

Part 1: National & International News

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the findings of the newly released "SIPRI Yearbook 2026":

1. India's estimated number of operational nuclear warheads has risen to approximately 190 as of January 2026.
2. India holds the 2nd largest share of global arms imports for the 2021–2025 period, behind Ukraine.
3. India, Pakistan, and Israel remain the only three non-signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that possess nuclear weapons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? [A] 1 and 2 only

[B] 2 and 3 only

[C] 1 and 3 only

[D] 1, 2, and 3

Answer: [D] 1, 2, and 3

Full Detail Explanation: The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its annual Yearbook 2026. According to the report, India's nuclear arsenal grew to an estimated ~190 warheads by January 2026. During the 2021–2025 assessment window, Ukraine's conflict forced it into the top spot for global arms imports, pushing India to the 2nd position at an 8.2% global share. Furthermore, India, Pakistan, and Israel are widely tracked as the three main states that never signed the NPT but openly maintain nuclear deterrent systems. All statements are factually sound.

Q2. Hon. Mr. Shisir Khanal, who was recently on an official bilateral visit to New Delhi to ink

multi-sectoral agreements with India, is the Foreign Minister of which country?

[A] Bhutan

[B] Nepal

[C] Sri Lanka

[D] Bangladesh

Answer: [B] Nepal

Full Detail Explanation: In June 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Hon. Mr. Shisir Khanal, arrived in New Delhi on his first official state visit. He held extensive bilateral talks with India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, at Hyderabad House, resulting in major cross-border governance outcomes including digital public infrastructure sharing and academic collaborations.

Q3. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Port Louis to call on President Dharambeer Gokhool. Which island nation is this diplomatic meeting associated with?

[A] Seychelles

[B] Maldives

[C] Mauritius

[D] Madagascar

Answer: [C] Mauritius

Full Detail Explanation: On June 10, 2026, India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar reached Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius, calling on the newly designated Mauritian President, H.E. Mr. Dharambeer Gokhool. The dialogue focused on maritime defense, the India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), and traditional security cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean.

Q4. Which country's parliament is set to approve Han Seong-sook as its Prime Minister, making her only the second female PM in the nation's history?

- [A] North Korea
- [B] South Korea
- [C] Vietnam
- [D] Singapore

Answer: [B] South Korea

Full Detail Explanation: Following the stepping down of incumbent PM Kim Min-seok, Han Seong-sook has been nominated as the next Prime Minister of South Korea. Pending formal parliamentary approval in June 2026, she will become the second woman to ever hold the Prime Ministerial office in South Korea, following Han Myeong-sook, who served between 2006 and 2007.

Q5. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) secured a major USD 70 million port operations contract in June 2026, marking its strategic entry into which continent?

- [A] South America
- [B] Africa
- [C] Europe
- [D] Australia

Answer: [A] South America

Full Detail Explanation: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone's (APSEZ) wholly-owned subsidiary, Adani Harbour International Free Zone Company (FZCO), entered into a joint partnership with Argentina's Meridian Group. The USD 70 million contract marks APSEZ's foundational footprint in the South American maritime logistics landscape.

Part 2: Economics, Banking & Finance

Q6. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a special "Twin USD-INR Forex Swap Facility" in June 2026. What is the primary objective of this regulatory instrument?

- [A] To phase out small currency notes from public circulation
- [B] To attract foreign currency inflows and manage External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)
- [C] To entirely digitize rural cooperative banks
- [D] To suppress domestic gold import demands

Answer: [B] To attract foreign currency inflows and manage External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)

Full Detail Explanation: The RBI launched a structural financial market operational framework via a twin USD-INR forex swap facility. This monetary arrangement allows corporate entities or banks handling External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) with an average maturity of 3 years and above to efficiently hedge their foreign currency exposure. It serves to draw stable foreign currency liquidity into India while fortifying external balance financing sheets.

Q7. Which entity has been formally recognized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in June 2026 as the Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) for India's Account Aggregator (AA) network?

