

International News

1. Germany Streamlines Visa Application Process for Indian Tourists

- **Overview:** Germany's Federal Foreign Office reduced the waiting time for tourist visa appointments at its embassy in New Delhi to just **2 days**.
- **Key Context & Impact:** This move aims to facilitate smoother business travel, tourism, and diplomatic exchanges between India and Germany, which is currently India's largest trading partner in Europe.
- **Exam Relevance (UPSC/SSC):** Bilateral ties, ease of travel mechanisms, Schengen area regulations.

2. Stranded Indian Seafarers at Ukraine's Chornomorsk Port

- **Overview:** India is actively monitoring the safety of 13 Indian seafarers trapped aboard the commercial vessel MV Amir-1 near Ukraine's Chornomorsk Port following drone/missile strikes in the Black Sea.
- **Geographic Relevance:** Chornomorsk is a major port city in the Odesa Oblast on the northwestern coast of the Black Sea.

National News

1. Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026

- **Overview:** The Lok Sabha passed the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026** by voice vote to combat organized exam fraud and paper leaks.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Strict punishment ranging from 3 to 10 years imprisonment for organized fraud syndicates.

- Heavy financial penalties on institutions involved in malpractices.
- Creation of a high-level technical committee to secure computer-based tests (CBT).

- **Exam Relevance:** Important for Polity & Governance questions regarding regulatory frameworks in recruitment.

2. Amendment to Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971

- **Overview:** The Rajya Sabha passed a Bill introducing stricter provisions making any intentional disrespect or insult to the national song '**Vande Mataram**' a criminal offense under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
- **Historical Context:** 'Vande Mataram' was composed in Sanskritized Bengali by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in 1870 and was included in his 1882 novel Anandamath.

3. Supreme Court Ruling on Ex-Post Facto Environmental Clearances (ECs)

- **Overview:** The Supreme Court struck down the Union Environment Ministry's 2021 Office Memorandum (OM) that allowed continuous retrospective (ex-post facto) Environmental Clearances for projects operating without prior approval.
- **Key Details:**
 - Court stated that ex-post facto approvals undermine the **Precautionary Principle** and the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
 - Clarified that executive orders cannot override statutory requirements under the EIA Notification, 2006.

Economics & Banking

1. India's Mobile Phone Exports Surged 165-Fold in a Decade

- **Overview:** Union Government presented data in Parliament showing India's mobile phone exports rose from ₹1,500 crore (FY 2014-15) to ₹2.59 lakh crore (FY 2025-26).
- **Driver Schemes:** Driven primarily by the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing and the Make in India initiative.

2. Unilever-McCormick \$65 Billion Global Restructuring & Employment Safeguards

- **Overview:** Global FMCG major Unilever signed a worker-protection deal guaranteeing job security terms following its planned \$65 billion merger segmenting its global food operations.
- **Exam Focus:** Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) terminology, impact on global corporate supply chains.

Sports News

1. ICC Player Rankings Updates

- **Shubman Gill:** Regained the **No. 1 ranking** in the ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings.
- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi:** The 15-year-old prodigy vaulted 230 spots to rank 48th in the ICC Men's T20I Rankings following his Player of the Series performance against Zimbabwe.

2. Commonwealth Games 2026 Medal Hauls

- **Gulveer Singh:** Won the **Silver Medal** in the Men's 10,000m event.
- **Harjinder Kaur:** Secured **Silver** in Women's Weightlifting.

3. TOI Sports Fitness and Infrastructure Expo-2026

- **Location:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (30 July – 1 August 2026).
- **Significance:** Organised in partnership with the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)** and **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** as part of preparations for India's 2030 Commonwealth Games hosting and 2036 Olympic bid.

Appointments & Resignations

1. Head of Cricket Strategy – Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)

- **Appointed:** Ryan ten Doeschate (former Netherlands international player and former India assistant coach).
- **Role:** To manage global cricket strategy across all global T20 franchise teams under Knight Riders Sports.

Defense & Security

1. Counter-Transnational Maritime Security in the Black Sea

- **Focus:** Security assessment of commercial sea lanes (Grain Corridor) in the Black Sea following renewed security risks near Ukrainian ports.

