

Part 1: National & International News

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the high-level trade talks initiated between India and the United States in June 2026:

1. The talks are aimed at finalizing the first tranche of an India-US trade deal.
2. The trade talks come in the backdrop of India's merchandise trade surplus with the US falling by over 40% recently. **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

Answer: C) Both 1 and 2

Full Detailed Explanation: Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal initiated high-level bilateral talks with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in June 2026 to stitch together the first major tranche of an India-US trade package. Interestingly, this push comes at a time when India's traditional merchandise trade surplus with the US witnessed a sharp contraction of over 40% due to shifting supply chains, energy imports (LNG and crude oil), and changing tariff structures. The US has been consistently pushing for greater access to Indian agricultural and dairy markets, while India seeks smoother export channels for its IT services, pharmaceuticals, and textile sectors.

Q2. In June 2026, which major European nation faced sudden political shifts following the resignation of its Prime Minister, Keir Starmer?

- A) France
B) United Kingdom

- C) Germany
D) Italy

Answer: B) United Kingdom

Full Detailed Explanation: The United Kingdom entered a fresh wave of political and fiscal uncertainty on June 23, 2026, when Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer announced his decision to step down as Labour leader and subsequent PM once a successor is determined. The decision has triggered an internal leadership race slated for July 2026, causing fluctuations in the British sterling and gilt markets as investors closely monitor whether the incoming leadership will pursue expansive or conservative fiscal policies.

Q3. The West Bengal government announced in its state budget (June 2026) a proposal to set up a massive new greenfield airport in which of the following regions?

- A) Siliguri
B) Asansol
C) Kalyani
D) Durgapur

Answer: C) Kalyani

Full Detailed Explanation: To offload the heavy passenger traffic from Kolkata's Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, the West Bengal government formally proposed allocating 1,000 to 1,500 acres of land near Kalyani to build a modern greenfield airport. The announcement was a highlight of the state's latest infrastructure budget aimed at bolstering regional connectivity and job creation.

Q4. Which country is currently facing heightened geopolitical scrutiny after the US eased selective oil sanctions against it following successful diplomatic backchannel talks in June 2026?

- A) Venezuela
- B) Iran
- C) Russia
- D) Libya

Answer: B) Iran

Full Detailed Explanation: Global energy markets reacted favorably in late June 2026 as the United States eased certain oil export sanctions on Iran following progress in diplomatic talks. This geopolitical shift immediately prompted a minor cooling down of global crude oil prices, which directly boosted financial markets in major oil-importing nations like India, driving the BSE Sensex and Nifty to new highs.

Q5. In June 2026, the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) launched four advanced digital platforms to celebrate its 23rd foundation milestone. Which of the following is NOT one of the newly launched portals?

- A) .IN Auction portal
- B) myIRINN Portal
- C) AI-enabled WHOIS screening platform
- D) DigiLocker-IX

Answer: D) DigiLocker-IX

Full Detailed Explanation: On its 23rd Foundation Day, NIXI launched four distinct digital infrastructure solutions: the Internet Exchange (IX) portal, the myIRINN (Indian Registry for Internet Names and Numbers) Portal, the .IN Auction portal, and an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled WHOIS screening platform to securely monitor domain registration data. DigiLocker-IX is not part of this suite.

Part 2: Economics, Banking, and Government Schemes

Q6. Under the revised Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme framework released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in June 2026, what is the new collateral-free loan limit for agricultural and allied sector activities per borrower?

- A) Rs. 1 Lakh
- B) Rs. 1.6 Lakh
- C) Rs. 2 Lakh
- D) Rs. 3 Lakh

Answer: C) Rs. 2 Lakh

Full Detailed Explanation: In a major relief to small and marginal farmers, the RBI issued its finalized framework for the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme in June 2026. The central bank directed all commercial banks to waive mandatory collateral security and margin requirements for all agricultural and allied sector loans up to Rs. 2 lakh per borrower (raised from the previous general floor of Rs. 1.6 lakh). The guidelines also standardized crop season definitions for uniform processing across public and private banks.

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Lead Bank Scheme (LBS) guidelines revised by the RBI in June 2026:

1. The RBI designates a specific commercial bank as the "Lead Bank" in each district.
2. The Lead Bank acts as a direct financial regulator over all cooperative banks in that district. **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

Answer: A) 1 only

Full Detailed Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: The RBI issued updated operational guidelines for the Lead Bank Scheme, reinforcing that a designated commercial bank will head the developmental financial needs of each district. However, Statement 2 is incorrect because the Lead Bank does *not* act as a regulator; instead, it serves as a coordinating consortium hub to synchronize the financial inclusion efforts of commercial banks, regional rural banks (RRBs), local governments, and NABARD.

Q8. Which asset management company launched India's very first passive-only, target-date 'Lifecycle Mutual Funds' (specifically the 2036 and 2041 funds) in June 2026?

