

## Part 1: National News

1) Which wetland was officially designated as India's 100th Ramsar Site by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on World Environment Day (announced June 2026)?

- A) Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary
- B) Surha Taal (Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary)
- C) Haiderpur Wetland
- D) Samaspur Bird Sanctuary

Answer: B) Surha Taal (Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary)

Full Explanation:

- **The News:** In June 2026, the MoEF&CC officially designated **Surha Taal**, located in the Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh, as India's **100th Ramsar Site**. This milestone makes India the country with the highest number of Ramsar Sites in Asia.
- **Geographical Background:** Surha Taal is a natural perennial oxbow lake formed from a meander of the Ganga River. It receives its freshwater inflow through three primary channels.
- **Exam Relevance:** Total Ramsar sites in India have grown from 26 to 100 over the last 11 years. Uttar Pradesh now holds 13 designated Ramsar sites.

Q2) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved four major National Highway projects worth over ₹24,249 crore. Which of the following groups of states will host these projects?

- A) Odisha, Telangana, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh

- B) Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Punjab
- C) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal
- D) Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh

Answer: A) Odisha, Telangana, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh

Full Explanation:

- **The News:** The CCEA, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved 4 major highway connectivity corridors spanning over 700 km.
- **Project Models:** The projects will utilize a mix of Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) and Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT-Toll) models. For example, the Khagaria-Purnea section in Bihar will be upgraded to 4 lanes under the BOT model, while the Deshgaon-Julwaniya road in MP will run on HAM.
- **Objective:** These fall under the PM GatiShakti-National Master Plan to ease commercial logistics friction and reduce overall travel times between industrial centers.

Q3) The Supreme Court of India recently ordered immediate evictions and demolition of illegal encroachments in which of the following ecological zones?

- A) Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
- B) Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve
- C) Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve
- D) Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve

Answer: C) Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

Full Explanation:

- **The News:** Highlighting strict environmental preservation, the Supreme Court ordered a

structural clean-up and absolute eviction of illegal encroachments across the **Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR)** and its adjacent eco-sensitive buffer zones.

- **About ABR:** Straddling the Western Ghats between Kerala and Tamil Nadu, it is home to rich, unique flora and fauna, including endemic medicinal plants and vulnerable tribal communities like the Kani people. It was included in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2016.

## Part 2: International News

**Q4) On June 7, 2026, which country officially declared its nuclear program to be "absolutely non-negotiable" and "irreversible" via a high-profile state media broadcast?**

- A) Iran
- B) North Korea
- C) Pakistan
- D) Israel

**Answer: B) North Korea**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, released a statement through the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) asserting that their nuclear arsenal is non-negotiable.
- **Context:** The declaration intentionally coincided with the eve of Chinese President Xi Jinping's scheduled official diplomatic visit to Pyongyang (his first in 7 years), directly shutting down rumors that denuclearization was being discussed during a prior US-China summit.

**Q5) Which international conflict zone witnessed a sudden escalation on June 7, 2026, when Iran**

**launched a strategic salvo of around 10 missiles at a northern Israeli airbase?**

- A) Red Sea Maritime Corridor
- B) Ramat David Airbase conflict line
- C) Golan Heights Frontier
- D) Strait of Hormuz Buffer

**Answer: B) Ramat David Airbase conflict line**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** Following an Israeli airstrike on a Hezbollah target in Beirut's southern Dahiyeh suburb, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) directly launched a warning missile strike at the **Ramat David Airbase** in northern Israel.
- **Diplomatic Impact:** This incident broke an April 2026 ceasefire agreement. US President Donald Trump publicly intervened over the phone to halt sudden Israeli counter-escalations that threatened ongoing bilateral negotiations.

**Q6) India recently joined 'Project Glasswing'. Which advanced artificial intelligence model does this cybersecurity initiative grant India access to?**

- A) GPT-5 Core
- B) Claude Mythos AI
- C) Gemini Advanced Pro
- D) Llama 4 Infrastructure

**Answer: B) Claude Mythos AI**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** India officially signed onto **Project Glasswing**, a specialized global cybersecurity initiative led by Anthropic PBC.

