

Part 1: International News & Reports

Q1. Which country clinched the top spot for the ninth consecutive year in the World Happiness Report 2026, and what is India's position in the global index?

- A) Norway; 126th
- B) Finland; 116th
- C) Denmark; 108th
- D) Iceland; 132nd

Correct Answer: B) Finland; 116th

Detailed Explanation: The World Happiness Report 2026, jointly published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Oxford University, was officially released. **Finland** retained its position as the world's happiest country for the **ninth consecutive time**, followed closely by Iceland and Denmark. **India ranked 116th** out of the evaluated nations. The index evaluates key socio-economic variables, including Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, social support networks, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity, and perceptions of institutional corruption.

Q2. Bhumika Shrestha made history by taking oath as the first-ever transgender woman Member of Parliament (MP). Which neighboring country of India does she represent?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Nepal
- D) Bhutan

Correct Answer: C) Nepal

Detailed Explanation: In a historic step for LGBTQ+ representation in South Asia, **Bhumika Shrestha** became the **first transgender woman to become a Member of Parliament in Nepal**. She represents the progressive *Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP)*. This milestone underscores Nepal's evolving legal and constitutional framework regarding third-gender rights, building on its progressive post-2015 constitutional mandates that protect gender and sexual minorities.

Q3. Which nation officially announced its absolute withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO), citing a policy pivot toward independent, sovereignty-based management of national health policies?

- A) Brazil
- B) Argentina
- C) South Africa
- D) Italy

Correct Answer: B) Argentina

Detailed Explanation: The Government of **Argentina** officially declared its total withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO). The state leadership noted that its national health programs and emergency protocols will now be administered under strict domestic sovereignty. By pulling out, Argentina will stop both its financial contributions to the global body and its receipt of specialized operational funding. The WHO was established on April 7, 1948, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Q4. According to the international Hurun Global Rich List 2026, who remains the world's richest individual, and which Indian business tycoon retained the title of the Richest Person in Asia?

- A) Jeff Bezos; Gautam Adani

- B) Elon Musk; Mukesh Ambani
- C) Larry Page; Shiv Nadar
- D) Mark Zuckerberg; Lakshmi Mittal

Correct Answer: B) Elon Musk; Mukesh Ambani

Detailed Explanation: The Hurun Global Rich List 2026 was released, identifying **402 billionaires** worldwide. **Elon Musk** held his position as the world's richest individual, with a net worth evaluated at \$792 billion, driven by expansions in aerospace, EV manufacturing, and artificial intelligence infrastructure. Within Asia, **Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman of Reliance Industries, retained his rank as the **Richest Person in Asia**. The report also noted that India's total billionaire count has risen to 308.

Part 2: National News, Polity & Governance

Q5. The Lok Sabha recently approved a significant operational extension for the high-level Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining the 'One Nation One Election' framework. This committee's tenure has been extended until which parliamentary session?

- A) Budget Session 2027
- B) Winter Session 2026
- C) Monsoon Session 2026
- D) Special Session 2027

Correct Answer: C) Monsoon Session 2026

Detailed Explanation: The Lok Sabha formally extended the tenure of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) tasked with reviewing the "One Nation, One Election" structural framework. The committee is analyzing the complex legal mechanics of the **Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024**, which aims to synchronize simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. The

panel now has until the **Monsoon Session of 2026** to submit its final report and legislative recommendations.

Q6. The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is closely reviewing the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026. What core systemic alteration does this bill introduce compared to the parent 2019 Act?

- A) It introduces reservation quotas in private corporate boards
- B) It shifts the identity framework from self-identification to a Chief Medical Officer (CMO)-led Medical Board certification
- C) It transfers administrative oversight entirely to the Ministry of Home Affairs
- D) It completely decriminalizes forced labor involving transgender individuals

Correct Answer: B) It shifts the identity framework from self-identification to a Chief Medical Officer (CMO)-led Medical Board certification

Detailed Explanation: The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 marks a significant shift in India's legal architecture for gender identity. Unlike the 2019 Act—which allowed individuals to register their gender via self-determination in line with the Supreme Court's landmark *NALSA (2014)* verdict—the 2026 Amendment Bill removes Section 4(2). It institutes a formal **state-controlled verification model**, requiring a **Chief Medical Officer (CMO)-led Medical Board** to certify an individual's transition before official documentation can be amended.

