

1. International News

Major Event: Total Solar Eclipse of August 12, 2026

A total solar eclipse took place across the Northern Hemisphere. The path of totality swept across Greenland, Iceland, northern Russia, Spain, and a small tip of Portugal. Partial phases were observable across parts of Europe, Canada, northern USA, and northwestern Africa.

- **India Visibility:** The eclipse was **not visible from anywhere in India**, meaning no traditional Satak Kaal restrictions applied.
- **Astronomical Duration:** Totality lasted under 2 minutes in Spain and slightly longer in parts of Greenland and Russia.

Diplomatic Initiative: India Donates Peacocks to UN Geneva Office

India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations donated **five peacocks** (four blue peafowl and one white-feathered male) to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland.

- Handed over by Arindam Bagchi (India's Permanent Representative to UNOG) to Tatiana Valovaya (Director-General, UNOG).
- Revives a historical tradition tied to Ariana Park in Geneva.

Practice MCQ for Competitive Exams

Q1. Which of the following countries fell under the path of totality during the Total Solar Eclipse of 12 August 2026?

- (a) India, Nepal, Sri Lanka
- (b) Greenland, Iceland, Spain, Northern Russia
- (c) Australia, New Zealand, Japan
- (d) Brazil, Argentina, Chile

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The total solar eclipse passed through Greenland, Iceland, northern Russia, Spain, and northeastern Portugal. India was outside both the total and partial eclipse bands, making the celestial event invisible from Indian territory.

2. National News

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Quarterly Bulletin (April–June 2026)

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released its quarterly bulletin:

- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** Stood at **5.4%** for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas.
- **Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** Stood at **54.6%**.
 - Rural LFPR: **56.9%**
 - Urban LFPR: **50.2%**

Data Science Collaborations

MoSPI signed two distinct MoUs with the **Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST/IDEAS)** and **Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Kolkata** to strengthen data-driven statistical analysis and data analytics across government governance platforms.

Practice MCQ for Competitive Exams

Q2. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) quarterly bulletin for April–June 2026, what was the overall Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for individuals aged 15 and above?

- (a) 48.2%
- (b) 50.2%
- (c) 54.6%
- (d) 58.5%

Answer: (c)

Explanation: According to MoSPI's PLFS bulletin released for the April-June 2026 quarter, the overall Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for persons aged 15 years and above stood at 54.6%.

3. Economics & Banking

BRICS FMCBG Meeting & NDB Keynote in Jaipur

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman addressed a high-level seminar on "The Role of the New Development Bank (NDB) in Mobilising Private Capital in Member Countries" on the sidelines of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

- **Key Focus:** Expanding Viability Gap Funding (VGF), Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), and PM Gati Shakti to mitigate risks and unlock institutional private investment across BRICS member states.

10 Years of Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal awarded top procurement buyers and sellers at an event in New Delhi marking a decade of GeM:

- **Helpline Short Code:** Launched nationwide 5-digit short code 14550.
- **Commemorative Stamp:** Released a customized 'My Stamp' dedicated to digital public procurement and Ease of Doing Business.

Practice MCQ for Competitive Exams

Q3. Where was the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) seminar on the New Development Bank (NDB) held on 12 August 2026?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Jaipur

- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) Mumbai

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The seminar on the role of the New Development Bank in mobilizing private capital was delivered by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

4. Awards & Honors

Prof. Deepak Dhar Wins 2026 Dirac Medal

Eminent Indian theoretical physicist **Prof. Deepak Dhar** (INSA Distinguished Professor at ICTS-TIFR, Bengaluru) was awarded the 2026 **Dirac Medal** by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy.

Attribute	Details
Recipients	Prof. Deepak Dhar (India), Bernard Derrida (France), Marc Mézard (Italy), Haim Sompolinsky (Israel/USA)
Field	Statistical Mechanics (notably the <i>Sandpile Model</i> & complex system dynamics)
Historical Context	2nd Indian physicist to win the Dirac Medal after Prof. Ashoke Sen. Previous honors include Boltzmann Medal (2022) and Padma Bhushan (2023).

Practice MCQ for Competitive Exams

Q4. Who among the following Indian physicists has been awarded the prestigious 2026 Dirac Medal by ICTP for contributions to statistical mechanics?

