

Section 1: International News

Q1. In July 2026, which country collaborated with the United States to conduct the 13-day bilateral military exercise 'Tiger Lightning 2026'?

- [A] Vietnam
- [B] Philippines
- [C] Bangladesh
- [D] Sri Lanka

Answer: [C] Bangladesh

Detailed Explanation: The bilateral military exercise **Tiger Lightning 2026** commenced on July 19, 2026, between the Bangladesh Army and the United States Army Pacific Command (USARPAC). The 13-day joint exercise focused on tactical combat casualty care, jungle warfare techniques, counter-terrorism operations, and enhancing operational interoperability between the two armed forces.

Q2. Greece's iconic landmark, Mount Olympus, famous for its cultural significance and biodiversity, was recently nominated for inclusion in which global list?

- [A] Ramsar Wetland of International Importance
- [B] UNESCO World Heritage List
- [C] FAO Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
- [D] IUCN Green List of Protected Areas

Answer: [B] UNESCO World Heritage List

Detailed Explanation: Greece formally submitted the nomination of **Mount Olympus** for the UNESCO World Heritage List. Mount Olympus, steeped in ancient Greek mythology as the legendary home of the 12 Olympian gods, is recognized both for its rich cultural history and

its exceptional ecological biodiversity, housing numerous endemic flora and fauna species.

Q3. Under a landmark EU-UK treaty executed in July 2026, which territory saw the physical removal of its border fence with Spain, shifting passport checks to its port and airport?

- [A] Andorra
- [B] Gibraltar
- [C] Isle of Man
- [D] Malta

Answer: [B] Gibraltar

Detailed Explanation: Spain and the British Overseas Territory of **Gibraltar** officially dismantled their physical border fence following an EU-UK agreement. The agreement integrates Gibraltar into the Schengen border-free zone, relocating passport and customs controls to Gibraltar's airport and seaport to facilitate seamless land movement for thousands of cross-border workers.

Section 2: National News

Q4. Which startup achieved a historical milestone on July 18-19, 2026, by launching 'Vikram-1', India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle under 'Mission Aagaman'?

- [A] Agnikul Cosmos
- [B] Skyroot Aerospace
- [C] Bellatrix Aerospace
- [D] Pixxel Space

Answer: [B] Skyroot Aerospace

Detailed Explanation: Hyderabad-based startup **Skyroot Aerospace** successfully launched **Vikram-1** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota under *Mission Aagaman*. Vikram-1 became India's first privately built orbital rocket capable of carrying payloads up to 350 kg



into Low Earth Orbit (LEO), marking a landmark moment in India's space sector under IN-SPaCE deregulation reforms.

Q5. What is the proposed increase in the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India) under the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 introduced in Lok Sabha?

- [A] Increased from 30 to 34
- [B] Increased from 33 to 37
- [C] Increased from 31 to 35
- [D] Increased from 35 to 40

Answer: [B] Increased from 33 to 37

Detailed Explanation: The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 was introduced during the Monsoon Session of Parliament. It seeks to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, to raise the maximum sanctioned judicial strength from 33 to 37 judges. Including the Chief Justice of India (CJI), the total sanctioned strength of the apex court will expand to 38.

Q6. The Election Commission of India (ECI) organized the 1st All India Media Conference 2026 around which core theme?

- [A] "Digital Media and Fair Elections"
- [B] "Connecting stakeholders, strengthening democracy: Role of media in elections"
- [C] "Combating Deepfakes in Democratic Exercises"
- [D] "Ethical Journalism and Voter Literacy"

Answer: [B] "Connecting stakeholders, strengthening democracy: Role of media in elections"

Detailed Explanation: The Election Commission of India (ECI), chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, hosted the 1st All India Media Conference. The conference

focused on building structured dialogue between electoral administrators and media institutions, while highlighting the newly deployed integrated portal **ECINET** to manage India's database of nearly 95 crore registered electors.

Section 3: Economics & Banking

Q7. What was India's overall Unemployment Rate (UR) for individuals aged 15 years and above in the NSO's Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Monthly Bulletin for June/July 2026?

- [A] 4.8%
- [B] 5.2%
- [C] 5.5%
- [D] 6.1%

Answer: [C] 5.5%

Detailed Explanation: According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Monthly Bulletin released by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO/NSO), India's overall Unemployment Rate (UR) for persons aged 15 years and above remained steady at **5.5%**. The rural unemployment rate fell slightly to 5.0%, while urban unemployment stood at 6.6%.

Q8. According to the Brand Finance India 100-2026 report released in July 2026, which company retained its rank as India's Most Valuable and Strongest Tyre Brand?

