

1. National News & Policies

Q1. The Government of India recently liberalized the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy regarding inventory-based e-commerce entities. Which of the following statements correctly describes this change?

- A) 100% FDI is permitted in inventory-based e-commerce for domestic B2C sales.
- B) 100% FDI is permitted in inventory-based e-commerce exclusively for exports of goods manufactured or produced in India.
- C) 51% FDI is allowed under the automatic route for multi-brand retail inventory within India.
- D) 100% FDI is restricted across both marketplace and inventory-based e-commerce models.

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

On 24 July 2026, the Government of India amended its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy to allow **100% FDI under the automatic route for inventory-based e-commerce entities**, strictly provided that they deal **exclusively in the export** of goods manufactured or produced in India.

- **Key Context:** Prior to this relaxation, foreign-funded e-commerce entities were strictly confined to the marketplace model and barred from maintaining inventory for sale.
- **Domestic Restrictions:** The government has retained existing restrictions on Business-to-Consumer (B2C) inventory-based e-commerce for domestic sales to protect traditional domestic retailers.
- **Exam Relevance:** This policy aims to boost India's e-commerce exports toward the \$200 billion target by 2030 and empower

local Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by integrating them into global value chains.

Q2. What is the main objective of the newly announced 'Gems of India' Challenge launched by the Government of India?

- A) To identify and extract rare earth elements in North-Eastern states.
- B) To promote local cultural heritage, tourism, and digital public participation.
- C) To award top-performing jewelry exporters.
- D) To digitize gold vault reserves maintained by the Reserve Bank of India.

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

The Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, launched the pilot phase of the **'Gems of India' Challenge**.

- **Objective:** The initiative leverages crowdsourced digital public participation to discover, document, and highlight unexplored cultural heritage sites, traditional arts, and local monuments across rural and tier-2/3 regions of India.
- **Impact:** Selected "gems" will be featured on national tourism circuits and digital platforms, boosting local economies and promoting sustainable tourism under the *Dekho Apna Desh* vision.

Q3. In July 2026, the Ministry of Coal released 'AAROH', India's first comprehensive report focusing on which critical aspect of mining?

- A) Deep-sea coal mining technology
- B) Scientific mine closure and ecological restoration
- C) Underground coal gasification safety standards



D) Privatization of commercial coal blocks

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

The Ministry of Coal (MoC) unveiled 'AAROH: Annual Report on Mine Closure'.

- **Developer:** The report was prepared by the **Coal Controller Organisation (CCO)** and represents India's first systematic documentation of scientific mine closure, land repurposing, and post-mining ecological restoration.
- **Inaugurations:** Along with the report, "Coal NEER" plants—established by Coal India subsidiaries like BCCL, CCL, MCL, and SECL to treat and supply mine discharge water for drinking and irrigation—were virtually inaugurated.

Q4. According to government data released in July 2026, which Indian state leads the nation in Female Workforce Participation Rate (FWPR), particularly in manufacturing?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Kerala

Answer: C

Detailed Explanation:

Official labor market data released in July 2026 revealed that **Tamil Nadu** continues to lead Indian states in female workforce participation, particularly within the industrial and electronics manufacturing sectors.

- **Data Context:** Tamil Nadu accounts for over 40% of India's total female factory workforce.
- **Factors:** Supportive state policies (including subsidized public transport, workplace

safety mandates, and industrial housing) have significantly boosted formal women employment in Tamil Nadu.

Q5. To tackle the menace of competitive examination question paper leaks, the Prime Minister announced the setting up of which specialized mechanism?

- A) National Testing Regulatory Authority (NTRA)
- B) Fast-Track Courts (FTCs) for paper leak cases
- C) Central Vigilance Cell for Academics
- D) Cyber Crime Task Force for Education

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

To ensure swift justice and deter organized syndicates involved in recruitment examination paper leaks, the Government proposed setting up **Fast-Track Courts (FTCs)** dedicated specifically to paper leak cases.

2. Economics & Banking

Q6. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), through its printing subsidiary BRBNMPL, initiated field trials for replacing paper notes with polymer (plastic) substrate notes for which denominations?

