

International News

- **Ugandan Diplomat Joins UN Secretary-General Race:**
 - **News:** Former UN diplomat Olara Otunnu (Uganda) has officially entered the race to succeed the current UN Secretary-General.
 - **Exam Relevance:** Important for questions on international bodies, global governance, and official candidacies for the UN leadership post.
- **Iran-US Ceasefire Dialogue:**
 - **News:** Iran announced a temporary halt on retaliatory strikes contingent upon the continuation of the US bombing pause in West Asia, leading to a temporary drop in crude oil benchmark prices.
- **Gordonia/Detroit International Bridge Opening:**
 - **News:** The new Gordie Howe International Bridge connecting Detroit (USA) and Windsor (Canada) officially opened for operational testing despite ongoing trade tariff discussions between both nations.

- **Higher Penalties:** Minimum jail term increased to **5 years** (up to 10 years) with fines up to **₹50 lakh** for individual offenders. Service providers facing fraud charges face fines up to **₹5 crore**, while organized paper-leak syndicates attract up to **₹10 crore fine** and **10 years imprisonment**.
- **National Exam Reform Task Force:** Government announced a high-level task force headed by **Nandan Nilekani** to recommend structural examination reforms.
- **Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme:**
 - **Overview:** Anchored under the **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)** by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
 - **Objective:** Identifies idle local assets and untapped resources in Gram Panchayats to convert them into bankable, revenue-generating local projects.

Economics, Banking & Finance

- **RBI Special Forex Mobilization Drive:**
 - **News:** RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra announced that the central bank's special foreign exchange drive successfully attracted **\$32 billion**, significantly boosting India's foreign exchange reserves.
- **CAFE III (Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency) Emission Norms:**
 - **Overview:** Proposed stricter carbon emission standards targeting vehicle manufacturing OEMs. Includes carbon buyout prices set between ₹2,500 and ₹4,500 per gCO₂/km.
- **Shriram Finance Strategy:**

National News & Governance

- **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026:**
 - **Key Provisions:**
 - **Investigation Deadline:** Police/STF must complete investigations into paper leak cases within **2 months**.
 - **Fast-Track Trials:** Special fast-track courts must conduct trials on a day-to-day basis and complete them within **3 months** of chargesheet filing.

- Aiming to double its gold loan portfolio share to **5%** over the next three years to capture rising retail demand for secured gold credit.

Sports

- **Commonwealth Games 2026 (Glasgow):**
- **Mirabai Chanu:** Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won the **Gold Medal** in women's weightlifting.
- **Chanambam Rishikanta Singh:** Opened India's medal tally with a record-breaking **Silver Medal** in men's weightlifting.
- **Raja Muthupandi:** Secured a **Silver Medal** in the 65 kg weightlifting category.
- **ISSF Shooting World Cup (Hangzhou):**
- **Esha Singh** won Gold, while **Manu Bhaker** claimed Bronze in the pistol events.
- **WSF World Junior Squash Championship:**
- **Anahat Singh** clinched the World Junior Squash title, becoming one of the youngest Indians to win the championship.

Appointments & Resignations

- **Ministry of Education Charge:**
- **Resignation:** Dharmendra Pradhan resigned as Union Minister of Education following nationwide student protests over competitive exam irregularities.
- **New Charge:** President Droupadi Murmu assigned additional charge of the **Ministry of Education** to Union Cabinet Minister Pralhad Joshi.

Defense & Space Technology

- **Kavach 5 Train Protection System:**
- **Deployment:** Indian Railways commenced field deployment of the updated **Kavach 5** Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system across the Mumbai suburban rail network.

CERN Large Hadron Collider (LS3):

- **News:** CERN officially paused the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) for **Long Shutdown 3 (LS3)**.
- **Upgrade:** A \$1.5 billion upgrade will transform it into the **High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC)** to increase collision rates dramatically.

NASA PRAXIS Mission & Skyroot Vikram-1:

- NASA advanced preparations for the **PRAXIS** space science mission, while Skyroot Aerospace finalized launch parameters for the commercial orbital flight of the **Vikram-1** rocket.