- [A] Apollo Tyres
- [B] MRF (Madras Rubber Factory)
- [C] CEAT Tyres
- [D] JK Tyre

Answer: [B] MRF (Madras Rubber Factory)

Detailed Explanation: MRF was featured as India's most valuable and strongest brand in the tire sector according to the Brand Finance India

100–2026 report. The assessment evaluated brand equity, corporate sustainability practices, market revenue performance, and customer trust index scores.

Q9. Under the newly approved National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026), what is the primary objective of the Union Government?

- [A] Exporting 50% of domestic urea to South Asian nations
- [B] Achieving complete self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in domestic urea production
- [C] Replacing chemical urea completely with nano liquid urea by 2028
- [D] Mandating private sector dominance in fertilizer retail

Answer: [B] Achieving complete self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in domestic urea production

Detailed Explanation: The Union Cabinet approved NIPU-2026 to incentivize new greenfield and brownfield urea manufacturing units. The policy aims to eliminate import dependence on conventional urea by revitalizing closed fertilizer plants and improving energy efficiency across domestic manufacturing units.

Q10. What action did the European Union take against online marketplace AliExpress under its landmark Digital Services Act (DSA) in July 2026?

- [A] Banned its operations permanently across all 27 member states
- [B] Imposed a €550 million fine for non-compliance with digital consumer safety laws
- [C] Suspended its digital payment gateways

- [D] Mandated the transfer of data servers to Brussels

Answer: [B] Imposed a €550 million fine for non-compliance with digital consumer safety laws

Detailed Explanation: The European Commission imposed a **€550 million fine** on e-commerce giant **AliExpress** under the Digital Services Act (DSA). The action followed findings that the platform failed to effectively curb illegal products, counterfeit goods, and deceptive commercial practices affecting consumers in the European single market.

Section 4: Sports

Q11. The 2026 FIFA World Cup final was scheduled for 19 July 2026. Which two national teams earned their spots in this championship match?

- [A] France and England
- [B] Spain and Argentina
- [C] Brazil and Germany
- [D] Argentina and France

Answer: [B] Spain and Argentina

Detailed Explanation: The 2026 FIFA World Cup—co-hosted by Canada, Mexico, and the United States—culminated in its grand final on 19 July 2026 at MetLife Stadium. The showpiece clash featured reigning European champions **Spain** against defending world champions **Argentina**.

Q12. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, India's highest civilian sporting honor, evaluates a athlete's outstanding performance over what specific time period?

- [A] 1 year
- [B] 2 years
- [C] 4 years

- [D] 5 years

Answer: [C] 4 years

Detailed Explanation: The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (formerly known as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award) is conferred annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. It evaluates spectacular and outstanding performances by sportspersons over a continuous period of **4 years** at the international level.

Section 5: Appointments & Resignations

Q13. Senior IPS officer Mamta Rahul (2007 batch) was appointed to which key security post in July 2026?

- [A] Director General, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)
- [B] Inspector General, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- [C] Joint Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- [D] Additional Director General, Border Security Force (BSF)

Answer: [B] Inspector General, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

Detailed Explanation: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of **Mamta Rahul**, an IPS officer of the 2007 batch, as Inspector General (IG) in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on deputation.

Q14. Gautam Malhotra stepped down from his executive leadership role in July 2026 as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which major Indian corporate entity?

- [A] Tata Steel
- [B] Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL)

- [C] JSW Steel
- [D] Steel Authority of India (SAIL)

Answer: [B] Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL)

Detailed Explanation: Gautam Malhotra resigned as the CEO of Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL). The corporate leadership transition was announced alongside board approvals for strategic green-steel manufacturing expansions.

Section 6: Awards & Honors

Q15. Which distinguished actors were announced among the lead recipients of top acting honors at the 71st National Film Awards ceremony highlighted in July 2026?

- [A] Kamal Haasan, Ranveer Singh, and Alia Bhatt
- [B] Mammooty, Kartik Aaryan, and Yami Gautam
- [C] Mohanlal, Ayushmann Khurrana, and Kriti Sanon
- [D] Vikram, Rajkummar Rao, and Vidya Balan

Answer: [B] Mammooty, Kartik Aaryan, and Yami Gautam

Detailed Explanation: The National Film Awards recognized cinematic excellence across Indian languages. Malayalam cinema veteran **Mammooty** along with **Kartik Aaryan** and **Yami Gautam** were among the leading award recipients honored for their performances and cultural contributions.

Section 7: Books & Authors

Q16. The historical compilation *Archaeological Trails of the Tamils: Stone Age to Sangam Era*, released in July 2026, primarily highlights discoveries made at which ancient settlement in Tamil Nadu?

