

International News

Q1. Which organization announced a massive, historical emergency release of 400 million barrels of oil to stabilize soaring global energy prices?

- A) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- B) International Energy Agency (IEA)
- C) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- D) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Answer: B) International Energy Agency (IEA)

Detailed Explanation: Due to severe supply shocks resulting from escalating geopolitical military conflicts in West Asia (the US-Israel- Iran maritime and aerial crisis), the 32-nation **International Energy Agency (IEA)** officially decided to release 400 million barrels of oil from its member states' emergency reserves. The United States alone agreed to release 172 million barrels from its Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) as part of this coordinated mandate. This marks the single largest emergency oil release in the history of the IEA, which was established in 1974 and is headquartered in Paris, France.

Q2. As per the latest global arms transfer reports, which country emerged as the world's largest arms importer, accounting for 9.7% of total international arms transfers?

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) India
- C) Ukraine
- D) Qatar

Answer: C) Ukraine

Detailed Explanation: According to data released on global arms trends, **Ukraine** has risen to become the world's largest global arms importer, receiving 9.7% of total international transfers due to its prolonged conflict with Russia. Geopolitically, Europe has emerged as the fastest-growing arms-importing region, accounting for 33% of global imports. Meanwhile, India remains heavily integrated into these trends, acting as the top destination for French (24%) and Russian (48%) weapon exports.

Q3. The G7 group of nations agreed to examine the operational feasibility of escorting merchant navy vessels navigating through which vital global maritime chokepoint?

- A) Strait of Malacca
- B) Bab-el-Mandeb
- C) Strait of Hormuz
- D) Suez Canal

Answer: C) Strait of Hormuz

Detailed Explanation: Following targeted projectile attacks on commercial trade ships (including a Thai vessel bound for India) in the Gulf, the G7 Presidency announced that member nations will evaluate deployment strategies to provide direct military escorts for commercial ships. This decision aims to secure free navigation through the **Strait of Hormuz**, a vital maritime chokepoint heavily threatened by regional drone strikes and naval mining operations.

Q4. Which European country formally ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement, solidifying its status as the 118th member nation?

- A) Romania
- B) Finland

- C) Bulgaria
- D) Hungary

Answer: A) Romania

Detailed Explanation: Sena Latif, the Ambassador of Romania, officially submitted the Instrument of Ratification to India's Ministry of External Affairs. This formally concludes the process that began when **Romania** originally signed the framework in late 2023, confirming its status as the 118th member country of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The ISA is co-headquartered in Gurugram, India.

National News

Q5. The Supreme Court of India practically applied the principles of passive euthanasia for the first time by allowing the withdrawal of clinically-assisted nutrition and hydration (CANH) in which historic case?

- A) Common Cause v. Union of India
- B) Harish Rana Case
- C) Aruna Shanbaug Case
- D) Gyan Kaur v. State of Punjab

Answer: B) Harish Rana Case

Detailed Explanation: A Supreme Court bench comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan granted permission to withdraw Clinically-Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH) from 32-year-old **Harish Rana**, who had been surviving in a Persistent Vegetative State (PVS) for over 13 years. While the landmark 2018 *Common Cause* judgment legalized the guidelines for passive euthanasia, this ruling marks the first direct, practical execution of the protocol by a court mandate.

Q6. Prasar Bharati launched a digital platform named "PB-SHABD" to assist media houses. What does "SHABD" stand for?

- A) Shared Headline and Broadcasting Database
- B) System for High-definition Audio and Broadcast Data
- C) Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination
- D) Sovereign Bureau of History, Arts, and Digital Broadcasting

Answer: C) Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination

Detailed Explanation: PB-SHABD (Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination) is a digital news-sharing service introduced by Prasar Bharati. It acts as a single-window source providing clean, logo-free video feeds, audio clips, and text news from across the nation to smaller media organizations and print publications free of charge or at minimal operational subscriptions.

Q7. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj hosted a national convention of women elected representatives under the 'Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan' in New Delhi. This event marked how many years of the campaign?

- A) 1st Anniversary
- B) 2nd Anniversary
- C) 3rd Anniversary
- D) 5th Anniversary

Answer: A) 1st Anniversary

Detailed Explanation: Chaired by Union Panchayati Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, the national conference celebrated exactly **one year (1st Anniversary)** since the rollout of the Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan. The core objective of this scheme is to completely eradicate proxy governance (the 'Sarpanch Pati' culture) and empower grassroots-level women



leaders, known officially as "Beacon Women Leaders."

