

Part 1: International News

Q1. India recently issued a strong diplomatic condemnation against which neighboring country's air strikes on Afghan territory, calling it a "direct threat to regional peace and stability"?

- A) China
- B) Iran
- C) Pakistan
- D) Uzbekistan

Answer: C) Pakistan

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** On June 29–30, 2026, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India, issued a sharp public rebuke against Pakistan following its air strikes inside Afghanistan that caused civilian casualties.
- **Details:** Pakistan claimed it performed calibrated intelligence-based ground operations and air strikes targeting terrorist hideouts along the border, killing 29 militants. However, India officially criticized the cross-border strikes, terming them a "blatant act of aggression" and a desperate attempt by Islamabad to externalize internal political and economic failures. This escalation significantly impacts the delicate geopolitical dynamics of the South Asian region.

Q2. Which European country is experiencing an intense public protest movement known as the "Flamingo Revolution" against a US\$1.6 billion luxury resort project?

- A) Greece
- B) Albania
- C) Montenegro
- D) Croatia

Answer: B) Albania

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** In late June 2026, thousands of citizens and ecological activists launched the "Flamingo Revolution" in Albania.
- **Details:** The protests are aimed directly at a mega US\$1.6 billion luxury coastal resort development backed by international investors (linked to Jared Kushner). Activists adopted the flamingo as their symbol to defend the unique coastal biodiversity and wetlands of the region, which serve as crucial habitats for migratory birds. The movement has fast expanded from an environmental campaign into a anti-corruption protest challenging opaque government approvals.

Q3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited which island nation as the Guest of Honour for its landmark 50th National Day (Independence Golden Jubilee) celebrations on June 29–30, 2026?

- A) Maldives
- B) Mauritius
- C) Seychelles
- D) Madagascar

Answer: C) Seychelles

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The Indian Army marching contingent and Prime Minister Narendra Modi traveled to Victoria, the capital of Seychelles, to commemorate the nation's 50th Independence Day.
- **Details:** India and Seychelles share deep-rooted maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). During this visit, India extended crucial aid, including 8,500 metric tonnes of structural cement and 500

metric tonnes of staple rice, to cushion Seychelles against supply chain shocks triggered by the ongoing West Asia maritime crisis.

Q4. Following a temporary maritime standoff in the Gulf of Oman, the United States and Iran scheduled high-level diplomatic talks on June 30, 2026, in which neutral capital city?

- A) Muscat, Oman
- B) Doha, Qatar
- C) Geneva, Switzerland
- D) Kuwait City, Kuwait

Answer: B) Doha, Qatar

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** To address acute naval tensions involving missile strikes on merchant shipping vessels, top US and Iranian diplomats converged in Doha, Qatar, for technical talks.
- **Details:** Although an interim 14-point framework MoU had been initiated earlier in June, fresh tactical frictions in the Strait of Hormuz required immediate emergency negotiations. Qatar has historically stepped up as a reliable diplomatic backchannel and mediator between Washington and Tehran.

Part 2: National News

Q5. A massive landslide caused by heavy rain blocked the flow of the Siji River, prompting flash flood warnings down to Assam. In which state is the Siji River located?

- A) Assam
- B) Arunachal Pradesh
- C) Sikkim
- D) Meghalaya

Answer: B) Arunachal Pradesh

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Torrential monsoon downpours triggered a massive landslide in the Lower Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, forming an artificial landslide dam on the Siji River.
- **Details:** The local administration issued red alerts for downstream areas, including Likabali town. Crucially for geography-based MCQs, the Siji River flows from the hills of Arunachal Pradesh and enters the plains of Assam, where it is known as the **Gai River**.

Q6. The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) has officially invited design consultancy bids for expanding India's bullet train network across which two new corridors?