- [A] Keeladi

- [B] Tenkasi
- [C] Adichanallur
- [D] Kodumanal

Answer: [B] Tenkasi

Detailed Explanation: Recent archaeological excavations documented in the book highlight **Tenkasi** as a key settlement showing continuous human habitation and cultural evolution from the Megalithic/Stone Age straight through to the Sangam Era in South India.

Section 8: Defence & Security

Q17. The Indian Navy's anti-submarine helicopters operate the advanced AN/AQS-22 system. What function does this technology perform?

- [A] Satellite-guided anti-ship missile targeting
- [B] Airborne Dipping Sonar for detecting silent submerged submarines
- [C] Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) shielding
- [D] Sub-surface laser communication

Answer: [B] Airborne Dipping Sonar for detecting silent submerged submarines

Detailed Explanation:

The **AN/AQS-22** is an advanced Airborne Low Frequency Sonar (ALFS) system deployed on naval helicopters like the MH-60R. It lowers a dipping sonar beneath the water surface, enabling crews to detect, localize, and track ultra-quiet diesel-electric and nuclear submarines in littoral and deep-sea environments.

Section 9: Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q18. What is the main purpose of the VISHWAS 2026 initiative introduced by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)?

- [A] Offering interest-free home loans to gig economy workers
- [B] Simplifying employer compliance, resolving long-pending provident fund disputes, and digitizing claim settlements
- [C] Providing universal health insurance to unorganized sector employees
- [D] Waiving off corporate pension liabilities

Answer: [B] Simplifying employer compliance, resolving long-pending provident fund disputes, and digitizing claim settlements

Detailed Explanation: EPFO launched **VISHWAS 2026** (Voluntary Initiative for Settlement, Harmonies & Voluntary Compliance Enhancement System). The scheme aims to simplify regulatory compliance for industries, expedite digital claim settlements, reduce litigation, and enhance transparency for millions of formal sector employees.

Q19. India launched a strategic financial initiative titled "Biomedical Research Career Programme" with an allocation of ₹1,500 crore in collaboration with which global organization?

- [A] Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- [B] Wellcome Trust
- [C] World Health Organization (WHO)
- [D] Rockefeller Foundation

Answer: [B] Wellcome Trust

Detailed Explanation: The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, partnered with the UK-based **Wellcome Trust** to launch the ₹1,500 crore **Biomedical Research Career Programme**. The project supports early-career and senior clinical

researchers in biomedical science, health innovation, and epidemiology.

Section 10: MoUs & International Agreements

Q20. During the 12th BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting held in Hyderabad under India's 2026 presidency, member states unanimously adopted which historic document?

- [A] The Hyderabad Global Labor Pact
- [B] The BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration and Guwahati Declaration
- [C] The BRICS Universal Social Security Charter
- [D] The Telangana Green Jobs Accord

Answer: [B] The BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration and Guwahati Declaration

Detailed Explanation: Hosted under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship themed *"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"*, ministers adopted the formal Declaration and backed Indian-proposed initiatives including BRICS CONNECT, the Digital Repository of Best Practices, and Digital Capacity Building.

Q21. Which four BRICS countries signed the founding charter establishing the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organisation (WAICO) in Shanghai, while India abstained from joining?

- [A] Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa
- [B] China, Russia, Iran, and UAE
- [C] Russia, China, Egypt, and Ethiopia
- [D] Brazil, China, India, and South Africa

Answer: [A] Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa

Detailed Explanation: The World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organisation (WAICO) was founded in Shanghai by four original BRICS members (Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa). India opted out of joining the group to maintain strategic autonomy and adhere to its independent framework for global AI governance and cross-border data flows.

Section 11: Important Days, Anniversaries & Culture

Q22. The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 added Fundamental Duties to the Indian Constitution under Part IV-A and Article 51A based on the recommendations of which committee?

- [A] Sarkaria Commission
- [B] Swaran Singh Committee
- [C] Kothari Commission
- [D] Balwant Rai Mehta Committee

Answer: [B] Swaran Singh Committee

Detailed Explanation: Fundamental Duties were incorporated into the Constitution of India via the 42nd Amendment Act in 1976, following recommendations by the Swaran Singh Committee. Originally 10 duties were added; an 11th duty regarding children's education was added later by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002.

Q23. International Chess Day is celebrated globally every year on 20 July to commemorate the founding date of FIDE (International Chess Federation) in which year?

