

1. National News & State Initiatives

Q1. Which Indian state became the first in the country to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a mainstream school subject from Classes I to XII under the 'Sarbat.AI' initiative?

- A) Kerala
- B) Karnataka
- C) Punjab
- D) Telangana

Answer: C

Detailed Explanation:

The State Government of **Punjab** launched *Sarbat.AI*, making it the first state in India to integrate Artificial Intelligence into the school curriculum as a mainstream subject from Class I to XII.

- **Key Features:** The curriculum focuses on foundational digital literacy, computational logic, ethics in AI, and practical problem-solving tailored to age groups.
- **Exam Importance:** This initiative aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 guidelines advocating early exposure to emerging technologies and skill-based learning.

Q2. Killai, which was officially recognized in July 2026 as the first fully operational climate-resilient village, is located in which state/UT?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Odisha
- C) Kerala
- D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: A

Detailed Explanation:

Killai, located in the Cuddalore district of **Tamil Nadu**, was declared the state's first climate-resilient village.

- **Implementation:** Executed under the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission (TNCCM) in partnership with World Resources Institute (WRI) India at a cost of ₹230.15 lakh.
- **Core Interventions:** Interventions include bio-shield plantation (mangrove restoration), solarized community infrastructure, rainwater harvesting networks, and disaster-resilient local housing.

Q3. In July 2026, the Index of Core Industries (ICI) was updated to include which commodity as its 9th core sector industry?

- A) Rare Earth Elements
- B) Iron Ore
- C) Semiconductor Wafers
- D) Green Hydrogen

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry formally integrated **Iron Ore** into the Index of Core Industries (ICI), increasing the total number of core industries from 8 to 9.

- **The 9 Core Industries:** Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, Electricity, and Iron Ore.
- **Rationale:** Iron ore is the primary raw material for steel production. Its inclusion enhances the accuracy of tracking industrial output and Gross Value Added (GVA) in manufacturing.

2. Economics & Banking

Q4. Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed a historic MoU with which state government to



set up India's first bank-led Quantum Finance Hub?

- A) Gujarat (GIFT City)
- B) Maharashtra (Mumbai)
- C) Andhra Pradesh (Amaravati)
- D) Karnataka (Bengaluru)

Answer: C

Detailed Explanation:

Public sector lender **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** partnered with the **Government of Andhra Pradesh** to establish India's first bank-led Quantum Finance Hub at the *Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV)* in Amaravati.

- **Objective:** The hub will leverage quantum computing for high-speed algorithmic trading, advanced fraud detection, portfolio optimization, and post-quantum cryptography to safeguard banking networks against future cyber threats.

Q5. The 'Global Mining and Metals Water Dataset Report', highlighting that nearly two-thirds of global processing facilities face severe water stress, was released by which international organization?

- A) International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)
- B) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- C) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- D) World Bank Group

Answer: A

Detailed Explanation:

The **International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)** published the *Global Mining and Metals Water Dataset Report*.

- **Key Findings:** Over 65% of global mining and processing operations for critical minerals (lithium, copper, cobalt) operate in catchments with high physical water risk or extreme drought exposure.
- **Significance:** The report underscores the need for integrated water stewardship to prevent supply chain bottlenecks for green transition minerals.

Q6. What is the central objective of the 'BHAVYA – Rasayan Scheme' supported by the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers?

- A) Subsidizing chemical fertilizers directly to marginal farmers
- B) Developing shared industrial infrastructure and Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for chemical clusters
- C) Banning hazardous organophosphate pesticides nationwide
- D) Setting up coal gasification units for urea production

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

The **BHAVYA – Rasayan Scheme** focuses on creating shared eco-friendly infrastructure within chemical manufacturing hubs.

- **Components:** Funding for Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), Treatment, Storage & Disposal Facilities (TSDF) for hazardous waste, solvent recovery plants, and dedicated industrial pipeline networks.
- **Goal:** Lower operational costs for MSME chemical producers, improve environmental compliance, and support the *Viksit Bharat 2047* industrial target.

3. International News

Q7. The 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting under India's BRICS Chairmanship 2026 was hosted in which Indian city?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Bengaluru
- C) Chandigarh
- D) Varanasi

Answer: C

Detailed Explanation:

The 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting concluded in **Chandigarh** under India's 2026 BRICS Chairmanship.