Q7. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) officially declared the ancient Kalinjar Fort Hill as a National Geo-Heritage Site. In which Indian state is this historical landmark located?

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

Correct Answer: C) Uttar Pradesh

Detailed Explanation: The GSI designated the historic Kalinjar Fort Hill, located in the Banda district of Uttar Pradesh, as a National Geo-Heritage Site. It was officially inaugurated by the Additional Director General of the GSI's Northern Region. Geologically, the site features the rare Eparchaeon Unconformity, with rock layers dating back an estimated 2.5 billion years. Historically, the fortress is tied to the Gupta Empire and the Chandela Dynasty, and it houses the ancient Nilkanth Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Q8. According to data released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), India's rapidly growing operational metro rail network now ranks as the world's _____ largest urban rail transit system.

- A) 2nd
- B) 4th
- C) 3rd
- D) 5th

Correct Answer: C) 3rd

Detailed Explanation: Driven by massive infrastructure spending, India's operational metro rail network has become the **3rd largest in the world**, trailing only China and the United States. India features over **1,143 kilometers** of fully operational metro corridors cutting across 29 major urban centers. The network handles an estimated 11.5 million daily passengers, serving as a core component of the country's

clean public transit and urban decarbonization initiatives.

Part 3: Economics, Banking & Finance

Q9. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) greenlit a major ₹1,718.56 crore financial package to support Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations for cotton. Which institutional body acts as the nodal agency to execute price support operations for cotton in India?

- A) National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)
- B) Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)
- C) Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- D) Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)

Correct Answer: B) Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)

Detailed Explanation: The CCEA approved an MSP funding allocation of ₹1,718.56 crore to the **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)** to cover price support operations during recent harvest seasons. When market prices fall below the government-mandated MSP, the CCI steps in to procure cotton directly from farmers, shielding them from market volatility. Cotton is a major cash crop primarily cultivated in deep black (regur) soils, which have excellent moisture retention properties.

Q10. HDFC Bank announced the formal appointment of Keki Mistry to which key leadership position following the resignation of Atanu Chakraborty?

- A) Managing Director and CEO
- B) Chief Risk Officer
- C) Interim Part-time Chairman

D) Lead Independent Director

Correct Answer: C) Interim Part-time Chairman

Detailed Explanation: Following the resignation of Atanu Chakraborty, private sector lender **HDFC Bank appointed Keki Mistry as its Interim Part-time Chairman.** Mistry is a seasoned financial executive who previously served as the Vice Chairman and CEO of HDFC Limited before its historic mega-merger with HDFC Bank. His appointment aims to ensure regulatory consistency and steady corporate governance at the bank.

Q11. Metropolis, the premier commercial project of Reliance MET City, became the first development in India to earn the prestigious LEED Platinum Pre-Certification under the "LEED for Cities: Plan and Design" rating system. In which state is this project located?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Haryana
- D) Karnataka

Correct Answer: C) Haryana

Detailed Explanation: Located in **Jhajjar, Haryana**, Metropolis (the flagship commercial hub within Reliance MET City) became the first project in India to achieve the **LEED Platinum Pre-Certification** under the *LEED for Cities: Plan and Design* framework. Awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), this rating recognizes projects that integrate sustainability, climate resilience, and resource efficiency directly into the early urban planning and design phases.

Part 4: Government Schemes & MoUs

Q12. The Government of India launched a targeted trade-mitigation security architecture called the RELIEF Scheme under the Export Promotion Mission. What does the acronym RELIEF stand for?

