

Section 1: National & International News

Q1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a grand ceremonial welcome in Jakarta on July 7, 2026. India is set to officially commence the restoration of which UNESCO World Heritage site in Indonesia during this visit?

- A) Borobudur Temple Compound
- B) Prambanan Temple Compound
- C) Pura Besakih
- D) Muaro Jambi Temple Compound

Correct Answer: B) Prambanan Temple Compound

Detailed Explanation: India and Indonesia have officially launched the restoration project of the Prambanan Temple Compound in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The civilizational project directly follows a strategic pledge made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto. Prambanan is the largest temple compound dedicated to Lord Shiva in Indonesia. This initiative aims to strengthen the historical, cultural, and bilateral strategic ties between the two nations.

Q2. The Ministry of Home Affairs recently initiated a large-scale rehearsal across 16 States and Union Territories for an upcoming major national exercise. Which unique feature has been added to the pre-test forms?

- A) Digital Signature Column
- B) Facial Recognition Data Box
- C) Open Column to record Caste
- D) Biometric Verification Row

Correct Answer: C) Open Column to record Caste

Detailed Explanation: The rehearsal for the second phase of the national Census commenced in 16 States and UTs. It features a specific "open column" allowing respondents to record their castes. This serves as a vital pre-test indication of how caste enumeration will likely be conducted under the upcoming comprehensive **Population Census**. The final methodology will be structured by the Registrar General of India based on field feedback gathered by the end of July.

Q3. Which Union Territory's governance structure is being transitioned from an exclusively bureaucratic setup to a newly proposed model featuring an elected UT-level executive body?

- A) Puducherry
- B) Jammu & Kashmir
- C) Ladakh
- D) Lakshadweep

Correct Answer: C) Ladakh

Detailed Explanation: Following intense local demonstrations and administrative reviews, a new governance model has been proposed for Ladakh. It will replace the exclusively bureaucratic system with an elected UT-level body. This executive body will hold direct authority to supervise, review, and handle the performance appraisals of civil servants operating within its jurisdiction, balancing local aspirations with central administration.

Q4. The 2026 BRICS Anti-Drug Agencies meeting was hosted by India under the theme of "Resilience and Innovation". Which city served as the venue for this conference?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Guwahati
- C) Hyderabad

D) Bengaluru

Correct Answer: B) Guwahati

Detailed Explanation: India hosted the BRICS Anti-Drug Agencies working group meeting in Guwahati, Assam. Led by India's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), the delegates focused intensely on countering the global rise of synthetic drugs, maritime smuggling routes, and darknet-enabled drug trafficking. The event concluded with the adoption of a Joint Declaration focused on real-time intelligence sharing among member states.

Q5. The Delhi Government announced a massive ₹8,300 Crore environmental program to tackle air pollution and accelerate the objectives of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Which global institution is financially supporting this project?

- A) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- B) New Development Bank (NDB)
- C) World Bank (WB)
- D) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Correct Answer: C) World Bank (WB)

Detailed Explanation: The Delhi Government, led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, announced a comprehensive ₹8,300 Crore program specifically to curb rising air pollution levels in the National Capital Region. Developed by the Environment Department, this project is heavily funded and logistically supported by the World Bank. It targets vehicular emissions, dust control, and localized industrial pollutants to accelerate the timelines of India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

Section 2: Economics, Banking & Corporate Affairs

Q6. Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced a series of structural reforms for the cooperative sector, including the establishment of the "Tribhuvan Sahkari University". In which state will this university be set up?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Gujarat
- D) Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer: C) Gujarat

Detailed Explanation: To modernize and professionalize cooperative management, the Union Government is establishing the Tribhuvan Sahkari University at Anand in Gujarat. Alongside this milestone, plans were unveiled to set up a dedicated cooperative life insurance company and an expansive "Bharat Taxi" cooperative aggregator network spanning 500 cities to empower local drivers.

Q7. Which major public sector bank is set to fully acquire the National Housing Bank's (NHB) 10% equity stake in the Residential Dwelling Certification Limited (RDCL)?

