

National News

Q1. Recently, which Union Territory/State's town was selected among the first in India to develop a specialized "Street Food Hub" under the PM SVANidhi initiative to promote local cuisine and tourism?

- A) Leh, Ladakh
- B) Lakhanpur, Jammu & Kashmir
- C) Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- D) Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Answer: B) Lakhanpur, Jammu & Kashmir

Detailed Explanation: In July 2026, Lakhanpur in the Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir was chosen as one of the pioneering towns in India for the development of an official Street Food Hub. This project falls under the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) initiative managed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Announcing the project, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that it will feature two primary clusters in the Lakhanpur Market dedicated to promoting traditional Dogra cuisine, generating employment for street vendors, and boosting local tourism.

Q2. As of July 2026, India's retail inflation (Consumer Price Index) for the month of June 2026 was officially recorded at what percentage?

- A) 3.93%
- B) 4.38%
- C) 5.32%
- D) 4.85%

Answer: B) 4.38%

Detailed Explanation: Official government data released in July 2026 revealed that India's retail inflation, calculated on the Consumer Price

Index (CPI), rose to 4.38% in June 2026 from 3.93% in May. The rise was heavily driven by a surge in food inflation, which climbed to 5.32% in June compared to 4.78% in May. Monitoring CPI data is crucial for banking and UPSC aspirants as it directly influences the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monetary policy decisions.

Q3. The Supreme Court of India recently stayed a High Court order that directed a complete statewide prohibition on the slaughter of cows and calves. Which state's High Court order was stayed?

- A) Allahabad High Court
- B) Madras High Court
- C) Bombay High Court
- D) Kerala High Court

Answer: B) Madras High Court

Detailed Explanation: On July 13, 2026, the Supreme Court of India stayed a previous order passed on May 27 by the Madras High Court, which had directed the Tamil Nadu government to enforce a blanket ban on cow and calf slaughter across the state. The apex court bench noted that the High Court's directions ran contrary to the statutory provisions of the Tamil Nadu Animal Preservation Act, 1958, which legally permits regulated slaughter under predefined conditions.

Q4. Under which newly enacted statutory law did the Supreme Court ask the Union Government to present rules regarding volatile airfares and predatory airline pricing?

- A) Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024
- B) Aircraft Regulation Act, 2025
- C) Digital Civil Aviation Code, 2026
- D) Bharatiya Transport Samhita, 2024

Answer: A) Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024



Detailed Explanation: The Supreme Court of India directed the Central Government to place on record the newly framed aviation rules under the **Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024**. The court issued this order during hearings aimed at checking predatory pricing, sudden fare hikes, and unmitigated volatility in civil aviation ticket pricing, emphasizing public interest and fair market practices.

International News

Q5. In July 2026, the United States military carried out a series of heavy airstrikes on which strategic Middle Eastern nation, prompting missile alerts across neighboring Bahrain?

- A) Yemen
- B) Iran
- C) Syria
- D) Lebanon

Answer: B) Iran

Detailed Explanation: Tensions in West Asia flared up significantly when the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) launched three consecutive nights of heavy military strikes targeting assets in southern Iran (including Bushehr). In retaliation, Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) executed drone and missile counter-strikes targeting facilities linked to U.S. logistical operations in Bahrain, triggering emergency sirens across Bahrain.

Q6. Which global leader recently criticized a proposed U.S. plan to charge a 20% maritime security fee on international cargo transiting the Strait of Hormuz, calling it an act of "piracy"?

- A) Emmanuel Macron (France)
- B) Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (Brazil)
- C) Narendra Modi (India)
- D) Shigeru Ishiba (Japan)

Answer: B) Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (Brazil)

Detailed Explanation: Following U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement to enforce a blockade on Iranian shipping and impose a 20% transit levy on cargo traversing the Strait of Hormuz to offset American maritime security costs, Brazilian President Lula da Silva publicly condemned the strategy. He claimed that imposing arbitrary financial tolls on an internationally recognized free-passage waterway essentially transforms a nation into a "pirate state".

Q7. The European Union (EU) recently coordinated a major international donor meeting in Brussels, securing an initial commitment of how much funding for the "early recovery" efforts in war-torn Gaza?

- A) \$500 million
- B) \$1 billion
- C) \$2.5 billion
- D) \$5 billion

Answer: B) \$1 billion

Detailed Explanation: In July 2026, the EU Commissioner for the Mediterranean, Dubravka Šuica, announced at a Brussels summit that European and international donors had pledged roughly €900 million (equivalent to **\$1 billion**) to establish immediate ground-level recovery operations in Gaza. The funds are aimed at basic infrastructure, medical access, and early humanitarian stability.