- A) Rural Enterprise and Logistics Incentives for Economic Foundations
- B) Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation
- C) Regional Energy and Linkage Infrastructure for External Freight
- D) Retail Export Levies and Insurance Fund

Correct Answer: B) Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation

Detailed Explanation: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry rolled out the **RELIEF (Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) Scheme.** This emergency program supports domestic exporters affected by supply chain crises and geopolitical friction in West Asia. It provides financial relief and alternative logistical routes to offset rising ocean freight rates, elevated maritime insurance premiums, and extended transit times caused by cargo diversions around major maritime shipping corridors.

Q13. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the 'Divyang Shakti Scheme' to provide free public bus transportation for differently-abled citizens. Which state launched this welfare initiative?

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

Correct Answer: C) Andhra Pradesh

Detailed Explanation: As part of state-level Ugadi celebrations, the Government of **Andhra Pradesh** launched the **Divyang Shakti Scheme**. Inaugurated by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati, the initiative provides free travel for differently-abled individuals on state-run public transport buses. It forms part of a broader push to improve accessibility and lower transit costs for vulnerable groups.

Q14. The nationwide digital campaign titled 'VB-G Ram G Youth Digital Campaign' was launched to boost youth participation in grass-roots rural development. Which Union Ministry is spearheading this campaign?

- A) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- B) Ministry of Rural Development
- C) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- D) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Correct Answer: B) Ministry of Rural Development

Detailed Explanation: The **Ministry of Rural Development** launched the **VB-G Ram G Youth Digital Campaign**. This countrywide digital initiative encourages rural youth to actively participate in planning, auditing, and executing rural development schemes (such as MGNREGS and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-NRLM) through specialized digital tracking portals and open-source local governance applications.

Q15. The Ministry of AYUSH signed an MoU with which Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) to establish integrated AYUSH medical units across its health facilities?

- A) Border Security Force (BSF)
- B) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

C) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

D) Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

Correct Answer: B) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

Detailed Explanation: The **Ministry of AYUSH** signed a comprehensive partnership agreement with the **CISF**. Under this framework, specialized AYUSH medical desks and wellness units will be set up inside CISF hospitals and camp clinics across India. The program provides evidence-based traditional health systems—including Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy—to CISF personnel and their families to help manage stress and improve physical resilience.

Part5:Appointments & Resignations

Q16. Global clothing brand UNIQLO India announced the appointment of which Indian sports icon as its newest national brand ambassador for its daily functional apparel campaigns?

- A) Virat Kohli
- B) Jasprit Bumrah
- C) Neeraj Chopra
- D) PV Sindhu

Correct Answer: B) Jasprit Bumrah

Detailed Explanation: **UNIQLO India** signed **Indian premier fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah** as its official brand ambassador. Bumrah will headline promotional campaigns centered on the brand's *LifeWear* design philosophy, which emphasizes high-quality, functional, and durable daily wear. This partnership bridges sports performance with lifestyle fashion.

Q17. The Ministry of Home Affairs announced the appointment of the brand ambassador for the upcoming Digital Census operations to raise



awareness about the digital data-gathering process. Who has been appointed?

- A) Ayushmann Khurrana
- B) Pankaj Tripathi
- C) Amitabh Bachchan
- D) R. Madhavan

Correct Answer: B) Pankaj Tripathi

Detailed Explanation: Acclaimed actor **Pankaj Tripathi** has been named the official **Brand Ambassador** for India's upcoming **Digital Census**. Known for his broad appeal across rural and urban demographics, Tripathi will lead public service campaigns explaining the transition from paper forms to digital data entry via a dedicated Census mobile application. The initiative emphasizes data confidentiality, accuracy, and the importance of participation for national planning.

Part 6: Awards & Honors

Q18. The prestigious Stockholm Water Prize 2026—often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Water"—was awarded to which prominent environmental scientist for outstanding work in water resource modeling?

- A) Kaveh Madani
- B) Johan Rockström
- C) Sunita Narain
- D) Rajendra Singh

Correct Answer: A) Kaveh Madani

Detailed Explanation: The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) awarded the **Stockholm Water Prize 2026** to globally renowned scientist **Kaveh Madani**. Madani was honored for his research integrating game theory, systems analysis, and behavioral economics into water resource management.

