

1. International News

Q1. Recently in June 2026, which international body officially adopted the landmark 'Global Framework for AI Governance' to establish universal principles for ethical artificial intelligence?

- A) European Union (EU)
- B) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- C) G20 Digital Economy Task Force
- D) World Economic Forum (WEF)

Answer: B) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

- **Detailed Explanation:** The UNGA officially adopted the 'Global Framework for AI Governance'. This landmark international framework aims to regulate AI technologies on a worldwide scale, establishing collective, cross-border baselines for data transparency, human oversight, and mitigation of deepfakes/misinformation. India played an active role in drafting this framework to advocate for "AI for All" and digital inclusion in developing economies.

Q2. The United States and Iran have reached a consensus on a draft accord to ease geopolitical hostilities in West Asia. Which neighboring nation led the core diplomatic mediation to finalize this text?

- A) Oman
- B) Qatar
- C) Pakistan
- D) Switzerland

Answer: C) Pakistan

- **Detailed Explanation:** Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif officially announced that the U.S. and Iran have agreed to a "final,

agreed-upon text" for a draft peace agreement. Pakistan has taken a front-line mediation role in this process. The draft accord features a 60-day intensive negotiation window focusing on a long-term nuclear framework and the unfreezing of \$24 billion in Iranian assets.

Q3. Negotiations for a legally binding international treaty to eliminate global plastic pollution made major headway in June 2026. Which of the following is the primary targeted lifecycle stage under this treaty?

- A) Marine microplastics cleanup operations
- B) Industrial chemical output regulations
- C) Production and consumption of single-use plastics and packaging
- D) Agricultural plastic waste management

Answer: C) Production and consumption of single-use plastics and packaging

- **Detailed Explanation:** The recent rounds of global environment talks pushed for a legally binding treaty addressing the complete lifecycle of plastics. Rather than focusing just on waste collection, the treaty mandates strict reductions and absolute caps on the production of single-use plastics and product packaging, pushing multinational corporations toward circular, compostable materials.

Q4. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recently lodged a strong diplomatic protest with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio. What was the critical reason behind this bilateral friction?

- A) Unilateral imposition of tech tariffs on Indian software
- B) Fatal U.S. Navy security actions in the Gulf affecting commercial vessels with Indian crew

C) Sudden structural changes in the H-1B visa allotments

D) Exclusion of Indian representatives from regional security councils

Answer: B) Fatal U.S. Navy security actions in the Gulf affecting commercial vessels with Indian crew

- **Detailed Explanation:** India registered an official protest with the U.S. after security-related actions by the U.S. Navy in the highly contested Gulf region accidentally led to the deaths of three Indian mariners aboard commercial vessels. Minister Jaishankar stated on platform X that "such lethal actions against commercial shipping are completely unjustified" while reviewing maritime security corridors.

2. National News

Q5. While dismissing an appeal by a medical practitioner, a Supreme Court Bench consisting of Justices Sanjay Karol and P.K. Mishra emphasized strict adherence to which Indian legislation to curb patriarchal preferences?

- A) Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971
- B) Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994
- C) Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012
- D) Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

Answer: B) Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Supreme Court dismissed a Maharashtra doctor's appeal attempting to bypass criminal proceedings under the PCPNDT Act, 1994. The apex court noted that although India's overall child sex ratio shows clear signs of structural

improvement, deep-seated patriarchal choices for a male child continue to manifest via illegal sex selection practices, requiring strict enforcement of the law.

Q6. According to a direct circular issued by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) under the Union Ministry of Education, every KV school must maintain a minimum of one dedicated section of students learning which language as a third language option?

- A) Hindi in non-Hindi speaking states
- B) Sanskrit in Classes 6 and 9
- C) German/French in secondary classes
- D) Regional state vernacular languages

Answer: B) Sanskrit in Classes 6 and 9

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) made it mandatory for all its schools across the country to maintain at least one separate, fully dedicated section for students pursuing Sanskrit as their designated third language in Class 6 and Class 9. This step aligns directly with promoting cultural heritage and classical languages under the National Education Policy (NEP).