- A) Punjab National Bank
- B) Bank of Baroda
- C) State Bank of India
- D) Canara Bank

Correct Answer: C) State Bank of India

Detailed Explanation: The State Bank of India (SBI) has entered advanced agreements to acquire the entire 10% stake currently held by the National Housing Bank (NHB) in Residential Dwelling Certification Limited (RDCL). Following this acquisition, SBI joins LIC (which also holds 10%), while other major institutions like HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank hold 7% each in the housing certification enterprise.

Q8. Israel has become the first OECD member to sign a comprehensive Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) with India under which revised framework?

- A) India's Model BIT Framework
- B) FEMA Special Corridor 2024
- C) Make in India Investment Code
- D) I2U2 Economic Charter

Correct Answer: A) India's Model BIT Framework

Detailed Explanation: India and Israel have finalized a new Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) replacing their older 1996 treaty. Notably, Israel is the first member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to formally sign an investment pact tailored precisely under India's highly scrutinized, revised Model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) framework, ensuring robust legal balances for cross-border investments.

Q9. A high-level technical working group chaired by Dr. Rangan Banerjee (IIT-Delhi) has submitted a report recommending India harmonize its national energy data. Which structural standard did it urge India to adopt?

- A) International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC Rev. 5)
- B) Global Green Energy Matrix (GGEM-26)
- C) Unified Bureau of Energy Standards (UBES)
- D) ISO 50001 Carbon Neutrality Protocol

Correct Answer: A) International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC Rev. 5)

Detailed Explanation: The specialized energy data harmonization working group recommended that India align its domestic data tracking with international paradigms like ISIC Rev. 5 and NIC-2025. This allows the country to

implement uniform conversion factors across ministries to accurately measure and report rapidly growing sectors, including green hydrogen, electric vehicles (EVs), captive power generation, and commercial biofuels.

Q10. India's data center market is booming, but it is posing a severe infrastructural challenge. According to recent NITI Aayog and industry reports, India's data center water consumption is projected to reach how many billion liters by the year 2030?

- A) 110 Billion Liters
- B) 220 Billion Liters
- C) 358 Billion Liters
- D) 500 Billion Liters

Correct Answer: C) 358 Billion Liters

Detailed Explanation: While data centers drive India's digital economy, their cooling infrastructures demand vast amounts of water. Projections show that data center water consumption will spike from approximately 150 billion liters to 358 billion liters by 2030. This creates intense resource competition with rapidly expanding urban centers, driving demands for circular wastewater recycling networks nearby.

Section 3: Sports News

Q11. Football icon Neymar Jr. officially announced his retirement from international football in July 2026 following Brazil's exit from the FIFA World Cup. Against which country did Brazil play its final match of this campaign?

- A) England
- B) Mexico
- C) Norway
- D) Spain

Correct Answer: C) Norway

Detailed Explanation: Brazilian football legend Neymar Jr. announced his formal retirement from international football after Brazil suffered a 2-1 defeat against Norway in the Round of 16 at the FIFA World Cup 2026. Neymar closed his iconic international career as Brazil's all-time leading goal scorer, netting 80 goals across 130 official appearances, highlighting a career that included a 2013 Confederations Cup title and an Olympic Gold in 2016.

Q12. Substitute Mikel Merino scored a dramatic late goal in second-half stoppage time during a high-stakes Round of 16 clash, bringing an end to Cristiano Ronaldo's final FIFA World Cup campaign. Which country eliminated Portugal?

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

Correct Answer: C) Spain

Detailed Explanation: In a historic European derby in Arlington, Texas, Spain eliminated Portugal with a 1-0 victory to advance to the FIFA World Cup 2026 quarterfinals. Substitute Mikel Merino scored the decisive goal in the 91st minute. The match marked the emotional, definitive farewell of legendary forward Cristiano Ronaldo from World Cup football.

Q13. Which state government recently organized the high-profile 'Ekta Boat Race' on the Yamuna River to promote sports tourism and youth unity?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Haryana
- D) Delhi

Correct Answer: B) Uttar Pradesh

Detailed Explanation: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath officially flagged off the inaugural 'Ekta Boat Race' along the banks of the Yamuna River in Prayagraj. The event was integrated into a larger developmental review wherein infrastructure projects worth over ₹2,500 crore were evaluated ahead of upcoming major cultural congregations.