Q8. Which Indian state has secured the top rank across India in implementing the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS 2.0)?

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

Answer: B) Uttarakhand

Detailed Explanation: According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) progress dashboard, **Uttarakhand** topped the list with a performance score of 93.46 in implementing ICJS 2.0. The ICJS platform allows seamless, real-time data transfer among pillars of criminal justice, including police (via CCTNS), forensics, courts, and prisons. This milestone is largely driven by state-level integrations aligned with the newly enforced criminal codes (BNS, BNSS, and BS).

Q9. The Government of India has set up a high-level 17-member committee to review and suggest structural changes to which specific economic policy?

- A) Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy
- B) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Cap in Retail
- C) National Manufacturing Zone Guidelines
- D) MSME Credit Guarantee Trust Framework

Answer: A) Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy

Detailed Explanation: In response to shifting global supply chains and trade uncertainties, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry constituted a **17-member committee** tasked with executing larger structural reforms in the SEZ policy. The

objective is to revive stagnant export figures, optimize direct tax alignment, and minimize idle land lock-ins within designated Special Economic Zones.

Economics & Banking

Q10. Which payment and fintech platform received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator (PA)?

- A) PhonePe
- B) CRED
- C) BharatPe
- D) Mobikwik

Answer: B) CRED

Detailed Explanation: On March 11, 2026, **CRED** received its final operational nod from the RBI to act as a certified **Payment Aggregator (PA)**. This enables the platform to directly onboard merchants, settle electronic e-commerce funds autonomously, and handle merchant payment lifecycles independently. This complements its existing Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) license.

Q11. Which premier state-owned bank launched a \$500 million syndicated social term loan aimed specifically at promoting women empowerment across rural India?

- A) Punjab National Bank (PNB)
- B) Bank of Baroda (BoB)
- C) State Bank of India (SBI)
- D) Canara Bank

Answer: C) State Bank of India (SBI)

Detailed Explanation: The **State Bank of India (SBI)** successfully issued a **\$500 million** syndicated social term loan. The funds are

strictly earmarked to support financial inclusion initiatives, scale microfinance institutions, and lower lending rates for self-help groups (SHGs) led by women entrepreneurs in remote districts.

Q12. HDFC Bank has collaborated with which major fast-commerce and food tech giant to launch two co-branded credit cards named 'BLCK' and 'Ornge'?

- A) Zomato
- B) Swiggy
- C) Zepto
- D) Blinkit

Answer: B) Swiggy

Detailed Explanation: HDFC Bank and Swiggy partnered to introduce two distinct premium co-branded credit cards: the *Swiggy BLCK HDFC Bank Credit Card* and the *Swiggy Ornge HDFC Bank Credit Card*. These financial instruments offer targeted cashback models spanning quick-commerce deliveries, food dining, lifestyle expenditures, and travel rewards.

Q13. According to the 2nd Edition of the Fiscal Health Index (FHI 2026) released by NITI Aayog, which state emerged as the top performer among general category states?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Odisha
- C) Gujarat
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: B) Odisha

Detailed Explanation: Released by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery and CEO Nidhi Chhibber, the **Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026** assessed states based on revenue mobilization, debt sustainability, expenditure quality, and

fiscal prudence. **Odisha** secured the top position among general category states, followed closely by Goa and Jharkhand. Arunachal Pradesh topped the rankings for the Himalayan and Northeast categories.

Awards & Honors

Q14. Lance Havildar (Retd) K.G. George passed away recently. For his outstanding acts of bravery in which conflict was he awarded the prestigious Vir Chakra?

- A) 1962 India-China War
- B) 1965 India-Pakistan War
- C) 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War
- D) 1999 Kargil Conflict

Answer: B) 1965 India-Pakistan War

Detailed Explanation: 1965 War Veteran and Corps of Signals officer **K.G. George** passed away at the age of 95. During the 1965 India-Pakistan war, he demonstrated exceptional bravery by re-establishing crucial telecommunication links under intense enemy shelling at the Wagah Border sector, for which he received the **Vir Chakra** (India's third-highest wartime gallantry award).

Sports

Q15. Anant Rana achieved a major international milestone for India by successfully completing the grueling "Full Ironman Triathlon" in which country?