- A) Zerodha Fund House
- B) Groww Mutual Fund
- C) SBI Mutual Fund
- D) HDFC Mutual Fund

Answer: A) Zerodha Fund House

Full Detailed Explanation: Zerodha Fund House made a significant regulatory first by rolling out India's inaugural passive-only lifecycle (target-date) mutual funds: the Zerodha Life Cycle Fund 2036 and 2041. These funds automatically rebalance their asset allocation from equities to debt over a fixed 10-year or 15-year horizon as the investor approaches the target retirement/maturity year.

Q9. In June 2026, which public sector bank partnered with fintech company Zagggle Prepaid Ocean Services to launch a biodegradable, co-branded twin credit card proposition on both Visa and RuPay networks?

- A) State Bank of India (SBI)
- B) Punjab National Bank (PNB)

C) Bank of Baroda (BoB)

D) Canara Bank

Answer: B) Punjab National Bank (PNB)

Full Detailed Explanation: Punjab National Bank teamed up with Zagggle to introduce the 'PNB-Zagggle Co-branded Twin Credit Cards'. This unique offering bundles a dual network advantage (giving the customer two separate physical cards linked to one account—one on RuPay and one on Visa) manufactured using eco-friendly biodegradable materials to promote green banking.

Q10. Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, alongside regional Chief Ministers, inaugurated the North East's largest organic spice processing unit in June 2026. In which state is this facility located?

- A) Sikkim
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Assam
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: B) Meghalaya

Full Detailed Explanation: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with Meghalaya CM Conrad K. Sangma and Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang, formally inaugurated the Northeast region's largest state-of-the-art organic spice processing facility at Bhoirymbong in the Ri-Bhoi District of Meghalaya. The plant will process globally recognized premium indigenous spices like Lakadong Turmeric and local ginger.

Q11. Which Union Ministry approved a financial allocation of Rs. 150 crore in June 2026 to support India's first private-sector hybrid Second-Generation (2G) Ethanol Biorefinery in Uttar Pradesh?

- A) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

- B) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)
C) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
D) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Answer: B) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)

Full Detailed Explanation: The MoPNG approved a Rs. 150 crore financial assistance package under its biofuel promotion schemes for India's first-ever private-sector 91 Kilo Litres Per Day (KLPD) Hybrid 2G Ethanol Biorefinery. The plant is being developed by Wave Sugar at Dhanaura, Uttar Pradesh, to turn agricultural crop residue into clean fuel.

Q12. The "Ashtalakshmi Growth Model", prominently reviewed in national economic updates in June 2026, refers specifically to the socio-economic and infrastructural development of which region?

- A) The coastal states of South India
B) The eight states of Northeast India
C) The high-altitude Himalayan union territories
D) The tribal-dominated districts of Central India

Answer: B) The eight states of Northeast India

Full Detailed Explanation: The "Ashtalakshmi Growth Model" is the central government's dedicated developmental blueprint for the 8 northeastern states (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura). Recent 2026 progress indices highlight massive transformations here, including achieving 100% railway track electrification across several hilly states and expanding commercial operational airports by 78% via the UDAN scheme.

Part 3: Defense News & MoUs

Q13. The Indian Army deployed its contingent to participate in the 23rd edition of the multilateral joint military exercise 'KHAAN QUEST' in June 2026. Which country is hosting this exercise?

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

Answer: B) Mongolia

Full Detailed Explanation: The 23rd edition of the multi-national joint peacekeeping military exercise 'Khaan Quest 2026' commenced on June 20 and will run until July 3, 2026. It is hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces at the Five Hills Training Area near Ulaanbaatar. The Indian Army regularly sends contingents to this exercise to strengthen interoperability for UN Peacekeeping operations.

Q14. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) granted working permission to hand over 83.814 acres of prime defense land for the "Gandhi Sarovar Project" at Babu Ghat in June 2026. This project is located in which city?

- A) Ahmedabad
B) New Delhi
C) Hyderabad
D) Wardha

Answer: C) Hyderabad

Full Detailed Explanation: The MoD cleared a long-pending land transfer proposal by granting working permission to the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL) to utilize 83.814 acres of defense land under the Artillery Centre in Golconda, Hyderabad (Babu Ghat). The land, valued at Rs. 533.42 crore, will

be used to develop the iconic Gandhi Sarovar ecological and tourism project.

Q15. In June 2026, the Indian Navy initiated the "Tri-Commissioning" process for three crucial naval vessels simultaneously. Which of the following is an advanced, heavy stealth guided-missile frigate being commissioned under the Navy's Project 17A?