- **Functionality:** Joining gives India's cyber agencies direct analytical access to **Claude Mythos AI**, an enterprise-tier AI model engineered to scan infrastructure codes, map software bugs, and proactively harden national defense firewalls against state-sponsored hacks.

### Part 3: Economics and Banking

**Q7) In its June 2026 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) review, what decision did the Reserve Bank of India make regarding the Policy Repo Rate?**

- A) Increased by 25 basis points to 5.50%
- B) Decreased by 25 basis points to 5.00%
- C) Kept unchanged at 5.25% with a 'Neutral' stance
- D) Kept unchanged at 6.50% with an 'Accommodative' stance

**Answer: C) Kept unchanged at 5.25% with a 'Neutral' stance**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** The RBI's MPC voted unanimously to keep the primary policy repo rate steady at **5.25%**, signaling a strictly "neutral" policy path forward.
- **Associated Rates:** Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) remains locked at 5.00%, while the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and the Bank Rate stay at 5.50%. The decision was driven by persistent global supply chain disruptions and unexpected local food inflation threats.

**Q8) Which technological platform was launched by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in June 2026 to optimize the digital onboarding process for the National Pension System (NPS)?**

- A) NPS-DigiEnroll
- B) StAR NPS
- C) PFRDA-NxtGen
- D) FinOnboard NPS

**Answer: B) StAR NPS**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** Statutory body PFRDA introduced '**StAR NPS**', a cutting-edge digital onboarding solution developed in technical alliance with Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Technologies Private Limited.
- **Impact:** The system uses zero-friction API verification routines to dramatically speed up user onboarding and subscriber registrations across financial intermediaries and fintech firms testing the new regulatory sandbox framework.

**Q9) According to the Reserve Bank of India's recent Report on Currency and Finance, what percentage of its GDP does India need to inject annually in additional green investments until 2030?**

- A) 1.2%
- B) 2.5%
- C) 3.8%
- D) 5.0%

**Answer: B) 2.5%**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** The RBI released structural macroeconomic data on sustainable development. The report highlighted a severe climate financing gap: India currently tracks roughly \$31 billion in annual green money, covering under 25% of its true requirement.

- **The Target:** To satisfy net-zero emissions mandates, the central banking authority estimates India must allocate a minimum additional **2.5% of its annual GDP** purely to green investments and alternative energy setups until 2030.

## Part 4: Sports

**Q10) Who emerged as the absolute champion of the prestigious Norway Chess 2026 tournament in Oslo after pulling off four consecutive classical wins?**

- A) Magnus Carlsen
- B) Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa
- C) Alireza Firouzja
- D) Wesley So

**Answer: B) Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** India's 20-year-old Grandmaster **R. Praggnanandhaa** clinched the **Norway Chess 2026** title in a dramatic finish.
- **How he won:** He systematically outplayed top-flight grandmasters, finishing the high-stakes tournament in Oslo with four back-to-back classical victories. He secured the top podium spot after a draw between Wesley So and Alireza Firouzja eliminated any mathematical challenge.

**Q11) The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced a major infrastructure upgrade partnership for the upcoming global events. Which company has been awarded the official pitch and turf engineering maintenance contract?**

- A) SIS Pitches
- B) AstroTurf International
- C) GreenFields BV

D) Desert Group LLC

**Answer: A) SIS Pitches**

**Full Explanation:**

- **Context:** In ongoing sports infrastructure expansions for upcoming global white-ball cricket spectacles, **SIS Pitches** was officially recognized for deploying state-of-the-art hybrid grass technologies.
- **Technology:** These hybrid pitches integrate a small percentage of synthetic fibers into natural grass turf, significantly improving pitch durability, preventing heavy surface degradation, and maintaining a consistent bounce over long, congested multi-nation tournaments.

**Q12) Who became the first Indian athlete to win a gold medal at the European Athletics Continental Tour meeting held in June 2026?**

- A) Nee raj Chopra
- B) Avinash Sable
- C) Jyothi Yarraji
- D) Tajinderpal Singh Toor

**Answer: C) Jyothi Yarraji**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** Elite Indian hurdler **Jyothi Yarraji** blazed through the track at the European Athletics Continental Tour event, winning a gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles.
- **Significance:** This victory cements her preparation for upcoming major world athletic championships, making her one of the few Indian track athletes to consistently dominate podium finishes across European competitive circuits.

