

Part 1: National & International News

Q1. The Indian Navy recently launched 'Operation Urja Suraksha'. What is the primary objective of this mission?

- A) Conducting joint maritime exercises with GCC nations
- B) Safeguarding India-bound energy shipments through the Strait of Hormuz
- C) Combating piracy in the Gulf of Aden
- D) Enhancing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the Indian Ocean

Answer: B) Safeguarding India-bound energy shipments through the Strait of Hormuz

Detailed Explanation: In March 2026, the Indian Navy officially commenced *Operation Urja Suraksha* (Energy Protection). The explicit focus of this critical operation is to escort, guide, and protect India-bound energy vessels passing through the strategically volatile maritime chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz.

Q2. According to the World Air Quality Report 2025 released in March 2026, which city retained its position as the world's most polluted capital?

- A) Dhaka
- B) Beijing
- C) New Delhi
- D) Kabul

Answer: C) New Delhi

Detailed Explanation: The World Air Quality Report 2025, compiled and published by Swiss air quality technology company IQAir, confirmed that New Delhi remained the world's most polluted capital city for the eighth consecutive year.

Q3. Balendra Shah was recently sworn in as the youngest Prime Minister of which neighboring country of India?

- A) Bhutan
- B) Nepal
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Myanmar

Answer: B) Nepal

Detailed Explanation: At just 35 years of age, Balendra Shah has rewritten political history by becoming the youngest Prime Minister of Nepal. He was administered the oath of office by President Ram Chandra Poudel in Kathmandu.

Q4. Which country will host the G7 Summit 2026 scheduled for June 15–17?

- A) Germany
- B) Italy
- C) France
- D) Japan

Answer: C) France

Detailed Explanation: Official diplomatic dispatches confirmed that France is the host nation for the upcoming 52nd G7 Summit, slated to take place from June 15 to 17, 2026.

Q5. The 'Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026' was recently in the news. What is its principal objective?

- A) Overhauling the criminal justice system and penal codes
- B) Reducing compliance burdens and promoting the ease of doing business
- C) Reforming the direct tax administration and litigation filings

D) Regularizing electronic voting machines and election spending

Answer: B) Reducing compliance burdens and promoting the ease of doing business

Detailed Explanation: The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, aims to deep-cleanse legislative roadblocks by decriminalizing minor offenses across dozens of central acts.

Part 2: Economics & Banking

Q6. The Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has decided to retain the retail inflation target at what percentage for the five-year period from 2026 to 2031?

- A) 3.5%
- B) 4.0%
- C) 4.5%
- D) 5.0%

Answer: B) 4.0%

Detailed Explanation: The Ministry of Finance, exercising powers under Section 45ZA of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934, officially announced that the retail inflation target for the next five years (spanning April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031) will remain steady at 4%.

Q7. Which digital marketplace portal was launched by the National Housing Bank (NHB) to streamline home loans for defense and government personnel?

- A) Gruh Sugam Portal
- B) Awas Digi Portal
- C) Gruh Sahayata Platform
- D) Sainik Gruh Marketplace

Answer: A) Gruh Sugam Portal

Detailed Explanation: The National Housing Bank (NHB) rolled out the *Gruh Sugam Portal*, a custom digital marketplace built to facilitate affordable and direct housing finance solutions, prioritizing government and defense personnel.

Q8. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY27 by 10 basis points. What is the updated FY27 projection?

- A) 6.0%
- B) 6.1%
- C) 6.2%
- D) 6.5%

Answer: B) 6.1%

Detailed Explanation: In its latest macro-economic outlook, the OECD trimmed India's economic growth target for the financial year 2026-27 (FY27) by 10 basis points (bps), moving it down to 6.1% from its previous calculation of 6.2%.

Q9. Which asset management entity recently secured final approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to enter the mutual fund business?

- A) Milestone AMC
- B) Lakshya AMC
- C) Pragati Mutual Fund
- D) Target Asset Management

Answer: B) Lakshya AMC

Detailed Explanation: Lakshya Asset Management Company (Lakshya AMC) received the final regulatory nod from the market regulator SEBI to set up and operate its mutual fund business in India.

Q10. What is the main structural objective behind the Reserve Bank of India conducting Open Market Operations (OMOs)?

- A) Controlling corporate income tax collections
- B) Managing liquidity and stabilizing interest rates within the economy
- C) Overseeing daily retail stock exchange trading volumes
- D) Formulating import-export duties on electronics

Answer: B) Managing liquidity and stabilizing interest rates within the economy

Detailed Explanation: Open Market Operations (OMOs) are a quantitative monetary policy tool utilized by the RBI involving the systematic buying and selling of Government Securities (G-Secs) in the open market.

