

National News

1. Cabinet Approves Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026

- **Key Provision:** The Union Cabinet approved draft amendments to the Public Examinations Act, proposing stricter penalties to tackle organized paper leaks.
- **Penalties Introduced:**
 - Imprisonment range increased to **5 to 10 years** for individuals involved in paper leaks.
 - Fines raised up to **₹10 crore** for organized examination syndicates.
- **Fast-Track Courts:** The amendment mandates setting up dedicated fast-track courts required to complete investigations and trials within **3 months**.
- **Exam Relevance:** High probability in SSC, UPSC, and State PSC polity/governance sections.

International News

1. 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting Concludes in Chandigarh

- **Host Country:** India held the BRICS Chairmanship for 2026.
- **Major Deliverables & Frameworks Launched:**
 - BRICS Good Practices (GxP) White Paper and BRICS Compendium on Digital Health Architecture.
 - BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle and Healthy Lifestyle Promotion Roadmap (2026–2029).
 - Establishment of the BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence (CoE) on Mental Wellness.

- **Exam Tip:** Remember the member states and key themes related to public health digital infrastructure.

Economics & Banking

1. Index of Core Industries (ICI) Updated to 9 Sectors (Iron Ore Added)

- **Policy Change:** The government revised the Index of Core Industries (ICI) framework by officially incorporating **Iron Ore** into the list of core sectors.
- **New Sector Count:** Increased from **8 to 9 core industries** (Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, Electricity, and Iron Ore).
- **Growth Leader:** Iron Ore registered the highest annual growth (+43.9% year-on-year) among all core sectors.

2. India's First Bank-Led Quantum Finance Hub Announced

- **Partnership:** Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed an MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Project Location:** Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV), Andhra Pradesh.
- **Objective:** To leverage quantum computing algorithms for financial risk modeling, fraud detection, and high-frequency trading analytics.

Government Schemes & MoUs

1. Cabinet Approves BHAVYA-Rasayan Scheme

- **Full Form:** Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana – Rasayan.
- **Total Budget Outlay:** **₹3,030 Crore** over 5 years (FY2026–27 to FY2030–31).
- **Target:** Establishment of **3 mega chemical parks** across India via challenge-based selection of state governments.

- **Land Requirement:** Minimum 2,000 acres (8 sq. km) of contiguous land per park.
- 2. SVEP Impact Report (Ministry of Rural Development)**
 - **Scheme:** Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
 - **Key Statistics:**
 - Average investment per enterprise: ₹27,083.
 - Gender mandate: **Minimum 60% women beneficiaries** (Actual: 75% enterprises managed by women).
 - Inclusion: **86% entrepreneurs** belong to SC, ST, OBC, or minority communities.

Defense & Security

- 1. First Tri-Service All-Women Sailing Expedition 'Samudra Pradakshina' Flagged In**
 - **Flagged In By:** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
 - **Vessel Used:** Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni.
 - **Voyage Details:** 9 women officers from the Army, Navy, and Air Force completed a 314-day global circumnavigation covering ~25,500 nautical miles across four oceans, arriving in Mumbai.

Sports

- 1. Commonwealth Games 2026 Highlights (Glasgow)**
 - **Gyaneshwari Yadav (Weightlifting):** Won Silver Medal in the Women's 53kg category with a total lift of 199kg.

- **Rishikanta Singh (Weightlifting):** Won Silver Medal in Men's 60kg weightlifting.
- **Mirabai Chanu:** Clinched Gold Medal in Women's 48kg weightlifting.
- **Raja Muthupandi:** Secured Silver Medal in 65kg weightlifting.
- 2. ISSF Shooting World Cup & World Junior Squash**
 - **Esha Singh:** Won Gold Medal in the 25m Pistol event (40 hits).
 - **Manu Bhaker:** Won Bronze Medal in the 25m Pistol event.
 - **Anahat Singh (Squash):** Won the World Junior Squash Championship title, defeating Egypt's Ruqaiyya Salem (11-3, 11-7, 11-9).

Art, Culture & UNESCO Heritage

- 1. Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath Inscribed as India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site**

- **Location:** Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Core Components:**
 - **Dhamek Stupa:** Marks the exact location of Lord Buddha's first sermon (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta).
 - **Dharmarajika Stupa & Ashokan Lion Capital Precinct.**
- **Key Historical Fact:** Etymology originates from Sanskrit Sāranganātha ("Lord of the Deer"). Sarnath is one of the four sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites named in the Mahaparinibbana Sutta alongside Lumbini, Bodhi Gaya, and Kushinagar.