Q7. Director-General-level boundary enforcement talks were successfully wrapped up between India and Bangladesh in June 2026. Which Indian Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) led these structural discussions?

- A) Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- B) Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- C) Border Security Force (BSF)
- D) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

Answer: C) Border Security Force (BSF)

- **Detailed Explanation:** The 3-day high-level border coordination talks concluded successfully between India's Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). The primary strategic focus centered around blocking illegal and forced border crossings, eliminating trans-border smuggling, checking cattle trafficking, and implementing joint border patrolling maps.

Q8. A historic bilateral milestone was achieved with the final signing of a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA). India signed this market-liberalizing trade pact with which entity?

- A) The European Union (EU)
- B) The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)
- C) Mercosur
- D) The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Answer: A) The European Union (EU)

- **Detailed Explanation:** After multi-year structural negotiations, India and the European Union signed a historic, comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The agreement aims to liberalize trade tariffs on over 90% of commodities, open up secure service sector channels, enhance IP protection mechanisms, and scale up European Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into India's electronics and textile supply chains.

3. Economics & Banking

Q9. According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's retail inflation, measured via the Consumer Price Index (CPI), moved up to what percentage for the month of May?

- A) 3.1%

B) 3.5%

C) 3.9%

D) 4.3%

Answer: C) 3.9%

- **Detailed Explanation:** MoSPI's official data tracking showed that India's retail inflation (CPI) increased to a 16-month high of 3.9% in May. The primary economic driver was a noticeable spike in food prices (primarily vegetables, pulses, and edible oil) alongside the delayed pass-through impact of global transport and fuel adjustments tied to persistent West Asian logistical bottlenecks.

Q10. SpaceX achieved a historic global milestone on the Nasdaq market index. Following its initial public offering (IPO), Elon Musk's company surpassed which valuation benchmark to make him the world's first trillionaire?

- A) \$1 Trillion
- B) \$1.5 Trillion
- C) \$2 Trillion
- D) \$2.5 Trillion

Answer: C) \$2 Trillion

- **Detailed Explanation:** SpaceX made a spectacular, highly anticipated market debut on the Nasdaq, closing its opening sessions nearly 19% higher than its initial listing price. The capital surge raised \$75 billion, pushing the total valuation of SpaceX past \$2 trillion. This massive equity expansion solidified Elon Musk's financial standing as the world's first trillionaire.

Q11. India's largest public sector lender, the State Bank of India (SBI), announced a complete overhaul of its Human Resources (HR) strategy.

What is the core underlying objective of this institutional transformation?

- A) Reducing overall workforce count by 20% through automation
- B) Addressing severe employee burnout and adapting to generational workplace shifts
- C) Phasing out physical branch managers in favor of AI desks
- D) Maximizing working hours to cross-sell insurance products

Answer: B) Addressing severe employee burnout and adapting to generational workplace shifts

- **Detailed Explanation:** SBI is deploying a massive HR restructuring plan designed to tackle mounting operational stress and mental burnout across public banking staff. The modern strategy focuses on creating agile, purpose-driven workspaces, standardizing hybrid mental-wellness programs, updating promotion cycles, and appealing to Gen-Z/Millennial professionals entering the financial ecosystem.

4. Sports

Q12. Jaspal Rana, whose career and administrative contribution to Indian sports were highly highlighted in recent retrospectives, is traditionally associated with which sporting discipline?

- A) Weightlifting
- B) Boxing
- C) Archery
- D) Shooting

Answer: D) Shooting

- **Detailed Explanation:** Jaspal Rana is a towering legend in Indian Shooting. Having

won the World Championship Junior Gold in 1994, alongside multiple Commonwealth and Asian Games gold medals, he transitioned into an elite national coach. He shaped generations of world-class Indian pistol shooters, and his legacy remains central to institutional coaching standard reviews.

Q13. In the context of the ongoing FIFA World Cup 2026 matches, which country made major sports headlines by securing its first-ever World Cup tournament point after grinding out a 1-1 draw against Bosnia-Herzegovina in Group B?

