

1. International News

India Formally Recognizes 27 Locations in Arunachal Pradesh

- **Event:** India officially recognized 27 geographical locations in Arunachal Pradesh, directly countering unilateral attempts by China to rename places in the state (which Beijing refers to as Zangnan or South Tibet).
- **Key Details:** The Ministry of External Affairs reaffirmed that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India, and assigning invented names does not alter ground realities.
- **Exam Pointer (UPSC/SSC):**
 - **McMahon Line:** The effective border between India and China in the Eastern Sector, negotiated at the Simla Convention of 1914.
 - **Constitutional Provision:** Arunachal Pradesh was created as a Union Territory in 1972 and granted full statehood on 20 February 1987 (55th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986).

Global Security Developments: US Munitions Stockpiles & Typhoon Dolphin

- **US Defense Manufacturing Notice:** The US Department of Defense issued an urgent advisory to major defense firms to scale up production lines due to heavy depletion of precision-guided munitions stockpiles amidst extended Middle Eastern engagements.
- **Typhoon Dolphin Impacts East Asia:** Over 1,300 flights were canceled and 300,000 residents relocated as Typhoon Dolphin made landfall along the coastal regions.
- **Exam Pointer:** Tropical cyclones occurring in the North-Western Pacific Ocean are

classified as Typhoons, whereas those in the Indian Ocean are called Cyclones, and in the Atlantic Ocean, Hurricanes.

2. National News

Vande Mataram to precede National Anthem at 80th Independence Day

- **Event:** Union Defence Secretary R.K. Singh confirmed that Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's Vande Mataram will be formally sung from the ramparts of the Red Fort during official celebrations.
- **Protocol Sequence:** As per Union Home Ministry guidelines, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive at the rampart, followed by the singing of Vande Mataram. After the unfurling of the National Flag, the National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana) will play.
- **Exam Pointer (UPSC/SSC):**
 - **Source:** Vande Mataram is part of the 1882 Bengali novel Anandamath by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.
 - **First Sang:** At the 1896 Kolkata Session of the Indian National Congress by Rabindranath Tagore.
 - **Status:** Adopted as the National Song on 24 January 1950 by the Constituent Assembly of India.

Center Notifies Appointment of 30 High Court Judges

- **Event:** The Union Ministry of Law and Justice notified the appointment of 30 new judges across four High Courts: Madras, Calcutta, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka. The Madras High Court received the largest proportion of new appointees.
- **Exam Pointer (Judiciary/Polity):**

- Article 217: Governs the appointment and conditions of the office of a Judge of a High Court by the President of India.
- Consultation Process: President appoints High Court judges after consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI), the Governor of the state, and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

3. Economics & Banking

Cabinet Approves ₹23,731 Crore Outlay for GOBARdhan Scheme

- Approved Budget: ₹23,731 Crore.
- Tenure: FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36 (10-year period).
- Implementing Agency: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).
- Objective: Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) aims to convert cattle dung, agricultural residue, and organic waste into Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) and organic manure, supporting India's Net-Zero emission targets and rural circular economy.

RBI Extends Loan Recovery Norms Certification Transition to Jan 2027

- Regulation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the deadline for existing recovery agents of Regulated Entities (REs) to obtain mandatory certification from the Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (IIBF) to 1 January 2027.
- Exemptions: REs' direct employees, routine installment collectors, and legal representatives issuing statutory notices are exempt from this specific certification requirement.

Standard Chartered Bank IFSC Branch Receives IFSCA Approval

- Event: Standard Chartered Bank received clearance from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to offer wealth management products and services out of its IFSC branch at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- Exam Pointer (Banking):

- IFSCA HQ: GIFT City, Gandhinagar.
- Statutory Body: Established under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019, as a unified regulator for financial products in IFSCs.

4. Sports

9th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championship

- Winners: Sagnik Roy and Sayantan Kushari (India).
- Event: Won the Gold Medal in the Under-31 Pairs competition at the 9th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championship.