Q8. A South Korean court recently sentenced which former President to two years in prison over violations concerning political funding laws?

- A) Moon Jae-in
- B) Yoon Suk Yeol
- C) Park Geun-hye



D) Lee Myung-bak

Answer: B) Yoon Suk Yeol

Detailed Explanation: In July 2026, the Seoul Central District Court found former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol guilty of violating political funding laws. He was sentenced to two years in prison for illegally accepting free opinion-polling services worth 270 million won (\$179,800) from a political broker, and subsequently using his political position to influence candidate nominations as a quid-pro-quo repayment.

Economics & Banking

Q9. Which Indian academic institution recently launched the 'Atal Incubation Centre' (AIC-CIF) with an earmarked investment of ₹20 crores to boost deep-tech and drone startups?

A) IIT Madras

B) Chitkara University, Punjab

C) Amity University

D) BITS Pilani

Answer: B) Chitkara University, Punjab

Detailed Explanation: Chitkara University in Punjab operationalized its Atal Incubation Centre-Chitkara Incubation Foundation (AIC-CIF) along with the AIC-PRIDE Labs. Backed by NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a collective funding structure of ₹20 crores spanning over 5 years has been deployed to bolster Indian deep-tech innovations, focusing primarily on Agritech, Drone Technologies, and Renewable Energy systems.

Q10. As per the financial reports released in July 2026, which Singaporean banking giant achieved a historic milestone by crossing \$200 billion in market capitalization?

A) OCBC Bank

B) United Overseas Bank (UOB)

C) DBS Bank

D) Standard Chartered SG

Answer: C) DBS Bank

Detailed Explanation: Driven by strong earnings optimism and favorable macroeconomic conditions across Southeast Asia, **DBS Bank** successfully breached the **\$200 billion market capitalization** mark in July 2026. This milestone solidifies its position as one of the most valuable financial institutions in Asia and a dominant banking force globally.

Awards & Honors

Q11. Who was felicitated with the prestigious 'Fortune India Most Powerful Women (MPW)' honour at a high-profile ceremony held in Mumbai in July 2026?

A) Roshni Nadar Malhotra

B) Nita Ambani

C) Falguni Nayar

D) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Answer: B) Nita Ambani

Detailed Explanation: Nita Ambani, the founder and chairperson of the Reliance Foundation, was honored with the **Fortune India Most Powerful Women (MPW)** award in Mumbai. She received the recognition for her extensive contributions to institution-building, sports development, arts promotion, and inclusive healthcare/education models across rural and urban India.

Q12. In the Fortune India Most Powerful Women (MPW) 2026 rankings, which business leader secured the second rank right after the top spot?

A) Savitri Jindal

B) Roshni Nadar

C) Shobana Kamineni

D) Arundhati Bhattacharya

Answer: B) Roshni Nadar

Detailed Explanation: Following Nita Ambani on the leaderboard, **Roshni Nadar**, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HCL Technologies, clinched the 2nd position in the Fortune India MPW rankings. The Apollo Hospital's 'Reddy Sisters' collectively held the 3rd rank, and steel tycoon Savitri Jindal was placed further up in the elite top-5 bracket.

Defense News

Q13. The Indian Navy recently commissioned its sixth indigenous Project-17A stealth frigate into the Eastern Fleet. What is the name of this advanced warship?

- A) INS Nilgiri
- B) INS Himgiri
- C) INS Mahendragiri
- D) INS Taragiri

Answer: C) INS Mahendragiri

Detailed Explanation: The Indian Navy formally commissioned the stealth frigate **INS Mahendragiri (Pennant F38)** into its Eastern Fleet (famously nicknamed the 'Sunrise Fleet'). Constructed as the sixth vessel under the sophisticated Project-17A (Nilgiri-class), this warship significantly amplifies India's maritime combat capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region, aligning perfectly with the overarching **MAHASAGAR** security vision.

Q14. President Emmanuel Macron announced that France has officially signed a roadmap allowing which nation to locally license and produce French-designed cruise missiles and air defense interceptors?

- A) India
- B) Ukraine

C) Armenia

D) UAE

Answer: B) Ukraine

Detailed Explanation: Following a high-level summit of 25 world leaders in Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron announced a landmark defense roadmap allowing **Ukraine** to locally manufacture French-engineered cruise missiles, precision-guided bombs, and air-defense interceptor missiles. This follows Kyiv's massive orders for next-generation Rafale fighter jets and Franco-Italian surface-to-air defense systems.

Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

Q15. Which two Indian organizations signed an MoU in July 2026 to execute India's largest-ever village-level telecom network performance survey?

