

## Part 1: National & International News

**Q1. In an unprecedented legal ruling under Indian judicial history, which trial court awarded the death penalty to nine police personnel simultaneously for a custodial torture case?**

- A) Madurai Trial Court, Tamil Nadu
- B) Special CBI Court, New Delhi
- C) Ernakulam Sessions Court, Kerala
- D) Ahmednagar District Court, Maharashtra

**Answer: A) Madurai Trial Court, Tamil Nadu**

- **Detailed Explanation:** In a historic verdict passed regarding the brutal 2020 Sattankulam custodial murder case of mobile shop traders P. Jayaraj and his son J. Beniks, a special trial court in Tamil Nadu classified custodial violence by nine police personnel as a "rarest of rare crime" and awarded them the death penalty. The landmark judgment emphasized that custodial torture is a naked violation of the Right to Life (Article 21) and human dignity, sending a severe deterrent message against state-sponsored executive excesses.

**Q2. To Lam has been formally re-elected to serve a five-year leadership tenure (2026–2031) as the President of which Southeast Asian nation?**

- A) Cambodia
- B) Thailand
- C) Vietnam
- D) Laos

**Answer: C) Vietnam**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of

Vietnam formally re-elected To Lam as the State President for the 2026–2031 administrative block. Operating out of the capital Hanoi, President To Lam alongside Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh coordinates Vietnam's rapidly rising industrial manufacturing framework, export infrastructure, and microchip supply alignments across the Indo-Pacific geopolitical corridor.

**Q3. Which neighboring nation of India successfully brokered and mediated the high-stakes, 14-day temporary ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran in April 2026?**

- A) Oman
- B) Pakistan
- C) Qatar
- D) Switzerland

**Answer: B) Pakistan**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Amid major global anxieties regarding disruptions to global trade, Pakistan successfully acted as the primary diplomatic mediator to broker a critical two-week temporary ceasefire agreement between the US and Iran. The agreement was finalized just hours before a strict US military ultimatum regarding the reopening of blockades at the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The peace talks were hosted in Islamabad, leading to an immediate pause in maritime conflicts.

**Q4. Under the guidelines of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and the regional MAHASAGAR initiative, an Indian naval training ship departed with a multinational crew from 16 friendly foreign countries. What does the acronym MAHASAGAR stand for?**



- A) Marine and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions
- B) Maritime and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions
- C) Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions
- D) Mutual and Hydrographic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions

**Answer: C) Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Flown out from Mumbai by Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth, the specialized naval training vessel deployed featured active military personnel from 16 Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs), including personnel from the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF). The program directly materializes India's security vision labeled **MAHASAGAR** (*Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions*), reinforcing shared maritime drills, seamanship, and defensive synergy across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

**Q5. Which state government issued an official gazette notification in early April 2026 declaring all forms of Cancer as a "Notifiable Disease" under public health statutes?**

- A) Kerala
- B) Telangana
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Maharashtra

**Answer: B) Telangana**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Government of Telangana officially declared cancer as a notifiable disease across the state. This statutory framework mandates that all

public and private medical facilities, diagnostic labs, and oncology clinics must immediately report every newly diagnosed cancer case directly to the state health registry. This centralized data tracking allows for precise epidemiological mapping, timely public healthcare funding, and targeted distribution of medical resources.

## Part 2: Economics, Banking & Corporate Governance

**Q6. The National Statistical Office (NSO) officially launched the first-ever "ASISSE" survey in April 2026. What specific segment of the Indian economy does this tracking exercise target?**

- A) Unorganized Agricultural Labour
- B) Informal Micro-Manufacturing Units
- C) Formal Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises
- D) Tech-driven Fintech Startups

**Answer: C) Formal Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The NSO under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) rolled out the **Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)**. The survey aims to capture structural and financial parameters from formal, registered service establishments like IT firms, private healthcare chains, logistics providers, and corporate hotels to drastically refine India's national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimation models.

**Q7. To identify and catalog corporate establishments for the newly rolled-out ASISSE survey, the National Statistical Office utilizes**

**which digital network as its primary baseline source?**

- A) EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation) Database
- B) GSTN (Goods and Services Tax Network) Database
- C) MCA-21 Portal
- D) UIDAI Aadhaar Merchant Registry

**Answer: B) GSTN (Goods and Services Tax Network) Database**

- **Detailed Explanation:** To track and map active corporate services firms with high precision, the NSO uses the **GSTN database** as its core sampling frame. This allows statistics authorities to isolate formal, service-providing entities based on active commercial tax filings, steering clear of obsolete structural registers and providing a clear look at economic formalization trends.

