

Part 1: National & International News

Q1. Regarding the recent 2026 constitutional debate over the expansion of the Supreme Court of India's judicial strength, which of the following statements is correct?

- A) The judicial strength was increased from 31 to 34 via a regular Act of Parliament.
- B) The President issued an Ordinance under Article 123, raising the court's sanctioned strength from 34 to 38.
- C) The Chief Justice of India used discretionary powers under Article 130 to add new seats.
- D) The expansion was executed via a Constitutional Amendment under Article 368 requiring state ratification.

• **Correct Answer: B**

• **Detailed Explanation:** In a historic and highly debated constitutional move, a **Presidential Ordinance issued under Article 123** expanded the sanctioned judicial strength of the Supreme Court of India from **34 to 38**. Following its promulgation, five new judges were administered the oath of office.

• **UPSC/SSC Edge:** Under Article 124(1) of the Constitution, the power to alter the number of Supreme Court judges rests strictly with Parliament. The route of using an Ordinance (Article 123) while Parliament is not in session has raised critical institutional questions regarding the independence of the judiciary and executive overreach, making it a high-probability topic for upcoming polity and governance sections.

Q2. Chumur village, which recently made headlines for being developed as India's first "Model Border Village" to counter strategic

expansion by neighboring nations, is located in which state or Union Territory?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) Sikkim
- D) Ladakh

• **Correct Answer: D**

• **Detailed Explanation:** **Chumur** is a strategically vital village located in the **Union Territory of Ladakh**, along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) separating India and China. It has been officially designated and developed as India's first comprehensive **Model Border Village** under a specialized border area infrastructure push.

• **Exam Relevance:** The development focuses on preventing migration from border regions by providing 4G connectivity, round-the-clock solar electricity, paved roads, and modern medical facilities, effectively creating a defensive demographic buffer.

Q3. Who among the following has been elected as the President of the upcoming 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in June 2026?

- A) Dennis Francis
- B) Csaba Kőrösi
- C) Khalilur Rahman
- D) Abdulla Shahid

• **Correct Answer: C**

• **Detailed Explanation:** Diplomat **Khalilur Rahman from Bangladesh** has been elected as the President of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

• **International Significance:** The UNGA presidency rotates annually among the five

geographic groups of member states. Bangladesh holds this prestigious position for the upcoming session, focusing on digital equity, global south representation, and climate financing frameworks.

Q4. In June 2026, eighteen European Union Member States signed a landmark "Joint Declaration of Intent" in Luxembourg. What is the primary objective of this cross-border initiative?

- A) Setting up unified defense production corridors against non-EU threats
- B) Establishing large-scale cross-border testbeds for autonomous vehicles
- C) Creating an emergency joint electrical grid to manage green energy surpluses
- D) Formulating a standardized cross-border migration tracking database

• **Correct Answer: B**

• **Detailed Explanation:** On the margins of the Transport Council in Luxembourg, 18 EU Member States (including Germany, France, Italy, and Austria) signed a Joint Declaration to establish **large-scale cross-border testbeds for autonomous (self-driving) vehicles.**

• **Key Detail:** Financed partly by €20 million from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) 2026 work programme, it builds uniform regulatory and physical infrastructure rules for autonomous public transport and freight logistics across national borders.

Q5. A major maritime emergency concluded safely when all Indian seafarers aboard the oil tanker 'MT Marivex' were rescued following a fire incident. This operation took place south of which strategic global chokepoint?

- A) Strait of Malacca

B) Bab-el-Mandeb

C) Strait of Hormuz

D) Suez Canal

• **Correct Answer: C**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The Indian Embassy in Muscat, Oman, confirmed the successful rescue of 24 Indian seafarers aboard the Palau-flagged vessel **MT Marivex** after it suffered a fire and subsequent security incident south of the **Strait of Hormuz** in the Arabian Sea.

• **Geography Connection:** The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical crude oil transit chokepoints, separating the Persian Gulf from the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

Part 2: Economics & Banking

Q6. In its June 2026 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) review, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to keep the policy Repo Rate unchanged. What is the current Repo Rate as of June 2026?

A) 6.50%

B) 5.25%

C) 6.25%

D) 5.50%

• **Correct Answer: B**

• **Detailed Explanation:** In its latest bi-monthly monetary policy meeting, the RBI MPC unanimously decided to keep the policy **Repo Rate unchanged at 5.25%**, maintaining its 'Neutral' stance as core inflation showed signs of cooling toward the 4% target.

• **Associated Rates:**

Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate: **5.00%**

Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate: **5.50%**

Q7. The Ministry of Finance recently introduced major tax reforms for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to deepen the Indian Government Securities (G-Sec) market. Under the new June 2026 regime, what is the tax rate on interest income earned by FPIs from G-Secs?

