

1. International News

Italy Proposes School Dress Code & Integration Regulations

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Prime Minister of Italy, Giorgia Meloni, proposed legislation to ban religious face veils (burqas and niqabs) in educational institutions across Italy. The initiative includes mandatory Italian language proficiency classes for the parents of foreign students to ensure social integration and cultural assimilation in schools.
- **India–Russia Joint AI & Cybersecurity Center of Excellence:** India and Russia signed an agreement to establish a joint Center of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity. Hosted at Gorky Tech in the Nizhny Novgorod Region of Russia, the center will focus on AI risk governance, cybersecurity validation, and cross-border tech sandboxes.
- **P4M Summit at 81st UNGA:** India co-sponsored the inaugural Partners for Multilateralism, International Law, Peace and Prosperity (P4M) Summit held on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York. During the summit, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar emphasized the need for reformed multilateralism.

Practice Question (Exam Pattern):

Q1. The proposed Center of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity between India and Russia will be hosted at which of the following locations?

- (a) Moscow Tech Park, Moscow
- (b) Gorky Tech, Nizhny Novgorod Region
- (c) Innopolis University, Tatarstan
- (d) Skolkovo Innovation Center, St. Petersburg

Answer: (b) Gorky Tech, Nizhny Novgorod Region

Explanation: The India–Russia CoE in AI and Cybersecurity will be established in the Nizhny Novgorod Region, hosted at Gorky Tech, focusing on AI risk validation, safety governance, and cybersecurity sandboxes.

2. National News

Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Amendment Act, 2026 Notified

- **Detailed Explanation:** Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI), notified that the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Amendment Act, 2026 will officially come into force on **October 1, 2026**. The legislation amends Section 13(3) of the RBD Act, making delayed registrations beyond 2 years subject to mandatory judicial approval from a **Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC)**. This seeks to eliminate duplicate identity creation and streamline civil registration data across national databases.
- **Cheetah Relocation to Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav released a three-year-old female cheetah, named **CCB-2**, imported from Botswana, into the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary. Relocated from Kuno National Park, CCB-2 becomes the fourth cheetah introduced into Gandhi Sagar to establish a second viable wild population in India.
- **Inauguration of SPROUT Research Facility:** Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the state-of-the-art agricultural research facility named **SPROUT** (SpeedSeed Phenotyping and Resource Optimization for Unified Trait Analysis). The facility accelerates climate-resilient crop breeding



using advanced high-throughput phenotyping platforms.

Practice Question (Exam Pattern):

Q2. Under the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Amendment Act, 2026, birth or death registrations delayed by more than 2 years will require authorization from which authority?

- (a) District Magistrate (DM)
- (b) Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM)
- (c) Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC)
- (d) Municipal Commissioner

Answer: (c) Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC)

Explanation: The RBD Amendment Act, 2026 enforces higher judicial scrutiny, requiring an explicit order from a Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) for any birth/death registration delayed by more than two years.

3. Economics & Banking

Moody's Raises India's FY27 Real GDP Forecast to 7%

- **Detailed Explanation:** Global rating agency Moody's Ratings upgraded India's real GDP growth forecast for Financial Year 2026–27 (FY27) to **7.0%** (up from 6.0%). The rating agency cited India's robust domestic demand, manufacturing resilience amid global supply disruptions, and strong public infrastructure capital expenditure. Moody's maintained India's sovereign rating at **Baa3** with a **Stable** outlook.
- **EPFO Monthly Wage Ceiling Revision:** The Union Cabinet approved raising the mandatory Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) coverage wage ceiling from **₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month**. Consequently, the upper cap for monthly contributions under the Employees' Pension

Scheme (EPS) increases from ₹1,250 to ₹2,080.

- **RBI Basel III Market Risk Guidelines:** The Reserve Bank of India issued the RBI (Commercial Banks – Minimum Capital Requirements for Market Risk) Directions, 2026, aligning capital requirement calculations with updated global Basel III frameworks.

Practice Question (Exam Pattern):

Q3. What is the revised monthly wage ceiling approved by the Union Cabinet for mandatory EPFO coverage?

- (a) ₹18,000
- (b) ₹20,000
- (c) ₹22,500
- (d) ₹25,000

Answer: (d) ₹25,000

Explanation: The Cabinet enhanced the mandatory EPFO wage threshold from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month, expanding social security coverage under PF, EPS, and EDLI schemes to millions of additional formal sector workers.

