

## Part 1: National News & Governance

**Q1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched and initiated critical infrastructure projects worth around ₹10,800 crore in Ernakulam, Kerala. This includes the foundation stone of a major Polypropylene Unit worth over ₹5,500 crore at the refinery complex of which Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)?**

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

**Correct Answer: B) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**

**Explanation:** On March 10, 2026, PM Narendra Modi initiated a massive infrastructural push in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In Ernakulam, Kerala, he laid the foundation stone for a modern Polypropylene Unit at BPCL's Kochi Refinery, drawing an investment of over ₹5,500 crore. This development expands India's downstream petrochemical capacity, reduces dependence on polymer imports, and caters directly to packaging and automotive component industries.

**Q2. As part of the infrastructure expansion launched on March 10, 2026, the six-laning of the Thalapady-Chengala section of NH-66 was inaugurated. This national highway section is an integral part of which major economic corridor?**

- A) Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor
- B) Delhi-Mumbai Express Corridor
- C) Mumbai-Kanyakumari Economic Corridor
- D) Amritsar-Jamnagar Economic Corridor

**Correct Answer: C) Mumbai-Kanyakumari Economic Corridor**

**Explanation:** Constructed at a capital expenditure exceeding ₹2,650 crore, the newly six-laned Thalapady-Chengala section of National Highway 66 (NH-66) was officially dedicated to the nation. This critical stretch forms a strategic bottleneck-breaking segment of the larger Mumbai-Kanyakumari Economic Corridor, designed to boost logistical efficiency and trade connectivity along India's western coastline.

**Q3. According to the latest dashboard released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) up to March 2026, which Indian state has secured the top rank across the country in the implementation of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS 2.0)?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Telangana

**Correct Answer: B) Uttarakhand**

**Explanation:** Uttarakhand clinched the first rank nationally in the implementation of ICJS 2.0 and the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) dashboard, scoring an impressive 93.46 points. Under the guidance of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the state's performance was accelerated by the seamless digital integration of courts, police, prisons, and forensic labs to support the implementation of India's new criminal laws: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA).

**Q4. The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently constituted a high-level 17-**

member committee to suggest comprehensive structural reforms for which policy ecosystem?

- A) Special Economic Zones (SEZs)
- B) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- C) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Retail
- D) National Logistics Policy (NLP)

**Correct Answer: A) Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**

**Explanation:** In response to shifting global trade dynamics and export uncertainties, the Government of India established a 17-member committee to propose overhaul reforms to the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy. The panel is tasked with reviewing and reviving core provisions of the Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs (DESH) framework, simplifying the domestic tariff area (DTA) sales duty structures, and converting existing isolated SEZs into robust, integrated economic and employment hubs.

**Q5. Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired the 35th meeting of the Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) in New Delhi. Which of the following statements best describes the primary mandate of SCOVA?**

- A) Regulating foreign funding under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)
- B) Providing a consultative forum for the grievance redressal of Central Government Pensioners
- C) Coordinating immediate relief actions during national disaster occurrences
- D) Selecting national youth icons for social development initiatives

**Correct Answer: B) Providing a consultative forum for the grievance redressal of Central Government Pensioners**

**Explanation:** SCOVA (Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies) functions as an apex, highly effective consultative mechanism under the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Chaired by Dr. Jitendra Singh, the 35th session focused on integrating digital life certificate advancements, reviewing health security rollouts, and resolving institutional issues raised by various registered Pensioners' Associations.

## Part 2: International News & Global Relations

**Q6. Following a historic landslide victory in the parliamentary general elections held on March 5, 2026, who is set to become the next Prime Minister of Nepal?**

- A) K.P. Sharma Oli
- B) Pushpa Kamal Dahal
- C) Balendra Shah
- D) Sher Bahadur Deuba

**Correct Answer: C) Balendra Shah**

**Explanation:** In a political shift in Nepal, Balendra Shah (popularly known as Balen Shah, former structural engineer and Kathmandu Mayor) is set to become the next Prime Minister. His political outfit, the Rashtriya Swatantra Party, recorded a landslide victory in the general elections held to elect 275 members of the House of Representatives. Shah achieved a historic win in the Jhapa-5 constituency by defeating veteran leader and former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli of the CPN-UML.