**Q8. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the commercial banking license of which co-operative banking institution in April 2026 due to inadequate capital reserves?**

- A) Saraswat Co-operative Bank
- B) Shirpur Merchants' Co-operative Bank
- C) Abhyudaya Co-operative Bank
- D) Cosmos Co-operative Bank

**Answer: B) Shirpur Merchants' Co-operative Bank**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Exercising its statutory powers under Section 22 read with Section 56 of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, the RBI officially cancelled the operating license of Maharashtra-based *Shirpur Merchants' Co-operative Bank Limited*. The central bank stated that the institution lacked adequate capital buffers,

failed to comply with minimum net worth criteria, and offered no viable earning prospects, barring it from all further banking operations.

**Q9. Which digital platform developed by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is widely termed by market experts as the "UPI of Insurance"?**

- A) NHCX (National Health Claims Exchange)
- B) Bima Sugam
- C) Policy Cover
- D) Bharat Bima Portal

**Answer: B) Bima Sugam**

- **Detailed Explanation:** **Bima Sugam** is designed to function as an open-architecture, single-window digital marketplace for the entire insurance lifecycle. It acts as an aggregator where life, health, and general insurance policies can be bought, managed, and claimed directly with zero middleman commissions, mirroring the transformative operational impact that UPI had on retail financial payments.

**Q10. To prevent promoter group manipulation and ensure healthy liquidity in equity markets, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) mandates a Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) rule. What is this mandatory minimum percentage requirement?**

- A) 15%
- B) 20%
- C) 25%
- D) 30%

**Answer: C) 25%**

- **Detailed Explanation:** SEBI strictly enforces the **Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS)**

rule, which dictates that all listed public corporate entities in India must maintain at least 25% of their total shares with the general public (non-promoter individuals and institutional funds). This prevents insider trading, blocks artificial share price inflation, and ensures true market-driven price discovery.

### Part 3: Environment, Science & Technology

**Q11. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) designated two key national institutions as official repositories for centralizing all biological resources. Which are these two institutions?**

- A) Indian Institute of Science (IISc) & Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
- B) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBGR) & National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)
- C) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBGR) & National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR)
- D) Botanical Survey of India (BSI) & Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)

**Answer: D) Botanical Survey of India (BSI) & Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Under statutory provisions of the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, the central government officially notified the **BSI** (Kolkata) and the **ZSI** (Kolkata) as the premium national repositories. These bodies legally preserve, catalog, and secure specimens and genetic material of flora and fauna. This centralization protects India's sovereign biological heritage against unauthorized commercial exploitation and foreign patent claims.

**Q12. A parliamentary standing committee report raised serious environmental alerts over groundwater contamination across 4,949 Indian villages. Which state was reported to have the highest number of chemically contaminated districts?**

- A) Punjab
- B) Assam
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Bihar

**Answer: C) Rajasthan**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The comprehensive parliamentary audit detailed heavy toxic metal, fluoride, and nitrate contamination across aquifers spanning 8 states (Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, and West Bengal). **Rajasthan** emerged at the top of this list with the highest number of geographically impacted districts suffering from critical fluoride and nitrate concentrations, posing a major risk to rural public health.

**Q13. Marine aquaculture systems in India are increasingly deploying an advanced eco-fishery technique that uses specialized microbial matrices to recycle organic waste directly into protein-rich fish feed. What is this technology called?**

- A) Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)
- B) Bio-floc Technology
- C) Cage Culture Engineering
- D) Hydro-phonic Stratification

**Answer: B) Bio-floc Technology**

- **Detailed Explanation:** **Bio-floc Technology (BFT)** is a low-water-exchange sustainable aquaculture model. It uses specialized heterotrophic bacteria to consume

nitrogenous waste products (like toxic ammonia excreted by fish) and convert them into healthy microbial proteins. This transformation turns waste back into high-nutrient feed inside the pond, lowering production costs and preventing local water pollution.

**Q14. Mount Semeru, which experienced a major explosive volcanic eruption in early April 2026 resulting in global ash alerts, is an active stratovolcano located in which country?**

- A) Japan
- B) Philippines
- C) Indonesia
- D) Italy

**Answer: C) Indonesia**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Mount Semeru, also known as the Great Mountain, is the highest and one of the most active stratovolcanos located on the island of Java, Indonesia. It sits along the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region defined by high subduction-zone tectonic activity. Its frequent eruptions prompt regional aviation warnings due to dense volcanic ash clouds injected into the upper atmosphere.

**Q15. In banking operations, the specific phrase "Net Open Position (NOP)" monitored tightly by the RBI primarily denotes:**

- A) A bank's unhedged exposure to foreign currency fluctuations
- B) Total value of unclaimed fixed deposit accounts
- C) Liquid assets available for short-term interbank lending
- D) Ratio of bad loans written off within a financial quarter

**Answer: A) A bank's unhedged exposure to foreign currency fluctuations**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Net Open Position (NOP) is a vital risk-management metric that quantifies the net difference between a commercial bank's foreign currency assets and liabilities that have not been hedged against exchange rate volatility. The RBI enforces strict NOP limits to shield commercial banking assets from sudden shocks in the global currency markets.

