

National Important Days, Birth & Death Anniversaries

- **National Teachers' Day (September 5)**
 - **Context & Significance:** Celebrated across India on **September 5** to honor educators and mark the birth anniversary of **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan** (1888–1975), India's first Vice President (1952–1962) and second President (1962–1967). A renowned philosopher and statesman, Dr. Radhakrishnan was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1954. The tradition of observing his birthday as Teachers' Day began in 1962.
 - **National Teachers' Awards 2026:** President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Teachers' Awards on **48 distinguished school teachers** (26 men, 22 women representing 27 states, 7 UTs, and 6 central organizations) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Additionally, 21 higher education faculty members and 13 teachers under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE) were recognized for their innovative contributions to foundational literacy, inclusive education, and digital learning.
- **International Day of Charity (September 5)**
 - **Context:** Established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2012 to commemorate the death anniversary of **Mother Teresa** (September 5, 1997), who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work overcoming poverty and distress through the Missionaries of Charity.

Exam Practice Question Q. Which among the following statements regarding Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan is INCORRECT?

A) He served as the first Vice President of independent India.

B) National Teachers' Day has been observed on his birth anniversary since 1962.

C) He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in the year 1954.

D) He served as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution.

Answer: D) He served as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution.

Explanation: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was an eminent philosopher, scholar, India's first Vice President, and second President.

National News & Polity

- **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) Constituted for FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026**
 - **Detail:** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constituted a **31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** to examine the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Bill, 2026. Senior BJP MP **Sanjay Jaiswal** was appointed as the Chairperson. The panel comprises 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 members from the Rajya Sabha to review regulatory norms governing non-governmental allocations and foreign funding compliance.
- **Punjab Launches 'Pehchaan' Digital Portal for Unclaimed Bodies**
 - **Detail:** Punjab became the first Indian state to launch the '**Pehchaan**' portal, designed to enable online repository matching and digital identification of unidentified and unclaimed bodies maintained in government mortuaries.

Exam Practice Question Q. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026?

- A) Bhartruhari Mahtab
- B) Sanjay Jaiswal
- C) Tejasvi Surya
- D) Harsh Vardhan Shringla

Answer: B) Sanjay Jaiswal

Explanation: Senior Lok Sabha MP Sanjay Jaiswal leads the 31-member JPC (21 Lok Sabha + 10 Rajya Sabha MPs) formed to review the FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026.

International News

- **26th SCO Heads of State Summit Held in Bishkek**
 - **Detail:** The 26th meeting of the Council of Heads of State (CHS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, under the chairmanship of President Sadyr Japarov. Themed "25 Years of the SCO: Together for Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity", the summit marked the silver jubilee of the grouping. Discussions focused on regional counter-terrorism cooperation under RATS, expansion of local currency trade settlements, and digital supply chain integration.

Exam Practice Question Q. Where was the 26th Council of Heads of State (CHS) Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) hosted?

- A) Astana, Kazakhstan
- B) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- C) Tashkent, Uzbekistan

D) Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Answer: B) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Explanation: Kyrgyzstan hosted the 26th SCO CHS summit in Bishkek under the chairmanship of President Sadyr Japarov.

Defense News

Ministry of Defence Releases 'RAKSHA' Global Defence Diplomacy Strategy

- **Detail:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the 'RAKSHA' framework document, establishing a 10-year strategic roadmap for India's defence diplomacy. The framework integrates domestic production under Make in India with foreign military sales, expanding Defence Attaché networks across friendly foreign nations, joint training exercises, and maritime security partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region.

KSSL and Thales Group Partner for Precision Weapon Manufacturing

- **Detail:** Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (KSSL), the defence arm of Bharat Forge, signed a Strategic Alliance Agreement (SAA) with France's Thales Group to manufacture 70-mm unguided and laser-guided rocket systems in India for integration onto rotary platforms like the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-WSI Rudra) and Light Combat Helicopter (LCH Prachand).

