

1. International News & Global Summits

18th BRICS Summit Concludes with New Delhi Declaration

- **Context:** The 18th Annual BRICS Summit concluded in New Delhi under India's chairmanship. Leaders adopted the **BRICS New Delhi Declaration 2026**.
- **Theme:** "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability".
- **Key Highlights:**
 - **Multilateral Reform:** The declaration called for urgent reforms of the UN Security Council (UNSC), Bretton Woods institutions (IMF and World Bank), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to represent emerging economies adequately.
 - **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** India's framework on DPI (UPI, Aadhaar model) was formally endorsed as a model for financial inclusion across Global South nations.
 - **Bilateral Meetings:** On the sidelines, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held high-level discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, and UN Secretary-General António Guterres.
- **Exam Relevance:**
 - Static GK: BRICS was originally formed as BRIC in 2006; South Africa joined in 2010. Expanded members include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.
 - Target Exam Questions: UPSC Mains (GS-II International Relations), SSC CGL (Summit themes & venues).

UNEP & CCAC Release "Hidden Assets" Assessment Report

- **Context:** The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) together with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) published the global assessment report titled "Hidden Assets: The Economic and Health Case for Climate and Clean Air Action".
- **Key Findings:**
 - Air pollution and climate change mitigation must be integrated into unified national policy frameworks.
 - **South Asia Impact:** South Asia faces the highest economic burden globally from ambient air pollution, losing an estimated **10% of regional GDP** annually in health costs and reduced labor productivity.
- **Exam Relevance:**
 - Static GK: UNEP headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director: Inger Andersen.

2. National News & Environment

Implementation Assessment of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- **Context:** The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying released performance benchmarks for the flagship PMMSY initiative.
- **Key Developments:**
 - **Climate Resilient Coastal Villages:** 100 coastal villages designated as Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV) with 100% Central funding.
 - **Modernization:** Over 12,081 Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS) and 4,205 Bio-floc units deployed to conserve freshwater and boost per-hectare productivity.
 - **Digital Integration:** Launch of the **National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP)** under

PM-MKSSY to establish a formal registry for informal value-chain workers.

- **Exam Relevance:**
 - Target: Blue Revolution targets, per-capita fish consumption metrics, GS-III Agriculture & Food Processing.

3. Economics & Banking

Ministry Updates Implementation Metrics for PM-PRANAM Initiative

- **Context:** The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers issued revised implementation targets for the **PM-PRANAM** (PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth) scheme.
- **Mechanism:**
 - Grants are provided directly to State Governments based on their success in reducing chemical fertilizer consumption (Urea, DAP, NPK) compared to the 3-year average baseline.
 - 50% of the subsidy savings achieved by a State are passed back as a central financial grant for local bio-fertilizer infrastructure and organic nutrient distribution.
- **Exam Relevance:**
 - Banking & Economics: Direct Benefit Transfer in agriculture, fiscal deficit management in fertilizer subsidies.

4. Defense News

DRDO Unveils Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) Framework

- **Context:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) deployed a post-quantum encryption algorithm designed to secure India's critical military defense communications and

national financial gateways against quantum decryption attacks.

- **Technical Highlights:**
 - Standard public-key encryption (RSA, ECC) can be broken by high-qubit quantum computers.
 - DRDO's new lattice-based cryptographic algorithms protect command, control, and intelligence networks as well as core banking networks against future quantum risks.
- **Exam Relevance:**
 - Static GK: DRDO Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat | Headquarters: New Delhi.

5. Sports News

Dhiraj Bommadevara Wins Historic Gold at Archery World Cup Final 2026

- **Context:** At Saltillo, Mexico, 25-year-old Indian Army archer **Dhiraj Bommadevara** became the **first Indian male recurve archer** to win an individual Gold medal at the Archery World Cup Final.
- **Details:**
 - Defeated Japan's Nakanishi Junya in a shoot-off after a 5-5 set score tie.
 - Becomes only the second Indian archer ever (after Dola Banerjee in women's recurve in 2007) to win an individual World Cup Final title.

