

National News & Polity

Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 Passed in Parliament

- **Context:** The Rajya Sabha passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026.
- **Key Details:**
 - The Bill seeks to address the heavy pendency of cases in the apex court by expanding judicial capacity.
 - **Constitutional Issue:** Debate has re-emerged regarding the certification of structural/judicial bills via the **Money Bill route** under **Article 110** of the Indian Constitution. The core legal question remains whether Speaker certification under Article 110(3) is subject to judicial review, a matter referred to a 7-judge Constitution Bench.
 - **Exam Relevance:** Important for UPSC Mains (GS-II: Structure, Organization & Functioning of Executive and Judiciary; Money Bill vs. Ordinary Bill provisions).

Supreme Court Seeks Centre's Response on RTI Act Amendments via DPDP Act

- **Context:** A Supreme Court bench issued notice to the Union Government on petitions challenging Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023.
- **Key Details:**
 - **Section 44(3) of DPDP Act** amended **Section 8(1)(j)** of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
 - Previously, personal information could be withheld only if it had no relationship to public activity/interest, or caused unwarranted invasion of privacy—

subject to an overarching public interest clause.

- The amendment created a blanket exemption for personal data, which petitioners argue dilutes transparency and accountability in public administration.

- **Exam Relevance:** Fundamental Rights (Article 19), Transparency in Governance, RTI Act vs. Data Privacy framework.

PM Addresses 57th Convocation of IIT Delhi

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 57th Convocation of IIT Delhi, outlining key pillars of technological self-reliance (Atmanirbharata).
- **Key Highlights:**
 - Highlighted the **"One Nation One Subscription"** (ONOS) program, which provides access to premier international academic research journals across higher education institutions in India.
 - Called for focused indigenous research in **Critical Minerals, Deep Sea Exploration, AI, Quantum Computing, and Clean Energy Transition.**

International News

Mecca Joint Defence Agreement Signed

- **Signatories:** Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye.
- **Signed at:** Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
- **Objective:**
 - A trilateral security pact pledging **collective defense** and **collective deterrence** against regional external threats.
 - Enhances intelligence sharing, joint military exercises, and defense technology co-development between the three nations.

- **Exam Relevance:** Strategic shifts in Middle East and South Asian geopolitical alliances.

India & Argentina Sign Bilateral Pact on Critical Minerals

- **Context:** India finalized a strategic bilateral agreement with Argentina for exploration, development, and extraction of critical and strategic minerals.
- **Key Minerals:** Focus primarily on **Lithium** and Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
- **Significance:** Part of India's strategy to secure raw material supply chains for domestic Electric Vehicle (EV) battery manufacturing, energy storage systems, and reduce import dependency. Argentina forms part of South America's famous "**Lithium Triangle**" (along with Chile and Bolivia).

Economics & Banking

RBI Expands NBFC "Upper Layer" (UL) List to 17 Entities for FY27

- **Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its updated list of Non-Banking Financial Companies in the Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) under the Scale-Based Regulation (SBR) framework.
- **New Additions:** Four government-backed financial entities were added to the Upper Layer:
 1. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Limited
 2. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited
 3. Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) Limited
 4. Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) Limited
- **Key Policy Nuance:** Tata Sons Private Limited continues to be retained on the list. NBFC-UL entities are subject to enhanced

regulatory requirements, including tighter capital adequacy norms, board oversight, and mandatory listing requirements within three years of classification.

RBI Extends Loan Recovery Guidelines Deadline

- **Context:** The Reserve Bank of India extended the implementation timeline of revised fair practices code governing loan recovery and recovery agents from October 1, 2026 to **January 1, 2027**.
- **Key Guidelines:**
 - Mandatory **1-year transition window** for non-certified agents to obtain certification from the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF).
 - Direct employees of Regulated Entities (REs) and legal notices issued through courts are exempt from this specific agent-licensing framework.
 - Introduces a mandatory **48-hour cooling-off period** for digital loans to prevent coercive fintech practices.

