

Part 1: International News

Q1. The United States military recently launched defensive strikes against the IRGC forces in which critical maritime chokepoint to maintain freedom of navigation?

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

• **Answer: B) Strait of Hormuz**

• **Explanation:** In July 2026, tensions escalated in West Asia as the U.S. military launched fresh rounds of airstrikes against Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). This action came directly after IRGC forces targeted commercial container vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz is a crucial global oil chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, through which roughly a fifth of the world's petroleum consumption passes.

Q2. Typhoon Bavi made landfall in July 2026, causing large-scale evacuations, torrential rainfall, and severe transit disruptions in which country?

The Indian Express

- A) Japan
- B) The Philippines
- C) China
- D) Vietnam

• **Answer: C) China**

• **Explanation:** Severe Typhoon Bavi battered eastern China, officially making landfall in the Taizhou region. The extreme weather event forced the Chinese government to

evacuate nearly two million citizens, halting high-speed rail operations and hundreds of domestic and international flights.

Q3. India recently conducted a high-level bilateral meeting involving its Ministry of Agriculture with the Taliban administration of which nation to discuss trade infrastructure and irrigation?

The Hindu

- A) Iran
- B) Afghanistan
- C) Uzbekistan
- D) Tajikistan

• **Answer: B) Afghanistan**

• **Explanation:** India's Ministry of External Affairs confirmed a six-day official visit (July 7–12, 2026) by Abdullah Omari, the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock of the Taliban administration of Afghanistan. The talks focused extensively on bolstering agricultural trade, building rural infrastructure, and enhancing cold-chain storage solutions.

Part 2: National News

Q4. Which state created a landmark benchmark in environmental conservation by orchestrating the planting of over 35 crore saplings in a single day under a mass afforestation drive?

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- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Karnataka

• **Answer: B) Uttar Pradesh**

• **Explanation:** The Government of Uttar Pradesh set a massive record in



environmental sustainability by conducting a mega tree-plantation drive that saw more than 35 crore saplings planted across the state within 24 hours. The campaign is part of the state's broader strategy to enhance its green cover to 15% and support India's net-zero carbon pledges.

Q5. The Central Government recently reiterated the protocol for state functions, clarifying that when both are performed, which song must precede the other?

- A) Jana Gana Mana must be performed before Vande Mataram
- B) Vande Mataram must be performed before Jana Gana Mana
- C) Both must be sung simultaneously in different blocks
- D) Only Jana Gana Mana is allowed at official state openings

- **Answer:** B) Vande Mataram must be performed before Jana Gana Mana
- **Explanation:** The Ministry of Home Affairs issued a fresh clarification stating that during national events where both the National Song (Vande Mataram) and National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana) are scheduled to be rendered, Vande Mataram must be performed first, immediately followed by the National Anthem.

Q6. Indian authorities registered an FIR and initiated domestic criminal proceedings against which individual following a high-profile US indictment over an alleged assassination plot?

- A) Gurinderjit Singh Nagra
- B) Vikash Yadav
- C) Lawrence Bishnoi
- D) Hardeep Singh Nijjar

- **Answer:** B) Vikash Yadav

- **Explanation:** Following a formal indictment issued by U.S. federal prosecutors regarding a foiled transnational assassination plot, Indian law enforcement agencies registered a local First Information Report (FIR) and launched domestic legal proceedings against Vikash Yadav. Legal experts note this demonstrates India's stance to prioritize domestic judicial prosecution before entertaining foreign extradition requests.

Q7. The food safety regulator FSSAI recently issued statutory notices for immediate compliance over alleged food safety and labeling violations to which prominent quick-commerce platform?

- A) Blinkit
- B) Zepto
- C) Swiggy Instamart
- D) BigBasket

- **Answer:** C) Swiggy Instamart
- **Explanation:** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued show-cause notices to Swiggy Instamart following inspections that revealed potential violations in warehouses regarding storage hygiene, expiry date displays, and product handling practices for quick-delivery groceries.

Part 3: Economics, Banking, & Corporate

Q8. A temporary export restriction on Helium introduced by which country has triggered critical supply chain concerns for India's semiconductor and space sectors?

