

1. International & Bilateral News

- **7th India–Morocco Joint Commission:** Union Minister of State for MeitY, Dr. Jitin Prasada, co-chaired the 7th India–Morocco Joint Commission meeting in Rabat. Key discussions focused on expanding cooperation in IT, semiconductor supply chains, digital public infrastructure (DPI), and critical minerals extraction.
- **Himalayan Glacial Lake Outburst Risk (China–Nepal Border):** Authorities in Nepal and China issued joint environmental alerts regarding two newly formed proglacial lakes along their shared border following catastrophic debris flows.

2. National News & Governance

- **Sarnath Inscribed as India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site:** Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh), the historical site where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta), was officially added to the UNESCO World Heritage list, raising India's total tally to 45 designated heritage sites.
- **National Conclave on Tribal Languages & Museums:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) hosted a three-day national conclave in Mysuru, Karnataka. The initiative aims to standardize the digital documentation, preservation, and revitalization of endangered tribal dialects across India.
- **Sagar Samvad Inaugural Session:** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the official portal of the National Shipping Board (NSB) during the maiden 'Sagar Samvad' in New Delhi. A 5-point maritime roadmap was outlined to add 100 new commercial vessels to India's fleet.

3. Economics, Banking & Finance

- **UPI Completes 10 Years (78% Digital Payment Share):** Launched in 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) marked its 10th anniversary. It now accounts for 78% of all digital retail payment volumes in India.
- **GAIL to Build ₹9,500 Crore LPG Pipelines:** The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) authorized GAIL (India) Limited to construct three new LPG pipelines spanning 1,800 km to expand clean fuel transport across eastern and central India.
- **Axis Bank & Citigroup NRI FCNR Partnership:** Citigroup partnered with Axis Bank to facilitate foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) deposit financing for NRIs via Standby Letters of Credit (SBLC).

4. Defense & Security

- **India's First Public-Private Avionics Facility:** Samtel HAL Display Systems (SHDS)—a joint venture between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Samtel Avionics—inaugurated India's first public-private defense avionics manufacturing plant in Gurugram, Haryana.
- **T-Hub Partners with Indian Army:** Technology Hub (T-Hub), Hyderabad, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Command of the Indian Army to create a direct deployment pipeline for defense-tech startups.

5. Government Schemes, Hackathons & Initiatives

- **Critical Minerals Innovation Hackathon (CMiH 2026):** Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy launched CMiH 2026 under the

Ministry of Mines to foster technology-driven solutions for critical mineral processing (lithium, rare earth elements).

- **UP Startup Policy 2026:** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath officially launched the UP Startup Mission Portal and upgraded startup incentives for tier-2/3 tech hubs.

6. Science, Environment & Art/Culture

- **7 Indian Pharmacopoeia Nitrosamine Standards Launched:** The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) launched 7 reference standards to detect carcinogenic nitrosamine impurities in pharmaceuticals.
- **Mizoram Megalithic Site Preservation:** Four new megalithic sites—including Reng Puk and Lung Milem in Mamit district—were proposed for central protection under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

7. Awards, Honors & Appointments

- **Sarala Puraskar 2026:** Renowned Odia poet Ashutosh Parida was selected for the 2026 Sarala Puraskar for his lifetime contribution to Odia poetry.
- **National Teachers' Awards 2026:** The Ministry of Education announced 48 awardees for the National Teachers' Award, to be conferred on September 5.

8. Sports & Books

- **Javelin Throw:** Neeraj Chopra secured his place in the 2026 Diamond League Final in Brussels.
- **Memoirs in News:** Penguin Random House India withdrew from publishing Sonia Gandhi's memoir, *Belonging: A Journey of Love in India*.

High-Yield Practice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) authorized which Maharatna PSU to execute ₹9,500 crore LPG pipeline projects spanning 1,800 km?

- A) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
- B) GAIL (India) Limited
- C) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- D) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

• **Answer: B) GAIL (India) Limited**

- **Explanation:** PNGRB authorized GAIL to develop three major LPG trunk pipelines spanning 1,800 km. PNGRB was established under the PNGRB Act, 2006, to regulate midstream and downstream petroleum and natural gas activities.

Q2. Which historical site in India was designated as the country's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site?

- A) Dholavira
- B) Sarnath
- C) Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple
- D) Santiniketan

• **Answer: B) Sarnath**

- **Explanation:** Sarnath, located in Uttar Pradesh, is the site of Gautama Buddha's first sermon (Dhammacakkappavattana). Its inscription brings India's UNESCO World Heritage count to 45.

Q3. India's first public-private JV facility for defense avionics was inaugurated by SHDS in which state?

