

Part 1: National News & Government Schemes

Q1. The Union Cabinet approved the SARTHAK-PDS Scheme with an outlay of ₹25,530 crore. What is the primary objective of this scheme?

- A) Comprehensive health insurance for farmers
- B) Modernization of the Public Distribution System (PDS) via AI and automation
- C) Universalizing broadband access to tribal areas
- D) Funding indigenous semiconductor manufacturing

Answer: B) Modernization of the Public Distribution System (PDS) via AI and automation

Detailed Explanation: The Union Cabinet approved the SARTHAK-PDS (Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in PDS) with a massive central outlay of ₹25,530 crore spanning 5 years (April 2026 to March 2031). It targets 81.35 crore NFSA beneficiaries. The scheme merges older components like Intra-State Foodgrain Movement and SMART-PDS to completely digitize ration handling, reduce route distances by 15–50%, and prevent leakages using specialized AI monitoring modules called NIRMAL, ASHA, and SAKSHAM.

Q2. Which state became the first in the Northeastern region of India to pass a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in its Legislative Assembly?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Assam
- D) Gujarat

Answer: C) Assam

Detailed Explanation: The Assam Legislative Assembly passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Assam Bill, 2026, making it the first northeastern state and the third Indian state overall (following Uttarakhand and Gujarat) to adopt a uniform civil framework. The bill repeals the Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Act, 2024, standardizes the legal age of marriage to 18 for women and 21 for men, and mandates marriage/divorce registration within 60 days. Crucially, it exempts Scheduled Tribes (STs) to safeguard their constitutional protections under the Sixth Schedule.

Q3. According to the recently released National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) report, what is India's current Total Fertility Rate (TFR)?

- A) 2.1
- B) 2.0
- C) 1.8
- D) 2.2

Answer: B) 2.0

Detailed Explanation: The Ministry of Health released the much-awaited NFHS-6 data. It revealed that India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has remained stable at 2.0, which sits comfortably below the international replacement fertility threshold of 2.1. This signals demographic stabilization across most states, although inter-state variations persist.

Q4. As per the NFHS-6 data, what significant improvement was recorded in the proportion of Indian women who have ever used the internet?

- A) Rose from 33.3% to 64.3%
- B) Rose from 45.0% to 75.2%
- C) Rose from 21.1% to 50.0%
- D) Rose from 55.5% to 64.3%

Answer: A) Rose from 33.3% to 64.3%

Detailed Explanation: NFHS-6 highlighted a major leap in closing the female digital divide in India. The proportion of Indian women who have ever utilized the internet witnessed an exponential jump, growing from 33.3% in the previous survey window to 64.3% in 2026, reflecting the deeper penetration of affordable smartphones and rural digital literacy initiatives.

Q5. To keep up with soaring industrial demands and check input costs, the Ministry of Finance announced an exemption on the import duty of which commodity until October 30, 2026?

- A) Crude Oil
- B) Pulses
- C) Cotton
- D) Lithium-ion cells

Answer: C) Cotton

Detailed Explanation: The Finance Ministry issued a notification exempting all customs duties on cotton imports for a 5-month window starting June 1, 2026, until October 30, 2026. This tactical relief aims to provide immediate relief to the domestic textile and apparel manufacturing sectors by slashing raw input costs, while simultaneously protecting consumer pricing without disrupting local farming ecosystems significantly.

Q6. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) released the 10th National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates for FY23. What was the recorded Government Health Expenditure (GHE)?

- A) ₹1.30 lakh crore
- B) ₹2.50 lakh crore
- C) ₹3.85 lakh crore

D) ₹5.12 lakh crore

Answer: C) ₹3.85 lakh crore

Detailed Explanation: The 10th NHA estimates for FY23 outline that Government Health Expenditure (GHE) scaled up sharply to ₹3.85 lakh crore from a mere ₹1.30 lakh crore in 2013-14. This highlights robust public investment and structural scaling of public healthcare facilities, lowering out-of-pocket expenses for the citizens.