- | Tournament | Winner / Medalist |

| World Youth Transnational Bridge C'ship |
Sagnik Roy & Sayantan Kushari |

|| Korea Masters Super 300 Badminton 2026 |
Ashmita Chaliha (Women's Title) |

|| World Athletics Under-20 Championships |
Team India (Tally: 3 Medals) |

Ashmita Chaliha Wins Maiden BWF World Tour Title

- Event: Indian shuttler Ashmita Chaliha defeated Han Qianxi of China in the Women's Singles final at the Korea Masters Super 300 held in Asan, South Korea.

5. Appointments

Key Judicial Appointments

- High Court Elevation: 30 Judges elevated across Madras, Calcutta, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka High Courts.

Standard Quick-Reference Table for Competitive Exams

Position	Current Office Holder
Chief Justice of India (CJI)	Head of Supreme Court
Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)	Gyanesh Kumar
Controller General of Accounts (CGA)	T. C. A. Kalyani (29th)
ISRO Chairman	Dr. V. Narayanan MD
DRDO Chairman	Dr. Sameer V. Kamat

6. Awards & Honors

International Youth Sports Honor

- Recipients: Sagnik Roy & Sayantan Kushari.

Mahendras

- Honor: Awarded the Gold Medal at the World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships (Under-31 Category).

Brand Valuation Index Update

- Top Female Celebrity: Alia Bhatt retained the highest brand valuation among female

celebrities in India according to the annual valuation index.

7. Books & Authors

Historical Highlight: Anandamath

- Author: Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (1838–1894).
- Significance: In news due to the official inclusion of Vande Mataram in the Independence Day Red Fort ceremonial sequence.
- Historical Context: Published in 1882, the novel is set against the backdrop of the Sannyasi Rebellion in Bengal during the late 18th century.

8. Defense News

Indian Navy – US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026

- Commencement: 10 August 2026.
- Objective: Enhancing interoperability in underwater demolition, sea mine detection, counter-IED operations, and maritime tactical explosive safety between the Indian Navy and US Navy.

Strategic Missile Test: Agni-4

- Event: India successfully test-fired the Agni-4 Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Chandipur, Odisha.
- Technical Specifications: Two-stage solid-fueled missile with an operational range of approximately 4,000 km, managed under the Strategic Forces Command (SFC).

9. Government Schemes

1. GOBARDhan Scheme Outlay



- **Approved Outlay:** ₹23,731 Crore for 10 years (FY27–FY36).
- **Focus:** Commercial-scale Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants, biomass conversion, and rural employment.

2. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U & PMAY-U 2.0)

- **Milestone:** Total sanctioned houses crossed 1.25 Crore units nationally.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- **Target:** Providing all-weather pucca houses to eligible urban beneficiaries across EWS, LIG, and MIG categories.

3. Guwahati–Tezpur Access-Controlled Highway Corridor

- **Approved Outlay:** ₹8,970.20 Crore sanctioned by CCEA.
- **Specification:** 135.87 km-long four-lane access-controlled highway on National Highway 15 (NH-15) in Assam.

10. MoUs & Agreements

Additive Manufacturing Facility in Kanpur (LASPL & Massivit)

- **Signatories:** Lohia Aerospace Systems Private Limited (LASPL) and Massivit (Israel).
- **Purpose:** Setting up India's first commercial large-format additive manufacturing (3D-printing) facility in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Investment:** USD 8 to 10 Million.
- **Exam Relevance:** Boosts domestic aerospace component fabrication under Atmanirbhar Bharat.

11. National & International Important Days

World Biofuel Day – 10 August

- **Purpose:** To create awareness regarding non-fossil fuels (green energy, ethanol, bio-CNG, biodiesel) as alternatives to conventional fossil fuels.
- **History:** Celebrated in honor of Sir Rudolf Diesel, who successfully operated a research engine powered by peanut oil on 10 August 1893 in Augsburg, Germany.
- **Nodal Ministry in India:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (observed since 2015).
- **India's Energy Targets:** 20% Ethanol Blending in Petrol (E20 target).

