

Part 1: National Polity, Governance & National News

Q1. In an important administrative advancement for digital governance, the Union Government launched the initial self-enumeration phase of the upcoming paperless digital census. What are the names of the two official mascots unveiled for this historic exercise?

- A) Akash and Bhoomi
- B) Pragati and Vikas
- C) Bharat and Digital
- D) Sankalp and Siddhi

Correct Answer: B [Pragati and Vikas]

- **Explanation:** To execute India's first-ever fully paperless digital census, the Ministry of Home Affairs officially rolled out the self-enumeration portal phase across select States and Union Territories. To drive grassroots civic engagement and simplify public interface with the census machinery, the government unveiled two official animated mascots named "**Pragati**" (representing progress) and "**Vikas**" (representing development).

Q2. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) formally operationalized Asia's first-ever UNESCO Chair dedicated exclusively to "Gender Inclusion and Skill Development." Who has been appointed to lead this newly established academic and policy chair?

- A) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
- B) Swati Mujumdar
- C) Nita Ambani
- D) Dr. Kiran Bedi

Correct Answer: B [Swati Mujumdar]

- **Explanation:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Jayant Chaudhary launched Asia's pioneering **UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development** to structurally improve women's representation in high-tech corporate pipelines. The chair will be institutionalized under the leadership of **Swati Mujumdar**, Pro-Chancellor of Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU). It focuses heavily on drafting policy inputs to induct women into advanced sectors like robotics, semiconductor fabrication, and defense tech.

Q3. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution announced a massive domestic crop intervention by launching the first-ever structured pulse procurement drive under the Atmanirbhar Pulses Mission. In which state was this historic decentralized procurement framework first operationalized?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Chhattisgarh
- D) Maharashtra

Correct Answer: C [Chhattisgarh]

- **Explanation:** To cut down heavily on volatile agricultural import bills and promote local crop diversification, the Central Government expanded procurement frameworks under the **PM-AASHA** scheme to launch the baseline procurement drive of the **Atmanirbhar Pulses Mission in Chhattisgarh**. This system ensures direct state buying of pulses (like tur, urad, and masoor) from local farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) via digital portals, preventing market exploitation by middlemen.

Q4. Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched "Bharat Taxi," India's first-ever cooperative-led digital ride-hailing platform, onboarding application, and driver-welfare ecosystem. In which metropolitan city was this service commercially debuted?

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

Correct Answer: C [Mumbai]

- **Explanation:** Engineered to offer a robust public alternative to corporate aggregators, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched "Bharat Taxi" in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The application operates on a unique cooperative-led architecture run directly by local black-and-yellow taxi and auto-rickshaw driver unions. By April 26, 2026, the application achieved a milestone of managing over 25,000 daily active rides, charging drivers minimal platform fees and ensuring direct payout equity.

Q5. The Supreme Court of India issued critical procedural directives regarding the strict enforcement of the "Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000." Under these statutory rules, what is the permissible daytime ambient noise limit established for designated "Silence Zones"?

- A) 40 dB (A) Leq
- B) 50 dB (A) Leq
- C) 55 dB (A) Leq
- D) 65 dB (A) Leq

Correct Answer: B [50 dB (A) Leq]

- **Explanation:** Prompted by public litigations against commercial night events, the apex

court evaluated the implementation blocks of the **Noise Pollution Rules, 2000**. The rules establish specific ambient daytime (6:00 AM to 10:00 PM) noise thresholds: **50 dB(A) Leq for Silence Zones** (areas within 100 meters of hospitals, courts, and schools), 55 dB(A) for Residential, 65 dB(A) for Commercial, and 75 dB(A) for Industrial zones. The court also discussed transitioning from traditional chemical fireworks to silent, cold-spark technology for public events.

Q6. A high-level judicial administrative report highlighted that Sikkim has successfully transformed its entire tier-structured legal architecture to become India's first fully "Paperless Judiciary." Which article of the Constitution empowers a state High Court to exercise administrative superintendence over all subordinate courts?

- A) Article 214
- B) Article 226
- C) Article 227
- D) Article 235

Correct Answer: C [Article 227]

- **Explanation:** Sikkim created legal history by converting its High Court and all subordinate district courts into 100% digital, paperless environments via the e-Courts integrated mission mode project. Under **Article 227 of the Constitution**, every High Court possesses the clear power of superintendence over all courts and tribunals throughout the territories in relation to which it exercises jurisdiction, enabling it to issue uniform administrative mandates for digital transformation.

