

## Part 1: International News

**Q1. The 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (QFMM) was recently in the news. Which of the following major initiatives was launched during this summit to bolster regional security?**

- [A] Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC)
- [B] Quad Ocean Conservation Pact
- [C] Malabar Digital Security Initiative
- [D] Indo-Pacific Counter-Terrorism Grid

**Correct Answer: [A] Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC)**

**Detailed Explanation:** The 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (QFMM) concluded with the landmark launch of the **Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC)**. This framework is designed to integrate satellite data, radar networks, and civil-military cooperation to counter illegal fishing, track dark vessels, and ensure maritime domain awareness across the Indo-Pacific. Additionally, ministers introduced the *Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security* to build resilient green energy grids in partner countries.

**Q2. The Belgorod Region, which recently faced severe missile and drone strikes damaging its energy infrastructure, is located in which country?**

- [A] Ukraine
- [B] Russia
- [C] Belarus
- [D] Kazakhstan

**Correct Answer: [B] Russia**

**Detailed Explanation:** The **Belgorod Oblast (Region)** is located in southwestern Russia, sharing a vital and heavily contested border

with Ukraine along the upper Donets River. In May 2026, the region witnessed widespread drone and missile strikes targeting electrical grids. Geopolitically and economically, Belgorod is a crucial hub for Moscow as it produces nearly one-third of Russia's total iron ore output.

**Q3. India recently dispatched emergency medical and pharmaceutical supplies to counter a severe outbreak of which disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)?**

- [A] Marburg Virus
- [B] Mpox (Clade I)
- [C] Ebola (Bundibugyo strain)
- [D] Lassa Fever

**Correct Answer: [C] Ebola (Bundibugyo strain)**

**Detailed Explanation:** On May 28, 2026, the Government of India dispatched emergency pharmaceutical supplies, diagnostics, and case-management therapeutics to the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** following an official appeal via the Africa CDC. The medical intervention explicitly targets the **Bundibugyo outbreak of the Ebola virus** raging in the central African corridor, reflecting India's status as the "Pharmacy of the World" and its commitments to global health security.

## Part 2: National News

**Q4. Which Indian state has recently been officially declared a "Fully Literate State" under the Union Government's ULLAS initiative?**

- [A] Mizoram
- [B] Sikkim
- [C] Kerala
- [D] Goa

**Correct Answer: [B] Sikkim**

**Detailed Explanation:** Sikkim achieved a monumental governance milestone when it was officially declared a **fully literate state** under the **ULLAS** (*Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society*) initiative. The announcement was formalized in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu during the convocation ceremony of Sikkim University in Gangtok. The ULLAS initiative targets bridging the functional literacy gap among citizens aged 15 and above who missed formal schooling.

**Q5. Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently directed the strict implementation of a "zero tolerance" policy and ordered the demolition of all illegal structures within what distance from the International Border?**

- [A] 5 km
- [B] 10 km
- [C] 15 km
- [D] 20 km

**Correct Answer:** [C] 15 km

**Detailed Explanation:** Chairing a high-level security review meeting in Bikaner along the India-Pakistan border, Union Home Minister Amit Shah directed border state administrations to enforce a zero-tolerance policy against illegal encroachments. He ordered the systematic **demolition of all unauthorized structural setups built within 15 km of the country's international borders**. This directive aims to secure the tactical operational zone of border guarding forces like the BSF.

**Q6. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has recently introduced an administrative reform for the first time in the history of the Civil Services Examination (CSE). What is this reform?**

- [A] Complete transition to a computer-based online Prelims exam

[B] Release of a Provisional Answer Key for the Preliminary Examination with a window for representations

[C] Elimination of optional papers from the Civil Services Mains structure

[D] Introducing a mandatory psychological profiling round before the interview

**Correct Answer:** [B] Release of a Provisional Answer Key for the Preliminary Examination with a window for representations

**Detailed Explanation:** Breaking away from its historical convention of releasing answer keys only after the final results are declared, the UPSC for the first time released a **Provisional Answer Key** for the Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2026. Candidates are provided a strict window (till May 31, 2026) to raise institutional representations via the Online Question Paper Representation Portal (OQPRP), backed by explanations from at least three authentic academic sources.