Government Schemes & Initiatives

1. PM Internship Scheme Performance Review

- **Overview:** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs released a comprehensive intake report for the **PM Internship Scheme**.
- **Key Targets:** Provide 1 crore internship opportunities in top 500 companies over 5 years.
- **Key Challenge Identified:** Streamlining rural student onboarding and raising corporate acceptance ratios in tier-2 and tier-3 locations.

MoUs & Regional Agreements

1. Direct Container Freight Corridor: India – Nepal

- Overview:** India launched its first direct container freight transport link connecting **Kolkata Port (Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port)** directly to dry ports in **Nepal** via rail network.
- Exam Relevance:** Multi-modal logistics, BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) regional integration, and trade connectivity.

Important Days (30 July)

Day / Event	Theme / Significance
International Day of Friendship	Designated by UN General Assembly in 2011 to promote friendship between peoples, countries, cultures, and individuals.
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	Organized by UNODC to raise awareness of the situation of human trafficking victims and for the promotion and protection of their rights.
National Whistleblower Appreciation Day	Commemorates the passing of America's first whistleblower protection law in 1778; highlighted globally in corporate compliance studies.

Art, Culture & Festivals

1. Reconstruction and Security Protocols at Ram Janmabhoomi Complex, Ayodhya

- Context:** News updates surrounding security and governance administration of major pilgrimage infrastructure across Uttar Pradesh ahead of upcoming festive seasons.

Birth & Death Anniversaries (30 July)

1. Henry Ford (Birth Anniversary - 30 July 1863)

- Significance:** Industrialist and founder of Ford Motor Company; pioneer of the assembly line technique of mass production.

2. Smedley Butler (Birth Anniversary - 30 July 1881)

- Significance:** Senior US Marine Corps officer and two-time Medal of Honor recipient known for his historical military memoirs.

Summary Practice Questions (UPSC/SSC/Banking Pattern)

Q1. Under which act was the recent amendment passed in the Rajya Sabha to criminalize disrespect towards the national song 'Vande Mataram'?

- The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950
- Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971
- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955
- Representation of the People Act, 1951

- Answer:** (b) Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971

Q2. The Supreme Court struck down the 2021 Office Memorandum regarding ex-post facto Environmental Clearances under which principal legislation?

(a) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

(b) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

(c) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

(d) Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991

- **Answer: (c) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**

Q3. Which two ports/hubs were recently linked to establish a direct container freight train service strengthening India-Nepal logistics?

(a) Visakhapatnam Port – Kathmandu

(b) Kolkata Port – Nepal Dry Ports

(c) Paradip Port – Birgunj

(d) JNPT Mumbai – Biratnagar

- **Answer: (b) Kolkata Port – Nepal Dry Ports**

1 near Chornomorsk Port. In which country/region is Chornomorsk Port located?

(a) Red Sea, Yemen

(b) Persian Gulf, Iran

(c) Black Sea, Ukraine

(d) Baltic Sea, Poland

- **Correct Answer: (c) Black Sea, Ukraine**

• **Explanation:** Chornomorsk Port is a major maritime transport hub located in the Odesa Oblast along the northwestern coast of the Black Sea in Ukraine. Safety concerns arose following military actions and drone/missile strikes affecting commercial sea lanes in the region.

Q3. According to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report, what is India's global ranking as a supplier of maritime seafarers?

(a) 1st

(b) 2nd

(c) 3rd

(d) 5th

- **Correct Answer: (b) 2nd**

• **Explanation:** India ranks as the world's 2nd largest supplier of seafarers, accounting for over 311,000 professionals (approx. 12.16% of the global seafarer workforce), trailing only the Philippines.

International News

Q1. Which European nation recently streamlined its tourist visa process by reducing the appointment wait time for Indian applicants at its New Delhi Embassy to 2 days?

(a) France

(b) Germany

(c) Italy

(d) Spain

- **Correct Answer: (b) Germany**

• **Explanation:** Germany's Federal Foreign Office recently reduced visa appointment waiting times for Indian applicants to just two days. Germany is currently India's largest trading partner in Europe, and this initiative aims to bolster bilateral trade, tourism, and diplomatic exchanges.

Q2. India is currently monitoring the safety of 13 Indian seafarers trapped on the vessel *MV Amir-*

National News

Q4. The Lok Sabha passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill to combat exam fraud and paper leaks. What is the maximum imprisonment penalty stipulated under the law for organized fraud syndicates?

