

## Part 1: National News & Governance

**Q1. With reference to the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which individual became the first declared person in the state of Assam to officially receive an Indian Citizenship Certificate on March 6–9, 2026?**

- A) Alpana Das
- B) Dipali Das
- C) Radhika Biswas
- D) Jitesh Roy

**Correct Answer: B) Dipali Das**

**Explanation:** In a significant legal and administrative milestone under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) framework, a 60-year-old woman named Dipali Das from the Cachar district of Assam officially became the first person in the state to be granted an Indian citizenship certificate under the provision. The certificate was formally issued following stringent verification by the central empowered committee.

**Q2. The historic 138-year-old "Hatti Risala" festival was celebrated with grand traditional fervor during Dhulivandan in March 2026. In which state is this cultural festival celebrated?**

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Gujarat

**Correct Answer: C) Maharashtra**

**Explanation:** The "Hatti Risala" festival, boasting a deep-rooted lineage of 138 years, was celebrated with grandeur in Jalna, Maharashtra. The festival traces its historic origin back to the Nizam era, when cavalry forces and military troops organized community assemblies during

the spring season. It stands as a unique heritage event representing regional unity and traditional folk arts.

**Q3. With reference to the BharatNet Project in news, consider the following statements:**

1. The primary objective is to provide unrestricted high-speed broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in India.
2. Phase I successfully focused on connecting 1 lakh Gram Panchayats using existing infrastructure.
3. Phase II utilizes an optimized mix of optical fiber, radio, and satellite technologies to expand coverage to the remaining rural bodies.

**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 BharatNet Project is the world's largest rural broadband connectivity program funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Reviewed extensively in March 2026 for its rural digital infrastructure targets, the scheme aims to convert Gram Panchayats into e-governance hubs. Phase I laid the base, and Phase II expands the digital footprint using advanced optical and satellite links to prevent a rural-urban digital divide.

**Q4. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries reviewed procurement targets. For the 2026–27 Rabi Marketing Season starting April 1, 2026,**

the central pool has set a wheat procurement target of how many million tonnes?

- A) 25.5 million tonnes
- B) 30.3 million tonnes
- C) 35.8 million tonnes
- D) 42.1 million tonnes

**Correct Answer: B) 30.3 million tonnes**

**Explanation:** The Government of India formally finalized a procurement target of 30.3 million tonnes of wheat for the upcoming Rabi Marketing Season (FY27). Additionally, to reinforce the Public Distribution System (PDS) supply chain using modern data tracking, the food ministry concurrently authorized targets of 7.6 million tonnes for rice and 0.77 million tonnes for coarse grains/milletts.

## Part 2: International News & Global Relations

Q5. Following the announcement of strict cybersecurity and minor-protection laws in March 2026, which Southeast Asian country decided to legally ban children under the age of 16 from creating accounts on major social media platforms?

- A) Malaysia
- B) Vietnam
- C) Indonesia
- D) Philippines

**Correct Answer: C) Indonesia**

**Explanation:** The Government of Indonesia officially announced a comprehensive ban restricting children below 16 years from creating profiles or maintaining operational presence on major commercial social media applications. Authorities cited escalating psychological and legal risks, including

cyberbullying, exposure to pornography, online gaming fraud, and algorithmic attention addiction as the driving reasons to safeguard minors.

Q6. Mojtaba Khamenei was officially declared and elevated as the new Supreme Leader of which nation in March 2026?

- A) Syria
- B) Iran
- C) Yemen
- D) Lebanon

**Correct Answer: B) Iran**

**Explanation:** Following an internal constitutional process by the Assembly of Experts after the demise of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, his son Mojtaba Khamenei was declared the new Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This significant leadership transition comes at a time of severe geopolitical regional conflicts and escalating proxy wars across West Asia.

Q7. The international human rights monitoring body "Human Rights Watch" (HRW) formally accused an active military force of unlawfully using "White Phosphorus" munitions over residential zones in southern Lebanon. Why is white phosphorus highly restricted in warfare?