India Wins 8th Women's T20 Asia Cup Title

- **Context:** India's women's cricket team defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the final at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.
- **Key Details:**
 - **India Score:** 183/5 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 68 off 39, Smriti Mandhana 59).

- **Sri Lanka Score:** 111 all out (Shree Charani 4/20, Deepti Sharma 3/19).
- **Player of the Match:** Shafali Verma.

US Open 2026: Elena Rybakina Wins Women's Singles Title

- **Context:** Kazakhstan's **Elena Rybakina** defeated Belarus's Aryna Sabalenka (6-4, 5-7, 6-2) at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York to claim the US Open Women's Singles title.

India Clinches Men's Junior Asia Cup Hockey Title

- **Context:** In Moqi, China, the Indian Men's Junior Hockey team defeated South Korea 4-1 in the final to successfully defend their Junior Asia Cup crown.

6. Important Days & Anniversaries

World Sepsis Day – 13 September

- **Significance:** Observed annually on September 13 to raise global awareness about sepsis—a medical emergency caused by an organ-threatening immune response to infection.
- **Organizer:** Global Sepsis Alliance (GSA).

Martyrdom Anniversary of Freedom Fighter Jatindra Nath Das (Jatin Das)

- **Historical Event:** On **13 September 1929**, revolutionary freedom fighter Jatin Das passed away in Lahore Central Jail after a historic **63-day hunger strike** demanding equal rights and humane treatment for Indian political prisoners.
- **Key Fact for Exams:** Associated with the Revolutionary movement alongside Bhagat Singh and the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).

Daily Current Affairs Practice Questions (MCQs)

Question 1 (Sports)

Who among the following became the first Indian male recurve archer to win an individual Gold medal at the Archery World Cup Final in Saltillo, Mexico?

- A) Atanu Das
- B) Dhiraj Bommadevara
- C) Tarundeep Rai
- D) Pravin Jadhav

Answer: B) Dhiraj Bommadevara

Explanation: Dhiraj Bommadevara scripted history by becoming the first Indian male recurve archer to win an individual Gold at the Archery World Cup Final (2026, Saltillo, Mexico) after defeating Japan's Nakanishi Junya in a shoot-off.

Question 2 (International News & Summits)

What was the central theme of the 18th BRICS Summit hosted in New Delhi?

- A) Foster Partnerships for Global Stability and Mutual Growth
- B) Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability
- C) Inclusive Growth in a Digital Economy
- D) Sustainable Development through South-South Cooperation

Answer: B) Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability

Explanation: The 18th BRICS Summit was held in New Delhi on 12-13 September 2026 under India's chairship with this exact theme, culminating in the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration.

Question 3 (Defense & Security)

Which national research organization recently deployed a new Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) framework to protect critical communication and financial networks from quantum computing attacks?

- A) ISRO
- B) C-DAC
- C) DRDO
- D) NIC

Answer: C) DRDO

Explanation: DRDO unveiled a lattice-based post-quantum cryptography framework designed to defend national defense communication links and core financial networks against advanced decryption threats.

Question 4 (Sports)

Which country's player won the US Open 2026 Women's Singles Tennis Title by defeating Aryna Sabalenka in the final?

- A) Poland (Iga Świątek)
- B) Kazakhstan (Elena Rybakina)
- C) USA (Coco Gauff)
- D) Czech Republic (Markéta Vondroušová)

Answer: B) Kazakhstan (Elena Rybakina)

Explanation: Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan defeated Belarus's Aryna Sabalenka (6-4, 5-7, 6-2) at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York to claim the Women's Singles crown.

Question 5 (History / Important Days)

Freedom fighter Jatindra Nath Das (Jatin Das), who passed away on 13 September 1929, sacrificed his life after a hunger strike of how many days in Lahore Jail?

- A) 21 days

- B) 50 days
- C) 63 days
- D) 116 days

Answer: C) 63 days

Explanation: Revolutionary leader Jatin Das died on 13 September 1929 after a continuous 63-day hunger strike in Lahore Jail demanding equality and political status for Indian prisoners.

Section 1: International News

Q1. The 18th BRICS Summit held in New Delhi on 12-13 September 2026 concluded with the formal adoption of which landmark document focusing on global governance and sustainable development?