**Q7. The PAIMANA Portal, which was recently highlighted for tracking central infrastructure projects worth nearly ₹43 lakh crore, is operated by which Ministry?**

- [A] Ministry of Finance
- [B] Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- [C] Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- [D] Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Correct Answer:** [C] Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

**Detailed Explanation:** PAIMANA stands for *Project Assessment Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-Building*. Operated by MoSPI, it has replaced the legacy OCMS-2006 platform. The portal monitors mega central sector infrastructure projects costing ₹150

crore and above. It utilizes the “one data, one entry” governance standard to eliminate data redundancy and prevent cost and time overruns.

### Part 3: Economics and Banking

**Q8. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) launched the *MoRE* scheme during its 37th Foundation Day. What does *MoRE* stand for, and what is its primary target?**

- [A] Modernisation of Rural Enterprises; aimed at modernising 10,000 rural micro and artisanal units
- [B] Mobilisation of Regional Economy; aimed at supporting urban startups
- [C] Monetary Relief for Entrepreneurs; aimed at corporate debt restructuring
- [D] Management of Rural Employment; aimed at agricultural labor mapping

**Correct Answer:** [A] Modernisation of Rural Enterprises; aimed at modernising 10,000 rural micro and artisanal units

**Detailed Explanation:** During its 37th Foundation Day celebrations in Mumbai, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman rolled out a trifecta of SIDBI portals. Among them, **MoRE (Modernisation of Rural Enterprises)** aims to technically and structurally upgrade **10,000 rural micro-enterprises and traditional artisanal clusters** between 2026 and 2029. Alongside MoRE, SIDBI launched *MachFin Mart* (for streamlined machinery co-financing) and the *RRB Co-Lending Portal*.

**Q9. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued final directions establishing a mandatory "cooling-off period" for directors of UCBs and RCBs after completing a specific continuous tenure. What is this cooling-off period and maximum continuous tenure?**

- [A] 2-year cooling-off after 5 years of tenure
- [B] 3-year cooling-off after 10 years of tenure
- [C] 1-year cooling-off after 8 years of tenure
- [D] 5-year cooling-off after 15 years of tenure

**Correct Answer:** [B] 3-year cooling-off after 10 years of tenure

**Detailed Explanation:** To improve corporate governance structures in the cooperative banking ecosystem, the **RBI mandated a 3-year cooling-off period** for directors of **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** and **Rural Co-operative Banks (RCBs)** who complete **10 years of continuous board tenure**. During this cooling-off period, such individuals cannot be appointed or associated with the bank in any administrative or advisory capacity.

**Q10. According to data released in late May 2026, India's seafood exports touched an all-time financial record in FY25-26. What was the valuation of these exports?**

- [A] ₹52,110 crore
- [B] ₹61,450 crore
- [C] ₹72,325.82 crore
- [D] ₹85,000 crore

**Correct Answer:** [C] ₹72,325.82 crore

**Detailed Explanation:** Driven by a massive surge in international demand for frozen shrimp and cuttlefish, India's seafood exports registered an **all-time historical high of ₹72,325.82 crore (approx. USD 8.28 billion)** during FY2025-26. Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) data confirmed that export volumes peaked at a record 19.32 lakh Metric Tonnes (MT).

**Q11. In May 2026, the Indian Rupee (INR) faced renewed depreciation pressures against the US**

**Dollar (USD) in the foreign exchange market, breaching which psychological threshold?**

- [A] ₹88 per USD
- [B] ₹92 per USD
- [C] ₹96 per USD
- [D] ₹100 per USD

**Correct Answer: [C] ₹96 per USD**

**Detailed Explanation:** Driven by widening merchandise trade deficits, elevated global crude oil pricing cycles, and systemic capital outflows from emerging markets, the **Indian Rupee crossed the psychological low of ₹96 per US Dollar** in May 2026. This stark depreciation triggered active foreign exchange market interventions by the RBI via dollar-selling operations to curb excessive intra-day volatility.

