

## Part 1: National & International News

**Q1. Which Indian state has been officially declared a fully literate state under the Ministry of Education's flagship 'ULLAS' initiative, becoming the fifth state in India to achieve this milestone?**

- [A] Sikkim
- [B] Mizoram
- [C] Goa
- [D] Himachal Pradesh

**Correct Answer:** [A] Sikkim

**Detailed Explanation:** Sikkim has officially been declared a fully literate state under the Ministry of Education's flagship initiative, **Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS)**. With this achievement, Sikkim becomes the 5th state in India (following Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, and Himachal Pradesh) and the 3rd in the North-East region to achieve full literacy status under this program. The ULLAS initiative targets functional literacy and critical life skills for citizens aged 15 and above who missed formal schooling.

**Q2. The historic Beaufort Castle (Qalaat al-Shaqif), which was recently captured amidst expanding geopolitical conflict, is located in which country?**

- [A] Syria
- [B] Jordan
- [C] Israel
- [D] Lebanon

**Correct Answer:** [D] Lebanon

**Detailed Explanation:** Beaufort Castle, also known as Qalaat al-Shaqif ("Castle of the High Rock"), is a historic 12th-century Crusader

fortress located near Nabatieh in **southern Lebanon**. It recently entered the news cycle during the escalated West Asian conflict when Israeli forces pushed deep past the border to capture the strategic ridge. The fortress stands as one of the best-preserved medieval architectural defense systems in the Near East.

**Q3. Which three nations launched a joint underwater drone program under 'Pillar Two' of their security alliance to co-develop advanced Uncrewed Undersea Vehicles (UUVs)?**

- [A] India, USA, and Japan
- [B] USA, UK, and Australia
- [C] USA, France, and UK
- [D] Australia, Japan, and USA

**Correct Answer:** [B] USA, UK, and Australia

**Detailed Explanation:** The **AUKUS** security alliance, consisting of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, officially launched a joint underwater drone program. Operating under **AUKUS Pillar Two** (which focuses on advanced cyber, AI, quantum technologies, and undersea capabilities), the program aims to co-develop cutting-edge Uncrewed Undersea Vehicles (UUVs) to maintain maritime deterrence and defense superiority in the Indo-Pacific.

**Q4. Which High Court recently recognized an individual's "Right to be Forgotten", directing search engines to disable "name-based" search functionalities for private or settled cases?**

- [A] Bombay High Court
- [B] Delhi High Court
- [C] Madras High Court
- [D] Allahabad High Court

**Correct Answer:** [B] Delhi High Court

**Detailed Explanation:** The Delhi High Court delivered a landmark ruling affirming that the "Right to be Forgotten" is inherent to personal privacy. The court directed major search engines (like Google) and legal databases to de-index and disable name-based search queries for judicial records of a private nature, or cases that ended in acquittals, discharges, or mutual settlements, recognizing that perpetual public exposure can permanently dent an individual's livelihood.

**Q5. A severe combination of land subsidence and sea-level rise up to 4.3 mm per year has placed parts of which major Asian island's northern coast at extreme risk of flooding?**

- [A] Sumatra, Indonesia
- [B] Java, Indonesia
- [C] Luzon, Philippines
- [D] Kyushu, Japan

**Correct Answer:** [B] Java, Indonesia

**Detailed Explanation:** Researchers from Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) warned that several areas along the northern coast of Java Island are experiencing a catastrophic mix of rapid land subsidence (due to groundwater extraction) and global sea-level rise. Reaching rates of up to 4.3 mm per year, this phenomenon significantly multiplies the vulnerabilities of metropolitan coastal zones to permanent inundation.

## Part 2: Economics, Banking & Government Schemes

**Q6. The PM SVANidhi micro-credit scheme completed how many years of operation, facilitating over 1.12 crore collateral-free loans to street vendors?**

- [A] 4 years

[B] 5 years

[C] 6 years

[D] 7 years

**Correct Answer:** [C] 6 years

**Detailed Explanation:** Launched in response to the pandemic disruptions, the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme completed 6 years of operation. Administered by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoH&UA), it has sanctioned over 1.12 crore loans across the country, crossing ₹17,800 crore in volume, and benefiting more than 75.5 lakh unique urban street vendors via multi-tiered micro-credit scaling.

**Q7. To support the textile industry, the Government of India temporarily suspended the 11% customs duty and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on cotton imports until which month?**

[A] August 2026

[B] October 2026

[C] December 2026

[D] March 2027

**Correct Answer:** [B] October 2026

**Detailed Explanation:** The Indian domestic stock market witnessed a major surge in textile stocks following the Union Government's decision to completely waive the 11% customs duty and AIDC on raw cotton imports until October 2026. This move was implemented to guarantee input raw-material availability and control soaring domestic yarn prices, giving exporters a competitive global hedge during a period of volatile yields.

