

## Part 1: International & National Strategic News

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official state visit to France in June 2026:**

1. The bilateral talks were held at Villa Kerylos in Nice, France.
2. The bilateral relationship between India and France was elevated to a "Special Global Strategic Partnership" in February 2026.
3. Both nations jointly inaugurated the inaugural edition of 'Bharat Innovates 2026'.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?** A) 1 and 2 only

- B) 2 and 3 only  
C) 1 and 3 only  
D) 1, 2, and 3

**Answer: D) 1, 2, and 3**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook a crucial 6-day official visit to France in June 2026. Bilateral talks with French President Emmanuel Macron took place at the historic Villa Kerylos in Nice. This marked the first high-level meeting since ties were formally elevated to a "Special Global Strategic Partnership" earlier in February 2026. A massive outcome of the visit was the launch of 'Bharat Innovates 2026' at the Palais des Expositions de Nice, organized by the Ministry of Education under the India-France Year of Innovation. Key deliverables included the adoption of the India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030 and the expansion of UPI in France.

**Q2. The "Rules of Implementation" for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) were officially adopted in June 2026 between India and which of the following countries?**

- A) Germany  
B) Japan  
C) France  
D) Australia

**Answer: B) Japan**

**Detailed Explanation:**

In June 2026, India and Japan formally operationalized the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. This creates a regulated carbon market framework allowing Japanese companies to invest in high-end greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction technologies in India. The credits accrued from these decarbonization projects will be shared between both nations to fulfill their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

**Q3. In June 2026, which country stepped in as the primary diplomatic "mediator" to facilitate the signing of the historic "Islamabad MOU" aimed at ending hostilities between the United States and Iran?**

- A) Oman  
B) Switzerland  
C) Pakistan  
D) Qatar

**Answer: C) Pakistan**

**Detailed Explanation:**

In a major geopolitical breakthrough in mid-June 2026, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif signed the "Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)" as an official mediator. Pakistan successfully brokered peace talks by securing a vital ceasefire on April 8 and hosting intense diplomatic parleys between Washington and Tehran. This marks the most significant diplomatic thaw between the US and Iran since they severed official ties in 1979.

**Q4. The term "Namo Cities" was seen in the news in June 2026. What does it refer to?**

- A) Upgraded smart villages under the RURBAN mission
- B) A cluster of new IT hubs in Gujarat
- C) Four new greenfield cities planned by the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)
- D) Bullet train terminal cities

**Answer: C) Four new greenfield cities planned by the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), chaired by Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, approved the structural plan to develop 4 brand new greenfield cities. Branded as "Namo Cities," one city each will be built across Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. The naming structure is aligned directly with India's Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) trains, the "Namo Bharat."

**Q5. Regarding the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026 published by Startup Genome, what is the rank achieved by Bengaluru?**

- A) 10th
- B) 15th
- C) 22nd
- D) 8th

**Answer: B) 15th**

**Detailed Explanation:**

In the freshly released Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026, compiled by Startup Genome in partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Network, Bengaluru (Karnataka) maintained its strong foothold as

the tech capital of India by ranking 15th globally among the top 40 global tech hubs.

## Part 2: Economics, Banking & Corporate Affairs

**Q6. What is the name of the new national industry platform launched by India's financial sector in June 2026 to enhance the country's Anti-Money Laundering (AML) framework?**

- A) FIN-GUARD
- B) AML-Aegis
- C) ARIFAC
- D) KAVACH-AML

**Answer: C) ARIFAC**

**Detailed Explanation:**

To counter deep-rooted financial crimes and cross-border cyber fraud risks, India's financial sector formally introduced the **Alliance of Reporting Entities in AML/CFT (ARIFAC)**. ARIFAC works as an intelligence-sharing and capacity-building framework for banks, fintech institutions, and reporting entities to implement stricter Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) mechanisms.

**Q7. In June 2026, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revised its trading framework for Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). What is the newly introduced initial dynamic price band limit?**

- A) Fixed 20%
- B) Initial 5%, expandable to 10%
- C) Initial 10%, expandable to 20%
- D) Complete removal of price bands

**Answer: C) Initial 10%, expandable to 20%**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Effective from September 1, 2026, SEBI has discarded the old rigid, fixed 20% price band

based on Net Asset Value (NAV) for equity and debt ETFs. It has established a *dynamic price band system* (excluding liquid and overnight ETFs). The system starts with a defensive 10% initial cap, which can move up to 20% only after a designated regulatory "cooling-off period" to prevent extreme flash crashes.