## Part 4: Sports Governance and News

**Q12. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) recently notified the NSB Rules, 2026 and NST Rules, 2026. Under which parent legislation were these structural rules framed?**

- [A] National Sports Code 2011
- [B] National Sports Governance Act, 2025
- [C] Sports Authority of India Structural Reforms Act 2024
- [D] Khelo India Institutionalization Bill 2025

**Correct Answer: [B] National Sports Governance Act, 2025**

**Detailed Explanation:** To streamline corporate governance, accountability, and eliminate nepotism in national sports federations, MYAS notified the **National Sports Board (NSB) Rules, 2026** and the **National Sports Tribunal (NST) Rules, 2026**. These rules derive their legal mandate from the pathbreaking **National Sports**

**Governance Act, 2025.** The NST will serve as an independent statutory dispute-resolution mechanism for athletes, bypassing prolonged civil court litigations.

**Q13. Italian tennis sensation Jannik Sinner was recently in the news for winning which major ATP Masters 1000 clay-court title ahead of the French Open?**

- [A] Monte Carlo Masters
- [B] Madrid Open
- [C] Italian Open
- [D] Miami Open

**Correct Answer: [B] Madrid Open**

**Detailed Explanation:** Continuing his dominant run in the 2026 ATP tour tennis circuit, world-class player **Jannik Sinner clinched the prestigious Madrid Open title.** This clay-court championship victory solidifies his technical seeding and momentum building up toward the Roland Garros (French Open) Grand Slam tournament.

## Part 5: Appointments

**Q14. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently approved the appointment of Amit Mahajan and Nayana Ovalekar as Executive Directors (EDs) on the board of which market infrastructure institution?**

- [A] National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- [B] Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- [C] Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL)
- [D] National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL)

**Correct Answer: [C] Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL)**

**Detailed Explanation:** SEBI formally cleared the high-level appointments of Amit Mahajan and Nayana Ovalekar as Executive Directors on the board of CDSL. Concurrently, structural appointments occurred across other market networks: BSE appointed Saurabh Shukla and Gopalan S. Raghavan as EDs for its distinct operational verticals, while NSDL brought in Subhash Kelkar and Ankit Sharma as its new Executive Directors.

**Q15. Who has been appointed as India's new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), succeeding outgoing CDS General Anil Chauhan?**

- [A] Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
- [B] Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani
- [C] General Upendra Dwivedi
- [D] Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

**Correct Answer:** [B] Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani

**Detailed Explanation:** In a major top-tier military transition, Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani has been appointed as India's new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). He takes over the mantle from outgoing CDS General Anil Chauhan. The CDS acts as the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC) and serves as the principal military advisor to the Ministry of Defence, spearheading the ongoing theatre command integration.

## Part 6: Awards and Honors

**Q16. Which prestigious international aerospace accolade was conferred upon Indian space scientists and administrators in May 2026 for breakthrough contributions to astronautics?**

- [A] Von Karman Award
- [B] 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award
- [C] Carl Sagan Memorial Award

[D] Wright Brothers Trophy

**Correct Answer:** [B] 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award

**Detailed Explanation:** Highlighting India's soaring global stature in outer space exploration, planetary tracking, and low-cost satellite launch capabilities, the premier aerospace community conferred the **2026 Goddard Astronautics Award** upon Indian space elements. The award recognizes the structural successes of India's recent deep-space telemetry and lunar/solar observation initiatives.