## Part 4: Defense, Government Schemes & MoUs

**Q16. The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched a dedicated premium tribal clothing and handloom brand titled "RISA: Timeless Tribal". Which state's indigenous heritage is the 'Risa' textile primarily associated with?**

- A) Nagaland
- B) Tripura
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

**Answer: B) Tripura**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Launched by Union Minister Jual Oram, Risa is a beautiful, handwoven fabric deep-rooted in the indigenous culture of Tripura's tribal communities. Traditionally used as a versatile upper garment, headgear, or celebratory stole, the brand launch aims to elevate this tribal art into global handloom markets, providing financial support to rural tribal women weavers.

**Q17. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries updated its progress report for the PLISFPI scheme, noting that cumulative investments have crossed Rs 9,000 crore. What does the acronym PLISFPI stand for?**

- A) Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry
- B) Primary Linkage Investment Scheme for Food Processing Infrastructure
- C) Production Linked Infrastructure Scheme for Fishery Industries
- D) Public Liquidity Investment Scheme for Food Production Integration

**Answer: A) Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The **PLISFPI** (*Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry*) is a flagship central scheme running from FY 2021-22 to FY 2026-27 with a budget of Rs 10,900 crore. It incentivizes domestic manufacturing across high-yield segments like Ready-to-Eat (RTE) foods, processed fruits/vegetables, marine products, and mozzarella cheese to establish global Indian food champions and improve farmers' incomes.

**Q18. The Union Government updated the borrowing parameters under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY). Under this scheme, loans falling in the brackets above Rs 10 Lakh and up to Rs 20 Lakh are categorized under which brand tier?**

- A) Kishor
- B) Tarun
- C) TarunPlus
- D) Shishu

**Answer: C) TarunPlus**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The MUDRA scheme features clear, step-up financing tiers for micro-enterprises:
  - **Shishu:** Loans up to Rs 50,000

- **Kishor:** Loans from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 Lakh
- **Tarun:** Loans from Rs 5 Lakh to Rs 10 Lakh
- **TarunPlus:** An advanced category introduced to offer financial support from **Rs 10 Lakh up to Rs 20 Lakh** for scaling operations.

**Q19. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting notified the "Television Rating Policy (TRP) 2026". Which central agency coordinates all official information dissemination, media accreditations, and press releases for the government?**

- A) Prasar Bharati
- B) CBFC (Central Board of Film Certification)
- C) PIB (Press Information Bureau)
- D) TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India)

**Answer: C) PIB (Press Information Bureau)**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Established originally in the pre-independence era and formalised in August 1947, the **Press Information Bureau (PIB)** is the apex nodal agency tasked with broadcasting official government updates, structural policies, and developmental programs directly to print, electronic, and digital media networks.

**Q20. Indian Railways approved a strategic Rs 398-crore infrastructure project to install high-bandwidth Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) links along remote networks. Which PSU under the Ministry of Railways specializes in managing telecom and network services?**

- A) IRCON International
- B) RITES Limited
- C) RailTel Corporation of India
- D) CONCOR

**Answer: C) RailTel Corporation of India**

- **Detailed Explanation:** RailTel is a Mini-Ratna Public Sector Undertaking and one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in India. It manages an exclusive optic fiber network laid along railway tracks, providing high-speed communication capabilities for train control, passenger safety systems, and nationwide broadband services.

## Part 5: Sports, Appointments & Awards

**Q21. At the Asian Wrestling Championships 2026, which elite Indian Greco-Roman wrestler captured the silver medal in the competitive 97kg category?**

- A) Nitesh
- B) Sunil Kumar
- C) Gyanender
- D) Aman Sehrawat

**Answer: A) Nitesh**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Indian wrestler Nitesh delivered a strong performance at the Asian Wrestling Championships, working his way through the brackets to secure the **Silver Medal** in the 97kg Greco-Roman category. This performance marks a positive step for India's Greco-Roman wrestling program on the continental stage.

**Q22. Who became the first Indian woman—and only the second woman globally—to successfully cycle all the way to the high-altitude Mount Everest Base Camp (EBC) in Nepal?**

- A) Arunima Sinha
- B) Divya Singh

C) Santosh Yadav

D) Premlata Agrawal

**Answer: B) Divya Singh**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Cyclist Divya Singh accomplished a phenomenal endurance milestone by cycling from Kathmandu to the Mount Everest Base Camp (located at an altitude of 5,364 meters). Supported by adventure sports groups, she navigated rugged terrain, high-altitude low-oxygen zones, and steep sub-zero mountain pathways over a challenging 14-day ride.