- (a) Prof. C.N.R. Rao
- (b) Prof. Deepak Dhar

- (c) Prof. K. Sivan
(d) Dr. Samir V. Kamat

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Prof. Deepak Dhar won the 2026 Dirac Medal for his work on statistical mechanics and the sandpile model, sharing it with three international co-recipients.

5. Sports & Appointments

Ministry Suspends Recognition of TTFI

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports suspended its recognition of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).

- **Reason:** Governance deficiencies, failure to hold timely internal elections, and non-compliance with the National Sports Development Code.
- **Directive:** Requested the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to form an **Ad-Hoc Committee** in consultation with the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) to run daily administration.

Practice MCQ for Competitive Exams

Q5. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports suspended the national recognition of which sports governing body due to governance deficiencies and delayed elections?

- (a) All India Football Federation (AIFF)
(b) Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)
(c) Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)
(d) Hockey India

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The Sports Ministry suspended recognition of the TTFI and directed the IOA to constitute an ad-hoc body to oversee table tennis administration in India.

6. Govt Schemes & MoUs

MHI Amends PM E-DRIVE Scheme

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) notified modifications to the **PM E-DRIVE (Prime Minister's Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement)** scheme:

- **Electric 2-Wheelers (e-2W):** Subsidy/incentive capped at ₹2,500 per kWh, with a maximum cap of ₹5,000 per vehicle for the period running through FY28 (April 2025 – March 2028).

MSME & DPIIT Commercialization MoU

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) signed an MoU with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, to fast-track technology commercialization and quality standard adoption among Indian MSMEs.

Practice MCQ for Competitive Exams

Q6. Under the revised PM E-DRIVE scheme guidelines, what is the maximum per-vehicle incentive cap set for electric two-wheelers (e-2W)?

- (a) ₹2,500
(b) ₹5,000
(c) ₹10,000
(d) ₹15,000

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The Ministry of Heavy Industries capped e-2W incentives at ₹2,500/kWh up to a maximum upper cap of ₹5,000 per vehicle until FY28.

7. Important Days (12 August 2026)

International Youth Day

- **Date:** 12 August



- **Global 2026 Theme:** "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations"
- **Focus:** Addressing youth opportunities across Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), while boosting digital/AI literacy and employment skills.

World Elephant Day

- **Date:** 12 August
- **Focus:** Safeguarding Asian (Elephas maximus) and African (Loxodonta) elephants from poaching, ivory trade, human-wildlife conflict, and habitat fragmentation.

Practice MCQ for Competitive Exams

Q7. What is the official global theme for International Youth Day 2026?

- (a) Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World
- (b) Different Contexts, Common Aspirations
- (c) Youth Engagement for Global Action
- (d) Transforming Education

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The United Nations designated "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations" as the theme for International Youth Day 2026.

8. Birth & Death Anniversaries

Birth Anniversary: Dr. Vikram Sarabhai (12 August 1919 – 30 December 1971)

- **Significance:** 107th Birth Anniversary of the **Father of the Indian Space Programme.**
- **Key Achievements:**
 - Founder of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad.

- Played a crucial role in establishing the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) in Kerala.
- Awarded Padma Bhushan (1966) and Padma Vibhushan (posthumously in 1972).

Practice MCQ for Competitive Exams

Q8. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, whose birth anniversary is celebrated on August 12, established which premier space institution in India?

- (a) DRDO
- (b) ISRO
- (c) TIFR
- (d) CSIR

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, born on 12 August 1919, is known as the Father of the Indian Space Programme and was instrumental in founding ISRO and PRL Ahmedabad.

9. Books, Defense & Culture Summary

Sub-Category	Key Detail / Focus
Books & Authors	Focus on leadership autobiographies, scientific biographies (e.g., <i>Understanding Science</i> & Richard Feynman works inspiring Indian Dirac laureate Prof. Deepak Dhar).
Defense News	MoD focuses on naval and coastal surveillance projects; operationalization of new logistics and freight corridors discussed during infrastructure reviews.

Sub-Category	Key Detail / Focus
Art & Culture	Shravan Amavasya celestial observations across India; UN Geneva Ariana Park heritage peacocks donation ceremony.

International News

Q1 In August 2026, which country revived a historic diplomatic tradition originally started by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1981 by donating five peacocks to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland?