- A) It depletes atmospheric oxygen within 5 kilometers.
- B) It causes severe, deep chemical burns penetrating through human tissue and bone.
- C) It creates radioactive isotopes that last for decades.
- D) It converts groundwater immediately into sulfuric acid.

**Correct Answer:** B) It causes severe, deep chemical burns penetrating through human tissue and bone.

**Explanation:** White phosphorus is an incendiary substance that ignites spontaneously upon exposure to atmospheric oxygen, generating intense heat (~800°C) and thick white smoke. Under Protocol III of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), using air-dropped incendiary weapons within concentrated civilian habitats is strictly prohibited due to the horrific, unquenchable chemical burns and fatal systemic toxicity it causes.

### Part 3: Economics, Banking & Finance

**Q8. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced open market operations (OMO) aggregating how much financial quantum to handle potential year-end liquidity crunches caused by advance tax and GST outflows?**

- A) ₹25,000 crore
- B) ₹50,000 crore
- C) ₹1,000,000 crore (₹1 Lakh Crore)
- D) ₹2,500,000 crore

**Correct Answer:** C) ₹1,000,000 crore (₹1 Lakh Crore)

**Explanation:** The RBI scheduled government securities (G-Sec) purchase auctions under Open Market Operations (OMO) in two equal tranches of ₹50,000 crore each on March 9 and March 13, 2026. This proactively manages systemic liquidity and keeps benchmark G-Sec yields stable as massive capital outflows occur due to advance corporate tax obligations before the closure of the financial year.

**Q9. The Reserve Bank of India granted a special regulatory relaxation exempting the promoters**

**of which prominent financial institution from the mandatory Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC) requirement for transitioning into a Universal Bank?**

- A) Capital Small Finance Bank
- B) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- C) AU Small Finance Bank
- D) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank

**Correct Answer:** C) AU Small Finance Bank

**Explanation:** In a major banking sector policy update, the RBI relaxed its strict structural guidelines for AU Small Finance Bank. This allows its promoters to transition the entity directly into a full-scale Universal Commercial Bank without creating an intermediate NOFHC structure, accelerating corporate restructuring and easing governance pathways.

**Q10. What is the maximum non-biogenic greenhouse gas emission limit permitted for "Green Ammonia" production to qualify for central fiscal incentives under the newly updated guidelines issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)?**

- A) 0.50 kg \$CO\_2\$ eq/kg
- B) 0.38 kg \$CO\_2\$ eq/kg
- C) 0.24 kg \$CO\_2\$ eq/kg
- D) 0.12 kg \$CO\_2\$ eq/kg

**Correct Answer:** B) 0.38 kg \$CO\_2\$ eq/kg

**Explanation:** The MNRE notified highly precise, standardized emission baselines for green hydrogen derivatives. Under these updated green credentials, the total non-biogenic greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the synthesis, purification, and storage of Green Ammonia must not cross the upper threshold of

0.38 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilogram of ammonia produced.

**Q11. Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) was selected as the global winner of the prestigious 2025 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award. Which international civil aviation body administers this independent global survey?**

- A) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- B) Air Transport Association (IATA)
- C) Airports Council International (ACI)
- D) Aviation Safety Network (ASN)

**Correct Answer: C) Airports Council International (ACI)**

**Explanation:** Mangaluru International Airport secured the ASQ Award for the "Best Airport at Arrivals" globally for the second consecutive year. Administered independently by ACI, the evaluation captures live feedback from arriving passengers across metrics like immigration efficiency, baggage delivery speeds, structural cleanliness, wayfinding, and terminal comfort.

## Part 4: Appointments & Resignations

**Q12. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the top-tier military deployment of Lt Gen Pushendra Pal Singh as the next GOC-in-C of which crucial command of the Indian Army?**

- A) Southern Command
- B) Eastern Command
- C) Northern Command
- D) Western Command

**Correct Answer: D) Western Command**

**Explanation:** Following structural shuffles at the Army Headquarters, Lt Gen Pushendra Pal Singh was designated to lead the operational Western Command as its General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C). Concurrently, Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth was moved to head the office of the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS).

