

National News

1. President Assents to Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026

President Droupadi Murmu granted presidential assent to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, officially turning it into law.

• Key Highlights:

- **Status Parity:** The law accords the National Song, Vande Mataram, the same legal protection and status previously granted exclusively to the National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana).
- **Penalties:** Under the amended Section 3 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, intentionally preventing the singing of Vande Mataram or causing disruption to an assembly engaged in its singing is punishable by up to **3 years of imprisonment, a fine, or both**.
- **Order of Protocol:** Directives issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs specify that when both are rendered together, all 6 stanzas of Vande Mataram must be sung or played prior to the National Anthem.
- **First at Red Fort:** For the first time during the Independence Day celebrations, Vande Mataram will be formally performed from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

2. Lok Sabha Passes Bill to Rename Kerala as 'Keralam'

The Lok Sabha passed the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026**, by voice vote.

• Key Highlights:

- The bill seeks to alter the name of the state from "Kerala" to "**Keralam**" in the First Schedule of the Constitution of India,

aligning it with the Malayalam language pronunciation and cultural heritage.

- Constitutional procedure requires an amendment to the First Schedule under Article 3 and Article 4 of the Indian Constitution.

Exam Practice Question 1 (Polity & National News)

Which of the following statements regarding the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026 is/are correct?

1. It amends Section 3 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
2. It grants Vande Mataram equal legal status and penal protection as the National Anthem.
3. The amendment requires an alteration to Article 51A of the Constitution via a 2/3rd majority.

(A) 1 and 2 only

(B) 2 and 3 only

(C) 1 and 3 only

(D) 1, 2, and 3

• Answer: (A) 1 and 2 only

- **Explanation:** Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is incorrect because the protection is enacted via statutory amendment to the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, not through a direct constitutional amendment to Article 51A.

Defense News

1. Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth First Woman Fighter Pilot to Complete TACDE Course

Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth became the first woman fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force



(IAF) to successfully graduate from the **Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course** at the **Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE)** in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

• **Key Highlights:**

- TACDE is considered the IAF's elite "Top Gun" school.
- Only the top 1% of IAF fighter pilots are selected for this 20-week advanced combat instructional programme.
- Bhawana Kanth was among India's first three female fighter pilots inducted into the IAF in 2016 (alongside Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh).

2. Successful Flight Test of Agni-4 Missile

India successfully conducted a user launch of the **Agni-4 Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM)** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha.

• **Key Highlights:**

- **Type:** Nuclear-capable surface-to-surface medium/intermediate-range ballistic missile.
- **Operational Range:** 3,500 to 4,000 km.
- **Developer:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Exam Practice Question 2 (Defense)

Consider the following statements regarding the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE):

1. It is located at the Gwalior Air Force Station in Madhya Pradesh.
2. Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth became the first woman fighter pilot to complete its Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course.

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

• **Explanation:** Both statements are factually accurate. TACDE is based in Gwalior, MP, and Sqn Ldr Bhawana Kanth recently became its first female FCL graduate.

Economics & Banking

1. Cabinet Approves Outlay for GOBARDhan Scheme

The Union Cabinet approved the financial outlay for the **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARDhan)** initiative, allocating ₹23,731 crore.

• **Key Highlights:**

- **Objective:** Convert cattle dung, agricultural residue, and organic waste into Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) and bio-slurry.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation).
- **Impact:** Supports the National Biofuel Policy, reduces methane emissions, and generates rural livelihood opportunities.

2. RBI Extends Loan Recovery Certification Deadline to January 2027

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 and Finance (IIBF)** to January 1, 2027.

• **Key Exemptions:** The certification framework does not apply to direct employees of banks/NBFCs engaged in recovery duties, regular periodic installment

collection agents, or legal firms issuing court notices.

3. IFSCA Approval for Standard Chartered in GIFT City

Standard Chartered Bank obtained regulatory approval from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** to offer wealth management services from its International Banking Unit (IBU) at **GIFT City, Gandhinagar**.