**Q8. The Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme, which aims to develop fabless semiconductor**

capabilities, is implemented under which umbrella national program?

- [A] Digital India Programme
- [B] Startup India Programme
- [C] Semicon India Programme
- [D] Make in India Programme

**Correct Answer:** [C] Semicon India Programme

**Detailed Explanation:** The Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme is proving highly successful in incubating India's indigenous chip design ecosystem. It operates under the **Semicon India Programme** and is executed by C-DAC as the nodal agency. The DLI scheme offers fiscal financial incentives and design infrastructure support to domestic MSMEs and startups working across various stages of semiconductor design fabrication.

**Q9. Which Union Ministry collaborates directly with the Department of Financial Services to execute and scale up the PM SVANidhi digital cash-back and credit ecosystem?**

- [A] Ministry of Rural Development
- [B] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- [C] Ministry of Finance
- [D] Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Correct Answer:** [B] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

**Detailed Explanation:** The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoH&UA)** is the core implementing authority of the PM SVANidhi Scheme. It partners directly with the Department of Financial Services (Ministry of Finance) to link commercial banks, NBFCs, and MFIs to disburse low-interest urban vendor loans while introducing UPI-linked digital cashback programs to informal businesses.

**Q10. Ecuador's customs authority abolished a 100 percent protective tariff on goods imported from which neighboring country to settle a long-standing trade dispute?**

- [A] Peru
- [B] Colombia
- [C] Brazil
- [D] Venezuela

**Correct Answer:** [B] Colombia

**Detailed Explanation:** Ecuador's customs agency officially eliminated a restrictive **100% tariff** levied on **Colombian goods**. The move effectively resolves a bitter commercial stand-off that had strained political and logistic bilateral ties between the two Andean neighbors, allowing a return to normal cross-border trade flows under regional economic frameworks.

### Part 3: Defence News & Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

**Q11. India signed a major defence export deal worth USD 629 million (approx. ₹60 billion) to supply BrahMos supersonic cruise missile systems to which Southeast Asian nation?**

- [A] Philippines
- [B] Indonesia
- [C] Vietnam
- [D] Malaysia

**Correct Answer:** [C] Vietnam

**Detailed Explanation:** India signed a historic **USD 629 million BrahMos missile export agreement with Vietnam**. The deal includes the supply of the supersonic missile systems, operational training, and long-term logistics.

Announced by the Defence Secretary at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, this makes Vietnam the second foreign customer of the BrahMos after the Philippines signed a USD 375 million deal in 2022.

**Q12. Defence negotiations between India and which nation are in final stages for the acquisition of one complete coastal defense battery of the BrahMos missile system?**

- [A] Thailand
- [B] Indonesia
- [C] Singapore
- [D] Brunei

**Correct Answer:** [B] Indonesia

**Detailed Explanation:** Following up on its Southeast Asian export push, **India and Indonesia** are fast-tracking final negotiations for the acquisition of the BrahMos cruise missile system. Indonesia finalized frameworks to procure **one specific battery configuration** of the BrahMos supersonic system explicitly optimized for its maritime coastal defense networks.

**Q13. The historic 'BrahMos Missile export deal' was formally announced by India's Ministry of Defence at which premium annual international security summit?**

- [A] Munich Security Conference
- [B] Shangri-La Dialogue
- [C] Raisina Dialogue
- [D] G20 Defence Conclave

**Correct Answer:** [B] Shangri-La Dialogue

**Detailed Explanation:** The multi-million dollar defence trade development was officially declared at the **Shangri-La Dialogue** held in Singapore. Organized by the International

Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), the Shangri-La Dialogue is Asia's premier defense and security summit where defense ministers, military chiefs, and global strategic experts gather to address pressing geopolitical threats.

**Q14. Which initiative conducted by Saudi Arabia in Yemen successfully cleared 6,323 explosive remnants of war and landmines during May 2026?**

- [A] Project Masam
- [B] Operation Restoring Hope
- [C] Project Yemen-Demine
- [D] Operation Eager Lion

**Correct Answer:** [A] Project Masam

**Detailed Explanation:** Saudi Arabia's specialized humanitarian demining initiative in Yemen, known as **Project Masam**, announced the removal of 6,323 landmines, unexploded ordnance, and explosive hazards during May 2026 alone. The ongoing project is highly vital for establishing humanitarian land corridors and preventing civilian casualties in post-conflict zones.

**Q15. European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) successfully completed a pilot deployment of authenticated satellite tracking to secure patrols in which strategic body of water?**

- [A] Mediterranean Sea
- [B] Baltic Sea
- [C] Black Sea
- [D] Caspian Sea

**Correct Answer:** [C] Black Sea

**Detailed Explanation:** **Frontex**, the European Union's Border and Coast Guard Agency, completed a pilot program integrating

automated, authenticated satellite space tracking capabilities into its surface vessel patrols across the **Black Sea**. The technology enables real-time verification of maritime movements to detect geopolitical incursions and intercept human trafficking rings.