- [A] 1912
- [B] 1924
- [C] 1948



- [D] 1956

Answer: [B] 1924

Detailed Explanation: International Chess Day is observed on **20 July** to mark the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in **1924**. The UN recognized the day globally to highlight chess as a tool for promoting peace, strategic thinking, and international cooperation.

Q24. Which statutory body is responsible for managing India's premier policy think tank, NITI Aayog, with the Prime Minister serving as its ex-officio Chairperson?

- [A] Ministry of Finance
- [B] Cabinet Secretariat
- [C] Non-statutory extra-constitutional body formed via Cabinet Resolution
- [D] Constitutional Body under Article 280

Answer: [C] Non-statutory extra-constitutional body formed via Cabinet Resolution

Detailed Explanation: NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was established on January 1, 2015, replacing the 65-year-old Planning Commission. It was created through an executive resolution of the Union Cabinet and is a non-statutory, extra-constitutional body serving as the central government's main policy think tank.

Section 12: Art, Culture & Environment

Q25. Archaeological evidence recently highlighted from the Stone Age to the Sangam Era settlement near Tenkasi belongs to which major river basin in Tamil Nadu?

- [A] Kaveri River Basin
- [B] Chittar / Thamirabarani River Basin
- [C] Vaigai River Basin

- [D] Palar River Basin

Answer: [B] Chittar / Thamirabarani River Basin

Detailed Explanation: The ancient settlements in and around Tenkasi in southern Tamil Nadu are located along the **Chittar and Thamirabarani river systems**. Archaeological discoveries including urn burials, microliths, and Sangam-era pottery demonstrate continuous habitation across thousands of years.

Q26. Manasbal Lake, a celebrated natural water body in the Kashmir Valley, holds which geographical distinction in India?

- [A] Largest brackish water lagoon in North India
- [B] Deepest natural freshwater lake in India
- [C] Only high-altitude artificial reservoir in Jammu & Kashmir
- [D] Largest saline lake in the Himalayan range

Answer: [B] Deepest natural freshwater lake in India

Detailed Explanation: Located in Ganderbal district of Jammu & Kashmir, **Manasbal Lake** reaches depths of up to 13 meters (43 feet), making it the deepest natural freshwater lake in India. It is renowned for its aquatic vegetation, bird life, and lotus blooms.

Q27. *Ahaetulla laudankia* (Laudankia Vine Snake), a rare reptile species recently photographed in scrub habitats of Rajasthan, is endemic to:

- [A] Western Ghats only
- [B] The entire Indian Subcontinent
- [C] Eastern Himalayas
- [D] Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Answer: [B] The entire Indian Subcontinent

Detailed Explanation: First described scientifically in 2019, *Ahaetulla laudankia* (commonly known as the Laudankia Vine Snake) is endemic to India and parts of the broader **Indian Subcontinent**. It displays distinct brownish camouflage and slender body structure suited for dry scrub forest vegetation.

Section 13: Polity & Legal Precedents

Q28. In landmark constitutional jurisprudence, which Supreme Court ruling established that state governments cannot withhold film certification on 'law and order' grounds once a statutory body (CBFC) has cleared it?

- [A] Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan
- [B] Union of India v. K.M. Shankarappa
- [C] S. Rangarajan v. P. Jagjivan Ram
- [D] Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India

Answer: [C] S. Rangarajan v. P. Jagjivan Ram

Detailed Explanation: In *S. Rangarajan v. P. Jagjivan Ram (1989)*, the Supreme Court ruled that freedom of expression cannot be suppressed simply because of threatened public hostility or potential law and order threats. The court held that it is the duty of the state to protect freedom of speech rather than silence the speaker.

Q29. What is the maximum number of permanent members in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) holding veto power?

- [A] 5
- [B] 10
- [C] 15
- [D] 7

Answer: [A] 5

Detailed Explanation: The UN Security Council consists of 15 member states. This includes 5

permanent members (P5: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) who hold veto power, and 10 non-permanent members elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms.

Q30. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) uses the 'Repo Rate' as its primary monetary policy instrument. What does the Repo Rate represent?

- [A] The rate at which RBI borrows funds from commercial banks
- [B] The short-term lending rate at which RBI provides liquidity to commercial banks against government securities
- [C] The interest rate banks charge to their most creditworthy corporate customers
- [D] The minimum cash balance banks must maintain with RBI

Answer: [B] The short-term lending rate at which RBI provides liquidity to commercial banks against government securities

Detailed Explanation: The **Repo Rate** (Repurchase Option Rate) is the short-term interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India lends money to commercial banks against government securities. It serves as a primary tool for managing liquidity, curbing inflation, and guiding interest rate structures across the banking system.