Standard Chartered Bank IFSC Wealth Management Approval

- **Context:** Standard Chartered Bank received authorization from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** to offer full-suite wealth management services through its branch at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Defense News

Sqn Ldr Bhawana Kanth Becomes First Woman Fighter Combat Leader (FCL)

- **Context:** Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth became the **first female fighter pilot** in the Indian Air Force to complete the elite Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course at TACDE

(Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment), Gwalior.

- Significance:** TACDE is the IAF's equivalent of the "Top Gun" school, admitting roughly top 1% of fighter pilots for advanced combat tactics.

India Successfully Test-Fires Agni-4 Missile

- Location:** Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- Type:** Intermediate-Range / Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM).
- Range:** ~4,000 km operational range, capable of carrying nuclear payloads. Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Government Schemes & MoUs

Cabinet Approves Outlay for GOBARDhan Scheme

- Scheme:** Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARDhan).
- Outlay Approved:** ₹23,731 Crore total outlay.
- Objective:** Converting cattle dung, agricultural residues, and organic waste into Compressed Biogas (CBG) and bio-manure to drive circular economy goals and augment rural incomes.

Additive Manufacturing MoU: Lohia Aerospace Systems & Massivit (Israel)

- Parties:** Lohia Aerospace Systems Pvt Ltd (Kanpur) and Massivit (Israel).
- Project:** Establishing India's first commercial large-format additive manufacturing (3D printing) facility at Kanpur, UP with \$8–10 Million investment.

Science, Space & Technology

ISRO Launches EOS-09 via PSLV-C61

- Launch Vehicle:** PSLV-C61 (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle).
- Payload:** EOS-09 (Earth Observation Satellite-09).
- Features:** Equipped with multi-spectral microwave synthetic aperture radar (SAR) sensors for all-weather, day-and-night terrain imaging, agricultural crop estimation, disaster management, and border monitoring.

Important Days, Art, Culture & Anniversaries

Important Days (August 8 & Surrounding Dates)

Date	Day / Event	Strategic / Historical Significance
08 August	Quit India Movement Day (84th Anniversary)	Launched on August 8, 1942 at Gowalia Tank Maidan (August Kranti Maidan), Mumbai by Mahatma Gandhi with the slogan "Do or Die" (<i>Karo ya Maro</i>).
09 August	Nagasaki Day	Commemorates the 1945 atomic bombing ("Fat Man") of Nagasaki, Japan.
07 August	National Handloom Day	Celebrates the Swadeshi Movement launched on August 7, 1905, promoting domestic

Date	Day / Event	Strategic / Historical Significance
		weavers and handloom heritage.

Geography & Environment Spotlight: Dhansiri River

- **Context:** In news due to rising flood waters in Assam.
- **Origin:** Laisang Peak in Nagaland.
- **Course:** Transboundary river flowing through Nagaland and Assam; major south-bank tributary of the **Brahmaputra River**.

Practice Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Question 1 (Defense)

Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth recently made history by becoming the first female IAF pilot to graduate from which prestigious advanced combat tactical course?

- A) Higher Air Command Course (HACC)
- B) Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) Course at TACDE
- C) Experimental Test Pilot Course (ETPC) at ASTE
- D) Joint Warfare Staff Course

Answer: B) Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) Course at TACDE

Explanation: She successfully completed the 20-week Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course at the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE) in Gwalior, MP.

Question 2 (Banking & Financial Institutions)

Which of the following government-backed financial entities was recently added by the

Reserve Bank of India to the NBFC "Upper Layer" (UL) list under Scale-Based Regulations?

1. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Ltd
2. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Ltd
3. Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) Ltd
4. Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) Ltd

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1, 3 and 4 only
- D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation: All four central financial entities (REC, PFC, IRFC, HUDCO) were added to the 17-member NBFC Upper Layer list.

Question 3 (International Relations / Critical Minerals)

India signed a key bilateral framework agreement for the exploration and extraction of Lithium with which South American country?

- A) Chile
- B) Argentina
- C) Bolivia
- D) Peru

Answer: B) Argentina

Explanation: India partnered with Argentina to secure supply chains for Lithium and critical minerals essential for EV battery manufacturing and energy transition.