Important Days & Anniversaries

- **24 July (Recent Observation):** 167th Income Tax Day (Aaykar Diwas) in India, commemorating the introduction of income tax in 1860 by Sir James Wilson.

- **27 July: Death Anniversary of APJ Abdul Kalam** (11th President of India, passed away 27 July 2015). Known as the "Missile Man of India" and recipient of the Bharat Ratna (1997).

1. National & International News

Q1. The Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath was officially inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 48th session held in South Korea. Which number UNESCO World Heritage Site in India does Sarnath become?

- A) 42nd
- B) 43rd
- C) 44th
- D) 45th

Answer: D) 45th

Detailed Explanation: At the 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea, Sarnath was inscribed as India's 45th World Heritage Site. Sarnath, near Varanasi, UP, is the site of the Buddha's first sermon (*Dharmachakra Pravartana*). With this, three of the four major Buddhist pilgrimage sites (Lumbini, Bodhi Gaya, and Sarnath) are now UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Q2. According to the Henley Passport Index (July 2026 update), which country retained its position as the world's most powerful passport?

- A) Japan
- B) Singapore
- C) UAE
- D) France

Answer: B) Singapore

Detailed Explanation: Singapore retained the #1 rank in the Henley Passport Index, granting visa-free access to 192 destinations worldwide.

Japan, South Korea, and the UAE tied for the 2nd position with access to 188 destinations.

Q3. Which state government announced a 10% reservation for 'Agniveers' in state police and forest guard recruitment in July 2026?

- A) Bihar
- B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Haryana
- D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: B) Chhattisgarh

Detailed Explanation: The Chhattisgarh state government announced a 10% reservation for Agniveers (recruits under the Agnipath scheme) in the state police force, forest guards, and jail wardens upon completion of their 4-year tenure in the armed forces.

Q4. In July 2026, severe tropical Typhoon 'Noul' made landfall causing massive evacuations and infrastructure damage in which country?

- A) Japan
- B) Philippines
- C) Southern China
- D) Vietnam

Answer: C) Southern China

Detailed Explanation: Typhoon Noul hit the southern coastal region of China, prompting the displacement and evacuation of over 340,000 residents and causing significant regional disruptions.

2. Defense & Security

Q5. Which Indian Paramilitary force celebrated its Foundation Day on 27th July 2026?

- A) Border Security Force (BSF)
- B) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- C) Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
D) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

Answer: B) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

Detailed Explanation: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) observes its Foundation Day on July 27th. Originally raised as the Crown Representative's Police on July 27, 1939, it became the CRPF on the enactment of the CRPF Act in 1949.

Q6. What is 'Samudra Pradakshina', which was launched in July 2026?

- A) A deep-sea mineral exploration mission by ISRO
B) A tri-service all-women circumnavigation expedition
C) An amphibious joint military exercise with France
D) An anti-piracy maritime operation in the Gulf of Aden

Answer: B) A tri-service all-women circumnavigation expedition

Detailed Explanation: The Tri-Service All-Women 'Samudra Pradakshina' Expedition features female officers from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force embarking on a historic sailing voyage to promote gender inclusivity and maritime strength.

Q7. The 'Kheybar Shekan' long-range solid-fuel ballistic missile, which was featured in news recently, belongs to which nation?

- A) North Korea
B) Iran
C) Pakistan
D) Turkey

Answer: B) Iran

Detailed Explanation: The 'Kheybar Shekan' is a 4th-generation long-range solid-fuel precision-guided ballistic missile developed by Iran. Its name references the historic Battle of Khaybar.

3. Economics, Banking & Business

Q8. The Union Cabinet approved the draft amendment to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, proposing maximum imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine up to what amount for organized paper leaks?

- A) ₹1 Crore
B) ₹5 Crore
C) ₹10 Crore
D) ₹25 Crore

Answer: C) ₹10 Crore

Detailed Explanation: The proposed amendments to the anti-paper leak law strictly target organized syndicates with fines of up to ₹10 Crore and jail terms ranging between 5 to 10 years to preserve exam integrity.

Q9. Which Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) set a target to double the share of its gold loan portfolio to 5% over the next three years?

- A) Bajaj Finance
B) Shriram Finance
C) Muthoot Finance
D) Cholamandalam Investment

Answer: B) Shriram Finance

Detailed Explanation: Shriram Finance outlined plans to double its gold loan portfolio share from ~2.5% to 5% within three years, tapping into growing retail demand for collateralized loans.

Q10. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) suspended the manufacturing license of which company over allegations of altering product expiry dates?

