

## Part 1: National News & Infrastructure

**Q1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for massive urban infrastructure and development projects in New Delhi. What is the total financial outlay of these newly launched projects?**

- A) ₹15,200 crore
- B) ₹24,800 crore
- C) ₹33,500 crore
- D) ₹41,100 crore

**Correct Answer: C) ₹33,500 crore**

**Explanation:** On March 8, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched developmental initiatives worth approximately ₹33,500 crore in the national capital. The primary objectives of this massive urban expansion drive include the expansion of new transit corridors for the Delhi Metro, building low-income housing complexes under urban welfare mandates, and implementing smart multi-modal traffic integration solutions to streamline regional connectivity.

**Q2. On International Women's Day, the Kerala Police officially launched a new targeted security initiative to ensure safe night travel for women. What is the name of this initiative?**

- A) Nirbhaya Nisha
- B) Pink Kavach
- C) Nishachari Suraksha
- D) Kamla Shakti

**Correct Answer: A) Nirbhaya Nisha**

**Explanation:** Launched by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, the "Nirbhaya Nisha" initiative is an integrated overnight safety system operational between 9:00 PM and 5:00 AM.

Under this framework, the state has deployed dedicated women-driven patrol squads, installed quick-response SOS booths at public transport terminals, and introduced an active tracking mechanism connected directly to the centralized police helpline.

**Q3. The Union Ministry for Earth Sciences reviewed the progress of India's first Integrated Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) plant. In which location is this historic eco-infrastructure project being developed?**

- A) Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- B) Kavaratti, Lakshadweep
- C) Kochi, Kerala
- D) Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

**Correct Answer: B) Kavaratti, Lakshadweep**

**Explanation:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh reviewed the physical and technical milestones of India's foundational OTEC plant at Kavaratti. The specialized facility exploits the deep-sea thermal gradient (temperature differences between shallow solar-heated surface water and deep cold ocean water) to generate clean electricity while concurrently running a low-temperature thermal desalination (LTTD) system to supply pristine drinking water to the island territory.

**Q4. Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the Government of India officially notified updated, standardized global trade metrics for which two critical green hydrogen derivatives?**

- A) Green Methane and Green Ethane
- B) Green Ammonia and Green Methanol
- C) Green Butane and Green Urea
- D) Green Ethanol and Green Propane

**Correct Answer: B) Green Ammonia and Green Methanol**

**Explanation:** To position India as an export powerhouse for clean energy intermediates, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy issued comprehensive standard guidelines defining the chemical parameters, emission baselines, and certification processes for Green Ammonia (\$NH\_3\$) and Green Methanol (\$CH\_3OH\$). This regulatory standardization facilitates frictionless cross-border energy trade and secures domestic supply networks.

## Part 2: Economics, Banking & Corporate Finance

**Q5. The State Bank of India (SBI) successfully concluded a major international corporate fundraising drive by launching a USD 500 million syndicated social term loan facility. This capital pool is strictly earmarked for:**

- A) Funding state-sponsored solar micro-grids
- B) Promoting women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship
- C) Providing MSME credit lines across the Northeast
- D) Re-financing high-speed railway logistics

**Correct Answer: B) Promoting women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship**

**Explanation:** SBI, India's largest public sector lender, closed a USD 500 million syndicated social term loan that included a greenshoe option. The legal charter of this social loan mandates that the entire dollar corpus must be explicitly deployed to fund credit facilities, financial literacy pipelines, and livelihood expansion initiatives directed at women-led micro-enterprises and self-help groups (SHGs).

**Q6. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) partnered with the Bill**

**& Melinda Gates Foundation and Dalberg Advisors to launch which technology challenge?**

- A) Agritech Blockchain Frontier
- B) National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge
- C) Rupee-Digital Cooperative Hackathon
- D) Krishi Drone Sandbox-2026

**Correct Answer: B) National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge**

**Explanation:** NABARD launched this challenge to source, test, and institutionalize next-generation digital open-source architectures called the "National Climate Stack". The open platform integrates precise satellite telemetry, weather forecasting models, and AI algorithms to give rural banks and farmers decision-ready climate intelligence, thereby de-risking agricultural loan portfolios against extreme weather events.

**Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the "State of India's Environment 2026" report released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE):**

1. The report warns that global temperatures are rapidly approaching the critical climate tipping point of a 1.5°C breach.
2. In the preceding assessment year, extreme weather events were recorded on 99% of days in India.
3. Crop damage resulting from extreme anomalies affected over 17 million hectares across the country.

**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 landmark annual report published by CSE paints a sobering picture of climate vulnerability. It highlights that extreme weather events (such as intense cloudbursts, unseasonal heatwaves, and severe localized floods) occurred on 99% of calendar days, causing 4,419 casualties and decimating 17.41 million hectares of standing agricultural yields. The report highlights the urgent need to switch from disaster management to climate-resilient infrastructure.

**Q8. Telecommunications industry veteran Dan Bailey, carrying over 35 years of global multi-sectoral expertise, was appointed to head the global expansion operations of which Indian enterprise?**

- A) Bharti Airtel International
- B) Jio Platforms
- C) Tata Communications
- D) Vodafone Idea Global

**Correct Answer: B) Jio Platforms**

**Explanation:** In a major corporate governance move, Jio Platforms appointed Dan Bailey as its President. His strategic mandate is to direct Jio's global business expansion, emphasizing the export and monetization of its indigenous 5G standalone network stacks, enterprise cloud services, and custom AI products to global telecommunications markets.

### Part 3: Defence, Intelligence & Security Space

**Q9. The Indian Navy's long-running maritime safety and deployment infrastructure in the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz, designed to**

**secure merchant vessel trade corridors, operates under which code name?**

- A) Operation Sankalp
- B) Operation Samudra Suraksha
- C) Operation Sagar Kavach
- D) Operation Trishul

**Correct Answer: A) Operation Sankalp**

**Explanation:** Launched on June 19, 2019, following heightened regional drone wars and maritime shipping strikes, Operation Sankalp remains India's premier continuous naval security mission. Frontline Indian Navy guided-missile destroyers and stealth frigates, carrying specialized MARCOS commandos, maintain active patrols in the Gulf of Oman and strategic chokepoints to safeguard Indian energy imports and international merchant traffic.

**Q10. A massive nationwide enforcement operation by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) successfully dismantled an elusive, darknet-based synthetic drug trafficking cartel. What was the operational name of this syndicate?**

- A) Syndicate Phoenix
- B) Team Kalki
- C) Operation Garuda-2
- D) Dark-Web Astra

**Correct Answer: B) Team Kalki**

**Explanation:** The NCB executed a highly coordinated, tech-driven operation to break up "Team Kalki," a high-tech domestic drug trafficking syndicate. The cartel exploited layered darknet marketplaces, crypto-wallets, and end-to-end encrypted messaging applications to distribute highly toxic synthetic narcotics, including LSD blottings, MDMA



crystals, and customized amphetamines across major urban hubs.

**Q11. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) sanctioned a specialized research project to develop novel antidote therapeutics against highly lethal Organophosphorous chemical weapons. Which academic institution was selected to execute this project?**

- A) IIT Madras
- B) Bharathiar University, Coimbatore
- C) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
- D) JNU, New Delhi

**Correct Answer: B) Bharathiar University, Coimbatore**

**Explanation:** The Ministry of Defence, through DRDO, allocated an initial research grant of ₹99.15 lakh to the Department of Chemistry at Bharathiar University. The objective of the defense project is to engineer organic chemical compounds capable of acting as quick-acting, high-stability antidotes against toxic organophosphorous formulations, which are frequently used in chemical weapons and highly concentrated industrial nerve agents.