- [A] National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- [B] Sahamati Foundation
- [C] NITI Aayog Financial Council
- [D] Indian Banks' Association (IBA)

Answer: [B] Sahamati Foundation

Full Detail Explanation: To streamline corporate data governance, the RBI officially recognized the Sahamati Foundation as the Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) for the Account Aggregator (AA) model. This empowers Sahamati to design an industry-led protocol, ensure adherence to data-privacy mandates, and manage compliance across tech platforms operating in India's consent-based financial data network.

Q8. According to macroeconomic projections updated in June 2026, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate is forecasted to hit 6.7% in FY28 but ease down to what percentage in FY29?

- [A] 6.0%
- [B] 6.2%
- [C] 6.4%
- [D] 6.5%

Answer: [C] 6.4%

Full Detail Explanation: Global financial think tanks and institutional tracking metrics released in early June 2026 project that strong domestic investments will push India's GDP to a peak of 6.7% in Financial Year 2027-2028. However, due to structural monetary tightening and shifting global consumer patterns, the growth rate is expected to moderate to 6.4% in FY29.

Q9. The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) recently published an economic paper titled "Evolving Landscape of Digital Inclusion in India". What critical issue does this report fundamentally focus on?

- [A] Agricultural MSP hikes
- [B] India's 'Hidden Digital Divides' and unequal access to online services

[C] Stock market overvaluation

[D] Crypto-currency taxation models

Answer: [B] India's 'Hidden Digital Divides' and unequal access to online services

Full Detail Explanation: The NCAER's June 2026 report critically maps out structural internet access limitations in Tier-3 towns and rural clusters. It addresses "hidden digital divides," warning that despite widespread smartphone usage, meaningful access to digital banking, employment portals, and e-governance remains highly stratified by gender and economic income brackets.

Part 3: Government Schemes & MoUs

Q10. Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched the "BHAVYA Portal" in New Delhi. This web platform is designed to operationalize a flagship scheme aimed at developing which of the following?

- [A] 100 world-class Industrial Parks across a Centre-State model
- [B] 500 greenfield organic farming corridors
- [C] High-speed rural broadband under BharatNet Phase-IV
- [D] Smart deep-sea fishing harbors

Answer: [A] 100 world-class Industrial Parks across a Centre-State model

Full Detail Explanation: The Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) is a mammoth Rs. 33,660 crore scheme under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The newly unveiled BHAVYA portal provides automated single-window clearance, project monitoring, and resource mapping to structurally set up 100 state-of-the-art industrial parks through collaborative Centre-State funding models.



Q11. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) and Kathmandu University. What is the central purpose of this international digital agreement?

- [A] Setting up a regional satellite tracking station
- [B] Jointly developing multilingual language technologies and AI frameworks
- [C] Creating cross-border student insurance cards
- [D] Digitizing historical Buddhist palm-leaf manuscripts

Answer: [B] Jointly developing multilingual language technologies and AI frameworks

Full Detail Explanation: In an expansion of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) BHASHINI Division tied up with Kathmandu University's Centre for DPI-AI. The agreement will focus on open-source AI translation engines, localized voice-to-text models, and cross-border digital tools to bridge the language barriers between Indian and Nepali dialects.

Q12. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) partnered with ride-hailing company Rapido to drive digital and on-ground awareness for which of the following national safety initiatives?

- [A] PM-SURA Scheme
- [B] RahVeer Scheme
- [C] Vahan-Suraksha Bima
- [D] Rashtriya Sadak Swasthya Yojana

Answer: [B] RahVeer Scheme

Full Detail Explanation: The RahVeer Scheme is designed to encourage and incentivize common

citizens and commercial two-wheeler riders to provide critical "Good Samaritan" first-aid and medical transit assistance to road accident victims within the golden hour. Rapido (Roppen Transportation Services) will deploy structural alerts and rewards on its consumer app to popularize the scheme.

Q13. June 2026 marks the structural 10-year milestone of the implementation of the "PMSMA". What does the abbreviation PMSMA stand for in India's healthcare scheme landscape?

