

Part 1: International News & Bilateral Relations

Q1. India recently partnered with which country to restore the historic 9th-century Prambanan Temple complex, the largest Hindu temple site in that nation?

- A) Cambodia
- B) Thailand
- C) Vietnam
- D) Indonesia

Correct Answer: D) Indonesia

Detailed Explanation: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Indonesian Government have established a cultural partnership to restore the Prambanan Temple complex in Yogyakarta, Southern Java. Prambanan is the largest Hindu temple site in Indonesia, locally known as *Roro Jonggrang*. Built in the 9th century during the Sanjaya Dynasty, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (designated in 1991) dedicated to the Hindu Trimurti: Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma.

Q2. Which country's federated retail payments system named "Bre-B" was recently recognized by Central Banking for its outstanding contribution to payment architecture?

- A) Ethiopia
- B) Colombia
- C) Namibia
- D) Brazil

Correct Answer: B) Colombia

Detailed Explanation: In the same award cycle where the RBI won international honors, the Central Bank of Colombia was globally recognized for its pioneering federated retail real-time payment infrastructure called **Bre-B**.

Simultaneously, the National Bank of Ethiopia secured accolades for wholesale payment developments, and the Bank of Namibia won for its deployment of AI in financial supervision.

Q3. According to the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) Report released in March 2026, what is India's approximate Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) as of recent estimates compared to 127 in 1990?

- A) 45
- B) 27
- C) 17
- D) 35

Correct Answer: B) 27

Detailed Explanation: The UNIGME report highlighted India's steady structural progress in curbing early-childhood mortality. India's Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) has witnessed a drastic long-term drop from 127 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 down to 27. Furthermore, the Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) dropped to 17, reflecting the expanding penetration of public healthcare schemes like the POSHAN Abhiyaan and institutional delivery incentives.

Q4. Qatar and Iran share the world's largest non-associated natural gas field located beneath the Persian Gulf. What is the name given to the Qatari sector of this reservoir?

- A) South Pars
- B) North Field
- C) Kish Field
- D) Farzad-B

Correct Answer: B) North Field

Detailed Explanation: The colossal maritime gas reservoir under the Persian Gulf is split territorially between two nations. The portion belonging to Qatar is called the **North Field**, whereas the portion extending into Iranian waters is known as **South Pars**. It recently entered strategic discussions due to critical shipping disruptions affecting global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) deliveries bound for energy-importing hubs like India and China.

Part 2: National News, Polity & Governance

Q5. Delivering a landmark verdict, a Supreme Court bench comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan struck down which restrictive statutory provision that limited maternity leave for adoptive mothers?

- A) Section 43 of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
- B) Section 60(4) of the Code on Social Security, 2020
- C) Section 12 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015
- D) Article 15(3) of the Central Civil Services Rules

Correct Answer: B) Section 60(4) of the Code on Social Security, 2020

Detailed Explanation: The Supreme Court struck down **Section 60(4) of the Code on Social Security, 2020**, which unconstitutionally mandated that an adoptive mother would get 12 weeks of paid maternity leave *only if* the adopted child was under 3 months of age. The apex court held this rule as discriminatory under **Articles 14 and 21**, declaring that the parental duties of adoptive mothers are identical to biological mothers and ordered a universal 12-week entitlement irrespective of the child's age.

Q6. Which Article of the Constitution mandates that no money can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India without an official legislative nod via an Appropriation Bill?

- A) Article 110
- B) Article 112
- C) Article 114
- D) Article 266

Correct Answer: C) Article 114

Detailed Explanation: Article 114 of the Indian Constitution specifies the passage of an Appropriation Bill. It explicitly states that no funds can be drawn out of the Consolidated Fund of India except under an appropriation made by law. The Appropriation Bill is legally classified as a Money Bill under Article 110.

Q7. The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Committee formed to draft a common family code formally submitted its final draft report to the Chief Minister of which state?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Gujarat
- C) Assam
- D) Rajasthan

Correct Answer: B) Gujarat

Detailed Explanation: Following the initial path carved out by Uttarakhand, the high-level **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Committee of Gujarat** officially submitted its extensive final draft report and legislative recommendations to Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel for administrative cabinet evaluation.

Q8. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) recently co-hosted a two-day national workshop in Patna in

partnership with UNDP India to build institutional capacity across which domain?

- A) Logistics Performance Indices
- B) SDG Monitoring, Environment Accounts, and Gender Statistics
- C) Agricultural Census Digitization
- D) Consumer Price Index (CPI) Rural Base Revisions

Correct Answer: B) SDG Monitoring, Environment Accounts, and Gender Statistics

Detailed Explanation: The high-level capacity-building summit held in Patna, Bihar, focused heavily on strengthening data frameworks surrounding the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), integrating natural resource tracking into state environment accounts, and standardizing gender statistics to support evidence-based regional policy mapping.

