

Part 1: National & International News

Q1. According to the data released by the Election Commission of India (ECI) following its March 2026 assembly election notification, how many total voters are eligible to cast their franchise across the five legislative assemblies?

- A) 12.5 Crore
- B) 15.2 Crore
- C) 17.4 Crore
- D) 21.8 Crore

Answer: C) 17.4 Crore

Explanation:

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, during his formal press briefing, announced that a total of **17.4 crore voters** are officially eligible to participate in the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections across Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, and the Union Territory of Puducherry. These voters will elect a total of 824 MLAs. The ECI is deploying nearly 25 lakh election officials to manage 2.19 lakh polling stations, ensuring structural transparency and safety.

Q2. Amid the severe escalation of the West Asian war, which critical oil export hub did US President Donald Trump state that US forces had "totally demolished" via targeted air strikes?

- A) Kish Island
- B) Kharg Island
- C) Kishm Island
- D) Hormuz Island

Answer: B) Kharg Island

Explanation:

During a high-stakes interview with NBC News, US President Donald Trump confirmed that American precision air strikes had "totally demolished" most of the oil export infrastructure on **Kharg Island**, which is Iran's primary maritime oil terminal in the Persian Gulf. This action severely impacted global oil shipping networks and further increased energy security frictions, causing global crude supply lines to reroute away from the zone.

Q3. Following the US air operations in West Asia, which nation's General Civil Aviation Authority took the sudden, exceptional precautionary measure of closing its entire national airspace?

- A) Oman
- B) Saudi Arabia
- C) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- D) Qatar

Answer: C) United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Explanation:

The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** announced a temporary and total closure of its commercial and civilian national airspace. The UAE Ministry of Defence stated this was an exceptional precautionary measure taken to protect international aviation lines from incoming regional missile and drone threats originating from across the Persian Gulf.

Q4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi traveled on a high-profile state visit to Norway to participate in which multilateral summit?

- A) 1st Indo-Nordic Artificial Intelligence Alliance
- B) 3rd India-Nordic Summit
- C) Global Arctic Conservation Council 2026
- D) Indo-European Maritime Safety Council

Answer: B) 3rd India-Nordic Summit

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Oslo, Norway, to attend the **3rd India-Nordic Summit**. The high-level conference brings together heads of state from India, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland to establish strategic blueprints on green transition technologies, blue economy maritime frameworks, Arctic research cooperation, and digital public infrastructure (DPI) sharing models.

Q5. The Supreme Court of India took *suo motu* cognisance of reports regarding illegal sand mining threatening the ecology of the National Chambal Sanctuary. This sanctuary structurally lies at the unique geographic tri-junction of which three Indian states?

- A) Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan
- B) Rajasthan, Punjab, and Haryana
- C) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand
- D) Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat

Answer: A) Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan

Explanation:

The Supreme Court stepped in to protect the **National Chambal Sanctuary**, a critical tri-state riverine protected area that spans the borders of **Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan** along the Chambal River. This sanctuary is globally renowned for protecting critically endangered aquatic wildlife, specifically the Gharial (fish-eating crocodile), the Red-crowned roofed turtle, and the Ganges River Dolphin, all of which face severe habitat fragmentation due to illegal riverbed sand extraction.

Q6. What primary structural vulnerability caused the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to fast-track plans for launching indigenous replacement satellites for its NavIC (IRNSS) regional navigation constellation?

- A) The complete failure of its solar panel arrays
- B) Sudden atmospheric drag burning down the satellite fuel tanks
- C) The hardware operational failure of onboard atomic clocks
- D) Severe space-debris collisions destroying the communication payload

Answer: C) The hardware operational failure of onboard atomic clocks

Explanation:

The regional navigation capability of India's indigenous **NavIC (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System)** constellation faced technical issues due to the hardware failure of imported rubidium **atomic clocks** onboard certain older orbiting satellites. Atomic clocks provide the hyper-precise nanosecond time-stamping required to calculate exact locations on Earth. To preserve national defense mapping autonomy, ISRO has initiated immediate replacement strategies utilizing indigenously developed space-qualified atomic clocks.

Part 2: Economics & Banking

Q7. Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan, in a widely cited economic briefing, countered popular narratives by stating that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will not instantly destroy which sector?