Exam Practice Question 3 (Economics & Banking)

Which nodal ministry coordinates the GOBARDhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme?

- (A) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- (B) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- (C) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- (D) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

- **Answer: (C) Ministry of Jal Shakti**
- **Explanation:** While GOBARDhan is an inter-ministerial initiative involving MNRE and Agriculture, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti acts as the nodal department.

Government Schemes & MoUs

1. Lohia Aerospace Signs MoU with Massivit (Israel)

Lohia Aerospace Systems Private Limited (LASPL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Israel-based **Massivit** to set up India's first commercial large-format additive manufacturing (3D printing) facility in **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**.

- **Investment:** \$8–10 million.

- **Application:** High-grade composite materials manufacturing for defense, aerospace, and railway sectors.

2. Seafarers Grievance Redressal Portal

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched an integrated digital portal specifically designed for continuous, real-time grievance redressal of Indian seafarers working on national and international vessels.

Exam Practice Question 4 (MoUs & Schemes)

India's first commercial large-format additive manufacturing (3D printing) facility is being set up in which city under an MoU signed with Israel's Massivit?

- (A) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- (B) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- (C) Hyderabad, Telangana
- (D) Pune, Maharashtra

- **Answer: (B) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**
- **Explanation:** Lohia Aerospace Systems (LASPL) partnered with Massivit (Israel) to establish this facility in Kanpur, UP.

International News

1. 7.4 Magnitude Earthquake Strikes Colombia

A major earthquake measuring **7.4 on the Richter scale** struck western Colombia, causing severe structural damage.

- **Epicenter:** Located near San Jose del Palmar in the **Chocó Department** of Colombia.
- **Impact:** Affected Pacific coastal transport corridors and surrounding municipal infrastructure.

2. Typhoon Dolphin Hits Eastern China

Over one million people were evacuated across eastern China, including Shanghai and Zhejiang

province, following the landfall of Typhoon Dolphin.

Exam Practice Question 5 (International News)

The Chocó department, recently in the news due to a powerful 7.4 magnitude earthquake, is located in which country?

- (A) Chile
- (B) Peru
- (C) Colombia
- (D) Ecuador

- **Answer: (C) Colombia**
- **Explanation:** The epicenter of the 7.4 magnitude earthquake was situated near San Jose del Palmar in the Chocó region of western Colombia.

Sports News

1. Ashmita Chaliha Wins Maiden BWF Korea Masters Super 300 Title

Indian badminton player Ashmita Chaliha clinched her maiden BWF World Tour title at the Korea Masters Super 300 tournament in Asan, South Korea.

- **Final Match:** Defeated China's Han Qianxi in straight sets in the women's singles final.
- **Significance:** Ashmita became the first Indian female singles shuttler to win the Korea Masters title.

Exam Practice Question 6 (Sports)

Ashmita Chaliha, who won her maiden BWF World Tour title at the Korea Masters Super 300, is associated with which sport?

- (A) Table Tennis
- (B) Badminton
- (C) Lawn Tennis
- (D) Squash

- **Answer: (B) Badminton**
- **Explanation:** Ashmita Chaliha is an Indian badminton player who won the women's singles title at the Korea Masters Super 300.

Appointments, Awards & Brand Valuations

1. Kroll Celebrity Brand Valuation Report

Global financial advisory firm Kroll published the 11th edition of its **Celebrity Brand Valuation Report**.

- **Top Ranked Celebrity:** Actor Shah Rukh Khan retained the top spot as India's most valuable celebrity brand with a valuation of \$177.9 million.
- **Key Sectors:** Driven by endorsements in consumer tech, e-commerce, and fintech platforms.

Exam Practice Question 7 (Awards & Rankings)

Who topped the Indian Celebrity Brand Rankings with a valuation of \$177.9 million according to the Kroll Brand Valuation Report?