Q9. The Ministry of Culture has commenced the massive "Gyan Bharatam National Manuscript Survey (GBNMS)." How is this comprehensive survey structured to ensure institutional compliance?

- A) Driven entirely by private corporate bodies via CSR funding
- B) Governed by state-level committees led by Chief Secretaries and district-level committees under District Magistrates
- C) Managed directly by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) without state involvement
- D) Executed through a fully automated satellite imagery system

Correct Answer: B) Governed by state-level committees led by Chief Secretaries and district-level committees under District Magistrates

Detailed Explanation: The Gyan Bharatam National Manuscript Survey (GBNMS) is an

ambitious national survey designed to identify, document, index, and digitize rare historical manuscripts across the country. It is completely voluntary and non-intrusive. To ensure systematic grass-roots execution, the operational guidelines require state-level supervision by the respective state **Chief Secretary** and micro-level mapping by **District Magistrates**.

Part 3: Economics, Banking & Finance

Q10. As per the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Monthly Bulletin released for February 2026, what was the recorded overall unemployment rate (UR) in India?

- A) 6.6%
- B) 4.2%
- C) 4.9%
- D) 5.5%

Correct Answer: C) 4.9%

Detailed Explanation: The February 2026 Monthly Bulletin released by the government reveals that India's aggregate Unemployment Rate (UR) for individuals aged 15 and above dropped marginally to **4.9%** (down from 5.0% in January). Urban unemployment saw a significant decline to 6.6% (from 7.0%), while rural unemployment stabilized steadily at 4.2%.

Q11. In the context of banking and domestic financial stability, what is the core regulatory reason why certain commercial entities are explicitly categorized as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)?

- A) They operate the highest number of overseas rural branches

B) They are designated as "Too Big to Fail" because their collapse would trigger systemic economic failure

C) They are non-scheduled banks holding less than 1% non-performing assets

D) They handle corporate wealth management portfolios exclusively

Correct Answer: B) They are designated as "Too Big to Fail" because their collapse would trigger systemic economic failure

Detailed Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India places key lenders into the D-SIB bucket based on their size, complexity, interconnectedness, and lack of substitutability. Popularly termed as "Too Big to Fail," these banks are subject to more stringent capital adequacy requirements (like higher Common Equity Tier 1 capital buffers) to safeguard the economy. Currently, SBI, HDFC, and ICICI are the designated D-SIBs in India.

Q12. India holds which global rank in terms of gross coconut production, controlling approximately 30.37% of the entire international production matrix?

A) 2nd

B) 3rd

C) 1st

D) 4th

Correct Answer: C) 1st

Detailed Explanation: According to data released by agricultural bodies, **India ranks 1st globally in coconut production**, accounting for roughly 30.37% of the total global output. This sector supports millions of rural households across India's coastal belts through exports and value-added agro-industries.

Q13. The newly established parliamentary financial allocation instrument called the "Economic Stabilisation Fund (ESF)" is specifically structured to do what?

A) Fund long-term hyper-loop infrastructure networks exclusively

B) Provide an emergency financial buffer during unexpected global macroeconomic shocks and supply line crises

C) Offer absolute tax exemptions to retail stock market participants

D) Decentralize the functions of the GST Council

Correct Answer: B) Provide an emergency financial buffer during unexpected global macroeconomic shocks and supply line crises

Detailed Explanation: The Economic Stabilisation Fund (ESF) was approved to give India a resilient fiscal buffer against global uncertainties, such as sudden oil supply chokepoints, international shipping escalations, and currency wars. It ensures that critical domestic welfare and production schemes continue running smoothly without blowing out the fiscal deficit targets.

Q14. Which digital travel and fintech startup has introduced the custom 'Scapia Pay' application to enable integrated financial rewards via RuPay credit cards?

A) MakeMyTrip

B) Scapia

C) EaseMyTrip

D) Yatra

Correct Answer: B) Scapia

Detailed Explanation: Travel tech firm Scapia launched 'Scapia Pay', a dedicated application focused on travel rewards. By linking and utilizing the native RuPay Credit Card rail

network, users can accrue specialized travel points and credit limits to clear travel itineraries, flight tickets, and hotel bookings seamlessly.

Part 4: Government Schemes & MoUs

Q15. The Union Cabinet officially approved a massive central infrastructure initiative named the BHAVYA Scheme with a ₹33,660 crore outlay. What does the acronym BHAVYA stand for?