World Lion Day – 10 August

- **Purpose:** To raise awareness about lion conservation and protection of natural habitats.
- **Asiatic Lion (*Panthera leo persica*):**
 - **Habitat:** Found exclusively in the Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary landscape in Gujarat, India.
 - **IUCN Red List Status:** Endangered.
 - **Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Schedule I.
 - **CITES:** Appendix I.

12. Art & Culture / Festivals

Tamil Nadu Assembly Mandates Tamil Thaa Vazhthu

- **Resolution:** Passed unanimously in the Tamil Nadu State Legislative Assembly.
- **Directive:** Mandates that the state song, Tamil Thaa Vazhthu (written by Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai), must be rendered at the start of all official state events, educational institutions, and public sector undertakings.

13. Birth & Death Anniversaries & Historical Milestones

Historical Events on 10 August

1793 (Louvre Museum Opened): The Louvre Museum in Paris, France—now the world's largest art museum—officially opened to the public.

- **1846 (Smithsonian Institution Established):** Created by an Act of US Congress using funds bequeathed by British scientist James Smithson.
- **1974 (SLV-3 Experimental Flight):** India launched its first experimental test flight of the Satellite Launch Vehicle-3 (SLV-3), laying the foundation for ISRO's satellite launch capability.

Tributes to Quit India Movement Martyrs

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to freedom fighters on the anniversary of the Quit India Movement (launched on 8/9 August 1942 at Gowalia Tank Maidan, Mumbai, with Mahatma Gandhi's call of "Do or Die").

Category 1: Important Days & Anniversaries

Q1. World Biofuel Day is observed globally every year on 10 August. What is the historical significance behind choosing this specific date?

- [A] Inauguration of the world's first commercial bio-ethanol plant in 1950
- [B] Sir Rudolf Diesel successfully ran a mechanical engine with peanut oil in 1893
- [C] Signing of the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) charter at the G20 Summit
- [D] Adoption of the Paris Agreement framework on non-fossil fuel standards

Correct Answer: [B] Sir Rudolf Diesel successfully ran a mechanical engine with peanut oil in 1893

Detailed Explanation:

Historical Context: On August 10, 1893, German engineer Sir Rudolf Diesel successfully operated a mechanical engine (a diesel engine prototype) using **peanut oil** as fuel. His experiment proved that renewable plant-derived biomass could power heavy machinery.

Significance: In India, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has been celebrating World Biofuel Day on August 10 since 2015 to create public awareness regarding non-fossil fuels (Bioethanol, Biodiesel, Compressed Bio-Gas / CBG, and 2G/3G biofuels).

India's Target: India aims to achieve **20% Ethanol Blending in Petrol (E20)** nationwide, reducing crude oil import dependency and supporting agrarian income.

Q2. World Lion Day is commemorated annually on August 10. India is home to the world's only wild population of Asiatic Lions (*Panthera leo persica*). In which natural habitat are they predominantly conserved?

- [A] Kaziranga National Park, Assam
- [B] Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand
- [C] Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat
- [D] Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan

Correct Answer: [C] Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat

Detailed Explanation:

Context: World Lion Day is observed globally on **August 10** to raise awareness about lion conservation, habitat loss, and anti-poaching measures.

Asiatic Lion Sanctuary: The Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Saurashtra, Gujarat, is the single natural habitat of the endangered Asiatic Lion in the world.

Project Lion: Launched by the Government of India, "Project Lion" aims to secure lion health, expand contiguous protected habitats (including Barda Wildlife Sanctuary as a second home), and deploy tech-based monitoring (AI-based camera networks and GPS collars).

Q3. August 10 marks the birth anniversary of Varahagiri Venkata Giri (V.V. Giri). Which unique distinction does he hold in the political history of India?

- [A] He was the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- [B] He was the only person to serve as both Chief Justice of India and Vice President
- [C] He is the only person to be elected President of India as an Independent candidate
- [D] He was the author of the Constitution's 42nd Amendment Act

Correct Answer: [C] He is the only person to be elected President of India as an Independent candidate

Detailed Explanation:

Biography: Born on August 10, 1894, in Berhampur (Odisha), V.V. Giri was a pioneering trade union leader, freedom fighter, and veteran politician.