- A) Mumbai–Ahmedabad & Hyderabad–Bangalore
- B) Delhi–Ahmedabad & Mumbai–Nagpur
- C) Bengaluru–Chennai & Delhi–Varanasi
- D) Chennai–Hyderabad & Delhi–Chandigarh

Answer: C) Bengaluru–Chennai & Delhi–Varanasi

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** In a massive push for high-speed rail infrastructure, NHSRCL invited bids for the design and alignment of the Bengaluru–Chennai and Delhi–Varanasi bullet train corridors.
- **Details:** Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav confirmed that the Delhi–Varanasi corridor will route via Jewar (Noida International Airport) and Lucknow, reducing the massive travel time between the capital and the holy city to just 1 hour and 40 minutes.

Q7. Which State Government announced its intention to introduce a state-level Uniform

Civil Code (UCC) Bill in its legislative assembly in August 2026?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) West Bengal
- C) Gujarat
- D) Assam

Answer: B) West Bengal

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari and state political briefings confirmed that the West Bengal political circle is shifting focus toward introducing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill.
- **Details:** The state cabinet is slated to examine the structural tenets of the bill in early July, with a plan to introduce it formally in the state legislative assembly session in August 2026. This comes on the heels of other states like Uttarakhand previously passing similar code measures.

Q8. The Delhi Government has issued a strict one-month ultimatum to over 1,000 operational facilities of which sector to comply with absolute fire safety norms or face immediate closure?

- A) Industrial chemical units
- B) Private Coaching Centres
- C) Electronic waste warehouses
- D) Budget Hotels and Lodges

Answer: B) Private Coaching Centres

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Taking a zero-tolerance approach toward student safety, the Government of Delhi has cracked down on unregistered or non-compliant educational infrastructures.

- **Details:** More than 1,000 private coaching centers operating in congested hubs (like Old Rajinder Nagar and Mukherjee Nagar) have been given exactly 30 days to strictly verify and implement structural fire NOCs (No Objection Certificates), emergency exits, and ventilation safety baselines.

Part 3: Economics & Banking

Q9. Who has been appointed as the part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for a period of four years, effective from June 30, 2026?

- A) Rajiv Kumar (Former Finance Secretary)
- B) Urjit Patel
- C) P K Mishra
- D) Atanu Chakraborty

Answer: A) Rajiv Kumar (Former Finance Secretary)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The Board of Directors of HDFC Bank, following recommendations from its Governance, Nomination, and Remuneration Committee, approved the appointment of Rajiv Kumar.
- **Details:** Rajiv Kumar is a seasoned bureaucrat who has served with distinction as India's Union Finance Secretary and also as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) previously. He steps into the role of Additional Independent Director and part-time Chairman for a four-year tenure starting June 30, 2026.

Q10. The Union Government announced the complete removal of all rationing, daily caps, and commercial purchase restrictions on which commodities, effective from July 1, 2026?

- A) Wheat and Rice
- B) Petrol and Diesel

- C) Fertilizers (Urea)
D) Imported Edible Oils

Answer: B) Petrol and Diesel

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** In a major move reflecting easing fuel supply lines and stable international crude dynamics, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas lifted all active regulatory supply caps.
- **Details:** Previously, a cap of 200 liters per consumer per day existed for retail diesel buyers in specific regions, and industrial consumers were barred from direct pump procurement. Effective July 1, 2026, these restrictions stand completely dissolved, allowing free industrial and retail fuel access.

Q11. The Central Government has announced that it will bear what percentage of the compliance and reporting costs for domestic MSMEs to mitigate the impact of the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)?

- A) 50%
B) 75%
C) 90%
D) 100%

Answer: C) 90%

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced a major financial cushion for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) exporting to Europe.
- **Details:** The European Union's CBAM imposes strict carbon-emission accounting tariffs on goods like steel, cement, and aluminum. To prevent Indian MSMEs from losing global competitiveness due to high

carbon-auditing costs, the Indian government will subsidize 90% of their green-compliance auditing costs.

Q12. India recently signed a landmark agreement with Seychelles to formally export its indigenously developed Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Which platform is the core of this cross-border trade agreement?

- A) DigiLocker
B) Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
C) Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)
D) Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

Answer: B) Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** To boost cross-border retail trade and financial inclusion, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) inked an international expansion deal during the bilateral meet with Seychelles.
- **Details:** This agreement directly institutionalizes India's UPI networks in the island nation, making real-time mobile transactions seamless for tourists and traders alike.

