

National News

Q1. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has recently constituted the National Dental Commission (NDC). Which statutory body does the NDC officially replace?

- [A] Dental Council of India (DCI)
- [B] Medical Council of India (MCI)
- [C] National Medical Commission (NMC)
- [D] Indian Dental Association (IDA)

Correct Answer: [A] Dental Council of India (DCI)

Detailed Explanation:

In March 2026, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare officially constituted the **National Dental Commission (NDC)**, bringing a major structural reform by replacing the decades-old **Dental Council of India (DCI)**. The newly formed NDC aims to streamline dental education, enhance the quality of dental professionals, and bring international transparency standards. Sanjay Tewari has been appointed as the first Chairperson of the NDC. The commission functions through three distinct autonomous boards: Undergraduate & Postgraduate Dental Education Board, Dental Assessment & Rating Board, and Ethics & Dental Registration Board.

Q2. The "Bharat Tribes Fest 2026" was recently inaugurated in New Delhi to promote tribal entrepreneurship. Which organization is collaborating with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to host this event?

- [A] NITI Aayog
- [B] TRIFED
- [C] Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

[D] NABARD

Correct Answer: [B] TRIFED

Detailed Explanation:

The **Bharat Tribes Fest 2026** commenced in New Delhi under the joint organization of the **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The event was inaugurated by Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram. A pivotal aspect of this fest is the *Bharat Tribes Business Conclave*, running from March 19 to 27, which focuses entirely on creating B2B avenues, marketing linkages, and e-commerce training for tribal artisans and entrepreneurs to boost their economic sustainability.

Q3. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the second edition of its flagship indigenous technology development challenge in March 2026. What is the name of this initiative?

- [A] India 6G Vision Hackathon
- [B] 5G Innovation Hackathon 2026
- [C] Viksit Bharat Techfest
- [D] Digital India Lab Challenge

Correct Answer: [B] 5G Innovation Hackathon 2026

Detailed Explanation:

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), operating under the Ministry of Communications, rolled out the '**5G Innovation Hackathon 2026**'. This marks the second edition of the flagship initiative hosted under the overarching '*100 5G Use Case Labs program*'. The main objective is to crowd-source and reward indigenous, scalable application models combining 5G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Internet of Things (IoT) tailored to solve grass-



root Indian problems in agriculture, healthcare, and education.

Q4. NITI Aayog recently released thematic progress bulletins under the UN 2030 Agenda. Which of the following is India's current ranking in the global startup ecosystem as highlighted by the 'Delivering Prosperity at Scale' bulletin?

- [A] 2nd
- [B] 3rd
- [C] 5th
- [D] 7th

Correct Answer: [B] 3rd

[C] Detailed Explanation:

According to the 'Delivering Prosperity at Scale' progress bulletin published in March 2026, India continues to firmly hold its position as the **3rd largest startup ecosystem in the world**. The report highlighted that India boasts over 1.2 lakh government-recognized startups, which have collectively generated more than 12 lakh direct jobs. The bulletin tracks performance under the five pillars of the UN 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships.

International News

Q5. India and which Southeast Asian nation recently launched a joint initiative to restore the historic Prambanan Temple complex?

- [A] Cambodia
- [B] Vietnam
- [C] Indonesia
- [D] Thailand

Correct Answer: [C] Indonesia

Detailed Explanation:

India and **Indonesia** have officially signed a bilateral cultural agreement to execute a joint conservation and restoration project for the **Prambanan Temple** located in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Built during the 9th century, Prambanan is the largest Hindu temple compound in Indonesia (dedicated to the Trimurti: Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva) and a UNESCO World Heritage site. This move highlights India's cultural diplomacy and soft-power expansion in the Indo-Pacific region.

Q6. Which nation formally announced its complete withdrawal from the World Health Organisation (WHO) in March 2026?

- [A] Brazil
- [B] Argentina
- [C] South Africa
- [D] Iran

Correct Answer: [B] Argentina

Detailed Explanation:

In a major geopolitical shakeup in international public health governance, **Argentina** formally submitted its papers to withdraw from the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**. The Argentinian administration cited disagreements over global health treaties, national sovereignty clauses, and financial structural reforms within the UN body as primary reasons for ending its long-standing membership.