- **Key Deliverables:** Launch of the *BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle*, the *Healthy Lifestyle Promotion Roadmap (2026–2029)*, the *BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence (CoE) on Mental Wellness*, and the release of the *BRICS Compendium on Digital Health Architecture*.

Q8. Chandipura Virus (CHPV), which frequently causes outbreaks of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in children, is primarily transmitted by which vector?

- A) Aedes aegypti Mosquitoes
- B) Phlebotomine Sandflies
- C) Anopheles Mosquitoes
- D) Ixodes Ticks

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

Chandipura virus (CHPV) belongs to the *Rhabdoviridae* family and is transmitted to humans through bites of infected **sandflies** (*Phlebotomus* species) and ticks.

- **Pathology:** It causes rapid inflammation of brain tissue leading to Acute Encephalitis

Syndrome (AES) with high fatality rates in children under 15 years. There is currently no specific antiviral drug or vaccine available.

4. Defense News

Q9. Project Kusha, developed by DRDO, represents India's indigenous development of which strategic weapon system?

- A) Long-Range Hypersonic Cruise Missile
- B) Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) System
- C) Nuclear-powered Submarine Interceptor
- D) Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Kinetic Weapon

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

Project Kusha is India's long-range air defence missile system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- **Capabilities:** Referred to as India's indigenous counterpart to the Russian S-400 Triumf, it features interceptor missiles capable of destroying stealth fighters, cruise missiles, guided munitions, and ballistic missiles at ranges up to 350 km.

Q10. What is the name of the Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) that successfully completed 'Samudra Pradakshina', India's first-ever Tri-Service all-women circumnavigation expedition?

- A) INSV Tarini
- B) IASV Triveni
- C) INSV Mhadei
- D) IASV Sea Dragon

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged in 'Samudra Pradakshina', India's first-ever Tri-Service all-women circumnavigation voyage.

- **Vessel & Crew:** The crew of nine women officers from the Army, Navy, and Air Force sailed on **IASV Triveni**.
- **Achievement:** Covered 25,500 nautical miles across four oceans in a 314-day global voyage, arriving at Mumbai harbour.

Q11. Aerospace firm Raghu Vamsi Group announced an investment of over ₹600 crore to establish an integrated nickel-based superalloy unit in which state?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Telangana
- C) Karnataka
- D) Maharashtra

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

Announced during the Farnborough International Airshow in the UK, **Raghu Vamsi Aerospace Group** is setting up a 50-acre superalloy manufacturing plant in **Telangana** (near Hyderabad).

- **Purpose:** To produce high-performance nickel-based superalloys, specialized forgings, and tungsten carbide powders essential for jet engines, missile turbines, and nuclear reactors, thereby curbing reliance on imports.

5. Appointments & Leadership

Q12. Who was appointed as the Interim President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in July 2026?

- A) Arkady Dvorkovich
- B) Viswanathan Anand
- C) Magnus Carlsen

D) Vladimir Kramnik

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

Five-time World Chess Champion **Viswanathan Anand**, who had been serving as FIDE Deputy President since 2022, was elevated to **Interim President of FIDE**.

- **Significance:** Marking a historic milestone for Indian sports governance, Anand assumed administrative leadership during a temporary transition period.

Q13. The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is a statutory body established under an Act passed in which year?

- A) 1950
- B) 1978
- C) 1992
- D) 2005

Answer: C

Detailed Explanation:

The National Commission for Minorities was given statutory status under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**.

- **Six Notified Communities:** Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis), and Jains (added in 2014).
- **Role:** Evaluates the progress of minority development, monitors constitutional safeguards, and investigates specific grievances.

6. MoUs & Strategic Partnerships

Q14. The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) signed an MoU with the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) under which Union Ministry?

A) Ministry of Science and Technology

- B) Ministry of AYUSH
- C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D) Ministry of Education

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

NRDC signed an MoU with **NCISM** (a statutory body under the **Ministry of AYUSH**).

- **Objective:** To promote commercialization, patenting, IP management, and tech transfer for innovations originating in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, and Sowa-Rigpa educational and research institutes.

Q15. Which autonomous body under MeitY signed an agreement with Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali, to integrate India's indigenous 1.2 μ m Process Design Kit (PDK)?

- A) C-DAC
- B) NIELIT
- C) STPI
- D) SAMEER

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

The **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)** signed an agreement with **SCL Mohali**.