**Q7. To support communities suffering from acute food shortages triggered by an extreme El**



Niño-induced drought, India dispatched a humanitarian consignment of 1,000 metric tons of rice to which African nation on March 10, 2026?

- A) Mozambique
- B) Malawi
- C) Zambia
- D) Zimbabwe

**Correct Answer: B) Malawi**

**Explanation:** Under its proactive Global South cooperation strategy and 'SAGAR' vision, India shipped 1,000 metric tons of essential rice aid to Malawi. The emergency food relief cargo was dispatched from the Nhava Sheva Port in Maharashtra. Malawi and adjacent parts of southern Africa have been hit by catastrophic droughts linked to the El Niño climate anomaly, severely damaging regional crop harvests.

**Q8. The United States and South Korea officially commenced their large-scale, annual joint military exercise in the Korean Peninsula to counter regional nuclear threats. What is the name of this bilateral exercise?**

- A) Freedom Shield
- B) Keen Sword
- C) Vigilant Storm
- D) Ulchi Freedom Guardian

**Correct Answer: A) Freedom Shield**

**Explanation:** The United States Armed Forces and the South Korean military launched their multi-domain joint exercise "Freedom Shield 2026". The exercise centers on high-intensity defensive and offensive simulations, integrating live-fire drills, cyber defense countermeasures, and joint air operations to strengthen deterrence against tactical provocations in the Indo-Pacific theatre.

### Part 3: Economics, Banking & Finance

**Q9. On the eve of International Women's Day, which premier financial institution successfully launched a massive \$500 million syndicated social term loan facility dedicated entirely to promoting women's empowerment initiatives?**

- A) Punjab National Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) State Bank of India
- D) ICICI Bank

**Correct Answer: C) State Bank of India**

**Explanation:** The State Bank of India (SBI) closed a \$500 million syndicated social term loan facility aimed at advancing gender equality and rural women's economic independence. The capital proceeds are strictly earmarked to fund institutional micro-credit setups, skill-building networks, and low-interest business loans for women entrepreneurs through various self-help groups (SHGs) across India.

**Q10. NITI Aayog collaborated with which leading corporate technology enterprise to deepen India's domestic electronic components manufacturing and enhance local participation in global value chains?**

- A) Reliance Digital
- B) Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL)
- C) Dixon Technologies
- D) Foxconn India

**Correct Answer: B) Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL)**

**Explanation:** India's apex policy think tank, NITI Aayog, partnered with Tata Electronics (TEPL) to scale up high-tech component manufacturing. This comes on the heels of the Union Budget

enhancing the allocation for the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) to ₹40,000 crore. The collaboration aims to boost component supply chain self-reliance and leverage India's growing base, which has seen electronic production increase nearly six-fold over the past eleven years.

**Q11. Which fast-growing financial institution received formal approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to appoint its Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Ketan Merchant, as its interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)?**

- A) Airtel Payments Bank
- B) Jio Payments Bank
- C) Fino Payments Bank
- D) India Post Payments Bank

**Correct Answer: C) Fino Payments Bank**

**Explanation:** The RBI formally approved the appointment of Ketan Merchant as the interim CEO of Fino Payments Bank, following a transition in top-tier corporate governance. Merchant, who served as the bank's CFO, will steer the institution's ongoing expansion into digital micro-lending and rural fintech services.

**Q12. Food delivery and quick commerce giant Swiggy collaborated with which major private sector bank to introduce two new co-branded credit cards named "BLCK" and "Ornge"?**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

**Correct Answer: B) HDFC Bank**

**Explanation:** HDFC Bank and Swiggy jointly launched the 'Swiggy BLCK HDFC Bank Credit Card' and the 'Swiggy Ornge HDFC Bank Credit

Card'. The co-branded financial products are designed to target the quick-commerce consumer base, offering layered cashback rewards and spending benefits across food, grocery deliveries, and daily lifestyle travel expenses.

