

National & International Important Days & Anniversaries



Major Dhyan Chand (1905–1979). Source: E-Pao!

- **National Sports Day (Rashtriya Khel Divas) – August 29**
 - **Context:** Observed across India on August 29 to mark the **121st birth anniversary** of hockey legend **Major Dhyan Chand** (born August 29, 1905, in Prayagraj).
 - **2026 Theme & Campaign:** Conducted as a 3-day nationwide event (August 28–30) under the theme **“Tribute, Play, and Move”**.
 - **Exam Core Facts:** Major Dhyan Chand led India to three consecutive Olympic Gold Medals (Amsterdam 1928, Los Angeles 1932, Berlin 1936). He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1956. India's highest sporting honor, the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, bears his name. Note: India has no officially designated "National Sport" by law.
- **International Day Against Nuclear Tests – August 29**
 - **Context:** Established by the UN General Assembly in December 2009 (Resolution 64/35).

- **Significance:** Marks the historical closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site in Kazakhstan on August 29, 1991.

National News & Government Schemes

- **India's First Dedicated Quantum-AI University Campus in Amaravati**
 - **Details:** The Government of Andhra Pradesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)** to build India's first dedicated Quantum and AI university campus in Amaravati.
 - **Key Focus:** Quantum Computing, AI/ML, Quantum Cybersecurity, High-Performance Computing (HPC), and deep-tech incubation, serving as the anchor for the proposed Andhra Quantum Valley.
- **PM SVANidhi Scheme Restructured Phase Completes 1 Year**
 - **Details:** PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) marked one year of its restructured framework.
 - **Core Pillar:** Introduced **RuPay Credit Cards** for street vendors to transition from one-time micro-loans into revolving formal credit channels, combined with digital cashback incentives.

International Relations & Diplomacy

- **PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Central Asia & SCO Summit**
 - **Uzbekistan State Visit (Aug 29–30):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in Tashkent for bilateral talks with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Discussions focused on aligning India's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision with

Uzbekistan's Development Strategy 2030, expanding trade beyond \$1.3 billion, joint military exercise DUSTLIK, Chabahar Port utilization, and the INSTC corridor.

- **26th SCO Summit (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan):** Multilateral focus on counter-terrorism through RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure), regional connectivity, and Eurasian security autonomy.

Economics & Banking News

- **India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Touch Record \$729.3 Billion**
 - **Details:** Managed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), reserves reached an all-time high of **\$729.3 Billion**.
 - **Import Cover:** Current reserves cover approximately 11 months of imports (far exceeding the 3-month international adequacy benchmark).
 - **Components:** Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), Gold Reserves (repatriated to domestic vaults), Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), and Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) with the IMF.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) Completes 12 Years**
 - **Details:** Launched on 28 August 2014, completing 12 full years as the world's largest financial inclusion initiative.

Environment, Ecology & Defense News

- **Tamil Nadu Notifies 3 New Elephant Corridors**
 - **Location:** Hosur Forest Division (Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary), covering over 10,300 hectares.

- **Corridors:** Jawalagiri-Ulibanda-Thaggatti (18.5 km), Jawalagiri-Panai-Anchetty (20.9 km), and Billikkal-Jawalagiri (2.2 km).
- **Objective:** Prevents habitat fragmentation and ensures safe seasonal migration between elephant ranges in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- **India-US Defense Procurement & Bilateral Talks**
 - **Javelin ATGM System:** Advanced co-production and procurement frameworks finalized for Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missile systems.

Exam-Oriented Practice MCQs (UPSC / SSC / Banking / Railways)

Q1. India's first dedicated Quantum and AI University campus is set to be established in which state?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Maharashtra

• **Answer: (b) Andhra Pradesh**

- **Explanation:** The Govt of Andhra Pradesh and NIELIT signed an MoU to set up India's first dedicated Quantum & AI University campus in Amaravati.

Q2. What is the official nationwide campaign theme for National Sports Day 2026?

- (a) Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat
- (b) Fit India, Hit India
- (c) Tribute, Play, and Move
- (d) Play for India

• **Answer: (c) Tribute, Play, and Move**

- **Explanation:** National Sports Day (August 29) is observed as a three-day nationwide

event (Aug 28–30) under the theme “Tribute, Play, and Move” honoring Major Dhyan Chand.

