

National News

- **India's First Hectare-Level Soil Texture Map Released:** The ICAR–National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur, unveiled India's first high-resolution Soil Texture Map. The map provides precision soil data at the hectare level to optimize crop selection, irrigation management, and land use planning across agro-ecological zones.
- **India Reports Land Restoration at UNCCD COP17:** At the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UNCCD in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, India announced the restoration of 21.76 million hectares of degraded land between 2011 and 2020. This advances India's Bonn Challenge pledge to restore 26 million hectares by 2030.

Practice Question 1

Which institution developed India's first hectare-level Soil Texture Map to support precision agriculture?

- (a) Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi
- (b) National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur
- (c) Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur
- (d) National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad

Answer: (b) National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur

Detailed Explanation: Established in 1976 under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in Nagpur, Maharashtra, NBSS&LUP developed India's first Soil Texture Map. It provides detailed spatial data at the

hectare level to assist farmers, scientists, and policymakers in crop selection, fertilizer management, and irrigation efficiency.

International News & Relations

- **25th Special Representatives Border Talks:** India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing for the 25th round of Special Representatives (SR) boundary talks to institutionalize border stability.
- **Five African Nations End Polio Type-2 Outbreaks:** The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that five African countries successfully closed their circulating variant type 2 poliovirus (cVDPV2) outbreaks after rigorous surveillance and vaccination assessments.

Practice Question 2

What was the primary focus of the 25th round of Special Representatives (SR) talks held between India and China in Beijing?

- (a) Establishing a bilateral free trade agreement
- (b) Boundary question resolution and border stability framework

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- (c) Joint maritime patrols in the Indian Ocean
- (d) Bilateral currency swap arrangement

Answer: (b) Boundary question resolution and border stability framework

Detailed Explanation: The 25th Special Representatives (SR) meeting between India's NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi took place in Beijing. The talks focused on maintaining peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and building mechanisms for long-term border stability ahead of multilateral summits.

Economics, Banking & Finance

- **UPI Completes 10 Years of Public Operation:** Launched publicly on August 25, 2016, by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) completed 10 years. UPI processes nearly half of the world's real-time digital payment transactions.
- **PNB & Indian Army Partner for Customized Defense Credit Cards:** Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army to launch two co-branded credit cards—'PNB LUXURA Metal' and 'PNB Parakram'—tailored for military personnel.
- **SEBI Unveils IT Resilience Index (ITRI):** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced the IT Resilience Index to assess and improve the technological stability and disaster-recovery capabilities of Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs).

Practice Question 3

Which public sector bank launched the specialized 'PNB LUXURA Metal' and 'PNB Parakram' credit cards in collaboration with the Indian Army?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) Punjab National Bank
- (c) Bank of Baroda
- (d) Canara Bank

Answer: (b) Punjab National Bank

Detailed Explanation: Punjab National Bank (PNB) partnered with the Indian Army to launch two credit card variants designed for serving and retired defense personnel. These cards offer specialized benefits, insurance

coverage, and financial services dedicated to armed forces members.

Defense & Cybersecurity News

- **DRDO's NSTL Signs Technology Transfers (LAToT):** The Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam, transferred technology for the Submarine Fired Decoy (SFD) 'Mohini' to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), as well as LM2500 Gas Turbine technology to Vertex Engineering Systems.
- **Indian Army Raises 'Baaz Battalion':** The Indian Army established its first dedicated operational drone unit, the Baaz Battalion, under the Vajra Corps (11 Corps) in Punjab to improve border surveillance and tactical intelligence.
- **Terrier Cyber Quest 2026 (TCQ 3.0):** The Territorial Army, alongside CyberPeace, launched the TCQ 3.0 national hackathon to build indigenous defense solutions across AI security and vulnerability detection.

Practice Question 4

The Submarine Fired Decoy (SFD) system 'Mohini', transferred by DRDO to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), was developed by which DRDO laboratory?

- (a) Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune
- (b) Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam
- (c) Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), Hyderabad
- (d) Defence Electronics Application Laboratory (DEAL), Dehradun

Answer: (b) Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam

Detailed Explanation: NSTL Visakhapatnam signed a Licensing Agreement for Transfer of Technology (LAToT) to transfer the indigenous Submarine Fired Decoy (SFD) 'Mohini' to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for commercial defense production.