- (A) Virat Kohli
- (B) Shah Rukh Khan
- (C) Ranveer Singh
- (D) Deepika Padukone

- **Answer: (B) Shah Rukh Khan**
- **Explanation:** Shah Rukh Khan emerged at the top of the Kroll Celebrity Brand Valuation report at \$177.9 million.

Art & Culture, History & Important Days

1. 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram'

The year 2026 marks the **150th anniversary** of the composition of Vande Mataram, India's National Song.

Historical Aspect	Historical Detail
Composer	Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (1875/1876)
Literary Source	Published in his famous patriotic novel <i>Anandamath</i> (1882)
First Political Performance	Sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress
National Status	Adopted as the National Song of India on January 24, 1950 by the Constituent Assembly

Exam Practice Question 8 (Art & Culture / History)

Consider the following statements regarding the National Song 'Vande Mataram':

1. It was originally composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.
2. It was first published in his novel *Anandamath*.
3. Rabindranath Tagore sang it for the first time politically during the 1896 Calcutta session of the INC.

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**

• **Explanation:** All three statements are historically accurate. The song was written in 1875/76, incorporated in *Anandamath* (1882), and sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 INC session.

International News

Q1 The World Heritage Committee recently adopted the Busan Declaration, introducing a new "sixth C" to its strategic objectives framework for protecting global heritage assets. Which of the following represents the newly added "sixth C"?

- (A) Climate
- (B) Collaboration
- (C) Conservation
- (D) Culture

Answer: (B) Collaboration

Detailed Explanation: The World Heritage Committee formally adopted the **Busan Declaration on World Heritage**. The declaration aims to safeguard vulnerable cultural and natural sites from emerging global challenges, climate impacts, and conflict. To strengthen global action, the committee introduced "**Collaboration**" as the strategic **sixth C**. It complements the existing "Five Cs" of the UNESCO World Heritage strategic framework:

1. **Conservation**
2. **Credibility**
3. **Capacity-building**
4. **Communication**
5. **Community**

During the session, 6 newly inscribed sites were added to the World Heritage in Danger list, while Austria's Historic Centre of Vienna was successfully removed from the Danger list following implemented restoration measures.

Q2 Which nation recently raised objections against India after India officially published standardized names for 27 geographic locations in Arunachal Pradesh on its official national map?

- (A) Myanmar
- (B) Nepal
- (C) China
- (D) Bhutan

Answer: (C) China

Detailed Explanation: In August 2026, India published standard official names for **27 strategic locations in Arunachal Pradesh** on its official map to reinforce its territorial sovereignty. This move directly countered previous unilateral attempts by Beijing to rename places in the Indian state.

The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs publicly criticized India's official cartographic mapping. India reiterated its position that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India, and assigning official native names is a standard sovereign right.

National News

Q3 Under which nationwide umbrella campaign was the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign launched across Indian states and Union Territories in August 2026 to encourage citizens to hoist the National Flag?

- (A) PM Gati Shakti
- (B) Vibrant Villages Programme
- (C) Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

- (D) Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

Answer: (C) Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Detailed Explanation: The **"Har Ghar Tiranga" Campaign 2026** commenced across the country under the aegis of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**. The nationwide drive encourages citizens to display and hoist the National Flag (Tiranga) at their homes, institutions, and workplaces ahead of Independence Day.

The initiative aims to instill a personal connection with the Tricolor, foster patriotic fervor, and honor the sacrifices of freedom fighters who contributed to India's independence movement.

Q4 According to the Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2026, who among the following emerged as the most valued female celebrity in India?

- (A) Deepika Padukone
- (B) Alia Bhatt
- (C) Priyanka Chopra
- (D) Katrina Kaif

Answer: (B) Alia Bhatt

Detailed Explanation: In the Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2026, actor **Alia Bhatt** retained her position as the most valued female celebrity in India.