- [A] New Delhi Declaration
- [B] Bharat Infrastructure Pact
- [C] Global South Climate Accord
- [D] BRICS Prosperity Charter

Correct Answer: [A] New Delhi Declaration

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit on September 12-13, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, under the theme of fostering inclusive global growth and sustainable development.
- **Key Highlights:** The member nations adopted the **New Delhi Declaration**, achieving consensus despite geopolitical divergence in West Asia. The declaration emphasizes:
 1. Urgent structural reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and Bretton Woods institutions.
 2. Mitigation of supply-chain disruptions, opposition to unilateral coercive trade

measures, and support for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

3. Development of sustainable transport infrastructure and promoting Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) to combat climate change.

- **Exam Relevance:** High probability in UPSC Prelims (GS-2: International Groupings) and SSC/Banking GA sections.

Q2. During his address at the 18th BRICS Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged member states to draft 10 global governance proposals to transform the bloc from "rule-takers to rule-shapers," specifically targeting which systemic issue?

- [A] The "Pyramid of Privilege" in global institutions
- [B] The monopoly of Western petrodollars
- [C] Tariff disparities under the WTO
- [D] Unilateral space exploration rights

Correct Answer: [A] The "Pyramid of Privilege" in global institutions

Detailed Explanation:

- **Background:** Address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the open session of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi.
- **Key Points:**
 - PM Modi called for dismantling the historical "Pyramid of Privilege" in international bodies such as the UN, IMF, and World Bank, replacing it with an equitable "Platform of Partnership."
 - He warned against the growing "weaponisation of technology and critical minerals," which threatens supply chain security and equitable growth across the Global South.

- India proposed establishing a BRICS Critical Minerals Resilience Framework to safeguard green energy transitions.

Q3. Under Article 127 of the Rome Statute governing the International Criminal Court (ICC), what is the legal effect of a member state's formal withdrawal on ongoing investigations?

- [A] All ongoing investigations and legal proceedings are immediately annulled.
- [B] The ICC loses jurisdiction over crimes committed prior to the notice date.
- [C] Withdrawal does not affect the state's duty to cooperate with investigations initiated prior to the exit date.
- [D] The UN Security Council automatically assumes judicial oversight over the state.

Correct Answer: [C] Withdrawal does not affect the state's duty to cooperate with investigations initiated prior to the exit date

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Recent geopolitical debates regarding state withdrawals from international treaties (e.g., discussions surrounding West African nations and historic precedent from the Philippines).
- **Legal Mechanism:** Article 127 of the Rome Statute explicitly stipulates that a state's withdrawal takes effect one year after notification. Crucially, withdrawal does not discharge the state from financial obligations or discharge its duty to cooperate with criminal investigations and proceedings that commenced prior to the effective withdrawal date.
- **Exam Relevance:** Essential for UPSC GS-2 Polity/International Organizations and Law optional.

Section 2: National News

Q4. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs recently deferred the Conduct of Census operations in which northeastern state, citing ongoing ethnic sensitivities and demands for an NRC with 1951 as the base year?

- [A] Nagaland
- [B] Manipur
- [C] Mizoram
- [D] Assam

Correct Answer: [B] Manipur

Detailed Explanation:

- **News Breakdown:** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced a postponement of demographic data collection for the Census in Manipur.
- **Key Reasons:**
 1. Widespread ethnic tension between Kuki-Zomi and Meitei communities.
 2. Demands from various civil society organizations for the implementation of a National Register of Citizens (NRC) based on the **1951 baseline** to identify illegal immigration before conducting census counts.
- **Constitutional Angle:** The Census falls under the Union List (Entry 69, Schedule VII) and is executed under the Census Act, 1948.

Q5. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) issued formal summons to executives of which social media giant following investigations into child exploitation ad algorithms?

- [A] ByteDance (TikTok)
- [B] Meta Platforms Inc. (Instagram)
- [C] X Corp (Twitter)

- [D] Snap Inc.

