

Part 1: National & International News

Q1. Which space technical entity approved the establishment of two new Common Technical Facilities (CTFs) in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat in May 2026?

- [A] ISRO
- [B] Department of Space (DoS)
- [C] NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)
- [D] IN-SPACe

Correct Answer: [B] Department of Space (DoS)

Detailed Explanation:

The Department of Space (DoS) officially granted its approval to set up Common Technical Facilities (CTFs) in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. The goal is to strengthen India's domestic space-tech ecosystem, lower production barriers for private space startups, and support the domestic manufacturing base. These facilities will feature advanced infrastructure for testing, integrating, and validating complex space components.

Q2. Which central armed force completed its first-ever all-women international mountaineering expedition to Mount Everest in May 2026?

- [A] Border Security Force (BSF)
- [B] Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- [C] Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- [D] Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

Correct Answer: [C] Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

Detailed Explanation:

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP) scripted history by completing its first-ever all-women international mountaineering expedition to Mount Everest (8,848m) via the South Col Route from Nepal. Concurrently, the Border Security Force (BSF) also successfully scaled the peak via its all-women team under "Mission Vande Mataram" to mark its Diamond Jubilee (60 years of service). Both teams additionally supported the 'Clean Himalaya – Save Glacier' campaign by retrieving non-biodegradable waste.

Q3. China's Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP) project operates on which specific custom management architecture?

- [A] Single-point tariff grid
- [B] Two-Line Customs Model
- [C] Zero-boundary transit policy
- [D] Unified SEZ tariff protocol

Correct Answer: [B] Two-Line Customs Model

Detailed Explanation:

The Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP) is China's most ambitious modern economic opening-up project. It operates on a unique "Two-Line Customs Model". The 'First Line' connects Hainan Island with global markets, entirely removing custom duties to foster an offshore free-trade enclave. The 'Second Line' connects Hainan with mainland China, enforcing normal Chinese domestic custom regulations when goods enter mainland borders.

Q4. The 11th Review Conference of which landmark global treaty was held in May 2026 amidst debates on vertical proliferation timelines?

- [A] Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
- [B] Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)



[C] Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

[D] Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)

Correct Answer: [B] Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

Detailed Explanation:

The 11th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) convened to handle core issues concerning global nuclear safeguards. A primary systemic bottleneck debated was the asymmetric enforcement gap: while the IAEA closely monitors non-nuclear states, the treaty lacks hard enforcement matrices to compel the original five permanent nuclear-armed states (P5) to disarm on a fixed timeline.

Q5. In May 2026, the Supreme Court of India highlighted that girls should not drop out of school due to a lack of which facility, directing the Centre to ensure absolute compliance?

[A] Free digital tablets and internet access

[B] Subsidized public transport passes

[C] Sanitary napkins and gender-segregated toilets

[D] Mid-day meals for secondary education

Correct Answer: [C] Sanitary napkins and gender-segregated toilets

Detailed Explanation:

The Supreme Court stressed that girls should not be deprived of institutional education simply due to the non-availability of basic sanitary hygiene. Following up on its earlier directives, the apex court ordered all States and Union Territories to fully comply with installing operational, gender-segregated toilets and distributing free sanitary pads across government and government-aided institutions.

Q6. Which country reported an increase in Ebola virus cases (reaching 7 infections) linked to a spillover from the Democratic Republic of Congo in May 2026?

[A] Kenya

[B] Rwanda

[C] Uganda

[D] Tanzania

Correct Answer: [C] Uganda

Detailed Explanation:

Ugandan health authorities officially confirmed a rise in Ebola infections to 7 cases. The spread is structurally traced to cross-border movements from neighboring Congo, where the initial outbreak had begun shortly before being officially declared. Uganda initiated rapid tracing mechanisms around its capital city, Kampala, to prevent wider regional contagion.

Part 2: Economics & Banking

Q7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved a record surplus transfer (dividend) of how much to the Government of India for the Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26)?

[A] Rs 2.11 lakh crore

[B] Rs 2.69 lakh crore

[C] Rs 2.87 lakh crore

[D] Rs 3.15 lakh crore

Correct Answer: [C] Rs 2.87 lakh crore

Detailed Explanation:

In May 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved a historic record surplus transfer of Rs 2,86,588.46 crore (approximately Rs 2.87 lakh crore) to the Government of India for FY26. This is significantly higher than the Rs 2.69 lakh crore transferred in the preceding fiscal year.

This massive dividend provides strong fiscal space for the government to manage its fiscal deficit targets and capital expenditure.

Q8. According to the World Bank's 13th edition of the "State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2026" report, which country has emerged as one of the world's largest new carbon markets?