- A) INS Dunagiri
- B) INS Sanshodhak
- C) INS Agray
- D) INS Vagir

Answer: A) INS Dunagiri

Full Detailed Explanation: The high-profile defense additions in June 2026 highlighted the concurrent progress of INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak, and INS Agray. Among these, INS Dunagiri is a highly advanced stealth guided-missile frigate built under Project 17A by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, adding significant blue-water offensive capabilities to India's maritime defense.

Q16. Police forces across several Indian states have generated over one lakh forensic profiles in a central database under the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022. Which agency maintains this central database?

- A) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- B) National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- C) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
- D) Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)

Answer: C) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

Full Detailed Explanation: Under the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022—which completely replaced the British-era Identification of Prisoners Act of 1920—police

forces have scaled up the collection of biological data (including DNA samples and retina scans). The comprehensive national database is legally mandated to be stored, managed, and preserved for up to 75 years by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Part 4: Sports, Appointments, and Awards

Q17. During the ongoing men's FIFA World Cup in June 2026, who officially created history by becoming the all-time leading goal scorer in FIFA World Cup history?

- A) Cristiano Ronaldo
- B) Lionel Messi
- C) Kylian Mbappé
- D) Erling Haaland

Answer: B) Lionel Messi

Full Detailed Explanation: On June 22-23, 2026, during Argentina's dominant 2-0 group-stage victory against Austria at the ongoing North American FIFA World Cup 2026, Lionel Messi scored his landmark goal to officially surpass all previous records and become the all-time highest goal scorer in the history of the FIFA World Cup tournaments.

Q18. In June 2026, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) reappointed several senior legal officers. Who among the following was reappointed as an Additional Solicitor General (ASG) for the Supreme Court of India?

- A) Tushar Mehta
- B) Vikramjit Banerjee
- C) R. Venkataramani
- D) Kapil Sibal

Answer: B) Vikramjit Banerjee

Full Detailed Explanation: The ACC cleared the extension and reappointment of key law officers of the Union Government, including five prominent Additional Solicitors General (ASGs) for the Supreme Court: Vikramjit Banerjee, K.M. Nataraj, Suryaprakash V. Raju, N. Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhati. (Note: Tushar Mehta serves as the Solicitor General of India).

Q19. The global "Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Index", highlighted in gender justice reports in June 2026, is jointly compiled and published by the Peace Research Institute Oslo and which other institution?

- A) World Economic Forum
- B) Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security
- C) UNDP
- D) Amnesty International

Answer: B) Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security

Full Detailed Explanation: The WPS Index is a globally respected metric that evaluates women's well-being, freedom, and safety across 181 countries using 13 distinct parameters spanning financial inclusion, legal justice, and community security. It is produced by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security in collaboration with the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO).

Q20. In June 2026, the world mourned the passing of Alan Greenspan, a towering economic figure who left an extensively debated global financial legacy. He was the former chief of which institution?

- A) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- B) World Bank
- C) US Federal Reserve

D) European Central Bank

Answer: C) US Federal Reserve

Full Detailed Explanation: Alan Greenspan, one of the most influential central bankers in modern history who served as the Chairman of the Federal Reserve of the United States from 1987 to 2006, passed away in June 2026. His economic philosophies regarding market deregulation and monetary expansion remain a foundational case study for banking and finance exams.

Part 5: Art, Culture, Festivals & Important Days

Q21. During a series of diplomatic state visits in June 2026, official state gifts showcased India's premium heritage. This included "Brass Dokra" craft items. Which of the following statements is correct regarding Dokra art?

- A) It is a traditional tie-and-dye handwoven textile craft of Gujarat.
- B) It is a metal casting technique that employs the ancient lost-wax casting method.
- C) It is a specialized miniature painting style native to the Western Himalayas.
- D) It is a form of terracotta pottery unique to Rajasthan.

Answer: B) It is a metal casting technique that employs the ancient lost-wax casting method.

Full Detailed Explanation: Brass Dokra is a highly celebrated non-ferrous metal casting craft that utilizes the prehistoric *Cire Perdue* (lost-wax casting) technique, tracing its technical lineage directly back to the Dancing Girl of Mohenjo-daro. It is practiced by tribal artisans across West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand.

Q22. Pochampally Ikat, which featured prominently in India's cultural exhibitions in June 2026, is a famous handwoven textile where

yarns are resist-dyed before weaving. Which Indian state is home to this GI-tagged textile?

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

Answer: C) Telangana

Full Detailed Explanation: Bhoodan Pochampally village, located in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district of Telangana, is globally renowned for its unique Ikat weaving style where geometric patterns are dyed into the yarns before the actual weaving begins. Popularly called the "Silk City of India," Pochampally Ikat was granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag back in 2005.