- A) Bharat Hindustan Audyogik Vikas Yojana
- B) Bureau for High-speed Accelerated Vehicle Yojana
- C) Bharat Hydro Advanced Vidyut Yojana
- D) Bureau for Holistic Agriculture Vikas Yojana

Correct Answer: A) Bharat Hindustan Audyogik Vikas Yojana

Detailed Explanation: The Union Cabinet greenlit the **Bharat Hindustan Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA)** as a flagship Central Sector Scheme. Modeled on the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP), the scheme aims to build **100 state-of-the-art "Plug-and-Play" Industrial Parks** across India by 2032, providing ready infrastructure and utilities to attract foreign direct manufacturing investment.

Q16. The "Krishi Sakhi" initiative, aimed at empowering rural women farmers as professional agri-insurance advisors and assisting with PMFBY claims, was launched by which institution?

- A) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- B) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

C) Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC)

D) NITI Aayog

Correct Answer: C) Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC)

Detailed Explanation: The **Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC)** launched the **Krishi Sakhi** program. This initiative trains progressive women farmers and members of rural Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to work as authorized grass-roots insurance facilitators. They raise awareness about the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), evaluate local crop losses, and guide rural communities through claim settlements.

Q17. The Union Cabinet approved the 'Small Hydro Power Development Scheme' spanning 2026-27 to 2030-31 with an outlay of ₹2,584.60 crore. Hydropower projects up to what capacity are classified as Small Hydro Power (SHP) in India?

- A) Up to 10 MW
- B) Up to 25 MW
- C) Up to 50 MW
- D) Up to 5 MW

Correct Answer: B) Up to 25 MW

Detailed Explanation: In India, **hydropower projects with a capacity up to 25 MW are classified as Small Hydro Power (SHP)** and fall under the administrative purview of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Projects exceeding 25 MW are managed under the Ministry of Power. The newly approved scheme targets an added 1,500 MW capacity via eco-friendly run-of-the-river technologies, primarily across the North-Eastern states and hilly Himalayan terrains.

Q18. Kusunpur village, which is set to become the first fully integrated "Smart Village" under an advanced rural development deployment project by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), is located in which state?

- A) Odisha
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Bihar
- D) West Bengal

Correct Answer: A) Odisha

Detailed Explanation: Kusunpur village in the Kendrapara district of Odisha has been selected for this model project by the CSIR (under the Ministry of Science and Technology). The project will introduce advanced technological solutions—such as sustainable building materials from CBRI Roorkee, clean solar micro-grids, and processing units for local minerals—to transform the village into a self-reliant hub.

Q19. The British Council signed a landmark MoU in New Delhi to support 'SPARK - The 100K Collective' initiative. What is the primary focus of this project?

- A) Training 100,000 rural youths in software coding
- B) Enhancing skills, expanding networks, and creating business accelerators for 100,000 women entrepreneurs in India
- C) Funding 100,000 electric commercial freight vehicles
- D) Providing clean drinking water setups across 100,000 municipal schools

Correct Answer: B) Enhancing skills, expanding networks, and creating business accelerators for 100,000 women entrepreneurs in India

Detailed Explanation: The British Council partnered with the Women's Collective Forum and the Alliance for Global Good to back 'SPARK - The 100K Collective'. The multi-pronged framework includes *SPARK Kaushal* (vocational and digital skilling), *SPARK MBA* (business accelerator tracks), *SPARK Nidhi* (micro-credit access), and *SPARK Mitra* (dedicated mentorship pipelines) to drive women-led economic growth.

Part5:Appointments & Resignations

Q20. Former Union Minister Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). The NCBC was granted explicit constitutional status under which constitutional amendment?

- A) 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016
- B) 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018
- C) 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019
- D) 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2020

Correct Answer: B) 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018

Detailed Explanation: Following approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti assumed charge as Chairperson of the NCBC. The commission was elevated to a full constitutional body through the **102nd Amendment Act of 2018**, which inserted **Article 338B** into the Indian Constitution to protect the socio-educational interests of socially and educationally backward classes.

Q21. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) announced the appointment of whom as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO)?

- A) Shaji K.V.

- B) G.R. Chintala
- C) Goverdhan S. Rawat
- D) V. Ramakrishna Rao

Correct Answer: D) V. Ramakrishna Rao

Detailed Explanation: In a key senior management shuffle, **V. Ramakrishna Rao** has been named the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of **NABARD**, the apex regulatory body for regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India.

Q22. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) backed fintech arm, Network for Bonds and Shares Limited (NBSL), has roped in which iconic Indian sports personality as the official National Brand Ambassador for the BHIM Payments application?

- A) Sachin Tendulkar
- B) Virat Kohli
- C) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- D) Neeraj Chopra

Correct Answer: C) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

Detailed Explanation: To deepen the penetration of open digital transactions across tier-2, tier-3, and rural sectors, NBSL formally appointed former Indian cricket captain **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as the brand ambassador for the **BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money)** app ecosystem.

Part 6: Science, Technology & Environment

Q23. The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) successfully deployed and tested its indigenously engineered "Floating LiDAR Buoy System" to map advanced offshore wind profiles off which coast?