- [A] India
- [B] Brazil
- [C] South Africa
- [D] Indonesia

Correct Answer: [A] India

Detailed Explanation:

The World Bank's "State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2026" report identified India as a premier emerging global player in carbon credit systems following the full-scale rollout and maturation of its domestic Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS). The report further noted that the direct global carbon price has risen by 7% year-on-year, nearly doubling over the past decade.

Q9. India's only functional, large-scale underground gold mine that reported record financial windfalls due to soaring global bullion prices is operated by which company?

- [A] Deccan Gold Mines Limited
- [B] Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited
- [C] Hindustan Copper Limited
- [D] Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited

Correct Answer: [B] Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited

Detailed Explanation:

The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited (HGML), a Karnataka State Public Sector

Enterprise, operates India's only currently functioning commercial underground gold mine. While global uncertainties and West Asian crises drove gold up as a safe-haven asset, HGML gained windfalls. However, domestic production satisfies less than 1% of India's annual 700–900 tonne gold demand, leaving India structurally import-dependent.

Q10. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty on 'Newa Investments' in May 2026 due to which regulatory violation?

- [A] Breaching the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) limits
- [B] Appointing directors without prior RBI approval
- [C] Concealing Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)
- [D] Violating Foreign Portfolio Investment limits

Correct Answer: [B] Appointing directors without prior RBI approval

Detailed Explanation:

The RBI penalized Newa Investments, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), for changing its management framework and appointing directors without taking mandatory prior approval from the central bank. Under RBI rules, any change exceeding 30% of the directorial board of an NBFC requires rigid regulatory screening.

Part 3: Defense News & MoUs

Q11. Union Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off India's first 300-km Universal Rocket Launching System named what, in Shirdi, Maharashtra?

- [A] Pinaka-M3
- [B] Suryastra
- [C] Agni-Prithvi

[D] Vajra-2

Correct Answer: [B] Suryastra

Detailed Explanation:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the NIBE Group's private defense manufacturing complex in Shirdi, Maharashtra. During this event, he flagged off India's first indigenous 300-kilometer range Universal Rocket Launching System named "Suryastra". This marks a major step forward in private-public partnership (PPP) integration for advanced artillery and rocket systems.

Q12. Which generation of the Drone-Launched Missile (ULPGM) was recently highlighted by DRDO for featuring dual air-to-ground and air-to-air precision combat capabilities?

[A] ULPGM-V1

[B] ULPGM-V2

[C] ULPGM-V3

[D] ULPGM-V4

Correct Answer: [C] ULPGM-V3

Detailed Explanation:

The DRDO's ULPGM-V3 (User-Launched Precision Guided Munition Variant 3) marks a substantial technological evolutionary leap. While V1 was a free-fall weapon and V2 integrated basic propulsion, the V3 variant infuses multi-mode advanced seekers, daytime/nighttime operational parameters, multiple warhead payloads, and crucially, both air-to-ground and air-to-air intercept capabilities.

Q13. Which arm of the Indian Armed Forces officially deployed the integrated digital platform 'Q-FORCE' to handle complex logistical and sustainment operations?

[A] Indian Air Force

[B] Indian Navy

[C] Indian Army

[D] Indian Coast Guard

Correct Answer: [C] Indian Army

Detailed Explanation:

The Indian Army launched 'Q-FORCE', an advanced, integrated digital application. The application's goal is to optimize supply chain lines, track inventory in real-time, and streamline overall logistics and sustainment management across vastly diverse geographical operational terrains, including high-altitude and desert border sectors.

Q14. Which Union Territory's administration approved a 5-year MoU extension with the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to build India's first Geothermal Energy Project?

[A] Jammu & Kashmir

[B] Ladakh

[C] Puducherry

[D] Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Correct Answer: [B] Ladakh

Detailed Explanation:

Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor approved a 5-year extension of the MoU with ONGC for developing India's pioneering 1 Megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant. Located at an altitude of over 14,000 feet in the Puga Valley of Eastern Ladakh, the project involves drilling deep geothermal wells up to 1,000 meters to harness clean, continuous volcanic subsurface heat energy.

Q15. Which public department signed an agreement with e-commerce giant Flipkart to



facilitate robust last-mile parcel deliveries across remote areas?

- [A] Department of Telecommunications
- [B] India Post
- [C] Railway Board
- [D] Ministry of MSME

Correct Answer: [B] India Post

Detailed Explanation:

India Post signed a landmark commercial agreement with Flipkart to augment countrywide last-mile logistics. By integrating Flipkart's tech-sorting mechanisms with India Post's unparalleled rural and semi-urban physical distribution grid, the partnership aims to accelerate rural e-commerce delivery speeds and bolster logistical efficiency.

Q16. BIT Mesra signed a strategic MoU with which space institution to expand research in Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI)?