Government Schemes & MoUs

DWEEPTI Yojana:

- **Theme:** Women-led clean energy initiative.
- **Objective:** Promotes rooftop solar and decentralized renewable energy deployment through Self-Help Group (SHG) federations and Panchayats. Aligned with the **Lakshmi Didi** scheme for rural women's financial empowerment.

Important Days & Anniversaries (28th July)

- **World Hepatitis Day (28 July):**
- **Theme Focus:** Scaling up screening, prevention, and treatment.
- **Nodal Program in India:** *National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP)* (launched in 2018).
- **Medical Fact:** Hepatitis B is vaccine-preventable under India's *Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)*, whereas Hepatitis C currently has **no vaccine** but is curable via Direct-Acting Antivirals (DAAs).
- **World Nature Conservation Day (28 July):**

- Observed globally to raise awareness about conserving natural resources and protecting ecosystems.

Art, Culture & Geography Focus

- **Mahanadi River Basin (Prelims Focus):**
 - **Origin:** Sihawa mountains in Dhamtari district, Chhattisgarh.
 - **Flow:** Flows through Chhattisgarh and Odisha into the Bay of Bengal.
 - **Major Tributaries:** Seonath, Hasdeo, Mand, Ib (Left Bank); Ong, Tel, Jonk (Right Bank).
 - **Major Infrastructure:** Hirakud Dam (one of the longest earthen dams in the world).

National News

Q1. The Government of India constituted a six-member high-powered task force to recommend comprehensive reforms to India's examination system. Who among the following heads this task force?

- A) S. Somanath
- B) Nandan Nilekani
- C) V. Kamakoti
- D) Tapan Deka

Answer: B) Nandan Nilekani

Explanation:

The Union Government announced the constitution of a six-member high-powered task force under the leadership of Infosys co-founder **Nandan Nilekani**. The task force has been mandated to recommend comprehensive structural and technological reforms to India's public examination ecosystem. Other distinguished members of the panel include Former ISRO Chairman S. Somanath, Director of IIT Madras V. Kamakoti, Intelligence Bureau

Chief Tapan Deka, along with former senior bureaucrats Anita Karwal and Amrit Lal Meena.

Q2. Under the proposed Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill 2026, what is the maximum punishment proposed for in-charge personnel involved in organized paper leaks?

- A) Up to 5 years imprisonment and ₹1 crore fine
- B) Up to 7 years imprisonment and ₹2 crore fine
- C) Up to 10 years imprisonment and ₹5 crore fine
- D) Life imprisonment and ₹10 crore fine

Answer: C) Up to 10 years imprisonment and ₹5 crore fine

Explanation:

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill 2026 introduces stringent measures to curb malpractice, paper leaks, and organized cheating in competitive examinations. For in-charge personnel or authorities found guilty of involvement in leaks or institutional malpractice, the proposed legislation enhances penalties to **5 to 10 years of imprisonment** and a fine of up to **₹5 crore**.

Q3. Who among the following has been given additional charge as the Union Minister of Education following the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan?

- A) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- B) Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi
- C) Mansukh Mandaviya
- D) Piyush Goyal

Answer: B) Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi

Explanation:

Union Minister **Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi**—who holds the portfolios of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and New & Renewable

Energy—has been given the additional charge as the Union Minister of Education following the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan.

Q4. Under the guidelines issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), what is the general distance restriction for developing new dry ports relative to seaports?

- A) Within 50 km
- B) Within 100 km
- C) Within 200 km
- D) Within 500 km

Answer: C) Within 200 km

Explanation:

According to CBIC guidelines, the development of new dry ports (Inland Container Depots - ICDs) is generally restricted to **within 200 km of seaports or 100 km of existing inland depots** to ensure optimal supply chain routing and prevent resource duplication. Explicit relaxations are granted for inland states or high-traffic trade corridors.

Art, Culture & UNESCO World Heritage

Q5. Which ancient Indian site was officially inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea, becoming India's 45th World Heritage Site?