**Q8. Which Indian corporate entity became the only Indian technology innovator to break into the global Top 20 Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) rankings for 2025 released by WIPO in June 2026?**

- A) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
- B) Infosys
- C) Jio Platforms Limited (JPL)
- D) DRDO

**Answer: C) Jio Platforms Limited (JPL)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

According to data released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in June 2026, Reliance Industries' arm **Jio Platforms Limited (JPL)** cracked the Global Top 20 in the international PCT rankings. It stands as the lone Indian firm on this prestigious tech innovation list. Globally, China led the rankings with over 73,000 filings, while India as a nation stood 12th with 3,070 applications.

**Q9. To circumvent compliance barriers in Western markets, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is developing a new domestic framework. What is it?**

- A) India Sustainability Certification Framework for Exports
- B) Green-Tariff Equalization Scheme
- C) Atmanirbhar ESG Standard
- D) Bharat-Eco Compliance Code

**Answer: A) India Sustainability Certification Framework for Exports**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Driven by aggressive Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) mandates like the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and strict UK compliance norms, India is rolling out its own "Sustainability Certification Framework for Exports". This helps Indian MSMEs and heavy industries validate their low-carbon supply chains via domestic certification recognized globally.

**Q10. Despite geopolitical issues in West Asia, India's net direct tax collections for the current fiscal year grew by what percentage to reach ₹5.2 lakh crore as of June 2026?**

- A) 10%
- B) 15%
- C) 19%
- D) 25%

**Answer: B) 15%**

**Detailed Explanation:**

India's net direct tax collections experienced a robust expansion of 15% year-on-year, scaling up to ₹5.2 lakh crore. Economists credit this strong trajectory to high corporate advance-tax compliance, reflecting strong corporate balance sheets and resilient domestic economic consumption despite high crude prices.

### Part 3: Environment, Government Schemes & Infrastructure

**Q11. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi launched the "GHCI Portal" in June 2026. What does this portal regulate?**

- A) Geo-Thermal Energy Harvesting
- B) Green Hydrogen Certification
- C) Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- D) Global Hydrocarbon Imports

**Answer: B) Green Hydrogen Certification**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy) launched the **Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India (GHCI Portal)**. It acts as a transparent digital ledger to track, verify, and issue low-carbon compliance certificates to hydrogen producers. The platform will officially go live on July 1, 2026, following its mandatory cyber-security audit.

**Q12. The massive 3,097 MW Etalin Hydroelectric Project, which saw a key Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed with NHPC Limited in June 2026, is built on which rivers?**

- A) Subansiri and Kameng
- B) Dri and Talo
- C) Dibang and Lohit
- D) Siang and Tista

**Answer: B) Dri and Talo**

**Detailed Explanation:**

NHPC Limited and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh signed a definitive MoA to implement the **3,097 MW Etalin Hydroelectric Project** in the Dibang Valley on a Build, Own, Operate, and Transfer (BOOT) basis for 40 years. It is one of India's largest planned run-of-the-river power projects. It uses two concrete gravity dams on the Dri and Talo rivers, which are key tributaries of the main Dibang River.

**Q13. According to a special progress report released on the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2026, how much degraded land did India successfully restore between 2011 and 2020 under the Bonn Challenge?**

- A) 15.20 million hectares
- B) 21.76 million hectares

C) 26.00 million hectares

D) 31.45 million hectares

**Answer: B) 21.76 million hectares**

**Detailed Explanation:**

On the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (June 17), India reported that it successfully restored **21.76 million hectares** of degraded and deforested land between 2011 and 2020. This puts India on a high-achievement path toward fulfilling its global commitments under the Bonn Challenge, which targets restoring 350 million hectares worldwide by 2030.

**Q14. The ₹12,000 crore Kishau Multi-Purpose Dam Project, which received emergency funding speed-tracks from 6 states in June 2026, is being constructed across which river?**

- A) Tons River
- B) Giri River
- C) Ken River
- D) Son River

**Answer: A) Tons River**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The Kishau Multi-Purpose Dam is a project of national importance being constructed across the **Tons River**, a principal tributary of the Yamuna River. The physical structure straddles the geographical borders of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Six beneficiary states (including Delhi and Rajasthan) signed an agreement to fast-track its development, supported by a 90% central assistance funding structure.