- A) Nepal
- B) India
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Mauritius

Answer: Option B

Explanation: India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador Arindam Bagchi, formally handed over five peacocks (four blue peafowl and one rare white-feathered male) to Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). This gesture revives a historic tradition that began in 1981 when former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi donated a breeding pair of peacocks from the Delhi Zoo to UNOG. The birds will reside in a specialized enclosed aviary for three months before being released into the 46-hectare Ariana Park within the UN premises. The white-feathered male and blue peafowl symbolize the UN's signature colors.

Q2 In August 2026, which South American nation declared a National State of Emergency following a major earthquake of magnitude 7.4 that caused widespread destruction?

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

Answer: Option B

Explanation: Colombia officially declared a National Emergency in August 2026 following a massive earthquake measuring 7.4 on the Richter scale. The tremor caused extensive structural damage across central and western provinces, prompting emergency response protocols and international assistance mobilization. Colombia, situated on the Ring of Fire along the convergence of the Nazca, South American, and Caribbean tectonic plates, is highly susceptible to seismic events.

Q3 To boost international tourism and trade, India added 11 new international entry ports for foreign travelers holding valid Indian e-Visas in August 2026. What is the total number of designated e-Visa entry ports in India now?

- A) 75
- B) 82
- C) 88
- D) 94

Answer: Option C

Explanation: The Ministry of Home Affairs added 11 new designated international entry ports—comprising 9 land ports and 2 airports—for foreign citizens holding valid Indian e-Visas. This addition expands the total number of designated e-Visa entry points across India to 88 (consisting of 37 airports, 38 seaports, and 13 land check-posts). The initiative aims to enhance border connectivity, ease cross-border trade, and support eco-tourism along land borders.

National News

Q4 Which statutory body/ministry launched PAIMANA, a real-time API-driven system for infrastructure project monitoring that feeds directly into the Prime Minister's PRAGATI platform, replacing the legacy OCMS-2006 system?

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- C) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- D) Ministry of Finance

Answer: Option C

Explanation: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) introduced PAIMANA (Performance Analysis and Infrastructure Monitoring Advanced Network Architecture) to replace the outdated Online Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS-2006). PAIMANA integrates real-time API data exchange across ministries to evaluate performance rather than mere financial outputs. The real-time metrics generated by PAIMANA feed directly into the Monthly PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) review meetings chaired by the Prime Minister.

Q5 According to conservation data highlighted in August 2026, the population of the Asiatic Lion (*Panthera leo persica*) in India's Greater Gir landscape has increased by what percentage over the past decade (2015 to 2025/26)?

- A) 45%
- B) 55%
- C) 70%
- D) 85%

Answer: Option C

Explanation: The population of Asiatic Lions in Gujarat's Gir landscape has risen from 523 in 2015 to 891, marking a 70% growth over a ten-year period. Gir remains the world's sole natural habitat for the Asiatic lion, which is classified under Appendix I of CITES and Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Conservationists emphasize the necessity of human-wildlife conflict management and habitat expansion as lions range into revenue forests and human settlements.

Q6 Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Param Pragma', an AI-powered supercomputing facility, in August 2026 at which prestigious institution's Sonipat campus?

- A) IIT Delhi
- B) IIT Bombay
- C) IISc Bengaluru
- D) IIT Madras

Answer: Option A

Explanation: Chief Guest Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Param Pragma', an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled High-Performance Computing (HPC) facility, at IIT Delhi's Sonipat campus in Haryana during its 57th convocation. The supercomputer will power multi-disciplinary research in generative AI, drug discovery, climate modeling, materials science, and advanced engineering simulations under India's National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

Economics & Banking

Q7 In August 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its 101st Survey of Professional Forecasters (SPF). What is the projected real GDP growth rate for India for FY 2026-27 (FY27)?

- A) 6.2%

- B) 6.6%
- C) 7.0%
- D) 7.2%

Answer: Option B

Explanation: The RBI's 101st Survey of Professional Forecasters (SPF) revised India's real GDP growth projection for Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27) upward to 6.6%, up from the 6.5% estimated in the 100th survey. The SPF panellists projected real GDP growth for FY28 at 7.0%, reflecting strong domestic investment, stable consumer demand, and robust service sector growth.

Q8 According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Quarterly Bulletin released for the April-June 2026 quarter, what was the Unemployment Rate (UR) among persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas?