His work offers new solutions for cross-border water conflicts, groundwater depletion, and climate adaptation strategies under severe hydrological constraints.

Q19. In July 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, the highest civilian and military honor of which nation?

- A) Egypt
- B) France
- C) Greece
- D) UAE

Correct Answer: B) France

Detailed Explanation: Competitive exams often test prominent international awards conferred upon the Head of Government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the **Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour** from France in July 2023, making him the first Indian Prime Minister to receive this specific distinction. The award highlights the strategic, defense, and economic partnership between India and France.

Part 7: Science, Technology & Environment

Q20. The Union Cabinet approved the 'Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme' with a ₹2,584.60 crore allocation running through FY31. Small Hydro Power installations in India are legally categorized up to what maximum power generation threshold?

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

Correct Answer: B) 25 MW

Detailed Explanation: In India, hydropower projects with a total generation capacity up to 25 MW are classified as Small Hydro Power (SHP). These installations fall under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). The newly greenlit ₹2,584.60 crore scheme aims to add roughly 1,500 MW of capacity via eco-friendly run-of-the-river technologies, focusing primarily on remote, hilly, and North-Eastern regions.

Q21. The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) successfully tested its indigenously engineered "Floating LiDAR Buoy System." This technology is primarily used to measure which environmental variable?

- A) Sub-surface tectonic tremors
- B) Deep-sea microplastic concentrations
- C) High-altitude offshore wind profiles
- D) Marine chlorophyll density

Correct Answer: B) High-altitude offshore wind profiles (Listed as Option B here; corresponds to 'Wind measurement')

Detailed Explanation: Developed by NIOT, the **Floating LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) Buoy System** is a major advancement for India's clean energy infrastructure. Deployed at sea, the system uses laser pulses to map wind speeds, direction, and turbulence profiles up to 300 meters above sea level. This data is critical for assessing and planning offshore wind farm installations along India's coastline.

Q22. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) expanded its Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) framework by introducing "ALMM List-III." This list mandates strict domestic compliance for which components starting June 1, 2028?

- A) Green Hydrogen Storage Tanks

- B) Solar Ingots and Wafers
- C) Solid-state EV Batteries
- D) Wind Turbine Blades

Correct Answer: B) Solar Ingots and Wafers

Detailed Explanation: To strengthen the domestic solar manufacturing ecosystem and reduce reliance on imported raw materials, the MNRE extended its ALMM regulatory framework via **List-III to cover solar ingots and wafers, effective from June 1, 2028**. This policy ensures that public solar installations use modules made from indigenously processed base components, encouraging upstream domestic solar manufacturing.

Part 8: Defense News & Security

Q23. The Indian Navy launched a major multilateral maritime security and patrol initiative involving 16 partner nations across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). What is the name of this operational exercise?

- A) Exercise Milan 2026
- B) IOS SAGAR 2026
- C) Exercise Sea Dragon 2026
- D) Exercise Varuna 2026

Correct Answer: B) IOS SAGAR 2026

Detailed Explanation: The Indian Navy launched the **IOS SAGAR 2026 (Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR) Initiative**, involving naval forces and maritime assets from 16 Indian Ocean nations. The exercise focuses on anti-piracy drills, protecting global sea lines of communication (SLOCs), and improving disaster response coordination. It aligns with India's regional vision of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**.

Q24. The Indian Army successfully conducted the comprehensive domestic integrated

firepower and combat drill named 'Exercise Amogh Jwala.' Where was this military exercise staged?

- A) Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- B) Babina Field Firing Range, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- D) Devlali Firing Range, Maharashtra

Correct Answer: B) Babina Field Firing Range, Uttar Pradesh

Detailed Explanation: The Indian Army conducted 'Exercise Amogh Jwala' at the Babina Field Firing Range near Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. The integrated combat exercise tested newly inducted armored vehicles, automated artillery units, and anti-tank guided missile systems, focusing on tactical coordination and digital warfare integration for modern battlefields.