## Part 4: Appointments & Resignations

**Q13. Following high-level organizational changes at the Army Headquarters in New Delhi, which senior military commander was officially appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS)?**

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

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

**Explanation:** In a major top-tier military reshuffle approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth was designated as the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS). Concurrently, Lt Gen Pushendra Pal Singh took operational charge as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Western Command.

**Q14. Former South African cricketer and World Cup-winning mentor Gary Kirsten was officially appointed as the head coach of the men's national cricket team of which country?**

- A) Pakistan
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Bangladesh
- D) New Zealand

**Correct Answer: B) Sri Lanka**

**Explanation:** Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) signed a high-profile two-year coaching contract with Gary Kirsten, appointing him as the head coach of the men's senior national team until April 14, 2028. Kirsten, renowned for guiding India to the 2011 ICC World Cup title, is tasked with structurally overhauling Sri Lanka's transition phase in limited-overs and Test formats.

## Part 5: Defence News & Weapon Systems

**Q15. An Indian Armed Forces contingent consisting of elements from the Army (represented by the Assam Regiment), Navy (INS Trikand), and Air Force arrived in Seychelles to participate in the 11th edition of which bilateral joint military exercise?**

- A) Exercise Ekuverin
- B) Exercise Samudra Shakti
- C) Exercise LAMITIYE-2026
- D) Exercise Bold Kurukshetra

**Correct Answer: C) Exercise LAMITIYE-2026**

**Explanation:** The 11th edition of the biennial joint military exercise "LAMITIYE-2026" commenced in Seychelles. Running from March 9 to March 28, 2026, the term 'Lamitiye' translates to "Friendship" in the local Creole language. This edition features tri-service participation from India to enhance interoperability in sub-conventional, counter-insurgency operations within semi-urban and maritime island terrains.

**Q16. According to the latest definitive defense trade report released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in March 2026, what is India's position globally among the world's largest arms importers?**

- A) First largest

B) Second largest

C) Third largest

D) Fifth largest

**Correct Answer: B) Second largest**

**Explanation:** The latest report from SIPRI notes that India remains the world's second-largest importer of major arms, reflecting its ongoing defense modernization and security challenges. While India has systematically increased its domestic defense manufacturing (*Atmanirbhar Bharat*), long-term legacy procurements for capital assets like fighter jets, submarines, and air defense shield modules maintain its high global import ranking.

**Q17. The high-altitude air defense system known as the THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) system was recently featured in defense reports. Which nation indigenously developed and manufactures the THAAD system?**

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

**Correct Answer: C) United States**

**Explanation:** The THAAD system is an advanced, anti-ballistic missile defense architecture designed and manufactured by the United States (Lockheed Martin). It uses sophisticated "Hit-to-Kill" technology, relying on pure kinetic energy from direct impact rather than an explosive warhead to neutralize incoming short, medium, and intermediate-range ballistic threats in their terminal phase.

## Part 6: Government Schemes & Social Campaigns

**Q18. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched a nationwide grassroots awareness campaign titled "Say No To Proxy Sarpanch" during a national conference in New Delhi. This initiative directly targets the elimination of which socio-political practice?**

- A) The illegal diversion of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) wages
- B) The 'Sarpanch Pati' culture where male relatives exercise the actual authority of elected women
- C) The boycotting of local ward-level elections
- D) The usage of cash incentives during rural local-body voting

**Correct Answer: B) The 'Sarpanch Pati' culture where male relatives exercise the actual authority of elected women**

**Explanation:** Backed by the gender equality mandates of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the "Say No To Proxy Sarpanch" campaign. The project aims to eliminate the patriarchal 'Sarpanch Pati' or 'Sarpanch Putra' phenomenon, where the male relatives of an elected woman run the administration. The campaign provides independent leadership training, digital financial governance literacy, and legal toolkits directly to elected women representatives.