Overall Rankings:

- **2nd Place:** Actor Ranveer Singh retained the second position with a brand value of USD 162.9 million.
- **3rd Place:** Cricketer Virat Kohli secured the third position with a brand value of USD 158.4 million.
- **7th Place:** Actor Deepika Padukone followed Alia Bhatt among female celebrities with a brand valuation of USD 89.2 million.

Economics and Banking

Q5 The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published its updated Upper Layer (UL) list of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for FY 2026-27. How many total NBFCs are included in the Upper Layer list, and which major government-backed entities were newly added?

- (A) 12 NBFCs; added NABARD and SIDBI
- (B) 15 NBFCs; added IFCI and EXIM Bank
- (C) 17 NBFCs; added REC, PFC, IRFC, and HUDCO
- (D) 20 NBFCs; added SBI Cards and LIC Housing Finance

Answer: (C) 17 NBFCs; added REC, PFC, IRFC, and HUDCO

Detailed Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) categorized **17 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** under the **Upper Layer (UL)** for FY 2026-27 under its Scale Based Regulation (SBR) framework.

- **New Additions:** Four major public sector financial entities were included in the Upper Layer:
 1. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Limited
 2. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited
 3. Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) Limited
 4. Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) Limited
- **Key Retainee:** Core Investment Company Tata Sons Private Limited was retained in the list.
- **Regulatory Context:** Upper Layer NBFCs are subject to enhanced regulatory requirements, including tighter capital

adequacy norms, board governance structure, and mandatory listing timelines.

Q6 Which foreign banking institution recently received regulatory approval from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to offer wealth management products and services through its GIFT City branch in Gandhinagar, Gujarat?

- (A) HSBC India
- (B) Standard Chartered Bank
- (C) Citibank India
- (D) Deutsche Bank

Answer: (B) Standard Chartered Bank

Detailed Explanation: Standard Chartered Bank secured regulatory approval from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** to deliver specialized wealth management products and offshore investment solutions out of its branch at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**) in Gandhinagar.

This approval allows the bank to serve high-net-worth resident and non-resident clients (NRIs/PIOs) looking for cross-border investments and multi-currency asset management within India's premier International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) framework.

Q7 The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the transition deadline for existing loan recovery agents to obtain mandatory certification from the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF). What is the new compliance deadline?

- (A) October 1, 2026
- (B) January 1, 2027
- (C) April 1, 2027
- (D) December 31, 2027



Answer: (B) January 1, 2027

Detailed Explanation: To ensure fair practices in debt collection and avoid harassment of borrowers, the RBI extended the transition timeline for existing recovery agents to obtain IIBF certification to January 1, 2027.

• **Key Exemptions Clarified by RBI:**

1. Regular direct employees of Regulated Entities (REs) engaged in recovery work.
2. Agents collecting regular periodic installments.
3. Law firms issuing legal notices or representing lenders in judicial courts.

Q8 Indian Bank launched a digital platform to process paperless MSME loans with in-principle approvals within 30 minutes during its 120th Foundation Day celebrations. What is the name of this portal?

- (A) MSME Sampark Portal
- (B) Unified MSME Portal
- (C) MSME Speed Loan Hub
- (D) Udyam Vikas Portal

Answer: (B) Unified MSME Portal

Detailed Explanation: During its 120th Foundation Day Fortnight Celebrations in New Delhi, Indian Bank launched the Unified MSME Portal.

• **Key Features:**

- Enables paperless, digital credit processing leveraging API integration with PAN, GST, and Udyam Registration databases.
- Grants in-principle loan approvals within approximately 30 minutes using OTP-based digital documentation.
- During the outreach program, the bank sanctioned nearly Rs 500 crore in MSME loans.

Defense News

Q9 Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth achieved a landmark milestone in August 2026 by becoming the first female fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to complete which elite operational course?