- A) Telangana
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Haryana
- D) Karnataka

- **Answer: C) Haryana**
- **Explanation:** Samtel HAL Display Systems Limited (SHDS), a joint venture between HAL and Samtel Avionics, established this advanced manufacturing unit at Udyog Vihar, Gurugram, Haryana.

Q4. Who was selected to receive the prestigious Sarala Puraskar 2026 for Odia poetry?

- A) Pratibha Ray
- B) Ashutosh Parida
- C) Sitakant Mahapatra
- D) Ramakanta Rath

- **Answer: B) Ashutosh Parida**
- **Explanation:** Ashutosh Parida won the Sarala Puraskar 2026. The award honors 15th-century poet Sarala Dasa, who translated the Mahabharata into Odia.

1. Books & Authors Which former President of India's autobiography titled "Triumph of the Indian Republic" was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August 2026?

- (A) Ram Nath Kovind
- (B) Pranab Mukherjee
- (C) A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
- (D) Pratibha Patil

- **Answer: (A) Ram Nath Kovind**
- **Explanation:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the autobiography of India's 14th President, Ram Nath Kovind, titled "Triumph of the Indian Republic". The book offers insights into his life, public service journey, constitutional experiences, and reflections on democratic institutions.

2. Appointments & International Relations Who among the following retired Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) officers has been

selected to lead the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute in Mauritius?

- (A) Dr. Bhooma V.G.
- (B) Jaya Varma Sinha
- (C) Rekha Sharma
- (D) Aruna Nayar

- **Answer: (A) Dr. Bhooma V.G.**
- **Explanation:** Dr. Bhooma V.G., a retired IRPS officer, was appointed to lead the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute in Mauritius. This appointment highlights growing educational and institutional partnerships between India and Mauritius.

3. Economics & Banking Which Union Territory has become the first in India to launch a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC / e₹)-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for food subsidies under PMGKAY?

- (A) Puducherry
- (B) Delhi
- (C) Chandigarh
- (D) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- **Answer: (C) Chandigarh**
- **Explanation:** Chandigarh became the first UT in India to roll out full-fledged CBDC-based DBT for food subsidy under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). The initiative leverages the Digital Rupee (e₹) for transparent and direct subsidy transfer.

4. Defense News The 3rd edition of the bilateral joint air exercise 'Udara Shakti 2026' between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) was conducted at which location?

- (A) Kuantan Air Base, Malaysia
- (B) Subang Air Base, Malaysia

- (C) Suwarcha Airfield, India
(D) Butterworth Air Base, Malaysia

- **Answer: (B) Subang Air Base, Malaysia**
- **Explanation:** Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 took place at Subang Air Base, Selangor, Malaysia. IAF deployed Dassault Rafale fighters and Boeing C-17 Globemaster III aircraft to enhance interoperability and operational coordination with RMAF.

5. Sports News India emerged as the Overall Champions at the Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026 held in Lagos, Nigeria, winning how many total medals?

- (A) 25 (B) 30
(C) 35 (D) 40

- **Answer: (C) 35**
- **Explanation:** India topped the overall medal tally at the Commonwealth Fencing Championship in Lagos, Nigeria, securing 35 medals (13 gold, 8 silver, 14 bronze). India also won the prestigious Wilkinson Sword Trophy for best overall performance.

6. National Important Days Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas) is observed across India on which date?

- (A) 12 August
(B) 13 August
(C) 14 August
(D) 15 August

- **Answer: (C) 14 August**
- **Explanation:** Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is observed annually on August 14 to commemorate the victims, displacement, and human suffering endured during the 1947 Partition of India.

7. International Important Days World Lizard Day is celebrated annually on 14 August to highlight which ecological aspect?

- (A) Conservation of endangered amphibians
(B) Role of lizards in ecosystems and pest control
(C) Protection of desert biomes
(D) Prevention of illegal pet trading

- **Answer: (B) Role of lizards in ecosystems and pest control**
- **Explanation:** World Lizard Day (August 14) aims to educate the public about reptile species and their critical role in maintaining ecological balance, particularly through controlling insect and pest populations.

8. International Trade & Economics India signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for negotiating a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with which regional economic organization in August 2026?

- (A) MERCOSUR
(B) Southern African Customs Union (SACU)
(C) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
(D) Bay of Bengal Initiative (BIMSTEC)

- **Answer: (B) Southern African Customs Union (SACU)**
- **Explanation:** The Government of India signed the ToR with SACU (comprising South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and Eswatini) at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, establishing negotiations for market access, rules of origin, and trade facilitation.

