman Grandmaster (WGM) at age 11
- (C) First female grandmaster from England
- (D) Winner of the FIDE World Cup 2026

- **Correct Answer: (B) Youngest Woman Grandmaster (WGM) at age 11**
- **Detailed Explanation:** At just 11 years old, Bodhana Sivanandan became the youngest Woman Grandmaster (WGM) in chess history after securing her third and final WGM norm at the 46th Chess Olympiad held in Samarkand. Representing England, her achievement highlights the growing influx of prodigal talent in global chess.

Question 11 Which city was officially chosen in September 2026 as the host city for the 5th edition of the flagship 'India Energy Week (IEW) 2027'?

- (A) Bengaluru
- (B) Goa
- (C) Kolkata
- (D) Ahmedabad

- **Correct Answer: (C) Kolkata**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, officially announced **Kolkata, West Bengal** as the official host city for **India Energy Week (IEW) 2027**. The annual international energy exhibition

and conference showcases India's energy transition, hydrogen initiatives, bio-fuel alliances, and hydrocarbon investment potential.

Question 12 In international hockey, India defeated South Korea 2-0 in a high-stakes match to reach the women's hockey final. Who were the goal scorers for India?

- (A) Vandana Katariya and Rani Rampal
- (B) Ishika Chaudhary and Salima Tete
- (C) Navneet Kaur and Deep Grace Ekka
- (D) Gurjit Kaur and Savita Punia

- **Correct Answer: (B) Ishika Chaudhary and Salima Tete**
- **Detailed Explanation:** India's women's hockey team put on a defensive masterclass to outclass South Korea 2-0. Goals scored by defender **Ishika Chaudhary** and midfielder **Salima Tete** paved the way for India to secure a berth in the gold medal match.

V. Appointments

Question 13 Who assumed charge as the 47th Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) on September 1, 2026?

- (A) Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja
- (B) Surgeon Vice Admiral Manish Honwad
- (C) Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma
- (D) Air Marshal Vivek Hande

- **Correct Answer: (A) Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja, AVSM, VSM, took over as the 47th Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS). In this supreme medical office, he oversees comprehensive tri-service healthcare

and medical policy for the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Question 14 Who was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court in September 2026?

- (A) Justice Sanjay Kumar Agrawal
- (B) Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi
- (C) Justice Ravindra V. Ghuge
- (D) Justice Valluri Kameswar Rao

- **Correct Answer:** (B) Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi
- **Detailed Explanation:** Following recommendations from the Supreme Court Collegium, Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. Concurrent high court appointments included Justice Sanjay Kumar Agrawal (Rajasthan HC), Justice Ravindra V. Ghuge (Calcutta HC), and Justice Valluri Kameswar Rao (Patna HC).

Question 15 Who was appointed as the Chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026?

- (A) Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
- (B) Raghav Chadha
- (C) Prof. Medha Kulkarni
- (D) Shashi Shekhar Vempati

- **Correct Answer:** (A) Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
- **Detailed Explanation:** Senior Parliamentarian Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal was named Chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) tasked with scrutinizing the proposed amendments in the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) Amendment Bill, 2026.

VI. Awards & Honors

Question 16 The 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' and national swachhata honors announced around Gandhi Jayanti heavily evaluate organizations based on which primary parameter?

- (A) Total foreign direct investment attracted
- (B) Contribution towards grassroots sports promotion, environmental cleanliness, and sustainability
- (C) Annual commercial profit margins
- (D) Total defense exports generated

- **Correct Answer:** (B) Contribution towards grassroots sports promotion, environmental cleanliness, and sustainability
- **Detailed Explanation:** National honors awarded around Gandhi Jayanti (October 2) emphasize community action, cleanliness drives under Swachh Bharat Mission, and grassroots community welfare. The Swachhata Puraskar recognizes public and private entities engaging in shramdaan (voluntary labor) and sustainable waste processing.

Question 17 In the field of science and technological innovation, the prestigious 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar' is awarded across four categories: Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva, and Vigyan Team. Which category specifically encourages young scientists under 45 years of age?