Correct Answer: [B] Meta Platforms Inc. (Instagram)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Taking suo motu cognizance of international investigative reports, NCPCR summoned Meta senior executives regarding systemic child online safety failures.
- **Issues Raised:** Recommendations of inappropriate advertisements and algorithmic exposure of minors to Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).
- **Regulatory Body:** NCPCR is a statutory body established under the **Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005**, operating under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Section 3: Economics & Banking

Q6. The Parliament enacted the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026, to modernize financial evidence handling. Which colonial-era law did this new legislation replace?

- [A] Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- [B] Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891
- [C] Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881
- [D] Indian Evidence Act, 1872

Correct Answer: [B] Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891

Detailed Explanation:

- **Legislative Update:** The Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026, formally repeals the 135-year-old **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891**.
- **Key Features:**
 - Legally recognizes cloud-stored financial databases, blockchain transaction logs, and



digital core-banking system (CBS) printouts as primary legal evidence without requiring manual physical ledger verification.

- Aligns judicial procedures with the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023.
- **Exam Relevance:** Direct question target for IBPS PO, SBI PO, and SSC CGL General Awareness.

Q7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently proposed a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) allowing commercial banks to implement temporary debit holds on accounts suspected of cyber fraud. What are these fraudulent accounts commonly called?

- [A] Shell Accounts
- [B] Money-Mule Accounts
- [C] Dormant Accounts
- [D] Escrow Accounts

Correct Answer: [B] Money-Mule Accounts

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** To curb cyber-financial crimes and mule networks, RBI introduced an SOP for instant debit freezing on flagged suspicious accounts.
- **What is a Money Mule?** A person who transfers illegally gained money on behalf of others, often knowingly or unknowingly acting as a conduit for cybercriminals to launder stolen funds.
- **Mechanism:** Banks can apply a targeted temporary debit freeze (allowing incoming credits but halting withdrawals) upon receiving real-time alerts from the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP).

Q8. According to official economic figures, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate for the first quarter of FY27 (Q1 FY27:

April-June 2026) was recorded at which percentage?

- [A] 6.5%
- [B] 7.2%
- [C] 7.8%
- [D] 8.1%

Correct Answer: [C] 7.8%

Detailed Explanation:

- **Data Release:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) data released for Q1 FY27 shows India's GDP grew by 7.8%.
- **Drivers:** Robust capital expenditure by the central government, expansion in manufacturing services, and resilient domestic private consumption.
- **Significance:** The 7.8% growth comfortably exceeded projections by the IMF and World Bank, cementing India's status as the fastest-growing major global economy.

Section 4: Defense News

Q9. The 2026 edition of the annual bilateral joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' was conducted between the Indian Army and the army of which country?

- [A] United Kingdom
- [B] France
- [C] United States
- [D] Australia

Correct Answer: [C] United States

Detailed Explanation:

- **Exercise Details:** Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 is the 22nd edition of the annual joint tactical exercise between the Indian Army and the US Army.



- **Focus Area:** Enhancing interoperability, counter-terrorism operations under UN mandate, complex heliborne operations, and modern drone warfare tactics in high-altitude environments.
- **Exam Relevance:** Standard military exercise question for RRB, SSC, and Defense exams (CDS/NDA).

Q10. Which organization developed the Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) framework recently unveiled to shield India's military communications and financial grids from quantum computing attacks?

- [A] ISRO
- [B] DRDO
- [C] C-DAC
- [D] NIC

Correct Answer: [B] DRDO

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Detailed Explanation:

- **Breakthrough:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched a national quantum encryption protocol.
- **Importance:** Standard public-key encryption (like RSA/ECC) will become vulnerable once fault-tolerant quantum computers emerge. DRDO's mathematical lattice-based algorithm ensures communications remain secure against future quantum decryption threats.

Q11. Russia recently unveiled the 'S-71K Kovyor' stealth air-launched cruise missile, designed specifically to fit into the internal weapons bay of which fifth-generation fighter jet?