- A) United States
- B) Russia
- C) Qatar

D) China

• **Answer: B) Russia**

• **Explanation:** Russia implemented strict export controls requiring direct Prime Minister sign-off on all Helium shipments running through late 2027. Because Helium is irreplaceable as a cryogenic coolant in semiconductor manufacturing (silicon wafer fabrication), medical MRI machines, and ISRO's rocket fuel pressurization systems, this restriction has surged global spot prices and pushed India to look for supply diversification.

Q9. Caller identification platform Truecaller publicly backed the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) recent regulatory proposal to do what?

The Indian Express

A) Completely ban international VoIP calling

B) Whitelist the 140 and 1600 series numbers for telemarketers

C) Mandatory biometric linking for mobile banking apps

D) Charge premium cess on daily SMS alerts

• **Answer: B) Whitelist the 140 and 1600 series numbers for telemarketers**

• **Explanation:** Truecaller welcomed TRAI's initiative to whitelist specific dedicated number series (such as the 140 and 1600 blocks) exclusively for official promotional and transactional communications. The move is designed to make it easier for phone networks to spot and filter out illegal spammers and automated fraud networks.

Q10. A landmark bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) officially went live on 15 July 2026, eliminating customs duties on a vast range of industrial and agricultural exports

between India and which major trading partner?

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A) United Kingdom

B) European Union

C) Canada

D) United Arab Emirates

• **Answer: C) Canada**

• **Explanation:** Following intensive negotiations, the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (or Early Progress Trade Agreement framework) successfully goes live on July 15, 2026. It eliminates duties on over 85% of Indian industrial goods and provides preferential market access to engineering components, textiles, and specific agro-products.

Part 4: Sports Updates

Q11. Who won the 2026 Wimbledon Men's Singles Crown by defeating Alexander Zverev in an intense four-set final at the All England Club?

A) Carlos Alcaraz

B) Jannik Sinner

C) Novak Djokovic

D) Daniil Medvedev

• **Answer: B) Jannik Sinner**

• **Explanation:** Italian tennis star Jannik Sinner successfully retained his Wimbledon title by outclassing Germany's Alexander Zverev with a scoreline of 6-7(7), 7-6(2), 6-3, 6-4. With this victory, Sinner captured his second consecutive Wimbledon title and his 5th career Grand Slam, joining Federer, Djokovic, and Alcaraz as the only men to defend the crown at the All England Club in the last 25 years.



Q12. Indian women's cricket team achieved a historic 10-wicket victory in a one-off Test match at Lord's against which nation?

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

• **Answer: B) England**

• **Explanation:** The Indian Women's Cricket Team created history by defeating England by 10 wickets in a historic one-off Test match organized at Lord's Cricket Ground, London. This marks one of India's most dominant red-ball displays overseas.

Q13. Who became the first female cricketer in international history to score a Test match century at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground?

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- A) Smriti Mandhana
- B) Harmanpreet Kaur
- C) Yastika Bhatia
- D) Mithali Raj

• **Answer: C) Yastika Bhatia**

• **Explanation:** Indian wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia etched her name in the record books by becoming the first woman ever to smash a Test century at Lord's during the historic one-off Test against England, anchoring India's massive first-innings total.

Q14. Which two cricketers were named by the BCCI as official injury replacements for Harshit Rana and Varun Chakaravathy for India's upcoming international assignment?

- A) Sanju Samson & Tilak Varma
- B) Prince & Ravi Bishnoi
- C) Ruturaj Gaikwad & Avesh Khan

D) Rinku Singh & Sai Sudharsan

• **Answer: B) Prince & Ravi Bishnoi**

• **Explanation:** Due to sudden fitness issues and medical assessments, the BCCI senior selection committee formally drafted young domestic star Prince and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi into the squad as injury replacements for Harshit Rana and Varun Chakaravathy.

Q15. Which four teams have successfully advanced to the semi-final lineup of the FIFA World Cup 2026?

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- A) Brazil, Germany, Argentina, Morocco
- B) France, Spain, England, Argentina
- C) Portugal, Netherlands, France, Spain
- D) Italy, Croatia, England, Brazil

• **Answer: B) France, Spain, England, Argentina**

• **Explanation:** The quarter-final stage of the FIFA World Cup 2026 (co-hosted by the USA, Canada, and Mexico) has officially concluded. The final four teams remaining to battle it out for the ultimate trophy are France, Spain, England, and defending champions Argentina.

Part 5: Appointments, Awards, & Honors

Q16. Which former Indian cricket captain and legendary batsman is set to be formally inducted into the prestigious ICC Hall of Fame in July 2026?