- A) Rakhigarhi
- B) Sarnath
- C) Lothal
- D) Mandu

Answer: B) Sarnath

Explanation:

The **Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath** in Uttar Pradesh was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 48th session of the

World Heritage Committee (WHC) held in Busan, South Korea. With this inclusion, Sarnath became **India's 45th World Heritage Site**. Sarnath is historically significant as the venue where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon (*Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta*) after achieving enlightenment.

Q6. Unjha, recently highlighted as a major agricultural trade hub contributing nearly 80% to India's seed-spice exports, is located in which state?

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

Answer: C) Gujarat

Explanation:

Unjha, situated in the Mehsana district of North Gujarat, is recognized as Asia's largest trading hub for seed spices (including cumin, fennel, and coriander). The state of Gujarat accounts for nearly 80% of India's total seed-spice exports.

International News & MoUs

Q7. India and Romania declared which year as the "India-Romania Year of Innovation" to mark 80 years of diplomatic relations?

- A) 2026
- B) 2027
- C) 2028
- D) 2030

Answer: C) 2028

Explanation:

During high-level bilateral engagements between India and Romania, both nations signed three MoUs in science & technology, education, and sports. To mark the milestone of

80 years of diplomatic relations, both countries officially declared 2028 as the "India–Romania Year of Innovation".

Q8. Which city hosted the 3rd BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) under the chairmanship of India's MoS for Home Affairs?

- A) Moscow, Russia
- B) Beijing, China
- C) New Delhi, India
- D) Brasilia, Brazil

Answer: C) New Delhi, India

Explanation:

India hosted the **3rd BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai. The forum focused on cross-border disaster resilience, climate adaptation, and joint emergency response frameworks.

Q9. India unveiled the "3Ts Roadmap" during recent bilateral diplomatic engagements to deepen international partnership. What do the 3Ts stand for?

- A) Trade, Transport, and Tourism
- B) Trade, Technology, and Talent
- C) Tax, Tariff, and Trade
- D) Training, Technology, and Telecommunication

Answer: B) Trade, Technology, and Talent

Explanation:

India unveiled the **3Ts Roadmap**—standing for **Trade, Technology, and Talent**—as a strategic framework to expand economic cooperation, technology transfer, and skilled workforce mobility with partner nations.

Economics & Banking

Q10. National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched India's first exchange-traded domestic benchmark-based derivative contract in which commodity?

- A) Crude Oil
- B) Indian Natural Gas
- C) High-Grade Copper
- D) Agricultural Wheat

Answer: B) Indian Natural Gas

Explanation:

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) launched the '**Indian Natural Gas Futures**', making it India's first domestic benchmark-linked exchange-traded energy derivative. Trading in these futures officially commenced on July 27–28, 2026, providing energy firms with a localized hedging mechanism.

Q11. Which fintech infrastructure startup received approval from Bharat Connect (formerly BBPS) to operate as a Customer Operating Unit (COU)?

- A) Razorpay
- B) VIYONA Fintech
- C) Pine Labs
- D) PhonePe

Answer: B) VIYONA Fintech

Explanation:

VIYONA Fintech, a fintech infrastructure startup, secured official approval from Bharat Connect (formerly Bharat Bill Payment System - BBPS) to function as a **Customer Operating Unit (COU)**. This allows non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), banks, and enterprises to integrate interoperable bill payments through VIYONA's stack.

Q12. According to data cited from the IEA Global EV Outlook 2026, what was the approximate penetration rate of electric vehicles in total new passenger car sales in India in 2025?

- A) 4%
- B) 15%
- C) 27%
- D) 55%

Answer: A) 4%

Explanation:

According to the IEA Global EV Outlook 2026 report, electric vehicles represented approximately 4% of total new passenger car sales in India in 2025. By comparison, EV market penetration reached nearly 55% in China, 27% in the European Union, and 10% in the United States.

Q13. According to RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, how much foreign exchange capital was mobilized under the Special Forex Mobilisation Drive?

- A) \$10 billion
- B) \$20 billion
- C) \$32 billion
- D) \$50 billion

Answer: C) \$32 billion

Explanation:

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra announced that India's special foreign exchange mobilization drive successfully attracted **\$32 billion**, significantly boosting the national foreign exchange reserves.

Sports News

Q14. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won her third consecutive Commonwealth Games Gold Medal in which sport?