Question 4 (Geography)

Consider the following statements regarding the Dhansiri River:

1. It originates from the Laisang Peak in Nagaland.
2. It is a major north-bank tributary of the Ganga River.

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

Answer: A) 1 only

Explanation: *Statement 1 is correct (originates at Laisang Peak, Nagaland). Statement 2 is incorrect because Dhansiri is a major south-bank tributary of the Brahmaputra River, not the Ganga.*

Question 5 (Government Schemes)

What is the approved total outlay for the Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) scheme?

- A) ₹12,450 Crore
- B) ₹18,200 Crore
- C) ₹23,731 Crore
- D) ₹30,000 Crore

Answer: C) ₹23,731 Crore

Explanation: *The Union Cabinet approved a ₹23,731 crore budget outlay for the GOBARdhan initiative to process organic bio-waste into compressed biogas.*

National News & Governance

Q1. In August 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme with a total financial outlay of ₹23,731 crore. Which ministry is responsible for implementing this scheme?

- A) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

- B) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- C) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- D) Ministry of Jal Shakti

Answer: C) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Explanation:

- **Event:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the **GOBARdhan Scheme** with a total budget outlay of ₹23,731 crore for a 10-year period (FY2026-27 to FY2035-36).
- **Nodal Ministry:** The scheme is being implemented by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**.
- **Objective:** To convert organic waste (such as cattle dung, agricultural residue, and municipal bio-waste) into Compressed Biogas (CBG) and organic manure. The initiative seeks to expand domestic CBG production tenfold, reduce import dependency on crude/natural gas, and promote rural economic growth through sustainable waste management.

Q2. Under the updated operational guidelines for the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for 2026-2031, which two natural hazards were formally included as notified natural calamities by the Ministry of Home Affairs?

- A) Heatwaves and Lightning
- B) Avalanches and Glacial Lake Outbursts
- C) Urban Floods and Coastal Erosion
- D) Cyclones and Earthquakes

Answer: A) Heatwaves and Lightning

Explanation:

- **Context:** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) updated the SDRF/NDRF guidelines for the 2026–2031 period.
- **Inclusion:** Heatwaves and Lightning have been formally classified as notified natural disasters.
- **Significance:** State governments can now directly utilize SDRF/NDRF funds for immediate relief, medical assistance, and compensation for lives lost or injuries sustained during severe heatwaves and lightning strikes, addressing rising extreme weather occurrences linked to climate change.

and trade negotiation challenges between New Delhi and Washington.

Q4. Which severe tropical cyclone struck Japan's southern Okinawa prefecture in August 2026, causing widespread power outages and structural damage?

- A) Typhoon Gaemi
- B) Typhoon Dolphin
- C) Typhoon Khanun
- D) Typhoon Ampil

Answer: B) Typhoon Dolphin

Explanation:

- **Event:** Typhoon Dolphin battered Japan's southern Okinawa prefecture and surrounding regions in August 2026.
- **Impact:** The storm disrupted transport networks, injured multiple residents, cut power to over 50,000 households, and prompted coastal weather warnings across eastern China ahead of its expected landfall.

International News

Q3. In August 2026, the United States Senate passed a bill targeting countries purchasing Russian crude oil by threatening tariffs up to 100%. Which major nations were explicitly cited in the context of this legislation?

- A) India and China
- B) Brazil and South Africa
- C) Germany and Japan
- D) Turkey and Indonesia

Answer: A) India and China

Explanation:

- **Context:** The US Senate passed sanctions legislation aimed at curbing revenue streams from Russian petroleum exports.
- **Details:** The bill contains provisions for imposing up to 100% tariffs on goods imported from countries that continue to purchase Russian crude oil above established price caps.
- **Impact:** The measure explicitly highlights major buyers of discounted Russian energy, including **India and China**, posing diplomatic

Economics & Banking

Q5. In August 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expanded its list of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) under the "Upper Layer" (UL) regulation for FY2026–27 to how many entities?