Part 3: Sports

Q11. Carolina Marin, who announced her retirement from international sports in late March 2026, is a legendary icon associated with which sport?

- A) Tennis
- B) Squash
- C) Badminton
- D) Table Tennis

Answer: C) Badminton

Detailed Explanation: The 32-year-old Spanish sporting icon Carolina Marín formally announced her retirement from professional international badminton. A series of persistent knee injuries compelled her to step away earlier than planned.

Q12. Indian archers recently secured two bronze medals at the 2026 Asia Cup. Which city

hosted this prestigious continental tournament?

- A) Tokyo
- B) Seoul
- C) Bangkok
- D) New Delhi

Answer: C) Bangkok

Detailed Explanation: The 2026 Archery Asia Cup was hosted in Bangkok, Thailand, where elite contingents from across Asia competed in compound and recurve categories.

Q13. LeBron James recently created a historic milestone by breaking the all-time record for the most games played in the history of which sports league?

- A) English Premier League (EPL)
- B) National Basketball Association (NBA)
- C) Major League Baseball (MLB)
- D) EuroLeague Basketball

Answer: B) National Basketball Association (NBA)

Detailed Explanation: Basketball icon LeBron James added another record to his legacy by securing the all-time record for the maximum number of regular-season and playoff games combined in the NBA.

Part 4: Appointments, Awards & Honors

Q14. Who has been selected to represent India at the upcoming World Youth Parliament 2026?

- A) Stuti Pradhan
- B) Ananya Sharma
- C) Meera Nair

D) Priyan Sain

Answer: A) Stuti Pradhan

Detailed Explanation: Ms. Stuti Pradhan, a youth leader hailing from the state of Sikkim, has been selected to represent India at the prestigious World Youth Parliament 2026.

Q15. Which Indian actress was honored with the prestigious 'Women Empowerment Award for Art and Culture' at the House of Commons, United Kingdom?

- A) Deepika Padukone
- B) Rituparna Sengupta
- C) Priyanka Chopra
- D) Vidya Balan

Answer: B) Rituparna Sengupta

Detailed Explanation: Veteran Indian actress Rituparna Sengupta was conferred with the *Women Empowerment Award for Art and Culture* at the House of Commons in London, UK.

Q16. The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) recently inaugurated the 'Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence'. Whose generous financial contribution funded this school?

- A) Nandan Nilekani
- B) Chandrika Krishnamurthy Tandon
- C) Azim Premji
- D) Shiv Nadar

Answer: B) Chandrika Krishnamurthy Tandon

Detailed Explanation: IIMA formally opened its state-of-the-art *Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence* on its main campus. The advanced center was made possible by a philanthropic contribution of ₹100 crores.

Part 5: Books, Authors & Defense News

Q17. The newly published book titled 'The Doom Loop', which details vulnerabilities within global economic stability and financial systems, is authored by whom?

- A) Raghuram Rajan
- B) Esar Prasad
- C) Amartya Sen
- D) Urjit Patel

Answer: B) Esar Prasad

Detailed Explanation: The financial treatise *The Doom Loop*, authored by noted economist Esar Prasad, was released worldwide in March 2026.

Q18. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract worth ₹445 crore with JSC Rosoboronexport, Russia, for the operational maintenance and upgrade of which air defence system?

- A) S-400 Triumf
- B) Tunguska Air Defence Missile System
- C) Akash Prime System
- D) Barak-8 Missile Shield

Answer: B) Tunguska Air Defence Missile System

Detailed Explanation: On March 27, 2026, the Ministry of Defence signed two separate contracts worth a combined ₹858 crore at New Delhi. One of these contracts, worth ₹445 crore, was signed with Russia's JSC Rosoboronexport.

Q19. The Indian Army has begun deploying 'Shaurya Squadrons' across its operational formations. What are these units primarily composed of?

- A) Cyber warfare specialized officers
- B) Dedicated drone sub-units within armored regiments

- C) Mountain terrain sniper commandos
D) Amphibious combat engineers

Answer: B) Dedicated drone sub-units within armored regiments

Detailed Explanation: To integrate tactical unmanned systems at the grassroots combat level, the Indian Army has introduced *Shaurya Squadrons*. These are specialized drone sub-units permanently embedded directly within armored regiments.

Q20. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has initiated 'Project Vayu Baan'. What unique technological capability does this project develop?

- A) Stealth cruise missiles launched from transport aircraft
B) Helicopter-dropped/launched autonomous drone systems
C) Advanced laser weapons for satellite interception
D) Indigenously built heavy-lift transport aircraft engines

Answer: B) Helicopter-dropped/launched autonomous drone systems

Detailed Explanation: The Directorate of Aerospace Design (DAD) under the IAF issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for *Project Vayu Baan*, which aims to design India's first helicopter-launched Unmanned Aerial System (UAS).

