

Part 1: National News & Polity

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the new gubernatorial appointments announced by President Droupadi Murmu on March 5–6, 2026:

1. Article 155 of the Constitution mandates that the Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under hand and seal.
2. Ahead of crucial assembly elections, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi was transferred and appointed as the Governor of West Bengal.
3. Former diplomat and ex-Ambassador to the United States, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, was appointed as the new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

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

Correct Answer: D) 1, 2, and 3

Explanation: In a major political and administrative shuffle, President Droupadi Murmu executed fresh appointments and transfers of Governors across 7 states and Lt. Governors across 2 UTs. Article 155 governs the appointment process (done via the aid and advice of the Union Council of Ministers). Under the new adjustments, R.N. Ravi was moved to West Bengal, and retired diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu replaced Vinai Kumar Saxena as the Lt. Governor of Delhi.

Q2. Union Home Minister Amit Shah formally soft-launched four digital tools and unveiled the

mascots "Pragati" (female) and "Vikas" (male). These mascots are designated for which national exercise?

- A) National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6)
- B) Census 2027
- C) All India Urban Infrastructure Survey
- D) Digital India Literacy Mission

Correct Answer: B) Census 2027

Explanation: The central government officially introduced the digital infrastructure and mascots "Pragati" (representing a female enumerator) and "Vikas" (a male enumerator) for Census 2027 in New Delhi. This marks a critical step toward implementing India's first completely digital census framework, utilizing advanced data portals to achieve full accuracy and demographic inclusiveness.

Q3. With the term of Harivansh Narayan Singh coming to an end in March 2026, the office of the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha has entered focus. Which article of the Indian Constitution governs the choosing and appointment of the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha?

- A) Article 85
- B) Article 89
- C) Article 93
- D) Article 102

Correct Answer: B) Article 89

Explanation: Article 89 of the Indian Constitution states that the Rajya Sabha shall, as soon as may be, choose a member of the Council to be the Deputy Chairman thereof. While the Vice President of India acts as the ex-officio Chairman under Article 89(1), the Deputy Chairman is elected internally by the house from among its sitting members.

Q4. Which Indian state has proposed financial incentives of ₹25,000 for families having a second or third child under its newly drafted Population Policy?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: C) Andhra Pradesh

Explanation: Led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the Andhra Pradesh government unveiled a draft population policy aimed at correcting a falling Total Fertility Rate (TFR) and an aging population trend. According to NFHS-5 data, AP's TFR has fallen to 1.7, well below the replacement rate of 2.1. The state is offering cash incentives to promote larger families and secure its future workforce.

Part 2: International Relations & Global Affairs

Q5. During the 11th Raisina Dialogue held in New Delhi, India formally upgraded its bilateral ties to a "Strategic Partnership in Digitalisation and Sustainability" with which country?

- A) Canada
- B) Finland
- C) Germany
- D) Japan

Correct Answer: B) Finland

Explanation: Finnish President Alexander Stubb attended the 11th Raisina Dialogue as the Chief Guest. During bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, both nations signed key agreements to double bilateral trade by 2030 and launched a Joint Working Group on Digitalisation to deep-dive into AI, Quantum

Computing, and semiconductor supply chain integration.

Q6. The sinking of the Iranian naval warship IRIS Dena off the coast of Sri Lanka has triggered a major diplomatic crisis in the Indian Ocean. Which country's military forces executed the torpedo strike?

- A) Israel
- B) United States
- C) United Kingdom
- D) India

Correct Answer: B) United States

Explanation: A United States Navy submarine torpedoed the Iranian warship IRIS Dena outside Sri Lanka's territorial waters but within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The vessel had been under US Treasury sanctions since 2023 for alleged ties to drone transport. The strike expanded the ongoing West Asia geopolitical conflict directly into the Indian Ocean region.

Q7. Following maritime hostilities near its waters, which country safely evacuated 208 crew members from a second, stranded Iranian naval vessel named "IRINS Bushehr"?

- A) Maldives
- B) India
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Oman

Correct Answer: C) Sri Lanka

Explanation: Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake confirmed that Sri Lankan maritime authorities successfully evacuated 208 crew members from the stranded Iranian ship *IRINS Bushehr*. The operation took place to

prevent further casualties following the targeted destruction of the nearby IRIS Dena.