Presidential Historic Event: In the 1969 presidential election following the death of Dr. Zakir Husain, V.V. Giri contested and won as an **Independent candidate**, defeating official Congress nominee Neelam Sanjiva Reddy in a historic election.

Tenure & Honors: He served as the **4th President of India** from 1969 to 1974. He was awarded India's highest civilian honor, the **Bharat Ratna**, in 1975.

Category 2: Appointments & Defense News

Q4. Who achieved the milestone of becoming the FIRST female officer in the history of the Indian Army to be appointed as an Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the Chief of the Army Staff?

- [A] Captain Shivani
- [B] Captain Abhilasha Barak
- [C] Wing Commander Shaliza Dhani
- [D] Major Radhika Sen

Correct Answer: [A] Captain Shivani

Detailed Explanation:

Appointment Details: Captain Shivani was appointed as the **first woman Aide-de-Camp (ADC)** to the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS).

Role of ADC: An Aide-de-Camp is a personal military assistant assigned to senior military dignitaries, constitutional heads (like the President and Governors), or service chiefs to manage official protocol, operational briefings, and administrative engagements.

Gender Integration: This landmark appointment reflects the expanding operational and leadership roles of women officers across combat support and executive positions in the Indian Armed Forces.

Q5. Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth recently made defense news by becoming the first woman fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force to complete which elite tactical course at TACDE, Gwalior?

- [A] Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course
- [B] Test Pilot Development Course (TPDC)
- [C] Electronic Warfare & Radar Operations Course
- [D] Flying Instructor Course (FIC)

Correct Answer: [A] Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course

Detailed Explanation:

Milestone: Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth became the **first female fighter pilot** in the IAF to graduate from the 20-week **Fighter Combat Leader (FCL)** course conducted at the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE) in Gwalior.

Significance of FCL: TACDE is the IAF's premier tactical institution. Pilots who pass the FCL course earn the title of master combat tacticians, responsible for devising aerial combat doctrines and training fighter squadrons.

Career: Bhawana Kanth was commissioned in 2016 as part of India's first triad of female fighter pilots alongside Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh.

Q6. India successfully test-fired the Agni-IV nuclear-capable ballistic missile from Chandipur, Odisha. What is the operational strike range of the Agni-IV missile?

- [A] 1,000 – 1,500 km
- [B] 2,000 – 2,500 km
- [C] 3,500 – 4,000 km
- [D] 5,500 – 6,000 km

Correct Answer: [C] 3,500 – 4,000 km

Detailed Explanation:

Test Fire: Strategic Forces Command (SFC), alongside DRDO, conducted a successful launch of the **Agni-IV** Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.

Specifications: Agni-IV is a two-stage, solid-propellant surface-to-surface missile with an operational range of approximately **4,000 km**.

Avionics: It incorporates advanced composite rocket motors and a Ring Laser Gyro-based Inertial Navigation System (RINS) for precision targeting.

Q7. Lead Intelligent Aerospace Private Limited (LASPL) signed an MoU with Massivit to establish India's first large-format additive manufacturing facility aimed at manufacturing components for which sector?

- [A] Commercial passenger railways
- [B] Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and defense systems
- [C] Electric vehicle battery enclosures
- [D] Deep-sea submarine hulls

Correct Answer: [B] Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and defense systems

Detailed Explanation:

MoU Overview: LASPL partnered with technology pioneer Massivit to construct India's first large-format 3D printing (additive manufacturing) facility.

Application: The facility will produce lightweight structural components, molds, and rapid prototypes for **UAVs, drone swarms, and defense aerospace platforms**.

Impact: Modern additive manufacturing cuts design-to-production turnaround times by up to 80%, backing the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* vision in high-tech defense manufacturing.

Category 3: Economics, Banking & Finance

Q8. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expanded the Upper-Layer (UL) list of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) under Scale-Based Regulation (SBR) to 17 entities for FY27. Which major Core Investment Company was retained on this list?