**Q13. Who became the first Indian economist to be honored with the prestigious Chicago Booth Alumni Award for Professional Achievement by the University of Chicago Booth School of Business?**

- A) Dr. Raghuram Rajan
- B) Dr. KV Subramanian
- C) Dr. Arvind Subramanian
- D) Dr. Gita Gopinath

**Correct Answer: B) Dr. KV Subramanian**

**Explanation:** Dr. KV Subramanian, India's Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and former Chief Economic Adviser (CEA), became the first Indian economist to receive this apex global academic honor. The award recognizes his intellectual role in structuring India's economic self-reliance (*Atmanirbhar Bharat*) frameworks, emphasizing competitive market regulations and inclusive financial safety networks.

## Part 5: Defence & Weapon Systems

**Q14. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of Iran recently claimed to target tactical airbases using its fourth-generation solid-fuel ballistic missile named "Kheybar Shekan". What is the approximate operational strike range of this weapon?**

- A) 750 kilometers
- B) 1,450 kilometers

- C) 2,200 kilometers
- D) 3,100 kilometers

**Correct Answer: B) 1,450 kilometers**

**Explanation:** The Kheybar Shekan is Iran's state-of-the-art, long-range solid-fuel tactical ballistic missile belonging to the Khorramshahr missile genealogy. Translating to "Breaker of Khayber", the weapon features advanced maneuverability during its terminal re-entry phase to bypass modern missile defense shields, carrying an operational range capable of striking strategic vectors up to 1,450 kilometers away.

**Q15. The Blue Sparrow missile system, which recently appeared in global defense intelligence reports following targeted structural military strikes, is indigenously designed and manufactured by which nation?**

- A) United States
- B) Iran
- C) Israel
- D) Russia

**Correct Answer: C) Israel**

**Explanation:** Developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, the Blue Sparrow is part of Israel's specialized family of airborne ballistic target missiles (alongside Black Sparrow and Silver Sparrow). Primarily engineered to test the intercept capabilities of advanced shield platforms like the Arrow-3, it can also be modified to serve as an air-launched, precision-guided standoff ballistic strike weapon.

## Part 6: Government Schemes & Social Initiatives

**Q16. The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports launched the "ASMITA" initiative nationwide. What is the fundamental objective of this sports program?**

- A) Building digital e-sports arenas in rural Tier-3 towns
- B) Creating dedicated competitive athletic leagues to identify and empower female sports talent
- C) Funding pension schemes for retired Olympic athletes
- D) Free distribution of high-performance nutrition packs to school children

**Correct Answer: B) Creating dedicated competitive athletic leagues to identify and empower female sports talent**

**Explanation:** Deployed under the gender-neutral mission of the Khelo India umbrella, the ASMITA (Athletics Sports Meet for India's Talented Athletes) initiative structures nationwide multi-discipline leagues. It acts as an early-stage scouting platform to discover, nurture, and provide state-of-the-art training infrastructure to budding female athletes across remote districts.

**Q17. The Government of India celebrates "Jan Aushadhi Diwas" annually to reinforce public trust in generic medicines. On which day is this national health campaign observed?**

- A) March 3
- B) March 5
- C) March 7
- D) March 9

**Correct Answer: C) March 7**

**Explanation:** Jan Aushadhi Diwas is celebrated on March 7th every year to culminate the week-long 'Jan Aushadhi Saptah'. Managed by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, the campaign highlights the structural availability and therapeutic



equivalence of low-cost generic drugs supplied via PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras.

**Q18. The "SWAYATT" initiative, which celebrated its operational expansions under the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in March 2026, focuses on which core socio-economic mandate?**

- A) Waiving interest on agricultural machinery loans
- B) Integrating startups, women entrepreneurs, and youth into the national public procurement ecosystem
- C) Subsidizing solar rooftop panels for MSME factories
- D) Automated tracking of textile export quality

**Correct Answer: B) Integrating startups, women entrepreneurs, and youth into the national public procurement ecosystem**

**Explanation:** SWAYATT stands for *Startups, Women and Youth Advantage through e-Transactions*. The digital policy framework on the GeM portal breaks down traditional entry barriers for grassroots suppliers, enabling women-led self-help groups, small tech startups, and young creators to bid directly for large-scale public sector and government procurement contracts.