- [A] MiG-35
- [B] Su-35S

- [C] Su-57E
- [D] Tu-160M

Correct Answer: [C] Su-57E

Detailed Explanation:

- **Technical Highlights:** The S-71K Kovyor (Carpet) is an air-launched stealth missile developed by Russia's Sukhoi Design Bureau.
- **Design Feature:** It features trapezoidal folding wings designed specifically to fit inside the internal armament bay of the Su-57E stealth fighter to maintain radar invisibility.

Section 5: Government Schemes

Q12. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers released updated implementation metrics for the PM-PRANAM scheme. What does 'PRANAM' stand for in this flagship scheme?

- [A] Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth
- [B] Prime Minister's Scheme for Rural Agricultural Advancement and Management
- [C] Promotion of Organic Resilient Agriculture and Natural Ammonium Management
- [D] Program for Rationalization of Agricultural Nitrogen and Market Access

Correct Answer: [A] Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth

Detailed Explanation:

- **Objective:** PM-PRANAM aims to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers (like Urea and DAP) and promote alternative organic fertilizers.

- **Financial Model:** The scheme carries no separate budget allocation. Instead, 50% of the subsidy savings achieved by a State/UT through reduced chemical fertilizer consumption is passed back to that State as a grant for sustainable agriculture assets.

Q13. Which state government announced the month-long 'SevaSankalp Campaign 2026' (17 September to 17 October) to ensure 100% saturation of welfare schemes at the doorstep?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh
- [B] Uttarakhand
- [C] Himachal Pradesh
- [D] Rajasthan

Correct Answer: [B] Uttarakhand

Detailed Explanation:

- **State Initiative:** The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand launched 'SevaSankalp 2026'.
- **Scope:** District administration camps will be established across rural and remote hilly blocks to process pension applications, land record rectifications, health insurance cards (Ayushman), and grievance redressals in a time-bound manner.

Q14. Under the amended Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, e-commerce platforms must evaluate price history over how many preceding days to establish the true "prior price" when offering discounts?

- [A] 15 days
- [B] 30 days
- [C] 60 days
- [D] 90 days

Correct Answer: [B] 30 days

Detailed Explanation:

- **Regulatory Update:** The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) amended rules to curb "dark patterns" and artificial price inflation prior to festive sales.
- **Rule:** Sellers cannot claim "50% OFF" by artificially raising prices a day before the sale. The "original/prior price" must reflect the lowest price at which the product was offered for sale during the preceding 30 days.

Section 6: MoUs & Agreements

Q15. Under which collaborative bilateral framework have India and the United States expanded partnerships to build secure undersea fiber-optic cable networks across the Indo-Pacific?

- [A] COMPACT Initiative
- [B] INDUS-X Initiative
- [C] I2U2 Grouping
- [D] Quad Infrastructure Mechanism

Correct Answer: [A] COMPACT Initiative

Detailed Explanation:

- **MoU Focus:** India and the US formalized agreements under the **COMPACT Initiative** (Cooperation on Marine Subsea Protection & Advanced Cable Technology).
- **Strategic Objective:** Securing undersea internet infrastructure against physical sabotage, data interception, and ensuring redundant global digital routing away from single-monopoly choke points.

Q16. Which Indian private space technology enterprise signed a strategic commercial agreement with Safran Space to integrate satellite propulsion systems for India's SBS-III programme?

- [A] Skyroot Aerospace

- [B] Dhruva Space
- [C] Pixxel
- [D] Agnikul Cosmos

Correct Answer: [B] Dhruva Space

Detailed Explanation:

- **Partnership:** Hyderabad-based space tech firm **Dhruva Space** partnered with French aerospace giant Safran Space.
- **Context:** The agreement covers propulsion and satellite bus technology integration for the Space-Based Surveillance Phase-3 (SBS-III) programme, bolstering national defense observation assets.

Section 7: Appointments

Q17. Who was recently appointed as the President of the African Union (AU) who represented the continental body at the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi?

- [A] Azali Assoumani
- [B] Évariste Ndayishimiye
- [C] Cyril Ramaphosa
- [D] William Ruto

Correct Answer: [B] Évariste Ndayishimiye

Detailed Explanation:

- **News Event:** President of Burundi and Chairperson of the African Union, **Évariste Ndayishimiye**, held key bilateral meetings with PM Modi during the 18th BRICS Summit.
- **Key Outcome:** Agreed on early hosting of the 4th India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV) and underscored the inclusion of AU into global forums.

