

International News

1. BIMCO-ICS Report: India Becomes World's 2nd-Largest Seafarer Supplier

- **Key Details:** According to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026 jointly published by the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), India has jumped to **2nd rank globally** in supplying merchant navy seafarers.
- **Workforce Share:** India currently accounts for **3,11,936 maritime professionals**, representing **12.16%** of the global seafaring workforce (up from 5.2% and 5th position in 2015).
- **Global Ranking:**
 1. Philippines
 2. India
 3. China / Russia / Indonesia
- **Officer Strength:** India supplies **1,40,718 officers** (13.41% of world officer strength).
- **Mission 20%:** The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways announced "Mission 20%" to raise India's global seafarer workforce share to 20% under Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

2. Presidential State Visit to Eastern European Nations

- **Details:** President Droupadi Murmu completed a multi-nation State Visit to **Moldova, North Macedonia, and Romania** to strengthen bilateral cooperation, trade, and diplomatic ties with Eastern Europe.

National News

1. India's First AI Bird Monitoring Centre Established at Thane Creek

- **Location:** Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary, Maharashtra.
- **Objective:** Uses artificial intelligence, acoustic monitoring, and automated optical systems to track migratory bird flight paths, census numbers, and ecological health in real time.

2. Operation Navajeevan-II in Jharkhand

- **Event:** 16 senior Maoist cadres surrendered to security forces in Jharkhand under Operation Navajeevan-II.
- **Significance:** Aimed at rehabilitation and reintegration into society, marking a major success for anti-Naxalite operations in the region.

3. MoES 20th Foundation Day & Science Launches

- **Event:** Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) celebrated its 20th Foundation Day in New Delhi.
- **Initiatives Launched:**
 - **IMD NOVA:** Thunderstorm nowcast monitoring tool launched by IMD.
 - **WINGS App:** Developed by NCMRWF for numerical weather prediction and real-time atmospheric analysis.
 - **CMLRE Manuals:** Taxonomy manuals covering 100 Tintinnid ciliate and 225 seamount-associated marine species.

Economics, Business & Banking

1. MoSPI to Adopt Producer Price Index (PPI) as GDP Deflator

- **Key Change:** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced that output **Producer Price Index (PPI)** will replace the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** as the primary GDP deflator starting in Q1 of FY 2026-27.

Partner 1	Partner 2	Purpose / Scope
		and Utilisation (CCUS).

Sports & Achievements

1. ISSF World Cup (Hangzhou, China)

- Gold: Esha Singh won the Gold Medal in the Women's 25m Pistol event.

2. Commonwealth Games 2026 Updates

- Shot Put (Women's F57): Sharmila Dhankar won Gold, while Shilpa Shyla secured the Bronze.
- High Jump (Men's): Sarvesh Anil Kushare won Silver.
- Weightlifting (Men's 79 kg): Ajaya Babu won Silver.

Appointments & Resignations

- Pralhad Joshi: Took charge as India's Union Minister for Education (following the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan).
- Task Force on Toy Sector: Setup by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal under DPIIT to boost local value addition, startups (770+ registered), and MSMEs.

Art, Culture, Festivals & Summit Events

1. 2nd BRICS Science Academies Forum 2026

- Host Venue: IIT Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Focus: Deep tech collaboration, sustainable development, and release of the BRICS Women in Innovation (WISE) Whitepaper.

31 Important Days (July 28-29)

- July 28 – World Hepatitis Day:

- Theme: "It's Time for Action" (focusing on elimination of viral hepatitis by 2030).

July 29 – International Tiger Day (Global Tiger Day):

- Context: Established in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit. India holds over 75% of the world's wild tiger population across 55+ Tiger Reserves.

Quick Practice MCQs (For SSC / Banking / UPSC Prelims)

Q1. Which state has become the first to qualify for the second installment of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in July 2026?