Part 2: International Relations & Global Affairs

Q7. National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval executed a high-stakes forward diplomatic visit to Abu Dhabi to hold restricted strategic talks with the UAE President. What was the core immediate trigger for this sudden bilateral engagement?

- A) Negotiating a new space corridor to Mars
- B) Deepening security collaboration due to geopolitical instability in West Asia and threats to the Strait of Hormuz
- C) Finalizing the purchase of corporate real estate in Dubai
- D) Establishing an international sports university

Correct Answer: B [Deepening security collaboration due to geopolitical instability in West Asia and threats to the Strait of Hormuz]

- **Explanation:** Amidst mounting geopolitical conflicts in West Asia causing repeated disruptions along vital maritime choke points like the **Strait of Hormuz**, India's NSA Ajit Doval met with UAE leadership. Because the Strait of Hormuz is the primary channel for India's hydrocarbon and energy crude imports from the Persian Gulf, the snap meeting sought to establish joint naval contingency plans, secure maritime trade flows, and strengthen the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Q8. Sri Lanka invited international private and sovereign expressions of interest to run the loss-making Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA). The construction of this infrastructure asset was heavily funded by a \$200 million loan from which nation?

- A) India

- B) Japan
- C) China
- D) United States

Correct Answer: C [China]

- **Explanation:** Located in Hambantota district, the Mattala Airport was dubbed "the world's emptiest airport" due to minimal commercial flight traffic and massive operational losses totaling over \$130 million. The asset was constructed using high-interest loans from **China**, serving as a prime example in international economics of "**Debt-Trap Diplomacy**," wherein unsustainable infrastructure debts are leveraged to extract geopolitical concessions.

Q9. A comprehensive report published by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) assessed regional trade data. In which city is the international headquarters of UN ESCAP situated?

- A) Geneva, Switzerland
- B) Bangkok, Thailand
- C) Jakarta, Indonesia
- D) Manila, Philippines

Correct Answer: B [Bangkok, Thailand]

- **Explanation:** Established in 1947 to spur economic activity and cooperation in Asia and the Far East, **UN ESCAP** is headquartered in **Bangkok, Thailand**. It reports directly to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and serves as the largest United Nations body operating within the Asia-Pacific region, monitoring regional trade integrations, sustainable infrastructure goals, and poverty-alleviation indexes.

Part 3: Economics, Banking & Corporate Appointments

Q10. In a highly anticipated corporate transition, the National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) announced the appointment of its new Chairperson. Who assumed this leadership role?

- A) Rajesh Nambiar
- B) Sindhu Gangadharan
- C) Srikanth Velamakanni
- D) Kishor Patil

Correct Answer: C [Srikanth Velamakanni]

- **Explanation:** Srikanth Velamakanni, the Co-Founder and Group CEO of Fractal, was appointed as the new **Chairperson of Nasscom**, succeeding Sindhu Gangadharan. Having served previously as the Vice Chairperson, his leadership appointment signals a major strategic shift for India's IT and tech industry body toward scaling up Enterprise Artificial Intelligence, generative autonomous multi-agent systems, and deep-tech software exports.

Q11. Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL)—a high-profile tech joint venture established to deploy enterprise AI across India by fusing domestic telecom infrastructure with Meta's cutting-edge open AI models—appointed its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Who is the newly appointed leader?

- A) Parminder Singh
- B) Satya Nadella
- C) Akash Ambani
- D) CP Gurnani

Correct Answer: A [Parminder Singh]

- **Explanation:** Tech industry veteran **Parminder Singh** was named the **CEO of Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL)**. Singh, who previously held senior global executive roles at Google, Apple, Twitter, and IBM, is tasked with driving the joint venture's goal of bringing scalable, low-cost AI automation tools to Indian small businesses, retail enterprises, and corporate supply chains.

Q12. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) exercised its statutory powers under Section 22(4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, to officially revoke the banking license of which prominent digital financial entity?

- A) Airtel Payments Bank
- B) Jio Payments Bank
- C) Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)
- D) Fino Payments Bank

Correct Answer: C [Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)]

- **Explanation:** Following extended regulatory standoffs over persistent non-compliance with anti-money laundering (AML) protocols, material supervisory concerns, and failure to properly validate customer Know-Your-Customer (KYC) records, the **RBI officially canceled the banking license of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)**. This final enforcement action brings a formal close to PPBL's regulated deposit-taking operations under the BR Act, 1949.