## Part 5: Appointments

**Q13) Who took additional charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the high-priority IndiaAI (Artificial Intelligence) Mission under MeitY in June 2026?**

- A) Abhishek Singh
- B) Saurabh Vijay
- C) Sudeep Shrivastava
- D) Jiten Chandara

**Answer: B) Saurabh Vijay**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** Saurabh Vijay, the sitting Chief Executive Officer of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), assumed additional charge as the new **CEO of IndiaAI Mission**.
- **Other reshuffles:** He takes over from Abhishek Singh, who transitioned into his new assignment as the Director General (DG) of the National Testing Agency (NTA). Simultaneously, Sudeep Shrivastava joined the IndiaAI operational board as its Chief Operating Officer (COO).

**Q14) Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) following recent security shake-ups within its IT ecosystems?**

- A) Nisarga Adhikary
- B) Sanjay Murthy
- C) Nidhi Chhibber
- D) Rahul Singh

**Answer: D) Rahul Singh**

**Full Explanation:**

- **Context:** Senior bureaucrat **Rahul Singh** continues to direct the administrative and security transformation phase at the CBSE board.
- **Why it matters:** The appointment comes into sharp focus after the board actively engaged external ethical hackers to patch sensitive portal data vulnerabilities, driving comprehensive system reviews under his core executive supervision.

**Q15) Who was appointed as the head of the newly constituted 6 sector-specific working groups created by the Government of India to boost domestic manufacturing?**

- A) Amardeep Singh Bhatia
- B) Rajesh Kumar Singh
- C) Sunil Barthwal
- D) Alka Upadhyaya

**Answer: A) Amardeep Singh Bhatia**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** The Central Government set up 6 specialized industrial working groups to identify 100 high-potential products to scale domestic manufacturing and curb import dependencies.
- **The Leader:** Amardeep Singh Bhatia, the sitting Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), was appointed to chair all six intersectional industrial panels, covering key sectors from aerospace and defense to pharmaceuticals and green automotive hardware.

## Part 6: Awards and Honors

**Q16) Which Indian Army officer was honored with the prestigious 'Birrera-Brookes Award' for Outstanding Master of Military Arts and Science**

**(MMAS) Thesis at a prominent US military academy in June 2026?**

- A) Major Prabhat Mishra
- B) Major General Eyal Zamir
- C) Colonel Vivek Devan
- D) Captain Amitesh Sharma

**Answer: A) Major Prabhat Mishra**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** During the graduation ceremony at the United States Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC), **Major Prabhat Mishra** of the Indian Army received the coveted **Birrer-Brookes Award**.
- **Additional Honors:** He also won the General Douglas MacArthur Military Leadership Writing Award for his thesis, demonstrating exceptional strategic and tactical insight on an international stage.

**Q17 How many total projects and initiatives were selected for the 29th National Awards for Electronic Governance (NAeG) 2026 announced by the DARPG?**

- A) 12 projects across 5 categories
- B) 17 projects across 7 categories
- C) 25 projects across 10 categories
- D) 9 projects across 4 categories

**Answer: B) 17 projects across 7 categories**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) announced the winners of the **29th NAeG 2026**.
- **Selection:** Out of a massive pool of nationwide applicants, **17 stellar digital governance projects** were selected across 7

core distinct reward streams. These awards highlight excellence in deploying AI, Blockchain, and cloud architecture to streamline public service delivery channels.

**Q18) The prestigious International Booker Prize committee announced its longlist for upcoming evaluations. Which translated Indian work secured a historic spot on the review panel for 2026?**

- A) Tomb of Sand by Geetanjali Shree
- B) The Scent of Burnt Flowers by Perumal Murugan
- C) River of Smoke by Amitav Ghosh
- D) Valli by Sheela Tomy (Translated by Jayasree Kalathil)

**Answer: D) Valli by Sheela Tomy (Translated by Jayasree Kalathil)**

**Full Explanation:**

- **Context:** In global literary achievements, the translated version of Sheela Tomy's acclaimed novel **"Valli"** garnered international critical acclaim.
- **Significance:** Documenting the socio-ecological struggles of Wayanad across multiple generations, its inclusion reflects the expanding footprint of Indian regional literature in global translation circles.

