

Part 1: International & National News

Q1. Under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), India recently completed a major breakthrough by successfully demonstrating a secure quantum communication network across what distance?

- A. 250 km
- B. 500 km
- C. 1,000 km
- D. 1,500 km

Answer: C. 1,000 km

Detailed Explanation: Under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), Indian scientists and defense tech institutions achieved a massive milestone by successfully deploying an intercept-proof 1,000 km quantum communication network. Operating on principles like quantum entanglement and Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), any interception attempt immediately alters the subatomic states of the photons, triggering real-time alerts. This breakthrough directly addresses long-term cybersecurity infrastructure needs across India's defense systems and banking networks.

Q2. Which country recently announced a new strategic policy to levy transit fees on commercial vessels passing through the crucial maritime chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz?

- A. Oman
- B. Iran
- C. UAE
- D. Saudi Arabia

Answer: B. Iran

Detailed Explanation: In a major geopolitical shift altering maritime trade routes, Iran announced its intention to introduce transit tariffs on global commercial shipping using the Strait of Hormuz. Iran justified the policy by citing infrastructure maintenance and coastal maritime security. However, international law scholars indicate this move challenges the principles of 'Transit Passage' laid out under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as the strait is a vital global chokepoint handling nearly 20% of the world's petroleum liquids.

Q3. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone VII Conference was officially inaugurated in April 2026. Which state hosted this conference?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Goa
- C. Odisha
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Answer: B. Goa

Detailed Explanation: The Lok Sabha Speaker inaugurated the prestigious Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone VII Conference in Goa. Established originally in 1911, the CPA is one of the oldest international legislative networks. The India Region is exceptionally vast, encompassing 32 legislatures divided structurally into 9 operational zones. The 2026 conference centered its legislative debates on balancing federal autonomy with uniform administrative standards and digital inclusion.

Q4. The Indravati Tiger Reserve was recently in the news for its successful transition from an eco-security conflict zone to a thriving tourism corridor. In which state is this reserve situated?

- A. Maharashtra



- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Odisha

Answer: B. Chhattisgarh

Detailed Explanation: Located in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, the Indravati Tiger Reserve has reopened its gates to comprehensive eco-tourism. The reserve gets its name from the Indravati River, which outlines its northern and western boundaries, acting as the interstate border with Maharashtra. Geographically, it forms a critical wildlife corridor with Kawal Tiger Reserve (Telangana), Tadoba-Andhari (Maharashtra), and Kanha (Madhya Pradesh), making it essential for the conservation of both tigers and wild water buffaloes.

Q5. The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026 initially applies a uniform administrative framework across how many major security forces?

- A. Three
- B. Four
- C. Five
- D. Seven

Answer: C. Five

Detailed Explanation: The newly passed CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026 establishes a centralized, streamlined administrative system to handle service matters and promotions. It applies to the "Big Five" branches of the Central Armed Police Forces: the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

Q6. Under the regulations of the newly passed CAPF Act 2026, what percentage of Director General (DG) and Special DG postings are explicitly reserved for Indian Police Service (IPS) officers on deputation?

- A. 50%
- B. 75%
- C. 90%
- D. 100%

Answer: D. 100%

Detailed Explanation: The CAPF Act 2026 codifies historical institutional practices into law, mandating that 100% of the highest leadership slots—specifically Director General (DG) and Special DG positions—within the designated CAPFs must be filled by IPS officers via central deputation. This measure ensures a unified administrative command structure between central police organizations and state policing units.

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which was recently discussed by India's Ministry of Environment:

1. It mandates the phase-down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are potent greenhouse gases.
2. India's environmental bodies recently announced a freeze on fresh capacity clearances for specific high-GWP HFC production lines.

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

Detailed Explanation: To fulfill its international climate commitments under the Kigali Amendment, India announced it will halt fresh production clearances for certain high Global Warming Potential (GWP) Hydrofluorocarbons. While HFCs do not deplete the stratospheric ozone layer like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), they trap significantly more heat than carbon dioxide (CO_2), making their phase-down critical to global climate mitigation efforts.

Part 2: Banking, Finance & Economics

Q8. According to the Reserve Bank of India's updated draft framework for Scale-Based Regulation (SBR), what is the definitive asset threshold for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to be categorized into the "Upper Layer" (NBFC-UL)?

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

Answer: C. ₹1 Trillion (₹1 Lakh Crore)

Detailed Explanation: The RBI revised the asset threshold limit to ₹1 trillion for classifying systemically critical NBFCs under the "Upper Layer". Once an NBFC crosses this baseline, it faces strict, bank-like prudential regulations. This includes tighter capital adequacy requirements, mandatory common equity tier-1 buffers, and intense asset classification audits to protect the broader financial system from systemic risks.