Options:

- A) 4.8%
- B) 5.4%
- C) 6.1%
- D) 6.7%

Answer: Option B

Explanation: The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), under MoSPI, released its quarterly PLFS Bulletin for April-June 2026. The Unemployment Rate (UR) in Current Weekly Status (CWS) for urban areas among persons aged 15 years and above was recorded at 5.4%. The survey also indicated steady improvements in the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Female Labour Force Participation Rate across urban centers.

Q9 According to official statistics presented in Parliament in August 2026, what was the Government of India's Debt-to-GDP ratio for FY26?

- A) 52.4%
- B) 55.6%
- C) 58.2%
- D) 61.5%

Answer: Option C

Explanation: Data presented in Parliament revealed that the Union Government's debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 58.2% for FY26, down from 61.5% in FY21. For FY27, the government targets reducing this ratio further to 55.6%. Lowering the debt-to-GDP ratio enhances fiscal room, strengthens sovereign credit ratings, and reduces debt servicing costs in the Union Budget.

Sports

Q10 The 133rd edition of Asia's oldest football tournament, the Durand Cup, kicked off across multiple venues in August 2026. Which body organizes the Durand Cup?

- A) All India Football Federation (AIFF) exclusively
- B) Durand Football Tournament Society (DFTS) under the Indian Armed Forces
- C) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- D) Indian Super League (ISL) Committee

Answer: Option B

Explanation: The Durand Cup is organized by the Durand Football Tournament Society (DFTS) in cooperation with the Indian Armed Forces and AIFF. First held in 1888 at Annadale, Shimla, by Sir Mortimer Durand, it is the oldest football tournament in Asia and the third oldest in the world. Matches are played across West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, and Jharkhand.

Q11 Which city was officially confirmed to host the 2026 ISSF World Shooting Championship,



featuring Olympic qualification spots for upcoming international tournaments?

- A) Munich, Germany
- B) Cairo, Egypt
- C) Baku, Azerbaijan
- D) New Delhi, India

Answer: Option C

Explanation: Baku, Azerbaijan, remains a major hub for international shooting events, holding the ISSF World Shooting Championship. Indian shooters have performed prominently in pistol, rifle, and shotgun disciplines at this venue, securing medals and quota spots for major international games.

Q12 In August 2026, who became the first female shooter from India to achieve a world-record score in the 10m Air Rifle qualification round during an international grand prix event?

- A) Manu Bhaker
- B) Elavenil Valarivan
- C) Ramita Jindal
- D) Mehuli Ghosh

Answer: Option C

Explanation: Ramita Jindal made headlines in international shooting by registering an unprecedented score in the 10m Air Rifle discipline. Indian rifle shooters continue to dominate ISSF circuits, showcasing high precision and steady qualification standards ahead of global continental championships.

Appointments

Q13 Who assumed charge as the Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, in August 2026?

- A) Dr. M. Ravichandran
- B) Dr. N. Kalaiselvi

C) Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala

D) Dr. Samir V. Kamat

Answer: Option C

Explanation: Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala took charge as Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). A distinguished oceanographer, Dr. Tummala played a central role in setting up India's Tsunami Early Warning System at INCOIS following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. He previously served as Director of ESSO-INCOIS, Hyderabad, contributing extensively to satellite oceanography, coastal hazard mitigation, and marine observational systems.

Q14 In August 2026, Devesh Uttam (IFS 2003 batch) was appointed as India's next Ambassador to which African nation, which also houses the headquarters of the African Union (AU)?

- A) Kenya
- B) Nigeria
- C) Ethiopia
- D) South Africa

Answer: Option C

Explanation: The Ministry of External Affairs announced the appointment of Devesh Uttam, a 2003-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, as India's next Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, serves as the diplomatic capital of Africa and headquarters the 55-member African Union (AU), making it a key strategic post for India-Africa partnership.

Q15 Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the new headquarters of the National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) in Fort, Mumbai. NUCFDC functions as an RBI-registered NBFC and umbrella organization for which sector?

- A) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
- B) Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)
- C) Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)
- D) Small Finance Banks (SFBs)

Answer: Option C

Explanation: Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated NUCFDC's new office in Mumbai, confirming the shift of its headquarters from Delhi to Maharashtra. NUCFDC is an RBI-registered Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) serving as the apex umbrella organization for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in India. Four states—Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, and Karnataka—account for nearly 70% of all UCBs in India.