**Part 7: Defense News**

**Q19) Which two nations jointly launched the Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO) in New Delhi to protect their strategic defense manufacturing sectors?**

- A) India and the United States
- B) India and the United Kingdom
- C) India and Australia
- D) India and Japan

**Answer: B) India and the United Kingdom**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy (Ministry of Mines) and Yvette Cooper (Secretary of State, UK) jointly launched the **India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)**.
- **Strategic Objective:** This observatory will monitor volatile supply chains for key minerals like lithium, cobalt, and titanium. This data is critical for securing raw materials for military hardware, jet engines, and advanced communication gear.

**Q20) The Indian Army recently integrated an advanced tactical communication ecosystem to secure real-time field data during forward operations. What is the name of this system?**

- A) SAMBHAV
- B) ASMI
- C) Chanakya-Nxt
- D) Trishul-Net

**Answer: A) SAMBHAV**

**Full Explanation:**

- **Context:** The military continues to roll out **SAMBHAV** (Secure Army Mobile Bharat Version), an end-to-end secure, deployable mobile ecosystem.
- **Technology:** Operating on 5G network architecture, it protects strategic operational data from electronic warfare interceptions using indigenous encryption algorithms. This ensures command lines remain uncompromised during forward boundary deployments.

## Part 8: Government Schemes and MoUs

**Q21) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises launched the 'MSE-GIFT' scheme. What is the primary focus of this initiative?**

- A) Free export licenses for micro-exporters
- B) Concessional credit and low-interest loans for clean tech adoption
- C) IT training subsidies for rural handicraft workers
- D) E-commerce onboarding grants for women entrepreneurs

**Answer: B) Concessional credit and low-interest loans for clean tech adoption**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** Implemented through the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the **MSE-GIFT** (Micro and Small Enterprises Green Investment and Financing for Transformation) scheme provides critical support to small businesses.
- **Mechanism:** It provides low-interest, concessional loans to micro-enterprises to help them transition to eco-friendly machinery, reduce emissions, and adopt cleaner manufacturing technologies.

**Q22) Under the expanded criteria of the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY scheme highlighted in recent policy reviews, what specific expansion was finalized for senior citizens?**

- A) Free generic medicines for seniors aged 60 to 65
- B) Free health insurance cover up to ₹5 Lakh for all senior citizens aged 70+ regardless of income

C) Diagnostic cost waivers for elderly citizens living below the poverty line

D) Dedicated lifestyle disease clinics for citizens over 75

**Answer: B) Free health insurance cover up to ₹5 Lakh for all senior citizens aged 70+ regardless of income**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** To help families manage the high costs of elder care, the government expanded the **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY** scheme.
- **The Change:** The updated policy provides free secondary and tertiary hospitalization cover of up to **₹5 lakh per year for all senior citizens aged 70 and above**, completely removing previous income or socio-economic criteria for this age group.

**Q23) The Ministry of Education highlighted uniform evaluation guidelines under 'PARAKH'. What does the letter 'A' stand for in the acronym 'PARAKH'?**

- A) Advanced
- B) Achievement
- C) Assessment
- D) Academy

**Answer: C) Assessment**

**Full Explanation:**

- **Full Acronym:** PARAKH stands for **Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development**.
- **Role:** Established as India's first national assessment center, its primary mandate is to formulate uniform student evaluation guidelines across all recognized school

boards in India, removing regional scoring disparities.

## Part 9: Books and Authors

**Q24) The book titled "The Churn of Nations: Geopolitics in the 21st Century", which was heavily discussed in June 2026, is authored by whom?**

- A) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- B) Shashi Tharoor
- C) C. Raja Mohan
- D) Arundhati Roy

**Answer: C) C. Raja Mohan**

**Full Explanation:**

- **Context:** Renowned foreign policy analyst and academic **C. Raja Mohan's** latest book analyze the shifting alliances in West Asia and the Indo-Pacific.
- **Significance:** It serves as an essential resource for civil services aspirants, providing deep insights into modern maritime blockades, multi-aligned diplomacy, and the changing role of international organizations in conflict resolution.