Q7. The World Trade Organization (WTO) released its updated global merchandise trade forecast in March 2026. What is the projected global trade growth rate for 2026?

- [A] 1.9%
- [B] 2.8%
- [C] 3.5%
- [D] 4.8%

Correct Answer: [A] 1.9%

Detailed Explanation:

The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** has projected that global merchandise trade growth will slow down to **1.9% in 2026**. The WTO report attributed this deceleration to lingering geopolitical conflicts in West Asia and Eastern Europe, shipping route disruptions, and macro-tariff adjustments. Conversely, global commercial services trade is projected to expand healthier at 4.8%, while overall global real GDP growth is expected to hover around 2.8%.

Economics and Banking

Q8. Which Public Sector Bank launched an exclusive Overdraft (OD) facility on Credit Line on UPI for verified women Self-Help Group (SHG) members holding PMJDY accounts?

[A] State Bank of India

[B] Punjab National Bank

[C] Bank of Baroda

[D] Canara Bank

Correct Answer: [C] Bank of Baroda

Detailed Explanation:

Bank of Baroda (BoB) became the first public sector bank to roll out a specialized Overdraft (OD) facility built on top of the "Credit Line on UPI" framework. This facility is tailor-made exclusively for verified women **Self-Help Group (SHG)** members who maintain functional Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) zero-balance accounts. The move drastically enhances micro-credit flow and digital financial inclusion for rural women entrepreneurs.

Q9. The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently held its 622nd meeting. What was the record all-time low touched by the

Indian Rupee (INR) against the US Dollar (USD) reviewed during this session?

[A] ₹83.40

[B] ₹88.12

[C] ₹91.50

[D] ₹93.72

Correct Answer: [D] ₹93.72

Detailed Explanation:

During the 622nd meeting of the RBI Central Board, policymakers reviewed the severe macroeconomic volatility stemming from intensified geopolitical pressures. It was disclosed that the **Indian Rupee (INR) hit an all-time low of ₹93.72 per US Dollar** due to aggressive dollar demand from domestic oil importers and localized foreign portfolio outflows. The board noted a cumulative depreciation of 2.92% for the rupee over the initial weeks of March 2026.

Q10. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) initiated an anti-dumping investigation into "ethyl chloroformate" imports. Which country is allegedly dumping this chemical into India?

[A] Germany

[B] China

[C] United States

[D] Russia

Correct Answer: [B] China

Detailed Explanation:

India's **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)** has initiated an anti-dumping probe concerning imports of the chemical compound **ethyl chloroformate** originating from **China**. Domestic manufacturers alleged that Chinese chemical exporters are offloading the

compound at predatory, sub-market rates, causing direct material price suppression and financial injury to Indian chemical producers. Under WTO rules, an anti-dumping duty can be recommended if the dumping margin exceeds the *de minimis* threshold of 2%.

Q11. Axis Bank announced a fresh equity infusion to bolster the capital cushion of its key subsidiary in March 2026. What is the quantum of this infusion?

- [A] ₹500 Crore
- [B] ₹1,000 Crore
- [C] ₹1,500 Crore
- [D] ₹2,500 Crore

Correct Answer: [C] ₹1,500 Crore

Detailed Explanation:

Private sector banking giant **Axis Bank** has formally approved an equity capital infusion amounting to **₹1,500 crore** into its non-banking financial company (NBFC) arm, **Axis Finance**. The move is aimed at augmenting the subsidiary's capital adequacy ratio, supporting capital market lending operations, and matching credit expansion goals for the fiscal year 2026-27.

Government Schemes and Initiatives

Q1. What is the primary objective of the "PRARAMBH 2026" campaign launched by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman?

- [A] Creating youth startup incubators
- [B] Income Tax Department digital and policy awareness
- [C] Direct cash transfers to MSMEs
- [D] Organizing rural athletic meets

Correct Answer: [B] Income Tax Department digital and policy awareness

Detailed Explanation:

Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman launched **PRARAMBH 2026** (Policy Reform and Responsible Action for Mission Viksit Bharat) in New Delhi. It is a nationwide citizen-centric outreach and awareness campaign driven by the **Income Tax Department**. The campaign educates taxpayers on AI-driven tax filing mechanisms, updated e-filing portals, voluntary disclosures of foreign assets, and streamlined automated tax refund timelines to reduce litigation.

