

Category 1: National Affairs & Policy

Q1. NITI Aayog launched the "Roadmap for Building India as a Leading Bioeconomy Powerhouse by 2035". What is the target value set for India's Bioeconomy by 2035?

- (A) USD 300 Billion
- (B) USD 500 Billion
- (C) USD 691 Billion
- (D) USD 1 Trillion

Correct Answer: (C) USD 691 Billion

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Union Minister of State (IC) Dr. Jitendra Singh, alongside NITI Aayog officials, formally released the 10-year strategy document titled *Roadmap for Building India as a Leading Bioeconomy Powerhouse by 2035*.
- **Key Details:** The roadmap projects India's bioeconomy—spanning biomanufacturing, green fuels, bio-agri products, and biopharmaceuticals—to grow from its current base to **USD 691 billion by 2035**.

Q2. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) approved urban infrastructure projects worth ₹2,719.80 Crore under the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF). Which city is the primary beneficiary of these transformative projects?

- (A) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- (C) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- (D) Pune, Maharashtra

Correct Answer: (B) Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** MoHUA sanctioned six major city-level infrastructure initiatives in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, totaling **₹2,719.80 crore** under the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) framework.
- **Scope:** Projects include smart mobility corridors, sustainable waste management, stormwater drainage systems, and green riverfront expansion.

3. The National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) announced the establishment of two new Centres of Excellence (CoEs) under India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0 in which two cities?

- (A) Bengaluru and Hyderabad
- (B) Ahmedabad and Guwahati
- (C) Pune and Noida
- (D) Chennai and Bhubaneswar

Correct Answer: (B) Ahmedabad and Guwahati

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Under the expanded **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0**—which carries an outlay of ₹1.28 lakh crore—NIELIT is establishing specialized CoEs in **Ahmedabad (Gujarat)** and **Guwahati (Assam)**.
- **Objective:** These centers will focus on workforce development, chip design training, advanced packaging technology research, and semiconductor fabrication skills.

Category 2: International News & Bilateral Relations

Q4. The 16th India-Japan Annual Summit was hosted in New Delhi. Who represented Japan as its Prime Minister during this official bilateral visit?

- (A) Fumio Kishida
- (B) Sanae Takaichi
- (C) Taro Aso
- (D) Toshimitsu Motegi

Correct Answer: (B) Sanae Takaichi

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Japanese Prime Minister **Sanae Takaichi** undertook her first official state visit to India for the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit held in New Delhi.
- **Significance:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and PM Takaichi reviewed the Special Strategic and Global Partnership, focusing on high-speed rail, Indo-Pacific defense cooperation, supply chain resilience, and critical technologies..

Q5. On 12 July 2026, 14 nations jointly reaffirmed the historic 2016 Permanent Court of Arbitration (Hague Tribunal) ruling under UNCLOS regarding maritime claims in which region?

- (A) Red Sea
- (B) South China Sea
- (C) Black Sea
- (D) Strait of Hormuz

Correct Answer: (B) South China Sea

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The United States, the United Kingdom, and 12 partner nations issued a joint declaration upholding the binding 2016 Hague Arbitral Tribunal decision that rejected China's historical entitlement claims within the "Nine-Dash Line" in the South China Sea.
- **UNCLOS Alignment:** The multi-nation statement emphasized freedom of navigation, overflight rights, and adherence

to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Q6. The EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC) ministerial meeting was held in Paris, France. How many senior Indian Cabinet Ministers lead the Indian delegation at TTC forums?

- (A) One
- (B) Two
- (C) Three
- (D) Four

Correct Answer: (C) Three

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The EU-India TTC convened to review progress on green technology transfer, AI governance standards, resilient supply chains, and bilateral trade alignment.
- **Structure:** India is represented at the TTC by three senior Cabinet Ministers: External Affairs Minister, Commerce & Industry Minister, and Electronics & IT Minister.

Category 3: Banking, Finance & Economy

Q7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that its composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) rose to what value for the Financial Year ending March 2026 (FY26)?

- (A) 64
- (B) 67
- (C) 70
- (D) 75

Correct Answer: (C) 70

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The RBI released its annual FI-Index data showing a rise from 67 in March 2025 to 70 in March 2026.
- **Parameters:** The FI-Index evaluates three parameters: **Ease of Access (35%)**, **Usage (45%)**, and **Quality of Services (20%)** across banking, investments, insurance, postal, and pension sectors.

Q8. RBI issued final prudential norms prohibiting Regulated Entities (REs) from selling SNFAs back to defaulting borrowers. What does the acronym "SNFA" stand for in banking regulation?