Q8. According to the United Nations Secretary-General's report titled "Ensuring and Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls" published in March 2026, women worldwide hold what percentage of the legal rights of men?

- A) 50%
- B) 64%
- C) 75%
- D) 88%

Correct Answer: B) 64%

Explanation: The comprehensive UN report revealed that in nearly 70% of countries surveyed, women possess only 64% of the legal privileges and protections granted to men. The report highlighted severe legal gaps globally, noting that 44% of countries lack a legal mandate for equal pay for work of equal value.

Part 3: Banking, Economy & Corporate Governance

Q9. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) deployed an advanced, in-house Artificial Intelligence (AI) system to crack down on misleading claims by unregistered financial influencers ("Finfluencers"). What is the name of this AI system?

- A) Kavach
- B) Sudarshan
- C) Chanakya
- D) Drishti

Correct Answer: B) Sudarshan

Explanation: SEBI developed and deployed 'Sudarshan', an AI-driven digital monitoring

system designed to flag and track unauthorized stock tips and manipulative financial advice across online social platforms. The portal successfully initiated the removal of over 1.20 lakh misleading claims to preserve retail investor safety.

Q10. The Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), chaired by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, recommended retaining what interest rate on EPF deposits for the Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26)?

- A) 8.15%
- B) 8.25%
- C) 8.50%
- D) 8.35%

Correct Answer: B) 8.25%

Explanation: During the 239th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees, the EPFO recommended maintaining the interest rate on provident fund accumulations at 8.25% for FY26. Additionally, the board officially approved the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) to oversee direct recruitment drives for the organization.

Q11. Which statutory direct tax authority in India amended the Income-tax Rules to mandate the formal accounting, audit, and tracking of Crypto Assets and Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs)?

- A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B) Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
- C) Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
- D) Enforcement Directorate (ED)

Correct Answer: B) Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

Explanation: The CBDT amended standard taxation and accounting rules to bring virtual digital assets (VDAs) and India's sovereign CBDC (e-Rupee) tightly under structured financial reporting frameworks. This rule change targets cross-border tax evasion and introduces stricter audit requirements for corporate crypto holdings.

Q12. Svantra Microfin Private Limited finalized its corporate amalgamation process in March 2026, officially elevating its status to become India's:

- A) Largest Small Finance Bank
- B) 2nd largest Non-Banking Financial Company-Microfinance Institution (NBFC-MFI)
- C) First public-listed fintech unicorn
- D) Primary rural agricultural cooperative

Correct Answer: B) 2nd largest Non-Banking Financial Company-Microfinance Institution (NBFC-MFI)

Explanation: Svantra Microfin completed its legal merger with Chaitanya India Fin Credit and Svantra Holding. This strategic consolidation positions it as the second-largest NBFC-MFI entity operating in India, significantly increasing its institutional lending capacity across rural landscapes.

Part 4: Defence & Security Intelligence

Q13. India and the Seychelles commenced the 11th edition of their joint military exercise at the Seychelles Defence Academy. What is the name of this biennial training event?

- A) Exercise MITRA SHAKTI
- B) Exercise SAMPRITI
- C) Exercise LAMITIYE

D) Exercise SURYA KIRAN

Correct Answer: C) Exercise LAMITIYE

Explanation: The 11th edition of the Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE 2026" began in the Seychelles. The exercise focuses on tactical interoperability, counter-insurgency operations, and strengthening bilateral security ties between the Indian Army and the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) in semi-urban terrains.

Q14. A Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) unfortunately crashed during a routine flight training session. In which state did the crash occur?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Assam
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Punjab

Correct Answer: B) Assam

Explanation: An IAF Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jet lost radar contact and crashed in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam, approximately 60 kilometers from the Jorhat airbase. The IAF confirmed the tragic loss of two personnel on board, Squadron Leader Anuj and Flight Lieutenant Purvesh Duragkar.

Q15. To boost maritime logistics, the Indian Navy signed a commercial manufacturing contract with M/s Shoft Shipyard Private Limited (Thane, Maharashtra) for the construction of which equipment?

- A) Fast Attack Craft
- B) Four 500-tonne Self-Propelled Fuel Barges
- C) Autonomous Underwater Drones
- D) Multi-role Missile Corvettes

Correct Answer: B) Four 500-tonne Self-Propelled Fuel Barges

Explanation: The Indian Navy signed an infrastructure and logistics contract with Shoft Shipyard for the construction of four 500-tonne Self-Propelled Fuel Barges. These vessels are designed to improve refueling capabilities and bolster mid-sea logistics for naval fleets.