- A) 5%
- B) 10%
- C) 15%
- D) Nil (0%)

• **Correct Answer: D**

• **Detailed Explanation:** To attract long-term foreign capital and diversify the investor base for domestic debt, the Ministry of Finance announced that tax on **interest income earned by FPIs/FIIs from Government Securities (G-Secs) will be completely Nil (0%)**. Prior to this, short-term capital gains were aggressively taxed, making this a massive structural reform for India's macroeconomy.

Q8. According to data compiled by Bloomberg in June 2026, India slipped to which position in the global market capitalization (mcap) rankings after being overtaken by South Korea?

- A) 5th
- B) 6th
- C) 7th
- D) 8th

• **Correct Answer: C**

• **Detailed Explanation:** India slipped to the **7th spot** in global market capitalization rankings with a valuation of USD 4.84

trillion. **South Korea** claimed the 6th spot (USD 5.01 trillion).

- **Economic Drivers:** The drop is attributed to sustained foreign institutional investor (FII) selling (withdrawing USD 26.4 billion in early 2026), moderate domestic corporate earnings, and India's lower relative exposure to hyper-scale Artificial Intelligence (AI) semiconductor stocks compared to South Korea.

Q9. The Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of ₹41.80 Lakh on Canara Bank in June 2026. What were the specific operational failures cited by the regulator?

- A) Failing to report cyber-security breaches within 6 hours
- B) Lapses in Know Your Customer (KYC) registry uploads and misclassifying active accounts as inoperative
- C) Violating exposure limits to commercial real estate loans
- D) Under-reporting non-performing assets (NPAs) during the fiscal year

• **Correct Answer: B**

• **Detailed Explanation:** Following its Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE), the RBI penalized Canara Bank for failing to upload KYC records to the Central KYC Records Registry (CKYCR) within prescribed deadlines and incorrectly classifying accounts as "inoperative" even when customer-induced transactions had occurred within the past year.

Q10. The Government of India has announced a phased plan over the next five years to entirely replace the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). Which index will take its place to measure macro-level producer costs?

- A) Producer Price Index (PPI)
- B) Gross Domestic Product Deflator
- C) Services inflation Index (SII)
- D) Cost Inflation Index (CII)

• **Correct Answer: A**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The government is phasing out the old WPI framework to adopt the **Producer Price Index (PPI)**.
- **Banking/UPSC Concept:** WPI only measures the price changes of physical goods at the wholesale level. PPI is structurally superior because it captures price shifts from the perspective of the producer and, crucially, **includes both goods and services** (such as banking, insurance, telecom, and railways which are being covered in Phase-1).

Part 3: Sports News

Q11. Which country won the SAFF Women's Championship 2026 title?

- A) Nepal
- B) Bangladesh
- C) India
- D) Maldives

• **Correct Answer: C**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The **Indian Women's Football Team** clinched the prestigious **SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Women's Championship 2026** title after a thrilling final match. This victory marks a significant resurgence for Indian women's football on the regional stage.

Q12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the historic 1st-ever World

Yogasana Sports Championship 2026. Which Indian city is hosting this global tournament?

- A) Rishikesh
- B) Bengaluru
- C) New Delhi
- D) Ahmedabad

• **Correct Answer: D**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The first-ever **World Yogasana Sports Championship 2026** was officially launched in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat** (a city recognized alongside UNESCO World Heritage site protections). The championship aims to institutionalize yoga as a formal competitive sport globally.

Q13. The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) has chosen six tech firms, including TCS and NEC India, for GoI-backed Artificial Intelligence projects. Which specific priority sports disciplines are targeted under this AI-performance mapping partnership?

- A) Cricket, Football, and Hockey
- B) Athletics, Archery, Table Tennis, Swimming, and Judo
- C) Badminton, Weightlifting, and Shooting
- D) Boxing, Wrestling, and Kabaddi

• **Correct Answer: B**

- **Detailed Explanation:** As part of the IndiaAI Mission, the selected technology firms are building specialized AI computer-vision models to track biomechanics, kinetic data, and performance optimization for Indian athletes in 5 priority Olympic codes: **Athletics, Archery, Table Tennis, Swimming, and Judo**.



Part 4: Appointments, Awards, & Honors

Q14. Who has been conferred with the prestigious United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award?

- A) Major Suman Gawani
- B) Major Abhilasha Barak
- C) Captain Shiva Chouhan
- D) Wing Commander Deepika Misra

• **Correct Answer: B**

• **Detailed Explanation:** Major Abhilasha Barak of the Indian Army was honored with the **UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award** for her outstanding integration of gender perspectives and female protection mechanisms during her deployment in UN Peacekeeping operations.