- A) 12
- B) 15
- C) 17
- D) 20

Answer: C) 17

Explanation:

- **RBI Announcement:** The Reserve Bank of India issued its updated list of NBFCs falling in the **Upper Layer (UL)** under the Scale Based Regulation (SBR) framework for

FY2026-27 based on financial parameters as of March 31, 2026.

- **Count & Additions:** The list expanded from 15 to 17 NBFCs.
- **New Additions:** Key public sector lenders added include:
 1. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Limited
 2. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited
 3. Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) Limited
 4. Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) Limited
- **Note:** Tata Sons Pvt Ltd was retained in the Upper Layer list.

Q6. The Reserve Bank of India extended the compliance deadline for its revised framework governing loan recovery and the engagements of recovery agents to which date?

- A) October 1, 2026
- B) November 30, 2026
- C) January 1, 2027
- D) April 1, 2027

Answer: C) January 1, 2027

Explanation:

- **Regulatory Update:** The RBI extended the implementation timeline of the revised framework governing loan recovery procedures and recovery agent activities.
- **Timeline:** The original effective date of October 1, 2026, was shifted to **January 1, 2027**.
- **Objective:** To provide regulated entities (banks and NBFCs) sufficient operational lead time to update internal control mechanisms, train third-party recovery

staff, and establish digital logging systems for borrower communications.

Q7. Indian Bank launched the 'Unified MSME Portal' and disbursed nearly ₹500 crore in MSME loans during its Credit Outreach Programme in New Delhi. Which milestone foundation day was the bank celebrating?

- A) 100th Foundation Day
- B) 110th Foundation Day
- C) 120th Foundation Day
- D) 125th Foundation Day

Answer: C) 120th Foundation Day

Explanation:

- **Event:** Indian Bank organized a nationwide Credit Outreach Programme in New Delhi as part of its 120th Foundation Day Fortnight Celebrations.
- **Key Deliverables:**
 1. Sanctioned ₹500 crore directly to 128 MSME beneficiaries.
 2. Unveiled the **Unified MSME Portal**, an integrated digital platform that enables in-principle loan approvals in approximately 30 minutes using GST-linked data and OTP-based documentation.

Q8. Which life insurance company entered into a strategic corporate agency partnership with Jammu & Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) in August 2026 to distribute life insurance products across India?

- A) HDFC Life Insurance
- B) SBI Life Insurance Company Limited
- C) ICICI Prudential Life
- D) Max Life Insurance

Answer: B) SBI Life Insurance Company Limited

Explanation:

- **Partnership:** SBI Life Insurance Company Limited signed a corporate agency agreement with **Jammu & Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank)**.
- **Details:** Under the agreement, J&K Bank will market and distribute SBI Life's portfolio of protection, savings, and retirement insurance plans through its network of over 1,000 branches nationwide.

Defense News

Q9. Who became the first woman fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF) to complete the Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course at TACDE, Gwalior?

- A) Flight Lieutenant Avani Chaturvedi
- B) Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth
- C) Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh
- D) Wing Commander Shivangi Singh

Answer: B) Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth

Explanation:

- **Historic Milestone:** Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth became the first female fighter pilot of the IAF to graduate from the **Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course**.
- **Institution:** The 20-week tactical warfare course was conducted at the **Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE)** in Gwalior, MP.
- **Significance:** TACDE is known as the IAF's "Top Gun" school, where only top-performing pilots (~1% of all fighter pilots) are selected for operational instruction.

Q10. India successfully test-fired the Agni-4 Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM) in August 2026. From which testing facility was the launch executed?

- A) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram
- B) Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha
- C) Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
- D) Pokhran Test Range, Rajasthan

Answer: B) Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha

Explanation:

- **Event:** The Strategic Forces Command (SFC), in coordination with DRDO, conducted a successful user training launch of the **Agni-4** missile.
- **Location:** Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.
- **Technical Details:** Agni-4 is a surface-to-surface medium-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile with an operational strike range of approximately 3,500 to 4,000 km.

Q11. Lohia Aerospace Systems Private Limited (LASPL) signed an MoU with Israel-based Massivit to establish India's first commercial large-format additive manufacturing facility in which city?