Q13. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) slapped an official monetary penalty of ₹41.8 lakh on which major private sector banking institution due to clear regulatory lapses regarding KYC guidelines?

- A) Axis Bank

- B) Bandhan Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) IndusInd Bank

Correct Answer: B [Bandhan Bank]

- **Explanation:** The apex bank imposed a **penalty of ₹41.8 lakh on Bandhan Bank** after a thorough supervisory evaluation revealed systemic failures to adhere to the RBI's strict **Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016**. Separately, the RBI also penalized Muthoot Housing Finance (₹80,000) for deviating from the prescribed Fair Practices Code, showing its tightening oversight over banking compliance.

Q14. In a strategic collaborative expansion for retail digital credit access, which public sector bank partnered with the fintech platform "Kiwi" to introduce a specialized "Credit-on-UPI" card over the RuPay network?

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

Correct Answer: B [Punjab National Bank (PNB)]

- **Explanation:** Punjab National Bank (PNB) joined forces with fintech platform Kiwi to roll out a specialized **Credit-on-UPI digital card solution**. Operating entirely over the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) indigenous RuPay network, this collaboration allows customers to seamlessly link a pre-approved formal credit line directly to their UPI applications, reducing dependency on physical credit cards for routine commercial transactions.

Q15. PCBL Limited (Phillips Carbon Black) announced the successful commercial commissioning of an advanced 70,000 MTPA manufacturing line at its integrated Mahistikry facility. In which state is this mega carbon black hub situated?

- A) Gujarat
- B) West Bengal
- C) Odisha
- D) Tamil Nadu

Correct Answer: B [West Bengal]

- **Explanation:** PCBL Limited operationalized the expansion line at its **Mahistikry facility located in West Bengal**, pushing the site's total specialty carbon black capacity to an integrated 250,000 MTPA. Carbon black is a crucial material used to reinforce rubber in automotive tires and as a conductive agent in battery coatings. The firm also announced long-term R&D investments into silicon-carbon anode technologies and Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) cathode projects slated for 2027.

Part 4: Defense, Space & Environmental Science

Q16. Skyroot Aerospace commenced final integration steps for its pioneering rocket, which is structurally set to become India's first-ever privately developed orbital launch vehicle. What is the name of this launch vehicle?

- A) Agnibaan-1
- B) Vikram-1
- C) Kalam-OS
- D) Prithvi-Space

Correct Answer: B [Vikram-1]

- **Explanation:** Marking a massive leap for private participation enabled by India's space sector reforms, **Skyroot Aerospace entered the final integration stage for its Vikram-1 rocket.** Named in honor of the father of India's space program, Vikram Sarabhai, Vikram-1 is a multi-stage, solid-propellant launch vehicle utilizing ultra-advanced carbon composite structures and 3D-printed liquid engines to insert small satellites cleanly into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Q17. A critical climate security briefing published by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) warned that snow persistence in the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH) has plunged by 27%. Where is the permanent international secretariat of ICIMOD located?

- A) New Delhi, India
- B) Kathmandu, Nepal
- C) Thimphu, Bhutan
- D) Islamabad, Pakistan

Correct Answer: B [Kathmandu, Nepal]

- **Explanation:** Headquartered in **Kathmandu, Nepal**, ICIMOD is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge-sharing center serving the eight countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. Its April 2026 satellite mapping report flags a dangerous **27% drop in snow persistence** (the duration snow stays on the ground), which severely disrupts seasonal meltwater flows and threatens the long-term water and food security of nearly 2 billion people living downstream across South Asia.

Q18. Indian Railways achieved a major green infrastructure milestone by successfully completing the commercial commissioning of India's first-ever certified "Water Neutral"

railway depot under the Amrit Bharat Stations redevelopment program. Where is this depot located?

- A) Secunderabad, Telangana
- B) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- C) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- D) Jaipur, Rajasthan

Correct Answer: B [Ahmedabad, Gujarat]

- **Explanation:** Setting a new benchmark for sustainable green transport infrastructure, Indian Railways operationalized its **first 100% Water Neutral coach maintenance depot at Ahmedabad, Gujarat.** The facility achieves true water neutrality by capturing 100% of its stormwater via extensive rainwater harvesting wells, treating and recycling 95% of its industrial coach-washing effluent through effluent treatment plants (ETPs), and using dual-flush systems across the complex.