- A) Unskilled blue-collar manual labor
- B) Traditional deep-sea fishing
- C) White-collar professional jobs

D) Heavy locomotive manufacturing

Answer: C) White-collar professional jobs

Explanation:

Economist Raghuram Rajan highlighted that while generative AI tools are progressing quickly, **AI will not destroy white-collar corporate and professional jobs as rapidly as predicted.** He argued that human judgment, complex oversight, situational empathy, and institutional accountability will remain vital, meaning AI will function more as a productivity booster than an immediate human replacement in formal economic sectors.

Q8. The Government of India released a major comprehensive industrial White Paper. What was the central focus area of this strategic document?

- A) Upgrading old jute processing plants in West Bengal
- B) The development and scaling of "Indigenous AI Models"
- C) Phasing out all physical currency notes by 2030
- D) Privatizing national highways across Northeast India

Answer: B) The development and scaling of "Indigenous AI Models"

Explanation:

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued a comprehensive **White Paper on Indigenous AI Models.** The document sets out the sovereign policy framework for building native Large Language Models (LLMs) tuned to regional Indian languages, securing foundational public data streams, establishing state-backed GPU supercomputing clusters, and reducing reliance on foreign proprietary AI architectures.

Q9. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) announced an array of financial storage waivers and extended warehouse timelines. Which economic segment was this specific initiative designed to relieve?

- A) International cruise line operators
- B) Domestic coastal fishermen
- C) Indian Exporters facing global logistics bottlenecks
- D) Foreign luxury vehicle importers

Answer: C) Indian Exporters facing global logistics bottlenecks

Explanation:

To buffer Indian trade houses from the shipping disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions in the Red Sea and West Asian maritime corridors, the **JNPA Chairman announced special fee waivers and additional free storage days for Indian exporters.** This step helps protect small and medium enterprise (SME) exporters from high demurrage penalties when trying to manage container backlogs.

Q10. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) laid the formal foundation stone for its major new commercial "Investment Building" in which city?

- A) Mohali, Punjab
- B) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- C) Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
- D) Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Answer: A) Mohali, Punjab

Explanation:

The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** officially laid the foundation stone for its premium, state-of-the-art **Investment Building in Mohali, Punjab,** revitalizing a land parcel held

by the corporation. This facility will serve as a regional hub for processing corporate real estate portfolios, managing regional insurance funds, and expanding LIC's physical asset infrastructure across northern India.

Q11. According to the state industry updates reviewed, the Hinjewadi-Shivajinagar Metro corridor is officially scheduled to open in two distinct phases starting from May. Which metropolitan city does this mega transit system serve?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Pune
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Ahmedabad

Answer: B) Pune

Explanation:

Maharashtra State authorities confirmed that the highly anticipated **Hinjewadi to Shivajinagar Metro Line 3 corridor in Pune** will be launched operational in two distinct phases starting in May. This public transit project is designed to cut down commute times for thousands of IT professionals traveling between Pune's central residential districts and the Hinjewadi Infotech Park hub.

Part 3: Technology, Science & Environment

Q12. Researchers conducting specialized field surveys in the northern Western Ghats discovered a rare new species named *Amblyceps vayavy*. What type of organism is it?

- A) A nocturnal tree spider
- B) A torrent-dwelling Catfish
- C) A bioluminescent micro-frog
- D) A flightless subterranean ant

Answer: B) A torrent-dwelling Catfish

Explanation:

A team of taxonomists discovered a rare new species of **catfish named *Amblyceps vayavy*** in the shallow, fast-flowing hill streams of the northern Western Ghats across Goa and Maharashtra. These fish live under sand, pebbles, and stones, which provide protective microhabitats for hiding and foraging. The species name "*vayavy*" translates to "northwest" in the regional languages of Marathi and Konkani, indicating its discovery zone.

Q13. Using laboratory experiments and advanced orbital spectroscopy data, planetary scientists recently identified an unusual iron sulfate mineral—ferric hydroxysulfate—layered inside which massive Martian canyon system?

- A) Grand Canyon of Ares
- B) Olympus Chasma
- C) Valles Marineris
- D) Hellas Planitia

Answer: C) Valles Marineris

Explanation:

Scientists detected layered deposits of the iron sulfate mineral **ferric hydroxysulfate inside Valles Marineris**, which is one of the largest interconnected canyon systems in the Solar System, running along the Martian equator. Discovered originally by the Mariner 9 probe in 1971, the canyon's mineral layers provide crucial clues regarding ancient hydrological changes, crustal shifts linked to the Tharsis Rise, and past environmental conditions on Mars.

Q14. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati hosted the Japan-North East Academic Industry Cooperation Symposium (JNTCS 2026). What was the primary outcome of this international symposium?