**Q19. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through the MY Bharat platform, officially rolled out Phase-2 of the "Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect" program on March 9-10, 2026. What is the target of Phase-2 in the national capital region?**

- A) Distributing free sporting equipment to 5,000 schools

B) Reaching over 10,000 students across 35+ prominent colleges to engage them with the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision

C) Training 1,000 village athletes for international track events

D) Organizing inter-university e-sports competitions

**Correct Answer: B) Reaching over 10,000 students across 35+ prominent colleges to engage them with the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision**

**Explanation:** Phase-2 of the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme was launched across 35+ premier higher educational institutions in Delhi, including IIT Delhi, IGDTUW, and Shaheed Sukhdev College. Managed via the MY Bharat portal, the initiative uses interactive *Yuva Samvad* dialogues led by national youth icons to channel youth perspectives directly into India's long-term developmental planning for 2047.

**Q20. The Special Exclusive Handloom Expo titled "Virasat Shakti" was inaugurated at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi. Which central body organized this expo to showcase products from 60 regional artisan clusters?**

A) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

B) National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)

C) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)

D) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)

**Correct Answer: B) National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)**

**Explanation:** Operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles, the NHDC inaugurated the 8-day "Virasat Shakti" Handloom Expo. The

event is designed to provide direct market linkage and fair-pricing access to skilled women weavers from across various states. It highlights traditional weaving heritage and supports financial inclusion schemes like the Weaver MUDRA Yojana.

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

**Q21. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a major corporate partnership MoU with Bajaj Auto to launch a specialized youth skilling program. What is the primary area of focus under this tech-skilling initiative?**

- A) Drone assembly and precision agricultural piloting
- B) Advanced automotive engineering, EV maintenance, and manufacturing robotics
- C) Cyber security threat hunting and cloud architecture
- D) Handloom textile digitization and e-commerce setups

**Correct Answer: B) Advanced automotive engineering, EV maintenance, and manufacturing robotics**

**Explanation:** The MSDE-Bajaj Auto partnership is engineered to address the skill gap in India's shifting automobile sector. By setting up advanced training centers within industrial training institutes (ITIs), the program delivers hands-on technical training to youth in Electric Vehicle (EV) mechanics, automated assembly line robotics, and smart manufacturing workflows.

**Q22. The State Government of Punjab officially rolled out the "Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana" in March 2026. What is the core objective of this newly introduced state scheme?**

- A) Providing free electric scooters to all female postgraduate students
- B) Direct financial assistance and enhanced nutritional support for pregnant women and lactating mothers
- C) Fully funding the marriage expenses of women from below-poverty-line (BPL) families
- D) Establishing automated security surveillance apps across all women's hostels

**Correct Answer: B) Direct financial assistance and enhanced nutritional support for pregnant women and lactating mothers**

**Explanation:** Launched by the Punjab government, the *Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana* addresses maternal mortality and infant malnutrition. The social security scheme provides direct cash transfers alongside nutritional health kits containing essential micronutrients directly to pregnant women and lactating mothers, ensuring institutional delivery and regular post-natal checkups.

**Q23. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) granted formal regulatory registrations to two new corporate entities to operate as general insurance players in India. Which of the following pairs represents these two new entrants?**

- A) Alliance Jio General Insurance & Kiwi General Insurance
- B) Tata AIG & Paytm General Insurance
- C) Adani Digital Insurance & PhonePe General Insurance
- D) BharatPe Secure & Groww General Insurance

**Correct Answer: A) Alliance Jio General Insurance & Kiwi General Insurance**

**Explanation:** In a major move to deepen insurance penetration across rural and urban micro-markets, IRDAI granted certificates of registration to Alliance Jio General Insurance and Kiwi General Insurance. This increases the total number of operational general insurers in India, fostering competitive pricing and digital-first tech integrations in auto, health, and property insurance lines.

## Part 8: Science, Tech & Biological Breakthroughs

**Q24. The European Space Agency (ESA) reported a minor tracking issue after temporarily losing contact with one of the two co-flying spacecraft involved in its ambitious "Proba-3" mission. What is the primary scientific objective of the Proba-3 mission?**

- A) Mapping deep-crater ice deposits on the South Pole of the Moon
- B) Creating a high-precision artificial eclipse in space to study the Sun's inner corona
- C) Testing atmospheric thermal shields during high-velocity re-entry
- D) Tracking the gravitational drift of near-Earth asteroids

**Correct Answer: B) Creating a high-precision artificial eclipse in space to study the Sun's inner corona**

**Explanation:** ESA's Proba-3 is the world's first precision formation-flying mission in space. It consists of two separate spacecraft: one acts as an "Occulter" block, and the other functions as a "Coronagraph" instrument. By flying exactly 150 meters apart in a synchronized formation, the Occulter perfectly blocks the blinding disk of the Sun, casting a shadow onto the second spacecraft to allow continuous, unprecedented observation of the Sun's faint inner corona.