Section 4: Awards, Honors, Books & Authors

Q14. Mountaineer Tshering Choden achieved a historic milestone by successfully scaling Europe's highest mountain peak, Mount Elbrus, at an altitude of 5,642 meters. Which Indian state does she hail from?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Sikkim
- D) Uttarakhand

Correct Answer: C) Sikkim

Detailed Explanation: Tshering Choden, a mountaineer from Sikkim, successfully scaled the summit of Mount Elbrus in Russia, which stands as Europe's highest peak at 5,642 meters. This successful ascent marks a significant milestone in her ongoing global "Seven Summits" challenge, where elite climbers attempt to scale the highest geological peaks on all seven continents.

Q15. The National Awards for e-Governance 2026 recognized exemplary digital initiatives across India. The cash prize awarded to winners under the prestigious "Gold Award" category stands at:

- A) ₹5 Lakh
- B) ₹10 Lakh

C) ₹15 Lakh

D) ₹25 Lakh

Correct Answer: B) ₹10 Lakh

Detailed Explanation: The National Awards for e-Governance 2026 presented a total of 17 distinct awards across 7 specialized categories. This included 10 Gold Awards, which carried a cash prize of ₹10 Lakh each, and 6 Silver Awards carrying ₹5 Lakh each. The high-profile conference concluded with the adoption of the **Jaipur Declaration on e-Governance**, prioritizing secure, AI-driven, and data-protected governance.

Q16. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) launched three major indigenous knowledge products to boost evidence-based medicine. Which of the following is NOT one of the three newly launched initiatives?

A) Research Methodology Textbook

B) CCRAS PRAYATNA 2026–27

C) CCRAS Digital Ecosystem Dashboard

D) AYUSH Siddha Global Pharmacopoeia

Correct Answer: D) AYUSH Siddha Global Pharmacopoeia

Detailed Explanation: During its latest institutional convention, CCRAS launched exactly three key initiatives to strengthen digital governance and evidence-based Ayurvedic research: the *Research Methodology Textbook*, *CCRAS PRAYATNA 2026–27*, and the *CCRAS Digital Ecosystem Dashboard*. Option D was not part of this specific launch.

Section 5: Defense News & MoUs

Q17. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Union Minister Rajnath Singh, cleared a massive ₹52,000 crore modernization

plan. Which of the following high-tech systems was explicitly cleared for procurement for the Indian Navy?

A) Multi Influence Ground Mines (MIGM)

B) Zorawar Heavy Artillery Command

C) BrahMos-II Hypersonic Glide Pods

D) Agni-VI Silo Launchers

Correct Answer: A) Multi Influence Ground Mines (MIGM)

Detailed Explanation: The DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) worth approximately ₹52,000 crore for capital acquisitions. For the Indian Navy, the clearances specifically fast-tracked the procurement of next-generation Multi Influence Ground Mines (MIGM), Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial Systems (NSUAS), and the establishment of a state-of-the-art Land-Based Testing Facility (LBTF).

Q18. India is aggressively developing its indigenous 25-tonne, air-transportable light tank named "Zorawar" to narrow the operational gap along the high-altitude Line of Actual Control (LAC). Which corporate entity is co-developing this platform alongside DRDO?

A) Tata Advanced Systems

B) Bharat Forge

C) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

D) Mahindra Defence Systems

Correct Answer: C) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

Detailed Explanation: Project Zorawar is an indigenous program aimed at building a highly agile, 25-tonne light tank optimized for the thin air and rugged high-altitude terrain of the LAC against China's Type-15 light tanks. The platform is being co-developed and manufactured through a strategic partnership

between the Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T), with field inductions planned to start around 2028-29.

Q19. India and which West African nation launched their inaugural bilateral Forum for the Promotion of Exports in Bamako to reinforce trade in pharmaceuticals, cotton, and engineering goods?

