

1. International News

India Advocates Community-Led Rangeland Restoration at UNCCD COP17

- **Detailed Explanation:** At the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), India called for community-led restoration of degraded rangelands and pastoral systems. India emphasized that sustainable land management must empower local pastoral communities, integrate indigenous knowledge, and secure land tenure rights to halt land degradation.
- **Exam Relevance:** Important for UPSC CSE (Environment & Ecology) and SSC CGL (Geography).
 - Static Connection: UNCCD was established in 1994 and is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.

Practice MCQ: Q. Which international organization hosted COP17 where India called for community-led restoration of rangelands?

- (a) UNEP
- (b) UNCCD
- (c) UNFCCC
- (d) IUCN

Answer: (b) UNCCD

Explanation: UNCCD focuses specifically on combating land degradation, desertification, and drought mitigation globally.

2. National News

NITI Aayog Report on Graduate Employability & Skill Mismatch

- **Detailed Explanation:** A landmark report released by NITI Aayog highlighted that only **8.25% of Indian graduates** work in jobs directly matching their formal qualifications. The report highlights the urgent need for curriculum restructuring, vocational integration under the National Education Policy (NEP), and industry-aligned skill certification programs.
- **Exam Relevance:** Crucial for UPSC Mains (GS Paper 2 & 3 - Education/Human Capital) and Banking (Economy Awareness).

Practice MCQ: Q. According to the recent NITI Aayog report, what percentage of Indian graduates work in jobs that match their educational qualifications?

- (a) 15.50%
- (b) 12.40%
- (c) 8.25%
- (d) 21.10%

Answer: (c) 8.25%

Explanation: The report underscores a significant skill-job mismatch in India's workforce.

3. Economics & Banking

SIDBI Holds Conclave with RRBs for MSME Co-Lending

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) organized a national conclave with Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to scale up co-lending mechanisms for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in rural and semi-urban regions. The initiative aims to lower borrowing costs for rural micro-entrepreneurs by combining SIDBI's low-cost funds with RRBs' extensive last-mile branch networks.

- **Exam Relevance:** High probability for IBPS PO, SBI PO, and RBI Grade B exams.

Practice MCQ: Q. SIDBI recently partnered with which banking entity to expand co-lending for rural MSMEs?

- (a) Small Finance Banks
- (b) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
- (c) Payment Banks
- (d) Foreign Banks

Answer: (b) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

Explanation: SIDBI and RRBs are leveraging joint risk-sharing co-lending models to extend affordable credit to micro-enterprises.

4. Sports News

R. Praggnanandhaa Enters Grand Chess Tour Final

- **Detailed Explanation:** Indian Chess Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa secured a spot in the Grand Chess Tour Finals following a decisive 19-9 victory over Germany's Vincent Keymer in the tournament's final leg.
- **Exam Relevance:** SSC CGL, Railway RRB NTPC, and Banking General Awareness.

Practice MCQ: Q. Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa defeated which player to reach the Grand Chess Tour Finals?

- (a) Hikaru Nakamura
- (b) Vincent Keymer
- (c) Alireza Firouzja
- (d) Dommaraju Gukesh

Answer: (b) Vincent Keymer

Explanation: Praggnanandhaa dominated the blitz and rapid legs to score a 19-9 victory against Germany's Vincent Keymer.

5. Defense News

India-Vietnam Coast Guard Exercise 'Sahyog HOP TAC' Held in Chennai

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG) conducted the joint bilateral maritime exercise 'Sahyog HOP TAC' off the Chennai coast. The exercise focused on search and rescue (SAR) operations, combating maritime piracy, oil spill response, and improving inter-operability between the two maritime forces.
- **Exam Relevance:** Important for Defense Exams (CDS, NDA, AFCAT) and SSC.