**Q17. The Clean and Green Panchayat Award was recently conferred upon the Kawrthah North Village Council. This award-winning local body is situated in which state?**

- [A] Nagaland
- [B] Arunachal Pradesh
- [C] Mizoram
- [D] Meghalaya

**Correct Answer:** [C] Mizoram

**Detailed Explanation:** Under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) frameworks operated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the **Kawrthah North Village Council in Mizoram** was awarded the prestigious national 'Clean and Green Panchayat Award'. The local self-government unit demonstrated outstanding metrics in community waste segregation, complete elimination of single-use plastics, and decentralized solar grid adoptions.

## Part 7: Defense News and Joint Ventures

**Q18. Indian defense manufacturer Nibe Group has recently entered into a strategic Joint Venture (JV) with which international defense**

**major to establish advanced energetic materials and propellant manufacturing plants in India?**

- [A] Dassault Aviation (France)
- [B] Elbit Systems (Israel)
- [C] Lockheed Martin (USA)
- [D] Rosoboronexport (Russia)

**Correct Answer: [B] Elbit Systems (Israel)**

**Detailed Explanation:** In a massive stride toward defensive self-reliance (*Atmanirbhar Bharat*), Nibe Group signed a JV with Israel's Elbit Systems. The partnership will set up a state-of-the-art **energetic materials and artillery/missile propellant manufacturing facility within India**. This directly addresses localized shortfalls in ammunition raw materials and enhances private-sector defense ecosystem depth.

**Q19. Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently conducted the successful maiden trial of a new glide weapon system designed for precision tactical strikes. What is the name of this weapon system?**

- [A] TARA Glide Weapon System
- [B] ULPGM-V3 Missile
- [C] Rudram-II
- [D] Abhyas-S

**Correct Answer: [A] TARA Glide Weapon System**

**Detailed Explanation:** The TARA Glide Weapon System successfully completed its maiden standoff flight testing configuration from an Indian Air Force fighter jet asset. TARA is a long-range, precision-guided stand-off glide bomb developed indigenously by DRDO laboratories. It leverages advanced satellite navigation and terminal optical homing guidance to take down

hardened enemy command infrastructure without putting the launch aircraft at risk.

## Part 8: Government Schemes and Initiatives

**Q20. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recently released comprehensive operational guidelines for the implementation of the BHAVYA Scheme. What is the primary focus of this scheme?**

- [A] Providing free digital training to rural women entrepreneurs
- [B] Developing investment-ready industrial parks with plug-and-play infrastructure
- [C] Financing solar rooftop installations for MSMEs
- [D] Streamlining urban startup funding pathways

**Correct Answer: [B] Developing investment-ready industrial parks with plug-and-play infrastructure**

**Detailed Explanation:** The BHAVYA Scheme guidelines issued by DPIIT focus squarely on manufacturing infrastructure upgrades. The scheme mandates a challenge-based selection framework to fund and develop **world-class industrial parks featuring integrated "plug-and-play" facilities**, multi-modal logistics links, and underground utility conduits. Non-hilly states require a minimum consolidated land footprint of **100 acres** to qualify for financial grants under BHAVYA.

**Q21. Which Union Ministry launched the specialized PM-AJAY Portal and its companion mobile application to digitize and track the welfare metrics of Scheduled Caste (SC) communities?**

- [A] Ministry of Tribal Affairs



[B] Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

[C] Ministry of Rural Development

[D] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

**Correct Answer: [B] Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

**Detailed Explanation:** Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the dedicated **PM-AJAY Portal and AJAY Mobile Application**. PM-AJAY stands for *Pradhan Mantri Anshusit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana* (a merged scheme comprising PMAGY, SCA to SCSP, and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana). The digital ecosystem ensures cashless, paperless, and completely transparent tracking of infrastructure grants, skill development budgets, and income-generation allocations dedicated to SC-dominated regions.