4. Sports News

Asian Games 2026: Indian Shooting Team Wins Silver

- **Detailed Explanation:** At the Asian Games 2026, the Indian Men's 10m Air Rifle Shooting Team consisting of **Rudranksh Patil, Himanshu Dhillon, and Parth Mane** bagged the Team Silver medal. In individual events, Himanshu Dhillon earned the Individual Silver, while former World Champion Rudranksh Patil secured the Bronze medal.
- **Mixed Martial Arts Bronze for Suchika Tariyal:** India's Suchika Tariyal secured a historic Bronze medal in Mixed Martial Arts

(MMA) at the Asian Games after a high-stakes tiebreaker round.

- **Table Tennis Victory:** The Indian Women's Table Tennis team (Sutirtha Mukherjee, 17-year-old Syndrela Das, and Sreeja Akula) registered a 3-0 victory against Pakistan.

Practice Question (Exam Pattern):

Q4. Which Indian shooter won the Individual Silver Medal in the 10m Air Rifle event at the Asian Games 2026?

- (a) Rudrankksh Patil
- (b) Himanshu Dhillon
- (c) Parth Mane
- (d) Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar

Answer: (b) Himanshu Dhillon

Explanation: Himanshu Dhillon clinched the individual silver medal, while Rudrankksh Patil won individual bronze in the 10m Air Rifle event at the Asian Games 2026.

5. Appointments

Jayanti Prasad Assumes Charge as IBBI Chairperson

- **Detailed Explanation:** Jayanti Prasad, Whole-Time Member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), has been given additional charge as the **Chairperson of IBBI**. Prior to his appointment at IBBI, Jayanti Prasad served as a 1986-batch Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) officer and held positions including Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

Practice Question (Exam Pattern):

Q5. Who has been assigned additional charge as the Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in September 2026?

- (a) Ravi Mital
- (b) Jayanti Prasad
- (c) Sudhaker Shukla
- (d) Krishnamurthy Subramanian

Answer: (b) Jayanti Prasad

Explanation: Jayanti Prasad, current Whole-Time Member of IBBI, took over the additional charge of IBBI Chairperson.

6. Awards & Honors

56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) & Regional Film Honors

- **Detailed Explanation:** Director **Santosh Davakhar** was awarded the prestigious Silver Peacock for Best Director at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Additionally, the critically acclaimed film 'Gondhal' received the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) Award at the 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFES).

Practice Question (Exam Pattern):

Q6. Who won the Silver Peacock Award for Best Director at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?

- (a) Rishab Shetty
- (b) Santosh Davakhar
- (c) Nagraj Manjule
- (d) Payal Kapadia

Answer: (b) Santosh Davakhar

Explanation: Santosh Davakhar won the Silver Peacock for Best Director at IFFI for his cinematic storytelling and directorial execution.

7. Books & Authors

"The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts"



- **Detailed Explanation:** The memoir titled "The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts" authored by **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** was officially released. The book chronicles his journey, training, and experiences as an astronaut selected for human spaceflight missions, providing insights into India's space endeavors.

Practice Question (Exam Pattern):

Q7. The book titled "The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts" is the memoir of which Indian personality?

- (a) Prashanth Nair
- (b) Shubhanshu Shukla
- (c) Ajit Doval
- (d) S. Somanath

Answer: (b) Shubhanshu Shukla

Explanation: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla authored The Second Orbit, capturing his training and journey as an astronaut.

8. Defense News

Delivery of HTT-40 Trainer Aircraft & SLINEX-26 Exercise

- **Detailed Explanation:**
 1. **HTT-40 'Ankur' Delivery:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) handed over the first indigenous **HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft** (named Ankur) to the Indian Air Force. This marks the beginning of deliveries under the Ministry of Defence contract for 70 HTT-40 aircraft designed for basic flying training, aerobatics, night flying, and close formation flying.
 2. **Exercise SLINEX-26:** The Indian Navy and Sri Lanka Navy concluded the 13th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise **SLINEX-26** at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The

exercise focused on multi-dimensional maritime operations, seamanship evolutions, and tactical cross-deck operations.

Practice Question (Exam Pattern):

Q8. The 13th edition of the bilateral naval exercise SLINEX-26 was conducted between India and which country at Visakhapatnam?