- (A) Structured Non-Financial Assets
- (B) Specified Non-Financial Assets
- (C) Standardized Non-Fund Assets
- (D) Secured Non-Financial Assets

Correct Answer: (B) Specified Non-Financial Assets

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Under the *Resolution of Stressed Assets Directions*, the RBI finalized prudential guidelines governing **Specified Non-Financial Assets (SNFAs)** acquired by banks and financial institutions during debt recovery processes.
- **Key Provision:** To prevent round-tripping and moral hazard, REs cannot resell acquired SNFAs back to defaulting original promoters/borrowers.

Q9. According to NITI Aayog's "Fiscal Health Index 2026", which state ranked first among major states in overall fiscal discipline and revenue quality?

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Odisha

(D) Karnataka

Correct Answer: (C) Odisha

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index 2026 evaluates states on spending quality, revenue collection efficiency, financial discipline, debt level, and long-term sustainability.
- **Rankings:** Odisha secured 1st position among major states, followed by Goa (2nd) and Jharkhand (3rd). Among Himalayan/Northeastern states, Arunachal Pradesh top-scored.

Category 4: Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q10. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched a six-month dispute resolution scheme called 'VISHWAS 2026'. Which section of the EPF Act does it address?

- (A) Section 7A
- (B) Section 14B
- (C) Section 8B
- (D) Section 17

Correct Answer: (B) Section 14B

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Ministry of Labour & Employment notified **VISHWAS 2026** under the EPF Scheme to facilitate out-of-court settlements regarding damages and penalty disputes levied on employers.
- **Key Feature:** Employers can resolve pending damages disputes under **Section 14B** of the EPF & MP Act, reducing long-standing litigation and improving compliance.

- **Exam Relevance:** High importance for EPFO Enforcement Officer (EO/AO), APFC, and SSC Exams.

Q11. The Ministry of External Affairs launched the 'SHANTI' campaign. What is the core diplomatic objective of this initiative?

- (A) To broker peace between Russia and Ukraine
- (B) To advocate for India's permanent membership in the UN Security Council (UNSC)
- (C) To lead nuclear disarmament talks in Geneva
- (D) To coordinate anti-piracy efforts in the Indian Ocean

Correct Answer: (B) To advocate for India's permanent membership in the UN Security Council (UNSC)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Launched on 15 July 2026, the **SHANTI** initiative consolidates India's global diplomatic campaign calling for comprehensive reforms in the UN Security Council and securing a permanent seat for India.
- **Theme:** Emphasizes India's historical record as a major peacekeeping contributor, economic leader, and champion of the Global South.

Q12. What is the main objective of the newly announced 'Corporate Mitra Scheme' under Union Budget initiatives?

- (A) Provide direct capital grants to start-ups
- (B) Create trained professionals to assist MSMEs with legal, tax, and financial compliance
- (C) Guarantee export credit insurance for large conglomerates
- (D) Offer free digital marketing tools for street vendors

Correct Answer: (B) Create trained professionals to assist MSMEs with legal, tax, and financial compliance

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The Corporate Mitra Scheme builds a cadre of certified advisors ("Corporate Mitras") across districts to help Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises navigate complex taxation, accounting standards, and regulatory filings.

Category 5: MoUs, Agreements & Alliances

Q13. The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) signed an MoU with CSIR-NIScPR to gain access to which digital platform?

- (A) Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)
- (B) National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC)
- (C) ShodhGanga Portal
- (D) Indian Patent Advanced Search System (InPASS)

Correct Answer: (B) National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Signed by CGPDTM Prof. Unnat P. Pandit and CSIR-NIScPR Director Dr. Geeta Vani Rayasam at Intellectual Property Office, New Delhi.
- **Benefits:** Grants patent examiners direct access to international peer-reviewed research journals, technical databases, and scientific literature via **NKRC** to improve patent evaluation quality and speed.

Q14. The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (OPSA) launched the 'TRL Compass'

platform in collaboration with which cybersecurity body?

- (A) CERT-In
- (B) Data Security Council of India (DSCI)
- (C) National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)
- (D) Cyber Swachhta Kendra

Correct Answer: (B) Data Security Council of India (DSCI)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The OPSA-DSCI alliance created TRL Compass, adapting the internationally recognized 9-level **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)** framework to Indian R&D ecosystems.
- **Utility:** Serves as a standard benchmark for government agencies to evaluate technology maturity before allocating public research grants.