Government Schemes & MoUs

- MeitY Notifies ₹62,500 Crore MPMS Scheme:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified the Mobile Phone & Component Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with a ₹62,500 crore outlay to expand local handset manufacturing and domestic component ecosystems.
- NSDC & AWS Cloud Skilling Partnership:** The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) teamed up with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to deliver cloud computing and AI skilling across Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities in India.

Practice Question 5

What is the financial outlay approved for the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) Mobile Phone & Component Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)?

- (a) ₹45,000 Crore
(b) ₹52,000 Crore
(c) ₹62,500 Crore
(d) ₹75,000 Crore

Answer: (c) ₹62,500 Crore

Detailed Explanation: The MPMS scheme provides targeted financial incentives ranging from 2.25% to 5% for mobile device manufacturing and domestic supply chain assembly to boost electronics manufacturing under the Make in India initiative.

Awards, Honors & Books

- 47th Sarala Puraskar 2026:** Odia poet and CSIR-IMMT scientist **Ashutosh Parida** was selected for the 47th Sarala Puraskar for his poetry collection '**Bishwas De Pruthwi**'. The honor carries a cash prize of ₹7 lakh, a citation, and a copper plaque.
- Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman 2026:** Awarded for lifetime excellence in the arts to Odissi maestro **Guru Durga Charan Ranbir** and sculptor **Damodar Behera** (cash prize of ₹2.5 lakh each).

Award Name	Recipient(s)	Field / Work
Sarala Puraskar 2026	Ashutosh Parida	Odia Poetry ('Bishwas De Pruthwi')
Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman 2026	Guru Durga Charan Ranbir	Odissi Dance
Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman 2026	Damodar Behera	Sculpture & Art Education

Practice Question 6

Ashutosh Parida has been selected for the 47th Sarala Puraskar for which poetry collection?

- (a) Bishwas De Pruthwi
(b) Sabda Nirantara
(c) Suryavansi
(d) Katha O Kabita

Answer: (a) Bishwas De Pruthwi

Detailed Explanation: Prominent Odia poet, essayist, and former CSIR scientist Ashutosh Parida won the 47th Sarala Puraskar for his poetry book Bishwas De Pruthwi. Instituted by the Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT), the award honors contributions to Odia literature.

Important Days, Art, Culture & Anniversaries

- **10th Anniversary of UPI Public Launch (25 August 2026):** Marks a decade since the Unified Payments Interface went live in 2016, transforming India's digital payments landscape.
- **3rd National Space Day (Observed 23 August 2026):** Celebrated in memory of Chandrayaan-3's soft landing on the Moon's South Pole on August 23, 2023.
 - **2026 Theme:** "Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership".
- **Birth & Death Anniversaries (25 August):**
 - **Michael Faraday (Death Anniversary - 1867):** English physicist who discovered electromagnetic induction and the laws of electrolysis.
 - **Haribhau Upadhyaya (Death Anniversary - 1972):** Freedom fighter, Padma Bhushan awardee, and former Chief Minister of Ajmer state who contributed to Rajasthan's political development and literature.

Practice Question 7

What was the official theme for India's 3rd National Space Day celebrated on 23 August 2026?

- (a) Touching the Moon, Harnessing the Future

(b) Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership

(c) Space Technology for Sustainable Human Development

(d) India in Deep Space: From Moon to Mars

Answer: (b) Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership

Detailed Explanation: August 23 is observed as National Space Day to commemorate the landing of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander at Shiv Shakti Point on the Moon. The 2026 national event took place in Ahmedabad under the theme "Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership".

1. Banking & Economics

Q1. Under which section of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 were three part-time non-official directors (Annie George Mathew, Janmejaya Kumar Sinha, and Syed Akbaruddin) appointed to the RBI Central Board in August 2026?

- (A) Section 7(1)
- (B) Section 8(1)(c)
- (C) Section 17(2)
- (D) Section 45(ZA)

Answer: (B) Section 8(1)(c)

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Central Government appointed former diplomat Syed Akbaruddin, ex-civil servant Annie George Mathew, and financial analyst Janmejaya Kumar Sinha as part-time non-official directors on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The appointments were executed under **Section 8(1)(c)** of the Reserve Bank of India Act,

1934, for a four-year tenure starting August 24, 2026. Section 8(1)(c) provides for the nomination of directors from various public interest fields to ensure diverse economic expertise on the Central Board.

2. Digital Financial Infrastructure

Q2. On August 25, 2026, India's flagship digital payments framework, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), celebrated its 10th anniversary. In which year was UPI officially launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?