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Uttar Pradesh
- (D) Rajasthan

Answer: (B) Maharashtra

Q2. What is India's rank as a global supplier of merchant navy seafarers as per the BIMCO-ICS 2026 report?

- (A) First
- (B) Second
- (C) Third
- (D) Fifth

Answer: (B) Second (Behind Philippines)

Q3. India's first AI-based Bird Monitoring Centre was inaugurated at which location?

- (A) Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary
- (B) Chilika Lake
- (C) Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary
- (D) Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary

Answer: (C) Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary

National Affairs & Legislative Updates

Q1. The Lok Sabha passed the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026. What is the maximum imprisonment term prescribed under the amended provisions for organized paper leaks?

- A) 3 years
- B) 5 years
- C) 7 years
- D) 10 years

Correct Answer: D) 10 years

Detailed Explanation: The Lok Sabha approved the **Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026**, which enhances penalties for malpractices in competitive exams. The amended law introduces strict punishments including imprisonment up to **10 years** and a monetary fine of up to **₹50 lakh** for individuals or organized syndicates involved in paper leaks or cheating.

Q2. As per a 2026 Centre-commissioned study on E20 fuel compatibility, which component in BS-III vehicles manufactured prior to 2016 may require replacement during routine servicing?

- A) Platinum catalytic converters
- B) Rubber parts and gaskets
- C) Aluminum engine blocks
- D) Copper fuel injectors

Correct Answer: B) Rubber parts and gaskets

Detailed Explanation: The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways informed Parliament that testing on BS-III vehicles (introduced from April 1, 2005, and manufactured prior to 2016) indicated that **certain rubber parts and gaskets** may experience wear due to higher ethanol concentration in **E20 fuel** (20% ethanol blended

with petrol). These parts can easily be replaced during standard vehicle servicing regimes without requiring major engine overhauls.

Q3. The Rajya Sabha passed the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Which national symbol was explicitly brought under criminal penal provisions for disrespect through this amendment?

- A) National Emblem
- B) Vande Mataram (National Song)
- C) National Pledge
- D) National Calendar

Correct Answer: B) Vande Mataram (National Song)

Detailed Explanation: The Rajya Sabha passed the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, via voice vote. The Bill makes deliberate insult, desecration, or willful disrespect to the national song '**Vande Mataram**' a punishable offense, bringing it on par with protected national symbols like the National Flag and the National Anthem.

International Affairs

Q4. During President Droupadi Murmu's state visit to Eastern European nations in July 2026, which year was officially declared as the "Year of Innovation" to mark 80 years of diplomatic relations with Romania?

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

Correct Answer: C) 2028

Detailed Explanation: President Droupadi Murmu completed a multi-nation state visit to Moldova, North Macedonia, and Romania. During her visit to Romania, three bilateral



MoUs were signed in science & technology, education, and sports. Both nations declared **2028** as the **"India-Romania Year of Innovation"** to commemorate 80 years of diplomatic relations.

Q5. The 2nd BRICS Science Academies Forum Meeting 2026 was hosted at which premier Indian institute?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Hyderabad
- C) IISc Bengaluru
- D) IIT Madras

Correct Answer: B) IIT Hyderabad

Detailed Explanation: The **2nd BRICS Science Academies Forum Meeting 2026** was held at **IIT Hyderabad, Telangana**. The forum brought together heads of science academies and leading researchers across BRICS nations to discuss joint scientific research, frontier technologies, and cross-border research exchange.

Q6. A powerful 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit southwestern Japan in late July 2026. Which region was the epicenter of this seismic event?

- A) Kumamoto, Kyushu Island
- B) Sendai, Honshu Island
- C) Sapporo, Hokkaido Island
- D) Naha, Okinawa

Correct Answer: A) Kumamoto, Kyushu Island

Detailed Explanation: A strong 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck the **Kumamoto area** on the southern island of **Kyushu, Japan**, causing structural collapses, power outages, and casualties. Emergency personnel were deployed for urban search and rescue operations.