Q3. Three vital elephant corridors covering over 10,300 hectares were recently notified in the Hosur Forest Division by which state government?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Karnataka (
- c) Odisha
- (d) Tamil Nadu

• **Answer: (d) Tamil Nadu**

- Explanation: Tamil Nadu notified three corridors (Jawalagiri–Ulibanda–Thaggatti, Jawalagiri–Panai–Anchetty, and Billikkal–Jawalagiri) in the Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary area.

Q4. The International Day Against Nuclear Tests is observed annually on which date?

- (a) August 15
- (b) August 29
- (c) September 5
- (d) October 24

• **Answer: (b) August 29**

- Explanation: Established by UNGA Resolution 64/35 in 2009, it marks the 1991 closure of the Semipalatinsk test site in Kazakhstan.

National News

Q1. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently issued a Prohibition of Sale order for Compounded Hing (Asafoetida) manufactured by which prominent brands due to quality non-compliance?

- (A) Everest Food Products & MDH

(B) Everest Food Products & Laljee Godhoo and Company (LG Brand)

(C) Catch Spices & Goldiee Spices

(D) Badshah Masala & Patanjali

Answer: (B) Everest Food Products & Laljee Godhoo and Company (LG Brand)

Detailed Explanation:

FSSAI issued a Prohibition of Sale order for Compounded Hing manufactured by M/s Everest Food Products Pvt Ltd and M/s Laljee Godhoo and Company (LG Brand Unit) after market surveillance in Mumbai revealed multiple batches failing quality parameters. Under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Additives) Regulations, 2011, Compounded Hing is prepared by blending Raw Hing with Gum Arabic, starches, and edible flours.

Q2. The Department of Consumer Affairs notified which new set of rules in late August 2026 to ensure accuracy in time distribution across network devices and consumer appliances?

- (A) National Time Synchronization Act, 2026
- (B) Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026
- (C) Consumer Protection (Time Standard) Regulations, 2026
- (D) Indian Standard Time (Verification) Rules, 2026

Answer: (B) Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026

Detailed Explanation:

The Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution notified the **Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026**. These rules mandate precise time synchronization



based on Indian Standard Time (IST) maintained by the CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL) for digital services, telecom, and consumer electronics across India.

Q3. Which nodal authority in India is responsible for characterizing, evaluating, and formally registering indigenous livestock and poultry genetic resources?

- (A) ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly
- (B) ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal
- (C) Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI), Avikanagar
- (D) National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Anand

Answer: (B) ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal

Detailed Explanation:

The ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) located in Karnal, Haryana, is the nodal central institute responsible for registering newly identified breeds of livestock and poultry. New registrations expanded the national database to preserve indigenous genetic diversity across various agro-ecological zones.

International News

Q4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on an official visit from August 29 to September 1, 2026, to which two Central Asian nations to advance India's vision for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

- (A) Kazakhstan and Tajikistan
- (B) Uzbekistan and Kyrgyz Republic
- (C) Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- (D) Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic

Answer: (B) Uzbekistan and Kyrgyz Republic

Detailed Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook an official visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic from August 29 to September 1, 2026. The visit aimed to advance India's SCO vision anchored on Security, Connectivity, and Opportunity, and deepen bilateral ties across Central Asia.

Q5. Severe flash floods and mudslides caused by a glacial collapse and torrential rains in August 2026 swept through central Nepal, primarily affecting which river basin near the border with Tibet?

- (A) Trishuli River
- (B) Bhotekoshi River
- (C) Seti Gandaki River
- (D) Karnali River

Answer: (B) Bhotekoshi River

Detailed Explanation:

An ice-rock avalanche from a glacial collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border triggered catastrophic flooding along the Bhotekoshi River basin in central Nepal. The resulting floodwaters and debris washed away vital infrastructure, roads, and hydropower installations across multiple districts.

Q6. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal led the largest-ever Indian business delegation to which South American nation in August 2026 for the 4th edition of its bilateral Business Forum?

- (A) Brazil
- (B) Chile
- (C) Argentina
- (D) Colombia

Answer: (C) Argentina

Detailed Explanation:

Commerce Secretary Shri Rajesh Agrawal led a high-level Indian trade delegation to Argentina for the 4th India-Argentina Business Forum. Discussions focused on critical minerals (lithium), agriculture, pharmaceutical exports, and expanding bilateral trade avenues.

Economics & Banking

Q7. As per RBI data for August 2026, India's foreign exchange reserves scaled a new high of \$729.3 billion. Which component constitutes the single largest share (~80%) of these total reserves?