- [A] Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
- [B] Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Mahila Abhiyan
- [C] Pradhan Mantri Shishu Maatritva Amrit
- [D] Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Medical Aid

Answer: [A] Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

Full Detail Explanation: Launched in 2016, the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan completes exactly 10 years of institutional service in June 2026. The national scheme guarantees quality antenatal care (ANC), diagnostics, and free healthcare counseling to pregnant women on the 9th day of every single month across government hospitals and health wellness centers.

Part 4: Defense & Science News

Q14. Russian President Vladimir Putin recently offered India the joint production and technology sharing of which advanced 5th-generation stealth fighter aircraft?

- [A] Sukhoi Su-35
- [B] MiG-35 Fulcrum-F
- [C] Sukhoi Su-57
- [D] Tupolev Tu-160M

Answer: [C] Sukhoi Su-57

Full Detail Explanation: In a bid to reinforce the long-standing Indo-Russian defense architecture, Russia made a diplomatic proposal offering the Sukhoi Su-57 Felon, its premier 5th-generation twin-engine stealth multirole fighter. The offer encompasses localized assembly and code-sharing variations under the Make in India parameters.

Q15. Union Minister Jitendra Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath jointly inaugurated a new, state-of-the-art Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC). Where is this facility located?

- [A] Noida
- [B] Lucknow
- [C] Varanasi
- [D] Gorakhpur

Answer: [B] Lucknow

Full Detail Explanation: In June 2026, a new Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) was inaugurated in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. It features advanced Doppler weather radar tracking to provide early agricultural warnings, lightning tracking, and extreme localized rainfall predictions across the Indo-Gangetic plains.

Q16. The "Grid Controller of India Limited" (GCIL) was highlighted in the news as the primary administrative authority responsible for issuing certificates under which environmental market-driven framework?

- [A] Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme
- [B] Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)
- [C] National Green Hydrogen Grid Mission
- [D] Blue Economy Ocean Carbon Matrix

Answer: [B] Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)

Full Detail Explanation: Under the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, the Grid Controller of India Limited (GCIL) functions as the structural administrator for verifying and issuing Carbon Credit Certificates (CCCs). These carbon credits are traded on domestic power exchanges, with the market actively monitored by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).

Q17. The Indian navy and coast guard were deployed to assist the crew of the commercial chemical tanker "Marivex" off the coast of Oman. Why was this vessel in the international news on June 8–10, 2026?

- [A] It was grounded due to a category-5 cyclone
- [B] It suffered severe engine room damage due to an external missile strike
- [C] It was caught smuggling illegal radioactive minerals
- [D] It set a new record for the fastest solar-powered maritime transit

Answer: [B] It suffered severe engine room damage due to an external missile strike

Full Detail Explanation: The merchant vessel *Marivex*, carrying a massive contingent of 24 Indian seafarers, was hit by an anti-ship missile strike in the volatile waters off Oman. The Forward Seamen's Union of India (FSUI) coordinated with defense ministries to ensure the complete rescue and medical evacuation of all Indian crew members on board.

Part 5: Sports, Appointments & Awards

Q18. Who etched his name in motorsport history by becoming the youngest-ever driver to

win the iconic Monaco Grand Prix during the 2026 Formula One season?

- [A] Oliver Bearman
- [B] Andrea Kimi Antonelli
- [C] Liam Lawson
- [D] Theo Pourchaire

Answer: [B] Andrea Kimi Antonelli

Full Detail Explanation: Italian racing prodigy Andrea Kimi Antonelli secured a historic win at the Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix. This victory marks his 5th consecutive GP triumph of the 2026 season—following dominant displays in China, Japan, Miami, and Canada—breaking the long-standing record for the youngest victor on the streets of Monte Carlo.

Q19. Which national team emerged victorious to lift the SAFF Women's Championship 2026 trophy?

- [A] Nepal
- [B] India
- [C] Bangladesh
- [D] Bhutan

Answer: [B] India

Full Detail Explanation: The Indian National Women's Football Team put on an exceptional performance to win the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship title. India defeated rival contestants Nepal in a tight tactical final match to claim regional football dominance.

Q20. According to updated executive notifications, which senior officer has assumed charge as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NITI Aayog in June 2026?