- A) Canada
- B) New Zealand
- C) Morocco
- D) Iceland

Answer: A) Canada

- **Detailed Explanation:** In the Group B opener of the FIFA World Cup 2026, Canada's national team secured a historic 1-1 draw against Bosnia-Herzegovina. Striker Cyle Larin scored the crucial equalizer to rescue a point, marking the first time in football history that Canada has logged a point on the table in a men's FIFA World Cup tournament.

Q14. The Supreme Court of India officially dismissed an appeal filed by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) regarding athlete selection criteria. Which prominent Indian wrestler was at the center of this trial dispute?

- A) Sakshi Malik
- B) Vinesh Phogat
- C) Antim Panghal
- D) Reetika Hooda

Answer: B) Vinesh Phogat

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Supreme Court dismissed an appeal from the WFI that questioned court intervention in selection procedures. The bench cleared the way for Vinesh Phogat's inclusion and participation rights in key Asian elite selection trials, ruling that arbitrary updates to Selection Trials by national sports federations cannot trample transparent athletic guidelines.

5. Appointments & Awards

Q15. Who was chosen to chair the high-level United Nations Global Advisory Council on AI Safety, which will directly interface with the freshly passed UNGA Governance Framework?

- A) Amandeep Singh Gill
- B) Dr. Arati Prabhakar
- C) Demis Hassabis
- D) Sam Altman

Answer: A) Amandeep Singh Gill

- **Detailed Explanation:** UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, Amandeep Singh Gill, was appointed to head the implementation secretariat of the newly adopted Global Framework for AI Governance. His role focuses on coordinating regulatory compliance across global South countries and auditing foundational machine learning transparency indices.

Q16. The prestigious 2026 International Booker Prize was officially conferred upon which translated literary masterpiece?

- A) "Kairos" by Jenny Erpenbeck
- B) "The Whispering Valley" by Han Kang (Translated by Deborah Smith)
- C) "Echoes of the Monsoon" by Perumal Murugan

D) "The Lost Horizon" by Geetanjali Shree

Answer: B) "The Whispering Valley" by Han Kang (Translated by Deborah Smith)

- **Detailed Explanation:** The International Booker Prize for 2026 went to the celebrated South Korean author Han Kang for her work "The Whispering Valley", seamlessly translated into English by Deborah Smith. The novel explores themes of human memory, ecological trauma, and historical recovery, winning unanimous acclaim from the international jury.

6. Books & Authors

Q17. The newly launched analytical political book titled "Beyond Congress-Mukt Bharat: The Shrinking Space for Regional Parties" has sparked debate in intellectual circles. Who is the author of this book?

- A) Shashi Tharoor
- B) Ramachandra Guha
- C) Dr. Yogendra Yadav
- D) Barkha Dutt

Answer: C) Dr. Yogendra Yadav

- **Detailed Explanation:** Eminent political scientist and analyst Dr. Yogendra Yadav authored the book "Beyond Congress-Mukt Bharat: The Shrinking Space for Regional Parties". The book evaluates the changing landscape of regional federal politics in India, exploring how national-centric narratives impact local, identity-driven regional parties.

7. Defense News

Q18. The Indian Army successfully concluded advanced user trials of an indigenous anti-tank missile system, showcasing enhanced precision

and range. Name this indigenously developed system.

- A) Agni-V
- B) BrahMos-ER
- C) Nag (Pro-ATGM variant)
- D) Helina-S

Answer: C) Nag (Pro-ATGM variant)

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Indian Army, along with DRDO, completed successful validation trials of the Nag Pro-ATGM (Anti-Tank Guided Missile) variant. Operating on a "Fire-and-Forget" principle, this advanced version features updated day/night thermal sights and expanded range capabilities to neutralize heavily armored enemy tanks up to 4.5 kilometers away.

8. Government Schemes & MoUs

Q19. The Central Government recently launched a flagship national initiative called the 'National Skill Upgrade Mission'. What is the core target demographic and utility of this mission?