Q9. Under the RBI's updated persistence rule for NBFC classification, for how many consecutive

fiscal years must an NBFC's asset footprint remain below the threshold to formally exit the Upper Layer classification?

- A. 2 years
- B. 3 years
- C. 5 years
- D. 7 years

Answer: C. 5 years

Detailed Explanation: To prevent financial firms from frequently jumping between regulatory frameworks due to minor asset fluctuations, the RBI introduced a 5-year persistence rule. An NBFC classified under the Upper Layer must maintain an asset footprint below the ₹1 trillion mark for 5 consecutive fiscal years before it can be reclassified down to the Middle Layer.

Q10. NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) expanded its "Banking Connect" ecosystem by onboarding which prominent private sector bank as a core integration partner?

- A. ICICI Bank
- B. Axis Bank
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. IDFC First Bank

Answer: B. Axis Bank

Detailed Explanation: NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), successfully integrated Axis Bank onto its Banking Connect platform. With this addition, Banking Connect now spans 8 major institutional banks and 11 payment aggregators, allowing seamless commercial bill payments and institutional reconciliation across various digital platforms.



Q11. Which premier asset management entity was newly added to the operational list of Pension Fund Managers authorized to manage retirement corpuses under the National Pension System (NPS)?

- A. DSP Asset Managers
- B. Zerodha Fund House
- C. Groww Asset Management
- D. PPFAS Mutual Fund

Answer: A. DSP Asset Managers

Detailed Explanation: The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) expanded the competitive landscape of the National Pension System (NPS) by licensing DSP Asset Managers. This brings the total number of authorized public and private Asset Management Companies (AMCs) managing NPS assets to ten, expanding investment options for corporate and retail subscribers.

Q12. In the context of the recent market alerts issued by the RBI regarding offshore currency speculation, what is a "Non-Deliverable Forward" (NDF)?

- A. A physical currency delivery note used in agricultural imports.
- B. A cash-settled foreign exchange derivative contract traded primarily in offshore centers.
- C. A short-term loan facility provided to non-resident Indians.
- D. A sovereign bond issued in foreign currencies.

Answer: B. A cash-settled foreign exchange derivative contract traded primarily in offshore centers.

Detailed Explanation: A Non-Deliverable Forward (NDF) is a foreign exchange derivative

contract that is cash-settled (usually in US Dollars) rather than through physical currency delivery. It is heavily utilized by international traders to speculate on currencies with convertibility restrictions, such as the Indian Rupee (INR). The RBI monitors these offshore markets closely, as sudden arbitrage movements between onshore and offshore NDF hubs can exert downward pressure on the domestic exchange rate.

Q13. According to data compiled in the FY 2025-26 Indian Venture Capital & Startup Ecosystem report, which deep-tech entity recorded one of the largest single domestic funding rounds, valued at 600 million USD?

- A. Nxtra
- B. Neysa
- C. Inox Clean Energy
- D. Juspay

Answer: B. Neysa

Detailed Explanation: The annual funding compilation highlights India's shifting focus toward advanced artificial intelligence infrastructure. Neysa secured a massive 600 million USD funding round, fueling its ascent as one of the six newly minted Indian unicorns of FY26 (alongside companies like Raise, Navi, and Jumbotail).

Part 3: Appointments & MoUs

Q14. The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) signed a landmark MoU in New Delhi to intercept and prevent complex cross-border digital financial fraud. Which agency is the co-signatory?

- A. Enforcement Directorate (ED)
- B. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

- C. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- D. National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

Answer: B. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

Detailed Explanation: Amit Mohan Govil (Director, FIU-IND) and Rajesh Kumar (CEO, I4C) formally signed an institutional MoU to establish a real-time data-sharing pipeline between the two agencies. This integration allows financial intelligence units tracking suspicious transaction logs to sync instantly with I4C's cybercrime tracking databases, drastically reducing response times for freezing accounts tied to cyber fraud and mule operations.

Q15. India signed a comprehensive Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap along with a mutual arrangement for UN Peacekeeping Training cooperation with which European nation?

- A. France
- B. Germany
- C. Italy
- D. United Kingdom

Answer: A. Germany

Detailed Explanation: Building on strategic bilateral talks, India and Germany finalized a comprehensive Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap. This agreement streamlines co-production setups for maritime systems, advanced submarines, and air-defense equipment. Additionally, the deal establishes a joint training framework for UN Peacekeeping missions, enabling both forces to share tactical doctrine and operational lessons.

Q16. Which senior bureaucrat officially assumed the administrative mantle of

Chairperson at the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) in April 2026?