- [A] Reliance Capital Limited

- [B] Tata Sons Private Limited
- [C] Adani Enterprises Limited
- [D] Larsen & Toubro Finance Holdings

Correct Answer: [B] Tata Sons Private Limited

Detailed Explanation:

RBI SBR Categorization: Under RBI's four-tiered Scale-Based Regulation (Base, Middle, Upper, Top Layer), the **Upper-Layer (UL)** comprises NBFCs requiring enhanced prudential supervision, capital buffers, and listing compliance due to systemic risk.

List Expansion: The RBI expanded the Upper-Layer list to **17 entities** for FY 2026–27.

Key Inclusion: **Tata Sons Private Limited** was retained on the list alongside newly included government-backed infrastructure financiers like **REC Limited, PFC, IRFC, and HUDCO.**

Q9. SBI Life Insurance entered into a strategic bancassurance partnership with which scheduled commercial bank to offer life insurance products across its national network?

- [A] Jammu & Kashmir Bank
- [B] Karnataka Bank
- [C] Karur Vysya Bank
- [D] Federal Bank

Correct Answer: [A] Jammu & Kashmir Bank

Detailed Explanation:

Bancassurance Deal: SBI Life Insurance signed an official agreement with **J&K Bank** to act as a corporate agent.

Objective: Under this partnership, J&K Bank will market SBI Life's broad portfolio of protection, savings, investment, and retirement products through its extensive branch network spanning UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and pan-India branches.

Bancassurance Concept: Bancassurance allows insurance companies to leverage a bank's established client base and distribution channels to increase financial inclusion and insurance penetration.

Q10. Standard Chartered Bank received approval from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to offer wealth management solutions from which financial hub?

- [A] Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)
- [B] GIFT City, Gujarat
- [C] Bengaluru Financial Tech City
- [D] Hyderabad International Tech Park

Correct Answer: [B] GIFT City, Gujarat

Detailed Explanation:

Regulatory Approval: Standard Chartered received regulatory approval from **IFSCA** (the unified regulator for offshore international financial hubs in India) to launch comprehensive **Wealth Management Services** out of GIFT City.

Significance: Enables high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), non-resident Indians (NRIs), and global investors to access foreign currency investment products, global funds, and structured offshore wealth solutions within India's IFSC framework.

Q11. Indian Bank sanctioned loan approvals exceeding ₹500 crore for micro, small, and medium enterprises during a nationwide credit outreach program celebrating its which Foundation Day?

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

- **Correct Answer: [C] 120th Foundation Day**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Event: Public sector lender **Indian Bank** celebrated its **120th Foundation Day** by holding credit outreach camps and unveiling a streamlined MSME digital lending platform.

Outreach: The bank sanctioned loans worth over **₹500 crore** to small businesses and entrepreneurial ventures in a single day.

Static Fact: Indian Bank was established on August 15, 1907, as part of the historic Swadeshi Movement. It is headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Q12. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the implementation deadline for Regulated Entities (REs) to comply with updated Loan Recovery Norms (Fair Practices Code) to which revised date?

- [A] October 1, 2026
- [B] November 15, 2026
- [C] January 1, 2027
- [D] April 1, 2027

Correct Answer: [C] January 1, 2027

Detailed Explanation:

Deadline Extension: To facilitate seamless IT system modifications and operational readiness across banks and NBFCs, the RBI extended the compliance timeline for loan recovery and agent conduct guidelines to **January 1, 2027**.

Key Provisions: The revised framework prohibits harassment, forbids contact with borrowers outside designated daily hours (8 AM to 7 PM), mandates formal identity verification for third-party agents, and enforces clear grievance redressal mechanisms.

Category 4: National News & Government Schemes

Q13. On 9-10 August 2026, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) completed 10 years of operations, achieving what cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) milestone?

- [A] ₹5 lakh crore
- [B] ₹10 lakh crore
- [C] ₹15 lakh crore
- [D] ₹20 lakh crore

- **Correct Answer: [D] ₹20 lakh crore**

Detailed Explanation:

Milestone: Launched in August 2016, **GeM** completed **10 years** of operations and surpassed **₹20 lakh crore** in cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) through more than 3.78 crore orders.