Category 6: Defense & Security

Q15. The Indian Navy participated in the 30th edition of RIMPAC 2026, hosted by the US Navy. What was the official theme for RIMPAC 2026?

- (A) "Capable, Adaptive, Partners"
- (B) "Partners: Integrated and Prepared"
- (C) "Fostering Global Maritime Security"
- (D) "Interoperability in the Indo-Pacific"

Correct Answer: (B) "Partners: Integrated and Prepared"

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** RIMPAC 2026 (24 June to 31 July 2026)—the world's largest naval exercise—took place at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

- **Scope:** Features dozens of nations conducting multi-domain warfare training including Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and coordinated air defense.

Q16. INS Taragiri was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam. Under which naval construction project was INS Taragiri built?

- (A) Project 15B
- (B) Project 17A
- (C) Project 75I
- (D) Project 28

Correct Answer: (B) Project 17A

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), INS Taragiri is an advanced stealth guided-missile frigate under **Project 17A (Nilgiri-class)**.
- **Features:** Equipped with weapon systems, sensor suites, radar stealth features, and indigenous BrahMos missile integration.

Q17. Which Indian Navy Sail Training Ship participated in the Sail Boston 2026 Parade in the United States?

- (A) INS Tarangini
- (B) INS Sudarshini
- (C) INS Mhadei
- (D) INS Tarini

Correct Answer: (B) INS Sudarshini

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** INS Sudarshini represented India at the Sail Boston 2026 tall ships parade, undertaking a transatlantic diplomatic journey to promote maritime goodwill and naval traditions.

Category 7: Sports

Q18. India won the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup title by defeating which team in the final held at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad?

- (A) South Africa
- (B) New Zealand
- (C) Australia
- (D) England

Correct Answer: (B) New Zealand

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** India captured its 3rd ICC Men's T20 World Cup title (10th edition), co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.
- **Accolades:** **Sanju Samson** was named Player of the Series. **Jasprit Bumrah** and **Varun Chakravarthy** emerged as joint top wicket-takers (14 wickets each).
- **Exam Relevance:** Essential sports question for SSC CGL, Railway, and State Board exams.

Q19. George Russell won the recent Formula 1 Grand Prix finish ahead of Max Verstappen. Which constructor team does George Russell drive for?

- (A) Red Bull Racing
- (B) Ferrari
- (C) Mercedes AMG Petronas
- (D) McLaren

Correct Answer: (C) Mercedes AMG Petronas

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Mercedes driver **George Russell** secured victory in a dramatic Grand Prix finish, crossing 1.611 seconds ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

Category 8: Awards & Honors

Q20. India achieved a joint 1st rank in the overall medal tally at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026. How many gold medals did the Indian team win?

- (A) 3 Gold
- (B) 4 Gold
- (C) 5 Gold
- (D) 2 Gold, 3 Silver

Correct Answer: (C) 5 Gold

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** All five students representing India won **Gold Medals** at IPhO 2026.
- **Nodal Agency:** The team was selected and trained by the **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)**, Mumbai.

Q21. Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) was declared runner-up at the Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) 2026 for successfully investigating which type of financial crime?

- (A) Trade-based money laundering
- (B) Large-scale cyber fraud
- (C) Cryptocurrency tax evasion
- (D) Off-shore shell company networks

Correct Answer: (B) Large-scale cyber fraud

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** FIU-IND received global recognition at the Egmont Group annual plenary for its intelligence mapping that disrupted an international cyber fraud and money laundering syndicate.
- **Egmont Group:** A global organization of Financial Intelligence Units that facilitates secure intelligence exchange to combat financial crimes.

Q22. Eminent mathematician Gerd Faltings was awarded which prestigious international mathematics honor for 2026?

- (A) Fields Medal
- (B) Abel Prize
- (C) Wolf Prize
- (D) Turing Award

Correct Answer: (B) Abel Prize

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters awarded the **Abel Prize 2026** to German mathematician **Gerd Faltings** for landmark contributions to algebraic geometry and arithmetic topology.

Category 9: Appointments & State Policy

Q23. Andy Burnham recently assumed office as Prime Minister of which country following political transitions?

- (A) Australia
- (B) Canada
- (C) United Kingdom
- (D) New Zealand

Correct Answer: (C) United Kingdom

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** **Andy Burnham** assumed office as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

Q24. Which state became the second in India (after Uttarakhand) to pass the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill?

- (A) Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Gujarat
- (C) Rajasthan

(D) Assam

Correct Answer: (B) Gujarat

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** **Gujarat** enacted legislation adopting the Uniform Civil Code, becoming the second state post-independence after Uttarakhand to establish a common civil law governing marriage, divorce, adoption, and inheritance across all communities.
- **Constitutional Reference:** Governed under **Article 44** of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) in Part IV of the Indian Constitution.