- A. Alka Tiwari
- B. Anil Kumar Jha
- C. Manoj Kumar
- D. Nagendra Nath Sinha

Answer: B. Anil Kumar Jha

Detailed Explanation: Former senior civil servant preparedness expert Anil Kumar Jha assumed formal charge as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), a constitutional body operating under Article 338A of the Indian Constitution. His immediate mandate includes fast-tracking community development rights and resolving land allocation disputes across Fifth Schedule areas.

Q17. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), the apex agency executing India's Bullet Train projects?

- A. Satish Agnihotri
- B. Rajendra Prasad
- C. Vivek Kumar Gupta
- D. Achal Khare

Answer: C. Vivek Kumar Gupta

Detailed Explanation: Vivek Kumar Gupta was appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) to lead NHSRCL as its Managing Director. His primary focus will be accelerating track deployment and electrical overhead equipment installation along the flagship Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail corridor.

Q18. The apex body for the economic development of tribal entrepreneurs, National

Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), operates as a central PSU under which union ministry?

- A. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- B. Ministry of MSME
- C. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- D. Ministry of Finance

Answer: C. Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Detailed Explanation: The NSTFDC celebrated its Foundation Day on April 11. Established in 2001, it functions as a specialized Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The corporation provides low-interest, concessional micro-credit loans to Scheduled Tribe individuals and self-help groups, helping them launch sustainable businesses without relying on exploitative commercial credit sources.

Part 4: Defense, Science & Technology

Q19. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the Integrated Air Drop Test-02 (IADT-02). This specialized aerospace trial is associated with which major space mission?

- A. Chandrayaan-4
- B. Gaganyaan
- C. Shukrayaan-1
- D. Aditya-L1

Answer: B. Gaganyaan

Detailed Explanation: ISRO completed the Integrated Air Drop Test-02 (IADT-02), a critical milestone for India's premier crewed spaceflight program, the Gaganyaan mission. In this test, an apex transport aircraft dropped a prototype crew module from a high altitude to

simulate re-entry conditions. The test successfully validated the multi-stage parachute deceleration system, demonstrating it can safely slow down the crew module during its descent through Earth's atmosphere to ensure a safe splashdown.

Q20. Anthropic launched a massive global cybersecurity initiative named 'Project Glasswing' to detect and patch software vulnerabilities across global telecom, banking, and healthcare grids. Which advanced AI model drives this program?

- A. Claude 3.5 Sonnet
- B. Claude Mythos Preview
- C. GPT-5 Turbo
- D. Gemini 1.5 Pro

Answer: B. Claude Mythos Preview

Detailed Explanation: Anthropic launched 'Project Glasswing' in partnership with a global tech coalition including Amazon Web Services, Apple, Google, Microsoft, and NVIDIA. Powered by the advanced Claude Mythos Preview model, the initiative focuses on proactive, AI-driven vulnerability detection rather than traditional, reactive signature-based scanning. Due to the dual-use risk of offensive exploitation, access to this specialized system remains strictly regulated.

Q21. Scientists recently developed an ultra-low-energy 'neuromorphic' (brain-like) sensor inspired by the efficient visual processing system of which biological organism?

- A. Honeybee
- B. Chameleon
- C. Frog
- D. Octopus

Answer: C. Frog



Detailed Explanation: In a major leap for green computing, biomimetic scientists developed a neuromorphic sensor modeled on the neural pathways of a frog's eye. Traditional digital sensors continuously process every pixel, consuming significant amounts of electricity. This frog-inspired neuromorphic architecture only records variations in movement and light intensity, mimicking a biological brain to reduce energy consumption by up to 90%. This makes it a promising technology for autonomous drones, edge-AI electronics, and advanced robotics.

Q22. The Indian Army deployed a highly trained 25-person elite Special Forces detachment to participate in the 'Cyclone-2026' joint tactical exercise. Which nation is hosting this exercise?

- A. Oman
- B. Egypt
- C. UAE
- D. Saudi Arabia

Answer: B. Egypt

Detailed Explanation: The 2026 edition of the bilateral Special Forces exercise 'Cyclone' commenced in Egypt. The exercise focuses on asymmetric warfare, counter-terrorism operations, and long-range reconnaissance tactics in desert and semi-desert terrains, strengthening defense ties and interoperability between the two nations.

Part 5: Schemes, Awards, Sports & Culture

Q23. Which state has emerged as the nationwide leader under the Central Sector scheme "Namo Drone Didi Yojana", training the highest number of rural Self-Help Group (SHG) women as certified drone pilots?

- A. Maharashtra

B. Uttar Pradesh

C. Karnataka

D. Tamil Nadu

Answer: C. Karnataka

Detailed Explanation: Karnataka has emerged as the frontrunner under the Namo Drone Didi Yojana, with 145 rural women from various self-help groups successfully completing their professional drone pilot certifications. The central sector scheme provides an 80% financial subsidy (capped at ₹8 lakh) to SHGs under the DAY-NRLM framework to purchase agricultural drones. These drones are used to automate fertilizer spraying and crop health monitoring, creating new income streams for women in agriculture.