- [A] Tuhin Kanta Pandey

- [B] Nidhi Chhibber
- [C] Mithun Manhas
- [D] Rajesh Kumar Singh

Answer: [B] Nidhi Chhibber

Full Detail Explanation: In a major administrative reshuffle executed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), senior bureaucrat Nidhi Chhibber has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog, succeeding the outgoing chief to helm India's premier public policy think tank.

Q21. Consider the following updated defense and structural appointments for June 2026:

1. Air Chief Marshal — Seethepalli Srinivas
2. Chief of the Army Staff — Upendra Dwivedi
3. Chief of the Naval Staff — Krishna Swaminathan

Which of the structural pairings given above are correctly matched? [A] 1 and 2 only

- [B] 2 and 3 only
- [C] 1 and 3 only
- [D] 1, 2, and 3

Answer: [D] 1, 2, and 3

Full Detail Explanation: In institutional updates across India's armed forces commands, Air Chief Marshal Seethepalli Srinivas commands the IAF, General Upendra Dwivedi heads the Indian Army as the COAS, and Admiral Krishna Swaminathan serves as the Chief of the Naval Staff for the Indian Navy. All pairings reflect current administrative listings.

Part 6: Important Days, Festivals & Art-Culture

Q22. World Accreditation Day (WAD) is observed globally on June 9th. What is the

official international theme designated for World Accreditation Day 2026?

[A] Accreditation: Empowering Tomorrow and Supporting Global Trade

[B] Innovation, Trust and Sustainability: The Power of Accreditation

[C] Sustainability in Economic Growth and Digital Systems

[D] Continuous Standardisation across Artificial Intelligence Frameworks

Answer: [B] Innovation, Trust and Sustainability: The Power of Accreditation

Full Detail Explanation: Celebrated every year on June 9th, World Accreditation Day 2026 focuses heavily on how conformity assessments can merge with digital innovation and ESG parameters. The 2026 cycle is uniquely historic as it marks the first institutional implementation overseen by the newly unified global governing node: the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI).

Q23. The iconic "Ambubachi Mela" festival, celebrating traditional elements of fertility and spiritual core consciousness, is held annually at which historical Shakti Peeth temple in Northeast India?

[A] Kamakhya Temple (Assam)

[B] Tripura Sundari Temple (Tripura)

[C] Malinithan Temple (Arunachal Pradesh)

[D] Mahabhairav Temple (Assam)

Answer: [A] Kamakhya Temple (Assam)

Full Detail Explanation: A vital part of ancient art, culture, and religious tourism, the Ambubachi Mela is hosted during the monsoon weeks of June at the Kamakhya Temple situated atop Nilachal Hills in Guwahati, Assam. It honors the annual menstruation cycle of the presiding

goddess Kamakhya and serves as a major hub for Tantric culture seekers.

Q24. In June 2026, the traditional "Shimla Summer Festival" commenced with traditional folk dances like Nati. Which Indian state celebrates its cultural heritage via this festival?

[A] Uttarakhand

[B] Jammu & Kashmir

[C] Himachal Pradesh

[D] Sikkim

Answer: [C] Himachal Pradesh

Full Detail Explanation: The Shimla Summer Festival is an annual cultural celebration showcasing Himachal Pradesh's rich tribal arts, local craftsmanship, food systems, and traditional musical dance acts like *Nati*. It marks the onset of the peak summer travel window and protects the indigenous folklore styles of the Western Himalayas.

Part 7: Historical Personalities, Birth/Death Anniversaries & Books

Q25. June 9–10 marks the death anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. He led the historic *Ulgulan* (The Great Tumult) movement against British colonial exploitation. Which tribal region was the epicenter of his rebellion?

[A] Chhotanagpur Plateau

[B] Santhal Parganas

[C] Bastar Region

[D] Araku Valley

Answer: [A] Chhotanagpur Plateau

Full Detail Explanation: Bhagwan Birsa Munda passed away on June 9, 1900, in Ranchi Jail. He was an iconic tribal freedom fighter, religious healer, and folk hero who spearheaded the

Ulgulan movement (1899–1900) across the Chhotanagpur division. He vehemently fought against the destruction of tribal land systems (*Khuntkatti*) by British authorities and middlemen.