- A) Archery
- B) Boxing
- C) Weightlifting
- D) Shooting

Answer: C) Weightlifting

Explanation:

Star athlete **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** won her **third consecutive gold medal** in women's weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games, cementing her status as one of India's most celebrated lifters.

Q15. Sarvesh Kushare created history at the Commonwealth Games 2026 by becoming the first Indian athlete to win a silver medal in which track & field event?

- A) Men's Long Jump
- B) Men's High Jump
- C) Men's Triple Jump
- D) Men's Javelin Throw

Answer: B) Men's High Jump

Explanation:

National record holder **Sarvesh Kushare** cleared **2.25m** to become the **first Indian athlete to win a silver medal in the Men's High Jump** at the Commonwealth Games. Previously, Tejaswin Shankar had won a bronze medal in 2022.

Q16. Who became the first Indian squash player to win the World Junior Squash Championship?

- A) Joshna Chinappa
- B) Anahat Singh
- C) Dipika Pallikal
- D) Tanvi Khanna

Answer: B) Anahat Singh

Explanation:

Young squash prodigy **Anahat Singh** scripted history by becoming the **first Indian ever to win the World Junior Squash Championship**, marking a watershed moment for Indian racket sports.

Q17. Indian shooter Esha Singh won the Gold Medal in which discipline at the ISSF World Cup?

- A) Women's 10m Air Rifle
- B) Women's 10m Air Pistol
- C) Women's 25m Pistol
- D) 50m Rifle 3 Positions

Answer: C) Women's 25m Pistol

Explanation:

Esha Singh clinched the **Gold Medal in the Women's 25m Pistol** event at the ISSF World Cup, displaying high precision and stability under pressure.

Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q18. What is the primary objective of the DWEEPTI Yojana highlighted under women-led governance initiatives?

- A) Providing free higher education to girl students
- B) Facilitating rural women-led decentralized solar and clean energy enterprises
- C) Providing subsidized smartphones to rural self-help group leaders
- D) Direct cash transfers to pregnant women

Answer: B) Facilitating rural women-led decentralized solar and clean energy enterprises

Explanation:

The **DWEEPTI Yojana** is a women-led clean energy initiative aimed at empowering self-help groups (SHGs) and rural women to establish

decentralized solar projects and renewable infrastructure. The program supports the broader **Lakshpati Didi** vision by promoting sustainable green livelihoods.

Q19. The Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme is an initiative implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj anchored under which scheme?

- A) PM-KISAN
- B) Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)
- C) MGNREGA
- D) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM)

Answer: B) Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)

Explanation:

The **Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme** is an initiative led by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and anchored under the **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**. It aids Gram Panchayats and Block Panchayats in identifying underutilized local public assets and converting them into bankable, revenue-generating projects.

Q20. What is the total budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in the Union Budget 2026-27?

- A) ₹1,219.00 crore
- B) ₹2,500.00 crore
- C) ₹4,479.88 crore
- D) ₹6,000.00 crore

Answer: C) ₹4,479.88 crore

Explanation:

The Union Budget 2026-27 allocated a record **₹4,479.88 crore** to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, a significant increase from ₹1,219 crore allocated in 2013-14. This fund expansion supports schemes like Khelo India and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

Defense & Security News

Q21. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) observed its 87th Foundation Day. When was the force originally established as the "Crown Representative's Police"?

- A) 1935
- B) 1939
- C) 1947
- D) 1950

Answer: B) 1939

Explanation:

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was originally established on July 27, 1939, as the **Crown Representative's Police**. Post-independence, it was renamed the Central Reserve Police Force via the CRPF Act enacted on December 28, 1949.

Q22. Indian Railways began deploying which upgraded indigenous Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system on the Mumbai suburban rail network?

- A) Kavach 3.0
- B) Kavach 5.0
- C) Raksha Kavach
- D) TrainGuard 2.0

Answer: B) Kavach 5.0

Explanation:

Indian Railways commenced the field deployment of its upgraded **Kavach 5** Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system across the dense Mumbai suburban rail system to enhance operational safety and prevent signal passing at danger (SPAD) incidents.