- (A) 2014
- (B) 2016
- (C) 2018
- (D) 2020

Answer: (B) 2016

- **Detailed Explanation:** August 25, 2026, marks 10 years of the launch of the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**. Developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and launched in August 2016 under the guidance of RBI, UPI revolutionized instant, real-time mobile payments. Operating on Virtual Payment Addresses (VPA) and two-factor authentication, UPI accounts for over 80% of retail digital transaction volumes in India and has been adopted internationally in countries like the UAE, Singapore, France, and Sri Lanka.

3. Financial Regulations & Capital Markets

Q3. Which market regulator unveiled the "Information Technology (IT) Resilience Index" for Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) in August 2026?

- (A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (B) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

- (C) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (D) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

Answer: (C) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- **Detailed Explanation:** The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced the IT Resilience Index specifically tailored for Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)—including stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories. The framework establishes quantitative metrics to evaluate IT governance, cybersecurity readiness, disaster recovery time objectives (RTO), and operational continuity during tech outages or cyberattacks.

4. Agriculture & Land Management

Q4. Which ICAR institute released India's first high-resolution Soil Texture Map at the hectare level on its 50th Foundation Day in August 2026?

- (A) ICAR - Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi
- (B) ICAR - National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur
- (C) Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS), Bhopal
- (D) Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Karnal

Answer: (B) ICAR - National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur

- **Detailed Explanation:** The **ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP)**, based in Nagpur, Maharashtra, launched India's first comprehensive Soil Texture Map. By

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providing site-specific soil physical property data down to the individual hectare level, this tool helps farmers optimize micro-irrigation, fertilizer usage, and crop selection according to specific soil clay, sand, and silt compositions.

5. Animal Genetics & Indigenous Breeds

Q5. The ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) officially registered a new indigenous dwarf cattle breed named 'Periyar Kullan'. Which state does this breed belong to?

- (A) Tamil Nadu
- (B) Karnataka
- (C) Kerala
- (D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: (C) Kerala

- **Detailed Explanation:** ICAR-NBAGR officially recognized **Periyar Kullan** as a newly registered indigenous dwarf cattle breed native to the Western Ghats region of Kerala. Well-adapted to high humidity and forest fringe terrain, the Periyar Kullan exhibits high parasite tolerance, low feed consumption, and climate resilience, making it valuable for organic and small-scale farming ecosystems.

6. Government Schemes & Electronics Manufacturing

Q6. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified the MPMS scheme with an outlay of ₹62,500 Crore in August 2026. What does "MPMS" stand for?

- (A) Micro Processor Manufacturing Scheme
- (B) Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme
- (C) Modular Semiconductor Processing Scheme

- (D) Mass Production of Mobile Systems

Answer: (B) Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme

- **Detailed Explanation:** MeitY notified the **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)** with an allocation of ₹62,500 Crore. Building on the success of earlier Production Linked Incentive (PLI) models, MPMS seeks to scale up high-value domestic component manufacturing, surface-mount technology (SMT) lines, camera module production, and smartphone assembly for export markets.

7. Defence Technology Transfer

Q7. Which DRDO laboratory signed Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LAToT) for the Submarine Fired Decoy (SFD) named 'Mohini' in August 2026?

- (A) Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi
- (B) Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam
- (C) Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), Hyderabad
- (D) Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune

Answer: (B) Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam

- **Detailed Explanation:** DRDO's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), located in Visakhapatnam, transferred the technology for the indigenous Submarine Fired Decoy (SFD) '**Mohini**' to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). Additionally, NSTL transferred technology for LM2500 Gas Turbine fabrication to Vertex Engineering Systems. '**Mohini**' acoustic decoys protect Indian Navy submarines by emitting

acoustic signatures to distract incoming hostile torpedoes.

8. Defense & Joint Exercises

Q8. Exercise 'Udara Shakti 2026' is a bilateral air combat exercise conducted between India and which partner nation?

- (A) Indonesia
- (B) Malaysia
- (C) Vietnam
- (D) Thailand

Answer: (B) Malaysia

- **Detailed Explanation:** Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 is a bilateral air force exercise conducted between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF). The exercise focuses on aerial dogfighting, complex combat missions, visual range interception, and joint logistics coordination to strengthen maritime air security in the Indo-Pacific.

9. Cybersecurity Initiatives

Q9. Which military wing partnered with CyberPeace to host the national hackathon 'Terrier Cyber Quest 2026' (TCQ 3.0)?