Q19. Rocklink India Private Limited formally inaugurated India's first-ever integrated commercial-scale lithium-ion battery and rare earth magnet recycling facility. In which district of Uttar Pradesh is this advanced green facility located?

- A) Noida
- B) Bulandshahr
- C) Aligarh
- D) Ghaziabad

Correct Answer: B [Bulandshahr]

- **Explanation:** To secure India's domestic critical mineral supply chain and promote a circular economy, Rocklink India opened the country's first integrated lithium-ion battery and rare earth recycling plant at **Sikandrabad in the Bulandshahr district of**

Uttar Pradesh. The facility is engineered to process 10,000 tonnes of spent EV batteries annually, extracting high-purity battery-grade lithium, cobalt, nickel, and neodymium magnets from electronics waste.

Q20. Public health agencies flagged a regional resurgence of Diphtheria in certain pockets, emphasizing the absolute need to close immunization gaps via the indigenous Td vaccine. What specific pathogen is the causative agent of Diphtheria?

- A) Mycobacterium tuberculosis
- B) Corynebacterium diphtheriae
- C) Bordetella pertussis
- D) Clostridium tetani

Correct Answer: B [Corynebacterium diphtheriae]

- **Explanation:** Diphtheria is a serious, highly contagious bacterial infection caused primarily by toxigenic strains of **Corynebacterium diphtheriae**. It typically affects the mucous membranes of the nose and throat, forming a thick grey pseudomembrane that can obstruct breathing. Health ministries are urging the use of the **Td vaccine** (Tetanus and adult-dose Diphtheria vaccine) to boost immunity among adolescent and adult populations who have missed routine universal child immunizations.

Part 5: Sports, Awards & Honors

Q21. Which Indian cricketer created a historic T20 milestone in the Indian Premier League (IPL) by becoming the first-ever Indian player to blast multiple centuries in under 50 balls?

- A) Virat Kohli
- B) Abhishek Sharma

- C) Yashasvi Jaiswal
- D) Suryakumar Yadav

Correct Answer: B [Abhishek Sharma]

- **Explanation:** Aggressive opening batsman **Abhishek Sharma** entered the record books by becoming the first Indian cricketer to hit **multiple IPL centuries in under 50 balls**. He smashed a blistering 135* off just 47 deliveries against Delhi Capitals, matching the explosive 40-ball century he registered during the previous IPL season, underscoring his evolution into a top-tier global T20 talent.

Q22. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved a high-level administrative shuffle at NITI Aayog. Who has been chosen to succeed Suman Bery as the new Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog?

- A) Amitabh Kant
- B) Dr. Ashok Lahiri
- C) Dr. Arvind Panagariya
- D) B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

Correct Answer: B [Dr. Ashok Lahiri]

- **Explanation:** Celebrated economist and former member of the 15th Finance Commission, **Dr. Ashok Lahiri**, was appointed as the new **Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog**, effective from May 1, 2026, upon the completion of Suman Bery's four-year tenure. In the official protocol hierarchy of NITI Aayog, the Vice-Chairperson serves as the second-highest administrative authority, trailing only the Prime Minister, who serves as the ex-officio Chairperson.

Q23. Professor Gobardhan Das was honored with a prominent national award for exceptional contributions to Medical and Life Sciences. His internationally recognized

research focuses primarily on the pathogenesis and cellular immunology of which lethal disease?

- A) Malaria
- B) HIV-AIDS
- C) Tuberculosis (TB)
- D) COVID-19

Correct Answer: C [Tuberculosis (TB)]

- **Explanation:** Professor Gobardhan Das, a distinguished molecular immunologist, received national acclaim for his three decades of research into the pathogenesis of Tuberculosis (TB). His breakthrough work mapping how *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* interacts with host immune cells has paved the way for developing advanced targeted immunotherapies and more effective booster vaccine formulations to combat drug-resistant TB strains.

Produce collected by millions of tribal communities across Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh, primarily used to wrap bidis. A recurring legal friction point centers on state forest departments maintaining a monopoly over trading collection licenses, which directly conflicts with the **Forest Rights Act, 2006**, which explicitly grants gram sabhas ownership and marketing rights over MFPs to secure tribal livelihoods.

Q25. A prominent cultural exhibition titled "The Indigo Trajectory" was inaugurated in New Delhi to track the historical shift of India's classical artisanal dyes. Indigo dye is historically extracted from the leaves of which plant genus?