Q24. Under the operational guidelines of the Namo Drone Didi Yojana, what is the exact duration of the training program mandated for the selected SHG Drone Pilot candidates?

- A. 7 Days
- B. 15 Days
- C. 30 Days
- D. 45 Days

Answer: B. 15 Days

Detailed Explanation: The program features a strict 15-day training timeline. This includes 5 days of core pilot certification training to master flight mechanics and navigation regulations, followed by 10 days of specialized training focused on agricultural applications, such as precision pesticide spraying and crop health analysis.

Q25. In April 2026, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched an innovative biodiversity project to develop thematic corridors of medicinal tree plantations

along national highways. What is this project called?

- A. Arogya Van
- B. Green Highway Mission 2.0
- C. Oshadhi Gali
- D. Ayush Corridors

Answer: A. Arogya Van

Detailed Explanation: NHA launched the 'Arogya Van' (Health Forest) initiative under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The first phase of the project covers 17 distinct land parcels spanning over 62.8 hectares across 11 states, including Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, and Karnataka. The initiative will plant around 67,462 medicinal trees—such as Neem, Amla, Jamun, and Tamarind—tailored to local agro-climatic zones to boost highway biodiversity and absorb carbon emissions.

Q26. Former Test cricketer Rameshchandra Gangaram 'Ramu' Goel passed away in April 2026. Following his demise, who officially became India's oldest living Test cricketer?

- A. Neil Harvey
- B. Chandu Patankar
- C. CD Gopinath
- D. Salim Durani

Answer: B. Chandu Patankar

Detailed Explanation: Following the passing of the distinguished Ramu Goel at the age of 96, former Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Chandu Patankar (aged 95) officially became India's oldest living Test cricketer. Globally, Australia's legendary batsman Neil Harvey (aged 97) retains the title of the world's oldest living Test cricketer.

Q27. A new plant species named *Fimbristylis wayanadensis*, characterized by its distinctive triangular stems, was discovered by botanists in which geographic region of India?

- A. Eastern Ghats
- B. Western Ghats
- C. Chotanagpur Plateau
- D. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Answer: B. Western Ghats

Detailed Explanation: Discovered in the high-altitude terrains of the Wayanad district in Kerala, *Fimbristylis wayanadensis* is a new addition to India's biodiversity catalogue. The species belongs to the sedge family—grass-like plants known for their triangular stems. It thrives in the narrow transitional eco-zones between rocky terrains and high-altitude grasslands at elevations reaching up to 1,900 meters in the Western Ghats.

Q28. Prasar Bharati has made its premier monthly governance journals, Yojana and Kurukshetra, available for free digital streaming on its newly launched OTT platform. What is the name of this platform?

- A. DD Digital
- B. WAVES
- C. BHARAT Play
- D. Prasar Stream

Answer: B. WAVES

Detailed Explanation: Developed by Prasar Bharati to meet the growing demand for digital civic content, the WAVES (Wireless Access to Virtual Entertainment Services) OTT platform hosts live television, educational archives, radio streaming, and interactive public services. By offering flagship development publications like Yojana and Kurukshetra for free on WAVES, the

government aims to make authentic policy analysis more accessible to civil services aspirants and the general public.

Q29. The historic festival of Thrissur Pooram, known globally for its majestic caparisoned elephant processions and traditional percussion ensembles, is celebrated annually in which state?

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

Answer: C. Kerala

Detailed Explanation: Held at the Vadakkunnathan Temple in Thrissur, Kerala, Thrissur Pooram was recently in the news regarding discussions over administrative scaling and safety protocols. Founded by Sakthan Thampuran (the Maharaja of Cochin) in the late 18th century, the festival is a magnificent display of Kerala's cultural heritage, bringing together friendly rivalries between prominent regional temples through elaborate umbrella-display competitions (Kudamattom) and traditional orchestras (Panchavadyam).

Q30. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) successfully executed 'Operation Global Hunt' in April 2026 to extradite high-profile international drug trafficker Mohammad Salim Dola from which country?

- A. UAE
- B. Türkiye
- C. Iran
- D. Oman

Answer: B. Türkiye

Detailed Explanation: In a major victory against transnational drug syndicates, the NCB completed the extradition of Mohammad Salim Dola from Türkiye under 'Operation Global Hunt'. Working closely with Interpol and Turkish central security agencies, this operation marks a significant step forward in dismantling international narcotics supply chains and illicit financial networks feeding into the domestic market.

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