- (A) Vigyan Ratna
- (B) Vigyan Shri
- (C) Vigyan Yuva - Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar
- (D) Vigyan Team

- **Correct Answer:** (C) Vigyan Yuva - Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar
- **Detailed Explanation:** Under the unified Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar framework, Vigyan Yuva - Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar recognizes exceptional contributions by young scientists up to the age of 45. Vigyan Ratna honors lifetime achievements, Vigyan Shri honors distinguished contributions, and Vigyan Team honors multi-disciplinary research teams.

- (B) Telangana
- (C) Odisha
- (D) Assam

- **Correct Answer:** (B) Telangana
- **Detailed Explanation:** Bathukamma is a colorful floral festival celebrated by women in Telangana and parts of Andhra Pradesh during the autumn season (September–October). Women stack seasonal flowers (such as Gunugu and Tangedu) in concentric layers representing a temple gopuram, celebrating nature, water bodies, and womanhood.

VII. Books, Authors, Art & Culture

Question 18 A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and which premier cultural institution to digitize, preserve, and promote India's diverse tribal heritage?

- (A) Sahitya Akademi
- (B) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)
- (C) Sangeet Natak Akademi
- (D) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- **Correct Answer:** (B) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) signed a strategic MoU with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in New Delhi. The project focuses on creating a digital repository, documenting oral traditions, preserving indigenous art forms, and conducting empirical research on India's tribal heritage.

Question 19 'Bathukamma', a prominent flower festival celebrated during Navratri and October, is primarily celebrated in which Indian state?

- (A) Kerala

Question 20 The book titled "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World" and its successor "Why Bharat Matters" were authored by which Indian minister and diplomat?

- (A) Hardeep Singh Puri
- (B) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- (C) Piyush Goyal
- (D) Amit Shah

- **Correct Answer:** (B) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- **Detailed Explanation:** Both landmark books on contemporary Indian foreign policy, strategic autonomy, and multipolar diplomacy were written by India's Union Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar. The books are frequently cited in UPSC Civil Services and state public service commission examinations.

VIII. Defense News

Question 21 Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma created defense history in September 2026 by achieving which landmark milestone?

- (A) First female combat fighter pilot in the IAF



(B) First non-medical woman two-star officer in the Indian Armed Forces

(C) First female Commander-in-Chief of Strategic Forces Command

(D) First woman to lead an international naval task force

- **Correct Answer: (B) First non-medical woman two-star officer in the Indian Armed Forces**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma etched her name in military history by becoming the **first non-medical woman officer** in the Indian Defence Services to attain the two-star rank of Air Vice Marshal (or equivalent rank across army/navy).

Question 22 State-owned defense PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a ₹2,491 Crore agreement with SkyPulse Solutions IFSC for which initiative?

- (A) Manufacturing Tejas Mk2 fighter engines
- (B) Helicopter development and aviation supply chain expansion
- (C) Commercial satellite launch vehicle development
- (D) Refurbishing submarine diesel generators

- **Correct Answer: (B) Helicopter development and aviation supply chain expansion**
- **Detailed Explanation:** HAL and SkyPulse Solutions IFSC signed a **₹2,491 crore MoU** centered on advanced helicopter procurement, component maintenance, and expanding rotorcraft supply chain capabilities out of GIFT City, Gujarat.

Question 23 Zuppa Geo Navigation Technologies signed an MoU with Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Corporation

(TNUAVC) to set up indigenous drone training labs at which location?

- (A) IIT Madras Research Park
- (B) Army Regimental Centres
- (C) Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala
- (D) Air Force Academy, Dundigal

- **Correct Answer: (B) Army Regimental Centres**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Zuppa Geo Navigation collaborated with TNUAVC to establish specialized **indigenous drone training labs at Army Regimental Centres**. The partnership builds tactical UAV piloting capabilities, drone maintenance skills, and electronic warfare countermeasures among defense personnel.