Part 4: Sports News

Q13. Which underdog football team created one of the biggest upsets in the history of the 2026 FIFA World Cup by knocking out four-time champions Germany in the Round of 32?

- A) South Africa
B) Canada
C) Paraguay
D) South Korea

Answer: C) Paraguay

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** In a dramatic, high-stakes encounter at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Paraguay defeated Germany 4–3 on penalty shootouts.
- **Details:** The match was tightly deadlocked at 1–1 after 120 minutes of grueling regular and extra-time play. Paraguay's flawless execution in the penalty shootout abruptly ended Germany's campaign in the Round of 32.

Q14. Legendary all-rounder and Test captain Ben Stokes, who recently announced his complete retirement from all forms of international cricket, represents which country?

- A) Australia
- B) England
- C) New Zealand
- D) South Africa

Answer: B) England

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** On June 29–30, 2026, England's talismanic red-ball captain Ben Stokes announced his final retirement from international cricket.
- **Details:** Stokes is widely regarded as one of the greatest modern all-rounders, famous for his iconic match-winning heroics in the 2019 ODI World Cup Final and the 2019 Headingley Ashes Test. His retirement brings down the curtain on an illustrative career.

Q15. Indian high jumper Sarvesh Kushare hit national headlines by successfully equalizing the official Indian national record in high jump. What height did he clear?

- A) 2.25 meters
- B) 2.31 meters

- C) 2.35 meters
- D) 2.28 meters

Answer: B) 2.31 meters

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** In an athletics meet in late June 2026, premier Indian athlete Sarvesh Kushare delivered a career-best performance.
- **Details:** By clearing a bar height of 2.31 meters, Kushare officially equaled the long-standing senior national record in men's high jump, solidifying his qualification prospects for upcoming elite global track and field events.

Q16. Which country's women's cricket team knocked the "Women in Blue" (India) out of the T20 World Cup at Lord's, driven by an exceptional partnership between Ellyse Perry and Ashleigh Gardner?

- A) England
- B) New Zealand
- C) South Africa
- D) Australia

Answer: D) Australia

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The Indian Women's Cricket Team's T20 World Cup dream concluded at Lord's following a clinical semi-final chase by Australia.
- **Details:** India set a highly competitive score of 170/4 in their 20 overs. However, the formidable Australian duo of Ellyse Perry and Ashleigh Gardner comfortably chased down the target with 6 wickets and 6 balls to spare, keeping Australia's dominant run intact.

Part 5: Appointments, Awards, & Honors

Q17. Who is heading India's high-level bureaucratic and statistical reforms panel, which recently declared that India is transforming its data collection to reclaim its past global reputation for data quality?

- A) Bibek Debroy
- B) P K Mishra
- C) Arvind Panagariya
- D) V. Anantha Nageswaran

Answer: B) P K Mishra

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Dr. P K Mishra (Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister) addressed a specialized national statistical convention on reforms.
- **Details:** He emphasized that India is aggressively modernizing its national statistical systems, integrating advanced real-time digital registries, and revising survey methodologies to elevate data transparency and data quality to peak global benchmarks.

Q18. Which international educational and corporate collaboration launched the specialized "HackCore 2026" hackathon to solve agrarian and climate problems using AI?

- A) IIT Bombay, Microsoft, & NABARD
- B) IIT Ropar, Syngenta, & Google
- C) IIT Madras, Deakin University, & Infosys
- D) IIT Delhi, ISRO, & Amazon

Answer: B) IIT Ropar, Syngenta, & Google

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Aimed at fostering cutting-edge research in digital agriculture and tech-

driven problem-solving, HackCore 2026 was officially rolled out on June 30, 2026.

- **Details:** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar partnered with agricultural giant Syngenta and tech titan Google to invite bright minds to build open-source AI models for pest prediction, soil mapping, and sustainable crop yields.

Part 6: Books, Authors, & Defense News

Q19. A landmark 200-page coffee table book titled "Stamps, Coins, and Banknotes Issued During the Premiership of Shri Narendra Modi" was released by which specialized institution in New Delhi?

