

Part 1: International News & Bilateral Relations

Q1. Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which of the following countries?

- [A] Senegal
- [B] Chad
- [C] Mali
- [D] Niger

Correct Answer: [A] Senegal

Detailed Explanation: In late May 2026, Senegal transitioned structurally under its new administration, appointing Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo as the new Prime Minister. Senegal is an important West African country facing the Atlantic Ocean. For competitive exams, its geographical location in the Sahel region and its status as a stable democracy in a coup-prone belt are critically important.

Q2. During the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (QFMM 2026) held in New Delhi, which landmark maritime initiative was officially launched?

- [A] Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Pact (IPMSP)
- [B] Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC)
- [C] Quad Ocean Governance Framework (QOGF)
- [D] Blue Horizon Maritime Initiative (BHMI)

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

Detailed Explanation: The 11th Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) Foreign Ministers' Meeting was hosted by India in New Delhi in May 2026, chaired by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar. The member nations (India, Australia, Japan, and the

USA) launched the 1st ever Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC) initiative to curb illegal fishing and track dark shipping. They also rolled out the Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security.

Q3. Under the newly released "Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework" in May 2026, how much investment have the Quad partners pledged to mobilize?

- [A] USD 10 billion
- [B] USD 15 billion
- [C] USD 20 billion
- [D] USD 30 billion

Correct Answer: [C] USD 20 billion

Detailed Explanation: To counter the global monopoly on critical mineral processing, the Quad partners released the "Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework" during the New Delhi summit. They pledged to mobilize up to USD 20 billion in investments across both public and private sectors to bolster critical mineral supply chains, focusing on mining, processing, and recycling.

Q4. Which international space agencies jointly launched the "SMILE" space mission to study the solar wind-magnetosphere interaction?

- [A] NASA and ISRO
- [B] CAS (Chinese Academy of Sciences) and ESA (European Space Agency)
- [C] JAXA and NASA
- [D] ESA and Roscosmos

Correct Answer: [B] CAS (Chinese Academy of Sciences) and ESA (European Space Agency)

Detailed Explanation: The Solar Wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE) is a collaborative science mission

between the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the European Space Agency (ESA). The mission aims to look at the global dynamic response of the Earth's magnetosphere to the solar wind impact, a crucial topic under the Science and Tech/Space segment of UPSC.

Part2:National Affairs& Governance

Q5. India recently released its first national report on which of the following international protocols, highlighting its Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) mechanism?

- [A] Cartagena Protocol
- [B] Nagoya Protocol
- [C] Kyoto Protocol
- [D] Montreal Protocol

Correct Answer: [B] Nagoya Protocol

Detailed Explanation: India released its first comprehensive national report on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS). The report highlighted that through the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), India has realized ₹216.31 crore under the ABS mechanism, out of which ₹139.69 crore has been successfully disbursed to local communities and field conservers.

Q6. Which three-tier institutional grid manages biodiversity resources in India, as re-highlighted in the 2026 Nagoya report?

- [A] National Biodiversity Authority - State Biodiversity Boards - Biodiversity Management Committees
- [B] Ministry of Environment - Forest Departments - Joint Forest Management Committees
- [C] NITI Aayog - State Planning Boards - Village Panchayats

[D] National Green Tribunal - State Pollution Control Boards - Local Ecoguards

Correct Answer: [A] National Biodiversity Authority - State Biodiversity Boards - Biodiversity Management Committees

Detailed Explanation: India's robust statutory mechanism for biodiversity involves a three-tier grid: the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the apex level, State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) in all states, and more than 2,76,653 local Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) set up by elected local bodies at the grassroots level to handle People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR).

Q7. To bolster defense infrastructure along challenging frontiers, the Government of India has proposed which border security model in late May 2026?

- [A] Vibrant Villages Integrated Defense Model
- [B] Four-Dimensional Grid Border Security Model
- [C] Smart Fence Electronic Surveillance Project
- [D] Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)

Correct Answer: [B] Four-Dimensional Grid Border Security Model

Detailed Explanation: The government has officially proposed the "Four-Dimensional Grid" Border Security Model. It targets seamless civil-military-community coordination across multiple structural dimensions (physical, digital, aerial, and local populace integration) to guard strategic border zones effectively against hybrid threats.

Part 3: Government Schemes & Portals

Q8. Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar recently launched the PM-AJAY Portal and AJAY Mobile App. What does "AJAY" stand for in this flagship welfare initiative?

- [A] Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana
- [B] Adarsh Jaati Awas Yojana
- [C] Atmanirbhar Jan Adhikar Yojana
- [D] Amrit Jaati Amdani Yojana

Correct Answer: [A] Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana

Detailed Explanation: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the digital portal and mobile application for the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY). It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at reducing poverty and improving socio-economic indicators of the Scheduled Caste (SC) communities through skill development, infrastructure creation, and income-generating schemes.