Economics, Banking & Finance

Q7. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced a major revision in GDP deflation methodology. Which index will replace the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for GDP deflation?

- A) Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- B) Output Producer Price Index (PPI)
- C) Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
- D) Service Export Index (SEI)

Correct Answer: B) Output Producer Price Index (PPI)

Detailed Explanation: MoSPI is introducing the **Output Producer Price Index (PPI)** to replace the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** for GDP deflation. The single deflation method using WPI created distortions in real GDP growth estimates; using the Output PPI aligns India's national accounts calculation with international best practices (SNA standards).

Q8. Which Indian stock exchange launched India's first domestic benchmark-linked energy derivative—"Indian Natural Gas Futures"?

- A) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- B) National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- C) Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)
- D) India International Exchange (India INX)

Correct Answer: B) National Stock Exchange (NSE)

Detailed Explanation: The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** launched '**Indian Natural Gas Futures**', making it India's first exchange-traded energy derivative benchmarked to domestic natural gas prices. Trading commenced on July 27, 2026, providing energy market participants an effective hedging mechanism against domestic price volatility.



Q9. Which fintech platform received approval from Bharat Connect (formerly BBPS) to function as a Customer Operating Unit (COU) for digital bill payments?

- A) Razorpay
- B) VIYONA Fintech
- C) PhonePe
- D) CRED

Correct Answer: B) VIYONA Fintech

Detailed Explanation: Hyderabad-based **VIYONA Fintech** received approval from Bharat Connect (managed by NPCI Bharat BillPay) to operate as a **Customer Operating Unit (COU)**. This enables the startup to offer interoperable, multi-biller digital bill payment interfaces to end customers across India.

Q10. Which state became the first in India to qualify for the second installment under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in FY 2026-27 by exceeding the 75% fund utilization threshold?

- A) Punjab
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Gujarat

Correct Answer: C) Maharashtra

Detailed Explanation: Maharashtra became the first state in India to cross the prescribed 75% fund utilization benchmark under RKVY. After utilizing over ₹260 crore out of the ₹335 crore released in the 1st installment, the Ministry of Agriculture cleared Maharashtra for the 2nd installment release.

Sports

Q11. Who won the Gold Medal in the Women's 25 Metre Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2026 held in Hangzhou, China?

- A) Manu Bhaker
- B) Esha Singh
- C) Rhythm Sangwan
- D) Chinki Yadav

Correct Answer: B) Esha Singh

Detailed Explanation: Indian shooter **Esha Singh** secured the **Gold Medal** in the Women's 25m Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2026 in Hangzhou, China, defeating top international competitors in a high-stakes final round.

Q12. Indian athlete Sharmila Dhankar won a Gold Medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in which athletics event?

- A) Women's Javelin Throw
- B) Women's F57 Shot Put
- C) Women's High Jump
- D) Women's 100m Hurdles

Correct Answer: B) Women's F57 Shot Put

Detailed Explanation: Sharmila Dhankar clinched the **Gold Medal** in the Women's F57 Shot Put event at the Commonwealth Games 2026, while fellow Indian athlete Shilpa Shyla took home the bronze medal in the same event.

Q13. Sarvesh Anil Kushare won a Silver Medal for India at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in which discipline?

- A) Men's Triple Jump
- B) Men's High Jump
- C) Men's Pole Vault
- D) Men's Long Jump

Correct Answer: B) Men's High Jump

Detailed Explanation: Sarvesh Anil Kushare delivered a stellar performance to secure the **Silver Medal** in the Men's High Jump competition at the Commonwealth Games 2026.



Appointments & Governance Task Forces

Q14. The Central Government constituted a 6-member high-powered task force to recommend comprehensive examination system reforms. Who heads this task force?