- A) Australia
- B) New Zealand
- C) South Africa
- D) France

Answer: B) New Zealand

Detailed Explanation: Indian endurance athlete **Anant Rana** successfully completed the **Full Ironman Triathlon** held in Taupo, New Zealand. The event demands extreme athletic endurance, requiring participants to finish a 3.8 km open-water swim, a 180 km bicycle ride, and a full 42.2 km marathon run back-to-back within a strict time limit.

Q16. Which Indian city has been officially selected to host the prestigious Asia Cup Archery (Stage 2) tournament in the year 2027?

- A) Guwahati
- B) Delhi
- C) Bhubaneswar
- D) Pune

Answer: B) Delhi

Detailed Explanation: World Archery Asia confirmed that **Delhi** will host the Asia Cup Archery (Stage 2) in 2027. This marks a major international archery return to the capital after a gap of 22 years, with the city last hosting the Asian Archery Championships back in 2005.

Q17. Former South African cricketer Gary Kirsten has been appointed as the head coach of which country's men's national cricket team?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Pakistan
- D) West Indies

Answer: B) Sri Lanka

Detailed Explanation: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) officially signed World Cup-winning veteran coach **Gary Kirsten** as the head coach of its men's national cricket team. Kirsten, who previously coached India to a historic World Cup victory in 2011, has been brought in to

oversee structural revamps and prepare the squad for upcoming ICC tournament cycles.

Q18. Which team won the domestic 2025-26 Santosh Trophy Football tournament?

- A) Kerala
- B) Services
- C) West Bengal
- D) Goa

Answer: B) Services

Detailed Explanation: The **Services** football team won the **2025-26 Santosh Trophy**, defeating **Kerala** in a competitive final match. The Santosh Trophy is India's premier senior state-level football championship, organized annually under the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

Defense News

Q19. DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully completed four consecutive flight trials of the "ADC-150" off the coast of Goa. What is the primary purpose of the ADC-150?

- A) Anti-Drone Laser Combat Cannon
- B) Air-Droppable Logistics Container
- C) Advanced Deep-sea Cruise Missile
- D) Autonomous Deep-diving Submersible

Answer: B) Air-Droppable Logistics Container

Detailed Explanation: The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the Indian Navy tested the indigenous **ADC-150**, an Air-Droppable Container with a payload capacity of 150 kg. Dropped from a Boeing P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft, it is designed to deliver critical engineering spares, medical kits, and operational supplies to ships stranded far out at sea.

Q20. What is the name of the 11th edition of the biennial joint military exercise being held in March 2026 between the Indian Armed Forces and the Seychelles Defence Forces?

- A) Exercise SAMPRITI
- B) Exercise LAMITIYE
- C) Exercise KANJAR
- D) Exercise MITRA SHAKTI

Answer: B) Exercise LAMITIYE

Detailed Explanation: Exercise LAMITIYE-2026 is the 11th edition of the joint military exercise between India and Seychelles, taking place from March 9 to March 28, 2026, in Seychelles. Notably, this edition marks the **first time it has transitioned into a full Tri-Service exercise**, featuring active deployment from the Indian Army's Assam Regiment, the Indian Navy's stealth frigate INS Trikand, and C-130 heavy-lift transport aircraft from the Indian Air Force.

Q21. Which country has officially declared 2026 as the year of "Total Defence", focusing on mass civilian crisis readiness amid polar and European geopolitical tensions?

- A) Sweden
- B) Finland
- C) Norway
- D) Poland

Answer: C) Norway

Detailed Explanation: The Government of Norway declared 2026 as the year of **Total Defence**. This doctrine aims to comprehensively upgrade the psychological, digital, and logistical readiness of civilians, private businesses, and public infrastructure to withstand wartime stresses and hybrid threats. It aligns with NATO's expanded Arctic strategy, "Arctic Sentry."

Appointments & Executive Actions

Q22. Who will take over as the next Prime Minister of Nepal following a landslide electoral victory in the general elections?

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

Answer: B) Balendra Shah

Detailed Explanation: Former popular engineer and rapper **Balendra Shah**, leading the *Rashtriya Swatantra Party*, is set to become the next **Prime Minister of Nepal** after a historic landslide victory in the parliamentary elections. He won the Jhapa-5 constituency by defeating veteran communist leader and former PM K.P. Sharma Oli.