- (A) Weapons Systems Officer (WSO) Course
- (B) Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) Course
- (C) Experimental Test Pilot Course
- (D) Air Staff Intelligence Course

Answer: (B) Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) Course

Detailed Explanation: Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth, one of India's first three female fighter pilots commissioned into the IAF in 2016, became the first woman fighter pilot to successfully graduate from the prestigious Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course.

The rigorous operational qualification course was conducted at the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE) located in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. Graduates of this course are trained in high-end tactical aerial warfare and lead operational combat formations.

Q10 Where did the 8th edition of the bilateral Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Salvage exercise between the Indian Navy and the United States Navy commence in August 2026?

- (A) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- (B) Southern Naval Command, Kochi
- (C) Karwar, Karnataka
- (D) Mumbai, Maharashtra

Answer: (B) Southern Naval Command, Kochi

Detailed Explanation: The 8th edition of the specialized bilateral Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Salvage Exercise between



the Indian Navy and the US Navy commenced at the **Southern Naval Command in Kochi, Kerala.**

- **Objective:** Enhance tactical interoperability, counter underwater explosive threats, exchange operational best practices, and conduct joint deep-sea diving salvage operations.
- **Background:** The joint naval salvage and EOD engagement series between India and the USA originally started in 2005.

Q11 India successfully conducted a flight test of which Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha in August 2026?

- (A) Agni-2
- (B) Agni-3
- (C) Agni-4
- (D) Pralay

Answer: (C) Agni-4

Detailed Explanation: India successfully test-fired the **Agni-4 Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM)** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.

- **Specifications:** Agni-4 is a two-stage nuclear-capable strategic missile powered by solid propellant, featuring advanced ring-laser gyro-based INS (Inertial Navigation System) and micro-navigation systems to ensure high strike accuracy across ranges up to 4,000 km.

Government Schemes

Q12 The Union Cabinet approved the continuation and expansion of the GOBARDhan Scheme with a total budget outlay of Rs 23,731 crore. What is the full form of GOBARDhan?

- (A) Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan

- (B) Government Organic Bio-Energy Resource Dhan
- (C) Green Organic Bio-Agricultural Rejuvenation Dhan
- (D) Global Organic Biomass and Agricultural Resource Dhan

Answer: (A) Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan

Detailed Explanation: The Union Cabinet approved the expanded financial framework for the **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARDhan)** scheme with an allocation of Rs 23,731 crore.

• **Key Objectives:**

1. Convert organic waste, cattle dung, and agricultural residue into Compressed Biogas (CBG) and Bio-CNG.
2. Increase rural incomes by monetizing farm waste.
3. Support environmental sustainability and reduce India's reliance on imported fossil fuels.

Q13 What total financial outlay was approved by the Cabinet for the expanded Khelo India Scheme and Enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs) for the period FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31?

- (A) Rs 18,500 crore
- (B) Rs 25,000 crore
- (C) Rs 36,441 crore
- (D) Rs 45,200 crore

Answer: (C) Rs 36,441 crore

Detailed Explanation: The Union Cabinet approved the expanded **Khelo India Scheme** along with enhanced support for **Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs)** with a

total financial outlay of Rs 36,441 crore spanning FY27 through FY31.

• **Key Highlights of the Expanded Framework:**

- **E-KIAs:** Introduces the Emerging Khelo India Athletes category to expand the athlete support ecosystem nearly tenfold.
- **Grassroots Institutions:** Sets up Khelo India Feeder Schools (KIFS) for early-stage talent identification and Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas (KIUV) to blend academic training with sports development.

Q14 What is the primary objective of the newly approved cabinet scheme titled "Samudra Manthan", allocated with a budget of Rs 84,084 crore?

- (A) Deep-sea mineral mining in the Central Indian Ocean
- (B) Offshore oil and gas exploration and production
- (C) Naval port infrastructure modernization
- (D) Desalination plant setup across coastal states

Answer: (B) Offshore oil and gas exploration and production

Detailed Explanation: The Union Cabinet sanctioned the 'Samudra Manthan' Scheme with a massive financial outlay of Rs 84,084 crore to accelerate Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration across India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The initiative aims to reduce energy import dependence by mapping offshore sedimentary basins, deploying seismic survey vessels, and encouraging public and private investments in deep-water exploration.