- (A) Special Frontier Force
- (B) Indian Coast Guard
- (C) Territorial Army
- (D) National Security Guard

Answer: (C) Territorial Army

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Territorial Army (TA) launched the 3rd edition of Terrier Cyber Quest 2026 (TCQ 3.0) in collaboration with CyberPeace. The hackathon brings together civilian cybersecurity talent, ethical hackers, and military researchers to design defensive technologies addressing zero-day

threats, critical national infrastructure security, and threat intelligence mapping.

10. International Forums & BRICS

Q10. India hosted the BRICS ICT Track meetings in August 2026, including the 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting. In which city was this track hosted?

- (A) Gandhinagar
- (B) Pune
- (C) Jaipur
- (D) Bengaluru

Answer: (B) Pune

- **Detailed Explanation:** India hosted the BRICS ICT Track in Pune, Maharashtra. The multilateral gathering included the Digital BRICS Forum & Expo and the 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting. Key focus areas included open radio access networks (Open RAN), satellite broadband integration, cross-border digital public infrastructure (DPI), and responsible AI frameworks.

11. Bilateral MoUs

Q11. On the sidelines of the BRICS ICT Track, India signed an MoU with which country to collaborate on AI, 5G/6G, Open RAN, and Direct-to-Device (D2D) connectivity?

- (A) South Africa
- (B) Brazil
- (C) Russia
- (D) China

Answer: (B) Brazil

- **Detailed Explanation:** India and Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the BRICS ICT Track in Pune. The pact focuses on joint R&D in 5G and 6G telecom architectures, Open RAN



interoperability, Internet of Things (IoT) applications, and Direct-to-Device (D2D) satellite communication protocols.

12. Global Public Health

Q12. The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed the closure of poliovirus type-2 outbreaks in five African nations in August 2026. Which of the following countries is NOT among these five?

- (A) Burundi
- (B) Ghana
- (C) Uganda
- (D) Nigeria

Answer: (D) Nigeria

- **Detailed Explanation:** The WHO Regional Office for Africa announced the formal closure of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreaks in **Burundi, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Republic of the Congo, and Uganda**. The declaration followed rigorous Independent Outbreak Response Assessments showing sustained interruption of virus transmission. Nigeria was not among the five nations cleared in this assessment batch.

13. International Sports - Badminton

Q13. Who won the Men's Singles title at the 2026 BWF World Championships held in New Delhi, India?

- (A) Viktor Axelsen
- (B) Alex Lanier
- (C) Shi Yuqi
- (D) Lakshya Sen

Answer: (B) Alex Lanier

- **Detailed Explanation:** Alex Lanier of France won the Men's Singles title at the 2026 BWF World Championships in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, **An Se-young** of South Korea won the Women's Singles title. India secured a bronze medal in Women's Doubles through Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand.

14. Sports - Chess

Q14. Indian Grandmaster Pranesh M won which international chess title in August 2026?

- (A) Prague Chess Festival
- (B) Kanizsa Open 2026
- (C) Reykjavik Open
- (D) Tata Steel Masters

Answer: (B) Kanizsa Open 2026

- **Detailed Explanation:** Indian GM Pranesh M secured the **Kanizsa Open 2026** chess championship in Hungary. The performance earned him vital FIDE rating points, continuing India's dominance across international chess circuits.

15. Art & Culture - State Awards

Q15. Odissi dance maestro Guru Durga Charan Ranbir was selected for which state award recognizing lifetime excellence in the arts?

- (A) Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratna
- (B) Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman
- (C) Kalidas Samman
- (D) Lata Mangeshkar Award

Answer: (B) Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman

- **Detailed Explanation:** Odissi exponent **Guru Durga Charan Ranbir** and sculptor **Damodar Behera** were chosen for the **2026 Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman**. Instituted by the IMFA Charitable Trust, the honor carries a cash award of ₹2.5 lakh, a plaque, and a citation for lifetime contributions to performing and visual arts.

16. National Pageants

Q16. Who was crowned Miss Universe India 2026 at the national grand finale?

- (A) Rhea Singha
- (B) Kaziah Liz Mejo
- (C) Divita Rai
- (D) Adline Castelino

Answer: (B) Kaziah Liz Mejo

- **Detailed Explanation:** Kaziah Liz Mejo was crowned **Miss Universe India 2026**. She will represent India at the international Miss Universe pageant later in the year, succeeding previous national titleholders.