Q9. The PM-WANI (Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) scheme recently received a major consumer-friendly upgrade in May 2026. Which feature was newly introduced?

- [A] Mandatory 5G speed limits
- [B] Simplified Laptop Connection via QR Code
- [C] Biometric fingerprint authentication
- [D] Completely free unlimited streaming allowance

Correct Answer: [B] Simplified Laptop Connection via QR Code

Detailed Explanation: To eliminate the technical friction of manual logging-in on secondary devices, the Department of Telecommunications upgraded the PM-WANI framework to support a "Simplified Laptop Connection via QR Code". The upgrade also

recommended that Public Data Offices (PDOs) roll out micro-validity "sachet plans" of 15, 30, and 60 minutes for digital financial inclusion.

Q10. Which online investor facilitation portal was launched by the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) under MeitY in May 2026?

- [A] Chip-In India
- [B] Investors Support
- [C] Semi-Invest Bharat
- [D] Silicon Connect

Correct Answer: [B] Investors Support

Detailed Explanation: To accelerate fast-track clearances and boost investor confidence in India's booming hardware ecosystem, the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) launched the online portal 'Investors Support'. It serves as a single-window interface for global and domestic semiconductor firms planning fabrication units (Fabs) or ATMP facilities in India.

Q11. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has issued a strict directive banning the unauthorized use of which category of healthcare/cosmetic items?

- [A] Chemically synthesized fairness creams
- [B] Injectable cosmetic products
- [C] Herbal hair dye formulations
- [D] Laser-based skin resurfacing patches

Correct Answer: [B] Injectable cosmetic products

Detailed Explanation: Taking a tough regulatory stance on public health and skin safety, the CDSCO banned several unauthorized injectable cosmetic products being distributed across wellness clinics. The apex body noted that sub-standard injectables pose severe systemic

health risks and must undergo stringent clinical trials before commercial circulation.

Part 4: Banking, Economics & Business

Q12. According to data released in late May 2026, India's seafood exports hit an all-time high of how many crores during the Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26)?

- [A] ₹55,420.50 crore
- [B] ₹63,890.15 crore
- [C] ₹72,325.82 crore
- [D] ₹81,110.00 crore

Correct Answer: [C] ₹72,325.82 crore

Detailed Explanation: India's seafood exports touched a historic record of ₹72,325.82 crore (approximately USD 8.28 billion) during FY25-26. The export volumes peaked at 19.32 lakh Metric Tonnes (MT), with frozen shrimp remaining the top export item. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is headquartered in Kochi, Kerala.

Q13. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) announced the launch of which two joint life insurance savings products tailored specifically for couples?

- [A] LIC Couple Shield (Single & Limited)
- [B] LIC New Jeevan Sathi (Single Premium & Limited Premium)
- [C] LIC Humsafar Bima
- [D] LIC Shubh Bandhan

Correct Answer: [B] LIC New Jeevan Sathi (Single Premium & Limited Premium)

Detailed Explanation: LIC announced two new joint life insurance savings products: "LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium" and "LIC's New

Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium". Designed to provide flexible financial security grids to married couples under a single policy envelope, these products will be available for public subscription starting June 2026.

Q14. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently approved the appointment of Amit Mahajan and Nayana Ovalekar as Executive Directors (EDs) of which market 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 granted institutional approval for the appointment of Amit Mahajan and Nayana Ovalekar as the new Executive Directors on the board of Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL). Simultaneously, NSDL and BSE also announced key top-tier expansions to manage the unprecedented surge in retail demat accounts across India.

Part 5: Sports Governance & Events

Q15. In May 2026, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) notified the statutory rules for establishing which two landmark sports dispute and governance bodies?

- [A] National Sports Board (NSB) & National Sports Tribunal (NST)
- [B] Indian Sports Authority Court & National Athletes Welfare Board
- [C] Central Sports Arbitral Body & Indian Anti-Doping Council



[D] National Sports Federation Council & Athlete Selection Court

Correct Answer: [A] National Sports Board (NSB) & National Sports Tribunal (NST)

Detailed Explanation: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports notified the National Sports Governance (National Sports Board (NSB)) Rules, 2026, and the National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal (NST)) Rules, 2026. These rules were framed under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, to institutionalize speedy, independent, and cost-effective resolution of sports disputes (like selection issues and federation election discrepancies), reducing reliance on civil courts.

Q16. Which Indian city has been officially selected as the host for the upcoming World Yogasana Championship 2026?

[A] Ahmedabad

[B] Chennai

[C] Bengaluru

[D] Hyderabad

Correct Answer: [A] Ahmedabad

Detailed Explanation: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, has been designated as the host city for the prestigious World Yogasana Championship 2026. This mega-event is intended to standardize Yogasana as a globally recognized competitive sport, aligning with India's soft-power diplomacy and wellness push.