Exam Practice Question Q. The 'RAKSHA' strategy document recently released by the Ministry of Defence primarily focuses on which domain?

- A) Cyber Warfare Countermeasures
- B) 10-Year Defence Diplomacy and Military Exports Roadmap
- C) Coastal Security Infrastructure Modernization



D) Deep-Sea Submarines Procurement Framework

Answer: B) 10-Year Defence Diplomacy and Military Exports Roadmap

Explanation: The 'RAKSHA' document outlines India's global defence diplomacy framework for the next decade to bolster strategic ties and defence exports.

Economics & Banking

- **Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) Upgrades India's Sovereign Outlook & Ceiling**
 - **Detail:** Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. (JCR) upgraded India's sovereign creditworthiness assessment and raised the country ceiling to 'A'. Key drivers cited include robust fiscal consolidation, bank balance sheet cleanup, sustained high real GDP growth, and strong foreign exchange reserve buffers protecting against external financial volatility.
- **InsuranceDekho and RenewBuy Complete Strategic Merger**
 - **Detail:** InsuranceDekho completed its merger with RenewBuy, creating India's largest AI-driven insurance distribution network measured by Point of Sale Person (PoSP) insurance premiums.

Exam Practice Question Q. What is the economic significance of an upgraded Sovereign Country Ceiling (such as JCR raising India's ceiling to 'A')?

- A) It automatically lowers domestic retail interest rates.
- B) It allows high-rated domestic firms to secure foreign capital at lower borrowing risk premiums.
- C) It obligates the central bank to decrease mandatory cash reserve ratios.

D) It restricts foreign portfolio investment inflows to manage inflation.

Answer: B) It allows high-rated domestic firms to secure foreign capital at lower borrowing risk premiums.

Explanation: A higher sovereign country ceiling raises the upper limit for domestic corporate credit ratings, reducing international capital borrowing costs for Indian companies.

Government Schemes & MoUs

- **Biotechnology Capital Push: Launch of 'BIO-NIVESH' Platform**
 - **Detail:** Union Minister of State (IC) for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched **BIO-NIVESH**. The platform connects early-stage biotechnology startups with venture capital funds, angel networks, and institutional investors to bridge capital gaps for commercializing bio-economy innovations.
- **GeM & Textiles Committee MoU on Circular Economy Procurement**
 - **Detail:** Government e-Marketplace (GeM) signed an MoU with the Textiles Committee (Ministry of Textiles) to promote sustainable procurement of recycled and upcycled textile products by public institutions.
- **Textile Trade: BTTF Signs MoU with France's Premiere Vision SA**
 - **Detail:** The Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF) signed an MoU with Premiere Vision SA in Paris to integrate Indian textile manufacturers, apparel exporters, and artisans into European fashion supply chains.

Exam Practice Question Q. The 'BIO-NIVESH' initiative launched by the Ministry of Science & Technology serves as a platform for:

- A) Financing rural agricultural storage infrastructure
- B) Connecting biotechnology startups with investors for private capital funding
- C) Standardizing pharmaceutical clinical trials across state hospitals
- D) Providing subsidies for organic fertilizer manufacturers

Answer: B) Connecting biotechnology startups with investors for private capital funding

Explanation: BIO-NIVESH was launched to boost private equity and capital flow into scalable biotech startups.

Appointments & Sports

- **Military Appointment:** Air Marshal KAA Sanjeeb assumed charge as the Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance (AOM) of the Indian Air Force, succeeding Air Marshal Sanjiv Ghuratia. Commissioned in the Aeronautical Engineering branch in 1988, he previously spearheaded the operationalization of India's AWACS fleet.
- **Corporate Appointment:** Actor Shah Rukh Khan was named the brand ambassador for Vodafone Idea (Vi) as part of its brand refresh campaign.
- **Sports & Aviation Announcement:** The Ministry of Defence announced that **Aero India 2027** (16th edition) will be held from **February 8 to 12, 2027**, at Air Force Station Yelahanka, Bengaluru.