#### Part 4: Leadership Transitions & Appointments

**Q12. Who has been officially designated to assume the office of the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) of the Indian Army with effect from April 1, 2026?**

- A) Lt Gen Pushpendra Pal Singh
- B) Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth
- C) Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi
- D) Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar

**Correct Answer: B) Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth**

**Explanation:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved a major top-tier structural shuffle in the Indian Army. Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, who is currently heading the Southern Command, will succeed Lt Gen Pushpendra Pal Singh as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff at the Army Headquarters in New Delhi. Lt Gen P.P. Singh will transition to take command of the Western Command.

**Q13. Deepak Gupta assumed full administrative charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of which prominent public sector Navratna energy enterprise?**

- A) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
- B) GAIL (India) Limited
- C) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
- D) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

**Correct Answer: B) GAIL (India) Limited**

**Explanation:** Deepak Gupta took over the office of CMD at GAIL, succeeding Sandeep Kumar Gupta following his scheduled statutory retirement. His confirmed executive tenure at the helm of India's largest natural gas transmission and processing corporation will continue through February 28, 2029.

#### Part 5: Government Schemes & Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

**Q14. The Directorate General of Training (DGT), operating under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), signed a Flexi-MoU with which automobile manufacturer to introduce advanced automotive manufacturing skills?**

- A) Tata Motors
- B) Mahindra & Mahindra

- C) Bajaj Auto Limited
- D) Maruti Suzuki India

**Correct Answer: C) Bajaj Auto Limited**

**Explanation:** The MSDE entered into a Flexible Memorandum of Understanding (Flexi-MoU) with Bajaj Auto to create custom, industry-integrated skill development tracks. Under this model, students undergo direct hands-on training inside advanced manufacturing plants, gaining exposure to robotic automation, electric vehicle assembly lines, and smart precision engineering workflows.

**Q15. Which academic institution finalized a structural MoU with the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) to establish accessible higher education ecosystems?**

- A) Delhi University
- B) Pondicherry University
- C) Banaras Hindu University
- D) Jadavpur University

**Correct Answer: B) Pondicherry University**

**Explanation:** Pondicherry University signed an agreement with the CCPD, which operates under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment). The MoU targets the structural implementation of digital accessibility tools, specialized braille-integrated learning setups, and barrier-free physical infrastructure across university spaces.

## Part 6: Sports, Trophies & International Tournaments

**Q16. India historically claimed its third T20 World Cup title by defeating New Zealand by 96 runs in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. Which stadium hosted this match?**

- A) Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai
- B) Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
- C) Eden Gardens, Kolkata
- D) M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru

**Correct Answer: B) Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad**

**Explanation:** On March 8, 2026, the Indian Men's Cricket Team won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Defeating New Zealand by a massive margin of 96 runs, India successfully defended its championship title, becoming the first cricketing nation in T20 international history to register consecutive tournament victories. Ace speedster Jasprit Bumrah was awarded the Player of the Final.

**Q17. To commemorate International Women's Day, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the launch of a new elite-level nationwide track and field tournament framework. What is it called?**

- A) ASMITA Athletics League
- B) Nari Shakti Olympic Mission
- C) Lakshya Mahila Track Tournament
- D) Tejaswini Sports League

**Correct Answer: A) ASMITA Athletics League**

**Explanation:** Union Minister of State Raksha Khadse announced the creation of the ASMITA (Athletics Sports Meet for India's Talented Athletes) Athletics League. Structured as an expansive talent scouting and development engine, the league will fund regional training circuits, professional coaching clinics, and high-performance testing camps for young female track and field prospects across all states.



**Q18. Which Mercedes racing driver won the 2026 season-opening Australian Grand Prix held at the Albert Park Circuit in Melbourne?**

- A) Lewis Hamilton
- B) Charles Leclerc
- C) George Russell
- D) Kimi Antonelli

**Correct Answer: C) George Russell**

**Explanation:** George Russell drove a flawless race to secure victory at the 2026 Australian Grand Prix, leading a dominant 1-2 podium finish for the Mercedes AMG team. His rookie teammate Kimi Antonelli secured a brilliant second place, while Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished third.