- [A] National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)
- [B] North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC)
- [C] Space Applications Centre (SAC) Ahmedabad
- [D] Master Control Facility (MCF)

Correct Answer: [B] North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC)

Detailed Explanation:

The Birla Institute of Technology Mesra (BIT Mesra) finalized an MoU with the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), along with the North Eastern Council (NEC). The scientific agreement focuses on joint academic development in geospatial technologies, remote sensing mapping, and deploying Geospatial

Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI) models for disaster management and climate monitoring.

Part 4: Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q17. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched which mobile application in May 2026 to offer virtual assistance network benefits to senior citizens?

- [A] SHATAYU
- [B] SAMARTH
- [C] JEEVAN
- [D] VAYOSHRESTHA

Correct Answer: [C] JEEVAN

Detailed Explanation:

Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the **JEEVAN** (Joint Elderly Empowerment & Virtual Assistance Network) mobile application. It aims to act as a one-stop digital ecosystem providing senior citizens with quick access to healthcare, emergency support, and dynamic virtual assistance. Along with it, the **SHATAYU** Geriatric Caregiver Dashboard was also unveiled to streamline specialized training data for elderly-care professionals.

Q18. What is the maximum financial infrastructure subsidy per acre provided under the newly highlighted industrial park development scheme, 'Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna' (BHAVYA)?

- [A] Rs 25 Lakh
- [B] Rs 50 Lakh
- [C] Rs 1 Crore
- [D] Rs 2 Crore

Correct Answer: [C] Rs 1 Crore

Detailed Explanation:

The Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) focuses on transforming India's manufacturing landscape by creating 100 next-generation industrial parks. To avoid arbitrary distributions, it uses a competitive "Challenge-Mode Selection Matrix" and grants substantial fiscal subsidies up to **Rs 1 crore per acre** to eligible developers for building high-end, shared industrial infrastructure.

Q19. How many institutions were selected under the 'Convergence Research Centres of Excellence (CoE)' programme launched by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) in May 2026?

- [A] 5
- [B] 10
- [C] 15
- [D] 20

Correct Answer: [B] 10

Detailed Explanation:

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) selected 10 premier academic and scientific institutions under its flagship Convergence Research Centres of Excellence (CoE) initiative. The programme's mandate is to drive deep transdisciplinary research by integrating core STEM fields with the social sciences and humanities to address pressing national and societal issues.

Part 5: Appointments, Awards, & Honors

Q20. President Droupadi Murmu conferred the prestigious Padma Vibhushan award posthumously to which iconic Indian actor in May 2026?

- [A] Akkineni Nageswara Rao
- [B] Dilip Kumar
- [C] Dharmendra
- [D] Rajesh Khanna

Correct Answer: [C] Dharmendra

Detailed Explanation:

During the investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, President Droupadi Murmu conferred the country's second-highest civilian honor, the Padma Vibhushan, posthumously to the legendary veteran actor Dharmendra. The honor was formally received by his wife and celebrated artist, Hema Malini. Concurrently, eminent violinist N. Rajam was also awarded the Padma Vibhushan.

Q21. Who among the following prominent banking leaders was conferred with the Padma Bhushan award by President Droupadi Murmu in May 2026?

- [A] Aditya Puri
- [B] Uday Kotak
- [C] Arundhati Bhattacharya
- [D] KV Kamath

Correct Answer: [B] Uday Kotak

Detailed Explanation:

Renowned banker and founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank, Uday Kotak, was conferred with the Padma Bhushan for his distinguished service of a high order to the Indian banking and financial sector. Along with him, former Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari was also honored with the Padma Bhushan at the ceremony.

Part 6: Environment, Geography, & Tribes in News

Q22. The Jharia Coalfield, which was in the news due to satellite studies analyzing high-temperature underground greenhouse gas emissions, is located in which state?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Chhattisgarh
- [C] Jharkhand
- [D] West Bengal

Correct Answer: [C] Jharkhand

Detailed Explanation:

Located in the Dhanbad district within the Damodar River valley of Jharkhand, the Jharia Coalfield contains India's largest reserves of high-quality coking coal (estimated at 19.4 billion tonnes). It frequently enters ecological news cycles due to long-standing, uncontrollable subterranean coal fires that burn at high temperatures and release massive volumes of greenhouse gases.

Q23. The endangered 'Himalayan Tricarinate Hill Turtle' was unexpectedly spotted in which protected area of Central India?

- [A] Indravati Tiger Reserve
- [B] Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve
- [C] Achanakmar Tiger Reserve
- [D] Guru Ghasidas National Park

Correct Answer: [B] Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve

Detailed Explanation:

The rare Himalayan Tricarinate Hill Turtle (*Melanochelys tricarinata*) was sighted by forest guards in the Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger

Reserve in Chhattisgarh. This is highly unique as this terrestrial turtle species is biologically endemic to the sub-Himalayan foothill ecosystems of Northeast India, Nepal, and Bhutan. It is currently categorized as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List.