Practice MCQ: Q. Joint bilateral maritime exercise 'Sahyog HOP TAC' was conducted between the Coast Guards of India and which country?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Vietnam
- (c) Philippines
- (d) Sri Lanka

Answer: (b) Vietnam

Explanation: The exercise took place off the coast of Chennai, strengthening Indo-Pacific maritime security ties.

6. Government Schemes & MoUs

UNDP India & HUL Expand Partnership for 'Safai Mitras'

- **Detailed Explanation:** The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India and Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) extended their joint waste management partnership. The initiative aims to support over **50,000 Safai Mitras** across 50 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) by 2028 by improving working conditions, providing access to social

security schemes, and integrating material recovery facilities.

- **Exam Relevance:** Civil Services Mains, State PSCs, and Banking Sector Awareness.

Practice MCQ: Q. UNDP India partnered with which corporate entity to support 50,000 Safai Mitras across 50 cities by 2028?

- (a) Tata Steel
- (b) Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)
- (c) ITC Limited
- (d) Reliance Foundation

Answer: (b) Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)

Explanation: The partnership focuses on sustainable urban sanitation and circular economy frameworks.

7. Important Days, Art, Culture & Anniversaries

World Water Week 2026

- **Detailed Explanation:** World Water Week (organized annually by the Stockholm International Water Institute - SIWI) focuses on global water challenges, water security, and sustainable resource allocation. India highlighted its community-led water conservation achievements, including the **Jal Jeevan Mission** and **Amrit Sarovar Abhiyan**.
- **Festival in News:** Eid Milad-un-Nabi (celebrating the birth anniversary of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad) was observed across India.

Practice MCQ: Q. World Water Week is organized annually by which international institute?

- (a) Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
- (b) World Water Council
- (c) UNESCO-IHE

(d) International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

Answer: (a) Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

Explanation: SIWI hosts World Water Week annually to address worldwide water security and sustainability challenges.

Quick Recap Table for Exam Revision

Category	Headline / Event	Key Takeaway
International	UNCCD COP17 Summit	India champions community-led rangeland restoration
National	NITI Aayog Graduate Skill Report	Only 8.25% graduates work in matching fields
Banking	SIDBI-RRB MSME Conclave	Expanding joint co-lending in rural areas
Sports	Grand Chess Tour 2026	R. Praggnanandhaa reaches finals (19-9 vs Keymer)

Category	Headline / Event	Key Takeaway
Defense	Ex-Sahyog HOP TAC	Bilateral Coast Guard exercise between India & Vietnam
MoUs/Schemes	UNDP & HUL Alliance	Social security and welfare for 50,000 Safai Mitras

1. Which Union Ministry launched 'Mission Samridh Gaon' to develop a comprehensive model for rural transformation and poverty elimination?

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- A) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
B) Ministry of Rural Development
C) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
D) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Answer: B) Ministry of Rural Development

Explanation: Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched Mission Samriddh Gaon at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. The mission aims to construct a holistic framework for rural transformation by developing poverty-free, employment-rich villages equipped with seamless basic amenities, sustainable infrastructure, and community-led water security models.

2. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), India's flagship financial inclusion initiative,

completed how many years of implementation in August 2026?

- A) 10 Years
B) 11 Years
C) 12 Years
D) 15 Years

Answer: C) 12 Years

Explanation: Launched on August 28, 2014, PMJDY completed 12 years of service in August 2026. The scheme has been central to providing unbanked citizens access to formal banking accounts, zero-balance maintenance, direct benefit transfers (DBT), built-in RuPay debit card insurance, and overdraft facilities.

3. The joint maritime search and rescue exercise 'Sahyog HOP TAC' was conducted between the Coast Guards of India and which foreign nation off the coast of Chennai?

- A) Japan
B) Vietnam
C) Philippines
D) Sri Lanka

Answer: B) Vietnam

Explanation: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Vietnam Coast Guard held their bilateral joint exercise Sahyog HOP TAC in Chennai. The operational drill focused on enhancing maritime safety, interoperability, anti-piracy tactics, joint search and rescue (SAR) capabilities, and humanitarian assistance operations in the Indo-Pacific.

