

Part 1: National News & Governance

Q1. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone for India's first riverine (river-based) lighthouses project at Lachit Ghat. This project is being developed along which river?

- A) Ganga River
- B) Brahmaputra River
- C) Indus River
- D) Godavari River

Correct Answer: B) Brahmaputra River

Explanation: The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) launched a historical project to build India's first river-based lighthouses on the Brahmaputra River in Guwahati, Assam. Jointly organized by the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) and the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), the project will feature 4 specific riverine lighthouses at Bogibeel, Pandu, Silghat, and Biswanath Ghat along National Waterway-2 (NW-2) to boost safe night navigation.

Q2. With reference to the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FFS 2.0) approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The Union Cabinet approved a financial corpus of ₹10,000 crore for FFS 2.0.
2. The original Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS 1.0) was launched in 2016 to support the Startup India Action Plan.
3. FFS does not invest directly into startups but allocates capital to SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

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: The Union Cabinet approved the rollout of the ₹10,000 crore Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FFS 2.0) to maintain high momentum in India's venture capital space. Under its managed structural mechanism, it acts as a "Fund of Funds", meaning it directly channels corpus allocations to SEBI-registered daughter funds (Alternative Investment Funds - AIFs), which in turn deploy early-stage equity funding to grassroots entrepreneurs.

Q3. The Ministry of Culture officially rolled out Version 2.0 of the Indian Culture Portal (ICP). Which institutional entity serves as the main executing partner for hosting and developing this digital portal?

- A) IIT Delhi
- B) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- C) IIT Bombay
- D) C-DAC Pune

Correct Answer: C) IIT Bombay

Explanation: Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, launched Version 2.0 of the Indian Culture Portal (ICP) at Kartavya Bhawan, New Delhi. Developed by a dedicated technology team at IIT Bombay in collaboration with the National Virtual Library of India (NVLI), the portal offers enhanced UI/UX, multi-lingual audio narratives, and digitized archives of ancient manuscripts.

Q4. A rare pair of Dusky Eagle Owls (*Bubo coromandus*) was spotted after a span of 15

years in the Phato Tourism Zone. This zone belongs to which state?

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) Assam
- D) Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer: B) Uttarakhand

Explanation: Wildlife trackers and forest officials recorded a massive conservation milestone with the sighting of a breeding pair of Dusky Eagle Owls in the Phato Tourism Zone, a part of the Terai West Forest Division in Uttarakhand. This nocturnal raptor had not been officially documented in this local avian ecosystem for 15 years.

Part 2: International News & Global Affairs

Q5. Which country became the first nation in the Americas to be officially verified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as having eliminated Leprosy as a public health problem?

- A) Brazil
- B) Chile
- C) Argentina
- D) Colombia

Correct Answer: B) Chile

Explanation: The WHO, alongside the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), officially certified that Chile has eliminated leprosy. The WHO criteria for leprosy elimination requires maintaining a prevalence rate below 1 case per 10,000 population, alongside proving zero locally acquired transmission cases for three consecutive years.

Q6. Romania officially submitted its Instrument of Ratification to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in March 2026. With this addition, Romania became which member country of the ISA?

- A) 110th
- B) 115th
- C) 118th
- D) 120th

Correct Answer: C) 118th

Explanation: Romania became the 118th member nation to sign and ratify the ISA Framework Agreement. Having originally initiated its intent during COP28 in Dubai, Romania's entry aligns with its national domestic green transition goals of scaling up to 8 GW of solar energy generation infrastructure by 2030.

Q7. Scotland became the first country in the United Kingdom (UK) to legally permit an eco-friendly alternative method of body disposal known as "Water Cremation". What is the scientific term for this process?

- A) Cryomation
- B) Alkaline Hydrolysis
- C) Thermal Gasification
- D) Pyrolysis

Correct Answer: B) Alkaline Hydrolysis

Explanation: Scotland officially updated its environmental and burial laws to introduce water cremation, scientifically referred to as alkaline hydrolysis. The process uses a heated solution of water and potassium hydroxide to break down organic matter inside a pressurized chamber, presenting a sustainable, low-carbon alternative to traditional flame cremation and land burial.

Part 3: Banking, Finance & Economy

Q8. Bank of Baroda (BoB) successfully raised ₹10,000 crore via Series I Long-Term Bonds. These bonds were explicitly issued as what asset class?

