

Section I: National & International News

Q1. Which country officially joined India's International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) as its 27th member country in June 2026?

- [A] Nepal
- [B] Bangladesh
- [C] Sri Lanka
- [D] Myanmar

Correct Answer: [B] Bangladesh

Explanation: Bangladesh officially joined the India-led International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) as its 27th member following a formal cabinet approval process. The alliance focuses on the protection and mutual regional conservation of the world's seven major big cat species (tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar, and cheetah).

The collaboration between India and Bangladesh is highly strategic given their shared ecological boundary in the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and a vital habitat for the Royal Bengal Tiger. This membership strengthens transboundary wildlife crime monitoring and scientific research sharing.

Q2. In the 67th edition of the TOP500 Supercomputer Rankings released in June 2026, which machine emerged as the world's most powerful supercomputer?

- [A] Frontier (USA)
- [B] Aurora (USA)
- [C] LineShine (China)
- [D] Jupiter (Germany)

Correct Answer: [C] LineShine (China)

Explanation: The 67th edition of the biannual TOP500 Supercomputer Rankings was unveiled

at the International Supercomputing (ISC) High Performance conference in Hamburg, Germany. China's new supercomputer, **LineShine**, based at the National Supercomputing Center in Shenzhen, claimed the top spot, displacing the United States' *El Capitan* and *Frontier*.

While China took the absolute top spot, the USA remains the most represented country on the list with 161 active supercomputing systems. India holds the 16th rank globally in terms of collective high-performance computing capabilities, with systems like PARAM Siddhi-AI and Pratyush representing the nation.

Q3. A rare, highly destructive natural disaster called a "Seismic Doublet" struck which South American country in late June 2026?

- [A] Colombia
- [B] Chile
- [C] Peru
- [D] Venezuela

Correct Answer: [D] Venezuela

Explanation: Venezuela was struck by two powerful, shallow earthquakes measuring magnitudes 7.2 and 7.5 within just 39 seconds of each other. This rare geomorphological phenomenon is known as a **Seismic Doublet**, where two mainshocks of comparable intensity occur near each other in quick temporal succession due to complex fault-rupture interactions.

The earthquakes originated near the strike-slip faults dividing the Caribbean and South American tectonic plates. Because the mainshocks occurred at a shallow depth of approximately 10 km, the seismic energy had minimal dissipation before hitting urban infrastructures, resulting in catastrophic damage.

Q4. India has resumed regular tourist visas for the citizens of which neighboring country, effective from June 2026?

- [A] Pakistan
- [B] Bangladesh
- [C] Myanmar
- [D] China

Correct Answer: [B] Bangladesh

Explanation: The Government of India officially announced the resumption of regular tourist visas for Bangladeshi nationals, which had previously faced periodic operational backlogs or halts due to administrative restructuring. The operations are opening across five designated state-of-the-art Indian Visa Application Centres (IVACs). Bangladesh remains one of India's largest sources of international tourist arrivals, significantly driving medical tourism, hospitality, and cross-border commercial exchanges in eastern Indian states.

Q5. Queen Máxima of the Netherlands visited Mumbai and New Delhi in June 2026. In what official United Nations capacity did she undertake this visit?

- [A] UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- [B] UNSG's Special Advocate (UNSGSA) for Financial Health
- [C] UNDP Goodwill Ambassador for Climate Action
- [D] Executive Director of UNICEF

Correct Answer: [B] UNSG's Special Advocate (UNSGSA) for Financial Health

Explanation: Queen Máxima visited India in her dedicated capacity as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate (UNSGSA) for Financial Health. The primary objective of the high-level diplomatic tour was to study and promote India's globally lauded Digital Public

Infrastructure (DPI)—specifically the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity and Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The discussions emphasized transitioning from basic financial inclusion (opening bank accounts) to holistic financial health (improving credit access, savings habits, and digital health insurance penetration).

Q6. The 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting was hosted under India's BRICS Chairship 2026 in which Indian city?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] Bengaluru
- [C] Gurugram
- [D] Gandhinagar

Correct Answer: [C] Gurugram

Explanation: The 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting was held in Gurugram, Haryana. Under India's chairship, the expanded BRICS bloc (incorporating newer members alongside Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) focused explicitly on building resilient global energy supply chains, reducing oil market volatility, and scaling up green hydrogen production. The nations signed a joint declaration to enhance tech-sharing in carbon capture technologies and deep-sea exploration while balancing transition deadlines with national energy security realities.