**Q15. Which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) partnered with CEEPL India and France's Dassault Systèmes to establish CODENE, India's first dedicated nuclear engineering design center?**

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Madras
- C) IIT Delhi
- D) IIT Hyderabad

**Answer: D) IIT Hyderabad**

**Detailed Explanation:**

IIT Hyderabad established India's first **Centre for Design and Engineering in Nuclear Energy (CODENE)**. The tripartite MoU was signed during the 'Bharat Innovates 2026' convention in Nice, France. CODENE will pioneer localized small modular reactor (SMR) designs and advanced structural modeling for clean nuclear power development.

## Part 4: Science, Technology & Defense News

**Q16. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) granted an in-principle approval of ₹500 crore in June 2026 to set up a "National Military Drone Technology Hub" at which institution?**

- A) IIT Madras
- B) IIT Kanpur
- C) IISc Bengaluru
- D) IIT Kharagpur

**Answer: B) IIT Kanpur**

**Detailed Explanation:**

To establish absolute self-reliance in unmanned combat aerial systems, the Ministry of Defence approved a ₹500 crore allocation for a **National Military Drone Technology Hub at IIT Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**. The hub will focus on stealth systems, drone swarm algorithms, and counter-drone kinetic weaponry.

**Q17. The Indian Army recently inducted 106 advanced jet-powered kamikaze drones**

**developed partially with Belarusian technology. What is the name of this drone system?**

- A) Astra-Gati
- B) Peacekeeper (Agniveg)
- C) Trishul-V
- D) Nag-Astra II

**Answer: B) Peacekeeper (Agniveg)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The Indian Army successfully inducted 106 **Peacekeeper (Agniveg) jet-powered kamikaze drones** (100 operational, 6 training units) manufactured by SMPP Limited. Developed in technical collaboration with KB Indela (Belarus), these localized high-speed loitering munitions can strike high-value tactical targets up to speeds of 750 km/h, filling the tactical gap between traditional heavy artillery and cruise missiles.

**Q18. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan announced in June 2026 that ISRO is collaborating with which department to engineer an artificial heating system capable of extending a Lunar Lander's life to 200 days?**

- A) Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- B) Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)
- C) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- D) Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)

**Answer: B) Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

To beat the freezing lunar night (-180°C) which destroys standard rovers after 14 Earth days, ISRO and the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** are co-developing a radioisotope-based artificial heating unit. This nuclear thermal



heating system will extend the survival limit of India's future lunar landers up to 200 Earth days.

**Q19. In June 2026, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) handed over 5 indigenously developed "Vapour Cells" to the DRDO. These cells are fundamentally used in which technology?**

- A) Hypersonic fuel tanks
- B) Quantum sensors and atomic clocks
- C) Thermal imaging cameras
- D) Li-ion submarine batteries

**Answer: B) Quantum sensors and atomic clocks**

**Detailed Explanation:**

During a specialized technology transfer meet in New Delhi, CSIR-NPL handed over five precision-designed **Vapour Cells** to the Solid-State Physics Laboratory (SSPL) of DRDO. These vapor cells are vital internal building blocks for next-generation quantum sensors, chip-scale atomic clocks, and highly classified military magnetometers.

**Q20. Which Indian AI company officially achieved "Unicorn Status" in June 2026 after closing a massive \$234 million funding round, valuing it at \$1.5 billion?**

- A) Krutrim AI
- B) Sarvam AI
- C) Hanooman AI
- D) Ola Maps

**Answer: B) Sarvam AI**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Bengaluru-based Indian generative artificial intelligence startup **Sarvam** raised \$234 million in its latest institutional funding round, pushing its market valuation past \$1.5 billion. This marks Sarvam as India's newest AI unicorn

focused on developing Indic LLMs (Large Language Models) optimized for local vernacular dialects.

## Part 5: Sports, Awards, Appointments & Schemes

**Q21. India is achieving a historic first by hosting the 26th Senior Asian Fencing Championships 2026 from June 19-24. In which city is this championship being held?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Bengaluru
- C) Delhi
- D) Hyderabad

**Answer: C) Delhi**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The Fencing Association of India (FAI) is hosting the historic **26th Senior Asian Fencing Championships 2026** in New Delhi. Over 400 world-class elite fencers from 30+ nations are participating. The Indian contingency is being spearheaded by C.A. Bhavani Devi, India's iconic premier fencing Olympian.