Q18. Who was appointed as the new Managing Director and CEO of the National Asset

Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL - India's Bad Bank) in September 2026?

- [A] Michael Patra
- [B] Sanjeev Nautiyal
- [C] P Santosh
- [D] Dinesh Kumar Khara

Correct Answer: [C] P Santosh

Detailed Explanation:

- **Appointment Context:** Senior banker P Santosh assumed charge as MD & CEO of NARCL.
- **NARCL Role:** NARCL is a specialized Asset Reconstruction Company incorporated under the Companies Act and licensed by RBI to aggregate stressed non-performing assets (NPAs) above ₹500 crore from commercial banks.

Section 8: Awards & Honors

Q19. Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Dipak Misra was conferred with which prestigious state honor at a public ceremony in Cuttack in September 2026?

- [A] Sarala Samman
- [B] Kalinga Ratna Award
- [C] Odisha Vibhushan
- [D] Utkal Gaurav Samman

Correct Answer: [B] Kalinga Ratna Award

Detailed Explanation:

- **Award:** Former CJI Dipak Misra received the **Kalinga Ratna Award 2026** at Cuttack.
- **Background:** Conferred annually by the Cuttack Samaj for distinguished national contributions in law, constitutional reforms, and public jurisprudence. Justice Misra authored landmark judgments including the

decriminalization of Section 377 and the Navtej Singh Johar ruling.

Q20. Which state cricket association decided to name three grandstands/lounges at its international stadium after Sachin Tendulkar, Ajinkya Rahane, and Madhav Mantri?

- [A] Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
- [B] Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA)
- [C] Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA)
- [D] Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA)

Correct Answer: [B] Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Honor:** The Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) approved naming prominent stadium enclosures after Indian cricket stalwarts Sachin Tendulkar, Ajinkya Rahane, and former wicketkeeper-administrator Madhav Mantri.

Section 9: Sports

Q21. Who won her maiden individual title on the World Archery Para Series circuit in the women's compound event held in Ahmedabad in September 2026?

- [A] Bhawna
- [B] Sheetal Devi
- [C] Harvinder Kaur
- [D] Jyoti Baliyan

Correct Answer: [B] Sheetal Devi

Detailed Explanation:

- **Achievement:** Armless archer and Paralympic medalist **Sheetal Devi** clinched

her first individual gold on the World Archery Para Series circuit in Ahmedabad.

- **Significance:** She defeated top-ranked international competitors using her foot-release shooting technique, securing maximum ranking points for international para-archery standings.

Q22. Which country won the 2026 SAFF Under-17 Women's Championship title held in Dhaka?

- [A] India
- [B] Bangladesh
- [C] Nepal
- [D] Bhutan

Correct Answer: [A] India

Detailed Explanation:

- **Sports Digest:** The Indian U-17 Women's Football team defeated Bangladesh in the final to lift the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U-17 Championship trophy.

Section 10: Books & Authors

Q23. The book titled "Transforming Governance: From Rules to Results", released during the BRICS Academic Forum, is authored by whom?

- [A] Shashi Tharoor
- [B] Dr. S. Jaishankar
- [C] Arvind Panagariya
- [D] Bibek Debroy

Correct Answer: [B] Dr. S. Jaishankar

Detailed Explanation:

- **Book Release:** External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar's latest published work analyzes the shift in India's diplomatic posture and administrative frameworks towards

outcome-driven governance in global forums.

Q24. Who is the author of the recently released book titled "The Silk Routes of the Deccan: Trade and Power in Medieval South India"?

- [A] William Dalrymple
- [B] Manu S. Pillai
- [C] Sanjeev Sanyal
- [D] Ramachandra Guha

Correct Answer: [B] Manu S. Pillai

Detailed Explanation:

- **Literature Note:** Renowned historian Manu S. Pillai authored this new history volume examining maritime trade connections between the Deccan sultanates, Ming China, and Arab ports during the 14th–16th centuries.