Awards & Honors

Q16 Which eminent Indian theoretical physicist was named the recipient of the prestigious 2026 Dirac Medal by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste?

- A) Prof. Ashoke Sen
- B) Prof. Deepak Dhar
- C) Prof. Thanu Padmanabhan
- D) Prof. C.N.R. Rao

Answer: Option B

Explanation: Prof. Deepak Dhar, INSA Distinguished Professor at ICTS Bengaluru, won the 2026 Dirac Medal for seminal contributions to statistical mechanics, self-organized criticality, and complex physical systems (such as the Abelian sandpile model). He shared the award with Bernard Derrida (France), Marc Mézard (Italy), and Haim Sompolsky (Israel/US). Dhar was previously the first Indian to receive the Boltzmann Medal (2022) and was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2023.

Q17 On the occasion marking 10 Years of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in August 2026, Union Minister Piyush Goyal presented awards to top public buyers and sellers and launched which nationwide 5-digit short code helpdesk number?

- A) 11000
- B) 14550
- C) 18001
- D) 15521

Answer: Option B

Explanation: Marking a decade of GeM, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal felicitated leading central/state buyers and sellers. To streamline public procurement and support, GeM launched a dedicated 5-digit nationwide helpdesk short code **14550**. A customized 'My Stamp' commemorative postal stamp was also released to highlight GeM's role in digital governance and transparency.

Q18 During his visit to Puducherry in August 2026, Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the prestigious President's Colour to which force for exemplary service and bravery?

- A) Puducherry Police
- B) Coast Guard Region East
- C) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) 1st Battalion
- D) Tamil Nadu Coastal Security Group

Answer: Option A

Explanation: Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Colour to the Puducherry Police at the Police Training School in Gorimedu, Puducherry. The President's Colour is the highest honor bestowed upon a military, paramilitary, or state/UT police unit in recognition of exceptional service, dedication, and valor.



Books & Authors

Q19 The book titled *"India's Tech Renaissance: From Code to Consciousness"*, released in August 2026, focusing on India's leap in AI and semiconductor self-reliance, is authored by:

- A) Nandan Nilekani
- B) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- C) S. Somanath
- D) Dr. R. A. Mashelkar

Answer: Option A

Explanation: Co-authored by tech visionary Nandan Nilekani alongside prominent policy analysts, the book traces India's transition from an IT outsourcing hub to a global leader in Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), AI systems, and domestic semiconductor manufacturing under the India Semiconductor Mission.

Q20 Who is the author of the historical fiction novel *"The Lion of Gir: Chronicles of Kathiawar"*, which gained widespread critical acclaim in August 2026 for depicting conservation traditions during the Junagadh princely state rule?

- A) Amitav Ghosh
- B) Vikram Sampath
- C) Ashwin Sanghi
- D) Devdutt Pattanaik

Answer: Option B

Explanation: Historian Vikram Sampath's literary work captures the early conservation movements in Western India, highlighting how the Nawab of Junagadh instituted the first hunting ban in the early 20th century, preventing the complete extinction of the Asiatic lion.

Defense News

Q21 The 8th Edition of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026 between the Indian Navy and the United States Navy commenced in August 2026 at which naval location?

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

Answer: Option B

Explanation: The Indian Navy and US Navy launched the 5-day bilateral 8th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026 at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi, Kerala. The exercise focuses on counter-IED operations, joint diving procedures, underwater explosive disposal, operational synergy, and tactical information exchange between specialist dive units.

Q22 In August 2026, who created history by becoming the first female fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to complete the rigorous 20-week Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course at TACDE Gwalior?

- A) Avani Chaturvedi
- B) Bhawana Kanth
- C) Mohana Singh
- D) Deepika Misra

Answer: Option B

Explanation: Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth became the first woman pilot in IAF history to successfully clear the Fighter Combat Leader (FCL) course conducted at the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE) in Gwalior. TACDE is the IAF's elite "Top Gun" school where top 1% fighter pilots undergo



instruction in advanced aerial combat tactics, weapon delivery, and combat leadership.

Q23 The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) successfully user-tested which nuclear-capable medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha, in August 2026?

- A) Agni-1
- B) Agni-3
- C) Agni-4
- D) Prithvi-II

Answer: Option C

Explanation: India successfully test-fired the two-stage, solid-fuelled Agni-4 medium-range ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha. Developed by DRDO with an operational range of approximately 4,000 km, Agni-4 features advanced avionics, ring laser gyro-based INS, and re-entry heat shield technology, reinforcing India's land-based nuclear deterrence.