## Part 9: Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

**Q22. Which two organizations signed an MoU in late May 2026 to launch the global "Spice and Heal" initiative, aiming to project India's soft power through traditional wellness products?**

[A] TRIFED and APEDA

[B] AYUSHEXCIL and the Spices Board of India

[C] CSIR and FSSAI

[D] NITI Aayog and Patanjali Research Institute

**Correct Answer: [B] AYUSHEXCIL and the Spices Board of India**

**Detailed Explanation:** The **Ayush Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL)** joined forces with the **Spices Board of India** (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) via a formal MoU. This partnership underpins the **"Spice and Heal" initiative**, designed to streamline global supply chains, certify compliance, and scale up international exports of medicinal spices like

premium turmeric and ashwagandha, fusing traditional Ayurveda knowledge with global trade practices.

**Q23. Nibe Aeronautics signed a strategic Letter of Intent (LoI) with De Havilland Canada for procuring specialized aircraft. What category of regional connectivity does this target?**

[A] Cargo-only heavy drone deployment

[B] Amphibious seaplane connectivity for the UDAN scheme

[C] Supersonic defense trainers

[D] Zero-emission electric commercial liners

**Correct Answer: [B] Amphibious seaplane connectivity for the UDAN scheme**

**Detailed Explanation:** Nibe Aeronautics signed an LoI with De Havilland Canada for the procurement of iconic **Twin Otter amphibious aircraft**. This commercial deal directly supports the Ministry of Civil Aviation's **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) - Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)**, focusing on opening up last-mile water aerodrome operations, coastal island tourism, and remote geographic transport channels across India.

## Part 10: Important Days and Conservation

**Q24. India recently released its *First National Report on the Nagoya Protocol*. What is the central subject matter governed under this international protocol?**

[A] Elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

[B] Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic/biological resources (Access and Benefit Sharing)

[C] Regulation of transboundary movements of hazardous chemical wastes

[D] Protection of transboundary wetlands of international avian importance

**Correct Answer: [B] Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic/biological resources (Access and Benefit Sharing)**

**Detailed Explanation:** India made global waves by publishing its first comprehensive national report tracking implementation of the **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**. The data confirms India is the undisputed global leader in biodiversity traceability, single-handedly accounting for **60.24% of all Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs) issued worldwide**. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has utilized this framework to collect and disburse financial royalties down to grassroots tribal and village-level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).

**Q25. Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav and MP Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Pre-Summit in May 2026. At which national institution was this summit hosted?**

- [A] Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun
- [B] Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal
- [C] National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), New Delhi
- [D] Central Zoo Authority (CZA), Mumbai

**Correct Answer: [B] Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal**

**Detailed Explanation:** The IBCA Pre-Summit was hosted at the IIFM campus in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The International Big Cat Alliance (launched by India) works toward safeguarding seven major wild big cats: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah. The summit formalized financial

frameworks and multi-lateral cross-border corridors for wild feline protection.

## Part 11: Art, Culture, and Festivals

**Q26. The historic Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza, which were recently in the news for structural restoration assessments, are classic examples of which architectural style?**

- [A] Awadhi Architectural Style
- [B] Adil Shahi Style
- [C] Sharqi Architecture
- [D] Mughal-Gothic Fusion

**Correct Answer: [A] Awadhi Architectural Style**

**Detailed Explanation:** Located in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, the Bara Imambara and the majestic Rumi Darwaza were built under the patronage of Asaf-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Awadh, in 1784. These structures are peak representations of the Awadhi (Nawabi) architectural school, known for its unique use of brick and lime mortar instead of stones, massive vaulted halls without central pillar support (the central gallery is one of the largest arched constructions in the world), and ornamental chhatris.

**Q27. The state government of Gujarat recently intensified the Jal-Parab wildlife support campaign during the peak summer heatwave. Which specific geographic terrain does this campaign target?**

- [A] Gir National Park
- [B] Little Rann of Kutch
- [C] Blackbuck National Park, Velavadar
- [D] Marine National Park, Gulf of Kutch

**Correct Answer: [B] Little Rann of Kutch**

**Detailed Explanation:** The Gujarat Forest Department rolled out the intensive **Jal-Parab campaign across the arid expanses of the Little Rann of Kutch**. As temperatures breached the 43°C mark, authorities deployed off-road water tankers to fill up hundreds of artificial concrete water troughs. The initiative is critical to preventing habitat exit and reducing human-wildlife conflict for vulnerable desert species, specifically the **endemic Indian Wild Ass (Khur)**, nilgai, and resident desert foxes.