Section 11: Important Days

Q25. National Forest Martyrs' Day is commemorated on 11 September every year. In which year did the historic Khejarli massacre (associated with Bishnoi martyr Amrita Devi) take place?

- [A] 1707
- [B] 1730
- [C] 1757
- [D] 1857

Correct Answer: [B] 1730

Detailed Explanation:

- **Historical Event:** On September 11, 1730, in Khejarli village (Jodhpur, Rajasthan), **Amrita Devi Bishnoi** and 362 other members of the Bishnoi community sacrificed their lives hugging Khejri trees to protect them from being felled by the Maharaja's soldiers.

- **Commemoration:** In 2013, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change officially declared September 11 as National Forest Martyrs' Day.

Q26. The United Nations annually observes the 'International Day for South-South Cooperation' on which date?

- [A] 8 September
- [B] 12 September
- [C] 15 September
- [D] 21 September

Correct Answer: [B] 12 September

Detailed Explanation:

- **UN Day:** September 12 marks the **International Day for South-South Cooperation**.
- **Significance:** Commemorates the adoption of the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

Section 12: Art & Culture

Q27. The classical Tamil ethical treatise Thirukkural, authored by Thiruvalluvar, defines the concept of the Supreme Being primarily as:

- [A] An authoritative judge demanding strict caste adherence
- [B] Pure intelligence (Arivu) and universal compassion (Arul)
- [C] A deity residing solely inside temple precincts
- [D] A ritualistic sovereign requiring sacrificial offerings

Correct Answer: [B] Pure intelligence (Arivu) and universal compassion (Arul)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Cultural Context:** In recent literary seminars on classical Indian philosophy, Thirukkural was highlighted for its non-denominational approach to divinity.
- **Core Philosophy:** Thiruvalluvar presents God not as a sectarian figure, but as the embodiment of **Athanavan / Pure Consciousness and Moral Virtue**, transcending ritualistic religious barriers.

Q28. A recent scientific study published on Himalayan geology revealed that rapid erosion causes the oxidation of which mineral, triggering hidden CO_2 release into the atmosphere?

- [A] Bauxite
- [B] Pyrite
- [C] Hematite
- [D] Gypsum

Correct Answer: [B] Pyrite

Detailed Explanation:

- **Environmental Discovery:** Research published in Earth Science journals revealed that accelerated Himalayan erosion exposes **Pyrite (FeS_2)**.
- **Mechanism:** Sulfuric acid produced by pyrite oxidation reacts with surrounding carbonate rocks, releasing CO_2 gas into the atmosphere and partially offsetting long-term silicate-weathering cooling effects.

Section 13: Festivals

Q29. 'Nuakhai', the prominent agrarian harvest festival celebrated to offer the season's first batch of harvested paddy (Nabanna) to Deity Samaleswari, is primarily celebrated in which state?

- [A] West Bengal
- [B] Odisha

- [C] Assam
- [D] Jharkhand

Correct Answer: [B] Odisha

Detailed Explanation:

- **Cultural Digest:** Nuakhai (Nua = New, Khai = Food) is an ancient harvest festival celebrated across Western Odisha and adjoining areas of Chhattisgarh.
- **Tradition:** Farmers offer Nabanna (newly harvested rice mixed with milk and sugar) to Goddess Samaleswari in Sambalpur before consuming it as a community.

Section 14: Birth & Death Anniversaries

Q30. September 13 marks the death anniversary of freedom fighter Jatindra Nath Das (Jatin Das). In 1929, he achieved martyrdom in Lahore Jail after a hunger strike lasting how many days?

- [A] 45 days
- [B] 52 days
- [C] 63 days
- [D] 116 days

Correct Answer: [C] 63 days

Detailed Explanation:

- **Historic Tribute:** Revolutionist Jatin Das passed away on **13 September 1929** in Lahore Central Jail.
- **Context:** A member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), he joined Bhagat Singh and comrades in an indefinite hunger strike demanding equal treatment for Indian political prisoners vs. British prisoners.
- **Martyrdom:** He died on the **63rd day** of his fast, inspiring widespread national youth uprisings across India.