- A) National Archives of India
- B) Reserve Bank of India
- C) Mintage World
- D) Archaeological Survey of India

Answer: C) Mintage World

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Released on June 29–30, 2026, this unique coffee table book chronicles the numismatic and philatelic history of India over the past decade.
- **Details:** Mintage World—famed as the world's first online museum dedicated entirely to coins, stamps, and banknotes—compiled and launched the detailed volume documenting every commemorative coin, special postal stamp, and currency bill issued under PM Modi's administration.

Q20. "Valiant Shield 2026 (VS26)", which was prominently featured in maritime defense news, has evolved from a unilateral US exercise into a major high-intensity biennial multinational exercise. In which year was it originally launched?

- A) 2000
- B) 2006
- C) 2012
- D) 2018

Answer: B) 2006

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Valiant Shield 2026 completed its latest high-intensity maneuvers in the Indo-Pacific region in late June 2026.
- **Details:** Originally established in 2006 as a strictly unilateral, U.S.-only military drill, it underwent a massive structural evolution in 2024 and 2026, transitioning into a full-scale multilateral defense platform seamlessly integrating air, land, maritime, space, and cyber forces of allied nations.

Q21. Consider the following statements regarding the bilateral defense exercise "Resolute Dragon 26" that concluded recently:

1. It is an annual field training exercise conducted in Japan.
2. It rehearses joint command architectures between the US Expeditionary Units and the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C) Both 1 and 2

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The 2026 edition of Exercise Resolute Dragon wrapped up its field maneuvers in Japan.

- **Details:** The defense exercise is custom-engineered to refine multi-domain combat tactics, synchronized command-and-control operations, and quick-response air defense grids between the United States military and Japan's defensive ground echelons.

Q22. The Indian Navy recently inducted two advanced indigenous specialized vessels named "INS Sanshodhak" and "INS Agray". What category of naval vessels do they belong to?

- A) Nuclear-powered Submarines
- B) Survey Vessels Large (SVL) / Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)
- C) Guided Missile Destroyers
- D) Aircraft Carriers

Answer: B) Survey Vessels Large (SVL) / Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Highlighting India's fast-growing strides in indigenous defense manufacturing under *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*, the Prime Minister lauded recent naval inductions.
- **Details:** INS Sanshodhak is part of the Survey Vessels Large project (crucial for mapping hydrographic data and ocean floors), while INS Agray serves as a high-tech Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft designed to secure coastal waters against underwater threats.

Part 7: Government Schemes & MoUs

Q23. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) issued updated operational directives on June 29, 2026, regarding its comprehensive Three-Language Formula. Which student batch has been explicitly exempted from its immediate implementation?

- A) The current batch of Class 8
- B) The current batch of Class 10
- C) The current batch of Class 12
- D) No batch is exempted

Answer: B) The current batch of Class 10

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** CBSE clarified its academic framework transitions mapping to the National Education Policy (NEP).
- **Details:** While the mandatory study of three languages (at least two being native Indian languages) is being systematically scaled across schools, the board issued a direct directive exempting the *current batch of Class 10 students* to prevent unexpected syllabus disruptions ahead of their upcoming board examinations.

Q24. The Rajasthan State Government has launched a pioneering, targeted mental health and emotional well-being initiative. Which student demographic is this scheme specifically customized for?

- A) Higher Secondary Students (Classes 11-12)
- B) Engineering and Technical College Students
- C) Primary School Students
- D) Civil Services Aspirants

Answer: C) Primary School Students

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Recognizing that psychological anxieties manifest early, the state of Rajasthan introduced a structured mental health curriculum at the primary education tier.
- **Details:** Moving away from traditional high-pressure academic conditioning, the scheme trains primary school mentors to spot early signs of emotional stress, behavioral

changes, or learning disabilities, establishing a trauma-informed, empathetic foundational learning system.

Part 8: Important Days, Art & Culture, & Festivals

Q25. Every year, India observes "National Statistics Day" on June 29 to honor the profound socio-economic planning contributions of which legendary scientist and statistician?