- A) Senegal
- B) Ghana
- C) Mali
- D) Nigeria

Correct Answer: C) Mali

Detailed Explanation: India and Mali launched the historic, inaugural India-Mali Forum for the Promotion of Exports in Bamako, Mali, themed "Reinforcing Trade and Strategic Partnerships". Presided over by Mali's Transition Government PM, Major General Abdoulaye Maïga, the forum directly addresses bilateral supply chains, where India exports pharmaceuticals and machinery, and imports raw Malian cotton, cashews, and lead minerals.

Section 6: Government Schemes & State Initiatives

Q20. The West Bengal government has allocated ₹313.30 crore for the implementation of the "PMCSFY" welfare scheme. Which specific segment of the workforce is this scheme designed to support?

- A) Jute Mill Artisans
- B) Coastal Fishermen
- C) North Bengal Tea Garden Workers
- D) MSME Leather Craftsmen

Correct Answer: C) North Bengal Tea Garden Workers

Detailed Explanation: The West Bengal government is executing the PMCSFY welfare scheme backed by ₹313.30 crore in dedicated funding. The developmental plan targets the health, housing, and educational welfare of tea garden workers in North Bengal. It includes ₹177 crore for education, ₹72 crore for health facilities, and a dedicated portion to construct 321 state-of-the-art resting sheds within the tea estates.

Q21. To combat student malnutrition and promote indigenous millets, which state government has introduced a nutritional program serving "Peanut Millet Chikki" made of ragi, jowar, and bajra thrice a week to school students?

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

Correct Answer: B) Andhra Pradesh

Detailed Explanation: The Andhra Pradesh state government has introduced an innovative nutritional supplement program for school students by introducing peanut-millet chikki. Formulated using nutrient-dense minor millets—ragi, jowar, and bajra—the snack provides vital calcium, plant protein, and iron. It is distributed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, backed by a strict barcode monitoring system to ensure quality.

Q22. According to data released by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for the academic year, which two states recorded the highest number of engineering college closures (12 closures each) due to low enrollment?

- A) Tamil Nadu & Telangana
- B) Uttar Pradesh & Maharashtra
- C) Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan
- D) Gujarat & Karnataka

Correct Answer: B) Uttar Pradesh & Maharashtra

Detailed Explanation: AICTE data revealed that 58 engineering colleges across India were forced to implement progressive closures due to chronically low student enrollment and unsustainable operational costs. Out of these, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra recorded the highest institutional mortality, with exactly 12 college closures each. Under the progressive closure model, existing enrolled students are legally protected to finish their degrees.

Section 7: Important Days & Anniversaries

Q23. Prime Minister Narendra Modi authored a special commemorative Op-Ed to honor the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Which of the following statements is historically accurate regarding his legacy?

- A) He was the first Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- B) He served as the first Minister for Industry and Supply in independent India.
- C) He drafted the original text of Article 370.
- D) He founded the Swatantra Party in 1959.

Correct Answer: B) He served as the first Minister for Industry and Supply in independent India.

Detailed Explanation: Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's 125th birth anniversary was widely celebrated across India. He was a distinguished educationist, the youngest Vice-

Chancellor of Calcutta University, and independent India's first Minister for Industry and Supply. He later founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951. Notably, he strongly *opposed* the special status of Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370, championing full national integration.

Q24. India participated prominently in the UN AI Capacity-Building Dialogue held in Geneva. This global dialogue was convened to review scientific risks and build technical capacity across developing nations in alignment with which landmark international pact?

- A) 2024 Global Digital Compact
- B) Paris Climate Agreement
- C) Geneva Convention on Cyber Warfare
- D) UN Treaty on Artificial Intelligence

Correct Answer: A) 2024 Global Digital Compact

Detailed Explanation: Led by Minister of State Kirti Vardhan Singh, India participated in the UN AI Dialogue in Geneva. This international forum is structured directly under UN Resolution 79/325 and the historic **2024 Global Digital Compact**. It focuses on bridging the digital divide, mitigating economic displacements caused by automation, and reviewing scientific risk reports regarding AI systems in developing countries.