Part 6: Defense News & MoU Signings

Q17. The Indian domestic defense enterprise Nibe Group signed a major Joint Venture (JV) with Israel's Elbit Systems for what purpose?

[A] Manufacturing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

[B] Setting up advanced energetic materials and propellant manufacturing facilities

[C] Developing Next-Gen Anti-Submarine Sonars

[D] Constructing cyber defense firewall architectures

Correct Answer: [B] Setting up advanced energetic materials and propellant manufacturing facilities

Detailed Explanation: In a major step toward self-reliance in critical defense raw materials, Nibe Group and Israel's Elbit Systems signed a Joint Venture agreement to establish state-of-the-art energetic materials and propellant manufacturing plants within India. This bridges a key domestic supply chain gap for ammunition and rocket motors.

Q18. Nibe Aeronautics signed a strategic Letter of Intent (LoI) with De Havilland Canada to procure which specific type of aircraft to boost regional seaplane connectivity?

[A] Twin Otter Amphibious Aircraft

[B] Dash 8-Q400 Turboprop

[C] Canadair CL-415 Water Bomber

[D] DHC-2 Beaver Floater

Correct Answer: [A] Twin Otter Amphibious Aircraft

Detailed Explanation: Nibe Aeronautics entered into a strategic pact via an LoI with De Havilland Canada to procure Twin Otter amphibious aircraft. This acquisition directly aligns with the Ministry of Civil Aviation's UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) and Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), targeted at activating remote water aerodromes and promoting coastal tourism.

Part 7: Science, Technology & Environment

Q19. An international scientific team led by Indian researcher Dr. Ronaldo Laishram recently discovered a 12.6-billion-year-old cosmic structure. What has it been named?

- [A] Imphal Galaxy Hive
- [B] Loktak Protocluster
- [C] Northeast Stellar Cradle
- [D] Manipur Cosmic Web

Correct Answer: [B] Loktak Protocluster

Detailed Explanation: An international team led by an Indian astrophysicist from Manipur, Dr. Ronaldo Laishram (working with the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan - NAOJ), discovered an ancient "city of galaxies" dating back 12.6 billion years. Formally published in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*, this ancient cosmic structure has been named the "Loktak Protocluster," after the famous freshwater Loktak Lake in Manipur.

Q20. A rare, high-altitude dragonfly species named "Gynacantha khasiaca" was recently rediscovered by scientists in which Indian State/UT?

- [A] Ladakh
- [B] Arunachal Pradesh
- [C] Western Ghats (Kerala)
- [D] Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Correct Answer: [B] Arunachal Pradesh

Detailed Explanation: The rare Odonata species *Gynacantha khasiaca* resurfaced in the pristine wetlands of Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh. Dragonflies are vital bioindicators of freshwater ecosystem health. This discovery underscores the need for

insect-centric conservation in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot.

Q21. According to recent public health studies discussed in May 2026, which lethal viral species is causing global concern due to having "no approved vaccine" for human usage?

- [A] Zaire ebolavirus
- [B] Sudan ebolavirus
- [C] Reston ebolavirus
- [D] Bundibugyo ebolavirus

Correct Answer: [B] Sudan ebolavirus

Detailed Explanation: While the *Zaire ebolavirus* species has a functional vaccine (Ervebo), public health experts highlighted the urgent R&D gap concerning the *Sudan ebolavirus* and *Marburg virus*, which currently lack globally deployed, commercialized preventive vaccines. This has sparked collaborative biological security projects globally.

Part 8: Awards, Honors, Books & Authors

Q22. The prestigious 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award was recently conferred upon an Indian space scientist for pioneering contributions to deep-space propulsion. Who is the recipient?

- [A] Dr. S. Somanath
- [B] Dr. V. Adimurthy
- [C] Dr. P. Veeramuthuvel
- [D] Dr. K. Sivan

Correct Answer: [C] Dr. P. Veeramuthuvel

Detailed Explanation: Dr. P. Veeramuthuvel, renowned for his exceptional structural engineering and project management during

India's lunar explorations, was chosen for the internationally acclaimed 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award. The award recognizes global excellence in space science and rocketry engineering.

Q23. Who is the author of the critically acclaimed book titled "The Fractured Horizon: Geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific in the 21st Century", released in May 2026?

- [A] Ambassador Shivshankar Menon
- [B] Dr. S. Jaishankar
- [C] Nirupama Rao
- [D] C. Raja Mohan

Correct Answer: [B] Dr. S. Jaishankar

Detailed Explanation: Union External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar's latest analytical volume, "*The Fractured Horizon: Geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific in the 21st Century*", hit shelves in late May 2026. The book charts a comprehensive roadmap for India's strategic autonomy, detailing minilateral groupings like the Quad and I2U2.