- (A) Gold Reserves
- (B) Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)
- (C) Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)
- (D) Reserve Position in the IMF

Answer: (B) Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)

Detailed Explanation:

India's Forex Reserves composition reached \$729.3 billion, where Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) stood at \$591.3 billion (~81%), Gold reserves accounted for \$114.2 billion, SDRs were \$18.8 billion, and Reserve Position in the IMF was \$4.9 billion.

Q8. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a strong growth of 6.7% in July 2026. Which sector carries the highest weightage (~77.6%) in the IIP calculation?

- (A) Mining
- (B) Electricity
- (C) Manufacturing
- (D) Core Infrastructure

Answer: (C) Manufacturing

Detailed Explanation:

Released monthly by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) with the base year 2011-12, IIP consists of three primary sectors: Manufacturing (weightage ~77.6%), Mining (~14.4%), and Electricity (~8.0%). A 6.7% growth highlights sustained industrial manufacturing recovery.

Q9. Under the proposed Strategic Fuel System program to enhance energy resilience, India aims to build additional strategic capacity of 41 Million Tonnes (MT). How is this capacity divided?

- (A) 28 MT Crude Oil, 9 MT LNG, and 4 MT LPG
- (B) 30 MT Crude Oil, 5 MT LNG, and 6 MT LPG
- (C) 20 MT Crude Oil, 15 MT LNG, and 6 MT LPG
- (D) 35 MT Crude Oil, 4 MT LNG, and 2 MT LPG

Answer: (A) 28 MT Crude Oil, 9 MT LNG, and 4

Detailed Explanation:

To safeguard against West Asian supply disruptions, the government proposed a 10-year Strategic Fuel Program to build 41 MT of new storage capacity: 28 MT for crude oil, 9 MT for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and 4 MT for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

Defense News

Q10. The Indian Navy received 'Samarthak' in late August 2026. What type of vessel is 'Samarthak', and who constructed it?

- (A) Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders
- (B) Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T)
- (C) Stealth Frigate built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- (D) Offshore Patrol Vessel built by Goa Shipyard Limited

Answer: (B) Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

Detailed Explanation:

'Samarthak' is the first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) received by the Indian Navy, constructed by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at Kattupalli with over 75% indigenous content. It is designed for multi-role operations including naval trials, surface target towing, maritime surveillance, and HADR missions.

Q11. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh performed the Bhoomi Pujan for the T-Series Tank Overhaul Project at which establishment under Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)?

- (A) Ordnance Factory Medak
- (B) Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi
- (C) Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur
- (D) Engine Factory, Avadi

Answer: (C) Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur

Detailed Explanation:

The T-Series Tank Overhaul Project was inaugurated at the Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur (VFJ), Madhya Pradesh, a unit of defense PSU Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), to enhance domestic overhaul and maintenance capabilities for T-72 and T-90 main battle tanks.

Q12. The inaugural meeting of the India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee (JDC) was held on August 28-29, 2026, in which city?

- (A) Kuwait City
- (B) New Delhi
- (C) Abu Dhabi
- (D) Bengaluru

Answer: (B) New Delhi

Detailed Explanation:

The 1st India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting was held in New Delhi. The delegation co-chairs—Joint Secretary Amitabh Prasad (India) and Brig Gen Raed Alsakran (Kuwait)—discussed military training, joint exercises, defense technology exchange, and R&D.

Q13. India signed a ₹292 crore procurement deal under the Emergency Procurement mechanism with the United States for approximately 60 units of which weapon system?

- (A) Excalibur Precision Guided Artillery Shells
- (B) Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs)
- (C) Stinger Man-Portable Air Defense Systems
- (D) Harpoon Anti-Ship Missiles

Answer: (B) Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs)

Detailed Explanation:

India signed a ₹292 crore deal with the United States for approximately 60 Javelin anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) systems under Emergency Procurement to strengthen infantry combat capabilities along border sectors.

Q14. Vice Admiral Damian Fernando visited New Delhi in August 2026 to enhance bilateral maritime cooperation. He is the Navy Chief of which country?

- (A) Mauritius
- (B) Maldives
- (C) Sri Lanka
- (D) Seychelles

Answer: (C) Sri Lanka

Detailed Explanation:

Vice Admiral Damian Fernando, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, undertook an official visit to India from August 26 to 29, 2026. He held wide-

ranging discussions with Indian Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on maritime security, capacity building, and joint patrols in the Indian Ocean Region.

Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q15. Under the restructured PM SVANidhi scheme (2025–2030 Phase), what is the maximum credit limit provided via the newly introduced UPI-linked RuPay Credit Card for eligible vendors?