Q7. The historic Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Double Contribution Convention (DCC) are scheduled to formally take effect on 15 July 2026 between India and which nation?

- [A] Australia
- [B] United Kingdom
- [C] European Union
- [D] United Arab Emirates

Correct Answer: [B] United Kingdom

Explanation: The long-awaited India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) has been cleared for implementation, with a formal enforcement date of July 15, 2026. Alongside CETA, the Double Contribution Convention (DCC) will come into effect, eliminating double social security taxation liabilities for short-term IT professionals and corporate executives working across both borders. CETA is projected to heavily reduce tariffs on Indian textiles, leather, and gems, while easing market entry for British automotive machinery and specialized medical devices.

Section II: Economics & Banking

Q8. According to data released by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, India has become the world's leading nation in which maritime segment, holding a 35.4% global market share?

- [A] Containerized Freight Manufacturing
- [B] Deep-Sea Lithia Mining
- [C] Ship Recycling
- [D] Autonomous Luxury Vessel Assembly

Correct Answer: [C] Ship Recycling

Explanation: India has officially consolidated its position as the undisputed global leader in ship recycling, capturing a massive 35.4% share of the worldwide market, centered predominantly around the Alang-Sosiya ship-breaking yard in Gujarat. This milestone follows strict adherence and infrastructural compliance with the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships. The transition into green ship recycling ensures safe asbestos removal, non-hazardous heavy metal disposal, and massive recycling of scrap steel,

cutting down carbon emissions compared to fresh steel manufacturing.

Q9. Which cross-border fintech payments platform became the first Indian entity to secure an international payment license in Canada?

- [A] Razorpay
- [B] Skydo
- [C] Pine Labs
- [D] PhonePe

Correct Answer: [B] Skydo

Explanation: Indian cross-border business payments platform Skydo secured a prestigious financial services/international payment license in Canada, marking its inaugural regulatory clearance outside domestic territory. This regulatory nod allows Skydo to seamlessly facilitate real-time, two-day compliant B2B payment rails between MSMEs and freelancers in India and corporate entities in Canada. It significantly optimizes transaction fees by bypassing conventional SWIFT intermediary banking costs.

Q10. Where did India place globally in the recently published AI-Economy Readiness Index 2026?

- [A] 5th
- [B] 13th
- [C] 27th
- [D] 41st

Correct Answer: [B] 13th

Explanation: India secured the 13th position worldwide in the latest AI-Economy Readiness Index, which tracks infrastructural capabilities, technical talent pools, commercial application, and data regulation frameworks. Crucially, the index highlighted that India ranked **1st among all lower-middle-income countries**, owing primarily to its explosive expansion of

foundational digital architecture, localized linguistic AI models, and public sector adoption of machine learning tools in governance.

Q11. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) recently penalized two major food brands for deceptive marketing practices involving what specific packaging claim?

- [A] "Zero Trans Fat"
- [B] "100%" Claims (e.g., 100% Atta, 100% Tender Coconut)
- [C] "Organic Certified"
- [D] "No Added Sugar"

Correct Answer: [B] "100%" Claims (e.g., 100% Atta, 100% Tender Coconut)

Explanation: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) cracked down heavily on misleading advertisements, slapping ₹1 lakh fines each on Mrs. Bectors Food Specialities (for marketing "100% Atta Bread" when it contained 87% atta mixed with maida) and Storia Foods (for selling "100% Tender Coconut Water" that was actually reconstituted from concentrate). The landmark CCPA ruling established that fine-print ingredients disclaimers printed on the back of products cannot "cure" or legally absolve bold, false, or exaggerated marketing claims displayed on the front packaging.

Q12. NITI Aayog released the 8th Edition of which economic document in June 2026 to track external commercial patterns?

- [A] Import Substitution Index
- [B] Fiscal Deficit Tracker
- [C] Trade Watch Quarterly
- [D] MSME Credit Flow Report

Correct Answer: [C] Trade Watch Quarterly

Explanation: NITI Aayog unveiled the 8th edition of its *Trade Watch Quarterly*. The economic brief analyzes global macro

headwinds, protectionist tariff implementations, and non-tariff barriers impacting Indian exports. The 2026 quarterly report indicated that while global merchandise trade faces sluggish supply chain recoveries, India's overall balance of payments remained highly stabilized due to a 5.4% year-on-year surge in high-value services exports (such as global capability centers and engineering R&D services).