4. Which country is designated to host the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi?

- A) Brazil
B) Russia
C) India

D) South Africa

Answer: C) India

Explanation: India has assumed the BRICS Chairship to host the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi. The summit's agenda centers on strengthening multi-lateral cooperation, sustainable economic development, global governance reform, and enhancing digital economy partnerships across global south nations.

5. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) organized a specialized conclave focused on expanding MSME credit in collaboration with which banking segment?

- A) Foreign Banks
- B) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
- C) Payment Banks
- D) Small Finance Banks

Answer: B) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

Explanation: The SIDBI-RRB Conclave focused on strengthening co-lending mechanisms between SIDBI and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to accelerate institutional credit flow to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) operating in semi-urban and rural hinterlands.

6. 'Nipun', recently highlighted in defense developments, belongs to which category of Indian Naval assets?

- A) Stealth Frigate
- B) Diving Support Vessel (DSV)
- C) Nuclear-powered Submarine
- D) Offshore Patrol Vessel

Answer: B) Diving Support Vessel (DSV)

Explanation: Nipun is an indigenously constructed Diving Support Vessel (DSV) designed to assist underwater salvage, deep-sea clearance operations, submarine rescue

missions, and long-range underwater patrols for the Indian Navy.

7. Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, which was featured in news for biodiversity monitoring and anti-poaching measures, is situated in which Indian state?

- A) Assam
- B) Meghalaya
- C) West Bengal
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: A) Assam

Explanation: Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary is located on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Nagaon district, Assam. It forms an ecological corridor connecting Kaziranga National Park and Orang National Park, serving as an important habitat for the Indian one-horned rhinoceros and wild water buffalo.

8. The United Nations General Assembly recently extended the tenure of Volker Türk for four years as the High Commissioner of which body?

- A) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- B) United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- C) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- D) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Answer: B) United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Explanation: The UN General Assembly reappointed Volker Türk as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for a second four-year term, overseeing global human rights



monitoring, field operations, and treaty body support.

9. Which state government announced the implementation of the 'Annapurnam Super Six' scheme targeting socio-economic welfare and nutrition enhancement?

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

Answer: A) Tamil Nadu

Explanation: Tamil Nadu launched the Annapurnam Super Six scheme aimed at enhancing nutritional security among school children, supporting women entrepreneurs, and boosting grassroots public health infrastructure across the state.

10. Which defense research institution developed the indigenous gas turbine engines tailored for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)?

- A) CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)
- B) HAL R&D Division
- C) DRDO-ADE
- D) Bharat Electronics Limited

Answer: A) CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)

Explanation: CSIR-NAL developed indigenous small gas turbine engines designed for powering military and civilian Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), reducing dependence on foreign propulsion systems and boosting defense indigenization.

11. UNDP India partnered with which corporate entity to empower and support 50,000 'Safai Mitras' (sanitation workers) across 50 cities by 2028?

- A) ITC Limited

B) Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)

C) Tata Chemicals

D) Reliance Foundation

Answer: B) Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)

Explanation: UNDP India and HUL announced an expanded partnership targeting 50,000 Safai Mitras. The project focuses on institutionalizing formal waste management systems, expanding financial literacy, providing health insurance, and upgrading social protection across 50 Urban Local Bodies.

12. Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Ajit' was built and formally handed over to the Indian Coast Guard by which shipyard?

- A) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
- B) Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)
- C) Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)
- D) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)

Answer: C) Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)

Explanation: Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) built and handed over ICGS Ajit, an indigenous fast patrol vessel equipped with modern surveillance radar, navigation suites, and high-speed interception capabilities for coastal security.

13. What instrument does the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) employ to absorb surplus liquidity temporarily from the banking system without permanently altering the CRR baseline?