- (a) Singapore
- (b) Seychelles
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Maldives

Answer: (c) Sri Lanka

Explanation: SLINEX is the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy. The 13th edition took place in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

9. Government Schemes & MoUs

Operational Guidelines for GOBARDhan Scheme Released

- **Detailed Explanation:**
 1. **GOBARDhan Scheme:** The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) released component-wise operational guidelines for the **GOBARDhan** (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme to scale up Compressed Biogas (CBG) production. Central Financial Assistance of **₹1.25 crore per Tonne Per Day (TPD)** capacity for new CBG plants is provided (capped at **₹30 crore per project**) alongside a **₹10/kg CBG affordability support** for 10 years.
 2. **APEDA & InD Events MoU:** The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed an MoU with InD Events Dubai (organizer of

Gulfood) to boost global market avenues for Indian agricultural exporters.

3. **Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026:** Jointly launched by MoHUA and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the theme "Swachhata Se Samridhi" and featuring the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" plantation campaign.

Practice Question (Exam Pattern):

Q9. Under the MoPNG operational guidelines for the GOBARdhan Scheme, what is the maximum financial assistance capped per CBG project?

- (a) ₹15 crore
- (b) ₹20 crore
- (c) ₹25 crore
- (d) ₹30 crore

Answer: (d) ₹30 crore

Explanation: Financial assistance under GOBARdhan is set at ₹1.25 crore per TPD capacity, with a maximum cap of ₹30 crore per commercial CBG plant.

10. Important Days (National & International)

World Rhino Day 2026 – 22 September

- **Observed On:** September 22 annually.
- **Theme 2026:** "Keep the Five Alive"
- **Key Context:** First initiated by WWF-South Africa in 2010, the day raises global awareness for all five living rhinoceros species: **White, Black, Greater One-Horned (Indian), Javan, and Sumatran rhinos.** According to the State of the Rhino 2026 report by the International Rhino Foundation, the global population stands at ~26,700, with the Greater One-Horned Rhino population growing to over 4,075 (primarily in India and Nepal).

World Rose Day (Cancer Patient Welfare) – 22 September

- **Observed On:** September 22 annually.
- **Significance:** Observed in memory of 12-year-old Canadian patient **Melinda Rose**, diagnosed with a rare Askin's Tumor. The day promotes empathy, emotional resilience, early detection, and compassionate care for individuals fighting cancer worldwide.

World Car-Free Day – 22 September

- **Significance:** Encourages motorists to give up their cars for a day, highlighting sustainable urban mobility and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Practice Question (Exam Pattern):

Q10. What is the official theme for World Rhino Day 2026 observed on September 22?

- (a) Five Species for the Future
- (b) Keep the Five Alive
- (c) Protect the Horn, Save the Planet
- (d) Rhinos: Guardians of Grasslands

Answer: (b) Keep the Five Alive

Explanation: "Keep the Five Alive" is the theme for World Rhino Day 2026, drawing attention to protecting the five surviving rhino species worldwide.

11. Art & Culture / Festivals

Agasthyamalai Botanical Diversity Checklist & Bhawaiya Heritage

- **Detailed Explanation:**
 1. **Agasthyamalai Flora Checklist:** A comprehensive botanical research study in the **Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR)** located in the southern Western Ghats documented **3,261 species** of

flowering plants, highlighting its rich endemic floral wealth.

2. **Bhawaiya Folk Tradition:** Cultural recognition was accorded to the Bhawaiya folk music genre—a traditional folk musical form practiced mainly by the Rajbanshi community of Northern Bengal and Assam, celebrating riverine ecosystems and rural life.

Practice Question (Exam Pattern):

Q11. The Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve, which recently recorded 3,261 species of flowering plants, is located in which mountain range?

- (a) Eastern Ghats
- (b) Western Ghats
- (c) Vindhya Range
- (d) Satpura Range

Answer: (b) Western Ghats

Explanation: Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve is located at the southern end of the Western Ghats straddling Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

12. Birth & Death Anniversaries

Michael Faraday (Birth Anniversary – 22 September 1791)

- **Detailed Explanation:** September 22 marks the birth anniversary of **Michael Faraday** (1791–1867), one of history's most influential scientists. His groundbreaking discoveries include **Electromagnetic Induction, Diamagnetism, and the Laws of Electrolysis**. His work formed the foundation for electric motor and generator technology.

Melinda Rose (Commemorative Remembrance – 22 September)

- **Detailed Explanation:** September 22 marks the memory of **Melinda Rose**, whose life inspired **World Rose Day** to spread hope and psychological support among cancer patients worldwide.