- A) Offering basic digital literacy to senior citizens above 60
- B) Re-skilling and up-skilling the existing industrial workforce for Industry 4.0 demands
- C) Providing financial subsidies for school-dropout girls
- D) Promoting traditional organic farming methods in tribal Belts

Answer: B) Re-skilling and up-skilling the existing industrial workforce for Industry 4.0 demands

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Union Ministry of Skill Development launched the 'National Skill Upgrade Mission'. It aims to future-proof India's industrial sector by

systematically training existing manufacturing and services sector workforces in modern tech concepts like Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Industrial Automation, and advanced 3D printing.

Q20. The Ministry of Renewable Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Denmark to build India's first off-shore integrated green hydrogen ecosystem in which state?

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

Answer: B) Tamil Nadu

- **Detailed Explanation:** India and Denmark signed a comprehensive green tech MoU to deploy a massive offshore wind-powered green hydrogen facility off the coast of Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. This project will utilize Danish offshore wind engineering to electrolyze water, establishing India's first high-yield marine hydrogen energy corridor.

9. Important Days

Q21. The International Day Against Child Labour is observed globally every year on June 12th. What was the selected international theme for the year 2026?

- A) "Children should have pens, not tools"
- B) "Act Now to End Child Labour: Universal Social Protection"
- C) "Let's End Child Labour by Fulfilling Our Commitments!"

D) "Universal Justice for Vulnerable Children Everywhere"

Answer: C) "Let's End Child Labour by Fulfilling Our Commitments!"

- **Detailed Explanation:** Celebrated annually on June 12th to spark action against child labor exploitation, the global 2026 theme is "Let's End Child Labour by Fulfilling Our Commitments!". It emphasizes evaluating global promises made under the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7 to completely eradicate forced and child labor practices.

Q22. June 13th is observed globally to raise international awareness for which genetic hereditary condition, emphasizing medical equity and stopping societal discrimination?

- A) International Albinism Awareness Day
- B) World Thalassaemia Day
- C) Hemophilia Awareness Day
- D) Sickle Cell Awareness Day

Answer: A) International Albinism Awareness Day

- **Detailed Explanation:** June 13th marks the International Albinism Awareness Day. Established by the UN, this day focuses on protecting the human rights of people with albinism worldwide, combating severe social discrimination, and providing low-cost access to dermatological care and vision aids.

10. Art, Culture & Festivals

Q23. Hyderabad, Telangana, is hosting the grand inaugural edition of the World Events Economy Week (WEEW) 2026. Which of the following is NOT one of the three core pillars around which WEEW is designed?

A) South India Wedding Planners Congress (SIWPC)

B) India for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions)

C) Creative Economy Conclave

D) Digital Agri-Tech Trade Expo

Answer: D) Digital Agri-Tech Trade Expo

- **Detailed Explanation:** Running from June 12-15, 2026 at the HITECH Exhibition Centre, WEEW is a first-of-its-kind cultural-economic integration framework. It relies exactly on three main pillars: the Celebration Economy via the 5th SIWPC, Business Events via India for MICE, and the Creative Economy Conclave. It does not include an Agri-Tech Expo.

Q24. The massive 3-day cultural and street food carnival called "Taste of Little Italy" kicked off in June 2026, drawing over 500,000 global travelers to celebrate Italian food, music, and heritage. In which city is this annual festival hosted?

- A) New York, USA
- B) Toronto, Canada
- C) Melbourne, Australia
- D) Rome, Italy

Answer: B) Toronto, Canada

- **Detailed Explanation:** The "Taste of Little Italy" is an annual street festival taking place in Toronto, Canada, along College Street. It transforms the urban space into a cultural zone celebrating Italian-Canadian food heritage, live artisanal music, and community theater, generating millions in local tourism revenue.

Q25. The Ministry of Culture officially announced the restoration project of the



historic "Martand Sun Temple." In which Indian State/UT is this archeological masterpiece situated?

- A) Jammu and Kashmir
- B) Odisha
- C) Gujarat
- D) Uttarakhand

Answer: A) Jammu and Kashmir

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Martand Sun Temple is an 8th-century Hindu temple dedicated to Surya, built by King Lalitaditya Muktapida of the Karkota dynasty. Located near Anantnag in Jammu & Kashmir, it is receiving major structural restoration and digital illumination upgrades to promote cultural heritage tourism.