Q26. The Executive Council of Barkatullah University recently initiated steps to rename the institution as "Vagdevi Bhojpal University". Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali, after whom it was originally named, is famous for which historical role?

- [A] Acted as the Prime Minister of India's first Provisional Government-in-exile in Kabul
- [B] Founded the Deoband Islamic Seminary
- [C] Co-authored the historic Nehru Report of 1928
- [D] Led the targeted physical civil disobedience at Dharasana Salt Works

Answer: [A] Acted as the Prime Minister of India's first Provisional Government-in-exile in Kabul

Full Detail Explanation: Maulana Barkatullah was a revolutionary nationalist who fought for India's freedom from outside domestic borders. In 1915, he, along with Raja Mahendra Pratap, established the historic Provisional Government of India in Kabul, Afghanistan, serving as its Prime Minister.

Q27. June 2026 marks the birth anniversary celebrations of Maharana Pratap. In which historic battle did Maharana Pratap fight the Mughal forces led by Raja Man Singh in 1576?

- [A] Battle of Haldighati
- [B] Battle of Dewair
- [C] Battle of Khanwa
- [D] Battle of Dharmat

Answer: [A] Battle of Haldighati

Full Detail Explanation: Maharana Pratap, the ruler of Mewar, was born on May 9 / June across historical lunar calculations. He is remembered for his fierce resistance against Mughal expansion, culminating in the Battle of Haldighati on June 18, 1576. Although the battle was a tactical standoff, Maharana Pratap continued his guerrilla warfare to reclaim deep patches of Mewar territory.

Q28. A newly released biographical work titled "The Digital Architect: Transforming India's Governance", which was launched in New Delhi in June 2026, explores the structural public life and institutional achievements of which Indian personality?

- [A] Nandan Nilekani
- [B] Sam Pitroda
- [C] E. Sreedharan
- [D] Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

Answer: [A] Nandan Nilekani

Full Detail Explanation: Released across literary circles in June 2026, the book meticulously tracks Nandan Nilekani's foundational role in developing India's Unique Identification Authority (UIDAI - Aadhaar), the structural rollout of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), and his conceptualization of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

Part 8: Multi-Statement Core Static-Current Convergence

Q29. Consider the following geographic statements regarding the "Sea of Azov," which remains in international news due to geopolitical conflicts:

1. It is a shallow body of water bordered exclusively by Russia and Ukraine.

2. It is connected to the larger Black Sea via the narrow Kerch Strait.
3. The Don and Kuban rivers flow directly into the Sea of Azov.

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

Answer: [D] 1, 2, and 3

Full Detail Explanation: The Sea of Azov is often tested in UPSC mapping sections. It is bounded by Ukraine to the north/northwest and Russia to the east. It is globally recognized as the shallowest sea on Earth. It connects directly to the Black Sea via the heavily guarded Kerch Strait, and its salinity levels are kept uniquely low by continuous fresh water discharge from major European river channels like the Don and Kuban.

Q30. Regarding the "National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6)" data releases analyzed in June 2026, consider the following points:

1. Spousal violence recorded against women in India dropped to 22.3% in NFHS-6 from 29.3% in NFHS-5.
2. Collecting standard Anaemia prevalence metrics via the traditional capillary finger-prick method was completely dropped in NFHS-6 due to methodological discrepancies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? [A] 1 only

[B] 2 only

[C] Both 1 and 2

[D] Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: [C] Both 1 and 2

Full Detail Explanation: Both data points represent crucial structural shifts in India's demographic documentation. NFHS-6 indicators revealed a clear decline in spousal physical/emotional violence metrics down to 22.3%. Concurrently, health ministries removed the finger-prick capillary blood tracking method for measuring Anaemia because it systematically over-reported or introduced errors, opting instead for deep venous blood sampling models via the specialized Diet and Biomarkers Survey conducted by ICMR-NIN.