- A) The complete outsourcing of tea estate ownership to Tokyo firms
- B) The signing of a Letter of Intent (LoI) to foster academic research, technology transfer, and social development across the North-Eastern Region (NER)
- C) Launching a bullet train route connecting Guwahati to Kyoto
- D) A treaty to set up automated fish processing plants in Assam

Answer: B) The signing of a Letter of Intent (LoI) to foster academic research, technology transfer, and social development across the North-Eastern Region (NER)

Explanation:

During the JNTCS symposium at IIT-Guwahati, academic and industrial delegates from Japan and India signed a comprehensive **Letter of Intent (LoI)**. This bilateral agreement connects educational institutions and industrial partners across India's North-Eastern Region with Japanese expertise to accelerate high-impact research, technology transfer models, and social development frameworks in fields like medicine, engineering, and climate-resilient agriculture.

Part 4: Defence News & National Security

Q15. Chief of the Army Staff and senior defense planners reviewed the operational performance of the "Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System" (CIBMS). What is the core operating mechanism of CIBMS?

- A) Building unbroken 50-foot physical concrete walls along all land borders
- B) Deploying a high-tech virtual fence utilizing AI-enabled infrared sensors, thermal imagers, radar, and underground sonar lines
- C) Replacing all human border patrols entirely with autonomous aerial drones
- D) Using satellite lasers to physically alter hostile terrain geographies

Answer: B) Deploying a high-tech virtual fence utilizing AI-enabled infrared sensors, thermal imagers, radar, and underground sonar lines

Explanation:

The **CIBMS** is a national security program designed to upgrade India's border defense into a smart, tech-driven framework. Instead of relying solely on physical fences, CIBMS creates a **highly sophisticated virtual fence** by integrating real-time data from thermal cameras, ground radars, infrared sensors, and underground acoustic lines. These data streams are monitored by AI systems to detect border incursions instantly, even in difficult conditions like dense riverine terrains or heavy fog along the LoC and international borders.

Q16. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) finalized a major ₹452-crore strategic maritime production contract with the Colombo Dockyard. What does this deal indicate for India's defense sector?

- A) India is closing all its southern maritime repair ports.
- B) A significant push in India's global shipbuilding and defense export capabilities within the Indian Ocean Region.
- C) The absolute privatization of the Sri Lankan Navy by Indian corporates.

D) A joint venture to manufacture deep-sea commercial civilian luxury cruise liners.

Answer: B) A significant push in India's global shipbuilding and defense export capabilities within the Indian Ocean Region.

Explanation:

The ₹452-crore deal between Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and Colombo Dockyard reflects India's growing role as a defense exporter and shipbuilding hub under the *Make in India* initiative. This partnership enhances regional maritime security and shows India's capacity to deliver specialized naval vessels and marine engineering solutions to international partners.

Q17. The Trump administration issued an internal State Department directive signed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, instructing US diplomats to push global allies to officially blacklist which two organizations?

- A) The Wagner Group and Al-Qaeda
- B) Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Lebanon-based Hezbollah
- C) Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram
- D) The Houthi Movement and Hamas

Answer: B) Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Lebanon-based Hezbollah

Explanation:

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued an urgent diplomatic directive instructing all US embassies and consulates to coordinate with Israeli counterparts and press international allies to formally designate **Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Hezbollah as terrorist organizations**. This diplomatic push is part of a broader strategy to isolate Tehran and counter its operations in West Asia.

Part 5: Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q18. The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti launched a new digital initiative called the "Sujal Gaon ID" under which flagship national programme?

- A) Atal Bhujal Yojana
- B) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
- C) Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
- D) AMRUT 2.0 Mission

Answer: C) Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Explanation:

The Union Minister of Jal Shakti launched the **Sujal Gaon ID** under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**. The Sujal Gaon ID is a scheme-based, unique digital identifier used to map rural piped water supply infrastructure across India. Already rolled out across 31 States and Union Territories, each Sujal Gaon ID is linked with a broader *Sujalam Bharat ID* to create an integrated national digital record that tracks rural water assets from source to tap.

[Sujalam Bharat National Digital Architecture]

└─► Sujalam Bharat ID (Integrated Digital Records)

└─► Sujal Gaon ID (Asset Tracking: Source to Tap)

Q19. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) signed an MoU with the "Coalition of the Willing". What is the goal of this first-of-its-kind model in India?