**Q19. Indian badminton prodigy Lakshya Sen finished as the silver medalist (runner-up) in the Men's Singles category at the All England Open Badminton Championships 2026. Who won the gold medal?**

- A) Viktor Axelsen
- B) Shi Yuqi
- C) Lee Zii Jia
- D) Jonatan Christie

**Correct Answer: B) Shi Yuqi**

**Explanation:** In a high-voltage Men's Singles final played in Birmingham, England, Lakshya Sen put up a fierce fight but ultimately fell short against China's top-seeded player Shi Yuqi, who claimed the All England Open crown.

## Part 7: State-Level Policy & Regional Governance

**Q20. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced a pioneering legislative policy proposal in the state's latest budget to ban unrestricted social**

**media access for children under what age threshold?**

- A) Under 12 Years
- B) Under 14 Years
- C) Under 16 Years
- D) Under 18 Years

**Correct Answer: C) Under 16 Years**

**Explanation:** The State Government of Karnataka proposed a policy to legally restrict children under the age of 16 from registering on or using major social media platforms. Designed to combat rising trends of digital addiction, algorithmic exploitation, and mental health issues among young teenagers, the draft framework will enforce strict age-verification mechanisms for online spaces.

**Q21. The state government of Maharashtra presented its annual budget with an infrastructure-heavy developmental roadmap. What is the target size of the state's economy projected under its long-term vision plan?**

- A) USD 500 Billion
- B) USD 1 Trillion
- C) USD 2 Trillion
- D) USD 3.5 Trillion

**Correct Answer: B) USD 1 Trillion**

**Explanation:** Structured firmly in alignment with the central government's *Viksit Bharat* roadmaps, Maharashtra's fiscal policy targets scaling up state economic outputs to hit the USD 1 trillion milestone over the medium term, with an ultimate developmental target of reaching USD 5 trillion by 2047. The budget allocates ₹1,12,816 crore strictly toward large-scale infrastructure expansion for the upcoming fiscal cycle.

## Part 8: Science, Tech & Biological Discoveries

**Q22. Entomologists conducting biodiversity documentation in the Himalayan foothills of the Solan district discovered two completely new species of fruit flies. What are they named?**

- A) *Acidoxantha paratotoflava* and *Hemilea suneriae*
- B) *Drosophila solani* and *Hemilea himalaya*
- C) *Tephritia indica* and *Acidoxantha shivalik*
- D) *Bactrocera flavifrons* and *Hemilea Solanensis*

**Correct Answer: A) *Acidoxantha paratotoflava* and *Hemilea suneriae***

**Explanation:** Discovered in Himachal Pradesh, these two novel insects represent significant additions to global dipteran taxonomy. *Acidoxantha paratotoflava* is categorized as a distinctive medium-sized, greenish-yellow fruit fly featuring four prominent parallel black stripes across its thoracic shield and large dark spots on its abdominal segments.

**Q23. What is the name of the innovative, surface-to-surface precision-guided tactical ballistic missile system manufactured by Lockheed Martin that was deployed for the first time in combat operations by the US military?**

- A) Tomahawk Block V
- B) Precision Strike Missile (PrSM)
- C) ATACMS-Next Gen
- D) Dark Eagle Hypersonic

**Correct Answer: B) Precision Strike Missile (PrSM)**

**Explanation:** The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) confirmed the first operational combat deployment of the PrSM ballistic missile system. Designed as the primary

long-range, high-precision surface-to-surface weapon for the US Army, the missile features an advanced open systems architecture and modules that leverage GPS coupled with internal inertial guidance networks to neutralize distant adversarial coordinates.

**Q24. Health officials in Maryland, USA, issued an active epidemiologic public health alert following an unusual surge in localized cases of Mumps. Mumps is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus belonging to which viral family?**

- A) Coronaviridae
- B) Paramyxoviridae
- C) Filoviridae
- D) Retroviridae

**Correct Answer: B) Paramyxoviridae**

**Explanation:** Mumps is a viral infection caused by the mumps virus, a member of the *Paramyxovirus* genus. The acute disease targets human hosts and is characterized by painful inflammation of the parotid salivary glands near the jaw line. It spreads quickly through airborne respiratory droplets and direct contact with infected saliva.