Practice Question (Exam Pattern):

Q12. The principles of Electromagnetic Induction and Laws of Electrolysis were discovered by which scientist, whose birth anniversary falls on September 22?

- (a) James Clerk Maxwell
- (b) Michael Faraday
- (c) Nikola Tesla
- (d) Heinrich Hertz

Answer: (b) Michael Faraday

Explanation: English scientist Michael Faraday was born on September 22, 1791. He discovered electromagnetic induction, fundamental to modern electric power technology.

Section I: Important Days (National & International)

Q1. What is the official theme of World Rhino Day 2026, observed globally on 22 September?

- (A) Save the Horns, Save the Future
- (B) Keep the Five Alive
- (C) Roar for Rhinos: Zero Poaching
- (D) Protecting Giants of Biodiversity

• **Correct Answer: (B) Keep the Five Alive**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

World Rhino Day is celebrated annually on September 22 to raise global awareness about the conservation of all five living rhinoceros species:

1. White Rhinoceros
2. Black Rhinoceros

3. **Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros** (Indian Rhino)
4. **Javan Rhinoceros**
5. **Sumatran Rhinoceros**

The 2026 theme, "**Keep the Five Alive**", emphasizes habitat protection, anti-poaching vigilance, and ending illegal trade in rhino horn. India is home to nearly 4,000 Greater One-Horned Rhinos, primarily in Assam and West Bengal.

Q2. World Rose Day, observed annually on 22 September, is dedicated to:

- (A) Botanical diversity and rose cultivation
 - (B) Welfare, hope, and psychological support for cancer patients
 - (C) World peace and international diplomacy
 - (D) Prevention of cardiovascular diseases
- **Correct Answer: (B) Welfare, hope, and psychological support for cancer patients**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

World Rose Day is observed on September 22 to honor cancer patients worldwide and bring them hope and encouragement. The day commemorates **Melinda Rose**, a 12-year-old Canadian girl diagnosed with Askin's Tumor (a rare chest wall cancer). Despite terminal prognosis, she spent her remaining time writing poems, letters, and distributing roses to brighten the lives of fellow cancer patients.

Q3. The 9th India International Water Week emphasized climate-resilient water management with a focus on which traditional water harvesting structure?

- (A) Kuls of Himachal Pradesh
- (B) Johads of Rajasthan
- (C) Baolis (Stepwells) and local watershed catchments

(D) Bamboo Drip Systems of Meghalaya

- **Correct Answer: (C) Baolis (Stepwells) and local watershed catchments**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

During the 9th India International Water Week, hydrologists and policy makers emphasized shifting focus away from ecologically disruptive mega-dams toward decentralized catchments, local wetland rejuvenation, and the restoration of traditional subterranean stepwells (**Baolis**). India's changing rainfall profile—compressed into 30–35 high-intensity days followed by 330 dry days—requires community-driven water budgeting at the Panchayat level.

Section II: International News

Q4. Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam received diplomatic clearance (agrément) to serve as High Commissioner to India from which country?

- (A) Sri Lanka
- (B) Bangladesh
- (C) Maldives
- (D) Nepal

- **Correct Answer: (B) Bangladesh**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary **Asad Alam Siam** received his diplomatic document (agrément) from India, clearing the path for him to assume charge as the new High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India in New Delhi. An agrément is the formal consent given by a host state to a proposed diplomatic head of mission before official appointment.

Q5. India and Bhutan reviewed progress on key hydroelectric projects under their Joint Vision on Energy Partnership. Which major hydro project was reviewed?

- (A) Mangdechhu (720 MW)
- (B) Chukha (336 MW)
- (C) Punatsangchhu-I (1200 MW) and Punatsangchhu-II (1020 MW)
- (D) Dagachhu (126 MW)

• **Correct Answer: (C) Punatsangchhu-I (1200 MW) and Punatsangchhu-II (1020 MW)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

During high-level bilateral talks between India and Bhutan, progress under the Joint Vision on Energy Partnership (launched March 2024) was reviewed. Key focus areas included the **1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II** and **1200 MW Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Projects**. Five new development projects spanning healthcare, cross-border connectivity, UPI fintech integration, and education were also launched.