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- A) Rahul Dravid
- B) Sourav Ganguly
- C) MS Dhoni

D) VVS Laxman

• **Answer: B) Sourav Ganguly**

• **Explanation:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that former Indian skipper and BCCI President Sourav Ganguly will be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame for his immense contributions to the game as a revolutionary captain and prolific ODI batsman.

Q17. The India-funded restoration of a historic Buddhist monastery recently won the prestigious UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation. Where is it located?

A) Bhutan

B) Sri Lanka

C) Nepal

D) Myanmar

• **Answer: C) Nepal**

• **Explanation:** A historic Buddhist monastery located in Nepal, meticulously restored through financial grants and structural engineering assistance provided by India, won the UNESCO Conservation Award. The project was praised for preserving traditional brick and timber architecture while seismically retrofitting the complex.

Part 6: Books, Authors, & Language Updates

Q18. Which iconic dictionary recently updated its database by formally adding localized Indian English culinary and lifestyle words such as "out of station" and "nihari"?

A) Cambridge Dictionary

B) Merriam-Webster Dictionary

C) Oxford English Dictionary (OED)

D) Collins Dictionary

• **Answer: C) Oxford English Dictionary (OED)**

• **Explanation:** The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) expanded its cultural vocabulary by formally inducting common phrases used in Indian subcontinental English, including "out of station" (meaning away from one's usual base/town) and "nihari" (the slow-cooked traditional meat stew).

Q19. A new biographical book titled "The Metamorphosis of Leadership" analyzing modern governance systems was released on 13 July 2026. The term 'Metamorphosis' primarily translates to what linguistic meaning?

A) A permanent state of stagnation

B) A complete change of form or nature into a completely different one

C) The historical study of ancient scripts

D) A process of economic financial liquidation

• **Answer: B) A complete change of form or nature into a completely different one**

• **Explanation:** Handpicked as the 'Word of the Day' on July 13, 2026, 'Metamorphosis' is a noun defined as a striking or complete transformation of character, structure, or condition in a person or thing. It is highly relevant for verbal ability sections in SSC and Banking exams.

Part 7: Defense, Science, & Technology News

Q20. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully executed three critical validation tests for the Gaganyaan mission primarily aimed at checking which feature?

A) Cryogenic engine restart in deep space vacuum

B) Crew module upright positioning and stability after sea splashdown

- C) Laser-guided satellite docking mechanism
D) Solid rocket booster recovery using parachutes

- **Answer:** B) Crew module upright positioning and stability after sea splashdown
- **Explanation:** ISRO successfully concluded three major safety tests validating the Gaganyaan crew module systems. The core test focused on proving the module's capability to automatically maintain or return to an upright position immediately after splashing down into the ocean, which is critical to keep astronauts safe before recovery teams arrive.

Q21. DRDO recently carried out successful flight tests of which indigenously developed weapon system to significantly scale up the Indian Army's long-range precision tactical strike capabilities?

- A) Agni-Prime Ballistic Missile
B) Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket System
C) Helina Anti-Tank Guided Missile
D) Akash-NG Air Defense System

- **Answer:** B) Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket System
- **Explanation:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the advanced indigenous Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket variant. This guided version integrates advanced canopy static aerodynamics and an internal navigation system to accurately neutralize high-value targets deep inside enemy territory.

Q22. Which state has pioneered an innovative healthcare delivery pilot by cutting down Tuberculosis (TB) sample diagnostic transit

costs from ₹9,451 to just ₹91 using autonomous medical drones?

- A) Kerala
B) Telangana
C) Tamil Nadu
D) Odisha

- **Answer:** B) Telangana
- **Explanation:** In the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district of Telangana, the state health department deployed specialized autonomous medical drones to ferry biological sputum samples from remote rural clinics to central diagnostics labs. This initiative dramatically lowered logistics costs from a staggering ₹9,451 down to ₹91 per run, while cutting transport times down to minutes.

Q23. Drishti-10 Starliner, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that recently made news due to a training sortie incident in Gujarat, is primarily deployed for what military application?

- A) Strategic Heavy Cargo Transport
B) Air-to-Air Jet Combat
C) Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)
D) Electronic Submarine Jamming

- **Answer:** C) Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)
- **Explanation:** The Drishti-10 Starliner is an advanced indigenous Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) manufactured by Adani Defence and Aerospace under technology transfer for the Indian Navy. Built as a variant of Israel's Hermes 900 platform, it is designed for all-weather Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) operations across maritime boundaries.