- A) Westend Agro Products
- B) Patanjali Ayurved
- C) Nestlé India
- D) Britannia Industries

Answer: A) Westend Agro Products

Detailed Explanation: FSSAI took strict action against Westend Agro Products by suspending its operation license after safety audits revealed non-compliance regarding product labeling and tampering with expiry dates.

4. Government Schemes & Infrastructure

Q11. What is the total financial outlay approved by the Union Cabinet for the "BHAVYA - Rasayan" scheme to set up 3 large chemical parks in India?

- A) ₹1,500 Crore
- B) ₹2,050 Crore
- C) ₹3,030 Crore
- D) ₹5,000 Crore

Answer: C) ₹3,030 Crore

Detailed Explanation: The *Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA - Rasayan)* was allocated ₹3,030 crore to construct 3 world-class, integrated chemical parks on at least 2,000 acres each via challenge-based selection.

Q12. In July 2026, the foundation stone for the permanent campus of the National Skill Training Institute for Women (NSTI-W) was laid in which city?

- A) Lucknow, UP
- B) Bihta, Bihar

- C) Jaipur, Rajasthan
- D) Ranchi, Jharkhand

Answer: B) Bihta, Bihar

Detailed Explanation: The permanent campus of NSTI-W was approved for Bihta (Patna district, Bihar) with an outlay of ₹99.97 crore to provide specialized vocational and technical skills to women.

Q13. Which state government announced the rollout of an AI-driven curriculum for students from Class 1 to Class 12 starting in the 2026 academic session?

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

Answer: B) Punjab

Detailed Explanation: Punjab introduced foundational AI and coding literacy across primary and secondary state-board schools (Class 1 to 12) to align basic education with emerging modern tech standards.

Q14. The Andhra Pradesh state government integrated blockchain technology into which state web portal to prevent land record tampering?

- A) Meeseva
- B) Mee Bhoomi
- C) Spandana
- D) YSR Rythu Bharosa

Answer: B) Mee Bhoomi

Detailed Explanation: Andhra Pradesh upgraded its 'Mee Bhoomi' land records management system using blockchain technology to establish tamper-proof digital

property ledgers and secure land ownership verification.

5. Sports Current Affairs

Q15. Who became the first Indian squash player since 2005 to reach the final of the World Junior Squash Championships?

- A) Joshna Chinappa
- B) Anahat Singh
- C) Tanvi Khanna
- D) Sunayna Kuruvilla

Answer: B) Anahat Singh

Detailed Explanation: Teen squash prodigy Anahat Singh created history by advancing to the final of the World Junior Squash Championship, becoming the first Indian since 2005 to achieve this milestone.

Q16. Weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu represents India in which weight category at the 2026 Commonwealth Games?

- A) 49 kg
- B) 55 kg
- C) 59 kg
- D) 64 kg

Answer: A) 49 kg

Detailed Explanation: Mirabai Chanu competes in the women's 49 kg weightlifting category, seeking her third consecutive gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.

Q17. Which Indian lifter clinched a silver medal in the Men's 60kg weightlifting event at the 2026 international sports circuit?

- A) Achinta Sheuli
- B) Jeremy Lalrinnunga
- C) Rishikanta Singh

D) Raja Muthupandi

Answer: C) Rishikanta Singh

Detailed Explanation: Rishikanta Singh secured the Silver medal in the Men's 60kg category with a total combined lift that placed him on the podium.

Q18. Indian Judoka Tulika Maan faced suspension in July 2026 due to which administrative infraction?

- A) Doping violation
- B) Whereabouts failure
- C) Unsportsmanlike conduct
- D) Contractual breach

Answer: B) Whereabouts failure

Detailed Explanation: Commonwealth medalist Tulika Maan was suspended by anti-doping authorities due to multiple "whereabouts failures" under testing protocol regulations.

6. Appointments & Resignations

Q19. Who has been appointed as the next Managing Director & CEO of Infosys for a 5-year term starting April 2027?

- A) Salil Parekh
- B) Jayesh Dash
- C) Rajesh Gopinathan
- D) K. Krithivasan

Answer: B) Jayesh Dash

Detailed Explanation: Infosys announced the appointment of Jayesh Dash as MD & CEO for a 5-year tenure (2027–2032). He will succeed Salil Parekh, whose second tenure concludes on March 31, 2027.

Q20. Former diplomat Olara Otunnu, who joined the race for the position of United Nations



Secretary-General in July 2026, belongs to which country?

- A) Kenya
- B) Uganda
- C) Nigeria
- D) Ghana

Answer: B) Uganda

Detailed Explanation: Veteran Ugandan diplomat and international advocate Olara Otunnu officially announced his candidacy for the UN Secretary-General role.

7. Science, Tech & Environment

Q21. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) launched an IoT-enabled rural water service delivery and monitoring system developed by which of its constituent laboratories?