(a) 3 Years

(b) 5 Years



(c) 7 Years

(d) 10 Years

• **Correct Answer: (d) 10 Years**

• **Explanation:** The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act provides strict penalties ranging from 3 to 10 years of imprisonment along with heavy financial fines up to ₹1 crore for organized syndicates, service providers, and institutions involved in paper leaks and exam malpractices.

Q5. Disrespect towards the National Song 'Vande Mataram' is penalized under an amendment to which existing central legislation?

(a) Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971

(b) Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950

(c) Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955

(d) Representation of the People Act, 1951

• **Correct Answer: (a) Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**

• **Explanation:** The Rajya Sabha passed an amendment to the *Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971*, expanding its scope beyond the National Flag and National Anthem to include criminal penalties for intentional insult or disrespect towards the National Song, *Vande Mataram*.

Q6. In a major environment ruling, the Supreme Court struck down executive orders allowing "ex-post facto" Environmental Clearances (ECs), stating it violates which fundamental principle of environmental law?

(a) Absolute Liability Principle

(b) Precautionary Principle

(c) Polluter Pays Principle

(d) Public Trust Doctrine

• **Correct Answer: (b) Precautionary Principle**

• **Explanation:** The Supreme Court held that granting retrospective (ex-post facto) approvals to industrial or infrastructure projects operating without prior clearance undermines the **Precautionary Principle** and violates the statutory mandates of the *Environment (Protection) Act, 1986*.

Q7. How many Electronic Zero (e-Zero) FIRs were registered across 18 states and UTs to combat cyber financial fraud, as recently reported to Parliament?

(a) Over 5,000

(b) Over 8,000

(c) Over 12,000

(d) Over 20,000

• **Correct Answer: (c) Over 12,000**

• **Explanation:** Union Minister of State for Home Affairs informed the Lok Sabha that more than 12,000 e-Zero FIRs have been filed through integrated national cybercrime portals, enabling swift freezing of defrauded bank accounts regardless of territorial jurisdiction.

Economics & Banking

Q8. Government data presented in Parliament revealed that India's mobile phone exports grew 165-fold over the last decade (FY15 to FY26), reaching approximately what value?

(a) ₹50,000 crore

(b) ₹1.20 lakh crore

(c) ₹2.59 lakh crore

(d) ₹5.00 lakh crore

• **Correct Answer: (c) ₹2.59 lakh crore**



- **Explanation:** Driven by the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing, India's mobile phone exports rose dramatically from ₹1,500 crore in 2014-15 to ₹2.59 lakh crore in FY 2025-26.

Q9. Which multilateral financial institution approved an \$850 million loan to accelerate rooftop solar adoption in India under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- (c) New Development Bank (NDB)
- (d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

• **Correct Answer: (b) Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

- **Explanation:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved an \$850 million financing package to support India's flagship rooftop solar scheme (*PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana*), aiding distribution companies (DISCOMs) and residential consumer financing.

Q10. Global consumer goods giant Unilever signed a worker-protection agreement in connection with its planned \$65 billion merger with which U.S.-based food manufacturer?

- (a) Kraft Heinz
- (b) Mondelez International
- (c) McCormick & Company
- (d) General Mills

• **Correct Answer: (c) McCormick & Company**

- **Explanation:** Unilever signed a two-year employment safeguard agreement for its European and UK workforce tied to its \$65 billion global merger/restructuring with

American spice maker McCormick & Company.

Sports News

Q11. Which Indian cricketer recently regained the No. 1 ranking in the ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings?

- (a) Rohit Sharma
- (b) Virat Kohli
- (c) Shubman Gill
- (d) Yashasvi Jaiswal

• **Correct Answer: (c) Shubman Gill**

- **Explanation:** Indian team captain Shubman Gill reclaimed the top spot in the ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings, replacing Babar Azam following a strong run of form in recent international series.

Q12. 15-year-old batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi vaulted 230 spots to reach rank 48 in the ICC T20I Rankings following his Player of the Series performance against which country?

- (a) Ireland
- (b) Zimbabwe
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Sri Lanka

• **Correct Answer: (b) Zimbabwe**

- **Explanation:** Vaibhav Sooryavanshi made headlines after scoring 151 runs at an average of 50.33 during India's 3-0 T20I series victory against Zimbabwe in Harare, jumping to the 48th spot in global T20I rankings.

Q13. Where is the TOI Sports Fitness and Infrastructure Expo hosted in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS)?