## Part 7: Corporate Memorandums (MoUs) & State Policy

**Q19. The State Government of Maharashtra signed a technology-driven MoU with three Finland-based companies (Helvar, Mirasis, and River Recycle). This international partnership is directed toward the modernization of which historic infrastructure?**

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)
- B) Sassoon Dock, Mumbai

- C) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus
- D) Deonar Eco-Transformation Hub

**Correct Answer: B) Sassoon Dock, Mumbai**

**Explanation:** Established in 1875, Sassoon Dock is one of Mumbai's oldest and densest fishing harbors. The multi-firm MoU with Finnish clean-tech entities will upgrade the dock into an eco-sustainable facility. The project introduces specialized digital data frameworks from Mirasis, smart lighting systems from Helvar, and marine plastic processing tech from River Recycle to clear discarded nets and advance circular economy manufacturing.

**Q20. Under the comprehensive "Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Farmers' Loan Waiver Scheme" highlighted in the recent Maharashtra state budget, what is the maximum outstanding crop loan amount eligible for full waiver per farmer?**

- A) Up to ₹1 Lakh
- B) Up to ₹2 Lakh
- C) Up to ₹3 Lakh
- D) Up to ₹5 Lakh

**Correct Answer: B) Up to ₹2 Lakh**

**Explanation:** To alleviate systemic farm distress caused by extreme weather and monsoon irregularities, the state budget formalized the scheme. It mandates a complete institutional financial waiver for short-term crop loans up to a ceiling of ₹2 lakh per individual farmer, provided the credit accumulations were outstanding as of the statutory cut-off date of September 3, 2025.

**Q21. Following structural policy announcements regarding child safety online, which Indian state became the first in the country to propose a concrete legislative ban on social media usage for children under 16 years?**



- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala
- C) Karnataka
- D) Andhra Pradesh

**Correct Answer: C) Karnataka**

**Explanation:** The state government of Karnataka officially drafted a pioneering regulatory proposal to ban social media account creation for minors below 16 years. Concurrently, neighboring Andhra Pradesh announced a roadmap to restrict access for children below 13 years while supporting Karnataka's broader digital hygiene restrictions for the 13–16 age matrix.

## Part 8: Science, Tech & Biological Breakthroughs

**Q22. A team of thirteen Class XI students from the Ariyakudi Government Higher Secondary School in the Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu designed and successfully launched which 600-gram mini-satellite?**

- A) Sivaganga-Sat
- B) Vikko Sat-1
- C) Kalam-Astra
- D) Tamil-Gagan

**Correct Answer: B) Vikko Sat-1**

**Explanation:** In an exceptional academic achievement, the public school students engineered "Vikko Sat-1". Deployed using a high-altitude, helium-filled science balloon, the mini 600-gram satellite successfully scaled atmospheric layers to record and transmit real-time telemetry data, covering altitude ambient pressure, temperature gradients, and relative humidity matrices.

**Q23. For the first time in Indian marine science history, researchers from Berhampur University discovered a rare, completely new shrimp-like marine amphipod species named *Stenothoe lowryi*. In which coastal locality was it discovered?**

- A) Chilika Lake, Odisha
- B) Arjyapalli, Ganjam District, Odisha
- C) Digha Beach, West Bengal
- D) Visakhapatnam Harbor, Andhra Pradesh

**Correct Answer: B) Arjyapalli, Ganjam District, Odisha**

**Explanation:** Published in global taxonomic journals, marine biologists identified *Stenothoe lowryi* clinging to intertidal artificial structures off the coast of Arjyapalli. This represents the first official scientific recording of the genus *Stenothoe* within Indian coastal boundaries, enhancing regional marine biodiversity charting.

**Q24. Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), which saw an escalation in clinical diagnostic reporting in early 2026, belongs to which viral family?**

- A) Pneumoviridae
- B) Orthomyxoviridae
- C) Adenoviridae
- D) Picornaviridae

**Correct Answer: A) Pneumoviridae**

**Explanation:** Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a negative-sense, single-stranded RNA virus belonging to the *Pneumoviridae* family, closely tracking the structure of the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). It targets upper and lower respiratory tracts, causing symptoms akin to the common cold, but can trigger severe bronchitis or pneumonia in

young children and immunocompromised elderly cohorts.