Part 5: Government Schemes & MoUs

Q16. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers observed 'Janaushadhi Saptah 2026' from March 1 to March 7. What is the official central theme designated for the 2026 campaign?

- A) Jan Aushadhi – Har Ghar Swasthya
- B) Jan Aushadhi – Affordable and trustworthy, good health with savings
- C) Generic Medicine, Global Standard
- D) Ayushman Bharat, Generic Suraksha

Correct Answer: B) Jan Aushadhi – Affordable and trustworthy, good health with savings

Explanation: Organized by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), the week-long campaign aims to drive the adoption of low-cost generic drugs via the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). The Hindi version of the 2026 theme is "जन औषधि सस्ती भी, भरोसेमंद भी, सेहत की बात, बचत के साथ".

Q17. The Indian Army has launched an eco-conservation and wildlife protection initiative in the high-altitude cold desert ecosystem of Ladakh. Which specialized cell is being established under this framework?

- A) Ladakh Biodiversity Board
- B) Snow Leopard Conservation Cell (SLCC)
- C) High-Altitude Ecological Task Force
- D) Project Him-Gaurav

Correct Answer: B) Snow Leopard Conservation Cell (SLCC)

Explanation: Operating in Ladakh's high-altitude border terrain, the Indian Army has integrated eco-friendly defense protocols by creating a joint Snow Leopard Conservation Cell. This unit monitors and protects key endangered species including the Snow Leopard, Himalayan Wolf, and Black-necked Crane while maintaining operational border security.

Q18. The "HANUMAN" project (Healing and Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid and Nursing of Wildlife) was launched to counter escalating human-wildlife conflict. Which state government initiated this project?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Odisha

Correct Answer: C) Andhra Pradesh

Explanation: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Forest Minister Pawan Kalyan launched Project HANUMAN. The state deployed over 100 specialized rapid response vehicles and wildlife ambulances to handle animal incursions into human habitats safely, providing immediate medical care to displaced wildlife.

Q19. The Survey of India (SoI) signed a milestone 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance digital innovation and geospatial research using AI and machine learning with which academic institution?

- A) IIT Madras
- B) Kerala Digital University

- C) IISc Bangalore
- D) BITS Pilani

Correct Answer: B) Kerala Digital University

Explanation: The Survey of India partnered with the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (Kerala Digital University). The 5-year project focuses on implementing advanced machine learning models and artificial intelligence to refine the extraction, analysis, and processing of high-resolution national geospatial mapping data.

Part 6: Sports, Culture & Science

Q20. India secured its spot in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 by defeating England in a thrilling semifinal match. Which iconic stadium hosted this encounter?

- A) Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
- B) Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai
- C) Eden Gardens, Kolkata
- D) M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru

Correct Answer: B) Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai

Explanation: India defeated England by 7 runs in the second semifinal of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, held at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Despite a century from England's Jacob Bethell, India defended its total to book a spot in the final of the tournament, which is co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

Q21. Researchers recently discovered two new primitive species of moniligastrid earthworms, named *Moniligaster girishi* and *Drawida reynoldsi*. In which national park were these species found?

- A) Silent Valley National Park, Kerala
- B) Kaziranga National Park, Assam

- C) Bandipur National Park, Karnataka
- D) Gir National Park, Gujarat

Correct Answer: A) Silent Valley National Park, Kerala

Explanation: Published in the scientific journal *Zootaxa*, researchers discovered two new primitive earthworm species within the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve at Silent Valley National Park, Kerala. This discovery increases India's recognized moniligastrid species count to 95, with 70 endemic to the Western Ghats.

Q22. International scientists from Germany, India, and Switzerland discovered a new genus and species of a blind, aquifer-dwelling fish named *Gitchak nakan*. In which Indian state was this subterranean fish discovered?

- A) Meghalaya
- B) Assam
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Goa

Correct Answer: B) Assam

Explanation: Published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, scientists discovered *Gitchak nakan* inside a hand-dug well in an Assam village. This represents the first official scientific documentation of an aquifer-dwelling (phreatobitic) fish species from Northeast India and the Eastern Himalayan region.