- **Impact:** Integrates SCL's indigenous 1.2 micrometer PDK with eChipHub via Aadhaar verification, creating India's first end-to-end hands-on design-to-fabrication educational pathway for chip designers.

Q16. Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) partnered with which technology firm to integrate advanced digital and cloud learning through the SEEL programme?

- A) Microsoft India
- B) Google for Education

- C) IBM India
- D) Intel India

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

VTU signed a strategic MoU with **Google for Education India**.

- **Programme:** Under this initiative, VTU launched the *Skilling, Employability, and Entrepreneurship Learning (SEEL)* framework to train engineering students in cloud architecture, AI development, and web deployment.

7. Government Schemes & Environmental Initiatives

Q17. The 'Campus Biodiversity Register (CBR)' initiative recently launched across educational campuses aims to achieve which primary outcome?

- A) Replacing native flora with commercial timber trees
- B) Mapping, documenting, and conserving local biological diversity through student involvement
- C) Granting commercial mining rights inside university lands
- D) Standardizing agricultural soil tests

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

The **Campus Biodiversity Register (CBR)** is a citizen-science initiative encouraging school and college students to document flora, fauna, and micro-ecosystems on their campuses.

- **Benefits:** Builds localized environmental databases, raises ecological awareness, and supports the People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Q18. Which scheme is dedicated to promoting capital investments for setting up modern CETPs and hazardous waste facilities in industrial zones?

- A) PM-PRANAM Scheme
- B) BHAVYA – Rasayan Scheme
- C) SAMARTH Scheme
- D) Vibrant Villages Programme

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

The **BHAVYA – Rasayan Scheme** provides targeted financial support and cluster subsidies for clean tech infrastructure, Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), and hazardous waste management in chemical industrial zones.

8. Sports News

Q19. How many times has Viswanathan Anand won the World Chess Championship title during his professional career?

- A) 3
- B) 4
- C) 5
- D) 6

Answer: C

Detailed Explanation:

Viswanathan Anand is a **5-time World Chess Champion** (2000, 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2012). He became India's first Grandmaster in 1988 and was the first recipient of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (now Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna) in 1991–92.

Q20. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) launched which specialized mobile application to digitize marine fish landing data?

- A) SagarMitra
- B) DeepDATA
- C) Matsya Setu
- D) AquaNet

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

CMFRI launched the '**DeepDATA**' app to digitize field collection of fish landing statistics, marine stock estimations, and socio-economic profiling of fishing communities, facilitating real-time marine resource management.

9. Important Days & Observances

Q21. 'World Drowning Prevention Day' is observed globally every year on which date, as recognized by the United Nations?

- A) 24 July
- B) 25 July
- C) 26 July
- D) 28 July

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

July 25 is observed annually as **World Drowning Prevention Day**, following a UN General Assembly resolution in 2021.

- **Objective:** Highlights the catastrophic impact of drowning on families and communities and advocates for life-saving preventive measures such as swimming lessons, water safety barriers, and flood rescue preparedness.

Q22. 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' is celebrated in India every year on 26 July. The 2026 observance marks how many years of India's victory in Operation Vijay (1999)?

- A) 25 Years

- B) 27 Years
C) 30 Years
D) 20 Years

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

26 July 2026 marks the **27th anniversary** of Kargil Vijay Diwas, commemorating the successful conclusion of *Operation Vijay* in 1999, when Indian Armed Forces evicted Pakistani intruders from icy high-altitude outposts in Kargil, Ladakh.

Q23. Income Tax Day (Aaykar Diwas) is observed on July 24 in India. In which year was the first Income Tax Act enacted in post-independence India?

- A) 1947
B) 1950
C) 1961
D) 1975

Answer: C

Detailed Explanation:

While Income Tax was first introduced by Sir James Wilson on 24 July 1860, modern tax administration in independent India is governed by the **Income Tax Act, 1961**, which replaced the 1922 legislation and came into force on 1 April 1962.

10. Art, Culture, Festivals & Heritage

Q24. Kutki (*Picrorhiza kurroa*), an endangered high-altitude medicinal herb recently highlighted for conservation programs, is predominantly native to which region?

- A) Western Ghats
B) Eastern Himalayas & Alpine Himalayas
C) Thar Desert

- D) Sundarbans Mangroves

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

Kutki (*Picrorhiza kurroa*) is a high-altitude perennial herb found in the **Himalayan alpine zones** (between 3,000 and 5,000 meters).