## Part 12: Historical Legacies and Anniversaries

**Q28. The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) was in the limelight as the scientific community celebrated its grand historical legacy. In which year was Asia's first indigenous science research institution founded?**

- [A] 1857
- [B] 1876
- [C] 1905
- [D] 1911

**Correct Answer:** [B] 1876

**Detailed Explanation:** The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), located in Kolkata, is celebrating its **150-year historical legacy** (founded on July 29, 1876, by Dr. Mahendralal Sircar). It stands proud as Asia's earliest indigenous institution established for independent scientific research. It is the historic site where **Sir C.V. Raman discovered the epoch-making 'Raman Effect' in 1928**, which won India its first Nobel Prize in science.

**Q29. The historic Chola Copper Plates, which were recently returned to India following diplomatic negotiations, provide detailed**

**inscription records on which major aspects of Chola administration?**

- [A] Maritime naval designs and trade routes to Sumatra
- [B] Local self-governance, village assemblies (Ur and Sabha), and land grants
- [C] Military formations and horse procurement records from Arabia
- [D] Coronation rituals and Vedic sacrifices performed by Rajaraja I

**Correct Answer:** [B] Local self-governance, village assemblies (Ur and Sabha), and land grants

**Detailed Explanation:** In a major diplomatic success, the Netherlands returned a collection of **historic Chola-era Copper Plates** to India. In early Indian history, these epigraphical copper plate charters served as official legal deeds tracking **royal land grants (Brahmadeya) to temples and Brahmanas**, and they shed invaluable light on the highly sophisticated **local self-governance systems and democratic village assembly rules** (as also seen in the **Uttaramerur inscriptions**) of the Chola empire.

**Q30. The late B.C. Khanduri was recently honored during a national memorial address. He was a highly respected former Chief Minister of which Indian state?**

- [A] Himachal Pradesh
- [B] Uttarakhand
- [C] Jharkhand
- [D] Chhattisgarh

**Correct Answer:** [B] Uttarakhand

**Detailed Explanation:** Major General (Retd.) **Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri** was remembered for his spotless public service record and contributions to infrastructure creation. He

served as the **Chief Minister of Uttarakhand** (representing the BJP) and was highly acclaimed during his tenure as the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Road Transport and Highways under the Vajpayee government, where he executed the initial phases of the *Golden Quadrilateral Highway Project* with military precision.

**Quick Reference Summary Table**

Category	Key Topic / Entity	Core Takeaway for Exams
International	QFMM Summit	Launched <b>IPMSC</b> for Indo-Pacific maritime surveillance.
International	Belgorod Oblast	Strategic industrial/iron-ore region in <b>southwestern Russia</b> .
National	ULLAS Initiative	<b>Sikkim</b> officially declared a fully literate state.
National	UPSC Reform	Introduced <b>Provisional Answer Keys</b> for Prelims with student representation on window.
Banking / Eco	SIDBI 37th Day	Launched <b>MoRE</b> to modernise 10,000 rural

Category	Key Topic / Entity	Core Takeaway for Exams
		micro-enterprises by 2029.
Appointments	Chief of Defence Staff	<b>Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani</b> appointed as India's new CDS.
Defense News	Nibe-Elbit JV	Establishing domestic <b>propellant &amp; energetic materials plants</b> in India.
Govt Schemes	BHAVYA (DPIIT)	Develops plug-and-play <b>Industrial Parks</b> (min 100 acres in flat states).
Art & Culture	Chola Inscriptions	Returned copper plates detailed Chola <b>village assembly governance</b> .