- A) Sovereign Gold Bonds
- B) Infrastructure Green Bonds
- C) Masala Bonds
- D) Electoral Bonds

Correct Answer: B) Infrastructure Green Bonds

Explanation: Bank of Baroda raised ₹10,000 crore through a dual-tranche issue of Long-Term Green Infrastructure Bonds, listed on the BSE and NSE. The bond proceeds are strictly 100% earmarked to finance sustainable operations such as commercial solar installations, wind farms, mass electric mobility projects, and certified green buildings.

Q9. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposal allowing which public sector bank to increase its institutional equity shareholding stake to 26% in Generali Central Insurance and Generali Central Life Insurance?

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

Correct Answer: C) Central Bank of India

Explanation: Under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act 2002, the CCI granted formal clearance to the Central Bank of India to raise its strategic equity stake to a uniform 26% in its non-life and life insurance joint ventures—Generali Central Insurance Co. Ltd and Generali Central Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

Q10. Shriram Finance Limited signed a major USD 76 million (~₹640 crore) co-financing credit agreement to boost rural financial inclusion with Citi and which international development institution?

- A) DEG (Germany)
- B) JICA (Japan)
- C) AFD (France)
- D) USAID (United States)

Correct Answer: A) DEG (Germany)

Explanation: Shriram Finance Limited finalized a USD 76 million co-financing deal with Citi and Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG), the German development finance institution. At least 10% of the funding is specifically dedicated to financing affordable housing properties that carry verified green building certifications (e.g., GRIHA, IGBC).

Q11. Which general insurance provider launched an integrated brand campaign titled 'Chuniye Bharosa, Apno Sa' featuring actor Pankaj Tripathi as its brand ambassador?

- A) HDFC ERGO General Insurance
- B) SBI General Insurance
- C) ICICI Lombard
- D) Bajaj Allianz

Correct Answer: B) SBI General Insurance

Explanation: SBI General Insurance Company Limited launched its multi-channel strategic campaign 'Chuniye Bharosa, Apno Sa' with Pankaj Tripathi. The promotional campaign centers heavily on the reliability, accessibility, and trust associated with retail health insurance and last-mile personal protection policies.

Part 4: Appointments & Resignations

Q12. Under the dynamic gubernatorial reshuffle announced by the President of India on March 6-7, 2026, who has been given the temporary additional charge as the Governor of Tamil Nadu?

- A) C.V. Ananda Bose
- B) Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- C) Kavinder Gupta
- D) Lakshman Prasad Acharya

Correct Answer: B) Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Explanation: Following the transfer of former Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi to West Bengal, President Droupadi Murmu appointed Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar (the sitting Governor of Kerala) to discharge the additional operational functions of the Governor of Tamil Nadu until permanent arrangements are instituted.

Q13. Who was officially appointed as the new Governor of Himachal Pradesh by the President of India?

- A) Vinai Kumar Saxena
- B) Kavinder Gupta
- C) Taranjit Singh Sandhu
- D) Kalraj Mishra

Correct Answer: B) Kavinder Gupta

Explanation: As part of the central administrative restructuring of state heads, Kavinder Gupta (former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir and recently Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh) was appointed as the regular full-time Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Q14. Who has become the first Kashmiri woman to head the largest high-security prison (Central Jail Kot Bhalwal) in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir?

- A) Ruveda Salam
- B) Saba Shawl
- C) Dr. Sehresh Asgar
- D) Sheetal Devi

Correct Answer: B) Saba Shawl

Explanation: In a notable appointment within regional correctional services, Superintendent Saba Shawl took charge as the head of Kot Bhalwal Central Jail in Jammu. This marks the first time a local Kashmiri woman officer has been appointed to command a high-security central prison facility housing high-profile inmates.

Part 5: Defence News & Space Tech

Q15. Which public sector defense undertaking signed an MoU with space startup Bellatrix Aerospace to co-develop satellite systems optimized for Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) operations?

- A) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- B) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- C) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
- D) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

Correct Answer: B) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

Explanation: Defense major BEL partnered with Bengaluru-based space-tech startup Bellatrix Aerospace. The collaboration focuses on designing, validating, and manufacturing specialized payloads and commercial satellite buses customized for VLEO (altitudes below

450 km). VLEO offers high-resolution earth imaging and lower communication latency.

Q16. Hyderabad-based aerospace startup Skyroot Aerospace announced the scheduled launch of its first private orbital rocket in March 2026. What is the name of this launch vehicle?