17. Rivers & Environmental Law

Q17. The Supreme Court of India restricted construction and pollution along the floodplains of the Jojari River. The Jojari is a right-bank tributary of which major river?

- (A) Sabarmati
- (B) Mahi
- (C) Luni
- (D) Banas

Answer: (C) Luni

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Jojari River is a principal right-bank tributary of the **Luni River** in western Rajasthan. Unlike பெரும்பாலான Luni tributaries that originate in the Aravalli range, the Jojari originates in the plains near Pondlu village in Nagaur district. The Supreme Court directed interim spatial buffer restrictions to curb industrial effluent discharge and encroachment along its riverbed.

18. Environment & Conservation

Q18. Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, which recorded its first-ever sighting of the rare

migratory Smew duck (Mergellus albellus), is in which state?

- (A) Assam
- (B) Arunachal Pradesh
- (C) Manipur
- (D) Meghalaya

Answer: (A) Assam

- **Detailed Explanation:** **Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary** is situated on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Nagaon district, **Assam**. It functions as a core component of the Laokhowa-Burhachapori eco-complex and serves as a vital buffer zone for Kaziranga National Park. The sanctuary made news following the first recorded documentation of the Smew duck.

19. Art, Culture & Tribal Heritage

Q19. The National Conference on Tribal Languages and Museums (2026) was organized in which historic city?

- (A) Mysuru
- (B) Bhopal
- (C) Ranchi
- (D) Bhubaneswar

Answer: (A) Mysuru

- **Detailed Explanation:** Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey inaugurated the 3-day **National Conference on Tribal Languages and Museums** in **Mysuru, Karnataka**. The conference discussed strategies for preserving endangered tribal dialects, setting up digital archives, and documenting the history of indigenous freedom fighters.

20. Space Exploration

Q20. Who became the first French woman astronaut to execute a —spacewalk

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(Extravehicular Activity) outside the International Space Station?

- (A) Claudie Haigneré
- (B) Sophie Adenot
- (C) Samantha Cristoforetti
- (D) Jessica Meir

Answer: (B) Sophie Adenot

- **Detailed Explanation:** European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut **Sophie Adenot** became the **first French woman** to perform an extravehicular activity (spacewalk) outside the International Space Station (ISS). During the spacewalk, she installed updated solar array brackets and serviced external communication hardware.

21. Defense & Banking MoUs

Q21. Which public sector bank launched two customized credit cards—'PNB LUXURA Metal' and 'PNB Parakram'—for Indian Army personnel in August 2026?

- (A) State Bank of India
- (B) Punjab National Bank
- (C) Bank of Baroda
- (D) Canara Bank

Answer: (B) Punjab National Bank

- **Detailed Explanation:** Punjab National Bank (PNB) partnered with the Indian Army to launch 'PNB LUXURA Metal' (a high-end credit card) and 'PNB Parakram'. These co-branded cards offer enhanced personal accident insurance, zero surcharge fees, and tailored financial privileges for serving and retired Army personnel.

22. Railway Infrastructure

Q23. Where is Indian Railways developing its first dedicated high-speed test track (70 km) at a cost of ₹967.07 Crore?

- (A) Ahmedabad-Vadodara section, Gujarat
- (B) Gudha-Thathana Mithri, Rajasthan
- (C) Jhansi-Babina section, Uttar Pradesh
- (D) Kazipet section, Telangana

Answer: (B) Gudha-Thathana Mithri, Rajasthan

- **Detailed Explanation:** Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) is completing India's first dedicated high-speed train testing track between **Gudha and Thathana Mithri in Rajasthan's Nawa region** (near Jaipur). Spanning nearly 70 km, the track is built to test rolling stock like Vande Bharat trains, bullet train prototypes, and heavy-axle freight trains at speeds up to 220 km/h.

23. International Reports & Indices

Q23. Which city was the sole Indian representative in the International Workplace Group (IWG) 'Work From Anywhere Index 2026'?

- (A) Bengaluru
- (B) New Delhi
- (C) Mumbai
- (D) Hyderabad

Answer: (C) Mumbai

- **Detailed Explanation:** Mumbai ranked 50th globally and was the **only Indian city featured** in the IWG Work From Anywhere Index 2026. The index evaluates world cities based on internet speeds, flexible workspace density, cost of living, transport systems, and cultural livability for hybrid and remote professionals.

24. International Disasters & Climate

Q24. Typhoon Narra caused widespread devastation, landslides, and displacement in



southern China and which neighboring country in August 2026?