- A) ₹100 and ₹500
- B) ₹10 and ₹20
- C) ₹50 and ₹100
- D) ₹200 and ₹500

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Pvt. Ltd. (BRBNMPL) issued global calls for field trials of **polymer (plastic) banknotes for ₹10 and ₹20 denominations.**



- **Why Polymer?** Lower-denomination paper notes suffer from a short lifespan and high soilage rates. Polymer notes are made from Biaxially Oriented Polypropylene (BOPP), offering 3 to 4 times longer circulation life, higher water resistance, and advanced security features (e.g., transparent windows and shadow images).
- **Economic Advantage:** RBI currently spends nearly ₹5,000 crore annually on printing and managing currency. Extending note longevity substantially lowers recurring printing costs.

Q7. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry reported that India ranks 1st globally in cotton cultivation area. Which country emerged as the top destination for India's cotton fabrics and made-up exports?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) China
- C) United States of America (USA)
- D) United Kingdom

Answer: C

Detailed Explanation:

In a official factsheet on cotton ("India's White Gold"), the Ministry highlighted that India holds **114.84 lakh hectares** (38% of global acreage) in cotton cultivation.

- **Top Export Markets:** The USA is the largest export destination for Indian cotton fabrics and made-ups, accounting for **26.35%** of total exports, followed by Bangladesh (19.81%) and Sri Lanka (5.11%).
- **Livelihood Impact:** The cotton industry supports around 6 million farmers and 40–50 million people across the textile value chain in India.

Q8. Under the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) agreement signed in July 2026, which institute was recognized as a Dual Awarding Body to certify rural skills?

- A) NABARD
- B) NIRDPR (National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj)
- C) IRMA (Institute of Rural Management Anand)
- D) KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission)

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

The **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)**, under the Ministry of Rural Development, signed an agreement with NCVET granting it **Awarding Body (AB-Dual)** status.

- **Significance:** This alignment allows NIRDPR to design, assess, and certify skill qualifications mapped to the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), specifically targeting green energy, biogas project maintenance, and rural cold storage management.

Q9. Which international body released the 'SOFI 2026' (State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World) report evaluating global hunger trends?

- A) World Bank
- B) World Health Organization & Joint UN Agencies
- C) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- D) World Economic Forum (WEF)

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:



The **SOFI 2026 Report** was jointly released by UN agencies, including FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO.

- **Key Findings:** The report monitors global hunger levels relative to Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger). It revealed that while post-pandemic recovery is underway, global chronic undernourishment remains high due to persistent conflict, climate extremes, and supply chain disruptions.

3. International News

Q10. President Hussein Ali Mwinyi paid an official visit to India in July 2026. He is the President of which autonomous region/country?

- A) Zanzibar (Tanzania)
- B) Seychelles
- C) Madagascar
- D) Mauritius

Answer: A

Detailed Explanation:

Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi is the **President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council** (an autonomous region of Tanzania).

- **Key Highlights of Visit:** He attended the convocation of IIT Madras and unveiled the master plan for the **200-acre IIT Madras Zanzibar campus at Fumba Peninsula**—India's first international IIT campus.
- **Bilateral Focus:** Blue economy, medical tourism, technology transfer, and higher education partnerships were prioritized.

Q11. Which country recently passed landmark legislation banning social media access for minors under a designated age threshold to safeguard youth mental health?

- A) Australia / Global pioneer nations
- B) India
- C) Brazil
- D) Japan

Answer: A

Detailed Explanation:

Nation-states pushing forward strict digital safety frameworks have enacted age-restricted social media bans for minors. These legal standards mandate age verification controls on platforms to curb online harassment, addiction, and exposure to harmful content.

Q12. The United States and Saudi Arabia recently finalized a 30-year bilateral agreement known historically as a "123 Agreement". What does a 123 Agreement deal with?

- A) Extradition of financial fugitives
- B) Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation
- C) Double Taxation Avoidance
- D) Maritime Boundary Demarcation

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

Section 123 of the US Atomic Energy Act of 1954 establishes the legal framework for **civilian nuclear cooperation** between the United States and foreign nations. The US-Saudi deal opens doors for peaceful nuclear technology transfer, power generation, and technical assistance while adhering to IAEA non-proliferation safeguards.

4. Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q13. What is the primary objective of 'Mission Golden Spice', launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare?

- A) Exporting turmeric-based medicine to EU countries
- B) Comprehensive development of India's spice sector through quality control and value addition
- C) Subsidizing saffron cultivation exclusively in Jammu & Kashmir
- D) Standardizing organic tea certification

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

'Mission Golden Spice' was launched to enhance productivity, processing standards, global traceability, and export market access for Indian spices (such as turmeric, cardamom, ginger, and black pepper).

- **Focus:** It targets chemical residue reduction, modern infrastructure for solar drying, and boosting income for spice growers across southern and north-eastern belts.