Exam Practice Question Q. Who has taken charge as the Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance (AOM) of the Indian Air Force?

- A) Air Marshal Sanjiv Ghuratia
- B) Air Marshal KAA Sanjeeb
- C) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

D) Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar Anand

Answer: B) Air Marshal KAA Sanjeeb

Explanation: Air Marshal KAA Sanjeeb assumed charge as AOM of the IAF, taking over from Air Marshal Sanjiv Ghuratia.

Books & Authors / Art & Culture

- **Core Philosophical Works of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**
 - The Hindu View of Life (1927)
 - An Idealist View of Life (1932)
 - Indian Philosophy (2-Volume Treatise)
 - Eastern Religions and Western Thought
- **Culture & Skill Skilling Initiative:** NIELIT (National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology) in partnership with Intel India launched the **Agentic AI Skilling Framework** under the National Leadership Dialogue to train workforce cohorts in low-code and no-code artificial intelligence deployment.

Exam Practice Question Q. Which among the following famous philosophical books was authored by Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan?

- A) The Discovery of India
- B) An Idealist View of Life
- C) Gitanjali
- D) The Golden Threshold

Answer: B) An Idealist View of Life

Explanation: An Idealist View of Life is one of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan's most influential philosophical books. (The Discovery of India was written by Jawaharlal Nehru; Gitanjali by Rabindranath Tagore; The Golden Threshold by Sarojini Naidu).

1. India celebrates National Teachers' Day annually on September 5 to commemorate the birth anniversary of which eminent philosopher and leader?

- A) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- Ambitious Baba
- B) Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
- C) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- D) Swami Vivekananda

- **Answer: B) Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**
- **Explanation:** National Teachers' Day is celebrated across India on September 5 every year to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (born September 5, 1888). He was an eminent philosopher, scholar, recipient of the Bharat Ratna, and served as India's first Vice President (1952-1962) and second President (1962-1967).

2. International Day of Charity is observed globally on September 5 to mark the death anniversary of which Nobel Peace Prize laureate?

- A) Nelson Mandela
- B) Mother Teresa
- C) Wangari Maathai
- D) Desmond Tutu

- **Answer: B) Mother Teresa**
- **Explanation:** September 5 is designated by the United Nations as the International Day of Charity. It commemorates the death anniversary of Mother Teresa (who passed away on September 5, 1997), who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her lifelong commitment to overcoming poverty and distress worldwide.

3. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constituted a 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to examine the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 under the leadership of which MP?

- A) Tejasvi Surya
- B) Nishikant Dubey
- C) Sanjay Jaiswal
- D) Bhartruhari Mahtab

- **Answer: C) Sanjay Jaiswal**
- **Explanation:** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constituted a 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to thoroughly examine the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026. Senior MP Sanjay Jaiswal was appointed as Chairperson of the committee, which comprises 21 Lok Sabha and 10 Rajya Sabha members.

4. Which international credit rating agency upgraded India's sovereign credit rating to 'A-' with a Stable Outlook in September 2026?

- A) Fitch Ratings
- B) Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR)
- C) Moody's Investors Service
- D) S&P Global Ratings

- **Answer: B) Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR)**
- **Explanation:** Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) upgraded India's sovereign credit rating to 'A-' with a Stable Outlook. JCR also raised India's country ceiling to 'A', citing robust economic growth, sustained fiscal consolidation, and improved balance sheets across the domestic banking system.

5. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released a strategic framework document titled 'RAKSHA' in New Delhi. What is the core focus of this document?



- A) Cybersecurity defense against AI-driven threats
- B) A 10-year global strategy for Defence Diplomacy
- C) Indigenous naval shipbuilding roadmap for 2047
- D) Modernization plan for paramilitary border outposts

- **Answer: B) A 10-year global strategy for Defence Diplomacy**
- **Explanation:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the 'RAKSHA' framework document outlining India's vision for Defence Diplomacy over the next decade. The strategy aims to expand international military cooperation, boost defence exports, and integrate indigenous manufacturing into global defence supply chains.