Q6. The World Health Organization (WHO) framework on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in health research emphasizes:

- (A) Banning AI tools across clinical trials
- (B) Mandatory reliance on AI for all diagnostic decisions
- (C) Lifecycle-based ethical oversight, data privacy, and protection for crowd workers
- (D) Dynamic pricing for commercial health software

• **Correct Answer: (C) Lifecycle-based ethical oversight, data privacy, and protection for crowd workers**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The WHO framework calls for end-to-end, lifecycle-based ethical oversight of AI applications in health research. It specifically highlights algorithmic bias, patient data exploitation, privacy protection, automation risks, and psychological distress faced by low-wage crowd workers in developing nations who

perform manual data curation and content filtering.

Section III: National News

Q7. The Union Cabinet approved enhancing the wage ceiling for mandatory coverage under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to:

- (A) ₹18,000 per month
- (B) ₹20,000 per month
- (C) ₹25,000 per month
- (D) ₹30,000 per month

• **Correct Answer: (C) ₹25,000 per month**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The Union Cabinet approved raising the mandatory monthly wage ceiling under the EPFO from **₹15,000 to ₹25,000**. This decision significantly expands formal social security, pension benefits, and provident fund savings to millions of middle-income and organized sector workers across India.

Q8. What did the Supreme Court clarify regarding the unauthorized circulation of live-streamed court proceedings with false insertions?

- (A) It constitutes civil defamation only
- (B) It escalates from procedural contempt into criminal conduct
- (C) It is permitted under fair-use copyright law
- (D) It carries no legal penalty if posted on social media

• **Correct Answer: (B) It escalates from procedural contempt into criminal conduct**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The Supreme Court clarified that while redistributing live-streamed proceedings without permission constitutes contempt of



court, circulating altered video clips containing false insertions or misattributed judicial remarks graduates the offense into **criminal conduct** punishable under criminal law.

Q9. On the legal rights of 'conscientious objectors', the Supreme Court reaffirmed that the State cannot:

- (A) Enforce mandatory voting during general elections
- (B) Subject genuine conscientious objectors to penal action for refusing to participate in symbolic practices like singing national songs
- (C) Tax individuals who object to military expenditures
- (D) Require passport identity verification

• **Correct Answer:** (B) Subject genuine conscientious objectors to penal action for refusing to participate in symbolic practices like singing national songs

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The Supreme Court affirmed constitutional protections under fundamental rights, holding that the State cannot subject genuine conscientious objectors to penal or criminal prosecution for declining to participate in symbolic civic practices (such as singing national songs) when objected to on genuine religious or conscientious grounds.

Section IV: Economics & Banking

Q10. Credit rating agency Moody's Ratings raised India's real GDP growth forecast for Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27) to:

- (A) 6.2%
- (B) 6.5%
- (C) 6.8%
- (D) 7.0%

• **Correct Answer:** (D) 7.0%

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Moody's Ratings raised India's FY27 real GDP growth forecast to **7.0%** (up from 6.0%), citing strong domestic consumer demand, capital expenditure resilience, and robust macroeconomic fundamentals against external global shocks. India's sovereign credit rating was retained at **Baa3** with a **Stable** outlook.

Q11. Which public sector bank collaborated with FinTech platform novio to launch a co-branded RuPay Credit Card backed by Fixed Deposits (FD)?

- (A) State Bank of India
- (B) Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)
- (C) Punjab National Bank
- (D) Bank of Baroda

• **Correct Answer:** (B) Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)

• **Detailed Explanation:**

FinTech startup novio partnered with **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** to launch a co-branded RuPay credit card. The product features instant digital onboarding backed by Fixed Deposits (FD), enabling individuals with no prior credit history to build a formal bureau profile.

Q12. India initiated its first farm-level soil carbon direct benefit payments to farmers at which institution?

- (A) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore
- (B) Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana
- (C) Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi
- (D) GB Pant University, Pantnagar

• **Correct Answer:** (B) Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana

• **Detailed Explanation:**

India launched its first farm-level soil carbon payment initiative at **PAU, Ludhiana**. Over 2,550 smallholder farmers across Punjab and Haryana received more than ₹2.9 crore via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The payout covered ~30,000 acres, generating over 50,000 verified carbon credits for adopting regenerative agricultural practices.

Section V: Defense News

Q13. The 13th edition of the annual bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-26 was held off the coast of Visakhapatnam between India and:

- (A) Seychelles
- (B) Singapore
- (C) Sri Lanka
- (D) Maldives

• **Correct Answer: (C) Sri Lanka**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

SLINEX-26 marked the 13th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy, held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Conceptualized in 2005, SLINEX enhances seamanship, surface firing drills, tactical maneuvering, and maritime security coordination.