9. Banking & Cooperative Sector Which integrated technology platform was launched by NUCFDC during the 'Sahkar Nav-Kranti' programme to empower Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)?

- (A) UCB Tech Connect
- (B) Bank in a Box
- (C) Cooperative Digital Suite
- (D) Sahkar Fintech Cloud

• **Answer: (B) Bank in a Box**

• **Explanation:** National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) launched 'Bank in a Box'. This platform gives small and medium Urban Cooperative Banks access to core banking software, cybersecurity, and modern technology services.

10. Government Schemes & MoUs The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with which institution to foster language AI accessibility across government platforms?

- (A) NITI Aayog
- (B) Union Public Service Commission
- (C) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
- (D) Reserve Bank of India

• **Answer: (A) NITI Aayog**

• **Explanation:** DIBD under MeitY partnered with NITI Aayog to integrate Indian language AI/translation capabilities into key public initiatives, driving digital inclusion across local regional languages.

11. National News & Climate Services Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's 7th Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in which city/region?

- (A) Shimla
- (B) Jammu
- (C) Leh
- (D) Srinagar

• **Answer: (B) Jammu**

• **Explanation:** India's 7th Regional Meteorological Centre was inaugurated in Jammu to strengthen micro-level weather forecasting, early warnings, and climate disaster preparedness for J&K, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh.

12. National News & Parliament How many total Bills were passed by both Houses of Parliament during the Monsoon Session 2026?

- (A) 9
- (B) 12
- (C) 15
- (D) 18

• **Answer: (B) 12**

• **Explanation:** The Monsoon Session 2026 concluded after 19 sittings, during which 12 key legislative Bills were passed by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

13. Awards & Honors Dr. Padma Gurmet was conferred with the UT Ladakh State Award for her contributions to promoting which traditional system of medicine?

- (A) Unani
- (B) Siddha
- (C) Sowa Rigpa
- (D) Homeopathy

• **Answer: (C) Sowa Rigpa**

• **Explanation:** Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director of the National Institute of Sowa Rigpa (Leh), received the award for her lifelong service to preserving Sowa Rigpa—the traditional Himalayan medicine system. She was also awarded the Padma Shri.

14. MoUs & State Affairs Which Indian state signed 97 MoUs worth ₹67,452 crore during its "Vetri Investors Conclave 2026"?

- (A) Karnataka
- (B) Tamil Nadu

- (C) Gujarat
(D) Telangana

- **Answer: (B) Tamil Nadu**
- **Explanation:** Tamil Nadu signed 97 MoUs targeting renewable energy, data centers, automotive, and life sciences sectors, expected to create over 100,000 employment opportunities.

15. Infrastructure & Technology Larsen & Toubro (L&T) secured a contract to construct India's largest single-cluster AI Infrastructure ("AI Factory") in which city?

- (A) Bengaluru
(B) Hyderabad
(C) Chennai
(D) Pune

- **Answer: (C) Chennai**
- **Explanation:** L&T bagged a mega order to construct India's largest single-cluster AI factory at Vyoma's data-center campus in Chennai, supporting 10,000 NVIDIA B300 GPUs.

16. Sports News (Tennis) Who won the Men's Singles title at the 2026 Canadian Open Tennis Tournament in Montreal?

- (A) Ben Shelton
(B) Carlos Alcaraz
(C) Jannik Sinner
(D) Alexander Zverev

- **Answer: (A) Ben Shelton**
- **Explanation:** American tennis star Ben Shelton claimed the Men's Singles title at the Canadian Open in Montreal.

17. Sports News (Tennis) Who won the Women's Singles title at the 2026 Canadian Open Tennis Tournament in Toronto?

- (A) Aryna Sabalenka
(B) Iga Swiatek
(C) Coco Gauff
(D) Elena Rybakina

- **Answer: (B) Iga Swiatek**
- **Explanation:** World No. 1 Iga Swiatek secured the Women's Singles Canadian Open trophy in Toronto.

18. Art & Culture / Textiles What was the central theme of "IIHT SUTRA 2026", the first national conclave of Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology?

- (A) Sustainable Weaving for Global Markets
(B) IIHTs: Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector – Educate. Innovate
(C) Vocal for Local: Handloom Revolution
(D) Empowering Artisans Through Digital Looms

- **Answer: (B) IIHTs: Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector – Educate. Innovate**
- **Explanation:** Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated IIHT SUTRA 2026 in New Delhi, focusing on handloom education, innovation, and skill modernization under this theme.

19. Brand Appointments Jewellery brand 'Indriya' (Aditya Birla Group) appointed which actor as its Brand Ambassador for Southern Indian markets?