6. The 26th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit was hosted in September 2026 in which capital city?

- A) Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- B) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- C) Astana, Kazakhstan
- D) Dushanbe, Tajikistan

- **Answer: B) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**
- **Explanation:** The 26th SCO Summit (marking 25 years of the SCO) was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, under the chairmanship of Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov. Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented India at the summit, held under the motto "25 Years of the SCO; Together for Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity".

7. During Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever's official visit to India in September

2026, both nations agreed to expand ties beyond the diamond trade under which strategic framework?

- A) 3Cs (Cooperation, Capacity, Climate)
- B) 3Ts (Trade, Technology, and Talent)
- C) 3Is (Investment, Innovation, Industry)
- D) 3Ps (Peace, Prosperity, Partnership)

- **Answer: B) 3Ts (Trade, Technology, and Talent)**
- **Explanation:** India and Belgium agreed to step up bilateral relations under the "3Ts" framework—Trade, Technology, and Talent. Highlights included signing a Defence Cooperation Letter of Intent, posting a resident defence attaché in Brussels, and establishing an objective to double bilateral trade within five years.

8. Who was appointed as the next President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of software major Adobe, succeeding Shantanu Narayen?

- A) Anil Chakravarthy
- B) Neal Mohan
- C) Laxman Narasimhan
- D) Arvind Krishna

- **Answer: A) Anil Chakravarthy**
- **Explanation:** Adobe appointed long-time corporate leader Anil Chakravarthy as its next President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), handing over leadership to drive the company's AI-focused software expansion.

9. Ule Madise was elected as the new President for a five-year term in which Baltic nation in September 2026?

- A) Latvia
- B) Lithuania
- C) Estonia

D) Finland

• **Answer: C) Estonia**

• **Explanation:** Ulle Madise was elected by the Riigikogu (Estonian Parliament) as the new President of Estonia for a five-year term via secret ballot. She ran as the sole candidate in the parliamentary election.

10. Which strategic platform was launched by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh to bridge biotechnology startups with private venture capital investors?

A) BIO-SETU

B) BIO-NIVESH

C) BIO-START

D) BIO-VIKAS

• **Answer: B) BIO-NIVESH**

• **Explanation:** Union MoS (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh launched 'BIO-NIVESH', a national strategic platform designed to connect biotechnology innovators and startups with investors to raise private capital flows.

11. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) signed an MoU with which entity to promote recycled and upcycled textile products across public procurement?

A) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

B) Textiles Committee

C) National Jute Board

D) Central Silk Board

• **Answer: B) Textiles Committee**

• **Explanation:** GeM (Ministry of Commerce & Industry) signed an MoU with the Textiles Committee (Ministry of Textiles) to boost circular economy initiatives by onboarding

certified recycled and upcycled textile products onto the portal through a hub-and-spoke model.

12. Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (KSSL) signed a Strategic Alliance Agreement with France's Thales Group to manufacture which defence system in India?

A) 155mm Towed Howitzers

B) 70-mm Unguided and Laser-Guided Rocket Systems

C) Heavy Weight Torpedoes

D) Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles

• **Answer: B) 70-mm Unguided and Laser-Guided Rocket Systems**

• **Explanation:** Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (KSSL), a subsidiary of Bharat Forge, partnered with France's Thales Group to establish an industrial capability in India for 70-mm rocket systems, currently deployed on Indian Armed Forces platforms like the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH).

13. The Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF) signed an MoU with Premiere Vision SA to boost high-value fashion exports during an exhibition in which city?

A) Milan, Italy

B) New York, USA

C) Paris, France

D) London, UK

• **Answer: C) Paris, France**

• **Explanation:** BTTF signed an MoU with Premiere Vision SA at the Premiere Vision trade exhibition in Paris, France. The partnership enables Indian textile enterprises to transition from volume-driven exports to high-value, design-led global markets.