IX. Government Schemes & MoUs

Question 24 In September 2026, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) hike for all mandated Rabi crops for the 2027–28 marketing season. What minimum profit margin over the weighted average cost of production was ensured?

- (A) At least 25%
- (B) At least 50%
- (C) At least 75%
- (D) At least 100%

- **Correct Answer: (B) At least 50%**
- **Detailed Explanation:** In line with Swaminathan Commission recommendations, the CCEA approved MSP hikes for Rabi crops 2027–28 guaranteeing a **margin of at least 50%** (ranging up to 106% for wheat and

mustard) over the all-India weighted average cost of production (C_2 formula).

Question 25 The 'Seva First Innovation Challenge (SFIC) 2026' was launched nationally to fulfill which primary objective?

- (A) Funding space technology startups
- (B) Encouraging youth to develop technological solutions for local community problems
- (C) Providing overseas travel grants for post-doctoral researchers
- (D) Standardizing digital payment gateways in rural cooperative banks

- **Correct Answer: (B) Encouraging youth to develop technological solutions for local community problems**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Seva First Innovation Challenge (SFIC) 2026 aims to mobilize young innovators to create scalable, low-cost solutions addressing local governance, waste management, rural healthcare access, and water sanitation challenges.

Question 26 Under which scheme did the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare approve ₹5,547.99 crore for the procurement of oilseeds and pulses at MSP for the Kharif 2026–27 season?

- (A) PM-KISAN
- (B) Price Support Scheme (PSS) under AASHA
- (C) Mission Organic Value Chain Development
- (D) PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

- **Correct Answer: (B) Price Support Scheme (PSS) under AASHA**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan sanctioned ₹5,547.99 crore under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) (a sub-scheme of PM-AASHA) to procure pulses

and oilseeds directly from farmers when market prices fall below statutory MSP levels.

X. Important Days, Anniversaries & Commemorations

Question 27 Gandhi Jayanti (October 2) is observed worldwide as the International Day of Non-Violence following a United Nations General Assembly resolution passed in which year?

- (A) 1998
- (B) 2004
- (C) 2007
- (D) 2014

- **Correct Answer: (C) 2007**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The UN General Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution 61/271 on June 15, 2007, establishing October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence. In India, October 2 is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti, commemorating Mahatma Gandhi's birth in Porbandar, Gujarat in 1869.

Question 28 October 2 marks the birth anniversary of two historic Indian leaders: Mahatma Gandhi and which former Prime Minister of India who gave the famous slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan"?

- (A) Jawahar Lal Nehru
- (B) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- (C) Morarji Desai
- (D) Rajiv Gandhi

- **Correct Answer: (B) Lal Bahadur Shastri**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri was born on October 2, 1904 in Mughalsarai, Uttar

Pradesh (exactly 35 years after Mahatma Gandhi). He led India during the 1965 Indo-Pak war, promoted both the Green Revolution and White Revolution, and gave the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan".

Question 29 World Heart Day is observed globally on September 29 every year. Which organization leads this international campaign?

- (A) World Health Organization (WHO)
- (B) World Heart Federation (WHF)
- (C) Red Cross International
- (D) Médecins Sans Frontières

- **Correct Answer:** (B) World Heart Federation (WHF)
- **Detailed Explanation:** Organized annually by the **World Heart Federation (WHF)** in partnership with WHO on **September 29**, World Heart Day raises public awareness about Cardiovascular Diseases (CVDs), which remain the leading cause of global mortality.

Question 30 World Rabies Day was observed on September 28, 2026. What was the theme for its 20th global observance?

- (A) Rabies: Facts Not Fear
- (B) Stronger Together
- (C) Zero by 30: One Health
- (D) End Rabies Now

- **Correct Answer:** (B) Stronger Together
- **Detailed Explanation:** Marking its **20th global observance** on September 28, 2026, World Rabies Day focused on the theme "**Stronger Together**". It commemorates the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur, the French chemist and microbiologist who developed the first effective rabies vaccine.