Q24. The 'Anal Naga' community, recently highlighted for conserving localized forest ecosystems via traditional 'Uju' and 'Rangkang' frameworks, belongs primarily to which state?

- [A] Nagaland
- [B] Manipur
- [C] Mizoram
- [D] Arunachal Pradesh

Correct Answer: [B] Manipur

Detailed Explanation:

The Anal Naga tribe is a recognized Scheduled Tribe residing primarily in the Chandel district of Manipur. They gained prominent mention in environmental governance due to their indigenous community-led conservation systems called **Uju** and **Rangkang**, which strictly govern and preserve communal water bodies, tribal forests, and village biodiversity zones without external administrative dependency.

Q25. Nereid, which was studied by the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to disprove its long-held Kuiper Belt origin theory, is a natural moon of which planet?

- [A] Uranus
- [B] Saturn
- [C] Neptune
- [D] Jupiter

Correct Answer: [C] Neptune

Detailed Explanation:

Discovered by astronomer Gerard Kuiper, Nereid is the third-largest natural satellite of the planet Neptune. It stands out due to its highly eccentric and wild orbit. Recent spectroscopic data collected by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope indicates that its composition contradicts previous assumptions that it was simply a captured Kuiper Belt Object (KBO).

Part 7: Science, Technology, & Forums

Q26. Which forum was launched in New Delhi as India's first dedicated national platform on digital sovereignty and data localization policies?

- [A] Bharat Digital Samvad
- [B] Data Swaraj Tech-Inclave
- [C] National Cyber Suraksha Manch
- [D] Digital India Infrastructure Parishad

Correct Answer: [A] Bharat Digital Samvad

Detailed Explanation:

The Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association (BDIA) organized and launched 'Bharat Digital Samvad' in New Delhi. The platform serves as a specialized national convergence point for lawmakers, tech companies, and broadcasters. It centers on protecting India's sovereign data ownership—coining the philosophy of 'Data Swaraj'—as the domestic digital economy targets the \$1 trillion valuation mark by 2030.

Q27. The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), which issued an advisory warning citizens against advanced phishing scams targeting stolen Apple iPhones, operates under which Union Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- [B] Ministry of Communications
- [C] Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- [D] Ministry of Science and Technology

Correct Answer: [C] Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

Detailed Explanation:

The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) was established and functions directly under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It serves as India's apex nodal command system to check cybercrime. I4C issued an essential technical advisory revealing a highly targeted phishing scheme designed to harvest iCloud credentials from users who recently lost their iPhones.

Part 8: Culture, Important Days, & Anniversaries

Q28. National Reading Day, celebrated on June 19 to promote literacy and the public library movement across India, honors the life and contribution of which leader?

- [A] S. R. Ranganathan
- [B] P. N. Panicker
- [C] K. M. Munshi
- [D] V. V. Giri

Correct Answer: [B] P. N. Panicker

Detailed Explanation:

The Government of India observes June 19—the death anniversary of P.N. Panicker—as National Reading Day. Panicker is revered as the "Father of the Library Movement" in Kerala. He transformed the social fabric of the state by leading the development of the *Granthashala Sangham* (Library Association), expanding a



small set of rooms into a powerful network of over 6,000 public libraries.

Q29. The Ministry of Culture highlighted the protective status of the traditional 'Sacred Groves' of India; what are these structurally called in the state of Rajasthan?

[A] Devarakadu

[B] Orans

[C] Kavus

[D] Jaher Than

Correct Answer: [B] Orans

Detailed Explanation:

Sacred Groves are community-protected forest patches holding deep religious and ecological significance. They are known by different vernacular names across India: **Orans** or *Kenis* in Rajasthan, *Devarakadu* in Karnataka, *Kavus* in Kerala, and *Sarnas* or *Jaher Thans* in Jharkhand. They serve as valuable gene pools for rare flora and fauna species.

Q30. The 'Thrissur Pooram' festival, famously known as the mother of all temple festivals featuring a grand procession of caparisoned elephants and traditional percussion ensembles, is celebrated in which state?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Kerala

[C] Andhra Pradesh

[D] Karnataka

Correct Answer: [B] Kerala

Detailed Explanation:

Thrissur Pooram is an annual Hindu temple festival held in Kerala at the Vadakkunnathan Temple in Thrissur. It was started by Raja Rama Varma (popularly known as Sakthan

Thampuran), the Maharaja of Cochin. The festival is globally renowned for its competitive display of beautifully caparisoned elephants, the exchange of colorful umbrellas (*Kudamattom*), and spectacular *Chenda Melam* percussion performances.