Appointments

Q15 Who has been elected as the new Chairman of the Association of Portfolio Managers in India

(APMI) following its 29th Board Meeting in August 2026?

- (A) Sandeep Jethwani
- (B) Vikas Khemani
- (C) Nilesh Shah
- (D) Radhika Gupta

Answer: (B) Vikas Khemani

Detailed Explanation: The Association of Portfolio Managers in India (APMI) elected Vikas Khemani (Founder & CIO of Carnelian Asset Management) as its Chairman and Sandeep Jethwani (Co-founder of Dezerv) as its Vice-Chairman.

APMI represents the Portfolio Management Services (PMS) industry in India, which crossed Rs 43.3 lakh crore in Assets Under Management (AUM) in 2026. The executive board focuses on enhancing regulatory compliance, investor education, and market transparency.

Q16 The Central Government notified the appointment of 30 new judges across four major High Courts in August 2026. Which High Court received the maximum share of these newly appointed judges?

- (A) Calcutta High Court
- (B) Madhya Pradesh High Court
- (C) Madras High Court
- (D) Karnataka High Court

Answer: (C) Madras High Court

Detailed Explanation: The Union Ministry of Law and Justice notified the appointment of 30 High Court Judges across the High Courts of Madras, Calcutta, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka.

Among these four judicial bodies, the Madras High Court received the largest share of new

judicial appointments to clear pending backlogs and expedite justice delivery.

Awards and Honors

Q17 President Droupadi Murmu conferred the prestigious Sant Kabir Handloom Awards (2025) to 21 master weavers during the national event held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre. On which day was this ceremony held?

- (A) August 1 (World FinTech Day)
- (B) August 7 (12th National Handloom Day)
- (C) August 9 (Quit India Movement Day)
- (D) August 10 (World Biofuel Day)

Answer: (B) August 7 (12th National Handloom Day)

Detailed Explanation: During the national celebrations marking the **12th National Handloom Day** on **7th August 2026**, President Droupadi Murmu conferred the **Sant Kabir Handloom Awards (2025)** to **21 master weavers** at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi.

The President also launched a special Commemorative Postage Stamp and a Coffee Table Book celebrating traditional Indian weavers and emphasizing women empowerment in the handloom sector.

Q18 Which eminent academican and author, who passed away in 2026, was posthumously honored for outstanding contributions to Hindi literature and education with the Padma Shri award in 2026?

- (A) Dr. Surya Kant Tripathi
- (B) Dr. Ramshankar Katheria
- (C) Prof. Keshari Nath Tripathi
- (D) Dr. Ashutosh Sharma

Answer: (B) Dr. Ramshankar Katheria (or referenced regional scholar born in Mhow, MP)

Detailed Explanation: Renowned scholars and educators honored in 2026 include literature veterans awarded the **Padma Shri** for lifetime dedications to Hindi prose, tribal language preservation, and educational advancement.

Sports

Q19 Under the expanded Khelo India scheme approved in 2026, what new institutional initiative was introduced specifically to identify and nurture athletic talent at the early school level?

- (A) Khelo India Olympic Centers (KIOC)
- (B) Khelo India Feeder Schools (KIFS)
- (C) National Grassroots Sports Academy (NGSA)
- (D) Target Olympic Podium School (TOPS-School)

Answer: (B) Khelo India Feeder Schools (KIFS)

Detailed Explanation: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports introduced **Khelo India Feeder Schools (KIFS)** as part of the upgraded Khelo India framework.

- **Purpose:** Early talent identification and structured coaching right at the primary and secondary school stage.
- **Complementary Initiative:** It is supported by **Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas (KIUV)**, which integrate sports with mainstream education curricula.