Part 6: Government Schemes & MoU's

Q21. The guidelines of the 'Prime Minister Internship Scheme' (PMIS) were recently modified. Which Ministry is responsible for administering this scheme?

- A) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
B) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
C) Ministry of Finance
D) Ministry of Labour and Employment

Answer: B) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Detailed Explanation: The Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS), a key initiative aimed at boosting youth employability, is administered directly by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

Q22. The Ministry of Culture signed a critical Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi to globally promote India's folk and tribal music. Which platform is the partner entity for this initiative?

- A) Spotify India
B) Meta Platforms
C) YouTube
D) Apple Music

Answer: C) YouTube

Detailed Explanation: The Ministry of Culture formally exchanged a milestone MoU with global video platform YouTube to preserve, package, and digitally project India's rich repository of folk and tribal music to an international audience.

Q23. The 'Nasha Mukta Vidyalaya Action Plan', seen in the news recently, is a joint collaborative initiative launched by which two union ministries?

- A) Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Justice
B) Ministry of Education and Ministry of Home Affairs

C) Ministry of Women & Child Development and Ministry of Youth Affairs

D) Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health

Answer: B) Ministry of Education and Ministry of Home Affairs

Detailed Explanation: Recognizing the rise in synthetic substance abuse among minors, the Ministry of Education joined forces with the Ministry of Home Affairs to roll out the *Nasha Mukta Vidyalaya Action Plan*.

Q24. The 'PRISM-SG Portal' was launched to digitize and speed up inspections for which infrastructure component?

- A) Runway tarmac at international airports
- B) Steel girders utilized in railway Road Over Bridges (ROBs)
- C) Deep-sea concrete pillars for major ports
- D) High-voltage underground transmission wires

Answer: B) Steel girders utilized in railway Road Over Bridges (ROBs)

Detailed Explanation: The Ministry of Railways introduced the *PRISM-SG Portal* to bring end-to-end digital transparency to the approvals, quality checks, and fabrication tracking of steel girders in Road Over Bridges (ROBs).

Q25. What unique facility was introduced through a collaboration between TRIFED and India Post to support tribal artisans?

- A) Direct Drone Delivery Option
- B) Book Now Pay Later (BNPL) Account via Speed Post
- C) Zero-Cost Cold Storage Services
- D) International Air-Freight Exemption Facility

Answer: B) Book Now Pay Later (BNPL) Account via Speed Post

Detailed Explanation: To simplify logistical hurdles for tribal co-operatives, the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) tied up with India Post to create a dedicated Book Now Pay Later (BNPL) framework.

Part 7: Science, Environment & Important Days

Q26. Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered 'Neoloboptera peninsularis' in Pune, Maharashtra. What category of organism is it?

- A) A newly discovered species of cockroach
- B) A rare, high-altitude medicinal shrub
- C) An invasive species of freshwater fish
- D) A nocturnal species of trapdoor spider

Answer: A) A newly discovered species of cockroach

Detailed Explanation: A research team from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered a new insect species named *Neoloboptera peninsularis* in the Deccan Peninsula ecosystem near Nathachiwadi, Pune.

Q27. The Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve is being developed as India's third soft-release habitat for Cheetahs. In which Indian state is this reserve located?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Gujarat
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: C) Madhya Pradesh

Detailed Explanation: Following Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve is being prepared as the third designated home for the ongoing Project Cheetah reintroduction initiative.

Q28. A recent ethnobotanical research study highlighted 39 medicinal plants used to cure ailments by the Sonowal Kachari community. This indigenous tribe is primarily resident in which state?

- A) Nagaland
- B) Assam
- C) Mizoram
- D) Manipur

Answer: B) Assam

Detailed Explanation: The Sonowal Kacharis are an indigenous plains tribe primarily settled across the riverine tracts of Assam, where they comprise the third-largest plain tribe community.

Q29. World Theatre Day is celebrated globally every year on which date to recognize the cultural power of performing arts?

- A) March 25
- B) March 26
- C) March 27
- D) March 28

Answer: C) March 27

Detailed Explanation: World Theatre Day is observed internationally on March 27. It was established in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI).

Q30. Lyme disease was recently in the news after pharma entities Pfizer and Valneva

reported positive vaccine trials. What is the causative pathogen behind Lyme disease?

- A) Protozoa
- B) Fungus
- C) Virus
- D) Bacteria

Answer: D) Bacteria

Detailed Explanation: Lyme disease is an infectious macro-disease caused by the spiral-shaped bacteria **Borrelia burgdorferi**.