**Q22. Which Indian university emerged as the top-ranked Indian institution in the newly released QS World University Rankings 2027, climbing to the 118th spot globally?**

- A) IISc Bengaluru
- B) IIT Bombay
- C) IIT Delhi
- D) Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)

**Answer: C) IIT Delhi**

**Detailed Explanation:**

In the QS World University Rankings 2027 (released early in June 2026 by analytics firm Quacquarelli Symonds), **IIT Delhi** secured the highest spot among Indian institutions, ranking

118th globally (improving 5 places from its previous rank of 123).

**Q23. The free bus transit scheme named "Priyadarshini Scheme" for women and transgender individuals was launched in June 2026 by which state government?**

- A) Karnataka
- B) Telangana
- C) Kerala
- D) Tamil Nadu

**Answer: C) Kerala**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The **Priyadarshini Scheme** was officially launched by the Kerala government under Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan. The state-sponsored welfare initiative provides completely free travel privileges to women and transgender citizens across state-operated non-premium public buses.

**Q24. Which Indian state government announced a major structural revision to its "Cooperative Crop Loan Waiver Scheme," fully wiping out crop loans up to ₹75,000 borrowed between May 2025 and February 2026?**

- A) Punjab
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: B) Tamil Nadu**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The State Government of Tamil Nadu passed an executive revision to its flagship agriculture cooperative loan waiver architecture. The revision provides absolute, 100% debt relief for distressed small and marginal farmers who had pending crop loans up to ₹75,000 registered through cooperative banking institutions.

**Q25. Who was reappointed or reconstituted as the Chairperson of the newly formed Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) in June 2026?**

- A) Dr. P. L. Gautam
- B) Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Jr.
- C) Prof. Ramesh Chand
- D) Dr. Himanshu Pathak

**Answer: A) Dr. P. L. Gautam**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), operating under the MoEFCC, reconstituted its high-powered Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity. Renowned veteran agricultural scientist and Padma Shri awardee **Dr. P. L. Gautam** was appointed to head the panel to draft policy rules safeguarding India's unique native crop gene pools.

## Part 6: Dates, Art, Culture & Core General Awareness

**Q26. June 17 is globally observed as which of the following important days?**

- A) International Day of Family Remittances
- B) World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- C) World Oceans Day
- D) Global Wind Day

**Answer: B) World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The United Nations-mandated **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought** is observed annually on **June 17**. The day aims to turn public focus toward sustainable land management, soil degradation rehabilitation, and driving local efforts to combat desertification globally.

**Q27. Four traditional products from which North-Eastern state recently received official Geographical Indication (GI) tags in June 2026?**

- A) Manipur
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Assam
- D) Nagaland

**Answer: C) Assam**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The Geographical Indications Registry granted four new GI tags to native products from Assam, preserving their regional identity. This adds to Assam's existing socio-cultural GI inventory (which includes iconic items like Kaji Nemu and Gamosa), boosting the market value of indigenous artisanal crafts and agro-products.

**Q28. According to UNICEF's newly published "Children's Climate Risk Report 2026", what percentage of children in India are currently exposed to extreme heat conditions?**

- A) 55%
- B) 72%
- C) 92%
- D) 40%

**Answer: C) 92%**

**Detailed Explanation:**

UNICEF's highly critical *Children's Climate Risk Report 2026* highlights that nearly **392 million children in India (accounting for 92%)** face exposure to extreme heat. India received a maximum risk rating of 10/10 for heatwave exposure, stressing the immediate need to integrate child-centric adaptation protocols into state-level Heat Action Plans (HAPs).

**Q29. June 16 is designated globally by the United Nations to be celebrated as which specific event?**

- A) International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR)
- B) World Blood Donor Day
- C) International Day of Biological Diversity
- D) World Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises Day

**Answer: A) International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The UN celebrates the **International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) on June 16** every year. The day acknowledges the immense financial contributions that over 200 million migrant workers make to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, directly boosting developing economies.

**Q30. The "WT-MARUT Portal", launched by the Union Government in June 2026, is a digital system aimed at monitoring and accelerating supply chains in which sector?**

- A) Water Treatment Plants
- B) Marine Transportation
- C) Wind Energy
- D) Tribal Art Marketing

**Answer: C) Wind Energy**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi launched the **WT-MARUT Portal** (Wind Turbine-Market Access, Regulation & Trade Unit). The portal streamlines supply chains, component manufacturing, and clearances for wind energy projects. This initiative aligns with India's national goal of reaching 100 GW of installed wind capacity by 2030 and an ultimate target of 155 GW by 2035.