- (a) Eden Gardens, Kolkata

- (b) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- (c) Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar
- (d) Motera Stadium, Ahmedabad

- **Correct Answer: (b) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**
- **Explanation:** The Sports Fitness and Infrastructure Expo is organized at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, showcasing sports equipment, high-performance training technologies, and stadium infrastructure developments.

Appointments & Resignations

Q14. Who has been appointed as the Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)?

- (a) Satya Pal Kumar
- (b) Tapan Deka
- (c) Sanjay Kumar Mishra
- (d) Nitin Gupta

- **Correct Answer: (a) Satya Pal Kumar**
- **Explanation:** Satya Pal Kumar, a 2005-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, was appointed as the Director of FIU-IND under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

Q15. Former Netherlands captain and ex-India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate was appointed to which strategic role by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)?

- (a) Head Coach
- (b) Head of Cricket Strategy
- (c) High-Performance Director
- (d) Chief Executive Officer

- **Correct Answer: (b) Head of Cricket Strategy**

- **Explanation:** Knight Riders Sports appointed Ryan ten Doeschate as its Head of Cricket Strategy, placing him in charge of technical and tactical operations across all their international T20 franchise teams (IPL, CPL, MLC, ILT20).

Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q16. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) reviewed the implementation of the PM Internship Scheme. What is the overall target of this scheme?

- (a) 10 lakh internships in 3 years
- (b) 50 lakh internships in 5 years
- (c) 1 crore internships in 5 years
- (d) 2 crore internships in 10 years

- **Correct Answer: (c) 1 crore internships in 5 years**

- **Explanation:** The PM Internship Scheme aims to provide 1 crore internship opportunities to youth in India's top 500 companies over 5 years, providing financial assistance and real-world work exposure.

Q17. Which initiative was launched at Rashtrapati Bhavan by President Droupadi Murmu to improve public accessibility and heritage interconnectivity?

- (a) SANKALP
- (b) RAAHI
- (c) HERITAGE-Connect
- (d) PRAGATI

- **Correct Answer: (b) RAAHI**

- **Explanation:** President Droupadi Murmu launched 'RAAHI' (*Rashtrapati Bhavan Access And Heritage Interconnector*) alongside an e-Audio Guide to enhance visitor access and heritage experience across the President's Estates.

MoUs & Agreements

Q18. The North-Eastern state of Tripura signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with which institution to boost financial literacy, skill development, and investment awareness?

- (a) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (c) National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- (d) NITI Aayog

- **Correct Answer:** (c) National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- **Explanation:** Tripura state agencies (SIPARD, Directorate of Industries, Directorate of Skill Development) signed three MoUs with the NSE to enhance financial market awareness, entrepreneurship skills, and capital market literacy across the state.

Q19. The Central University of Kerala (CUK) signed an MoU with which defense arm to foster academic collaboration and innovation in maritime studies?

- (a) Indian Army
- (b) Indian Navy
- (c) Indian Air Force
- (d) Indian Coast Guard

- **Correct Answer:** (b) Indian Navy
- **Explanation:** CUK and the Indian Navy established a formal partnership for joint academic research, defense technology innovation, and strategic knowledge sharing in maritime studies.

Q20. Center of Development of Telematics (C-DOT) signed an agreement with IISc Bengaluru to establish its 5th Centre of Excellence (CoE) in which domain?

- (a) Quantum Computing
- (b) Next-Generation Telecommunications & Networks
- (c) Cyber Warfare
- (d) Satellite Manufacturing

- **Correct Answer:** (b) Next-Generation Telecommunications & Networks
- **Explanation:** C-DOT partnered with the Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID) at IISc Bengaluru to establish its 5th CoE dedicated to advanced telecom software, 6G research, and optical communications.

Books & Authors

Q21. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released a set of five commemorative books detailing the four-year presidential tenure of which Indian leader?

- (a) Ram Nath Kovind
- (b) Droupadi Murmu
- (c) Venkaiah Naidu
- (d) Pratibha Patil

- **Correct Answer:** (b) Droupadi Murmu
- **Explanation:** To mark the completion of four years of her presidency (she was sworn in on July 25, 2022 as India's first tribal President), Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released five commemorative volumes highlighting her governance initiatives and national interactions.

Defense & Security

Q22. The Open Secure AI Alliance (OSAA) was launched by global tech leaders (including Microsoft, NVIDIA, and IBM) to address security and resilience in what critical domain?