Q13. The Union Cabinet approved the mega industrial infrastructure scheme "BHAVYA". What is the total financial outlay approved for this scheme?

- [A] ₹15,000 crore
- [B] ₹22,500 crore
- [C] ₹33,660 crore
- [D] ₹45,000 crore

Correct Answer: [C] ₹33,660 crore

Detailed Explanation:

The Union Cabinet gave its green signal to the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA)** with an immense fiscal outlay of **₹33,660 crore**. Under the BHAVYA mandate, the central government plans to set up **100 state-of-the-art Industrial Parks** across the country. Each park will span across 100 to 1,000 acres of land, fully integrated with green energy corridors, high-speed logistics networks, and digital infrastructure to heavily boost domestic manufacturing.

Q14. The "Suraksha Sankalp Karyashala" was organized in March 2026. This national

workshop is dedicated to accelerating epidemic control for which disease?

- [A] Tuberculosis (TB)
- [B] HIV/AIDS
- [C] Malaria
- [D] Covid-19 sub-variants

Correct Answer: [B] HIV/AIDS

Detailed Explanation:

The **Suraksha Sankalp Karyashala** is a national-level strategy implementation workshop focusing on bolstering India's HIV Care Continuum. The 2026 convention focused on aligning grassroots healthcare workers to achieve the global **95:95:99 targets** (95% knowing status, 95% on ART treatment, and 99% achieving viral suppression). The overarching goal is to completely end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India within the 2027-2030 window.

Q15. Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) rolled out the 'Krishi Sakhi' initiative. This scheme aligns with which global observance declared by the FAO for 2026?

- [A] International Year of Millets
- [B] International Year of the Woman Farmer
- [C] International Year of Sustainable Fisheries
- [D] International Year of Cooperative Agriculture

Correct Answer: [B] International Year of the Woman Farmer

Detailed Explanation:

The Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) launched its dedicated rural outreach program '**Krishi Sakhi**'. The program trains local rural women to act as certified insurance advisors, spreading awareness about the

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and other crop insurance policies. This initiative specifically celebrates and aligns with the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) declaration of **2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer**.

Defense News

Q16. The Indian Army recently executed the comprehensive integrated tactical fire-drill exercise named "Amogh Jwala". Where was this exercise conducted?

- [A] Pokhran, Rajasthan
- [B] Gurugram, Haryana
- [C] Uttar Pradesh
- [D] Umroi, Meghalaya

Correct Answer: [C] Uttar Pradesh

Detailed Explanation:

The Indian Army successfully concluded its high-intensity combat operational drill called **Exercise 'Amogh Jwala'** in Uttar Pradesh. The exercise integrated mechanized infantry elements, advanced drone surveillance networks, and indigenously developed artillery systems to test rapid-response deployment capabilities in challenging terrains, highlighting India's transition toward tech-driven modern warfare.

Q17. Consider the following statements regarding the naval ship 'INS Taragiri', which was featured in defense reviews in March 2026:

1. It is the fourth stealth frigate built under Project 17A (Nilgiri Class).
2. It has been built and engineered by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- [A] 1 only
- [B] 2 only
- [C] Both 1 and 2
- [D] Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: [C] Both 1 and 2

Detailed Explanation:

INS Taragiri is the fourth advanced stealth frigate designed under **Project 17A (Nilgiri Class)** by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and constructed by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**. The ship is packed with advanced indigenous surface-to-air missiles, anti-submarine rockets, and stealth geometry features that lower its radar cross-section significantly, cementing India's security interests in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Sports

Q18. Which country has been officially selected to host the prestigious World Indoor Athletics Championships in the year 2028?