Q14. Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2026 is a joint bilateral military exercise conducted between India and:

- (A) Mongolia
- (B) Kazakhstan
- (C) Kyrgyzstan
- (D) Uzbekistan

• **Correct Answer: (A) Mongolia**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2026 is a joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Mongolian Armed Forces. It focuses on joint counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain, and tactical interoperability under United Nations mandates.

Q15. Which indigenous aircraft, nicknamed 'Ankur', commenced deliveries to the Indian Air Force for basic flight training?

- (A) LCA Tejas Mk1A
- (B) HTT-40
- (C) Netra AEW&C
- (D) Dornier Do-228

• **Correct Answer: (B) HTT-40**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) initiated deliveries of the **HTT-40 ('Ankur') Basic Trainer Aircraft** to the Indian Air Force under a contract for 70 units. Designed indigenously, the HTT-40 is used for basic flight training, aerobatics, night flying, instrument navigation, and close formation flying.

Section VI: Government Schemes

Q16. What is the total financial outlay of the PM Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana aimed at introducing 2 crore youth into the formal workforce?

- (A) ₹25,000 crore
- (B) ₹50,000 crore
- (C) ₹75,000 crore
- (D) ₹1,00,000 crore (₹1 Lakh Crore)

• **Correct Answer: (D) ₹1,00,000 crore (₹1 Lakh Crore)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana** is a flagship initiative with a **₹1 lakh crore** budget allocation. It targets incorporating **2 crore first-time workers** into formal economic employment by providing direct monetary incentives up to **₹15,000** for first-time employees.

Q17. Under the PM-SETU scheme, how much outlay has been earmarked to modernize 1,000 government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)?

- (A) ₹15,000 crore
- (B) ₹30,000 crore
- (C) ₹60,000 crore
- (D) ₹90,000 crore

• **Correct Answer: (C) ₹60,000 crore**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

PM-SETU involves an investment of **₹60,000 crore** aimed at modernizing **1,000 government ITIs** across India. The initiative incorporates direct industry participation to align vocational training, advanced machinery, and software design curricula with modern industrial requirements.

Q18. Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) focuses primarily on:

- (A) Urban digital literacy initiatives
- (B) Integrated socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes
- (C) Micro-finance for street vendors
- (D) Deep-sea fishing infrastructure subsidies

• **Correct Answer: (B) Integrated socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

PM-AJAY is a consolidated central scheme implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It aims to reduce poverty in

Scheduled Caste (SC) communities through income-generating skill training, infrastructure development under Adarsh Gram, and constructing residential hostels for SC students.

Section VII: MoUs & Agreements

Q19. IIIT-Bangalore signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with which entity at Electronica India 2026 to collaborate in emerging technology domains?

- (A) Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
- (B) Taipei Computer Association (TCA)
- (C) US Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)
- (D) European Tech Cluster

• **Correct Answer: (B) Taipei Computer Association (TCA)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) and the **Taipei Computer Association (TCA)** signed a Letter of Intent at Electronica India 2026 in Bengaluru. The collaboration focuses on research, talent mobility, and hardware innovation in semiconductors and emerging tech domains.

Q20. Russian technology entities NexTouch and SberMedAI signed agreements in India primarily targeting:

- (A) Heavy locomotives and rail track laying
- (B) Interactive educational hardware and AI healthcare diagnostics
- (C) Satellite communications and launch vehicles
- (D) Offshore oil exploration equipment

• **Correct Answer: (B) Interactive educational hardware and AI healthcare diagnostics**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

NexTouch established a joint venture in India to manufacture interactive educational display technologies, while SberMedAI partnered with Indian institutions to integrate AI-assisted diagnostic software and clinical decision support systems into healthcare infrastructure.

Section VIII: Appointments

Q21. How many appointment letters were distributed during the 20th Rozgar Mela presided over by PM Narendra Modi?

- (A) 25,000
- (B) 35,000
- (C) 51,000+
- (D) 1,00,000

• **Correct Answer: (C) 51,000+**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

More than 51,000 appointment letters were handed over to young recruits joining various Central Government ministries, departments, and public sector undertakings during the 20th Rozgar Mela.

Q22. Who has been nominated to take charge as Bangladesh's High Commissioner to India?