Q14. The 'UNNATI AI 2.0' initiative aims primarily at expanding artificial intelligence ecosystem opportunities in which regions?

- A) Metropolitan Tier-1 Hubs
- B) Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities
- C) Overseas diaspora research labs
- D) Defence research laboratories

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

UNNATI AI 2.0 focuses on democratizing AI compute access, nurturing local technology startups, and building a skilled talent pipeline in **Tier-2 and Tier-3 Indian cities**. It aims to bridge the urban-rural tech divide and foster localized problem-solving across health, agriculture, and governance.

5. Defense & Space Technology

Q15. In July 2026, ISRO entered into a Strategic Collaboration Agreement with which premier Indian scientific research body to advance space materials and technology development?

- A) DRDO
- B) CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)
- C) BARC
- D) IISc Bangalore

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

ISRO and CSIR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on advanced space materials, green propellants, satellite structural components, and indigenous space payload technology.

- **Impact:** CSIR laboratories (such as NAL, CGCRI, and NPL) will support ISRO's deep-space missions and Gaganyaan ecosystem with specialized alloys and sensor systems.

Q16. Integrated airborne warning and fighter flight test certifications in India are jointly overseen by DGAQA and which military airworthiness certifying body?

- A) HAL
- B) CEMILAC (Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification)
- C) ADA
- D) BEL

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

Flight testing and structural integrity certifications for Indian Air Force platforms are granted by **CEMILAC** (headquartered in Bengaluru) alongside the Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA).



6. MoUs & Agreements

Q17. The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) partnered with vocational bodies to finance which clean-energy projects at the village level?

- A) Tidal power generators
- B) Biogas/bioenergy projects and solar micro cold storage infrastructure
- C) Nuclear micro-reactors
- D) Hydrogen fuel stations on national highways

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

The partnership seeks to drive sustainable rural development by financing **biogas and bioenergy plants using crop residues**, alongside **solar-powered micro cold storage units** for Gram Panchayats and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

7. Sports

Q18. Indian Chess Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa achieved a landmark victory in a major international tournament by defeating which reigning World Chess Champion?

- A) Magnus Carlsen
- B) Hikaru Nakamura
- C) D. Gukesh
- D) Ding Liren

Answer: C

Detailed Explanation:

R. Praggnanandhaa registered a decisive classical chess victory against reigning World Champion **D. Gukesh**. The match highlighted the extraordinary depth and dominance of India's top chess grandmasters on the global stage.

Q19. The 2026 Commonwealth Games organizational framework was restructured to emphasize sustainable, existing sports infrastructure. Which city was designated as the core host?

- A) Glasgow, Scotland
- B) Birmingham, UK
- C) Victoria, Australia
- D) New Delhi, India

Answer: A

Detailed Explanation:

Following adjustments to hosting models, **Glasgow, Scotland** stepped up to host a scaled-back, sustainable Commonwealth Games model utilizing existing sporting arenas to minimize public expenditure.

8. Appointments & Resignations

Q20. Who serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the apex body administering direct taxes in India?

- A) Union Finance Minister
- B) Senior-most IRS Officer appointed as CBDT Chairman
- C) RBI Governor
- D) Comptroller and Auditor General

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** is a statutory body operating under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963. It functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, and is headed by its Chairman alongside six board members.

9. Awards & Honors



Q21. Which prestigious civilian award setup or recognition was recently conferred to institutions contributing significantly to rural skill development and vocational excellence under NSQF norms?

- A) National Vocational Excellence Citation by MSDE / NCVET
- B) Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar
- C) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize
- D) Jamnalal Bajaj Award

Answer: A

Detailed Explanation:

NCVET recognition as an Awarding Body dual-status elevates institutions like NIRDPR to confer nationally recognized skill certifications across India's vocational spectrum.

10. Books & Authors

Q22. The book titled "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World" and its sequel "Why Bharat Matters" are authored by which Indian leader?

- A) Nirmala Sitharaman
- B) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- C) Hardeep Singh Puri
- D) Amit Shah

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

Both books are authored by India's External Affairs Minister, **Dr. S. Jaishankar**. They offer deep strategic insights into India's evolving multi-aligned foreign policy, multipolar diplomacy, and national growth trajectory.

11. Important Days & Observances

Q23. 'Aaykar Diwas' (Income Tax Day) is celebrated annually in India on July 24. What historical event does this date commemorate?