- [A] Japan
- [B] India
- [C] France
- [D] Australia

Correct Answer: [B] India

Detailed Explanation:

In a massive win for India's sports infrastructure and international hosting profile, the World Athletics governing body officially announced that **India will host the World Indoor Athletics Championships in 2028**. This marks the very first time India will be hosting this elite global athletic event, which is expected to take place in a newly constructed world-class indoor sports arena.

Q19. According to the Forbes Billionaires List 2026 published in March 2026, who emerged as the wealthiest individual globally?

- [A] Bernard Arnault
- [B] Jeff Bezos
- [C] Elon Musk
- [D] Mukesh Ambani

Correct Answer: [C] Elon Musk

Detailed Explanation:

The **Forbes Billionaires List 2026** was made public, placing tech mogul **Elon Musk at the No. 1 spot globally**, driven by a massive surge in equity valuation across his aerospace and automotive firms. Meanwhile, Reliance Industries Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** retained his title as the richest individual in India and across Asia, securing a prominent position in the global top 10.

Appointments

Q20. Who has been appointed by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) as India's next Ambassador to China?

- [A] Pradeep Kumar Rawat
- [B] Vikram K. Doraiswami
- [C] Taranjit Singh Sandhu
- [D] Vinay Mohan Kwatra

Correct Answer: [B] Vikram K. Doraiswami

Detailed Explanation:

The Ministry of External Affairs officially announced the appointment of senior diplomat **Vikram K. Doraiswami as India's next Ambassador to the People's Republic of China**. Doraiswami, an IFS officer who is currently serving as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, will succeed Pradeep Kumar



Rawat. He brings massive experience to Beijing, having previously managed key diplomatic desks as Ambassador to Bangladesh and South Korea.

Q21. Anutin Charnvirakul was re-elected as the 32nd Prime Minister of which Asian country in March 2026?

- [A] Thailand
- [B] Vietnam
- [C] Cambodia
- [D] Malaysia

Correct Answer: [A] Thailand

Detailed Explanation:

In international political leadership changes, **Anutin Charnvirakul** successfully secured his mandate and was re-elected to serve as the **32nd Prime Minister of Thailand**. His coalition victory ensures policy continuity regarding Thailand's economic trade zones, infrastructure spending, and regional ties within ASEAN.

Awards and Honors

Q22. Who among the following has been conferred with the prestigious UK Honorary Knighthood (Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire - KBE) in March 2026?

- [A] Ratan Tata
- [B] N Chandrasekaran
- [C] Anand Mahindra
- [D] Gautam Adani

Correct Answer: [B] N Chandrasekaran

Detailed Explanation:

N Chandrasekaran, the Executive Chairman of Tata Sons, has been conferred with an **Honorary**

Knighthood (KBE) by King Charles III of the United Kingdom. He received the title of *Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire* in recognition of his outstanding contributions to strengthening global business systems and enhancing India-UK bilateral trade and industrial collaboration.

Q23. Which Indian actress was honored with the prestigious "Women Empowerment Award" at the UK House of Commons in March 2026?

- [A] Deepika Padukone
- [B] Priyanka Chopra
- [C] Rituparna Sengupta
- [D] Alia Bhatt

Correct Answer: [C] Rituparna Sengupta

Detailed Explanation:

Veteran Indian actress **Rituparna Sengupta** was honored with the **Women Empowerment Award** during an elite ceremony hosted at the **UK's House of Commons** in London. The award acknowledges her extensive work spanning over three decades in cinema along with her active philanthropy directed at rehabilitating marginalized women and supporting girl-child education campaigns across India.

Q24. Who has been announced as the winner of the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize 2026 (often referred to as the "Nobel Prize for Water")?

- [A] Rajendra Singh
- [B] Kaveh Madani
- [C] Sandra Postel
- [D] Asit Biswas

Correct Answer: [B] Kaveh Madani

Detailed Explanation:

The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) announced **Kaveh Madani** as the winner of the **Stockholm Water Prize 2026**. Madani, a globally renowned environmental scientist, was chosen for his pathbreaking research on water scarcity, mathematical modeling of complex water systems, and his vocal international advocacy on separating geopolitical conflicts from cross-border water management.

Books and Authors

Q25. A highly anticipated political biography was unveiled in New Delhi in the presence of the Chief Justice of India and Dr. Kiran Bedi. Which notable personality is the book centered upon?