Category 10: Art, Culture, Festivals & Environment

Q25. Which two spice commodities from Gujarat were officially granted Geographical Indication (GI) status in July 2026?

- (A) Unjha Cumin (Jeera) and Unjha Fennel (Saunf)
- (B) Surat Turmeric and Kutch Chilli
- (C) Rajkot Coriander and Anand Mustard
- (D) Jamnagar Fenugreek and Gir Sesame

Correct Answer: (A) Unjha Cumin (Jeera) and Unjha Fennel (Saunf)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The GI Registry under CGPDTM awarded GI certification to **Unjha Cumin** and **Unjha Fennel** from Mehsana district, Gujarat—one of Asia's largest spice trading hubs.
- **Significance:** Protects producers against unauthorized branding, enhances rural farmer returns, and strengthens international export potential.

Q26. After nearly six decades (60 years), which bird species was re-recorded in Gujarat's Gir

forests, signaling successful ecological habitat restoration?

- (A) Great Indian Bustard
- (B) Grey Hornbill
- (C) Malabar Pied Hornbill
- (D) Forest Owlet

Correct Answer: (B) Grey Hornbill

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Forest officials and ornithologists confirmed sightings of the **Grey Hornbill** inside Gir National Park landscape after an absence of nearly 60 years.
- **Ecological Indicator:** Hornbills serve as primary seed dispersers; their re-appearance indicates healthy canopy recovery and eco-conservation efforts.

Q27. The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, organized the international seminar 'Saushrutam 2026'. What was its main focus area?

- (A) Herbal medicine export regulations
- (B) Collaboration between Ayurveda and modern surgical sciences
- (C) Standardization of Yoga curricula globally
- (D) AI integration in Panchakarma therapies

Correct Answer: (B) Collaboration between Ayurveda and modern surgical sciences

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** 'Saushrutam 2026' brought together surgeons, Ayurvedic practitioners, and medical researchers to explore integrative surgical methodologies inspired by *Sushruta* (the ancient Father of Surgery) alongside modern biomedical technology.

Category 11: Important Days, Books & Health

Q28. Tamil Nadu Government launched the 'Nalam TN' platform on 15 July 2026. What is the primary service delivered by this portal?

- (A) E-procurement of agricultural produce
- (B) Unified digital access to state health and welfare schemes
- (C) Online registration of real estate titles
- (D) Digital skill development certificates for youth

Correct Answer: (B) Unified digital access to state health and welfare schemes

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** 'Nalam TN' acts as a single-window digital portal linking citizens directly with state welfare delivery, healthcare records, and public benefit transfers.

Q29. Cross-border payment platform PayGlocal integrated Google Pay Card Payments onto its international gateway. What primary advantage does this offer Indian merchants?

- (A) Direct tax exemption on international exports
- (B) Access to accept card payments from over 1 billion consumers across 90+ countries
- (C) Zero conversion fee on foreign exchange transactions
- (D) Automated customs duty settlement

Correct Answer: (B) Access to accept card payments from over 1 billion consumers across 90+ countries

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Indian fintech PayGlocal partnered with Google to enable seamless cross-border credit and debit card checkouts via

Google Pay for global buyers purchasing from Indian e-commerce exporters.

Q30. CSIR observed the 'ASPIRE-SHAKTI' initiative to celebrate which group's achievements in research and innovation?

- (A) Rural youth innovators
(B) Women scientists and researchers
(C) Indigenous defense startups
(D) Grassroots climate activists

Correct Answer: (B) Women scientists and researchers

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) organized the **ASPIRE-SHAKTI** campaign to highlight gender parity, showcase breakthrough patents by female scientists, and encourage STEM participation among young girls across national laboratories.

Quick Revision Summary Table

Category	High-Yield Topic	Key Takeaway
National	Bioeconomy Roadmap 2035	Target: \$691 Billion (NITI Aayog)
Bilateral	16th India-Japan Summit	Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi visited New Delhi

Category	High-Yield Topic	Key Takeaway
Banking	RBI FI-Index FY26	Rose to 70 (from 67 in FY25)
Defence	RIMPAC 2026	Theme: <i>"Partners: Integrated and Prepared"</i>
Sports	T20 World Cup 2026	Winner: India (Runner-up: New Zealand)
Culture	New GI Tags	Unjha Cumin & Unjha Fennel (Gujarat)