14. Which Asian country hosted the Pickleball World Cup 2026 from August 30 to September 6, marking the first time the tournament was held in Asia?

- A) Japan
- B) Vietnam
- C) Indonesia
- D) Thailand

• **Answer: B) Vietnam**

• **Explanation:** The Pickleball World Cup 2026 was held at the Tien Son Sports Palace in Da Nang, Vietnam. This marked the first edition hosted in Asia, where the Indian squad clinched 37 total medals.

15. Indian powerlifter Keyaa Kunal Banerji achieved a historic performance at the 2026 IPF World Sub-Junior & Junior Classic Powerlifting Championships in:

- A) Sun City, South Africa
- B) Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- C) Budapest, Hungary
- D) Almaty, Kazakhstan

• **Answer: A) Sun City, South Africa**

• **Explanation:** Keyaa Kunal Banerji delivered a strong performance at the 2026 IPF World Sub-Junior & Junior Classic Powerlifting Championships in Sun City, South Africa, recording a combined lift total of 280 kg.

16. Ophiorrhiza assamensis, a newly discovered perennial herb species capable of producing the anti-cancer compound camptothecin, was found in which state?

- A) Meghalaya
- B) Assam
- C) Arunachal Pradesh
- D) Tripura

• **Answer: B) Assam**

• **Explanation:** Botanists discovered Ophiorrhiza assamensis in Kamrup Metropolitan district, Assam. Belonging to the Rubiaceae family, species in this genus produce camptothecin, an important natural alkaloid used in anti-cancer medicines.

17. The Subarnarekha River, which breached its banks in Odisha in September 2026, originates near Nagri village in which district?

- A) Mayurbhanj, Odisha
- B) Ranchi, Jharkhand
- C) Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal
- D) Surguja, Chhattisgarh

• **Answer: B) Ranchi, Jharkhand**

• **Explanation:** The Subarnarekha River originates near Nagri village in Ranchi district, Jharkhand. It flows across Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha before entering the Bay of Bengal.

18. According to the September 2026 India-Belgium Joint Statement, for which period has Belgium backed India's bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council?

- A) 2027–28
- B) 2028–29
- C) 2030–31
- D) 2032–33

• **Answer: B) 2028–29**

• **Explanation:** India and Belgium mutually pledged support for each other's non-permanent UNSC bids—India for 2028–29 and Belgium for 2037–38. Belgium also reaffirmed support for India's permanent UNSC seat.

19. National Wildlife Day is observed annually across global conservation communities on which date?

- A) September 1
- B) September 4
- C) September 7
- D) September 10

• **Answer: B) September 4**

• **Explanation:** National Wildlife Day is observed every year on September 4. It raises awareness about wildlife preservation, habitat conservation, and endangered species protection.

20. Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) signed MoUs with CivicDataLab and which international organization to strengthen disaster response?

- A) UNEP
- B) UNDP
- C) World Bank
- D) UNESCO

• **Answer: B) UNDP**

• **Explanation:** OSDMA signed MoUs with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and CivicDataLab to build open-data frameworks and advanced analytics for disaster risk management.

21. Cassandra Wilson, who passed away in September 2026, was a legendary two-time Grammy Award-winning artist in which music genre?

- A) Country
- B) Jazz
- C) Classical Opera
- D) Heavy Metal

• **Answer: B) Jazz**

• **Explanation:** Two-time Grammy-winning Jazz icon Cassandra Wilson passed away at the age of 70 in Jackson, Mississippi. She was widely acclaimed for albums such as Point of View, Jumpworld, and She Who Weeps.