- (A) Philippines
- (B) Vietnam
- (C) Thailand
- (D) Myanmar

Answer: (B) Vietnam

- **Detailed Explanation:** Typhoon Narra swept across East and Southeast Asia, bringing extreme precipitation, mudslides, and flash floods that displaced over 54,000 residents in southern China and damaged agricultural infrastructure in **northern Vietnam**.

25. State Reforms & Governance

Q25. Which state government constituted a 5-member judicial-headed expert committee to recommend examination reforms and prevent paper leaks?

- (A) Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Bihar
- (C) Rajasthan
- (D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: (B) Bihar

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Bihar state government set up a 5-member high-level expert committee led by a serving or retired judge. The panel was tasked with submitting a report within three months proposing structural reforms for competitive, entrance, and university examinations to curb paper leaks and malpractices.

26. Health & Artificial Intelligence

Q26. What was the central theme of the 3rd IIM Ahmedabad Healthcare Summit held in Gujarat?

- (A) Eradicating Vector-Borne Diseases
- (B) Advancing AI in Healthcare

- (C) Universal Health Coverage & PM-JAY
- (D) Tele-Mental Health Expansion

Answer: (B) Advancing AI in Healthcare

- **Detailed Explanation:** MoS Health Anupriya Patel addressed the **3rd IIMA Healthcare Summit** in Ahmedabad, which focused on "**Advancing AI in Healthcare**". Key discussions highlighted AI integration within the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), diagnostic tele-consultations via e-Sanjeevani, and AI-driven drug discovery frameworks under the PRIP scheme.

27. Polity & Constitutional Provisions

Q27. During high-level talks regarding a Permanent Political Solution for Gorkhaland, Article 244A of the Constitution was cited. What does Article 244A enable?

- (A) Financial Emergency in a state
- (B) Creation of an Autonomous Sub-State with its own legislature within a state
- (C) Special provisions for Union Territory administration
- (D) Extension of President's Rule in border areas

Answer: (B) Creation of an Autonomous Sub-State with its own legislature within a state

- **Detailed Explanation:** Article 244A (inserted via the 22nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1969) empowers Parliament to create an **autonomous sub-state** within an existing state. This sub-state can have its own elected Legislature and Council of Ministers. It is frequently referenced in administrative discussions surrounding self-governance demands in hill regions.

28. National Observances

Q28. National Space Day in India is observed annually on August 23 to mark which historic event?

- (A) Launch of Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission)
- (B) Soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 near the Lunar South Pole
- (C) Successful flight test of Gaganyaan abort mission
- (D) Launch of India's first satellite Aryabhata

Answer: (B) Soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 near the Lunar South Pole

- **Detailed Explanation:** National Space Day is celebrated on **August 23** across India. It commemorates the historic touchdown of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram Lander at 'Shiv Shakti Point' near the lunar South Pole on August 23, 2023, making India the fourth nation to soft-land on the Moon and the first near its South Pole.

29. State-Level International MoUs

Q29. The State Government of Maharashtra signed a strategic MoU for trade, green energy, and technical exchange with which federal state of Germany?

- (A) Bavaria
- (B) Hesse
- (C) Baden-Württemberg
- (D) Saxony

Answer: (B) Hesse

- **Detailed Explanation:** Maharashtra signed an MoU with **Hesse**, a key financial and industrial state in Germany (home to Frankfurt). The agreement promotes bilateral investments, renewable energy tech transfer, urban mobility solutions, and

academic exchange between institutions in Hesse and Maharashtra.

30. Advanced Biotechnology & AI

Q30. Scientists at Stanford University and the Arc Institute used AI language models 'Evo 1' and 'Evo 2' to achieve which milestone in August 2026?

- (A) Designing complete de-novo functional genomes of bacteriophages
- (B) Synthesizing artificial blood platelets
- (C) Mapping plant photosynthesis at sub-atomic levels
- (D) Creating artificial human insulin without bacteria

Answer: (A) Designing complete de-novo functional genomes of bacteriophages

- **Detailed Explanation:** Researchers utilized generative biology models (**Evo 1 and Evo 2**) to create **de-novo, fully functional genomes of bacteriophages** (viruses that infect bacteria). Out of 285 AI-generated viral designs tested, 16 successfully infected bacteria. This represents a shift from biological analysis to generative biological engineering, opening new pathways for phage therapy against drug-resistant superbugs.