**Q25. A severe, highly contagious outbreak of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) triggered public health monitoring across the West Coast of the United States. HMPV belongs to which virus family?**

- A) Orthomyxoviridae
- B) Coronaviridae
- C) Flaviviridae
- D) Pneumoviridae

**Correct Answer: D) Pneumoviridae**

**Explanation:** Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a single-stranded RNA virus belonging to the *Pneumoviridae* family, which also encompasses the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Discovered in 2001, it is a leading cause of upper and lower respiratory tract infections. It spreads through respiratory droplets or contaminated surfaces, causing symptoms like fever, severe cough, and shortness of breath, which can progress to clinical bronchitis or pneumonia in vulnerable populations.

## Part 9: Wildlife, Environment & Species in News

**Q26. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced a major conservation milestone with the birth of five healthy cheetah cubs under India's ongoing Cheetah Reintroduction Project. In which National Park are these cheetahs being rehabilitated?**

- A) Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh
- B) Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan
- C) Gir National Park, Gujarat
- D) Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand

**Correct Answer: A) Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**

**Explanation:** The birth of five new cheetah cubs at Kuno National Park marks an important milestone for the Cheetah Conservation Programme. This initiative, which introduced translocated big cats from Namibia and South Africa, aims to re-establish a self-sustaining wild cheetah population in India's grassland ecosystems.

**Q27. Consider the following statements regarding the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and tiger projects in India:**

1. India currently hosts over 70% of the world's wild tiger population.
2. Project Tiger was initially launched in 1973 covering nine selected Tiger Reserves, including Ranthambore.
3. The NTCA is a statutory body constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.

**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: A) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:** Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India holds more than 70% of the global wild tiger population, a success tracked since Project Tiger began in 1973 with 9 initial reserves. Statement 3 is incorrect because the NTCA is chaired by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, not the Prime Minister.

## Part 10: Sports, Awards & Important Days

**Q28. India clinched the prestigious ICC Men's T20 World Cup title for the third time in history by defeating New Zealand by 96 runs in the final match. Which city hosted this tournament's final match?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Ahmedabad
- C) Melbourne
- D) Colombo

**Correct Answer: B) Ahmedabad**

**Explanation:** India registered a dominant 96-run victory over New Zealand in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. During this tournament, India set a new record by becoming the first team to hit over 100 sixes (106 sixes total) in a single edition of the T20 World Cup.

**Q29. Indian Army veteran K.G. George passed away at the age of 95. He was previously decorated with the prestigious Vir Chakra Award for his exceptional bravery during the 1965 India-Pakistan War. To which military arm did he belong?**

- A) Regiment of Artillery
- B) Corps of Signals
- C) The Grenadiers
- D) Army Medical Corps

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

**Explanation:** Hailing from Kerala, veteran K.G. George served with distinction in the Corps of Signals. During the 1965 war, he displayed valor by maintaining and re-establishing vital frontline communication links under heavy

enemy shelling at the Wagah Border sector, an action that earned him the Vir Chakra.

**Q30. Gurcharan Das, a prominent author, public intellectual, and former corporate leader, was officially honored with which major global accolade for his literary and philosophical contributions?**

- A) Lifetime Libertarian Award
- B) Booker Prize for Fiction
- C) Sahitya Akademi Fellowship
- D) Global Indian Award

**Correct Answer: A) Lifetime Libertarian Award**

**Explanation:** Gurcharan Das became the first Indian to be honored with the prestigious Lifetime Libertarian Award. The award recognizes his lifetime contributions to classical liberal philosophy, free-market economics, and individual liberty through his acclaimed books like *India Unbound* and *The Difficulty of Being Good*.



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