- A) BSNL and NITI Aayog
- B) Department of Posts (DoP) and TRAI
- C) Ministry of Electronics & IT and Reliance Jio
- D) CDOT and Digital India Corporation

Answer: B) Department of Posts (DoP) and TRAI

Detailed Explanation: The Department of Posts (DoP) and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) signed a historic 1-year MoU in New Delhi. Under this agreement, the vast network of postal on-ground staff will map and assess real-time mobile network performance across more than **5.68 lakh villages**. They will utilize a specialized Android-based tracking app developed by TRAI to check coverage for Jio, Airtel, Vi, and BSNL.

Q16. Which state government, along with BSNL and GFGNL, signed a crucial addendum with the 'Digital Bharat Nidhi' (DBN) to rapidly

implement the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP)?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Gujarat
- D) Karnataka

Answer: C) Gujarat

Detailed Explanation: In July 2026, the **Government of Gujarat**, along with Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited (GFGNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), signed a joint addendum with the newly modeled **Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)** (under the Department of Telecommunications). This agreement accelerates broadband connectivity across remote rural pockets of Gujarat under the Amended BharatNet Programme.

Sports

Q17. Who successfully defended his men's singles title at the Wimbledon Championships, defeating Alexander Zverev in the finals?

- A) Carlos Alcaraz
- B) Jannik Sinner
- C) Novak Djokovic
- D) Daniil Medvedev

Answer: B) Jannik Sinner

Detailed Explanation: In men's tennis, World No. 1 **Jannik Sinner** continued his dominant run by defeating Germany's Alexander Zverev to capture back-to-back Wimbledon singles titles. This victory solidifies his top standing in the ATP tennis rankings.

Q18. The international football community saw a phenomenal generation of young talent clashing in the high-voltage semi-finals of the ongoing FIFA tournament in July 2026. Which two European giants faced off?

- A) England and Germany
- B) France and Spain
- C) Italy and Portugal
- D) Netherlands and Croatia

Answer: B) France and Spain

Detailed Explanation: The line-up for the high-octane semi-final stage of the FIFA tournament features global powerhouses **France** and **Spain**. The matches have drawn intense public interest due to a refreshing tactical shift built around sensational young prodigies like Spain's Lamine Yamal and France's Michael Olise.

Appointments & Social Reformers

Q19. The Vice President of India recently unveiled a commemorative statue of Mannathu Padmanabhan in New Delhi. Padmanabhan was the iconic social reformer who founded which prominent organization?

- A) Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP)
- B) Nair Service Society (NSS)
- C) Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham
- D) Atma Vidya Sangham

Answer: B) Nair Service Society (NSS)

Detailed Explanation: In July 2026, the Vice President of India unveiled a statue dedicated to **Mannathu Padmanabhan** in New Delhi. Padmanabhan was a legendary social reformer from Kerala, recognized for fighting against untouchability and leading the structural transition of society. He famously founded the **Nair Service Society (NSS)** in 1914 to uplift education and social welfare.

Q20. Ali al-Zaidi, who recently visited Washington to manage crucial geopolitical balances, is the newly appointed Prime Minister of which nation?

- A) Iran
- B) Iraq
- C) Yemen
- D) Syria

Answer: B) Iraq

Detailed Explanation: Ali al-Zaidi is the newly appointed Prime Minister of Iraq. In mid-July 2026, he embarked on his first official international visit to Washington to meet the U.S. executive administration. His visit comes amid mounting pressure to reduce Iranian proxy influence within Iraq while protecting bilateral energy and oil ties.

Art, Culture & Festivals

Q21. Australia recently made headlines by voluntarily announcing the repatriation of three high-value ancient Indian historical artifacts. Among these is a granite Nandi sculpture belonging to which century?

- A) 5th–6th Century
- B) 8th–9th Century
- C) 11th–12th Century
- D) 15th Century

Answer: C) 11th–12th Century

Detailed Explanation: In an exemplary gesture of cultural diplomacy, Australia announced the voluntary repatriation of three invaluable antique artifacts back to India. These include a **granite Nandi sculpture** traced back to the **11th–12th century**, a bronze trident associated with Goddess Bhadrakali (11th Century), and a basalt sculpture representing the six-headed deity Skanda (Karttikeya) dating back to the 12th century.

Q22. The Hemis Festival, famous for its colorful sacred cham mask dances that illustrate the

victory of good over evil, is celebrated annually in which part of India?

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Ladakh
- C) Sikkim
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: B) Ladakh

Detailed Explanation: The Hemis Festival is one of Ladakh's most culturally significant monastic festivals. Celebrated at the historic Hemis Monastery, it commemorates the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava (the founder of Tibetan Buddhism). The festival draws thousands of tourists globally to witness the mystic Cham mask dances accompanied by traditional horns and drums.