Q13. Automotive giant Honda announced an additional 21% stake acquisition in which prominent automotive components manufacturer from Hitachi?

- [A] Bosch India
- [B] Astemo Limited
- [C] Denso Corp
- [D] Magna International

Correct Answer: [B] Astemo Limited

Explanation: Honda Motor Co. finalized regulatory clearances to purchase an additional 21% equity stake in advanced automotive parts manufacturer **Astemo Limited** from Hitachi. This financial transaction pushes Honda's absolute holding to 61%, transitioning Astemo into a fully consolidated subsidiary of Honda. The strategic acquisition aims to combine R&D capabilities for Next-Gen Electric Vehicle (EV) powertrains, electronic software architectures, and autonomous driving assistance systems (ADAS) globally.

Section III: Defence & Security

Q14. Which indigenous Indian Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system platform achieved a massive milestone by receiving its Final Operational Clearance (FOC) certificate?

- [A] Netra
- [B] Awacs-2

[C] Tapas

[D] Rustom-II

Correct Answer: [A] Netra

Explanation: Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the indigenous **Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C)** system received its highly coveted Final Operational Clearance (FOC) certificate. Netra, mounted on an Embraer aircraft platform, serves as a vital "Eye in the Sky" for the Indian Air Force. It provides 240-degree radar coverage, tracks airborne threats, intercepts enemy radar transmissions, and commands fighter jet squadrons during dense electronic warfare conditions.

The system has now been cleared for absolute deployment in high-altitude forward operational fields.

Q15. What is the name of the cutting-edge surveillance technology deployment launched in Anantnag district for the security of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026?

[A] Project Trishul

[B] Operation Kavach

[C] Project Hawk Eye

[D] Project Drishti

Correct Answer: [C] Project Hawk Eye

Explanation: To guarantee high-tech, multi-tier security mapping for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, security forces and Jammu & Kashmir police deployed **Project Hawk Eye**. This operational tactical layout integrates high-altitude long-endurance (HALE) tethered drones, AI-powered CCTV cameras featuring automated facial recognition systems (FRT), and thermal imaging tracking grids. It eliminates blind spots along the rugged mountain terrain routes, predicting and mitigating risks from both

asymmetric cross-border incursions and flash floods.

Q16. The Indian Army recently consolidated its attack fleet by absorbing the final batches of multi-role attack helicopters built by Boeing. Which helicopter model is this?

[A] Chinook CH-47

[B] Apache AH-64E

[C] Kamov Ka-226T

[D] Sikorsky MH-60R

Correct Answer: [B] Apache AH-64E

Explanation: The Indian Army aviation corps has fully operationalized its newly completed squadrons of **Apache AH-64E** multi-role attack helicopters following the smooth integration of the final batches manufactured by Boeing. Unlike older variations dedicated purely to flat-terrain anti-tank maneuvers, these customized variants feature heavily updated engines, specialized electronic countermeasures, and armor-piercing Hellfire missiles optimized specifically for high-altitude strike environments along the mountainous Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Section IV: Governance & Schemes

Q17. The Ministry of Finance upgraded which defense public sector undertaking (PSU) from Miniratna Category-I to the prestigious "Navratna" status?

[A] Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

[B] Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)

[C] Hindustan Shipyard Limited

[D] Bharat Dynamics Limited

Correct Answer: [B] Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)



Explanation: The Ministry of Finance officially upgraded Kolkata-headquartered **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Limited** to **Navratna** status. This prestigious elevation grants GRSE immense financial and operational autonomy, allowing the PSU board to invest up to ₹1,000 crore in single foreign joint ventures or domestic modernization projects without seeking prior cabinet approval. GRSE has been instrumental in executing India's Project 17A stealth frigate program and exporting fast patrol vessels to international allies.

Q18. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) integrated which two digital platforms to streamline public medicine price tracking and grievance redressal?

- [A] CoWIN and Aarogya Setu
- [B] Pharma Jan Samadhan and Pharma Sahi Daam
- [C] MedWatch and Jan Aushadhi Portal
- [D] e-Sanjeevani and SUGAM

Correct Answer: [B] Pharma Jan Samadhan and Pharma Sahi Daam

Explanation: To empower consumers against overcharging by commercial pharmacies, the NPPA merged its grievance redressal portal, **Pharma Jan Samadhan**, with its mobile information utility, **Pharma Sahi Daam**. The newly unified governance single-window dashboard allows everyday citizens to scan any scheduled drug or formulation to verify its legally capped ceiling price under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). It also lets them instantly register a tracking complaint if a retailer charges above the mandated retail price.