- A) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- B) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Hyderabad, Telangana
- D) Pune, Maharashtra

Answer: B) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

Explanation:

- **MoU Details:** LASPL partnered with Israeli 3D-printing technologies company **Massivit**.
- **Location:** Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (within the UP Defence Industrial Corridor).
- **Investment:** Estimated at USD 8–10 million.

- **Purpose:** To produce high-speed, large-scale composite tooling and parts for aerospace, defense, and industrial application.

Appointments & Resignations

Q12. Who was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Air India in August 2026?

- A) Campbell Wilson
- B) Tewolde Gebremariam
- C) Pieter Elbers
- D) Willie Walsh

Answer: B) Tewolde Gebremariam

Explanation:

- **Appointment:** Air India announced the appointment of **Tewolde Gebremariam** (former CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group) as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director.
- **Succession:** He succeeded Campbell Wilson, who stepped down earlier in April.
- **Background:** Gebremariam is a globally recognized aviation executive who led Ethiopian Airlines through a decade of major fleet expansion and profitability.

Q13. Who was selected to assume charge as the Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) of India?

- A) Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja
- B) Vice Admiral Arti Sarin
- C) Lieutenant General Daljit Singh
- D) Air Marshal Sadhna Saxena Nair

Answer: A) Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja

Explanation:

- **Appointment:** Air Marshal **Sandeep Thareja** was named the Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS).
- **Role:** The DGAFMS serves as the administrative head of the integrated medical services spanning the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Q14. Who assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer of India's largest domestic carrier, IndiGo, in August 2026?

- A) Pieter Elbers
- B) Willie Walsh
- C) Rahul Bhatia
- D) Ronojoy Dutta

Answer: B) Willie Walsh

Explanation:

- **Appointment:** **Willie Walsh** (former CEO of International Airlines Group - IAG and former Director General of IATA) officially took charge as the CEO of IndiGo.
- **Succession:** He succeeded Pieter Elbers, following the planned leadership transition announced by InterGlobe Aviation.

Awards & Honors

Q15. On August 8, 2026, Indian theoretical physicist Deepak Dhar was awarded the prestigious 2026 Dirac Medal by ICTP. In which scientific field is this award primarily given?

- A) High Energy Particle Accelerators
- B) Statistical Mechanics & Theoretical Physics
- C) Astrophysics & Radio Astronomy
- D) Quantum Computing Hardware

Answer: B) Statistical Mechanics & Theoretical Physics

Explanation:



- **Award:** The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste (Italy), announced the recipients of the **2026 Dirac Medal** on August 8, 2026.
- **Indian Awardee:** Prof. Deepak Dhar (Emeritus Professor at IISER Pune, who previously won the Boltzmann Medal and Padma Bhushan).
- **Co-recipients:** Bernard Derrida (France), Marc Mézard (Italy), and Haim Sompolsky (Israel/USA).
- **Date Significance:** The Dirac Medal is awarded annually on **August 8**, marking the birth anniversary of Nobel laureate physicist Paul Dirac.

Q16. President Droupadi Murmu presented the Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and National Handloom Awards on August 7, 2026. What historical event does National Handloom Day commemorate?

- A) The launch of the Quit India Movement in 1942
- B) The launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905
- C) The inauguration of the All India Spinners Association in 1925
- D) The adoption of the Charkha flag in 1931

Answer: B) The launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905

Explanation:

- **Awards:** President Droupadi Murmu presented the Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and National Handloom Awards 2025 at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre.
- **National Handloom Day:** Celebrated annually on **August 7**.
- **Historical Reason:** Commemorates the **Swadeshi Movement**, which was formally

launched on August 7, 1905, at the Calcutta Town Hall to encourage indigenous products, especially handwoven textiles.

Q17. According to the 11th edition of the 'Kroll Celebrity Brand Valuation Report', who emerged as India's most valuable celebrity brand?