- A) Vikram-S
- B) Agnibaan
- C) Vikram-1
- D) Dhawan-2

Correct Answer: C) Vikram-1

Explanation: Skyroot Aerospace finalized preparations to launch its 7-storey orbital rocket 'Vikram-1' from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Constructed out of high-strength carbon-fiber composite materials, Vikram-1 features a 3D-printed liquid propellant upper-stage engine named Raman-2, and can ferry up to 350 kg payloads into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Q17. Which global superpower executed a successful test launch of its land-based operational nuclear deterrent, the "Minuteman III" Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), under code GT-254?

- A) Russia
- B) United States
- C) France
- D) United Kingdom

Correct Answer: B) United States

Explanation: The US Air Force Global Strike Command conducted a routine developmental test launch of an unarmed Minuteman III ICBM from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. Traveling across the Pacific Ocean to the Kwajalein Atoll, the test validated the

reliability and accuracy of the nation's land-based strategic triad deterrent.

Part 6: Government Schemes & Corporate MoUs

Q18. NITI Aayog signed a milestone Statement of Intent (SoI) with UNICEF India in March 2026. What is the primary objective of this agreement?

- A) Creating digital coding labs in primary government schools
- B) Strengthening nutrition and health outcomes in Aspirational Districts and Blocks
- C) Tracking youth unemployment data via block-chain
- D) Funding rural clean drinking water tap networks

Correct Answer: B) Strengthening nutrition and health outcomes in Aspirational Districts and Blocks

Explanation: The Agreement was signed by Rohit Kumar (Mission Director, Aspirational Districts Programme, NITI Aayog) and Arjan de Wagt (Deputy Representative, UNICEF India). It creates a joint framework to deploy data-driven solutions to curb child malnutrition, track maternal health indices, and improve institutional healthcare delivery across lagging blocks.

Q19. L&T Finance Limited launched a specialized corporate micro-lending program named "Spoorthi". This scheme is explicitly designed to financially support which group?

- A) Agri-tech startups in Northeast India
- B) Women Entrepreneurs
- C) Disabled military veterans

D) Rural artisans manufacturing handicraft products

Correct Answer: B) Women Entrepreneurs

Explanation: L&T Finance rolled out the "Spoothi" program to enhance financial inclusion for women entrepreneurs. The scheme offers longer loan tenures of up to 25 years for property purchases and 12 years for industrial loans. To qualify, a woman entrepreneur must hold at least a 50% equity stake and play an active managerial role in the enterprise.

Q20. An AI-powered, terrain-adaptive robotic canal-cleaning system named "G-SPIDER" was deployed to eliminate manual scavenging and clear deep urban blockages. In which Indian city was it deployed?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Thiruvananthapuram
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Chennai

Correct Answer: B) Thiruvananthapuram

Explanation: Deployed under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, the G-SPIDER robot was introduced by municipal authorities in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The spider-like robotic mechanism navigates narrow, deep urban channels and water paths to safely remove toxic waste and heavy slit accumulations without human intervention.

Part 7: Sports & Culture

Q21. Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya announced that the first-ever edition of the "Khelo India Tribal Games 2026" will be hosted by which state?

- A) Jharkhand

B) Chhattisgarh

C) Odisha

D) Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer: B) Chhattisgarh

Explanation: The first edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) will take place from March 25 to April 6, 2026, across three cities in Chhattisgarh: Raipur, Jagdalpur, and Surguja. The multi-sport event features 7 core medal sports aimed at scouting and nurturing athletic talent in tribal and indigenous regions.

Q22. What is the name of the official mascot unveiled for the inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games 2026?

- A) Morveer
- B) Veera
- C) Ammu
- D) Morula

Correct Answer: A) Morveer

Explanation: The official mascot for the games is named "Morveer" (derived from local dialects where 'Mor' translates to My/Our, and 'Veer' means Courage). The mascot represents the bravery, heritage, and sporting spirit of India's indigenous tribal communities.

Q23. President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to inaugurate the Darjeeling Hill Festival in West Bengal, which will concurrently celebrate the historic completion of 150 years of which iconic national song/composition?

- A) Jana Gana Mana
- B) Vande Mataram
- C) Sare Jahan Se Achha
- D) Hum Honge Kaamyab

Correct Answer: B) Vande Mataram

Explanation: Along with attending the 9th International Santhal Conference, the President will open the Darjeeling Hill Festival. The cultural gathering marks 150 years since Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed the patriotic anthem *Vande Mataram* in the 1870s, honoring its enduring role in India's freedom struggle.