## Part 9: Species in News & Wildlife Conservation

**Q25. A female One-Horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) was reportedly killed by two adult tigers in the Sonaripur forest range. This range forms an integral part of which National Park / Tiger Reserve?**

- A) Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh
- B) Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar
- C) Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand
- D) Kaziranga National Park, Assam

**Correct Answer: A) Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh**

**Explanation:** The biological interaction took place within the Sonaripur range of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, located across the Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh. Dudhwa is famous for its successful rhinoceros reintroduction program initiated in the 1980s, and such inter-species predatory events are closely monitored by wildlife biologists to map ecosystem carrying capacities.

**Q26. Wildlife conservationists recorded the presence of the Sambar Deer (*Rusa unicolor*) in high-altitude protected forests within the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. What is the current conservation status of the Sambar Deer on the IUCN Red List?**

- A) Least Concern
- B) Vulnerable
- C) Endangered
- D) Critically Endangered

**Correct Answer: B) Vulnerable**

**Explanation:** The Sambar Deer is the largest Old World deer native to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. It is listed as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List due to threats from habitat fragmentation and hunting. While typically associated with dense deciduous forests and low-altitude woodland ecosystems, its documented adaptation into high-altitude alpine zones of Chamba highlights changing territorial migrations.

## Part 10: Sports, Awards & Important Days

**Q27. India secured its third ICC Men's T20 World Cup title by defeating New Zealand by 96 runs in the final match. Which player was awarded the prestigious "Player of the Tournament" title for his outstanding performance throughout the event?**

- A) Hardik Pandya
- B) Virat Kohli
- C) Jasprit Bumrah
- D) Suryakumar Yadav

**Correct Answer: C) Jasprit Bumrah**

**Explanation:** India won its second consecutive and third overall T20 World Cup title at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Ace fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah was adjudged the Player of the Tournament for his exceptional bowling performance, maintaining a low economy rate and taking crucial wickets throughout the global tournament co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

**Q28. Syphilis, a globally spreading infectious health condition that saw renewed tracking by the WHO in March 2026 for its mother-to-child transmission rates, is caused by which microbiological agent?**

- A) *Treponema pallidum* (Bacteria)

- B) *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (Bacteria)
- C) *Candida albicans* (Fungus)
- D) Herpes Simplex Virus (Virus)

**Correct Answer: A) *Treponema pallidum* (Bacteria)**

**Explanation:** Syphilis is a chronic systemic sexually transmitted infection caused by the spirochete bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. If left untreated during pregnancy, it can cause congenital syphilis, leading to severe fetal deformities or stillbirth. The WHO focuses heavily on validating nations that achieve the dual elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and syphilis.

**Q29. Senior political leader Govind Parmar passed away at the age of 82. He was a sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) representing which assembly constituency in Gujarat?**

- A) Umreth Constituency
- B) Anand Constituency
- C) Godhra Constituency
- D) Morbi Constituency

**Correct Answer: A) Umreth Constituency**

**Explanation:** Govind Parmar was a veteran political figure and sitting Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA from the Umreth assembly segment in the Anand district of Gujarat. He passed away following brief age-related illnesses, leaving a long legacy in regional cooperative banking and rural dairy development governance.

**Q30. The National Stakeholders' Meet on the "Coconut Promotion Scheme," focusing on standardizing export supply lines and augmenting processing tech for coir industries,**

**was hosted at which academic campus in March 2026?**

- A) TNAU Coimbatore
- B) IIT Madras
- C) IISc Bangalore
- D) CUSAT Kochi

**Correct Answer: B) IIT Madras**

**Explanation:** The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare organized the specialized National Stakeholders' Meet at IIT Madras. The conference brought together agricultural scientists, tech engineers, and farmer producer organizations (FPOs) to co-develop value-added coconut products and implement automation in industrial coir processing.