**Q25) Who is the author of the recently released historical biography "Sardar Patel: The Architect of Iron Will", which draws on newly declassified archival letters?**

- A) Ramachandra Guha
- B) Vikram Sampath
- C) Hindol Sengupta
- D) Bipan Chandra

**Answer: C) Hindol Sengupta**

**Full Explanation:**

- **Context:** Author **Hindol Sengupta's** detailed historical biography explores the less-discussed administrative challenges of integrating the princely states. It draws on newly opened archival records to offer an intimate look at the leadership strategies that shaped modern India.

## Part 10: Important Days, Anniversaries, Art & Culture

**Q26) Which traditional Indian medicine system, known as the "Science of Healing", was featured during the Common Yoga Protocol Sessions under the Mission LiFE initiative?**

- A) Unani
- B) Siddha
- C) Sowa-Rigpa
- D) Naturopathy

**Answer: C) Sowa-Rigpa**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** The National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) organized a series of community health sessions in Leh, Ladakh, as part of the **Mission LiFE** initiative.
- **About Sowa-Rigpa:** It is one of the oldest living medical traditions in the world. Popularly known as the "Science of Healing," it incorporates principles from Ayurveda, Traditional Chinese Medicine, and Tibetan healing practices. The National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa operates as an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH.

**Q27) June 6 is celebrated globally as 'Russian Language Day' by the United Nations. This date marks the birth anniversary of which famous literary figure?**

- A) Leo Tolstoy

- B) Alexander Pushkin
- C) Fyodor Dostoevsky
- D) Anton Chekhov

**Answer: B) Alexander Pushkin**

**Full Explanation:**

- **The News:** Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov delivered a video address on June 6 to mark **Russian Language Day**.
- **History:** Established by UNESCO in 2010, the day coincides with the birth anniversary of **Alexander Pushkin**, who is widely considered the father of modern Russian literature. The UN hosts language days to celebrate cultural diversity and multilingualism.

**Q28) Which famous historical event's anniversary was observed on June 7, 2026, commemorating the moment Mahatma Gandhi was thrown off a train in South Africa, sparking his civil rights crusade?**

- A) Dandi March Anniversary
- B) Pietermaritzburg Incident Anniversary
- C) Champaran Satyagraha Anniversary
- D) Tolstoy Farm Foundation Day

**Answer: B) Pietermaritzburg Incident Anniversary**

**Full Explanation:**

- **History:** On **June 7, 1893**, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was forcibly removed from a first-class compartment at **Pietermaritzburg Railway Station** in South Africa because of racial discrimination. This pivotal moment prompted him to stay in South Africa and develop *Satyagraha* (non-violent resistance). This event is marked

annually to highlight the fight against racial bias.

Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2000. It combines expressions (*Nritya*) and pure dance (*Nritta*) through mythological storytelling.

**Q29) The annual 'Sikhualpui Cultural Festival', which recently drew thousands of domestic tourists, is celebrated in which North-Eastern state of India?**

- A) Nagaland
- B) Mizoram
- C) Manipur
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

**Answer: B) Mizoram**

**Full Explanation:**

- **Culture Corner:** The **Sikhualpui Festival** is a vibrant cultural celebration in Mizoram that honors ancestral heritage, community bonds, and traditional art forms. It features traditional dances like *Cheraw* and *Chheihlam*, showcasing Mizoram's rich cultural heritage and boosting local tourism.

**Q30) The 15th-century saint-reformer Srimanta Sankardeva created the classical dance form Sattriya. Which state's cultural identity is deeply rooted in this art form?**

- A) Odisha
- B) Assam
- C) West Bengal
- D) Tripura

**Answer: B) Assam**

**Full Explanation:**

- **Art & Culture Relevance:** Sattriya remains a key topic in competitive exams. Originally performed in *Sattras* (monasteries) as part of the Neo-Vaishnavite movement led by Srimanta Sankardeva, it was recognized as one of India's official classical dances by the