

Section 1: National News

Q1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first Hydrogen-powered train on 17 July 2026. On which railway route does this train operate?

- (a) New Delhi to Agra
- (b) Jind to Sonipat
- (c) Ahmedabad to Mumbai
- (d) Bengaluru to Mysuru

Answer: (b) Jind to Sonipat

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's maiden hydrogen-fueled passenger train, running on the 89-km stretch between Jind and Sonipat in Haryana under Northern Railway's Delhi Division. Hydrogen trains produce zero tailpipe emissions (only water vapor) and mark a major step toward Indian Railways' target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Q2. What is the theme of India's campaign launched at the United Nations Headquarters for election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028-29 term?

- (a) VASUDHAIVA: Global Unity and Shared Security
- (b) SHANTI: Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity
- (c) SAMRIDDHI: Peace and Inclusive Economic Growth
- (d) SATYA: Sustainable Advancement and Terror Prevention

Answer: (b) SHANTI: Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity

Explanation: External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar officially launched India's campaign

for a non-permanent seat at the UNSC for 2028-29 at UN Headquarters in New York under the theme "SHANTI". The key priorities focus on countering terror financing, strengthening maritime security, and promoting responsible global governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Q3. Which state in India became the first to directly produce and profit from crude oil through a state-owned enterprise intervention?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Assam
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: (c) Assam

Explanation: Assam became the first state government in India to take a direct operational role and equity partnership in oil exploration and production, generating direct non-tax revenues from crude oil sales while boosting energy self-reliance in the Northeast region.

Q4. The National Statistics Office (NSO) under MoSPI launched India's first monthly indicator to track the service sector. What is this index called?

- (a) Monthly Service Tracker (MST)
- (b) Index of Services Production (ISP)
- (c) Services Output Growth Index (SOGI)
- (d) National Services Performance Index (NSPI)

Answer: (b) Index of Services Production (ISP)

Explanation: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the trial sub-sectoral **Index of Services Production (ISP)**. Modeled as a monthly counterpart to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the ISP provides real-time data on India's service sector output, which contributes over 50% to India's Gross Value Added (GVA).

Section 2: International News & Geopolitics

Q5. According to the United Nations' first scientific report on Artificial Intelligence (AI) released in July 2026, which two nations account for nearly 90% of global AI compute capacity?

- (a) USA and Germany
- (b) USA and China
- (c) China and Japan
- (d) USA and United Kingdom

Answer: (b) USA and China

Explanation: The UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI released its baseline report revealing a extreme global compute divide: the **United States** controls 75% of global compute capacity (59 frontier models), **China** holds 15% (35 models), while the rest of the world combined accounts for only 10%.

Q6. The disputed island of Greater Tunb, which was targeted in recent military strikes due to escalating regional tensions, is located near which maritime choke point?

- (a) Strait of Malacca
- (b) Strait of Hormuz
- (c) Bab-el-Mandeb
- (d) Bosphorus Strait

Answer: (b) Strait of Hormuz

Explanation: Greater Tunb is one of three strategic disputed islands in the Persian Gulf near the **Strait of Hormuz**. It lies directly along the primary shipping route where one-fifth of global oil consumption passes daily.

Q7. Andy Burnham was recently confirmed as the new leader of the Labour Party in which nation?

- (a) Australia
- (b) New Zealand
- (c) United Kingdom
- (d) Canada

Answer: (c) United Kingdom

Explanation: Andy Burnham was confirmed as the new leader of the UK Labour Party, leading the government formation amid economic changes and implementation of key international treaties including the India-UK CETA.

Q8. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), frequently cited in trade and food safety discussions, was established under the joint umbrella of which two global organizations?

- (a) WTO and UNCTAD
- (b) FAO and WHO
- (c) UNEP and UNDP
- (d) World Bank and IMF

Answer: (b) FAO and WHO

Explanation: The Codex Alimentarius Commission was formed in 1963 jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in international food trade.