- A) CSIR-CEERI / CSIR Network
- B) CSIR-CFTRI
- C) CSIR-NCL
- D) CSIR-NEERI

Answer: A) CSIR-CEERI / CSIR Network

Detailed Explanation: CSIR commercially launched an Internet of Things (IoT) monitoring system to track real-time water quality and supply parameters across rural piped schemes in India.

Q22. Air India initiated phased modifications of its Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet following a mandatory safety directive issued by which global aviation regulator?

- A) DGCA (India)
- B) EASA (Europe)
- C) FAA (United States)

D) IATA

Answer: C) FAA (United States)

Detailed Explanation: Air India began retrofitting its Boeing 787 long-haul fleet to meet safety compliance rules released by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

8. Awards, Partnerships & MoUs

Q23. SBI Life Insurance signed a partnership agreement to become the "Principal Partner" of the Indian Contingent for which organization in 2026?

- A) Indian Olympic Association (IOA)
- B) Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)
- C) All India Sports Council
- D) Special Olympics Bharat

Answer: B) Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)

Detailed Explanation: SBI Life Insurance teamed up with the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) as the Principal Partner to sponsor and support para-athletes across international events.

Q24. Renewable energy company Waaree Renewable Technologies secured major project contracts worth 800 MW in July 2026 for constructing what type of solar power setups?

- A) Floating Solar Projects
- B) Ground-Mounted Solar Projects
- C) Rooftop Solar Systems
- D) Agri-Photovoltaic Farms

Answer: B) Ground-Mounted Solar Projects

Detailed Explanation: Waaree Renewable clinched execution orders totaling 800 Megawatts (MW) for ground-mounted solar utility installations in domestic markets.

9. Art, Culture & History

Q25. The Dhamek Stupa, located at Sarnath (Varanasi), belongs to which architectural phase and ruler patronage origin?

- A) Built originally during Mauryan Emperor Ashoka's reign and expanded during the Gupta period
- B) Built entirely by Chola Dynasty kings
- C) Constructed under Kushana Empire ruler Kanishka
- D) Erected during the Harsha Empire

Answer: A) Built originally during Mauryan Emperor Ashoka's reign and expanded during the Gupta period

Detailed Explanation: The 39-meter high Dhamek Stupa marks the spot where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon. The core structure was commissioned by Emperor Ashoka around 249 BCE and further enlarged during the Gupta Dynasty (4th–6th century CE).

Q26. Which famous historic industrial catastrophe—mentioned in historical retrospectives this week—occurred in London in October 1814 when large vats burst?

- A) Great Molasses Spill
- B) London Beer Flood
- C) Thames Chemical Leak
- D) Greenwich Oil Explosion

Answer: B) London Beer Flood

Detailed Explanation: The London Beer Flood occurred when a 22-foot-tall wooden vat of fermenting porter at the Meux & Co Brewery ruptured, releasing over 320,000 gallons of beer into the streets.

10. Important Days & Anniversaries

Q27. 27th July marks the death anniversary of which former Indian President, popularly

known as the 'People's President' and 'Missile Man of India'?

- A) Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
- B) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- C) Pranab Mukherjee
- D) Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Answer: B) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Detailed Explanation: Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, 11th President of India, passed away on July 27, 2015, while delivering a lecture at IIM Shillong. His death anniversary is honored across the country on July 27th.

Q28. Kargil Vijay Diwas, commemorating India's victory in Operation Vijay in 1999, is celebrated every year on which date?

- A) 24 July
- B) 25 July
- C) 26 July
- D) 27 July

Answer: C) 26 July

Detailed Explanation: Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed annually on July 26 across India to pay tribute to the soldiers who fought and sacrificed their lives in the 1999 Kargil War against Pakistan.

11. Static GK linked to Current Affairs

Q29. Sarnath is situated near the confluence of which two rivers in Uttar Pradesh?

- A) Ganges and Yamuna
- B) Ganges and Varuna
- C) Son and Ganges
- D) Gomti and Ghaghara

Answer: B) Ganges and Varuna

Detailed Explanation: Sarnath is located 8 km northeast of Varanasi near the confluence of the Ganges and the Varuna rivers in Uttar Pradesh.

Q30. What is the historical name for Sarnath mentioned in ancient Pali texts?

- A) Pragyotishpur B) Rishipatana / Mrigadava
C) Rajagriha D) Vaishali

Answer: B) Rishipatana / Mrigadava

Detailed Explanation: In ancient Buddhist literature, Sarnath was referred to as *Rishipatana* (place where holy men landed) or *Mrigadava* (Deer Park)