Part 9: Important Days & Themes

Q24. What is the official global theme for the World Menstrual Hygiene Day observed on May 28, 2026?

- [A] Making Menstruation a Normal Fact of Life by 2030
- [B] Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld
- [C] Period Pride: Breaking Stigmas Everywhere
- [D] Empowering Her: Safe Hygiene, Secure Future

Correct Answer: [B] Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld

Detailed Explanation:

World Menstrual Hygiene Day is celebrated globally on May 28 every year to smash biological stigmas and advocate for safe sanitation infrastructure. The official global campaign theme for the year 2026 is "Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld".

Q25. May 29 is globally observed as which of the following international days under the United Nations framework?

- [A] International Day of UN Peacekeepers
- [B] World Biodiversity Day
- [C] International Day of Action for Women's Health
- [D] World Migratory Bird Day

Correct Answer: [A] International Day of UN Peacekeepers

Detailed Explanation: May 29 is annually celebrated as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. It honors the professionalism, dedication, and courage of military and civilian personnel serving in UN peacekeeping operations worldwide, and commemorates those who lost their lives for the cause of peace.

Part 10: Art, Culture & Festivals

Q26. The historic "Kang Chingba" festival, which closely resembles the Jagannath Ratha Yatra of Puri, is primarily celebrated in which Indian State?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Manipur
- [C] Tripura
- [D] Assam

Correct Answer: [B] Manipur

Detailed Explanation: The *Kang Chingba* festival is a prominent religious and cultural celebration of the Meitei community in Manipur. Centered around Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra, the pulling of the massive wooden chariot (*Kang*) draws thousands of devotees to Imphal. It is highly relevant for UPSC Art & Culture.

Q27. Which unique Himalayan plant species, locally called "Vaccinium piliferum", was recently documented by botanists for its cultural and medicinal use among regional tribes?

- [A] Eastern Himalayan Wild Berry
- [B] Western Ghats Blue Kurinji
- [C] Nilgiri Rhododendron
- [D] Naga Orchid

Correct Answer: [A] Eastern Himalayan Wild Berry

Detailed Explanation: *Vaccinium piliferum*, a rare wild relative of blueberries found in the Eastern Himalayan ecosystems, was documented in late May 2026 for its extensive use in traditional tribal medicine and indigenous festivals. This highlights the importance of protecting sacred groves under India's Biodiversity Mission.

Part 11: Birth & Death Anniversaries

Q28. May 28 marks the birth anniversary of which iconic Indian nationalist freedom fighter, whose ideology of "Hindutva" shaped modern political philosophy?

- [A] Lala Lajpat Rai
- [B] Vinayak Damodar Savarkar
- [C] Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- [D] Bipin Chandra Pal

Correct Answer: [B] Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

Detailed Explanation: May 28 is the birth anniversary of Swatantrayaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (born May 28, 1883). He founded the Abhinav Bharat Society and wrote "*The Indian War of Independence 1857*". His life and contributions are heavily evaluated in historical and political papers of national competitive exams.

Q29. The scientific community recently paid homage to which legendary Indian physicist on his death anniversary in late May, renowned for inventing the "Saha Ionization Equation"?

- [A] Dr. Meghnad Saha
- [B] Dr. CV Raman
- [C] Dr. Homi J. Bhabha
- [D] Dr. JC Bose

Correct Answer: [A] Dr. Meghnad Saha

Detailed Explanation: Dr. Meghnad Saha's pioneering legacy was commemorated across apex institutes. The Saha Ionization Equation revolutionized astrophysics by allowing scientists to accurately relate the spectral lines of stars to their actual temperatures and chemical composition.

Q30. Former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and veteran national leader, B.C. Khanduri, was recently remembered during a state memorial. Which major developmental initiative is historically associated with his administrative tenure?

- [A] Char Dham All-Weather Rail Network
- [B] High-Altitude Border Roads Expansion (Project Himank)
- [C] National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Golden Quadrilateral

[D] Uttarakhand Hydroelectric Power Grid
Blueprint

Correct Answer: [C] National Highway
Development Project (NHDP) Golden
Quadrilateral

Detailed Explanation: Major General (Retd.)
Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri served with
distinction as the Union Minister of Road
Transport and Highways under Prime Minister
Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He is credited with the
rapid and clean execution of India's mega
infrastructure highway flagship projects,
including the Golden Quadrilateral and the
North-South and East-West Corridors.

Core Exam Takeaways

- Quad 2026 Strategic Focus: Critical Mineral
Supply Chains (USD 20 Billion framework)
and Maritime Surveillance via IPMSC.
- Environmental/Sci-Tech Highlights: India's
First Nagoya Protocol ABS realization report
and the discovery of the 12.6-billion-year-
old "Loktak Proocluster".
- Sports Governance Reforms:
Implementation of the statutory National
Sports Board and Tribunal Rules under the
2025 Act.