Section 3: Economics & Banking

Q9. What is the budgetary outlay approved for the 'Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme' (MPMS) cleared by the Union Cabinet?

- (a) ₹30,000 crore
- (b) ₹62,500 crore
- (c) ₹1,27,500 crore
- (d) ₹18,100 crore

Answer: (b) ₹62,500 crore

Explanation: The Union Cabinet approved the **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)** under MeitY with an outlay of ₹62,500 crore. It provides a base incentive with additional bonuses (up to 1.5% for local component sourcing and 3% for R&D/product design) aiming for ₹39 lakh crore cumulative mobile production.

Q10. In July 2026, which logistics firm's subsidiary received Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval for a Certificate of Registration as a Type-II NBFC-ND?

- (a) Blue Dart Financial Services
- (b) Delhivery Financial Services
- (c) Gati Capital
- (d) Mahindra Logistics Financial Services

Answer: (b) Delhivery Financial Services

Explanation: Delhivery Financial Services Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Delhivery Limited, received approval from the RBI for a Certificate of Registration (CoR) as a **Type-II Non-Banking Financial Company-Non-Deposit Taking (NBFC-ND)**.

Q11. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued draft guidelines on "Model Risk Management (MRM), 2026". Which mandatory feature was proposed for AI-driven credit scoring models?

- (a) Universal Golden Share
- (b) Mandatory Kill Switch
- (c) Dynamic Interest Rate Ceiling
- (d) Open API Lockout

Answer: (b) Mandatory Kill Switch

Explanation: The RBI's draft guidelines mandate that banks and financial institutions implementing AI/ML-driven automated risk and credit models must incorporate an independent human oversight mechanism and a **mandatory kill switch** to instantly halt

automated decisions if systemic anomalies or biases arise.

Q12. What was India's Current Account balance in April 2026 as per RBI data?

- (a) Surplus of USD 4.7 billion
- (b) Deficit of USD 8.2 billion
- (c) Surplus of USD 12.1 billion
- (d) Deficit of USD 4.8 billion

Answer: (a) Surplus of USD 4.7 billion

Explanation: India registered a **Current Account Surplus of USD 4.7 billion** in April 2026, marking a significant economic turnaround compared to a USD 4.8 billion deficit recorded in the corresponding month of the prior fiscal year.

Section 4: Defense, Space & Technology

Q13. Indian private space startup Skyroot Aerospace scheduled the orbital test flight of which indigenously developed space launch vehicle?

- (a) Agnibaan-Suborbital
- (b) Vikram-1
- (c) SSLV-D3
- (d) SkyLaunch-X

Answer: (b) Vikram-1

Explanation: Skyroot Aerospace prepared for the orbital launch of **Vikram-1** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Vikram-1 is an all-carbon-fiber multi-stage launch vehicle capable of placing payloads up to 300 kg into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Q14. In his address on modern military strategy, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan stressed upgrading outdated weaponry by referencing which military operational exercise?



- (a) Operation Meghdoot
- (b) Operation Vijay
- (c) Operation Sindoor
- (d) Operation Cactus

Answer: (c) Operation Sindoor

Explanation: Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan cited lessons from **Operation Sindoor** to emphasize that modern multi-domain warfare cannot be fought or won using legacy weaponry, calling for rapid adoption of indigenous AI, drone swarms, and electronic warfare assets.

Q15. The National Quantum Mission (NQM) announced prioritized government funding for which specific vertical to achieve industrial application targets by 2030?

- (a) Quantum Cryptography software only
- (b) Quantum Computing Hardware
- (c) Satellite Laser Communications
- (d) Underwater Acoustic Sensors

Answer: (b) Quantum Computing Hardware

Explanation: Under the National Quantum Mission, India allocated dedicated funding toward building indigenous **Quantum Computing Hardware** (superconducting and photonic Qubit chips) to build scalable, secure quantum systems.