- A) Enactment of the Income Tax Act, 1961
- B) Sir James Wilson introduced Income Tax in British India on 24 July 1860
- C) Establishment of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
- D) The first Union Budget presentation after independence

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

July 24 is celebrated every year as **Income Tax Day (Aaykar Diwas)** in India.

- **History:** On **24 July 1860**, Sir James Wilson (the first Finance Member of the Governor-General's Council) introduced income tax in British India to recover losses sustained by the government during the Revolt of 1857.
- **Milestone:** The Income Tax Department officially began celebrating this day in **2010** to mark 150 years of tax administration.
- **Act Evolution:** The current governing law is the **Income Tax Act, 1961**, which replaced the 1922 Act and came into force on April 1, 1962.

Q24. How many years of tax administration in India were marked on Income Tax Day on 24 July 2026?

- A) 100 years
- B) 150 years
- C) 166 years
- D) 200 years

Answer: C

Detailed Explanation:

24 July 2026 marks **166 years** since the formal introduction of income tax in India by Sir James Wilson in 1860.

12. Art & Culture, Festivals & Heritage

Q25. The famous 'Ganga Sagar Mela' is celebrated annually in which Indian state?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) West Bengal
- C) Bihar
- D) Uttarakhand

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

The **Ganga Sagar Mela** is held at Sagardwip in West Bengal at the confluence of the River Hooghly and the Bay of Bengal during Makar Sankranti, making it the second-largest congregation of pilgrims in India after the Kumbh Mela.

Q26. Which classical dance form of India traditionally integrates the 'Nritta' (pure dance), 'Nritya' (expressive dance), and 'Natya' (dramatic element) derived from the Natya Shastra?

- A) Kathak
- B) Bharatanatyam
- C) Odissi
- D) All of the above

Answer: D

Detailed Explanation:

All Indian classical dance forms recognized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi (including Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, Mohiniyattam, and Sattriya) draw their structural foundation from

Bharata Muni's *Natya Shastra*, utilizing Nritta, Nritya, and Natya.

13. Historical Milestones, Birth & Death Anniversaries

Q27. On 24 July 1952, a historic political agreement was signed between Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah. What was it officially termed?

- A) Shimla Agreement
- B) Delhi Agreement (Nehru-Abdullah Agreement)
- C) Tashkent Declaration
- D) Instrument of Accession

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

On **24 July 1952**, the **Delhi Agreement** (often called the Nehru-Abdullah Agreement) was finalized between the Government of India and the Jammu & Kashmir state government. It defined the constitutional relationship and specific autonomous provisions for the state under Article 370 prior to subsequent constitutional integration updates.

Q28. Modern direct tax administration in post-independence India is governed primarily by the Income Tax Act of which year?

- A) 1947
- B) 1950
- C) 1961
- D) 1972

Answer: C

Detailed Explanation:

The **Income Tax Act, 1961** is the fundamental statutory framework governing direct taxation, income brackets, deductions, and tax

administration across India, having come into effect on **1 April 1962**.

Q29. Which historic battle fought on July 24, 1148, formed a major engagement during the Second Crusade?

- A) Siege of Jerusalem
- B) Siege of Damascus
- C) Battle of Hastings
- D) Battle of Waterloo

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

On **24 July 1148**, King Louis VII of France and King Conrad III of Germany laid siege to Damascus during the **Second Crusade**. The failure of the siege led to the eventual collapse of the crusade.

Q30. Who among the following historical figures was the first Finance Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council to introduce paper currency and income tax in British India?

- A) Lord Dalhousie
- B) Sir James Wilson
- C) Lord Ripon
- D) Warren Hastings

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

Sir James Wilson was a Scottish economist, founder of *The Economist* magazine, and the first Finance Member in British India. On **24 July 1860**, he introduced India's first income tax act and structured government budgeting and paper currency systems.

Quick Summary Table for Revision

Question Category	Key Highlight	Core Takeaway
National Policy	FDI in E-Commerce	100% FDI allowed in inventory-based e-commerce for exports only.
Environment	AAROH Report	India's 1st comprehensive scientific mine closure & land restoration report.
Banking & Finance	Polymer Notes	Trials initiated for ₹10 and ₹20 polymer notes to cut replacement costs.
Important Day	Income Tax Day (24 July)	Marks 166 years since Sir James Wilson introduced income tax in 1860.
International	IIT Zanzibar	Master plan unveiled for India's 1st international IIT campus.
Sports	Chess Victory	R. Praggnanandhaa defeated reigning World Champion D. Gukesh.