- A) Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)
- B) Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (iCRR)
- C) Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)
- D) Reverse Repo Rate

Answer: B) Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (iCRR)



Explanation: The Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (iCRR) is a temporary quantitative monetary tool used by the RBI to absorb excessive liquidity surges from the banking sector (such as cash inflows following currency note demonetization/withdrawal or high government spending).

14. India signed an agreement to strengthen bilateral cooperation in Fisheries and the Blue Economy with which island nation in the Indian Ocean?

- A) Maldives
- B) Seychelles
- C) Mauritius
- D) Madagascar

Answer: B) Seychelles

Explanation: High-level bilateral talks between India and Seychelles focused on expanding cooperation in sustainable marine resource exploitation, exclusive economic zone (EEZ) surveillance, coastal infrastructure development, and blue economy technologies.

15. On which date is the UNESCO-designated 'International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition' observed globally?

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- A) 12 August
- B) 15 August
- C) 23 August
- D) 27 August

Answer: C) 23 August

Explanation: August 23 is observed annually as the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition. It commemorates the historic uprising in Saint-Domingue (now Haiti) in 1791, which played a

pivotal role in ending the transatlantic slave trade.

16. Onam, a major harvest festival celebrating the return of King Mahabali, is predominantly celebrated in which Indian state?

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

Answer: B) Kerala

Explanation: Onam is the cultural harvest festival of Kerala. Spanning ten days (from Atham to Thiruvonam), it features traditional Pookalam (flower carpets), Vallam Kali (snake boat races), and the grand feast known as Onasadya.

17. The Prime Minister of India addressed sports administrators, athletes, and coaches during which sports dialogue held on August 27, 2026?

- A) Fit India Summit
- B) Khelo India Dialogue
- C) National Sports Conclave
- D) Target Olympic Podium Initiative

Answer: B) Khelo India Dialogue

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the youth and sports stakeholders at the Khelo India Dialogue, emphasizing grassroots talent identification, sports infrastructure modernizing, and preparing athletes for major upcoming international multi-sport events.

18. What is the main target group for 'The Garbhini Mitra Course', an educational healthcare initiative introduced recently?

- A) Adolescent Girls



B) Pregnant Women, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), and Healthcare Workers

C) Primary School Teachers

D) Geriatric Caregivers

Answer: B) Pregnant Women, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), and Healthcare Workers

Explanation: The Garbhini Mitra Course is a clinical and maternal care training module designed to educate pregnant women and upskill frontline health workers (ANMs/ASHAs) on prenatal care, nutrition, gestational risk management, and safe delivery practices.

19. The Legislative Assembly of which northeastern state unanimously passed a resolution opposing Uranium mining due to environmental and health concerns?

A) Mizoram

B) Meghalaya

C) Nagaland

D) Manipur

Answer: B) Meghalaya

Explanation: The Meghalaya Legislative Assembly opposed Uranium mining activities in the state, citing environmental protection, ecology preservation in the fragile Khasi Hills region, and local health safeguards.

20. Tata Capital entered into a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which overseas financial institution to support business operations of foreign companies in India?

A) Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

B) Resona Bank (Japan)

C) Mizuho Bank

D) Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group

Answer: B) Resona Bank (Japan)

Explanation: Tata Capital partnered with Japan's Resona Bank via an MoU to provide customized financial services, cross-border corporate banking solutions, and investment advisory to Japanese enterprises expanding footprint in India.

21. India celebrates National Space Day on August 23 to honor which space milestone?

A) Launch of Aryabhata

B) Successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon's South Pole

C) Insertion of Mangalyaan into Martian Orbit

D) Launch of Aditya-L1

Answer: B) Successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon's South Pole

Explanation: August 23 is designated as National Space Day in India to commemorate the historical achievement of the Chandrayaan-3 mission landing Vikram Lander on the lunar south pole on August 23, 2023.

22. Which centrally sponsored scheme hosted the 'PMFME Conclave 2026' to promote micro-food processing units and self-help groups?