Legal Basis: Governed under amendments to the General Financial Rules (GFR Rule 149), procurement through GeM is mandatory for all Central Ministries, Departments, and Public Sector Enterprises.

Predecessor Replacement: GeM replaced the legacy paper-based Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) rate-contract mechanism.

Q14. Why has the Ministry of Home Affairs / Registrar General of India made an exception for Union Territory of Ladakh to conduct Census Population Enumeration using paper schedules rather than the digital app?

- [A] Extremely low literacy rates in high-altitude zones
- [B] Security constraints regarding precise geo-tagging near defense establishments
- [C] Lack of 4G network towers across 100% of the villages
- [D] Non-availability of local language translation software

Correct Answer: [B] Security constraints regarding precise geo-tagging near defense establishments

Detailed Explanation:

Special Provision: While India's upcoming Census transition utilizes a mobile digital app and self-enumeration portal, **Ladakh** was granted an exception to use physical paper schedules.

Reasoning: Strategic border locations and extensive military/defense installations require strict data security, preventing real-time satellite geo-tagging of structures.

Q15. The Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) rolled out an AI-enabled voice-interactive chatbot for citizens. What is the name of this chatbot?

- [A] Jan Seva Didi
- [B] Samadhan Didi
- [C] Suvidha Mitra

[D] Lok Grievance AI

Correct Answer: [B] Samadhan Didi

Detailed Explanation:

Feature Launch: CPGRAMS, operated by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), launched **Samadhan Didi**, an AI-powered voice chatbot.

Capability: Enables citizens—especially in rural or semi-literate areas—to lodge complaints, track grievance statuses, and receive responses in multiple Indian regional languages via voice commands.

Benchmarking: CPGRAMS also utilizes the GRAI (Grievance Redressal Assessment Index) to rank central ministries and state departments on resolution quality.

Q16. Under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), what is the targeted focus of the newly launched PMAY-U 2.0 scheme?

- [A] Constructing 1 crore affordable housing units for urban poor and middle-class families
- [B] Providing free rooftop solar panels to rural agricultural households
- [C] Developing smart transport corridors between Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities
- [D] Upgrading municipal drainage systems across coastal metropolitan cities

Correct Answer: [A] Constructing 1 crore affordable housing units for urban poor and middle-class families

Detailed Explanation:

Scheme Extension: Following the success of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U 1.0) which sanctioned over 1.18 crore houses, the Union Government rolled out **PMAY-U 2.0**.

Goal: To construct or assist in building **1 crore affordable houses** over 5 years for urban EWS, LIG, and Middle Income Group (MIG) families.

Financial Modalities: Operates via Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), and Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC).

Q17. Under the 'Model Solar Village Initiative' launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), what financial grant is awarded to selected revenue villages?

- [A] ₹25 lakh per village
- [B] ₹50 lakh per village
- [C] ₹1 crore per village
- [D] ₹5 crore per village

Correct Answer: [C] ₹1 crore per village

Detailed Explanation:

Scheme Component: Part of the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana framework.

Grant Amount: Selects one revenue village per district nationwide with the highest potential and awards a **₹1 crore central financial grant**.

Implementation: The funds are utilized to install distributed solar systems, solar streetlights, solar water pumps, and local mini-grids, creating self-sufficient energy ecosystems.

Category 5: International News & Global Affairs

Q18. Typhoon Dolphin recently caused severe infrastructure disruption, leading to over 1,300 flight cancellations and mass evacuations in which country?

- [A] Japan
- [B] Philippines
- [C] China
- [D] Vietnam

Correct Answer: [C] China

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Natural Disaster: Typhoon Dolphin struck the southeastern coastal provinces of **China**, bringing gale-force winds, high sea tides, and torrential rainfall.

Impact: Authorities canceled more than 1,300 domestic and international flights, halted railway services, and ordered mass evacuations in vulnerable coastal areas.

Q19. According to a UNESCO Global Education Monitoring report, how many international education funding benchmarks does India currently satisfy?