• **Historical Fact:** Major Barak was also famously the Indian Army's first woman combat aviator.

Q15. In June 2026, Saurabh Vijay assumed additional charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the IndiaAI Mission. He is currently serving as the permanent CEO of which organization?

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- C) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)
- D) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

• **Correct Answer: C**

• **Detailed Explanation:** Saurabh Vijay, the CEO of UIDAI (which manages Aadhaar), was handed the additional responsibility of

leading the **IndiaAI Mission** under MeitY. He succeeds Abhishek Singh, who transitioned to become the Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Q16. The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme was recently conferred with which renowned international honor for sustainable food systems?

- A) Right Livelihood Award
- B) Food Planet Prize 2026
- C) World Food Prize
- D) UNEP Champions of the Earth Award

• **Correct Answer: B**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The **APCNF programme** won the prestigious **Food Planet Prize 2026**, which recognizes initiatives that structurally reshape how food is grown and distributed globally. APCNF is one of the world's largest transitions to agroecology, avoiding synthetic chemicals and supporting millions of smallholder farmers.

Part 5: Defense News, MoU's, & Government Schemes

Q17. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari is scheduled to attend the final breakthrough ceremony of a strategically vital infrastructure project connecting the Kashmir Valley with Ladakh. What is the name of this project?

- A) Atal Tunnel
- B) Sela Tunnel
- C) Zojila Tunnel
- D) Shinkun La Tunnel

• **Correct Answer: C**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Zojila Tunnel, located at an altitude of over 11,500 feet, is nearing its final structural breakthrough from the Kargil side.
- **Defense Strategy:** Once fully operational, it will be Asia's longest bi-directional valley tunnel, ensuring **all-weather, year-round connectivity** between Srinagar, Kargil, and Leh, eliminating the seasonal vulnerability of the National Highway (NH-1) due to heavy snow.

Q18. Project UDAYAK, which was recently featured in defense infrastructure reports, is a specialized territorial engineering project managed by which organization?

- A) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- B) Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
- C) Central Public Works Department (CPWD)
- D) Military Engineer Services (MES)

• **Correct Answer: B**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Project UDAYAK is an active territorial project of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**. Established in 1989, it handles construction and maintenance of highly sensitive strategic roads and bridges in eastern **Arunachal Pradesh** and adjoining areas of Assam, directly supporting Indian Army troop movements along the northern frontiers.

Q19. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the 'NZIP Saathi App' along with self-ticketing UPI kiosks. For which specific site was this digital assistant launched?

- A) Jim Corbett National Park
- B) Gir National Park
- C) National Zoological Park, New Delhi
- D) Kaziranga National Park

• **Correct Answer: C**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Union MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh launched the **NZIP Saathi App** specifically for the **National Zoological Park (Delhi Zoo)** in New Delhi. The app functions as a digital zoo guide offering navigation, automated audio tours, and species education logs to eliminate physical maps and ticketing lines via local on-the-spot Wi-Fi.

Q20. Which central micro-credit scheme, launched during the COVID-19 pandemic to offer collateral-free working capital loans to urban street vendors, successfully completed six years of implementation in June 2026?

- A) PM-KISAN
- B) PM SVANidhi
- C) PM Jan Dhan Yojana
- D) PM Mudra Yojana

• **Correct Answer: B**

- **Detailed Explanation:** **PM SVANidhi** (PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi), launched in **June 2020**, has completed six full years. It has been incredibly successful in bringing informal urban vendors into the formal banking fold, offering escalating tranches of credit (€10k, €20k, and €50k) coupled with digital transaction cashbacks.

Q21. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is conducting a month-long nationwide campaign from 1 to 30 June 2026 titled "Khet Bachao Abhiyan". What is the foundational objective of this initiative?

- A) Promoting corporate contract farming
- B) Enhancing agricultural exports to EU nations
- C) Soil health restoration through scientific and balanced fertilizer usage

D) Providing free solar pumps to marginal farmers

• **Correct Answer: C**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The **Khet Bachao Abhiyan** focuses on addressing the skewed NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium) ratio caused by overusing chemical fertilizers like urea. The scheme educates farmers on utilizing custom nutrient applications based strictly on **Soil Health Card** data.

Q22. Air India signed a major Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in June 2026 to expand flight connectivity, premium codeshare choices, and seamless bookings between India and the Middle East. Which airline did they partner with?

A) Emirates

B) Riyadh Air

C) Qatar Airways

D) Etihad Airways

• **Correct Answer: B**

• **Detailed Explanation:** Air India partnered with Saudi Arabia's new premium national carrier, **Riyadh Air**. The strategic agreement builds out deep commercial synergies, opening up smoother flight webs for passengers traveling between various Indian tier-1/2 hubs and Saudi Arabia's expanding business destinations.