- A) Virat Kohli
- B) Ranveer Singh
- C) Shah Rukh Khan
- D) Alia Bhatt

Answer: C) Shah Rukh Khan

Explanation:

- **Report:** The 11th edition of the Kroll Celebrity Brand Valuation Report was published.
- **Top Spot:** Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** topped the Indian rankings with a brand value of **USD 177.9 million**.
- **Top Female Celebrity:** **Alia Bhatt** ranked as the most valued female celebrity in India, closely followed by Deepika Padukone.

Sports

Q18. Indian Chess Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa won which prestigious international tournament in August 2026, scoring 23.5 points out of 36?

- A) Norway Chess Blitz
- B) Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz 2026
- C) FIDE World Rapid Championship
- D) Bucharest Classic

Answer: B) Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz 2026

Explanation:

- **Victory:** 20-year-old Grandmaster **R. Praggnanandhaa** won the **Saint Louis Rapid**

& Blitz 2026, a major leg of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT).

- **Score:** Finished with 23.5/36 points, 1.5 points clear of runner-up Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan.
- **Prize:** Took home \$50,000 along with 13 Grand Chess Tour points.

Q19. Ashmita Chaliha made history by becoming the first Indian badminton player to win the women's singles title at which BWF World Tour Super 300 event in August 2026?

- A) Korea Masters 2026
- B) Orleans Masters 2026
- C) Syed Modi India International
- D) Swiss Open 2026

Answer: A) Korea Masters 2026

Explanation:

- **Achievement:** Ashmita Chaliha won the Korea Masters 2026 held in Asan, South Korea.
- **Milestone:** She became the first Indian ever to win the Korea Masters title, securing her maiden BWF World Tour Super 300 trophy by defeating China's Han Qian Xi (14-21, 21-14, 21-14).

Q20. Who became the first Indian squash player to win the men's individual gold medal at the FISU World University Squash Championship?

- A) Velavan Senthilkumar
- B) Abhay Singh
- C) Suraj Kumar Chand
- D) Harinder Pal Sandhu

Answer: C) Suraj Kumar Chand

Explanation:

- **Achievement:** 25-year-old Suraj Kumar Chand won the men's individual gold medal

at the FISU World University Squash Championship.

- **Final Match:** Defeated Hungary's Benedek Takacs 3-2 in a 5-game final.
- **History:** He is the first Indian player in history to win gold in the men's individual category at this university championship.

Books & Authors

Q21. The historical biography titled "Underground Resistance: The Secret Radios of August Kranti" details the secret broadcasting operations during the 1942 Quit India movement. Which freedom fighter operated the famous clandestine 'Congress Radio'?

- A) Aruna Asaf Ali
- B) Usha Mehta
- C) Sucheta Kripalani
- D) Sarojini Naidu

Answer: B) Usha Mehta

Explanation:

- **Historical Context:** Usha Mehta and her associates set up the secret **Congress Radio** on August 27, 1942, following the arrest of top Congress leaders.
- **Significance:** Broadcasting from undisclosed locations across Bombay, the underground radio station disseminated news about protests, police action, and national movement updates that British censors blocked.

Q22. The published history volume "Sacred Ensembles of the Deccan & South India" examines the architectural genius of the Hoysalas. In which year were the Hoysala temple ensembles of Belur, Halebid, and Somanathapura inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

- A) 2021
- B) 2022
- C) 2023
- D) 2024

Answer: C) 2023

Explanation:

- **Fact:** The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas' (comprising Chennakeshava Temple at Belur, Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebid, and Keshava Temple at Somanathapura in Karnataka) were inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List in September 2023**.
- **Architecture:** Built between the 12th and 13th centuries, these temples are famous for their star-shaped soapstone plans and intricate reliefs.

Govt Schemes & MoUs

Q23. Under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development provisions, which platform is mandatory for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to settle invoices with MSME vendors?

- A) TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System)
- B) GeM (Government e-Marketplace)
- C) SAMADHAAN Portal
- D) Udyam Registration Portal

Answer: A) TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System)

Explanation:

- **Framework:** TReDS is an institutional mechanism set up under RBI guidelines to facilitate discounting of trade receivables of MSMEs from buyers, including CPSEs and corporates.