Q20 Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently hosted and interacted with the Indian sports contingent that won medals at which international sporting event?

- (A) Asian Games 2026
- (B) Commonwealth Games 2026

- (C) World Athletics Championship 2026
- (D) Thomas & Uber Cup 2026

Answer: (B) Commonwealth Games 2026

Detailed Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitated the Indian athletes and medal winners who represented the nation at the **Commonwealth Games 2026**. The interactive session highlighted India's growing dominance in multi-sport international events and underscored government support under schemes like TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme).

MoUs and Strategic Partnerships

Q21 Which two organizations signed an MoU in August 2026 to share health research datasets and onboard anonymized medical data onto the AIKosh platform?

- (A) Ministry of Health and ICMR
- (B) Ministry of AYUSH and IndiaAI Mission (MeitY)
- (C) NITI Aayog and AIIMS New Delhi
- (D) C-DAC and National Health Authority

Answer: (B) Ministry of AYUSH and IndiaAI Mission (MeitY)

Detailed Explanation: An MoU was signed between the **Ministry of AYUSH** and the **IndiaAI Mission** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**).

• Key Highlights:

- Onboarding anonymized traditional and modern health research datasets, metadata, and toolkits onto **AIKosh**.
- Fostering AI-driven technological innovations, predictive healthcare solutions, and data research by startups and academic institutes.

Q22 India entered formal discussions with which country in August 2026 regarding participation in its 6th-Generation fighter aircraft development program known as the Future Combat Air System (FCAS)?

- (A) Russia
- (B) United States
- (C) France
- (D) United Kingdom

Answer: (C) France

Detailed Explanation: The Ministry of Defence informed Parliament that India has initiated exploratory discussions with **France** to potentially join its 6th-generation fighter jet development venture, the **Future Combat Air System (FCAS)**.

This aligns with recommendations by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence to secure advanced air combat capabilities, stealth integration, and co-development tech transfers.

Important Days (National & International)

Q23 What was the central theme for the 12th National Handloom Day observed across India on August 7, 2026?

- (A) Handlooms: Our Pride and Identity
- (B) Hands that Weave the Nation
- (C) Handloom for Sustainable Fashion
- (D) Empowering Weavers, Enriching India

Answer: (B) Hands that Weave the Nation

Detailed Explanation: The **12th National Handloom Day** was celebrated nationwide on **7th August 2026** with the official theme "**Hands that Weave the Nation**".

- **Historical Significance:** August 7 was chosen to commemorate the **Swadeshi Movement**, which was officially launched on August 7, 1905, at the Calcutta Town Hall to boycott foreign goods and support indigenous handlooms.

Q24 Which two major environmental and wildlife awareness days are observed globally on August 10 every year?

- (A) World Elephant Day & World Forestry Day
- (B) World Biofuel Day & World Lion Day
- (C) World Tiger Day & World Ocean Day
- (D) World Nature Conservation Day & World Rhino Day

Answer: (B) World Biofuel Day & World Lion Day

Detailed Explanation:

- **World Biofuel Day (August 10):** Celebrated to raise awareness regarding non-fossil fuels (biofuels, biodiesel, bio-ethanol, compressed biogas) as sustainable alternatives to conventional fossil fuels.
- **World Lion Day (August 10):** Dedicated to raising awareness about the conservation and protection of lions (*Panthera leo*). India's Gir National Park in Gujarat is the last wild refuge of the endangered **Asiatic Lion**.

Art & Culture / Festivals

Q25 Which state hosts the historic Tarnetar Fair in August, showcasing indigenous tribal culture, traditional folk music, and rural sports?

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

Answer: (B) Gujarat

Detailed Explanation: The **Tarnetar Fair** takes place annually in August in the village of Tarnetar near Thangadh in **Surendranagar district, Gujarat**.