- (A) ₹10,000
- (B) ₹20,000
- (C) ₹30,000
- (D) ₹50,000

Answer: (C) ₹30,000

Detailed Explanation:

The Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme introduced a UPI-linked RuPay Credit Card with a limit up to ₹30,000 for vendors with good repayment history. It also plans to establish 50 Street Food Hubs and expands coverage to peri-urban areas.

Q16. Under the 'Per Drop More Crop' (PDMC) scheme, what percentage of financial assistance is provided by the Government to small and marginal farmers for installing micro-irrigation systems?

- (A) 45%
- (B) 50%
- (C) 55%
- (D) 60%

Answer: (C) 55%

Detailed Explanation:

Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme promoting drip and

sprinkler irrigation. Small and marginal farmers receive 55% financial assistance, while other categories of farmers receive 45% assistance for coverage up to 5 hectares per beneficiary.

Q17. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) signed an agreement with C-DOT in August 2026 to set up which national research and validation testing facility?

- (A) 6G Innovation & Research Hub
- (B) End-to-End Optical Communication Testbed
- (C) Quantum Cryptography Testbed
- (D) Indigenous Satellite Router Test Facility

Answer: (B) End-to-End Optical Communication Testbed

Detailed Explanation:

DoT and C-DOT signed an agreement to establish an End-to-End Optical Communication Testbed. This shared resource enables Indian startups, MSMEs, and academia to test, prototype, and validate optical hardware and quantum-secured communication solutions in real-world network settings.

Sports

Q18. What was the central campaign theme for the 3-day nationwide celebrations of National Sports Day 2026 (August 28–30)?

- (A) "Fit India, Hit India"
- (B) "Tribute, Play, and Move"
- (C) "Sports for All, All for Sports"
- (D) "Khelo Bharat, Jeeto Bharat"

Answer: (B) "Tribute, Play, and Move"

Detailed Explanation:

In 2026, National Sports Day was celebrated as a 3-day nationwide campaign from August 28 to 30 under the theme "Tribute, Play, and Move". The initiative combined tributes to sports icons,

community games, and widespread fitness drives.

Q19. National Sports Day on August 29 commemorates the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand. In which year was Major Dhyan Chand born?

- (A) 1902
- (B) 1905
- (C) 1910
- (D) 1912

Answer: (B) 1905

Detailed Explanation:

Major Dhyan Chand was born on **August 29, 1905**, in Prayagraj (formerly Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh. Known as "The Wizard of Hockey," he led India to three consecutive Olympic gold medals in 1928 (Amsterdam), 1932 (Los Angeles), and 1936 (Berlin).

Q20. Regarding the legal/official status of Field Hockey in India, which of the following statements is correct as clarified by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports?

- (A) Field Hockey was declared the Official National Sport in 1952.
- (B) Field Hockey and Cricket are joint National Sports.
- (C) India does NOT have an officially designated National Sport.
- (D) Kabaddi is the designated National Sport under the Sports Code.

Answer: (C) India does NOT have an officially designated National Sport.

Detailed Explanation:

While Field Hockey is widely regarded as India's national game due to its historic Olympic dominance (8 Gold Medals), the Union Sports Ministry clarified in Parliament that the

Government of India has not officially notified any single sport as the "National Sport" in order to promote all sporting disciplines equally.

Appointments & Personalities

Q21. Who co-chaired the inaugural India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting held in New Delhi from the Indian side?

- (A) Vikram Misri
- (B) Amitabh Prasad
- (C) Rajesh Kumar Singh
- (D) TV Somanathan

Answer: (B) Amitabh Prasad

Detailed Explanation:

Joint Secretary (Defence Production) Amitabh Prasad co-chaired the meeting alongside Brigadier General Raed Alsakran of the Kuwait Armed Forces to outline bilateral defense engagement strategies.

Q22. Who served as the head of the Indian delegation to Argentina in August 2026 to expand bilateral investment in lithium mining and trade?

- (A) Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal
- (B) Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri
- (C) Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran
- (D) NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

Answer: (A) Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal

Detailed Explanation:

Commerce Secretary Shri Rajesh Agrawal headed the largest-ever delegation to Buenos Aires, Argentina, engaging with public and private stakeholders on trade diversification.

Awards, Honors & History

Q23. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the redeveloped Martyrs' Memorial at Patradevi in Goa. This memorial honors Satyagrahis of which movement?