- A) Crocus
- B) Indigofera
- C) Carthamus
- D) Bixa

Correct Answer: B [Indigofera]

- **Explanation:** Natural indigo dye, prized across ancient global trade routes as "Blue Gold," is processed from the leaves of the plant genus **Indigofera**, primarily *Indigofera tinctoria*. The exhibition highlights India's journey from colonial-era forced indigo cultivation (which sparked the historic Champaran Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi in 1917) to modern sustainable luxury handloom branding.

Q26. Shekha Jheel, which was formally added to the international list of ecologically vital wetlands as India's 99th Ramsar Site on April 26, 2026, is located in which district of Uttar Pradesh?

- A) Aligarh
- B) Gorakhpur

Part 6: Books, Culture & Festivals

Q24. In the legal and commercial updates concerning forest rights and minor forest produce (MFP) in April 2026, the dispute over state control of Kendu Leaves under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, resurfaced. Kendu leaves are primarily used in which commercial industry?

- A) Eco-friendly organic textile dyeing
- B) Wrapping traditional bidis
- C) Manufacturing bio-degradable herbal cosmetics
- D) Synthesizing anti-malarial active pharmaceutical ingredients

Correct Answer: B [Wrapping traditional bidis]

- **Explanation:** Kendu leaves (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) are a vital Minor Forest

- C) Mirzapur
- D) Lakhimpur Kheri

Correct Answer: A [Aligarh]

- **Explanation:** Shekha Jheel, situated near Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh, was officially recognized as India's 99th Ramsar Site. This perennial, freshwater rain-fed wetland is an important staging and wintering site along the Central Asian Flyway, hosting thousands of migratory avian species like northern pintails, common teals, and ferruginous ducks, further securing Uttar Pradesh's position as a leading state in wetland conservation.

Part 7: Important Days & Birth/Death Anniversaries

Q27. World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated globally every year on April 26. What is the historic significance of this specific date?

- A) It marks the signing of the Universal Copyright Convention
- B) It marks the date on which the Convention establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) officially entered into force in 1970
- C) It commemorates the birth anniversary of Thomas Edison
- D) It marks the filing of the first-ever international patent

Correct Answer: B [It marks the date on which the Convention establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) officially entered into force in 1970]

- **Explanation:** Celebrated annually on April 26, World Intellectual Property Day was established by WIPO to raise global awareness about how patents, copyrights,

trademarks, and industrial designs influence daily life. The date chosen, April 26, directly celebrates the day in 1970 when the WIPO Convention formally entered into force, institutionalizing intellectual property protection within international law.

Q28. April 26, 2026, marks the solemn death anniversary of which legendary Indian mathematical genius, whose profound final work on "Mock Theta Functions" written on his deathbed remains central to modern quantum black hole research?

- A) Aryabhata
- B) Srinivasa Ramanujan
- C) Shakuntala Devi
- D) C.R. Rao

Correct Answer: B [Srinivasa Ramanujan]

- **Explanation:** The scientific community observed the death anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, who passed away on April 26, 1920, at the young age of 32. Despite having no formal training in pure mathematics, he made extraordinary contributions to mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions. His final letters detailing mock theta functions are now actively utilized in advanced theoretical physics to compute the entropy of quantum black holes.

Q29. International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year on April 26. In which year did the catastrophic nuclear accident occur at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant?

- A) 1982
- B) 1986
- C) 1991

D) 1996

Correct Answer: B [1986]

- **Explanation:** Designated by the United Nations, this day remembers the catastrophic nuclear meltdown that occurred on **April 26, 1986**, at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the city of Pripyat (now in Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union). The disaster released a massive radioactive cloud across Europe, and the day serves to raise global awareness about nuclear safety, ecological accountability, and the long-term health effects of radiation.

Q30. Celebrated on April 26, 2026, World Pilots' Day honors the contributions of aviation pioneers and professionals. This date specifically commemorates the historic first-ever solo flight performed by which Turkish aviation pioneer in 1912?

- A) Sabiha Gökçen
- B) Fesa Evrensev
- C) Ahmet Ali Çelikten
- D) Vecihi Hürkuş

Correct Answer: B [Fesa Evrensev]

- **Explanation:** **World Pilots' Day** is celebrated on April 26 to recognize the dedication of flight crews globally. The date was selected to mark **April 26, 1912**, when **Fesa Evrensev**, Turkey's first military pilot, undertook his historic first-ever solo flight as a certified aviator, establishing a lasting legacy for professional flight training.