Reports, Books & Publications

Q23. Which segment of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry released the Whitepaper

titled "Women in Innovation, Science & Entrepreneurship (WISE)"?

- A) BRICS Legal Cell
- B) BRICS Youth Forum
- C) BRICS CCI WE (Women Empowerment)
- D) BRICS Sustainable Finance Committee

Answer: C) BRICS CCI WE (Women Empowerment)

Explanation:

The Women Empowerment segment of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI WE) released a Whitepaper titled **"Women in Innovation, Science & Entrepreneurship (WISE): Challenges and Opportunities"**. It provides a roadmap for increasing female participation in STEM fields and technology entrepreneurship across BRICS nations.

Q24. Which central public enterprise under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas signed an MoU with CSIR-IMMT Bhubaneswar for technology development in critical minerals?

- A) ONGC
- B) Engineers India Limited (EIL)
- C) HPCL
- D) GAIL India

Answer: B) Engineers India Limited (EIL)

Explanation:

Engineers India Limited (EIL), a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (**CSIR-IMMT**), Bhubaneswar, to collaborate on critical minerals and metallurgical process development.



Environment, Science & Technology

Q25. Giant thunderstorm clouds formed by intense, high-temperature wildfires that inject smoke and moisture into the stratosphere are known as:

- A) Cumulonimbus Arc
- B) Pyrocumulonimbus / Fire Clouds
- C) Noctilucent Clouds
- D) Lenticular Clouds

Answer: B) Pyrocumulonimbus / Fire Clouds

Explanation:

"Fire Clouds" (technically known as *pyrocumulonimbus clouds*) are extreme thunderstorm clouds generated by the intense heat and rising plumes from massive wildfires. NASA refers to these phenomena as the "*fire-breathing dragon of clouds*" because they can send smoke particles into the stratosphere.

Q26. Why did CERN switch off the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) near Geneva for its 4-year "Long Shutdown 3" (LS3)?

- A) Decommissioning the collider permanently
- B) Upgrading the hardware into High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC)
- C) Relocating the collider tunnel to a new geography
- D) Testing cosmic particle interference

Answer: B) Upgrading the hardware into High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC)

Explanation:

CERN officially paused operations of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) near Geneva to begin its 4-year **Long Shutdown 3 (LS3)**. This \$1.5 billion hardware overhaul will convert the particle accelerator into the **High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC)**, expanding its collision rate data output.

Q27. What is the geographic origin of the Mahanadi River, which flows through Chhattisgarh and Odisha into the Bay of Bengal?

- A) Mahabaleshwar Hills
- B) Sihawa hill range in Dhamtari district
- C) Amarkantak Plateau
- D) Trimbakeshwar

Answer: B) Sihawa hill range in Dhamtari district

Explanation:

The **Mahanadi River** originates in the **Sihawa hill range in the Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh**. It flows across eastern Chhattisgarh into Odisha before draining into the Bay of Bengal at False Point near Paradip.

Important Days & Health Initiatives

Q28. When is the "International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem" observed globally?

- A) July 22
- B) July 26
- C) July 28
- D) July 30

Answer: B) July 26

Explanation:

The **International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem** is observed annually on **July 26** (with 2026 marking its 11th year of observance). It highlights the importance of mangrove coastal ecosystems as natural storm buffers and carbon sinks.

Q29. World Hepatitis Day is observed every year on July 28 to commemorate the birth anniversary of which Nobel Laureate?

- A) Dr. Robert Koch
- B) Dr. Baruch Blumberg

C) Dr. Alexander Fleming

D) Dr. Edward Jenner

Answer: B) Dr. Baruch Blumberg

Explanation:

World Hepatitis Day is observed annually on **July 28**. The date commemorates the birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate **Dr. Baruch Blumberg**, who discovered the Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed the first diagnostic test and vaccine for it.

Q30. World Nature Conservation Day is observed globally on which date every year?

A) July 15

B) July 22

C) July 28

D) August 5

Answer: C) July 28

Explanation:

World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated worldwide on **July 28** to raise public awareness about preserving natural resources, flora, fauna, and maintaining ecological balance for future generations.