- **Conservation Status:** Listed as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List due to unsustainable wild harvesting and habitat loss. It is listed in CITES Appendix II to regulate international trade.
- **Ayurvedic Use:** Valued for treating liver disorders, fever, and respiratory ailments.

Q25. Which traditional ritual performance from Kerala, featuring elaborate costumes and masks, was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010?

- A) Mudi yettu
B) Theyyam
C) Koodiyattam
D) Chhau

Answer: A

Detailed Explanation:

Mudi yettu is a traditional ritual dance-drama from Kerala depicting the mythological battle between goddess Kali and the demon Darika. It was inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2010 (following Koodiyattam in 2008).

11. Polity & Constitutional Frameworks

Q26. In the Rajya Sabha, what is the key difference between a discussion raised under 'Rule 176' and one raised under 'Rule 267'?

A) Rule 176 involves suspension of all listed business; Rule 267 is a short-duration discussion

B) Rule 176 is a Short-Duration Discussion (max 2.5 hours) without formal voting; Rule 267 involves suspension of scheduled business to discuss an urgent matter

C) Rule 176 is restricted to financial bills; Rule 267 applies to constitutional amendments

D) Rule 176 requires a two-thirds majority; Rule 267 requires simple consensus

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

- **Rule 176:** Governs *Short-Duration Discussions* on matters of urgent public importance. It does not exceed 2.5 hours, does not suspend the rest of the day's agenda, and entails no formal motion or voting.
- **Rule 267:** Allows any member, with the consent of the Chairman, to move for the **suspension of all scheduled business** of the day to take up an urgent matter immediately.

Q27. Under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, what is the maximum imprisonment prescribed for individuals involved in organized examination paper leak syndicates?

- A) 3 Years
- B) 5 Years
- C) Up to 10 Years
- D) Life Imprisonment

Answer: C

Detailed Explanation:

The *Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024* provides strict penalties to deter recruitment exam leaks.

- **Penalties:** For organized crime syndicates committing paper leaks, the law mandates imprisonment of **5 to 10 years** along with a fine of not less than **₹1 crore**.

12. Historical Anniversaries & Books

Q28. Revolutionary freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad was born on 23 July 1906. In which historic event did he play a leading role alongside Bhagat Singh?

- A) Kakori Train Action (1925) and HSRA activities
- B) Chittagong Armoury Raid (1930)
- C) Royal Indian Navy Mutiny (1946)
- D) Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)

Answer: A

Detailed Explanation:

Chandra Shekhar Azad reorganized the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) into the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** in 1928 at Feroz Shah Kotla, Delhi. He participated in the Kakori Train Action (1925) and the JP Saunders assassination (1928) before attaining martyrdom at Alfred Park, Allahabad, in February 1931.

Q29. The book titled "Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver", analyzing non-performing assets (NPAs) and banking reforms in India, was authored by which former RBI Governor?

- A) Raghuram Rajan
- B) Urjit Patel
- C) D. Subbarao
- D) Y. V. Reddy

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

"Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver" was written by former Reserve Bank of India Governor **Dr. Urjit Patel**. The book focuses on the "9R" strategy for dealing with bad loans, insolvency resolution under IBC, and structural banking reforms.

13. Awards & Honors

Q30. The prestigious 'Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize' is awarded annually in India to recognize outstanding research contributions in which field?

- A) Literature and Performing Arts
- B) Science and Technology
- C) Journalism and Public Service
- D) Classical Sports Coaching

Answer: B

Detailed Explanation:

The **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize** is administered by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to honor Indian scientists under 45 years of age for groundbreaking research across seven disciplines of **Science and Technology**.

Revision Summary Table

Category	Headline Event	Core Concept / Exam Takeaway
National	Sarbat.AI Initiative	Punjab is 1st state to make AI a mandatory subject (Classes I–XII).

Category	Headline Event	Core Concept / Exam Takeaway
Climate	Killai Village	Tamil Nadu's 1st climate-resilient village in Cuddalore.
Banking	Quantum Finance Hub	PNB & AP Govt partner for India's 1st Quantum Finance Hub.
Defense	Project Kusha	DRDO's long-range air defence missile system (350 km range).
Sports	FIDE Interim President	Viswanathan Anand takes charge as FIDE Interim President.
Important Day	World Drowning Prevention Day	Observed globally on July 25 (UN resolution).