- A) Paradip, Odisha

- B) Muttom, Tamil Nadu
- C) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- D) Jamnagar, Gujarat

Correct Answer: B) Muttom, Tamil Nadu

Detailed Explanation: NIOT tested its indigenous **Floating LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) Buoy System** off the Muttom coast in Tamil Nadu. The system uses laser pulses to measure wind speed, direction, and atmospheric turbulence up to 300 meters above sea level, providing critical data to plan India's offshore wind energy installations.

Q24. In March 2026, scientists conducting high-energy physics experiments at the world's largest particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), discovered a new subatomic particle named *Xi-cc-plus*. What is the core quark configuration of this newly discovered particle?

- A) Two up quarks and one down quark
- B) Two charm quarks and one down quark
- C) Two strange quarks and one up quark
- D) Three bottom quarks

Correct Answer: B) Two charm quarks and one down quark

Detailed Explanation: Scientists at CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC) discovered **Xi-cc-plus**, a new subatomic particle belonging to the baryon family that is roughly four times heavier than a proton. While a standard proton comprises two up quarks and one down quark, this new particle contains **two heavy charm quarks and one down quark**, offering deep insights into quantum chromodynamics and the strong nuclear force.

Q25. A new species of earthworm named *Drawida manasi* was discovered by zoologists,

expanding India's recorded *Drawida* species count to 83. Which geographical region of India serves as the premier evolutionary hub for these earthworms, hosting 55 of these species?

- A) The Eastern Himalayas
- B) The Western Ghats
- C) The Indo-Gangetic Plains
- D) The Thar Desert

Correct Answer: B) The Western Ghats

Detailed Explanation: The discovery of *Drawida manasi* highlights the rich biodiversity of the **Western Ghats**, which hosts 55 of India's 83 known *Drawida* species. Kerala leads the country with 31 species, 16 of which are endemic to the state.

Q26. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) expanded its Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) framework by introducing "ALMM List-III" to curb import dependence. What specific components are covered under List-III?

- A) Wind Turbine Rotors
- B) Solar Ingots and Wafers
- C) Green Hydrogen Electrolysers
- D) Lithium-Ion Battery Anodes

Correct Answer: B) Solar Ingots and Wafers

Detailed Explanation: To build a fully self-reliant domestic solar supply chain and reduce reliance on imported raw components, the MNRE extended the ALMM mandate via **List-III to cover solar ingots and wafers**, effective from June 1, 2028. This ensures that only government-approved, high-efficiency domestic modules can be used in public and utility-scale solar installations.

Part 7: Defense, Sports, Culture & Important Days

Q27. To reaffirm India's commitment to maritime safety and security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), the Indian Navy commenced a multilateral maritime patrol and surveillance drill under what name?

- A) Exercise Malabar 2026
- B) Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR Exercise
- C) Exercise Varuna 2026
- D) Exercise Tropex 2026

Correct Answer: B) Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR Exercise

Detailed Explanation: The Indian Navy launched the **Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR Exercise**, aligning with India's regional vision of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**. The multi-ship exercise focuses on anti-piracy operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) coordination, and protecting sea lines of communication (SLOCs).

Q28. The 2026 edition of the high-profile National Para Athletics Championship, featuring over 1,500 elite para-athletes competing to qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics, is being hosted at which venue?

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi
- B) Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar
- C) Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata
- D) Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune

Correct Answer: B) Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar

Detailed Explanation: The **National Para Athletics Championship 2026** opened at the **Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**. The state-of-the-art sports hub is hosting more than

1,500 differently-abled athletes, serving as a primary talent identification ecosystem for upcoming international meets and the 2028 Paralympics.

localized circumambulation during this auspicious month-long spring window.

Q29. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED launched the "Bharat Tribes Fest 2026" at Sunder Nursery, New Delhi. Which exclusive tribal handloom clothing brand was officially launched during this festival?

- A) Van Dhan Tex
- B) RISA Tribal Brand
- C) Gond Art Fabrics
- D) Northeast Heritage

Correct Answer: B) RISA Tribal Brand

Detailed Explanation: A key highlight of the **Bharat Tribes Fest 2026** was the national launch of the **RISA Tribal Brand**, an initiative designed to scale up traditional handloom clothing from India's indigenous communities, standardize processing quality, and connect tribal weavers directly with premium global retail platforms.

Q30. The religious, month-long spiritual circumambulation event known as the "Uttarvahini Narmada Parikrama" has commenced, drawing thousands of pilgrims. In which state does this cultural event take place?

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

Correct Answer: B) Gujarat

Detailed Explanation: The **Uttarvahini Narmada Parikrama** officially commenced in **Gujarat**. This unique spiritual event takes place along a specific stretch where the Narmada River flows northward (*Uttarvahini*). Pilgrims perform a