Q23. In June 2026, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) launched the "Common Landing Portal". What issue is this platform designed to solve for citizens?

A) Applying for multiple retail and home loans at once

B) Searching and reclaiming unclaimed financial assets across banks and insurance companies

C) Filing automated income tax returns

D) Tracking real-time performance of mutual funds

• **Correct Answer: B**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The **Common Landing Portal for Unclaimed Financial Assets** acts as a unified search window allowing users to track down long-forgotten, inoperative bank savings, mature insurance policies, or unclaimed dividends spread across distinct institutions, streamlining the processing of inheritance and personal recovery claims.

Q24. India signed a major defense export contract to supply its advanced BrahMos missile systems to which Southeast Asian nation?

A) Philippines

B) Vietnam

C) Indonesia

D) Malaysia

• **Correct Answer: B**

• **Detailed Explanation:** India expanded its defense export portfolio by signing a landmark contract with **Vietnam** for the supply of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**.

• **Technical Detail:** BrahMos is a joint venture between India's DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya. It is capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-surface, and air platforms, flying at speeds of up to Mach 2.8.



Part 6: Art, Culture, Festivals, & Environment

Q25. In June 2026, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change officially designated "Surha Taal" as India's 100th Ramsar Site. In which district of Uttar Pradesh is this natural oxbow lake located?

- A) Gorakhpur
- B) Ballia
- C) Lakhimpur Kheri
- D) Varanasi

• **Correct Answer: B**

• **Detailed Explanation:** Surha Taal (officially known as the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary) is located in the Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh and has been declared India's 100th Ramsar Site (Wetland of International Importance).

• **Ecological Profile:** It is a natural perennial oxbow lake formed by a meander of the Ganga River. This milestone solidifies India's status as the country with the highest number of Ramsar Sites in South Asia.

Q26. The "Hostile Activity Watch Kernel" (HAWK), launched in June 2026 as India's first fully digitized and judiciary-integrated wildlife offense management system, is an initiative of which state's Forest Department?

- A) Assam
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Kerala
- D) Karnataka

• **Correct Answer: C**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The Kerala Forest Department officially deployed HAWK, a

software system that maps and archives wildlife crimes, mortality logs, poaching attempts, and illegal timber trades. Crucially, it links directly with judicial networks to expedite warrants and track recurring forest offenders.

Q27. The Agasthyamalai Ecological Landscape was recently in the news due to a Supreme Court verdict concerning illegal encroachments. In which year was the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve formally added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves?

- A) 2001
- B) 2010
- C) 2016
- D) 2020

• **Correct Answer: C**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve, spanning parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the Western Ghats, was included in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2016. The recent judicial action reinforces strict legal protections against construction activities in its eco-sensitive buffer zone.

Part 7: Important Days, Anniversaries, & Miscellaneous

Q28. World Environment Day 2026, which saw the declaration of several key ecological initiatives across India, was globally observed on which date?

- A) 1 June
- B) 5 June
- C) 8 June
- D) 22 May

• **Correct Answer: B**

- **Detailed Explanation: World Environment Day** is celebrated every year on **5 June**. In 2026, India utilized the platform to anchor major green energy projects, launch the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan," and expand its Ramsar wetland declarations.

Q29. June 2026 marked the birth centenary observations of Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali, who was featured in national history retrospectives. Who was Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali?

- A) The first Chief Justice of independent India
- B) A fiery revolutionary nationalist who served as the Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of India established in Kabul in 1915
- C) The architect of India's first modern irrigation canal system
- D) A classical musician who pioneered the Gwalior Gharana

- **Correct Answer: B**

• **Detailed Explanation: Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali** was a prominent Indian revolutionary who fought for independence from outside India. In 1915, alongside Raja Mahendra Pratap, he co-founded the **Provisional Government of India in Kabul, Afghanistan**, serving as its Prime Minister. His legacy was heavily commemorated this month to inspire historical awareness in competitive exams.

Q30. The "Right to be Forgotten" was heavily discussed in the first week of June 2026 following a landmark judgment by the Delhi High Court. This right is structurally an offshoot of which Fundamental Right guaranteed under the Indian Constitution?

- A) Right to Equality (Article 14)

B) Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression (Article 19)

C) Right to Life and Personal Liberty (Article 21)

D) Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32)

- **Correct Answer: C**

• **Detailed Explanation: The Right to be Forgotten** enables individuals to request the removal of their personal, public data from internet search engines once it is no longer relevant. Following the Supreme Court's *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* judgment, privacy is recognized as an intrinsic part of the **Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21**, making data deletion rights a vital aspect of digital jurisprudence.