- (a) Autonomous Weapon Systems



- (b) Artificial Intelligence Security & Trust
- (c) Nuclear Grid Defenses
- (d) Deep-sea Communication Cables
- **Correct Answer: (b) Artificial Intelligence Security & Trust**
- **Explanation:** OSAA is an open industry initiative designed to create standardized frameworks, threat detection tools, and security standards for deploying secure, trustworthy, and resilient AI systems in military and civilian infrastructures.

Important Days & Themes (30 July)

Q23. What is the primary objective of the International Day of Friendship, observed globally on July 30?

- (a) Promoting international trade partnerships
- (b) Inspiring peace efforts and building bridges between communities, cultures, and countries
- (c) Celebrating youth athletic achievements
- (d) Honoring diplomatic corps globally
- **Correct Answer: (b) Inspiring peace efforts and building bridges between communities, cultures, and countries**
- **Explanation:** Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2011, the International Day of Friendship highlights the role of friendship between peoples, countries, and cultures in fostering international peace, mutual respect, and cultural understanding.

Q24. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on July 30. Which United Nations agency leads this global awareness campaign?

- (a) UNESCO
- (b) UNODC (UN Office on Drugs and Crime)
- (c) UNHCR
- (d) UNICEF

- **Correct Answer: (b) UNODC (UN Office on Drugs and Crime)**
- **Explanation:** UNODC organizes the *World Day Against Trafficking in Persons* to raise awareness about the exploitation of human trafficking victims and to urge governments to strengthen enforcement and survivor protection mechanisms.

Q25. Which African nation celebrates its national 'Enthronement Day' on July 30?

- (a) Egypt
- (b) Morocco
- (c) Kenya
- (d) South Africa

- **Correct Answer: (b) Morocco**
- **Explanation:** July 30 is celebrated as the Throne Day (Feast of the Throne) in the Kingdom of Morocco, commemorating the official enthronement of King Mohammed VI in 1999.

Art, Culture & Heritage

Q26. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed the national song 'Vande Mataram' in 1870. In which famous 1882 Bengali novel was it published?

- (a) Durgeshnondini
- (b) Anandamath
- (c) Kapalkundala
- (d) Gora

- **Correct Answer: (b) Anandamath**
- **Explanation:** 'Vande Mataram' was originally written in Sanskritized Bengali by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and was published in his political fiction novel *Anandamath* in 1882 against the backdrop of the Sannyasi Rebellion.

Q27. Modern industrialist and assembly-line pioneer Henry Ford was born on 30 July 1863. Which landmark vehicle did his company mass-produce starting in 1908?

- (a) Model T
- (b) Model A
- (c) Thunderbird
- (d) Mustang

• **Correct Answer:** (a) Model T

• **Explanation:** Henry Ford revolutionized factory automation and mass production with the introduction of the Model T automobile in 1908, making motor travel affordable for middle-class consumers.

Science, Technology & Environment

Q28. Under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) infrastructure expansion programs, the network of Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs) across India increased from 15 in 2014 to how many?

- (a) 25
- (b) 32
- (c) 41
- (d) 60

• **Correct Answer:** (c) 41

• **Explanation:** As part of national weather monitoring upgrades, MoES scaled up the Doppler Weather Radar network from 15 operational units in 2014 to 41, significantly improving severe weather tracking, cyclone lead times, and extreme rainfall forecasting.

Q29. What is the target timeline extended for tropical cyclone forecasting warnings in India, which has reduced coastal disaster casualties?

- (a) 3 Days
- (b) 5 Days

(c) 10 Days

(d) 14 Days

• **Correct Answer:** (c) 10 Days

• **Explanation:** Advanced numerical weather prediction models operated by MoES and IMD have extended cyclone warning lead times up to 10 days, allowing state disaster response forces to evacuate vulnerable coastal populations efficiently.

Q30. Uttar Pradesh approved an AI and Big Data Analytics-based Road Safety Pilot Project in collaboration with ITI Limited and mLogica. Which central ministry granted the NOC for this pilot project?

- (a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- (b) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)
- (c) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- (d) Ministry of Science and Technology

• **Correct Answer:** (b) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)

• **Explanation:** MoRTH issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for UP's AI-based road safety pilot project aimed at analyzing black spots, predicting accident-prone zones, and deploying automated traffic management systems.