A) PM Matsya Sampada Yojana

B) PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

C) PM Kisan Sampada Yojana

D) PM SVANidhi Scheme

Answer: B) PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

Explanation: The Ministry of Food Processing Industries hosted the PMFME Conclave 2026 under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan to promote capital adoption, technical branding, and credit access for unorganized micro-food enterprises.

23. What is the central focal theme for 'World Water Week 2026'?

- A) Water for Peace
- B) Water Security and Sustainable Ecosystems
- C) Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible
- D) Valuing Water Resources

Answer: B) Water Security and Sustainable Ecosystems

Explanation: World Water Week 2026 prioritized Water Security, emphasizing climate-resilient water management, equitable allocation, transboundary water treaties, and community-led conservation frameworks.

24. The Public Sector Project Approval Committee (PPPAC) granted clearance for the private operation of how many regional airports in India?

- A) 5 Airports
- B) 8 Airports
- C) 11 Airports
- D) 15 Airports

Answer: C) 11 Airports

Explanation: The Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) approved the operation and management of 11 regional airports under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode to modernize infrastructure and improve civil aviation connectivity.

25. A rare natural phenomenon called a 'Waterspout'—a intense columnar vortex occurring over a body of water—was recently spotted over which Indian river?

- A) Ganga
- B) Brahmaputra
- C) Godavari
- D) Narmada

Answer: B) Brahmaputra

Explanation: A waterspout (a localized, rotating column of air and water mist that forms over open water bodies) was spotted over the Brahmaputra River, generating meteorological interest due to its rare inland occurrence.

26. Which state government constituted a 5-member Cabinet Sub-Committee under UT Khader to recommend comprehensive education sector reforms?

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

Answer: B) Karnataka

Explanation: The Karnataka State Government formed a 5-member Cabinet Sub-Committee headed by Speaker/Minister UT Khader to address issues faced by students, examine fee structures, and recommend educational reforms.

27. Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) transferred conventional missile technologies to Indian private industries to achieve which primary objective?

- A) Commercial Export only
- B) Promoting 'Make in India' and Self-Reliance (Aatmanirbharta) in Defense
- C) Privatizing DRDO research labs
- D) Replacing military procurement pipelines

Answer: B) Promoting 'Make in India' and Self-Reliance (Aatmanirbharta) in Defense

Explanation: Under the Transfer of Technology (ToT) framework, DRDO transferred conventional missile sub-system manufacturing technologies to Indian defense private firms to

build a robust domestic defense industrial ecosystem.

28. 'Sadaiv Atal' is the memorial dedicated to which former Prime Minister of India, where nation leaders paid floral tributes during his death anniversary?

- A) Rajiv Gandhi
- B) PV Narasimha Rao
- C) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- D) Lal Bahadur Shastri

Answer: C) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Explanation: Sadaiv Atal in New Delhi is the memorial site of India's 10th Prime Minister, Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who passed away on August 16, 2018.

29. Capital markets regulator SEBI introduced the 'ITRI' mechanism to evaluate cybersecurity and operational infrastructure of stock exchanges and depositories. What does 'ITRI' stand for?

- A) Information Technology Risk Index
- B) IT Resilience Index
- C) Integrated Tech Readiness Assessment
- D) IT Response and Infrastructure Index

Answer: B) IT Resilience Index

Explanation: SEBI introduced the IT Resilience Index (ITRI) to score, monitor, and assess the operational resilience, cyber incident recovery capabilities, and technological readiness of Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs).

30. The central portal 'e-Shram', managed by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, serves as a comprehensive national database for which segment of the Indian workforce?

- A) Central Government Employees
- B) Unorganized Workers

C) IT and Software Professionals

D) Defense Veterans

Answer: B) Unorganized Workers

Explanation: The e-Shram Portal is India's centralized digital registry for unorganized workers (including construction laborers, gig workers, agricultural hands, and street vendors), facilitating direct delivery of social security benefits, universal account numbers (UAN), and insurance cover.