Q23. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of Ketan Merchant as the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which financial institution?

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

Answer: B) Fino Payments Bank

Detailed Explanation: **Ketan Merchant**, who served as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of **Fino Payments Bank**, received official regulatory clearance from the RBI to assume the post of interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He steps into the role to oversee strategic transitions and maintain corporate governance during the selection of a permanent chief.

Government Schemes

Q24. The Union Cabinet approved the phase extension of the flagship rural water connection program, the Jal Jeevan Mission, until which new deadline?

- A) December 2026
- B) March 2027
- C) December 2028
- D) Hindu New Year 2030

Answer: C) December 2028

Detailed Explanation: The Union Cabinet extended the operational timeline for the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** up to **December 2028**. Alongside the extension, the government announced the rollout of a nationwide digital integration platform named "**Sujalam Bharat**", which will assign a unique *Sujal Gaon Identification Number* to every village to track piped water functionality and quality.

Q25. Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighted that India's food grain production has increased by 44% in 10 years, reaching 357 million tons. Which newly launched Central scheme targets balanced crop growth across 100 select districts?

- A) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Vikas Yojana
- B) Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Yojana
- C) National Grain Security Mission
- D) PM Annapurna Eco-Farm Scheme

Answer: B) Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Yojana

Detailed Explanation: The central government introduced the **Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Yojana**, a targeted scheme currently deployed across **100 districts** nationwide to rectify localized production deficits and promote

balanced nutritional crop growth. It was noted that West Bengal has not adopted the scheme, despite four of its districts (Purulia, Darjeeling, Alipurduar, and Jhargram) being selected under the central layout.

Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

Q26. Which major medical institution signed an MoU with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to advance Space Medicine Research for human spaceflight missions?

- A) JIPMER, Puducherry
- B) AIIMS, New Delhi
- C) PGIMER, Chandigarh
- D) CMC, Vellore

Answer: B) AIIMS, New Delhi

Detailed Explanation: **AIIMS New Delhi** and **ISRO** signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This partnership focuses on researching human physiological adaptations in microgravity, micro-environmental health risks, and developing specialized medical modules to safeguard Indian astronauts during future crewed *Gaganyaan* orbital space missions.

Q27. India and Uzbekistan launched a dedicated cross-border commercial channel targeting which economic market?

- A) Textile and Silk Corridor
- B) Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor
- C) Rare Earth Mineral Corridor
- D) IT and Semiconductor Valley Corridor

Answer: B) Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor

Detailed Explanation: India and Uzbekistan launched a structured **Pharma-Nutraceutical**

Corridor. This infrastructure initiative aims to simplify regulatory compliance and reduce tariff barriers, allowing Indian pharmaceutical companies direct trade access to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and broader Eurasian health markets, estimated to be worth nearly \$7–10 billion.

Q28. NITI Aayog collaborated with which industrial conglomerate to scale up domestic electronic component manufacturing under the enhanced ₹40,000 crore ECMS scheme?

- A) Reliance Strategic Technologies
- B) Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL)
- C) Adani Defence and Aerospace
- D) Foxconn India Corp

Answer: B) Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL)

Detailed Explanation: NITI Aayog partnered with **Tata Electronics (TEPL)** to scale up deep-tier electronics manufacturing and integrate domestic units into global value chains. This collaboration aligns with the Union Budget's enhanced layout of ₹40,000 crore for the **Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)**.

Important Days

Q29. On which date is the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day observed annually across India?

- A) March 8
- B) March 9
- C) March 10
- D) March 11

Answer: C) March 10

Detailed Explanation: The **CISF Raising Day** is observed annually on **March 10**. Established in 1969 under an Act of Parliament, the CISF provides integrated security cover to critical public sector undertakings, airports, nuclear installations, space establishments, and internal security grids.

Q30. The United Nations has declared the year 2026 to be celebrated globally as which of the following themes?

- A) International Year of Millets
- B) International Year of Glaciers' Preservation
- C) International Year for Women Farmers
- D) International Year of Quantum Science and Technology

Answer: C) International Year for Women Farmers

Detailed Explanation: The United Nations officially designated **2026 as the International Year for Women Farmers**. This theme took center stage at the *Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems* in New Delhi, which was inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu to promote gender-responsive agricultural policies.