Part 8: Awards, Books & Indices

Q24. According to the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, India ranks third globally in the total number of billionaires. Who was declared the richest woman in India, becoming the first Indian woman to enter the overall top three national wealth rankings?

- A) Savitri Jindal
- B) Roshni Nadar Malhotra
- C) Falguni Nayar
- D) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Correct Answer: B) Roshni Nadar Malhotra

Explanation: The Hurun Global Rich List 2026 confirmed that India remains third globally with 308 billionaires, led by Mukesh Ambani as the richest Asian. In a major shift, HCL Technologies Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra emerged as the richest woman in India and secured a spot in the overall top three national wealth rankings.

Q25. Who retained the title of the World's Richest Person in the Hurun Global Rich List 2026, becoming the first individual in global financial history to surpass a net worth of USD 700 billion?

- A) Jeff Bezos
- B) Elon Musk
- C) Bernard Arnault
- D) Mark Zuckerberg

Correct Answer: B) Elon Musk

Explanation: Tesla and SpaceX founder Elon Musk topped the Hurun Global Rich List 2026. Driven by surges in commercial satellite valuations and automotive AI tech expansions, his net worth rose to USD 792 billion, positioning him well ahead of Jeff Bezos (USD 300 billion).

Q26. According to the Forbes Real-Time Billionaires index data of March 2026, who holds the distinction of being the richest woman globally?

- A) Diane Hendricks
- B) Alice Walton
- C) Françoise Bettencourt Meyers
- D) MacKenzie Scott

Correct Answer: B) Alice Walton

Explanation: While China dominates the percentage of self-made women billionaires, Alice Walton (76-year-old heiress to the Walmart fortune) stands as the overall richest woman in the world with an estimated net worth of USD 119 billion.

Part 9: Economy & Trade Disruptions

Q27. Due to escalating geopolitical conflicts and security risks across the Strait of Hormuz, India's energy sector faced immediate supply chain vulnerabilities. Approximately what percentage of India's annual Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) consumption is dependent on imports?

- A) 30%
- B) 45%
- C) 58%
- D) 75%

Correct Answer: C) 58%

Explanation: A report by Vajiram & Ravi highlighted that India consumes nearly 31 million tonnes of LPG annually, but domestic production stands at around 13 million tonnes. This translates to a high import dependency of approximately 58%. Because 80% of these imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz chokepoint, maritime disruptions directly impact domestic prices.

Q28. A trade impact analysis by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) warned that persistent shipping blockades in West Asia threaten India's construction and infrastructure inputs. India relies on West Asia for over 68% of its imports of which mineral?

- A) Gypsum
- B) Limestone
- C) Sulphur
- D) Asbestos

Correct Answer: B) Limestone

Explanation: The GTRI report warned that India's infrastructure sector is highly vulnerable to supply chain issues in West Asia. India imports USD 483 million worth of limestone from the region, representing 68.5% of its total limestone imports. It also relies on the region for 62.1% of its gypsum imports, both of which are critical for domestic cement production.

Q29. The National Statistical Office (NSO) recently released a revised GDP base series. Under the updated data metrics, what is the revised size of India's nominal GDP for the fiscal year 2025-26?

- A) \$3.5 Trillion
- B) \$3.9 Trillion
- C) \$4.3 Trillion

D) \$4.6 Trillion

Correct Answer: B) \$3.9 Trillion

Explanation: The NSO's comprehensive adjustments and revision of data inputs changed previous projections. While initial estimates suggested India's economy had crossed the \$4 trillion mark, the new GDP calculations, based on an average exchange rate of ₹88 per dollar, place India's nominal GDP at approximately \$3.9 trillion.

Q30. International Business Machines (IBM) expanded its next-gen tech operations by launching its first "Sangam Infrastructure Innovation Center" at which Indian city campus?

- A) Hyderabad
- B) Pune
- C) Noida
- D) Bengaluru

Correct Answer: D) Bengaluru

Explanation: IBM formally launched its inaugural Sangam Infrastructure Innovation Center at its India Systems Development Lab (ISDL) campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The center is designed to serve as a collaborative R&D hub for developing advanced semiconductor architecture, hybrid cloud systems, and enterprise-grade AI models.