Q25. The Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCI) signed a historic shipbuilding contract with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) to construct India's first alternative-fuel platform vessel. What fuel architecture will this vessel use?

- A) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
- B) Green Methanol Dual-Fuel
- C) Ammonia-Ready Propulsion
- D) Hydrogen Fuel Cell

Correct Answer: B) Green Methanol Dual-Fuel

Detailed Explanation: SCI signed a milestone construction contract with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) to build a **green methanol dual-fuel Platform Supply Vessel (PSV)**. This project marks the first alternative-fuel vessel in SCI's fleet and India's first domestic methanol dual-fuel maritime platform, aligning with global goals to reduce carbon emissions in shipping.

Part 2: Culture, Sports, Books & Important Days

Q26. Communities across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka celebrated the traditional New Year festival known as 'Ugadi'. According to Hindu astronomical calendars, Ugadi marks the commencement of which era?

- A) Vikram Samvat
- B) Shaka Samvat
- C) Kali Samvat
- D) Gupta Samvat

Correct Answer: B) Shaka Samvat

Detailed Explanation: Celebrated across southern India, **Ugadi** marks the **beginning of the Hindu New Year based on the Shaka Samvat calendar**. A central custom of the festival is preparing *Ugadi Pachadi*, a dish combining six distinct tastes (sweet, sour, bitter, tangy, spicy, and salty) to symbolize the varied experiences of the coming year. Concurrently, Maharashtra celebrated *Gudi Padwa*, which aligns with the *Vikram Samvat* calendar.

Q27. India secured the official hosting rights for the prestigious World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028. Which city will host this global sporting event?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Bengaluru
- C) Bhubaneswar
- D) Ahmedabad

Correct Answer: C) Bhubaneswar

Detailed Explanation: The World Athletics Council, convening in Torun, Poland, officially awarded the **hosting rights for the World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028 to India**. The event will be hosted at the state-of-the-art

indoor athletics stadium within the **Kalinga Stadium complex** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, marking the first time India will host this world championship.

Q28. Nowruz, the ancient traditional Persian New Year festival inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, is celebrated worldwide on which date?

- A) March 15
- B) March 18
- C) March 21
- D) March 23

Correct Answer: C) March 21

Detailed Explanation: Nowruz (literally "New Day") marks the Iranian/Persian New Year and is celebrated on **March 21**, coinciding with the Spring Equinox. Observed by Parsi and Zoroastrian communities globally, the festival symbolizes renewal, the rebirth of nature, and the triumph of light over darkness. It was officially inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2009.

Q29. Global Recycling Day is observed annually across the globe on March 18. What was the official global theme designated for the 2026 international observance?

- A) Recycling: Our Future, Our Planet
- B) Circular Economy and Net Zero
- C) Don't Think Waste – Think Opportunity
- D) Plastic Free Oceans by 2030

Correct Answer: C) Don't Think Waste – Think Opportunity

Detailed Explanation: March 18, 2026, marked the **9th annual observance of Global Recycling Day**, an initiative established by the Bureau of

International Recycling (BIR) in 1948. The official theme for 2026 was "**Don't Think Waste – Think Opportunity**". The day promotes treating recycled materials as the world's 'Seventh Resource,' alongside water, air, oil, natural gas, coal, and minerals.

Q30. India delivered an exceptional performance at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026, topping the aggregate medal standings. Which city hosted this international grand prix?

- A) Dubai
- B) New Delhi
- C) Berlin
- D) Tokyo

Correct Answer: B) New Delhi

Detailed Explanation: New Delhi hosted the **World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026**, where India topped the final medal table with a total of **208 medals** (75 Gold, 69 Silver, and 64 Bronze). Russia finished second, and Bosnia and Herzegovina placed third. The high-profile event provided crucial qualification and classification opportunities for elite para-athletes ahead of the upcoming 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games.