- [A] Zero benchmarks
- [B] Only one minimum funding standard
- [C] All three international benchmarks

[D] Exceeds global spending benchmarks in all categories

Correct Answer: [B] Only one minimum funding standard

Detailed Explanation:

Report Findings: UNESCO released a global tracking report evaluating public expenditure on education.

India's Status: India meets the benchmark for allocating **at least 15–20% of total public expenditure** to education.

Deficit Area: However, India falls short of the second core benchmark of allocating **at least 4% to 6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** to education (India currently hovers around 2.9% to 3.1% of GDP).

Q20. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a strategic high-level bilateral meeting with US Vice President JD Vance to review progress under which key technology initiative?

- [A] US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)
- [B] Indo-Pacific Clean Energy Corridor Agreement
- [C] Trans-Pacific Digital Trade Pact
- [D] Global Artificial Intelligence Safety Protocol

Correct Answer: [A] US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)

Detailed Explanation:

Bilateral Engagement: PM Narendra Modi met US Vice President JD Vance to reinforce the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.

Focus: Discussions focused on deepening cooperation under **iCET**, resilient semiconductor supply chains, defense co-production, AI governance, and Quad partnership frameworks.

Category 6: Sports News

Q21. Indian Chess Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa won his maiden title at which prestigious international chess tournament held in Missouri, USA?

- [A] Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz Title 2026
- [B] Tata Steel Masters 2026
- [C] Candidates Chess Tournament 2026
- [D] FIDE World Cup Rapid Championship

Correct Answer: [A] Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz Title 2026

Detailed Explanation:

Victory: Indian GM **Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** delivered a dominant performance to secure his maiden **Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz** trophy in Saint Louis, Missouri, USA.

Tournament Status: The event is a marquee leg of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT), featuring top international Grandmasters.

Praggnanandhaa: Hailing from Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Praggnanandhaa is one of the world's leading young Grandmasters.

Q22. Indian bridge players Sagnik Roy and Sayantan Kushari achieved international acclaim by winning the Gold Medal in which world championship?

- [A] World Youth Transnational Bridge Championship
- [B] World Bridge Teams Championship (Bermuda Bowl)
- [C] Asia Cup Contract Bridge Masters
- [D] Commonwealth Bridge Games

Correct Answer: [A] World Youth Transnational Bridge Championship

Detailed Explanation:

Sports Achievement: Indian duo **Sagnik Roy and Sayantan Kushari** won the **Gold Medal** at the **World Youth Transnational Bridge Championship**.

Significance: Represents a major milestone for youth cue and card sports in India on the international stage.

Q23. Which Indian shuttler won the Women's Singles title at the Victor Korea Masters Badminton Tournament 2026?

- [A] PV Sindhu
- [B] Malvika Bansod
- [C] Ashmita Chaliha
- [D] Anupama Upadhyaya

Correct Answer: [C] Ashmita Chaliha

Detailed Explanation:

Title Win: Indian badminton player **Ashmita Chaliha** produced a strong run to win the **Victor Korea Masters 2026 Women's Singles** title.

Player Profile: Ashmita Chaliha hails from Assam and represents India in BWF World Tour events.

Q24. Fast bowler John Turner, who recently announced his retirement from professional cricket, represented which international cricket team?

- [A] Australia
- [B] South Africa
- [C] England
- [D] New Zealand

Correct Answer: [C] England

Detailed Explanation:

Retirement: England fast bowler **John Turner** announced his retirement from all formats of professional cricket.

Career: Known for his express pace in county cricket for Hampshire and international white-ball appearances for England.

Category 7: Awards, Honors, Books & Authors

Q25. According to the Kroll Celebrity Brand Valuation Study, who retained the rank as the most valued celebrity brand in India with a valuation of USD 177.9 million?

- [A] Virat Kohli
- [B] Shah Rukh Khan
- [C] Ranveer Singh
- [D] Amitabh Bachchan

Correct Answer: [B] Shah Rukh Khan

Detailed Explanation:

Rankings: According to the Kroll Brand Valuation Report, Bollywood icon **Shah Rukh Khan** topped the Indian celebrity brand value rankings at **USD 177.9 million**.