- A) K. Radhakrishnan
- B) Nandan Nilekani
- C) Dr. K. Sivan
- D) Sam Pitroda

Correct Answer: B) Nandan Nilekani

Detailed Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi constituted a 6-member high-powered committee led by Infosys co-founder **Nandan Nilekani**. The panel is tasked with designing technological solutions, digital security architecture, and administrative overhaul for national entrance and recruitment examinations.

Q15. Following cabinet adjustments in July 2026, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi was assigned additional charge of which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- B) Ministry of Education
- C) Ministry of Electronics and IT
- D) Ministry of External Affairs

Correct Answer: B) Ministry of Education

Detailed Explanation: Union Minister **Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi** (holding Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and MNRE) was given additional charge as the Union Minister of Education following the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan.

Awards & Honors

Q16. President Droupadi Murmu was conferred with the prestigious "Doctor Honoris Causa"

honorary degree by which European university in July 2026?

- A) University of Bucharest
- B) Bucharest University of Economic Studies (BUES)
- C) Charles University, Prague
- D) University of Sofia

Correct Answer: B) Bucharest University of Economic Studies (BUES)

Detailed Explanation: During her state visit to Romania, President Droupadi Murmu was awarded the **Doctor Honoris Causa** degree by the **Bucharest University of Economic Studies (BUES)** in recognition of her public service and contributions to inclusive growth and women empowerment.

Books & Publications

Q17. The whitepaper titled "Women in Innovation" (WISE) was released under the aegis of which multilateral grouping in July 2026?

- A) G20
- B) BRICS
- C) ASEAN
- D) SCO

Correct Answer: B) BRICS

Detailed Explanation: The **BRICS Women in Innovation (WISE) Whitepaper** was published to highlight women-led tech startups, entrepreneurship challenges, and policy interventions across BRICS member countries.

Defense & Security News

Q18. India's first dedicated academic and operational Department of Military Medicine was inaugurated at which medical institution?

- A) Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune



B) Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow

C) Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt

D) INHS Asvini, Mumbai

Correct Answer: B) Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow

Detailed Explanation: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated the country's first dedicated Department of Military Medicine at the Command Hospital (Central Command) in Lucknow. It will focus on battlefield trauma treatment, high-altitude military healthcare, and combat medical research.

Q19. "Operation Navajeevan-II", which recently saw the surrender of 16 top Maoist cadres, was launched in which Indian state?

A) Chhattisgarh

B) Odisha

C) Jharkhand

D) Telangana

Correct Answer: C) Jharkhand

Detailed Explanation: Under Operation Navajeevan-II in Jharkhand, 16 senior Maoist cadres surrendered before police and security forces to join mainstream society under the state's rehabilitation policy.

Government Schemes & Portals

Q20. The Delhi Cabinet approved the "Lakshmi Yojana". What is the primary objective of this scheme?

A) Free electricity for micro-enterprises

B) Financial aid and economic security for women

C) Direct subsidy for green transport

D) Universal pension for senior citizens

Correct Answer: B) Financial aid and economic security for women

Detailed Explanation: The Delhi Government approved Lakshmi Yojana, a social welfare scheme designed to provide direct financial assistance to economically weaker women, driving financial inclusion and self-reliance.

Q21. Which state launched the "Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana" to support fishermen during the seasonal fishing ban?

A) Kerala

B) Himachal Pradesh

C) West Bengal

D) Tamil Nadu

Correct Answer: B) Himachal Pradesh

Detailed Explanation: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana. The initiative provides direct income support to inland fishermen during the annual breeding season fishing ban.

Q22. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the "SAMARTH Portal" along with Model Own Source of Revenue (OSR) Rules. Under which broader programme were these launched?

A) Svamitva Scheme

B) Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme

C) Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

D) Mission Amrit Sarovar

Correct Answer: B) Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme

Detailed Explanation: Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh (MoPR) launched the Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme, SAMARTH Panchayat Portal, and Model OSR Rules to make Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) financially self-reliant by generating their own revenues.