Section 5: Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q16. Under the Ministry of Railways' "Reform Express" initiative, how many total structural reforms were implemented across rail logistics and management?

- (a) 10 reforms
- (b) 17 reforms
- (c) 25 reforms

- (d) 50 reforms

Answer: (b) 17 reforms

Explanation: Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw implemented 8 additional structural reforms at Rail Bhawan under the **Reform Express** initiative, taking the total number of completed operational and structural reforms to 17.

Q17. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) partnered with NIFTEM-Thanjavur to launch a pilot 'Short-Term Skill Training Programme' (STSTP) for which job role?

- (a) Assistant Food Safety Auditor
- (b) Assistant Baking Technician
- (c) Cold Chain Logistics Operator
- (d) Organic Fruit Processing Specialist

Answer: (b) Assistant Baking Technician

Explanation: MoFPI and NIFTEM Thanjavur launched a pilot training module under NSQF Level 3 for **Assistant Baking Technician** to build industry-ready skilled workforce in agri-food processing with assured employment tie-ups.

Q18. The 'Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme' (VBYP) led by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports focuses on which key social objective?

- (a) Financial literacy for youth
- (b) Anti-substance abuse and 'Nasha Mukta Yuva' awareness
- (c) Overseas scholarship facilitation
- (d) AI skilling in rural schools

Answer: (b) Anti-substance abuse and 'Nasha Mukta Yuva' awareness

Explanation: Conducted through the MY Bharat platform, VBYP focuses on mobilization against drug abuse among youth aged 15–25

under the campaign tagline "*Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat*".

Section 6: Appointments & Resignations

Position	Appointed Officer	Context / Organization
Secretary	Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala	Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
Additional Director General	Santosh Rastogi (IPS)	National Investigation Agency (NIA)
Deputy Governor (Extension)	Swaminathan Janakiraman	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Q19. The Central Government extended the tenure of Swaminathan Janakiraman for two years in which key institution?

- (a) Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (b) Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (c) Managing Director, State Bank of India (SBI)
- (d) CEO, NITI Aayog

Answer: (b) Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Explanation: The Central Government approved a two-year extension for **Swaminathan Janakiraman** as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, continuing his charge over banking supervision and financial inclusion.

Q20. Who was appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)?

- (a) Dr. M. Ravichandran
- (b) Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala
- (c) Dr. S. Somanath
- (d) Dr. Samir V. Kamat

Answer: (b) Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala

Explanation: Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala, formerly leading the UNESCO IOTWMS Secretariat, assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) for a 2-year term.

Section 7: Awards, Honors, Books & Authors

Q21. Kannada literary stalwart S. L. Bhyrappa was selected for which prestigious honor in Indian literature?

- (a) Sahitya Akademi Fellowship
- (b) 60th Jnanpith Award
- (c) Saraswati Samman 2026
- (d) Vyas Samman 2026

Answer: (b) 60th Jnanpith Award

Explanation: Renowned Kannada author **S. L. Bhyrappa**, celebrated for works like *Vamsa Vriksha* and *Parva*, was chosen for the 60th Jnanpith Award for lifetime contribution to literature.

Q22. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) celebrated its 98th Foundation Day on 16-17 July 2026. In which year was ICAR established?

- (a) 1905
- (b) 1929
- (c) 1947
- (d) 1965

Answer: (b) 1929

Explanation: ICAR was established on 16 July 1929 (originally Imperial Council of Agricultural Research) under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It functions as the apex autonomous body coordinating agricultural research and education in India under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Section 8: MoUs & International Agreements

Q23. The Double Contribution Convention (DCC) signed between India and the UK provides relief to which group of individuals?

- (a) Overseas students paying tuition fees in both nations
- (b) Deputed Indian professionals avoiding dual social security tax for up to 5 years
- (c) Dual citizens paying dual income taxes
- (d) Indian tourists visiting the UK for under 90 days

Answer: (b) Deputed Indian professionals avoiding dual social security tax for up to 5 years

Explanation: The Double Contribution Convention (DCC) prevents double social security taxation. Indian workers sent on short-term assignments (up to 60 months / 5 years) to the UK remain covered solely under India's National Social Security system (EPFO).