- [A] Kailash Satyarthi
- [B] Amartya Sen
- [C] Shashi Tharoor
- [D] Manmohan Singh

Correct Answer: [A] Kailash Satyarthi

Detailed Explanation:

A new biographical account tracking the humanitarian journey of Nobel Peace Laureate **Kailash Satyarthi** was formally released in New Delhi. The event was held in the presence of the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, and former Lt. Governor Dr. Kiran Bedi. The book covers his lifelong struggle through the *Bachpan Bachao Andolan* to rescue thousands of children from forced labor, a mission that won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 alongside Malala Yousafzai.

Science and Technology

Q26. India successfully tested an indigenously developed "Floating LiDAR Buoy System" in March 2026. Where was this advanced ocean observation deployment executed?

- [A] Off the coast of Visakhapatnam

[B] Off the coast of Muttom

[C] Near Wheeler Island

[D] Off the Mumbai High coast

Correct Answer: [B] Off the coast of Muttom

Detailed Explanation:

India reached a significant technological milestone in meteorological and ocean monitoring by successfully deploying its indigenously designed **Floating LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) Buoy System** off the coast of **Muttom**. The system is engineered to capture continuous real-time data regarding wind speeds at multiple heights, wave profiles, and ocean currents. This data is critical for planning future offshore wind energy projects along the Indian peninsula.

Q27. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) launched India's first automated "LPG ATM" under the brand name 'BharatGas Insta LPG'. Where is this facility located?

- [A] Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- [B] Gurugram, Haryana
- [C] Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- [D] Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Correct Answer: [B] Gurugram, Haryana

Detailed Explanation:

BPCL launched India's very first 24x7 automated **LPG ATM** under the 'BharatGas Insta LPG' initiative in **Gurugram, Haryana**. The system works like a regular ATM, using OTP-based authentication and digital payment integration (UPI/cards) to instantly dispense lightweight composite LPG cylinders (~15 kg) to consumers, eliminating booking delays.

Environment and Geography

Q28. A new species of wild kiwi named "Actinidia Indica" was discovered by botanists in March 2026. In which region of India is this species endemic?

- [A] Western Ghats, Kerala
- [B] Ziro Valley, Arunachal Pradesh
- [C] Silent Valley, Tamil Nadu
- [D] Khasi Hills, Meghalaya

Correct Answer: [B] Ziro Valley, Arunachal Pradesh

Detailed Explanation:

Scientists recorded a brand-new species of wild kiwi named **Actinidia Indica** from a very narrow elevation belt (~1,725 meters) near the **Ziro Valley in Arunachal Pradesh**. The plant thrives in a delicate, biologically rich ecological ecotone shifting between temperate and subtropical forests. This discovery highlights the rich and undocumented biodiversity of the Eastern Himalayas.

Important Days and Themes

Q29. World Water Day is celebrated globally on March 22. What is the official international theme designated for World Water Day 2026?

- [A] Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible
- [B] Accelerating Change
- [C] Water for Peace
- [D] Water and Gender

Correct Answer: [D] Water and Gender

Detailed Explanation:

World Water Day is observed annually on **March 22** since its declaration by the United Nations in 1993 (following the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth

Summit). The official UN theme for **World Water Day 2026** is "**Water and Gender**". This theme draws global policy attention toward the disproportionate impact of water scarcity on women and girls, who often shoulder the burden of water collection in developing economies, and advocates for equal leadership roles for women in water management.

Q30. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) celebrated its milestone Raising Day in March 2026, accompanied by youth mobilization programs across 40 locations. Which Raising Day did the NCB mark?

- [A] 25th Raising Day
- [B] 35th Raising Day
- [C] 41st Raising Day
- [D] 50th Raising Day

Correct Answer: [C] 41st Raising Day

Detailed Explanation:

The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** celebrated its **41st Raising Day** in March 2026. To mark more than four decades of continuous enforcement operations against international drug cartels and domestic substance abuse, the agency launched massive youth awareness drives under the banner of "**Drug-Free India**" across 40 strategic urban and rural hubs, including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Lucknow.