- (A) Mustafizur Rahman
- (B) Asad Alam Siam
- (C) Touhid Hossain
- (D) Md. Jashim Uddin

• **Correct Answer: (B) Asad Alam Siam**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Asad Alam Siam, serving as Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, received official diplomatic clearance (agrément) from New Delhi to serve as the incoming High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India.

Section IX: Awards & Honors

Q23. Which Nagaland-set film won the Platform Prize at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)?

- (A) Kuru
- (B) Angh
- (C) Naga Warriors
- (D) Hornbill

• **Correct Answer: (B) Angh**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The period film **Angh**, set in Nagaland, won the prestigious **Platform Prize** at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). The film was praised for its storytelling regarding tribal traditions, village leadership, and social transition in North-East India.

Q24. Director Santosh Davakhar won critical recognition for his film 'Gondhal', which revolves around:

- (A) Coastal fishing communities in Gujarat
- (B) Ritual traditions and human relationships in rural Maharashtra
- (C) Puppet artists of Rajasthan
- (D) Silk weavers of Kanchipuram

• **Correct Answer: (B) Ritual traditions and human relationships in rural Maharashtra**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Gondhal, directed by Santosh Davakhar, explores traditional devotional rituals, human ambition, and social dynamics in rural Maharashtra. The film won the Silver Peacock at IFFI and the FIPRESCI award at the Bengaluru International Film Festival.

Section X: Sports

Q25. At the 20th Asian Games (Aichi-Nagoya 2026), which team secured India's first gold medal?

- (A) Men's Hockey Team
- (B) Women's Cricket Team
- (C) Women's Kabaddi Team
- (D) Mixed Archery Team

• **Correct Answer: (B) Women's Cricket Team**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The **Indian Women's Cricket Team** secured India's first gold medal at the 20th Asian Games held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Manipur contributed 36 athletes across 10 disciplines (including sepaktakraw, canoeing, and wushu) to the Indian contingent.

Section XI: Art & Culture / Festivals

Q26. 'Gondhal', a traditional folk-art performance, is dedicated to local deities primarily in:

- (A) Kerala
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Odisha
- (D) Punjab

• **Correct Answer: (B) Maharashtra**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Gondhal is a sacred dramatic folk performance and musical ritual dedicated to deities such as Goddess Bhavani or Renuka, performed during major religious ceremonies and weddings in Maharashtra.

Q27. Which traditional Indian water harvesting structures are featured in national climate-resilience plans?

- (A) Kuls
- (B) Baolis (Stepwells)
- (C) Eri systems
- (D) Ahar-Pyne

• **Correct Answer: (B) Baolis (Stepwells)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Baolis are traditional stepwells engineered across Western and Northern India to store rainwater and recharge ground aquifers. Rejuvenating these heritage structures forms a core pillar of climate-resilient urban water management.

Section XII: Environment & Geography

Q28. The Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve straddles the inter-state border between:

- (A) Karnataka and Goa
- (B) Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- (C) Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
- (D) Telangana and Maharashtra

• **Correct Answer: (B) Kerala and Tamil Nadu**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The **Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve** covers ~3,500 sq km across the Southern Western Ghats, straddling **Kerala and Tamil Nadu**. It features the Agasthyarkoodam peak (1,868 m) and forms the catchment for major rivers including Thamirabarani, Neyyar, and Karamana.

Section XIII: History & Anniversaries

Q29. Melinda Rose, commemorated on World Rose Day (Sep 22), fought which rare disease?

- (A) Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
- (B) Askin's Tumor
- (C) Thalassemia Major
- (D) Hodgkin Lymphoma

• **Correct Answer: (B) Askin's Tumor**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Melinda Rose was diagnosed with **Askin's Tumor**, a rare form of blood/chest wall cancer. Her spirit in supporting fellow terminally ill

patients inspired the annual observance of World Rose Day on September 22.

Q30. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai (VOC) is remembered during Swadeshi heritage studies for establishing which pioneer enterprise?

- (A) Swadeshi Cotton Mills
- (B) Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company
- (C) Tata Iron and Steel Company
- (D) Hindustan Shipyard

- **Correct Answer: (B) Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company**

- **Detailed Explanation:**

V.O. Chidambaram Pillai ("Kappalottiya Tamizhan") founded the **Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company** in 1906 to break the British India Steam Navigation Company's monopoly, creating a milestone in India's economic nationalism and maritime history.