## Part 4: Appointments, Awards & Honors

**Q16. Which Indian agriculturist was honored as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) "Soil Farmer Hero" for transforming an 11-hectare farm through tree-based agriculture?**

- [A] Ramasamy
- [B] Valluvan
- [C] Perumal
- [D] Gurudev

**Correct Answer:** [B] Valluvan

**Detailed Explanation:** Valluvan, an organic farmer from the Pollachi district of Tamil Nadu, was awarded the prestigious **FAO Soil Farmer Hero Award**. Supported by the Isha Foundation's *Save Soil-Cauvery Calling* initiative, Valluvan successfully transformed a dry 11-hectare plot into a highly lucrative, multi-tier, tree-based multi-crop enterprise, showcasing how eco-restoration can directly boost agricultural profitability.

**Q17. President Droupadi Murmu presented the prestigious President's Police Colour award to the police force of which state at the Palzor Stadium?**

- [A] Sikkim Police
- [B] Goa Police
- [C] Tripura Police
- [D] Assam Police

**Correct Answer:** [A] Sikkim Police

**Detailed Explanation:** President Droupadi Murmu conferred the **President's Police Colour** to the **Sikkim Police** at a ceremonial parade at Palzor Stadium in Gangtok. The award recognizes the state force's distinguished long-term record, high professional standards, and vital contributions to sustaining cross-border tranquility and internal safety in the strategically sensitive mountain state.

**Q18. Who is the current Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) who called for enhanced community trust and international solidarity to curb the latest Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo?**

- [A] Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- [B] Soumya Swaminathan
- [C] Margaret Chan
- [D] António Guterres

**Correct Answer:** [A] Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

**Detailed Explanation:** WHO Director-General **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** led a global brief calling for stronger grassroots health networks and global financial solidarity to contain the Ebola virus surge in the DRC. He specifically cautioned that hard border closures and blind travel bans can inadvertently collapse local supply chains and stall professional epidemiological containment response teams.

**Q19. In West Bengal's recent state cabinet expansion administered by Governor R.N. Ravi, how many total MLAs took oath as ministers in the newly configured council?**

- [A] 21 MLAs
- [B] 25 MLAs
- [C] 35 MLAs

[D] 41 MLAs

**Correct Answer:** [C] 35 MLAs

**Detailed Explanation:** West Bengal's state executive council underwent a massive expansion with **35 MLAs taking oath as Ministers**. Administered by the Governor, the induction included 13 Cabinet Ministers, 3 Ministers of State (Independent Charge), and 19 Ministers of State, expanding the full council strength under Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari to 41.

**Q20. Who currently serves as the Union Minister of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoH&UA), active in implementing municipal digital reforms and vendor credit systems?**

[A] Manohar Lal Khattar

[B] Hardeep Singh Puri

[C] Dharmendra Pradhan

[D] Jitendra Singh

**Correct Answer:** [A] Manohar Lal Khattar

**Detailed Explanation:** Manohar Lal Khattar serves as the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs. He was actively involved in tracking the 6-year milestone of the PM SVANidhi scheme, interacting with beneficiaries across the North-Eastern states, and expanding the localized rollout of geotagged public sanitation platforms.

## Part 5: Sports, Books & Authors

**Q21. Which team clinched the Men's Indian Premier League (IPL) T20 title, securing a ₹20 crore cash prize, driven by Virat Kohli's unbeaten 75 runs in the final?**

[A] Gujarat Titans (GT)

[B] Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)

[C] Chennai Super Kings (CSK)

[D] Mumbai Indians (MI)

**Correct Answer:** [B] Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)

**Detailed Explanation:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) claimed the IPL crown in a definitive final clash. Chasing a target of 156 set by the Gujarat Titans (GT), RCB comfortably scaled the total within 18 overs. Virat Kohli's explosive, unbeaten 75 runs off 42 deliveries anchored the chase. RCB walked away with the trophy and ₹20 crore in prize money, while runners-up GT took home ₹12.5 crore.

**Q22. India's national women's cricket team is scheduled to play a high-stakes group match against which rival country on June 14, at the Edgbaston Stadium during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup?**

[A] England

[B] Australia

[C] Pakistan

[D] South Africa

**Correct Answer:** [C] Pakistan

**Detailed Explanation:** The official fixtures for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England list the high-voltage group match between arch-rivals **India and Pakistan** on June 14 at the historic Edgbaston Stadium. The event is preceded by key warm-up encounters starting early June against the West Indies and England.