Q24. India and the ASEAN bloc focused on expanding the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) specifically across which domain?

- (a) Defense weapon sales
- (b) Digital Economy and Cross-Border Digital Payments
- (c) Nuclear fuel reprocessing

(d) Agricultural land leasing

Answer: (b) Digital Economy and Cross-Border Digital Payments

Explanation: Recent review tracks under the Act East policy emphasize integrating **digital payment stacks** (such as UPI-PayNow linkage) and establishing digital economy framework standards across ASEAN member states.

Section 9: Important Days, Birth & Death Anniversaries

Q25. Which international day is observed globally on 17 July every year to support the system of international criminal justice?

- (a) World Day for International Justice
- (b) World Youth Skills Day
- (c) International Day of Peace
- (d) World Humanitarian Day

Answer: (a) World Day for International Justice

Explanation: World Day for International Justice (17 July) marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998, which created the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Q26. Freedom fighter and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu K. Kamaraj (1903–1975), whose birth anniversary was commemorated in mid-July, is famous for introducing which pioneering policy?

- (a) Mid-Day Meal Scheme in schools
- (b) Ryotwari Revenue System
- (c) Kudimaramath water scheme
- (d) Panchayat Extension Scheme

Answer: (a) Mid-Day Meal Scheme in schools

Explanation: K. Kamaraj (15 July 1903 – 2 October 1975) introduced the free **Mid-Day Meal Scheme** in primary schools in Tamil Nadu during the 1950s, a policy later scaled nationally



to curb dropout rates and promote child nutrition.

Section 10: Art, Culture & Festivals

Q27. The famous 'Bahuda Yatra' associated with Odisha's culture signifies:

- (a) The start of chariot construction
- (b) The grand return journey of the deities to the main Puri Jagannath Temple
- (c) The ceremonial bathing ritual (*Snana Yatra*)
- (d) The annual change of sacred ropes

Answer: (b) The grand return journey of the deities to the main Puri Jagannath Temple

Explanation: Bahuda Yatra marks the return procession of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra from the Shree Gundicha Temple back to the main Jagannath Temple in Puri following the Rath Yatra.

Q28. The 31st edition of 'Divya Kala Mela', aimed at empowering Divyangjan artisans and entrepreneurs, was inaugurated in which city?

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) Bhopal
- (c) Patna
- (d) Guwahati

Answer: (b) Bhopal

Explanation: The Divya Kala Mela is organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) to provide a national marketplace for handicraft, handloom, and eco-friendly products crafted by differently-abled artisans.

Section 11: Science, Environment & Miscellaneous

Q29. Which endangered species found in Manipur receives dedicated habitat funding

through state conservation programs mentioned in recent environmental reports?

- (a) Great Indian Bustard
- (b) Sangai (Brow-antlered Deer)
- (c) Hangul (Kashmir Stag)
- (d) Nilgiri Tahr

Answer: (b) Sangai (Brow-antlered Deer)

Explanation: The Sangai (*Rucervus eldii eldii*) is an endangered, endemic brow-antlered deer found exclusively in its floating marshland habitat at Keibul Lamjao National Park on Loktak Lake in Manipur.

Q30. What structural characteristic sets Antarctic Icefish apart from all other known adult vertebrate species?

- (a) Total absence of a stomach
- (b) Total lack of hemoglobin and red blood cells
- (c) Ability to live without water for up to 48 hours
- (d) Transparent cartilage skin without bones

Answer: (b) Total lack of hemoglobin and red blood cells

Explanation: Antarctic Icefish (*Channichthyidae*) live in sub-zero polar waters and are the only known adult vertebrates that lack hemoglobin and red blood cells. Their blood is clear and transparent; oxygen is absorbed directly through their skin and carried in blood plasma