## Part 9: International Relations & Global Summits

**Q25. India will host a major international industrial summit beginning April 16, 2026, to foster global collaborations in green metallurgy and next-generation manufacturing ecosystems. What is this summit called?**

- A) Global Metallurgy Congress 2026
- B) Bharat Steel 2026
- C) Ind-Aluminium Future Summit
- D) National Mining Expo

**Correct Answer: B) Bharat Steel 2026**

**Explanation:** Scheduled to take place in New Delhi, the "Bharat Steel 2026" summit will bring together corporate leaders, policymakers, mineral mining companies, and technology providers from across the world. The international forum is designed to accelerate investments into low-carbon "Green Steel" processing methods and sustainable factory architectures.

**Q26. India submitted its 7th National Report (NR7) to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This report details India's progress toward achieving the 2030 global biodiversity targets under which framework?**

- A) Paris Climate Accord
- B) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)
- C) Nagoya Protocol
- D) Aichi Biodiversity Targets

**Correct Answer: B) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**

**Explanation:** India's NR7 report offers an analytical assessment of its national initiatives aligned with the 23 specific global biodiversity targets setup under the KMGBF. The report highlights India's progress in expanding protected ecological zones, restoring degraded land mass, and enforcing community-led wildlife conservation.

## Part 10: International Days, Awards & Obituaries

**Q27. International Women's Day is observed annually on March 8th. What are the prominent global themes chosen to guide the international advocacy campaign for the year 2026?**

- A) "Embrace Equity" and "DigitALL"
- B) "Give To Gain" and "Rights. Justice. Action."
- C) "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress"
- D) "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow"

**Correct Answer: B) "Give To Gain" and "Rights. Justice. Action."**

**Explanation:** The official international slogans for International Women's Day 2026 focus on addressing systemic structural inequalities. The chosen themes emphasize the need for fair resource allocation, pay equality, and expanding women's representation in political leadership and corporate boards worldwide.

**Q28. Lance Havildar K.G. George, a decorated Vir Chakra awardee who served with distinction during the 1965 India-Pakistan War, passed away at the age of 95. He belonged to which specialized corps of the Indian Army?**

- A) Corps of Engineers
- B) Corps of Signals
- C) Army Medical Corps
- D) Mahar Regiment

**Correct Answer: B) Corps of Signals**

**Explanation:** Lance Havildar K.G. George, a resident of Kottayam, Kerala, passed away on March 7, 2026. He was awarded the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest wartime military decoration, for his exceptional bravery under heavy enemy fire while maintaining vital forward tactical communication networks during the 1965 conflict.

**Q29. Which state-level Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project (PSHP), designed to generate 2,000 MW of peak power, faced legal challenges over its environmental clearances in the state's High Court?**

- A) Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project
- B) Iduki Hydro Reverse System
- C) Koyna Stage-V Project
- D) Kundah Pumped Hydro

**Correct Answer: A) Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project**

**Explanation:** The High Court of Karnataka issued formal notices to the central and state governments following a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) contesting the environmental approvals given to the Sharavathi PSHP in the Shivamogga district. Being executed by the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL), it is slated to become India's largest single-location pumped storage installation upon completion.

**Q30. The United Nations-backed Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) received formal requests from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to upgrade the global protection status of which mammalian carnivore?**

- A) Snow Leopard
- B) Striped Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*)
- C) Caspian Tiger
- D) Asiatic Wild Dog

**Correct Answer: B) Striped Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*)**

**Explanation:** Central Asian neighbors Tajikistan and Uzbekistan submitted proposals to place the Striped Hyena into Appendices I and II of the CMS framework at the upcoming CMS COP15. The species is currently listed as "Near Threatened" on the IUCN Red List and faces threats from habitat fragmentation, prey depletion, and human-wildlife conflict.