**Q23. Who won the "Player of the Match" award in the 2nd T20 International bilateral series match where England Women defeated India Women by 26 runs?**

[A] Smriti Mandhana

[B] Freya Kemp

[C] Charlie Dean

[D] Harmanpreet Kaur

**Correct Answer:** [B] Freya Kemp

**Detailed Explanation:** In the 2nd T20I match of the bilateral series played between England and India, England Women secured a 26-run victory by defending a total of 168/5. England's **Freya Kemp** was named the Player of the Match for her stunning lower-order hitting (scoring 39 runs off 13 balls with a strike rate of 300) and an impactful bowling spell.

**Q24. Who is the author of the recently referenced strategic public governance frameworks underpinning the newly launched AI voice bot 'Samadhan Didi'?**

[A] Dr. Jitendra Singh

[B] Rajesh Kumar Singh

[C] Debashree Mukherjee

[D] Manohar Lal Khattar

**Correct Answer:** [A] Dr. Jitendra Singh

**Detailed Explanation:** Union Minister of State **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched the AI-enabled CPGRAMS Voice Chatbot named '**Samadhan Didi**'. The platform uses advanced natural language processing (NLP) to register and process citizen grievances via voice commands. The design documentation and policy workflows were authored under his guidance within the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

**Q25. The book titled "The New Frontier of Maritime Deterrence", outlining deep-sea autonomous defense systems, was released in the wake of which alliance's latest UUV development?**

[A] QUAD Secretariat

[B] AUKUS Joint Working Group

[C] NATO Naval Command

[D] ASEAN Maritime Forum

**Correct Answer:** [B] AUKUS Joint Working Group

**Detailed Explanation:** To mark the launch of the joint undersea drone development initiative under Pillar Two, the **AUKUS Joint Working Group** published a technical strategic monograph titled "*The New Frontier of Maritime Deterrence*". The book serves as a foundational text analyzing the deployment of uncrewed undersea vehicles (UUVs) in modern naval warfare.

## Part 6: Important Days, Festivals, Art & Culture

**Q26. International Children's Day is observed globally on which date every year to advocate for children's safety, health, and education?**

[A] May 31

[B] June 1

[C] June 2

[D] June 5

**Correct Answer:** [B] June 1

**Detailed Explanation:** **International Children's Day** is observed every year on **June 1**. Established originally during the 1925 World Conference for the Well-being of Children in Geneva, this day is widely celebrated across several nations to focus global attention on establishing robust child protection laws, ending child labor, and ensuring universal primary education. (*Note: India celebrates its domestic Children's Day on November 14*).

**Q27. A rare, high-altitude terrestrial moss species named 'Indopotia himalayensis' was recently discovered by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) in which ecosystem?**

- [A] Uttarakhand
- [B] Sikkim
- [C] Himachal Pradesh
- [D] Arunachal Pradesh

**Correct Answer:** [A] Uttarakhand

**Detailed Explanation:** Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) discovered a brand-new species of moss named **Indopottia himalayensis** in the high-altitude forests of **Uttarakhand**. This marks only the third known species of the genus *Indopottia* identified globally; the other two are native to the Western Ghats of India and the mountain chains of Thailand.

**Q28. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the 'Swachh Application', a geo-tagged mobile tracking platform for municipal hygiene, during an urban cleanliness festival in which city?**

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] Kolkata
- [C] Mumbai
- [D] Guwahati

**Correct Answer:** [B] Kolkata

**Detailed Explanation:** The geo-tagged municipal cleanliness mobile application named '**Swachh Application**' was officially rolled out in **Kolkata, West Bengal**. Launched by Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, the application integrates public crowdsourcing with municipal corporation solid-waste dashboards to spot, clean, and monitor urban garbage blackspots in real-time.

**Q29. June 2 marks the formation day of which Indian state, which was carved out as the 29th state of the Union after a historic socio-political movement?**

- [A] Jharkhand
- [B] Uttarakhand
- [C] Telangana
- [D] Chhattisgarh

**Correct Answer:** [C] Telangana

**Detailed Explanation:** **June 2** is celebrated as the **Telangana State Formation Day**. The state was formally carved out of Andhra Pradesh on June 2, 2014, following the passage of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act in Parliament. It stands as a significant day in competitive exams testing regional state histories and political geography.

**Q30. June 1-2, 2026 marks the death anniversary of which iconic Indian international track-and-field athlete, affectionately remembered as the "Flying Sikh"?**

- [A] Milkha Singh
- [B] Captain Shankar Laxman
- [C] K. D. Jadhav
- [D] Balbir Singh Sr.

**Correct Answer:** [A] Milkha Singh

**Detailed Explanation:** Late May and early June mark the solemn remembrance period of legendary sprinter **Milkha Singh**, the "Flying Sikh", who passed away due to post-COVID complications. He remains the only athlete to win gold medals in the 400-meter race at both the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games, and his historic 1960 Rome Olympics 4th-place finish is a foundational moment in Indian athletic history.