- **Mandate:** Central Public Sector Enterprises are mandated to onboard and route invoice settlements via **TReDS** to eliminate payment delays and ensure liquidity for small enterprises.

Q24. Which international financial authority granted approval to Standard Chartered Bank in August 2026 to offer wealth management services from its branch at GIFT City, Gandhinagar?

- A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- C) International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)
- D) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

Answer: C) International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)

Explanation:

- **Approval:** Standard Chartered Bank received regulatory sanction from IFSCA.
- **Scope:** Permits the bank to offer international wealth management products and private banking advisory services to high-net-worth individuals and global clients directly from its GIFT City IFSC branch in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Important Days & Anniversaries

Q25. August 8, 2026, marks the 84th anniversary of Quit India Movement Day (August Kranti Diwas). Who coined the iconic phrase "Quit India"?

- A) Mahatma Gandhi
- B) Yusuf Meherally
- C) Jawaharlal Nehru
- D) Subhash Chandra Bose

Answer: B) Yusuf Meherally

Explanation:

- **Date:** Observed annually on **August 8**.
- **Clarification on Slogans:**
 - **"Quit India":** Coined by socialist leader and Mayor of Bombay, **Yusuf Meherally**.
 - **"Do or Die" (Karo Ya Maro):** Issued by **Mahatma Gandhi** during his address at Gowalia Tank Maidan, Bombay, on August 8, 1942.

Q26. Nagasaki Day is observed globally on August 9 to commemorate the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in 1945. What was the code name of the plutonium atomic bomb dropped on the city?

- A) Little Boy
- B) Fat Man
- C) Trinity
- D) Tsar Bomba

Answer: B) Fat Man

Explanation:

- **Nagasaki Day:** Observed on **August 9**.
- **Historical Event:** On August 9, 1945, the US B-29 bomber Bockscar dropped a plutonium-based atomic bomb code-named **"Fat Man"** on Nagasaki, Japan.
- **Note:** The uranium bomb dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, was code-named **"Little Boy"**.

Q27. International Cat Day is observed worldwide on which date every year?

- A) August 7
- B) August 8
- C) August 9
- D) August 10

Answer: B) August 8

Explanation:

- **Date:** August 8.
- **Origin:** Created in 2002 by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to raise awareness about cat protection, adoption, and feline well-being.

Art, Culture & Environment

Q28. The Melghat Tiger Reserve, recently highlighted in news regarding the Satpura-Melghat Tiger Corridor, is situated in which Indian state?

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

Answer: B) Maharashtra

Explanation:

- **Location:** Melghat Tiger Reserve is located in the Amravati district of **Maharashtra**.
- **Corridor Linkage:** Forms an ecological corridor with the Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, facilitating critical gene flow and movement of tigers and tigers' prey species in the Central Indian landscape.

Q29. In Hoysala architecture, what are 'Veeragallu'?

- A) Ornate temple gateway towers
- B) Memorial stones erected in honor of fallen heroic warriors
- C) Sacrificial stone altars inside temples
- D) Inscribed royal land grant copper plates

Answer: B) Memorial stones erected in honor of fallen heroic warriors

Explanation:



- **Definition:** Veeragallu (Hero Stones) are sculpted stone monuments erected across South India (especially Karnataka during Hoysala and Chalukya periods).
- **Purpose:** They depict reliefs of battles and pay tribute to soldiers or commanders who died heroically in combat, protecting their kingdom or community.

Q30. Dr. D.Y. Patil, who passed away in August 2026 at the age of 90, served as the Governor of which Indian state(s)?

- A) Bihar, West Bengal, and Tripura
- B) Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand
- C) Rajasthan and Gujarat
- D) Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

Answer: A) Bihar, West Bengal, and Tripura

Explanation:

- **Obituary:** Dr. Dnyandeo Yashwantrao Patil (D.Y. Patil), prominent educationist and public figure, passed away in Maharashtra.
- **Public Service:** He received the Padma Shri in 1991 for his contributions to education and healthcare and served as Governor of Tripura, Bihar, and West Bengal.