- A) Providing free electric scooters to all physically challenged students

- B) An integrated life-cycle support model for persons with hearing impairment
- C) Setting up automated text-to-speech radios across rural government schools
- D) Providing separate financial pensions for blind sports professionals

Answer: B) An integrated life-cycle support model for persons with hearing impairment

Explanation:

The DEPwD, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, partnered with the "Coalition of the Willing" to launch India's first **integrated life-cycle support model for individuals with hearing impairment**. This program focuses on early infant diagnostic screening, providing affordable assistive hearing technologies and cochlear implants, offering specialized speech therapy, and creating inclusive skill development courses to help individuals achieve financial independence.

Q20. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, addressing a regional legal conference, emphasized that the judicial system must work with a "spirit of service" similar to which other essential institutions?

- A) International Airports
- B) Central Banking Institutions
- C) Public Hospitals
- D) National Space Laboratories

Answer: C) Public Hospitals

Explanation:

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant noted that the **judicial system must operate with the same dedicated spirit of public service found in hospitals**. He emphasized that just as hospitals treat medical emergencies without delay, courts

must work to ensure timely access to justice, simplify legal processes for marginalized groups, and treat legal remedies as an essential public service.

Part 6: Sports, Appointments & Awards

Q21. The World Chess Federation (FIDE) CEO Emil Sutovsky confirmed that which elite global tournament will proceed exactly as scheduled?

- A) World Blitz Chess Open 2026
- B) FIDE Candidates Chess Tournament 2026
- C) Grand Chess Tour Masters
- D) World School Chess Championship

Answer: B) FIDE Candidates Chess Tournament 2026

Explanation:

FIDE CEO Emil Sutovsky confirmed that the **FIDE Candidates Chess Tournament 2026** will proceed as planned, dismissing speculation about potential delays due to international travel disruptions. The Candidates Tournament is a critical event in world chess, determining the official challenger who will face the reigning World Chess Champion.

Q22. Which young Indian cricket player, recently signed by Rajasthan Royals, publicly stated in an interview that his primary immediate career goal is to win the IPL trophy for his franchise?

- A) Sarfaraz Khan
- B) Musheer Khan
- C) Vaibhav Sooryavanshi
- D) Kwena Maphaka

Answer: C) Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

Explanation:

Young cricket talent **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** stated in a sports interview that his immediate focus is to deliver strong performances and **win the Indian Premier League (IPL) trophy for the Rajasthan Royals**. Sooryavanshi has drawn attention in domestic cricket circles for his aggressive batting style and is considered a rising talent in the franchise's long-term plans.

Q23. Which veteran cricket figure and former national coach was prominently honored for his lifetime contribution to Indian cricket at the newly organized BCCI Naman Awards?

- A) Kapil Dev
- B) Rahul Dravid
- C) Ravi Shastri
- D) Anil Kumble

Answer: B) Rahul Dravid

Explanation:

Former Indian captain and legendary head coach **Rahul Dravid** was recognized at the **BCCI Naman Awards** for his lifelong contributions to Indian cricket. The awards honored his exceptional playing career as well as his coaching leadership, which helped guide the senior men's national team to major ICC tournament victories.

Q24. Which English Premier League football club witnessed history as their 16-year-old prodigy Max Dowman became the youngest-ever goalscorer in a Premier League development match fixture?

- A) Manchester United
- B) Chelsea FC
- C) Arsenal FC
- D) Liverpool FC

Answer: C) Arsenal FC

Explanation:

Arsenal FC's 16-year-old talent Max Dowman made headlines in English football by becoming the youngest-ever goalscorer in a Premier League academy development fixture. Dowman's rapid rise through the junior academy ranks has made him one of the highly rated young prospects in British football.

Part 7: Important Days, Culture & Books

Q25. Potti Sriramulu, whose 58-foot bronze statue was unveiled in Amaravati, is famously revered in Indian history for his ultimate sacrifice that led to the linguistic formation of which state?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Odisha
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Karnataka

Answer: C) Andhra Pradesh

Explanation:

Potti Sriramulu is a revered figure in Indian history, known as *Amarajeevi* ("Immortal Soul"). In 1952, he undertook a historic 56-day hunger strike demanding a separate state for Telugu-speaking people. His sacrifice led to the linguistic reorganization of states in India and the formal **creation of Andhra State in 1953** (which later became Andhra Pradesh), changing India's internal administrative map.

Q26. A Telugu medieval stone inscription linked structurally to the historic Gajapati Empire was recently discovered at the Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple. What was the historical timeline of this empire?