Section 8: Art, Culture & Festivals

Q25. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister inaugurated 'Prerna Park' on the banks of the Yamuna River. The park features large bronze statues of three prominent national leaders. Who among the following is NOT one of the three leaders honored at this park?

- A) Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
- B) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- C) Ashok Singhal

D) Deendayal Upadhyaya

Correct Answer: D) Deendayal Upadhyaya

Detailed Explanation: Developed by the Prayagraj Municipal Corporation at a cost of ₹1 crore, Prerna Park was inaugurated on the Yamuna banks. The park features three prominent bronze statues: Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and social leader Ashok Singhal. Deendayal Upadhyaya's statue is not part of this specific installation.

Q26. Teejan Bai, a world-renowned artist, was highlighted in cultural reviews for breaking gender barriers in 'Pandavani', a traditional performing art form. Pandavani is the premier folk ballad form of which Indian state?

- A) Odisha
- B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer: B) Chhattisgarh

Detailed Explanation: Pandavani is a traditional folk ballad singing style from Chhattisgarh that depicts stories from the epic Mahabharata using local dialects and unique musical instruments like the Tambura. Historically dominated by male performers, it was revolutionized by legendary women artists like Teejan Bai, whose contributions helped preserve and popularize this tribal art form globally.

Section 9: Advanced Conceptual & Multi-Statement Questions

Q27. With reference to India's domestic water crisis highlighted in the NITI Aayog composite water index, consider the following statements:

1. June 2026 was recorded as the country's fifth-driest June since 1901 due to a severe rainfall deficit.
2. "Day Zero" refers to a situation where municipal water supplies completely dry up due to total groundwater depletion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C) Both 1 and 2

Detailed Explanation: Both statements are completely accurate. Indian urban centers are witnessing an acute water crisis following a massive 40% monsoon deficit that made June 2026 the fifth-driest since 1901. NITI Aayog reports warn that 21 major Indian cities are rapidly approaching "Day Zero"—the critical threshold where groundwater and reservoir levels drop to zero, forcing municipal systems to shut down normal tap supplies entirely.

Q28. Consider the following statements regarding the "National List of Essential Medicines" (NLEM) in India:

1. The NLEM is updated strictly every single year by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. The current operational NLEM lists 384 medicines and was last overhauled in 2022.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B) 2 only

Detailed Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect because the NLEM is *not* updated annually; historical revisions took place in 2003, 2011, 2015, and most recently in 2022. Statement 2 is correct. Civil society collectives have raised concerns because the list has not been updated in four years, causing a gap where several critical cancer-treating agents recommended by the WHO are currently missing from the NLEM, which affects affordable access.

Q29. Regarding the Election Commission of India's (ECI) constitutional and statutory powers to conduct byelections, consider the following statements:

1. As per the Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1951, a bypoll to fill any vacancy must be held within six months from the date of the vacancy occurring.
2. The EC can defer a bypoll beyond six months if the remaining tenure of the member is less than one year, or in consultation with the Central Government through specific certification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C) Both 1 and 2

Detailed Explanation: Both statements accurately summarize the legal framework of Section 149 and Section 151A of the RPA, 1951. While the mandate requires filling legislative vacancies within 6 months, exceptions apply if

the remainder of the term is less than a year, or if the ECI certifies (alongside the government) that holding the election within that timeframe is too difficult due to unavoidable conditions or ongoing judicial disputes.

Q30. Consider the following pairs of Indian military armored assets and their descriptions:

1. **T-72 Ajeya:** India's largest main battle tank fleet, with many units undergoing modernization.
2. **T-90S Bhishma:** The core backbone of the armored corps, highly capable in desert terrains.
3. **Zorawar:** A 25-tonne indigenous light tank explicitly designed for high-altitude mountain warfare.

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched? 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

Detailed Explanation: All three pairs are correctly matched. The T-72 Ajeya forms India's largest numerical tank fleet (with over 2,400 units, many operating for decades). The T-90S Bhishma serves as the heavy, highly capable armored backbone. The newly developed Zorawar light tank completes the strategic requirement by providing a lightweight, air-transportable, agile weapon system specifically tailored for the mountainous conditions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).