22. Gaurang Vyas, who passed away at 87 in September 2026, was an eminent personality in which domain?

- A) Gujarati Music Direction & Composition
- B) Yakshagana Theatre
- C) Classical Santoor
- D) Sattriya Dance

• **Answer: A) Gujarati Music Direction & Composition**

• **Explanation:** Veteran Gujarati music director and composer Gaurang Vyas passed away at 87. Over a multi-decade career, he composed iconic tracks for Gujarati cinema, folk music, and devotional projects.

23. Which celebrated philosophical work was authored by Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan?

- A) Discovery of India
- B) An Idealist View of Life
- C) Wings of Fire
- D) The Indian Struggle

• **Answer: B) An Idealist View of Life**

• **Explanation:** Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan authored landmark books such as An Idealist View of Life, Eastern Religions and Western Thought, and The Hindu View of Life. (Discovery of India was written by Jawaharlal Nehru, Wings of Fire by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, and The Indian Struggle by Subhas Chandra Bose).

24. Every year on National Teachers' Day (Sept 5), the President of India confers the National Teachers' Awards at a ceremony held at:

- A) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- B) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- C) Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
- D) Yashobhoomi, New Delhi

• **Answer: A) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**

• **Explanation:** On National Teachers' Day, the President of India presents the National Teachers' Awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, honoring exceptional educators for their contributions to Indian education.

25. Under India's long-term low-carbon energy mission, what nuclear power capacity target has been set for the year 2031-32?

- A) 12 GW
- B) 22 GW
- C) 35 GW
- D) 50 GW

• **Answer: B) 22 GW**

• **Explanation:** India targets expanding its operational nuclear power capacity to approximately **22 GW by 2031-32** and **100 GW by 2047**. About ₹20,000 crore has been allocated specifically for Small Modular Reactor (SMR) development.

26. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri hosted the Quad Sherpas' Meeting in September 2026 in which city?

- A) Tokyo
- B) New Delhi
- C) Canberra
- D) Washington D.C.

• **Answer: B) New Delhi**

• **Explanation:** Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri hosted the Quad Sherpas' Meeting in New Delhi. The Sherpas reaffirmed action-oriented initiatives in maritime security,

technology, and critical supply chains leading up to the upcoming Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

27. As part of growing maritime defense ties, which Belgian naval frigate is scheduled to deploy to India in November 2026?

- A) LEOPOLD I
- B) LOUISE-MARIE
- C) CASTOR
- D) POLLUX

• **Answer: A) LEOPOLD I**

• **Explanation:** As noted in the India-Belgium defense cooperation updates, Belgium scheduled the deployment of its frigate **LEOPOLD I** to India in November 2026 to enhance joint maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

28. An Indian Memorial Pillar honoring over 9,000 Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives during World War I in Flanders Fields stands near Menin Gate in:

- A) France
- B) Belgium
- C) Germany
- D) Netherlands

• **Answer: B) Belgium**

• **Explanation:** The Indian Memorial Pillar was dedicated in 2011 near the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium, honoring over 9,000 Indian soldiers who lost their lives fighting in Flanders Fields during World War I.

29. Upgrading a nation's "country ceiling" by an international credit rating agency primarily enables domestic firms to:

- A) Lower domestic Repo Rates automatically

B) Secure higher individual credit ratings and lower borrowing costs in international capital markets

C) Avoid customs duties on raw material imports

D) Exempt foreign investors from capital gains taxes

- **Answer: B) Secure higher individual credit ratings and lower borrowing costs in international capital markets**
- **Explanation:** A higher country ceiling allows creditworthy domestic companies and banks to achieve higher corporate ratings, reducing risk premiums and lowering capital raising costs overseas.

30. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), currently under JPC review via an Amendment Bill in 2026, was originally enacted in its modern form in:

A) 1976

B) 1991

C) 2010

D) 2014

- **Answer: C) 2010**
- **Explanation:** The primary legislation regulating foreign contributions in India is the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA 2010), which replaced the original 1976 law. The FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026 aims to further enhance transparency and accountability in foreign fund transfers.