**Q23. At the halfway stage of the high-stakes FIDE Candidates 2026 Chess Tournament, which Indian chess player emerged as the country's strongest contender for the absolute title shot?**

- A) R. Praggnanandhaa
- B) D. Gukesh
- C) R. Vaishali
- D) Vidit Gujrathi

**Answer: C) R. Vaishali**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Grandmaster R. Vaishali displayed brilliant tactical consistency and depth during the first half of the FIDE Candidates 2026 Tournament. Her performance positioned her as India's premier hope to clinch the tournament title and earn the right to challenge for the ultimate World Chess Championship crown.

**Q24. Which state contingent lifted the team trophy at the conclusion of the first national One-Health Sports Integration Meet linked with the International One Health Summit?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Haryana

- C) Punjab
- D) Karnataka

**Answer: D) Karnataka**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Tied to public health outreach events running alongside the global One Health frameworks, the state sports unit of **Karnataka** displayed excellent athletic consistency across track and field events, lifting the team trophy ahead of Haryana and Punjab.

**Q25. Senior members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) are appointed directly by the Central Government. What is the maximum statutory service tenure fixed for a TRAI Chairperson?**

- A) 3 Years or 62 Years of age
- B) 3 Years or 65 Years of age
- C) 5 Years or 65 Years of age
- D) 5 Years or 70 Years of age

**Answer: B) 3 Years or 65 Years of age**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, the Chairperson and full-time members of TRAI are appointed for a fixed tenure of **three years**, or until they reach the age of **65 years**, whichever comes earlier. This rule helps maintain institutional autonomy and regulatory continuity across India's fast-evolving telecom sector.

## Part 6: Important Days, Culture & Anniversaries

**Q26. The International One Health Summit 2026, which focused on the global theme "Together for Health. Stand with Science", was hosted by which country?**

- A) India (New Delhi)

- B) France (Lyon)
- C) Switzerland (Geneva)
- D) Germany (Berlin)

**Answer: B) France (Lyon)**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The International One Health Summit 2026 was hosted by France in the city of Lyon. The global convention emphasizes the **"One Health" approach**, an integrated framework that recognizes how the health of people, animals, plants, and the wider environment are closely linked. The goal is to build collective defenses against cross-border zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

**Q27. April 8 is historically marked in Indian administrative current affairs to commemorate the death anniversary of which iconic freedom fighter who fired the opening shots of the 1857 Uprising?**

- A) Tantia Tope
- B) Mangal Pandey
- C) Kunwar Singh
- D) Bhagat Singh

**Answer: B) Mangal Pandey**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Sepoy Mangal Pandey of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry was executed by colonial authorities on **April 8, 1857**, at Barrackpore. His open defiance against the introduction of greased cartridges acted as the primary spark that ignited the 1857 Uprising, marking a turning point in India's struggle against British colonial rule.

**Q28. The Odisha State Government cleared a major infrastructure budget of Rs 5,631 crore to construct the greenfield "Jagannath**

**International Airport". In which cultural city is this airport being built?**

- A) Bhubaneswar
- B) Cuttack
- C) Puri
- D) Rourkela

**Answer: C) Puri**

- **Detailed Explanation:** To establish Puri as a major global spiritual tourism hub, the Odisha government cleared a **Rs 5,631-crore** development plan for the Jagannath International Airport. This greenfield project will provide direct international connectivity for millions of global pilgrims visiting the historic 12th-century Shree Jagannath Temple and attending the annual Rath Yatra festival.

**Q29. A nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India held high-profile hearings regarding whether public interest litigations challenging core religious customs can be filed by individuals who are not active devotees of that specific faith. This landmark case is centered on which historic temple?**

- A) Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Varanasi
- B) Sabarimala Temple, Kerala
- C) Kamakhya Temple, Assam
- D) Venkateswara Temple, Tirupati

**Answer: B) Sabarimala Temple, Kerala**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The nine-judge Constitution Bench reviewed fundamental questions concerning the scope of religious freedom under **Article 25 and 26** of the Constitution. A key question before the court is whether an individual who does not practice or belong to a specific religious denomination has the legal standing (*locus*

*standi*) to challenge its long-standing traditions through public interest litigations (PILs).

**Q30. The pristine alpine snow zones of Gulmarg faced sharp criticism in national current affairs after a visiting commercial cinema production team left behind heaps of plastic trash. Gulmarg is a world-famous ski resort located in which State/UT?**

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) Jammu & Kashmir
- D) Ladakh

**Answer: C) Jammu & Kashmir**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Located in the Baramulla district of **Jammu & Kashmir**, Gulmarg is an ecologically fragile high-altitude alpine wetland and premier ski destination. The environmental incident highlighted the need for stricter enforcement of eco-tourism guidelines, plastic bans, and waste-management accountability to protect the Himalayan ecosystem from damage.