Q23. Nagauri Ashwagandha, an Ayurvedic medicinal herb that saw record domestic trade figures in the second quarter of 2026, received its GI tag recently. In which state is the Nagaur region situated?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Gujarat
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Haryana

Answer: C) Rajasthan

Full Detailed Explanation: Nagauri Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*) is a highly premium quality variety of the winter cherry herb cultivated specifically in the arid soils of the Nagaur region in Rajasthan. It stands out in Ayurveda as a premier *Rasayana* (rejuvenating/anti-stress herb) and holds a registered GI tag.

Q24. Every year, the International Day of Yoga is celebrated globally on June 21. Which statement correctly identifies its astronomical significance?

- A) It marks the Winter Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere.
- B) It marks the Autumn Equinox globally.
- C) It coincides with the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
- D) It marks the day when the Earth is closest to the Sun.

Answer: C) It coincides with the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

Full Detailed Explanation: Celebrated annually on June 21, the International Day of Yoga was conceptualized to align deliberately with the Summer Solstice. In the Northern Hemisphere, this day features the maximum duration of daylight, carrying deep symbolic significance of light, longevity, and health across multiple global traditions. The Ministry of Ayush acts as the nodal implementation agency in India.

Q25. The United Nations observes June 23 globally every year as which important international day?

- A) International Widows' Day
- B) United Nations Public Service Day
- C) International Olympic Day
- D) All of the above

Answer: D) All of the above

Full Detailed Explanation: June 23 holds triple significance on the international calendar:

1. **International Olympic Day** (celebrating the founding of the International Olympic Committee on June 23, 1894).
2. **United Nations Public Service Day** (recognizing the value and virtue of public service to the community).
3. **International Widows' Day** (ratified by the UN to draw attention to the voices and hardships of widows globally).

Part 6: Core Concept & Core Facts Mapping

Q26. The Western Ghats, which faced fresh ecological protection mandate evaluations in late June 2026, spans across how many Indian states?

- A) 4
- B) 5
- C) 6
- D) 7

Answer: C) 6

Full Detailed Explanation: The Western Ghats is a continuous, geologically fragile mountain chain recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's 8 "hottest biodiversity hotspots." It covers an expansive footprint of approximately 1,800,000 sq. km across exactly **six states**: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

Q27. According to the comprehensive global data reviewed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in June 2026, what is India's current global position in overall fish production?

- A) 1st
- B) 2nd
- C) 3rd
- D) 5th

Answer: B) 2nd

Full Detailed Explanation: Based on the latest global benchmarks released by the FAO, global aquaculture and capture production has scaled up. India holds its position strong as the **2nd largest fish producer in the world** (contributing around 9% to global production), trailing only China. India also ranks as the global leader in inland capture fisheries.

Q28. In June 2026, the Union Cabinet officially approved financial clearance for the foundational module of India's planned

modular space station. What is the name of this space station, and when is the first module (BAS-01) scheduled to launch?

- A) Gaganyaaan Space Hub; 2027
- B) Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS); 2028
- C) Isro Orbital Home; 2030
- D) Bharat Space Junction; 2029

Answer: B) Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS); 2028

Full Detailed Explanation: Under India's expanding space architecture blueprints updated in June 2026, the Union Cabinet has formalized timelines for the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)**. The deployment of its primary foundational module, coded **BAS-01**, has been greenlit to be launched into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) by **2028**, paving the way for a fully operational indigenous space station by 2035.

Q29. "Development Policy Financing (DPF)", a term that entered banking exam focus in June 2026 due to structural adjustment loans for developing economies, is an institutional financing mechanism primarily associated with which global body?

- A) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- B) World Bank Group
- C) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- D) Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Answer: B) World Bank Group

Full Detailed Explanation: Development Policy Financing (DPF) is a core financial instrument used by the World Bank. Unlike traditional project loans that fund physical infrastructure (like building a bridge or dam), DPF provides rapid, direct budget disbursements straight to a country's national treasury. This funding is legally tied to the implementation of specific



institutional, policy, and political reforms aimed at sustainable growth.

Q30. The unique "Shola Ecosystem", which saw new community-led micro-conservation projects launched in June 2026, is a characteristic feature of which landscape?

- A) The mangrove deltas of Sundarbans
- B) The high-altitude valleys of the Western Ghats
- C) The arid sand dunes of Thar Desert
- D) The cold desert plains of Ladakh

Answer: B) The high-altitude valleys of the Western Ghats

Full Detailed Explanation: The Shola ecosystem is a highly unique, endemic vegetation matrix found exclusively in the upper reaches of the South Indian hill ranges within the Western Ghats (Nilgiris, Anaimalai, and Palani hills). It consists of patches of stunted tropical montane wet evergreen forests (called 'Sholas') separated by vast stretches of undulating rolling grasslands. This ecosystem acts as a vital natural water sponge for South Indian rivers.

Murthy sir's

SpardhaGuru

Spardhaguru India Private Limited

SpardhaGuru Skill Edge Aptitude Academy

A Group of Spardhaguru India Private Limited