Q23. The "e-Zero FIR System" was launched by which state government to enable victims of cyber financial fraud to lodge instant complaints without visiting a police station?

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

Correct Answer: B) Gujarat

Detailed Explanation: The Government of Gujarat launched the **e-Zero FIR System**. It enables victims of cyber financial fraud to register immediate complaints online, triggering immediate freeze actions on stolen money in banking systems without location jurisdictional hurdles.

MoUs & Agreements

Q24. The Ministry of Tourism signed a 2-year MoU with which national airline to promote India as a global travel destination under the "Incredible India" brand?

- A) IndiGo
- B) Air India
- C) Akasa Air
- D) SpiceJet

Correct Answer: B) Air India

Detailed Explanation: The Ministry of Tourism signed a 2-year MoU with **Air India** in New Delhi. The partnership leverages Air India's international network for joint co-branded campaigns across key source markets globally.

Q25. Engineers India Limited (EIL) signed an MoU with CSIR-IMMT for joint research and technological development in mineral metallurgy. Where is CSIR-IMMT headquartered?

- A) Jamshedpur

- B) Bhubaneswar
- C) Dhanbad
- D) Ranchi

Correct Answer: B) Bhubaneswar

Detailed Explanation: EIL signed an MoU with the **CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT)**, located in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, to collaborate on critical mineral extraction, green metallurgy, and sustainable processing technologies.

Important Days & Observances

Q26. What was the theme/edition of the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem observed globally on 26 July 2026?

- A) 5th Observance
- B) 8th Observance
- C) 11th Observance
- D) 15th Observance

Correct Answer: C) 11th Observance

Detailed Explanation: Proclaimed by UNESCO in 2015, **July 26, 2026** marked the **11th observance** of the **International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem**, raising awareness on mangrove habitats as climate buffers and coastal protection nodes.

Q27. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) celebrated its 20th Foundation Day on July 27, 2026 in New Delhi. In which year was the Ministry of Earth Sciences formally created?

- A) 2000
- B) 2006
- C) 2010
- D) 2014

Correct Answer: B) 2006



Detailed Explanation: MoES was formed in 2006 by reorganizing the former Department of Ocean Development (DOD) along with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), NCMRWF, and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). July 27, 2026 marked its **20th Foundation Day**.

Art, Culture & World Heritage

Q28. In July 2026, the Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea. Sarnath became India's ___ UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- A) 42nd
- B) 43rd
- C) 44th
- D) 45th

Correct Answer: D) 45th

Detailed Explanation: Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh), where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dharmachakrapravartana), was officially inscribed as **India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site** at the 48th WHC session in Busan, South Korea.

Environment & Science

Q29. India's 1st AI-based Bird Monitoring Centre was launched at which protected wildlife area?

- A) Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan
- B) Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary, Maharashtra
- C) Chilika Lake, Odisha
- D) Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Gujarat

Correct Answer: B) Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary, Maharashtra

Detailed Explanation: Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary in Maharashtra inaugurated **India's 1st AI-driven Bird Monitoring Centre**. The facility utilizes automated computer vision cameras and acoustic bio-sensors to track migratory flamingo populations, bird health, and habitat conditions.

Q30. NTPC Energy Technology Research Alliance (NETRA) is developing a 150 TPD Green Urea pilot plant integrating Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCUS) at which location?

- A) Pudimadaka, Andhra Pradesh
- B) Dahej, Gujarat
- C) Paradip, Odisha
- D) Ramagundam, Telangana

Correct Answer: A) Pudimadaka, Andhra Pradesh

Detailed Explanation: NETRA (R&D arm of NTPC) is setting up a **150 TPD Green Urea pilot plant at Pudimadaka, Andhra Pradesh**. The plant synthesizes green ammonia using water electrolysis driven by renewable power and captures CO₂ from flue gases to generate green fertilizer.