Q23. The world-famous Rath Yatra (Chariot Festival), which takes place annually around June–July, is dedicated to Lord Jagannath in which historical coastal city of India?

- A) Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
- B) Puri, Odisha
- C) Hampi, Karnataka
- D) Madurai, Tamil Nadu

Answer: B) Puri, Odisha

Detailed Explanation: The annual Jagannath Rath Yatra originates from the historic temple town of Puri, Odisha. Millions of devotees gather to pull three massive, beautifully decorated wooden chariots carrying Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Goddess Subhadra to the Gundicha Temple. It represents a pillar of East Indian cultural heritage.

Important Days & Anniversaries

Q24. India declared a full day of National Mourning on July 13, 2026, flying the national flag at half-mast, following the demise of which

country's former ruler, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani?

- A) UAE
- B) Oman
- C) Qatar
- D) Kuwait

Answer: C) Qatar

Detailed Explanation: The Government of India declared a one-day state mourning on July 13, 2026, as a mark of respect for the passing of **Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani**, the "Father Amir" of Qatar. He ruled Qatar from 1995 to 2013, overseeing immense economic modernization before voluntarily abdicating power to his son, the current ruler Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Q25. July 11 is observed globally every year as which of the following United Nations important days?

- A) World Environment Day
- B) World Population Day
- C) International Day of Yoga
- D) World Water Day

Answer: B) World Population Day

Detailed Explanation: **World Population Day** is observed annually on **July 11** to raise awareness about global population issues, family planning, gender equality, maternal health, and human rights. It was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989.

Q26. July 12 is celebrated internationally to honor the bravery and activism of a young Nobel Peace Prize laureate. What is this day known as?

- A) Malala Day
- B) Nelson Mandela Day

- C) Youth Empowerment Day
- D) Human Rights Literacy Day

Answer: A) Malala Day

Detailed Explanation: The United Nations designated **July 12** as **Malala Day** to honor Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate. The day coincides with her birthday and is used globally to advocate for every child's right to compulsory education.

Books & Authors

Q27. A newly released biographical study titled "The Social Architect: The Life and Legacy of Mannathu Padmanabhan" has gained traction following recent national events. Who is the central subject of this historical biography?

- A) A renowned economist from Bengal
- B) A visionary social reformer from Kerala
- C) A defense strategist of the Indian Army
- D) A classical musician from Uttar Pradesh

Answer: B) A visionary social reformer from Kerala

Detailed Explanation: Given the national focus on social reformer Mannathu Padmanabhan in July 2026 (following the unveiling of his statue by the Vice President), literature documenting his structural reforms, the Vaikom Satyagraha, and anti-caste mobilization has been widely discussed. He remains a prominent figure in modern Indian socio-religious history.

Q28. The famous historical book "The Discovery of India", which traces the rich cultural tapestry, art, philosophy, and socio-economic history of India from the Indus Valley Civilization to British rule, was authored by whom?

- A) Mahatma Gandhi
- B) Jawaharlal Nehru

- C) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
D) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

Answer: B) Jawaharlal Nehru

Detailed Explanation: Written by India's first Prime Minister, **Jawaharlal Nehru**, during his imprisonment (1942–1946) at Ahmednagar Fort, this book is highly regarded by UPSC and civil services aspirants for its deep analysis of Indian history, art, philosophy, and cultural synthesis.

Obits & Historical Anniversaries

Q29. On July 13, 2026, regional political leaders in Jammu & Kashmir protested against restrictions imposed around a cemetery where 22 civilians were buried following a historic uprising against the Dogra Monarchy. In which year did this uprising take place?

- A) 1919
B) 1931
C) 1947
D) 1857

Answer: B) 1931

Detailed Explanation: On July 13, 2026, significant political friction occurred in Srinagar when authorities barricaded a historic graveyard housing 22 civilians. These individuals were killed during the **July 13, 1931 uprising** against the Dogra monarchy. The day has historically been observed as Martyrs' Day in the region, making its anniversary a focal point for current political analysis.

Q30. The death anniversary of which legendary Maratha warrior king, who formally laid the foundations of the Maratha Empire and was crowned as Chhatrapati at Raigad Fort, is a frequent point of cultural commemoration in Indian history?

- A) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

- B) Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj
C) Baji Rao I
D) Balaji Baji Rao

Answer: A) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Detailed Explanation: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (who passed away in April 1680) is widely celebrated for his administrative reforms, progressive social policies, military strategy, and pioneering guerrilla warfare (Ganimi Kava). His birth anniversary (Shiv Jayanti) and historical milestones are frequently asked in state PSCs, SSC, and Railway history sections.