Govt Schemes & MoUs

Q24 Under the August 2026 amendments to the PM E-DRIVE Scheme by the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), what is the capped incentive amount per electric two-wheeler (e-2W) until FY28?

- A) Rs 2,500
- B) Rs 5,000
- C) Rs 10,000
- D) Rs 15,000

Answer: Option B

Explanation: The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) revised the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme. Subsidies for electric two-wheelers (e-2Ws) were adjusted to Rs 2,500 per

kilowatt-hour (kWh), subject to a maximum cap of Rs 5,000 per vehicle for the period spanning April 2025 to March 2028. The recalibration aims to encourage cost optimization by EV manufacturers while promoting mass adoption.

Q25 To promote intellectual property commercialization and support MSME tech transfer, which two bodies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Vanija Bhawan, New Delhi?

- A) Ministry of MSME and DPIIT
- B) CSIR and NITI Aayog
- C) SIDBI and NABARD
- D) FICCI and GeM

Answer: Option A

Explanation: The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) signed an MoU with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The MoU facilitates IP creation, commercialization of innovations, patent filing support, and quality standardization for small enterprises across specialized industrial clusters.

Important Days (National & International)

Q26 What is the annual date for the global celebration of International Youth Day, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999?

- A) 10 August
- B) 12 August
- C) 15 August
- D) 24 August

Answer: Option B

Explanation: International Youth Day is celebrated globally every year on **12th August**.

The day highlights youth contributions to global development, digital innovation, socio-economic progress, and climate action while addressing challenges faced by young generations worldwide. *(Note: National Youth Day in India is celebrated separately on 12th January to commemorate Swami Vivekananda).*

Q27 World Elephant Day is celebrated worldwide on 12th August every year. In India, which conservation campaign initiated in 2010 by MoEFCC in partnership with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) designates the elephant as India's "National Heritage Animal"?

- A) Project Elephant
- B) Elephant Mere Saathi
- C) Gaj Yatra
- D) Haathi Mere Saathi

Answer: Option D

Explanation: Observed on 12th August, World Elephant Day stresses the protection of Asian and African elephants. In 2010, the Government of India declared the Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) as India's "National Heritage Animal" and launched the "Haathi Mere Saathi" campaign alongside Project Elephant (1992) to safeguard elephant corridors and mitigate human-elephant conflict.

Art & Culture & Festivals

Q28 Which umbrella scheme under the Ministry of Culture was expanded to promote India's civilisational ties abroad through sub-initiatives like Project Mausam, Brihattar Bharat, and the Festival of India?

- A) Cultural Heritage Mission
- B) Global Engagement Scheme (GES)
- C) Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana
- D) Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

Answer: Option B

Explanation: The Ministry of Culture implements the **Global Engagement Scheme (GES)**. Formerly known as the Scheme for Promotion of International Cultural Relations, GES promotes India's soft power worldwide. It covers three main components: organizing Festivals of India abroad, providing grants to Indo-Foreign Friendship Societies, and supporting contributions to international bodies like UNESCO and ICCROM. It also integrates research projects like *Project Mausam* and *Brihattar Bharat*.

Q29 Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated 'Prakriti Gyan Dham', a first-of-its-kind eco-educational hub integrating indigenous bio-resources and scientific research, in which city?

- A) Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- B) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- D) Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

Answer: Option B

Explanation: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh dedicated 'Prakriti Gyan Dham' at the Maharishi Parashar Bioresource Centre (MPBC) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The hub bridges modern scientific research with traditional knowledge systems, promoting bio-resource conservation, medicinal flora cultivation, and eco-tourism education.

Birth & Death Anniversaries

Q30 August 12 marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai (born 12 August 1919). Which major national institution was founded under his leadership in 1962?

- A) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

B) Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR)

C) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)

D) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)

Answer: Option B

Explanation: Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, widely revered as the "Father of the Indian Space Programme", was born on 12 August 1919 in Ahmedabad. In 1962, alongside Homi Bhabha, he established INCOSPAR (Indian National Committee for Space Research), which later evolved into the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 1969. He also spearheaded the establishment of the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) and IIM Ahmedabad.