Q19. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched a new Policy Research Fellowship in collaboration with which grassroots research movement?

- [A] PRADAN
- [B] GRAAM (Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement)
- [C] SEWA
- [D] Centre for Policy Research

Correct Answer: [B] GRAAM (Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement)

Explanation: MoSPI signed a formal Statement of Intent with the **Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM)** to launch the MoSPI-GRAAM Policy Research Fellowship. This fellowship aims to bridge the gap between macroscopic statistical data analysis and local, ground-level policy outcomes. Selected doctoral and post-doctoral researchers will be given direct access to massive National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) datasets to analyze local socio-economic impacts and optimize the delivery mechanics of Central Sector schemes.

Q20. Which civil aviation portal has been upgraded to Version 2.0 by the Ministry of Civil Aviation for enhanced health screening of incoming international passengers?

- [A] DigiYatra 2.0
- [B] Air Suvidha 2.0
- [C] Garuda Portal
- [D] Vande Bharat Cloud

Correct Answer: [B] Air Suvidha 2.0

Explanation: Due to shifting global epidemiologic vectors, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in alignment with the Ministry of Health, deployed the **Air Suvidha 2.0** portal. The upgraded digital interface implements mandatory self-declaration and health screening algorithms specifically tuned for tracing passengers arriving from or transiting through regions dealing with active viral outbreaks. The automated portal cross-

references flight manifests to isolate potential exposures prior to disembarkation, preventing domestic transmission chains.

Section V: Appointments, Awards & MoUs

Q21. Who has been appointed as the new Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) in June 2026?

- [A] Tushar Mehta
- [B] Mahesh Dixit
- [C] Rajiv Gauba
- [D] Praveen Sood

Correct Answer: [B] Mahesh Dixit

Explanation: Senior IPS officer and veteran counter-terrorism strategist **Mahesh Dixit** has been officially named the next Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB). Dixit possesses extensive operational experience handling asymmetric internal security matrices, having spent over a decade supervising counter-infiltration intelligence frameworks in Jammu & Kashmir and the North-Eastern operational theaters. He succeeds the outgoing chief after a formal clearance by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

Q22. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India signed a landmark MoU to boost public sector auditing and knowledge sharing with the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of which country?

- [A] United States
- [B] Israel
- [C] France
- [D] Japan

Correct Answer: [B] Israel

Explanation: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Girish Chandra Murmu,

inked a major Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of **Israel**. The bilateral agreement is designed to develop next-generation auditing protocols for complex public sectors, with a strong focus on artificial intelligence auditing, real-time cyber security system compliance, and assessing data safety infrastructures within government-run public services.

Q23. The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) signed an MoU with which premier academic institution to establish a dedicated Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Advanced Communication Technologies?

- [A] IIT Bombay
- [B] IIT Hyderabad
- [C] IISc Bengaluru
- [D] IIT Madras

Correct Answer: [B] IIT Hyderabad

Explanation: C-DOT, the premier telecom R&D node of the Ministry of Communications, partnered with **IIT Hyderabad** to create a specialized Centre of Excellence (CoE). The CoE will spearhead native development in 5G Open Radio Access Network (O-RAN) architectures, 6G foundational waveform modeling, and quantum-safe cryptographic telecom standards. The center will provide institutional backing, incubation grants, and intellectual property development channels for local communication tech startups.

Q24. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) executed a bilateral trade MoU with the ACCI of which neighboring country to augment regional business investments?

- [A] Nepal
- [B] Bhutan
- [C] Afghanistan



[D] Maldives

Correct Answer: [C] Afghanistan

Explanation: ASSOCHAM executed a strategic trade MoU with the **Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI)** during a bilateral industrial conference held in New Delhi. The agreement establishes dedicated institutional trade channels focused heavily on private sector cooperation in non-sanctioned segments. These include fresh fruit agricultural logistics, life-saving pharmaceutical supply distribution, and textile manufacturing, offering essential economic sustenance directly to regional small-scale producers.

Section VI: Sports, Art, Culture & Important Days

Q25. Every year, June 26 is observed globally as which International Day?