- A) 11th Century Chola Era

- B) Medieval Hindu dynasty ruling from roughly 1434 to 1441
- C) Vijaynagar contemporary empire ruling from roughly 1434 to 1541
- D) 18th Century Maratha Confederation

Answer: C) Vijaynagar contemporary empire ruling from roughly 1434 to 1541

Explanation:

The **Gajapati Empire** was a powerful medieval Hindu dynasty that originated in present-day **Odisha** and ruled from **1434 to 1541**. Founded by Kapilendra Deva of the Suryavamsa lineage, the empire stretched at its peak from the Ganges River down to the Kaveri River. The discovery of this inscription in a temple highlights the empire's historical influence, patronization of art, and administrative reach across southern and eastern India.

Q27. The Delhi Silpi Chakra collective's historic art legacy was featured in a major retrospective exhibition hosted by the DAG Gallery. What historical event catalyzed the formation of this collective?

- A) The Quit India Movement of 1942
- B) The trauma and migration of the Partition of India in 1947
- C) The declaration of National Emergency in 1975
- D) The Liberalization of the Indian economy in 1991

Answer: B) The trauma and migration of the Partition of India in 1947

Explanation:

The **Delhi Silpi Chakra** was formed in 1949 by a group of artists, including B.C. Sanyal and Kanwal Krishna, who moved to Delhi as refugees following the **Partition of India in 1947**.

The collective channeled the displacement and trauma of Partition into a foundation for Indian modern art, moving away from older academic styles to explore new artistic expressions.

Q28. A highly acclaimed comprehensive sports history book detailing the evolutions, victories, and team dynamics of Indian cricket was released under the title "Running Between The Wickets". Who is the author of this book?

- A) Harsha Bhogle
- B) Sunil Gavaskar
- C) Devendra Prabhudesai
- D) Sharda Ugra

Answer: C) Devendra Prabhudesai

Explanation:

The book **"Running Between The Wickets"**, written by sports biographer and historian **Devendra Prabhudesai**, offers a detailed, fact-driven account of the history of the Indian men's cricket team. It chronicles the team's journey from its early days in international test cricket to becoming a major force in the modern sports economy.

Q29. In NITI Aayog's updated "Fiscal Health Index 2026" reports, which state retained its absolute top ranking for excellent fiscal management and budgetary control among all the "Major States" of India?

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

Answer: B) Odisha

Explanation:

In the **Fiscal Health Index 2026** published by NITI Aayog, **Odisha retained the 1st Rank among all major states** for outstanding fiscal management. The state was recognized for maintaining a low fiscal deficit, keeping its debt-to-GSDP ratio within targets, and efficiently managing own-tax revenue generation. In the newly created Himalayan and North-Eastern category, Arunachal Pradesh took the top spot.

Q30. The Supreme Court's reviews on illegal mining highlighted the ecological role of "Riverine Ravines" adjacent to the National Chambal Sanctuary. What primary geomorphological function do ravines perform during monsoon cycles?

- A) They act as natural wind tunnels that cool agricultural crops.
- B) They act as complex natural hydrological shock absorbers, slowing down surface runoff, controlling flash floods, and directing groundwater recharge.
- C) They accelerate soil erosion to help empty river sediment into oceans.
- D) They prevent any species of birds from nesting near riverbanks.

Answer: B) They act as complex natural hydrological shock absorbers, slowing down surface runoff, controlling flash floods, and directing groundwater recharge.

Explanation:

Riverine ravines, like those along the Chambal River, serve as **natural hydrological shock absorbers**. During heavy monsoons, their intricate network of deep gullies slows down the speed of surface rainwater runoff, which helps prevent flash floods downriver, reduces topsoil erosion, and allows water time to seep into the ground to recharge local aquifers. Protecting these formations from illegal sand

and soil mining is essential to preserving the region's water balance and wildlife habitat.

Quick Reference Revision Matrix

Category	Key Highlight	Associated Entity / Person
Polity/Elections	17.4 Crore Eligible Voters Confirmed	Election Commission of India (ECI)
International	Strategic strikes on Kharg Island	US-Iran Geo-Frictions
Environment	<i>Amblyceps vavavy</i> Catfish Discovered	Northern Western Ghats (Goa/MH)
Govt Scheme	Sujal Gaon ID Infrastructure Tracking	Ministry of Jal Shakti / Jal Jeevan Mission
History/Culture	Gajapati Empire Inscription Discovered	Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple
State Rankings	1st Rank in Fiscal Health Index 2026	Odisha (Major) / Arunachal Pradesh (NE)