Top Female Brand: Alia Bhatt emerged as the highest-ranked female celebrity brand, while cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** retained his position in the Top 5 overall.

Q26. Rat-hole miners involved in which heroic rescue operation were conferred the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak for saving 41 trapped construction workers?

- [A] Wayanad Landslide Rescue Operation
- [B] Silkyara Tunnel Rescue Operation, Uttarakhand
- [C] Chamoli Flash Flood Emergency
- [D] Rayagada Railway Derailment Mission

Correct Answer: [B] Silkyara Tunnel Rescue Operation, Uttarakhand

Detailed Explanation:

Gallantry Honor: 12 rat-hole miners were awarded the **Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak** by the Union Government for their courageous manual drilling efforts in November 2023, which successfully rescued 41 workers trapped inside the collapsed Silkyara-Barkot tunnel in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand.

About the Award: Jeevan Raksha Padak awards (established in 1961) recognize acts of courage in saving human life from natural disasters, mine collapses, fires, and accidents.

Q27. The book titled "Fractured Communities: Adivasi Histories and the Politics of Power" has been authored by whom?

- [A] Umar Khalid
- [B] Ramachandra Guha
- [C] Nandini Sundar
- [D] Harsh Mander

Correct Answer: [A] Umar Khalid

Detailed Explanation:

Book Details: "*Fractured Communities: Adivasi Histories and the Politics of Power*" was authored by scholar **Umar Khalid**.

Theme: The book documents social dynamics, historical struggles, land ownership policies, and political displacement surrounding indigenous Adivasi communities in central and eastern India.

Category 8: Art, Culture & Science

Q28. BJP MP Bajjayant Panda introduced the Private Member's Bill named SHIELD in the Lok Sabha. What is the full expansion of the acronym "SHIELD"?

- [A] Safeguarding Healthy Internet Environments for Little Digital-Natives
- [B] Secure Housing and Infrastructure Enterprise for Land Development

[C] Sustainable Health Insurance and Empowerment for Lifelong Disabled

[D] Systemic Hazard Inspection and Emergency Level Deployment

Correct Answer: [A] Safeguarding Healthy Internet Environments for Little Digital-Natives

Detailed Explanation:

Legislative Proposal: The **SHIELD Bill** (*Safeguarding Healthy Internet Environments for Little Digital-Natives*) was presented as a Private Member's Bill in Parliament.

Objective: Proposes age verification frameworks, algorithmic transparency, parental consent guidelines, and bans on addictive design patterns targeting children under 16 years of age across social media platforms.

Q29. Subatomic particles with near-zero mass and no electrical charge that travel at nearly the speed of light through matter without interaction are known as "ghost particles". What is their scientific name?

[A] Tachyons

[B] Neutrinos

[C] Gluons

[D] Quarks

• **Correct Answer:** [B] Neutrinos

Detailed Explanation:

Physics: Neutrinos are fundamental subatomic particles with extremely small mass and zero charge. Because they interact only via the weak force and gravity, trillions pass through human bodies every second without effect, earning them the nickname "ghost particles".

Observatories: Global facilities like the IceCube Neutrino Observatory in Antarctica and the proposed India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) in Theni, Tamil Nadu, study these

particles to understand cosmic phenomena and nuclear decay processes.

Q30. Tamil Nadu State Assembly passed a government resolution mandating that which state anthem be rendered at the beginning of all official events, educational institutions, and public sector functions?

[A] Vande Mataram

[B] Jana Gana Mana

[C] Tamil Thaa Vazhthu

[D] Kadam Kadam Badaye Ja

Correct Answer: [C] Tamil Thaa Vazhthu

Detailed Explanation:

State Resolution: The Tamil Nadu State Legislative Assembly passed a formal government resolution mandating that **Tamil Thaa Vazhthu** (the invocation song to Mother Tamil) be sung at the commencement of all official state engagements, university programs, and public agency functions.

Cultural Identity: Authored by Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai, the invocation was designated as the state song of Tamil Nadu in 1970 and formalized under specific guidelines regarding duration and performance protocol.