[A] International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

[B] World Hydrography Day

[C] International Day of Planetaria

[D] World Sustainable Gastronomy Day

Correct Answer: [A] International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Explanation: Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1987, June 26 is annually commemorated as the **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**. The day serves as a global expression of determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve an international society free of drug abuse. Educational institutions, law enforcement bodies, and healthcare organizations host global awareness campaigns highlighting the medical perils of narcotic dependencies and the transnational criminal syndicates driving the illicit drug trade.

Q26. Which autonomous export body under the Ministry of Commerce facilitated India's first-ever commercial sea shipment of premium "Banganapalle" mangoes to Singapore?

[A] MPEDA

[B] APEDA

[C] TRIFED

[D] NAFED

Correct Answer: [B] APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)

Explanation: In a major milestone for agricultural logistics, **APEDA** successfully managed the inaugural commercial export of premium **Banganapalle mangoes** from India to Singapore utilizing **sea routes** instead of expensive air freight. To make sea transit viable, APEDA implemented specialized controlled atmosphere (CA) storage technology. This technology regulates respiration rates, moisture depletion, and ethylene accumulation, maintaining the fruit's structural integrity and flavor profile across long ocean journeys.

Q27. The historic Ambubachi Mela, a deep-rooted cultural festival symbolizing the celebration of Mother Earth's fertility, concluded in late June 2026 at which famous temple?

[A] Kamakhya Temple (Assam)

[B] Jagannath Temple (Odisha)

[C] Lingaraja Temple (Odisha)

[D] Kamakshi Amman Temple (Tamil Nadu)

Correct Answer: [A] Kamakhya Temple (Assam)

Explanation: The annual **Ambubachi Mela** concluded at the historic **Kamakhya Temple** situated atop the Nilachal Hills in Guwahati, Assam. The festival marks the annual menstruation course of the presiding goddess



Kamakhya, representing cosmic fertility and the creative life-force of Mother Earth. During this four-day period, the temple doors remain completely shut to the public, reopening with grand religious ceremonies that attract millions of pilgrims, ascetics, and cultural researchers from across the globe.

Q28. June 26 marks the birth anniversary of which legendary Maratha social reformer who pioneered India's first institutional reservation policy for backward classes?

- [A] Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj
- [B] Jyotirao Phule
- [C] Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- [D] Mahadev Govind Ranade

Correct Answer: [A] Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj

Explanation: June 26 is celebrated as the birth anniversary of **Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj** (the visionary ruler of the princely state of Kolhapur). Shahu Maharaj was a pathbreaking social reformer who, in 1902, issued a historic notification reserving 50% of vacancies in state services for backward communities, laying the earliest foundational framework for institutional affirmative action in India. He worked alongside Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to eradicate untouchability, funded primary education for marginalized groups, and legally de-registered caste-discriminatory operational codes.

Q29. The Ministry of Culture announced the deployment of a new digital conservation project for mapping ancient mural paintings. Which cultural site will be the pilot project?

- [A] Ajanta Caves
- [B] Bhimbetka Rock Shelters
- [C] Hampi Ruins
- [D] Lepakshi Veerabhadra Temple

Correct Answer: [D] Lepakshi Veerabhadra Temple

Explanation: The Ministry of Culture chose the **Lepakshi Veerabhadra Temple** (Andhra Pradesh) as the pilot location for its new high-resolution digital mural conservation project. The temple is renowned for housing some of the finest examples of Vijayanagara-era mural art, covering vast expanses of its ceilings. The digital mapping initiative employs non-invasive multispectral laser scanning to archive these delicate pigments in ultra-high-definition, protecting the visual heritage from ambient humidity and structural degradation.

Q30. Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu secured a gold medal at the International Weightlifting Grand Prix 2026 held in which category?

- [A] 49 kg
- [B] 55 kg
- [C] 59 kg
- [D] 64 kg

Correct Answer: [A] 49 kg

Explanation: Olympic medalist **Mirabai Chanu** put up a spectacular performance to clinch the gold medal in the women's **49 kg category** at the International Weightlifting Grand Prix. Chanu delivered flawless technical execution across both the Snatch and the Clean & Jerk segments, outlifting her nearest competitors from East Asia. This gold medal solidifies her world ranking position and guarantees her formal qualification placement for the upcoming international athletic seasonal fixtures.