Part 7: Awards, Books & Important Days

Q23. Who was included in TIME Magazine's prestigious "Women of the Year 2026" list for her work in bringing over 2 million out-of-school girls back into the education system?

- A) Safeena Husain
- B) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

- C) Sudha Murty
- D) Medha Patkar

Correct Answer: A) Safeena Husain

Explanation: Safeena Husain, the founder of the non-profit organization *Educate Girls*, was named one of TIME Magazine's Women of the Year 2026. Her organization operates across thousands of villages in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh to ensure girls' education. She was also honored with the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2025.

Q24. Renowned public intellectual Hari Krishan (H.K.) Dua passed away at the age of 88 in New Delhi. Which of the following professional portfolios did he hold during his distinguished career?

- A) Veteran Journalist
- B) Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
- C) Diplomat / Ambassador
- D) All of the above

Correct Answer: D) All of the above

Explanation: H.K. Dua was an eminent journalist who served as the Editor of *The Hindustan Times*, *The Indian Express*, and *The Tribune*. He also served as a media advisor to former Prime Ministers, was appointed as an ambassador to Denmark, and was a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha.

Q25. National Safety Week is observed annually across India. What is the duration of this campaign and its official theme for 2026?

- A) March 1–7; "Safety Leadership for Sustainable Future"
- B) March 4–10; "Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety"

C) March 3–9; "Advanced Digital Safety and Industrial Standards"

D) March 5–11; "Zero Harm, Total Safety Culture"

Correct Answer: B) March 4–10; "Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety"

Explanation: National Safety Week commences every year on March 4th, aligning with National Safety Day. The 2026 national safety campaign focuses on safety practices across manufacturing and industrial sectors under the theme "*Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety*".

Q26. The World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation is observed globally on which day?

- A) March 2
- B) March 4
- C) March 6
- D) March 8

Correct Answer: B) March 4

Explanation: The World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation has been observed globally on March 4th since its inception in 2009. The year 2026 marks its 18th observance, aimed at raising international awareness and providing institutional support systems for victims of human trafficking and abuse.

Part 8: State News, Agriculture & Trade Bills

Q27. Due to escalating shipping disruptions caused by the West Asia conflict, approximately 60,000 tonnes of which Geographical Indication (GI) protected export commodity became stranded at Indian ports?

- A) Alphonso Mangoes
- B) Darjeeling Tea

- C) Basmati Rice
- D) Solapur Chaddars

Correct Answer: C) Basmati Rice

Explanation: The maritime security crisis across the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea disrupted Indian trade routes, stranding nearly 60,000 tonnes of export-bound Basmati rice at Indian ports. Exporters sought urgent central intervention due to rising insurance costs and shipping delays.

Q28. According to a report compiled by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) for the Financial Year 2024-25, which political party declared the highest income among all national parties in India?

- A) Indian National Congress (INC)
- B) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
- C) Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)
- D) Communist Party of India (Marxist)

Correct Answer: B) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

Explanation: The ADR report on national political funding revealed that the ruling BJP declared an income of ₹6,769.14 crore for FY 2024-25, the highest in the country. The Indian National Congress reported the second-highest income at ₹918.28 crore.

Q29. The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly passed the "Freedom of Religion Bill" by voice vote. What is the maximum imprisonment term stipulated for unlawful conversion via fraud or forced marriage under this Bill?

- A) 3 Years
- B) 5 Years
- C) 7 Years
- D) 10 Years

Correct Answer: C) 7 Years

Explanation: The Maharashtra Assembly passed a stringent Freedom of Religion Bill to curb deceptive or forced religious conversions through fraud, coercion, or misrepresentation in marriage alliances. The bill mandates rigorous imprisonment of up to 7 years along with a ₹1 lakh fine.

Q30. Which village located in the Kendrapada district became the first "Smart Village" in Odisha after a mission-mode deployment of solar micro-grids, scientific waste facilities, and digital learning tools by CSIR?

- A) Punsari
- B) Kusunpur
- C) Hiware Bazar
- D) Chizami

Correct Answer: B) Kusunpur

Explanation: Kusunpur, situated in Odisha's Kendrapada district, became the state's first officially certified "Smart Village." The project was completed through a joint venture between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) labs and local authorities to build sustainable rural infrastructure.