Part 8: Government Schemes & MoUs

Q24. The Union Ministry of Railways is entering the final technical clearance phase for the national rollout of India's inaugural eco-friendly passenger train powered by which fuel source?

- A) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)
- B) Hydrogen Fuel Cell
- C) Lithium-Ion Battery Pack Matrix
- D) Biodiesel derived from Jatropha

• **Answer: B) Hydrogen Fuel Cell**

• **Explanation:** Marking a massive shift toward sustainable transport, the Ministry of Railways announced the final safety validation phase for India's first-ever Hydrogen-powered passenger train. Operating silently and emitting only water vapor, these eco-friendly trains are targeted to replace diesel locomotives on historically sensitive and narrow-gauge heritage circuits.

Q25. Massive commercial financing and institutional lending lines were cleared in July 2026 to speed up which flag-ship central welfare scheme aimed at establishing solar micro-grids for 10 million homes?

- A) PM-KUSUM Yojana
- B) PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana
- C) PM Fasal Bima Yojana
- D) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana

• **Answer: B) PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**

• **Explanation:** The Central Government sanctioned massive commercial credit lines to fast-track the implementation of the "PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana". The multi-crore scheme provides robust capital subsidies to help 10 million low-and-middle-

income households install rooftop solar setups, giving them up to 300 units of free electricity every month.

Q26. Which state government has launched the 'Guru Dakshina' Cashless Medical Scheme specifically tailored to provide health insurance cushions to working and retired teachers?

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

• **Answer: B) Rajasthan**

• **Explanation:** The State Government of Rajasthan rolled out the 'Guru Dakshina' Cashless Medical Scheme. This dedicated welfare policy gives both active and retired government school teachers access to cashless medical treatments up to specified thresholds at all empanelled public and private specialty hospitals.

Q27. Which Union Ministry officially launched the digital interactive learning and marketing platform titled 'TribeX' to support indigenous craftsmen?

- A) Ministry of Culture
- B) Ministry of Tourism
- C) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- D) Ministry of Skill Development

• **Answer: C) Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

• **Explanation:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs rolled out the 'TribeX' e-market and skill repository platform. The initiative helps tribal artisans upload their unique arts, textiles, and organic produce directly onto a national digital marketplace, eliminating exploitative middlemen and ensuring fair trade value.

Part 9: Dates, Art, Culture, & Festivals

Q28. On 13 July 1930, which historic sporting event officially commenced for the very first time in Uruguay, cementing a massive landmark in global sports history?

- A) The Modern Olympic Games
- B) The First FIFA World Cup
- C) The ICC Cricket World Cup
- D) The Commonwealth Games

• **Answer: B) The First FIFA World Cup**

• **Explanation:** On July 13, 1930, the inaugural FIFA World Cup kicked off in Montevideo, Uruguay. Thirteen teams took part in the first tournament, which laid the foundation for soccer to become the most-watched sport across the globe.

Q29. Security barricades and restrictions were placed in Srinagar around the Naqshband Sahib shrine to mark the anniversary of which historical event?

The Hindu

- A) The 1947 Tribal Invasion Defense
- B) The 1931 civilian revolt against the Dogra monarchy
- C) The signing of the Delhi Agreement
- D) The accession day of Jammu & Kashmir

• **Answer: B) The 1931 civilian revolt against the Dogra monarchy**

• **Explanation:** In July 2026, authorities placed precautionary security measures around the Naqshband Sahib shrine in Srinagar, which holds the graves of 22 civilians killed during the historic July 13, 1931 uprising against the Dogra monarchic rule. The day is observed historically by regional groups to

mark the beginning of modern political mobilization in Kashmir.

Q30. During the Indian First War of Independence, which iconic freedom fighter led native forces against British troops in the historic Battle of Kanpur on 13 July 1857?

- A) Kunwar Singh
- B) Tatya Tope
- C) Mangal Pandey
- D) Bakht Khan

• **Answer: B) Tatya Tope**

• **Explanation:** On July 13, 1857, legendary Maratha leader and military strategist Tatya Tope successfully mobilized Indian revolutionary forces during the Battle of Kanpur against the advancing British East India Company armies. His guerilla tactics and leadership remain a cornerstone of Indian history curriculum across UPSC, SSC, and Railway recruitment tests.