- **Cultural Significance:** Associated with the Trinetrishwar Mahadev Temple, the fair celebrates Gujarati tribal folk dance (Raas and Garba), colorful embroidered umbrellas (Chhatris), traditional music, and matchmaking customs among local tribes.

Q26 The multi-day contemporary arts and environmental festival "sā Ladakh Biennale 2026" focuses on art, climate change, and high-altitude culture. Where is it held?

- (A) Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- (B) Leh, Ladakh
- (C) Gangtok, Sikkim
- (D) Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir

Answer: (B) Leh, Ladakh

Detailed Explanation: The **sā Ladakh Biennale** is South Asia's highest-altitude land-art exhibition held in **Leh, Ladakh**. It integrates site-specific land art, sustainable materials, and community engagement to highlight environmental vulnerabilities and high-altitude Himalayan ecosystems.

Birth and Death Anniversaries

Q27 August 9, 2026, marks the 84th anniversary of which monumental movement in India's freedom struggle, where Mahatma Gandhi delivered the historic slogan "Do or Die"?

- (A) Non-Cooperation Movement
- (B) Civil Disobedience Movement
- (C) Quit India Movement
- (D) Swadeshi Movement

Answer: (C) Quit India Movement

Detailed Explanation: On 9th August 1942, the Indian National Congress officially launched the **Quit India Movement** (also known as the August Kranti) from Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay.

Mahatma Gandhi issued the legendary call "**Do or Die**" (Karo ya Maro), demanding an immediate end to British colonial rule in India. August 9 is commemorated annually as **August Kranti Diwas**.

Q28 World FinTech Day on August 1 commemorates the death anniversary of Cosimo de' Medici (1464). Which country did he belong to, and why is he historically significant?

- (A) United Kingdom; Founder of Bank of England
- (B) Italy; Father of modern banking and founder of the Medici Bank
- (C) Germany; Pioneer of stock market exchanges
- (D) France; Creator of paper currency standard

Answer: (B) Italy; Father of modern banking and founder of the Medici Bank

Detailed Explanation: World FinTech Day (August 1) commemorates the death anniversary of Italian banker and politician **Cosimo de' Medici** (who passed away on 1st August 1464).

He established the Medici Bank in Florence, Italy, introducing double-entry bookkeeping, letter-of-credit systems, and holding company structures, earning him the title of the **Father of Modern Banking**.

Books and Authors

Q29 Who among the following wrote the scholarly book titled "Lokmanya Tilakanchya Arthshastriya Vivechanatil Atmanirbhar Bharat", which explores Lokmanya Tilak's economic philosophy?

Bharat", which explores Lokmanya Tilak's economic philosophy?

- (A) Ashutosh Sharma and Sahil Ali Khan
- (B) Praveen Jadhav and Avinash Kulkarni
- (C) Raghu Ravunni Palat and Pushpa Palat
- (D) Tushar Chatterji

Answer: (B) Praveen Jadhav and Avinash Kulkarni

Detailed Explanation: The academic book titled "Lokmanya Tilakanchya Arthshastriya Vivechanatil Atmanirbhar Bharat" was authored by **Praveen Jadhav and Avinash Kulkarni**.

The book analyzes freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak's economic writings, highlighting his vision of Swadeshi, self-reliance, domestic industrial growth, and economic nationalism in the context of modern India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

Q30 The historical non-fiction book "The Phoenix Rises", which documents key phases of Indian history, was authored by whom?

- (A) Raghu Ravunni Palat and Pushpa Palat
- (B) Ishani Sinha
- (C) Saurabh Salvi
- (D) Tushar Mehta

Answer: (A) Raghu Ravunni Palat and Pushpa Palat

Detailed Explanation: "The Phoenix Rises" is a acclaimed non-fiction work authored jointly by **Raghu Ravunni Palat and Pushpa Palat**.

The book traces resilience, political shifts, and historical transformations in India across pivotal historic eras, capturing how the nation emerged stronger after times of crisis.