- (A) Rashmika Mandanna
(B) Krithi Shetty
(C) Keerthy Suresh
(D) Sai Pallavi

- **Answer: (B) Krithi Shetty**

Explanation: Actor Krithi Shetty was named regional brand ambassador for Indriya to strengthen market footprint across South India.

20. International Organizations The 8th BRICS Oceanic and Polar Science Working Group Meeting was held in which Indian state/UT?

- (A) Kerala
- (B) Goa
- (C) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- (D) Puducherry

Answer: (B) Goa

Explanation: India hosted scientist delegations from BRICS nations in Goa to collaborate on oceanographic monitoring, polar research, and climate response strategies.

21. Governance & Census The notification issued for the second phase of Population Census 2027 contains how many structured questions for enumeration?

- (A) 30
- (B) 35
- (C) 40
- (D) 45

Answer: (C) 40

Explanation: The Government notified 40 questions for Phase II of Census 2027, covering socio-economic indicators, digital access, and for the first time in post-independence history, caste details.

22. MoUs & Cybersecurity NUCFDC exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which premier university to boost digital forensics capabilities for Urban Cooperative Banks?

- (A) National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)
- (B) Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)
- (C) IIT Delhi

(D) Amity University

Answer: (A) National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)

Explanation: The partnership provides UCBs access to specialized cybersecurity audit frameworks, incident response tools, and digital forensic support.

23. Books & Authors / Banking Who authored the book "Operational Risk Management – A Practical Guide to Urban Co-operative Banks"?

- (A) G. P. Mistry
- (B) Shaktikanta Das
- (C) N. S. Vishwanathan
- (D) M. Rajeshwar Rao

Answer: (A) G. P. Mistry

Explanation: Authored by former RBI DGM G. P. Mistry, the book outlines operational risk mitigations tailored specifically for urban cooperative banking frameworks.

24. Birth Anniversaries & Important Days National Library Day in India is celebrated to honor the birth anniversary of which legend?

- (A) Rabindranath Tagore
- (B) Padma Shri S. R. Ranganathan
- (C) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- (D) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

Answer: (B) Padma Shri S. R. Ranganathan

Explanation: Dr. S. R. Ranganathan is considered the father of library science in India. His birth anniversary is marked as National Library Day.

25. Art & Culture Which initiative was organized by the Ministry of Textiles to honor women handloom weavers and their heritage contributions?

- (A) Srijan: Voices from the Loom
- (B) Nari Shakti Vastra

(C) Hastkala Samagam

(D) Karighar Samman

Answer: (A) Srijan: Voices from the Loom

Explanation: 'Srijan: Voices from the Loom' celebrated women artisans, recognizing their role in sustaining India's traditional weaving traditions.

26. Defense & Shipbuilding Which Indian shipyard executed the delivery protocol of export vessel 'MS Heinz'?

(A) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

(B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

(C) Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)

(D) Goa Shipyard Limited

Answer: (C) Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)

Explanation: CSL executed the official delivery and acceptance protocol for European commercial vessel clients under international shipbuilding contracts.

27. International Security The United Arab Emirates strongly condemned drone and vessel strikes in which strategic global maritime bottleneck in August 2026?

(A) Strait of Malacca

(B) Strait of Hormuz

(C) Bab-el-Mandeb

(D) Suez Canal

Answer: (B) Strait of Hormuz

Explanation: The UAE Foreign Ministry cited violations of UN Security Council resolutions following attacks on commercial oil vessels near the Strait of Hormuz.

28. Sports Awards Which trophy did the Indian fencing squad receive for winning top honors at the Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026?

(A) Prince Philip Cup

(B) Wilkinson Sword Trophy

(C) Commonwealth Shield

(D) Britannia Trophy

Answer: (B) Wilkinson Sword Trophy

Explanation: Awarded by the Commonwealth Fencing Federation, the Wilkinson Sword Trophy was presented to India for achieving first place in the overall standings.

29. Government Schemes & Rural Libraries Vans funded under which scheme were deployed to support book delivery to village libraries under the 'Gramin Gyan Setu' network?

(A) PM-GSY

(B) MPLADS

(C) SVAMITVA

(D) PM-KISAN

Answer: (B) MPLADS

Explanation: Vans funded by MPLADS (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) visit villages fortnightly to distribute and collect books requested via digital library apps.

30. Awards & Honors The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna) carries a cash prize of how much?

(A) ₹1 Lakh

(B) ₹2 Lakh

(C) ₹3 Lakh

(D) ₹5 Lakh

Answer: (C) ₹3 Lakh

Explanation: The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship carries a cash prize of ₹3 Lakh along with a Tamrapatra and Angavastram, whereas the Akademi Award carries ₹1 Lakh.