- A) Srinivasa Ramanujan
- B) Dr. C.R. Rao
- C) Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis
- D) Harish-Chandra

Answer: C) Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Celebrated extensively across all government ministries and academic think tanks on June 29, 2026, National Statistics Day keeps its focus on robust data registries.
- **Details:** June 29 marks the birth anniversary of Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis, the founder of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and architect of India's Second Five-Year Plan. The day is utilized to create public awareness about the vital role of statistics in economic planning and policy formulation.

Q26. The unique "Ambubachi Mela", a historic festival celebrating regular spiritual folklore and temple culture, successfully concluded in late June at the Kamakhya Temple. In which state is this festival celebrated?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Odisha
- C) Assam
- D) Tripura

Answer: C) Assam

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The annual Ambubachi Mela brings millions of cultural tourists to the city of Guwahati.
- **Details:** Held atop the Nilachal Hills at the historic Kamakhya Temple, this festival celebrates the annual menstruation cycle of the goddess Kamakhya. It represents a vital core of the Tantric cult and classical Assamese culture, generating massive regional tourism and cultural study interest.

Q27. The International Day of the Tropics is an annual global event observed on which of the following dates to review the unique challenges faced by tropical territories?

- A) June 21
- B) June 25
- C) June 29
- D) June 30

Answer: C) June 29

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The United Nations officially marks June 29 as the International Day of the Tropics.
- **Details:** The day highlights the massive biodiversity of the tropical nations, along with the disproportionate structural risks they face due to climate change, deforestation, and rapid urbanization. June 29 was selected because it marks the anniversary of the launch of the inaugural 'Report on the State of the Tropics' in 2014 by Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Q28. June 30 is globally recognized by the United Nations as "International Asteroid Day". Which historic event does this day commemorate?

- A) The Chelyabinsk meteor impact of 2013
- B) The Tunguska impact in Siberia of 1908
- C) The launch of NASA's DART Mission
- D) The discovery of the Ceres asteroid

Answer: B) The Tunguska impact in Siberia of 1908

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Observed on June 30, 2026, International Asteroid Day aims to raise public awareness about asteroid impact hazards and global planetary defense.
- **Details:** The United Nations General Assembly designated June 30 to mark the anniversary of the Earth's largest recorded history-bound cosmic asteroid impact—the near-catastrophic Tunguska event that flattened over 80 million trees across 2,000 square kilometers of Siberian forest on June 30, 1908.

Part 9: Birth & Death Anniversaries

Q29. June 30 marks the birth and rebellion anniversary of which iconic tribal freedom fighter who fiercely led the historic "Santhal Hool" (Santhal Rebellion) of 1855 against British colonial exploitation?

- A) Birsa Munda
- B) Sidhu Murmu (along with Kanhu Murmu)
- C) Alluri Sitarama Raju
- D) Komaram Bheem

Answer: B) Sidhu Murmu (along with Kanhu Murmu)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** Celebrated widely as "Hool Diwas" every year on June 30, India pays rich tribute to the legendary tribal leaders of the Santhal rebellion.

- **Details:** On June 30, 1855, brothers Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu mobilized over 10,000 Santhal tribals in Bhagnadihi (modern-day Jharkhand) to declare an open revolt against corrupt British East India Company officers and the oppressive *Zamindari* taxation system. This historic struggle predates the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

Q30. June 28–30 marks the death anniversary periods of the legendary 19th-century ruler Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He was the founder and sovereign emperor of which historic empire?

- A) Maratha Empire
- B) Sikh Empire
- C) Durrani Empire
- D) Scindia Dynasty

Answer: B) Sikh Empire

Detailed Explanation:

- **Context:** The cultural frameworks division and regional histories commemorate the death anniversary of the iconic "Sher-e-Punjab" (Lion of Punjab), Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who passed away on June 27, 1839.
- **Details:** Maharaja Ranjit Singh successfully united the fractured misls (confederacies) of Punjab to establish the prosperous, secular, and militarily formidable Sikh Empire, which had its capitals at Gujranwala and Lahore. He is famous for his secular administration, military modernization, and gilding the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) in Amritsar with gold layers.