- (A) Quit India Movement 1942
- (B) Goa Liberation Movement 1955
- (C) Civil Disobedience Movement 1930
- (D) Royal Indian Navy Mutiny 1946

Answer: (B) Goa Liberation Movement 1955

Detailed Explanation:

The redeveloped Patradevi Martyrs' Memorial honors unarmed Satyagrahis—including martyr Karnail Singh Benipal—who were killed on August 15, 1955, when Portuguese forces opened fire on anti-colonial protesters entering Goa.

Q24. In which year was Major Dhyhan Chand conferred the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award?

- (A) 1951
- (B) 1956
- (C) 1965
- (D) 1972

Answer: (B) 1956

Detailed Explanation:

Major Dhyhan Chand retired from the Indian Army with the rank of Major and was awarded the Padma Bhushan in **1956**. In 2021, India's highest sporting honor, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, was renamed the Major Dhyhan Chand Khel Ratna Award in his honor.

Important Days & Anniversaries

Q25. In which year was National Sports Day first officially designated and celebrated across India on August 29?

- (A) 1985

- (B) 1995
- (C) 2012
- (D) 2014

Answer: (B) 1995

Detailed Explanation:

National Sports Day was first instituted in **1995** to honor Major Dhyhan Chand. It became part of the regular annual national commemorative calendar in 2012, serving as a platform to promote physical fitness and present National Sports Awards.

Q26. Which international observance is observed annually on August 29 globally following a United Nations General Assembly resolution passed in 2009?

- (A) International Day against Nuclear Tests
- (B) World Humanitarian Day
- (C) International Day of Victims of Violence
- (D) World Peace and Disarmament Day

Answer: (A) International Day against Nuclear Tests

Detailed Explanation:

On December 2, 2009, the 64th session of the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 64/35 declaring **August 29 as the International Day against Nuclear Tests**. The day commemorates the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site in Kazakhstan on August 29, 1991.

Art, Culture & Festivals

Q27. During the Goa Liberation Movement, who amongst the following defied a ban on public assemblies in Margao on June 18, 1946, triggering widespread civil disobedience against Portuguese rule?

- (A) Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia

- (B) T.B. Cunha
(C) Mohan Ranade
(D) Vishwanath Lawande

Answer: (A) Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia

Detailed Explanation:

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia arrived in Goa and defied Portuguese colonial bans on public assemblies on June 18, 1946, in Margao. June 18 is celebrated annually in the state as **Goa Revolution Day** (Goa Kranti Din).

Q28. The Buddhist archaeological site of 'Fayaztepe', frequently highlighted during Central Asian cultural diplomacy summits under SCO, is located in which country?

- (A) Kyrgyz Republic
(B) Tajikistan
(C) Uzbekistan
(D) Turkmenistan

Answer: (C) Uzbekistan

Detailed Explanation:

Fayaztepe is an ancient 1st–3rd century CE Buddhist complex and monastery located near Termez in southern **Uzbekistan**. It highlights the historical spread of Buddhism along the Silk Road connecting Northern India with Central Asia.

Science, Technology & Nuclear Energy

Q29. In India's Three-Stage Nuclear Power Programme envisioned by Homi J. Bhabha, which nuclear fuel will be utilized in Stage 3 Advanced Heavy Water Reactors (AHWRs)?

- (A) Enriched Uranium (U-235)
(B) Natural Uranium
(C) Uranium-233 bred from Thorium
(D) Plutonium-239

Answer: (C) Uranium-233 bred from Thorium

Detailed Explanation:

India's 3-Stage Programme consists of:

- **Stage 1:** Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) using Natural Uranium.
- **Stage 2:** Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) using Plutonium-239 recovered from Stage 1 spent fuel.
- **Stage 3:** Advanced Heavy Water Reactors (AHWRs) utilizing Thorium-232 converted into fissile Uranium-233, utilizing India's vast domestic Thorium reserves.

Q30. What type of reactor forms the backbone of India's commercial nuclear fleet in Stage 1, using Natural Uranium as fuel and Heavy Water as both moderator and coolant?

- (A) Light Water Reactor (LWR)
(B) Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR)
(C) Boiling Water Reactor (BWR)
(D) High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor (HTGR)

Answer: (B) Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR)

Detailed Explanation:

India primarily relies on **Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)** for Stage 1. Unlike LWRs used globally (which require enriched uranium), PHWRs utilize un-enriched Natural Uranium as fuel, making heavy water (D_2O) essential as both moderator and coolant.