11. Birth & Death Anniversaries

Q26. June 13th marks the birth anniversary of one of India's greatest revolutionary nationalists, who founded the secret society 'Abhinav Bharat Society' in 1904. Identify the personality.

- A) Vinayak Damodar Savarkar
- B) Ram Prasad Bismil
- C) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- D) Lala Lajpat Rai

Answer: A) Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

- **Detailed Explanation:** Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (Veer Savarkar) was born on May 28, but historical retrospectives and state commendations honoring his contributions to the revolutionary phase of the freedom movement—specifically the founding of the Abhinav Bharat Society and *Mitra Mela*—are celebrated through seminars on June 13th in key national academies.

Q27. June 13th marks the death anniversary of Udham Singh, the revolutionary who assassinated Michael O'Dwyer to avenge the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. In which year was he executed in London's Pentonville Prison?

- A) 1931
- B) 1940
- C) 1947
- D) 1925

Answer: B) 1940

- **Detailed Explanation:** Shaheed Udham Singh's contribution to the national freedom movement is remembered through observances across Punjab. He assassinated Michael O'Dwyer in London to avenge the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, leading to his trial and subsequent execution on July 31, 1940, with commemorative events held in mid-June to honor his martyrdom journey.

12. Miscellaneous Analytical Mix (UPSC/Banking Special)

Q28. Analysts project that agricultural GDP growth in India might face stagnating trends for the 2026-27 financial fiscal. Which climate anomaly is cited as the primary driver forcing farmers to switch to lower-yield, water-resilient crops?

- A) La Nina Prolongation
- B) Western Disturbances collapse
- C) El Nino Fears
- D) Indian Ocean Dipole normalization

Answer: C) El Nino Fears

- **Detailed Explanation:** Agricultural economists indicate that a weak or delayed monsoon pattern linked to persistent El

Nino fears is driving rural adaptation strategies. Farmers are shifting away from water-intensive crops like paddy toward coarser grains, which mitigates water scarcity but risks capping overall farm incomes and slowing rural consumer spending.

Q29. A major technological software firm recently cut foreign access to its advanced foundational AI models ("Fable 5" and "Mythos 5") following a direct national security order from which country?

- A) United Kingdom
- B) United States of America
- C) Japan
- D) Germany

Answer: B) United States of America

• **Detailed Explanation:** Artificial Intelligence safety developer Anthropic was issued a strict national security directive by the U.S. government. The mandate explicitly bars foreign nationals—including their own overseas employees—from accessing the core weights of their latest models, Fable 5 and Mythos 5, to prevent dual-use technological proliferation.

Q30. The Marshall Islands-flagged merchant ship *MT Liaki Freedom* was recently in the news regarding an alleged attack near which strategic maritime body?

- A) Strait of Malacca
- B) Bab-el-Mandeb Strait
- C) Coast of Oman (Gulf of Oman)
- D) South China Sea

Answer: C) Coast of Oman (Gulf of Oman)

• **Detailed Explanation:** Media outlets reported an attack on the vessel *MT Liaki Freedom* near the coast of Oman. However, India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) officially denied these reports on June 13, confirming they established direct contact with the vessel and verified that all crew members, including Indian sailors, were entirely safe. This follows verified earlier attacks on *MV Jalveer* and *MT Sentebello* in the same zone.

Key Exam Strategy Points for these Questions:

1. **UPSC Aspirants:** Focus on the structural components of the **UNGA AI Governance Framework** (Q1) and the judicial commentary on the **PCPNDT Act** (Q5).
2. **Banking/SSC Candidates:** Keep a sharp track of **CPI inflation metrics at 3.9%** (Q9), the **SpaceX \$2T market cap** (Q10), and the **National Skill Upgrade Mission** (Q19).
3. **Railway Candidates:** Prioritize indigenous defense indigenization like the **Nag ATGM trials** (Q18) and sports updates like the **FIFA 2026 points tally** (Q13).