Q7. Who is slated to take the oath as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka on June 3, 2026, at a simplified ceremony inside the Glass House of Lok Bhavan?

- A) Siddaramaiah
- B) D.K. Shivakumar
- C) Priyank Kharge
- D) B.Y. Vijayendra

Answer: B) D.K. Shivakumar

Detailed Explanation: Following recent institutional shifts, KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar will be officially sworn in as the Chief Minister of Karnataka on June 3, 2026, at the Glass House in Lok Bhavan, Bengaluru. The administration chose a low-key, streamlined ceremony inside the legislative complex specifically to cut down public traffic congestion and security friction in the metro area.

Part 2: Economics, Banking & Corporate MoUs

Q8. Which Japanese financial powerhouse signed a strategic partnership with HDFC Capital Advisors to establish a real estate private equity fund with a targeted corpus of \$1 billion?

- A) SoftBank Group

B) Development Bank of Japan (DBJ)

C) Mizuho Financial Group

D) Nomura Holdings

Answer: B) Development Bank of Japan (DBJ)

Detailed Explanation: The Development Bank of Japan (DBJ) joined forces with HDFC Capital Advisors Limited (one of India's top real estate PE players) to pump mid-market residential and sustainable housing funding ecosystems across India. The joint platform is launching with a target overall corpus of USD 1 billion.

Q9. Which multi-sector infrastructure consulting firm signed an MoU with CRISIL to jointly develop data-driven infrastructure consultancy solutions in India and international markets?

A) RITES Limited

B) Ircon International

C) Engineers India Limited

D) RVNL

Answer: A) RITES Limited

Detailed Explanation: RITES Limited (formerly Rail India Technical and Economic Service) has formalised an institutional pact with credit rating and analytics pioneer CRISIL. They intend to merge RITES' engineering acumen with CRISIL's data capabilities to pitch advanced, data-backed consultancy blueprints across critical transit, energy, and urban infrastructure developments globally.

Q10. NITI Aayog released a critical roadmap aiming to build a domestic semiconductor chip ecosystem of what scale by the year 2035?

A) \$50–60 billion

B) \$120–150 billion

C) \$200–250 billion

D) \$90–100 billion

Answer: B) \$120–150 billion

Detailed Explanation: NITI Aayog's comprehensive semiconductor master plan titled "Future of India's Semiconductor Industry" sketches out an aggressive framework targeting a \$120–150 billion domestic ecosystem by 2035. The policy focuses heavily on moving Indian firms away from pure back-end packaging (OSAT) toward front-end design ownership and indigenous intellectual property creation.

Q11. What specific technological facility is being rolled out by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to protect banking applications against real-time cyber frauds and unauthorized transfers?

A) DigiShield Lock

B) Emergency Freeze Protocol

C) Kill Switch Facility

D) CyberVault Firewall

Answer: C) Kill Switch Facility

Detailed Explanation: To safeguard banking retail users from online credential thefts, phishing, and scam routing, the RBI is institutionalizing a mandatory, standardized 'Kill Switch' facility across all retail banking platforms. This function allows consumers to instantaneously freeze all outgoing transactions and digital access modes instantly through a single, offline/online mechanism without long customer service waiting queues.

Part 3: International Relations & Global News

Q12. The German-Netherlands Corps is scheduled to officially assume a vital NATO command role in which specific European operational sector?

- A) Balkan Frontiers
- B) Mediterranean Naval Fleet
- C) Eastern flank in Estonia and Latvia
- D) North Sea Defensive Zone

Answer: C) Eastern flank in Estonia and Latvia

Detailed Explanation: The German-Netherlands Corps has transitioned into high-readiness operational control over NATO's reinforced land command deployments across the Baltic nations of Estonia and Latvia. This shift underpins NATO's ongoing defensive consolidation along its eastern flank in response to geopolitical volatility since the escalation of regional conflicts in Eastern Europe.

Q13. Which island nation in the Mediterranean region has expressed strong defense procurement interest in purchasing Indo-Russian BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles?

- A) Malta
- B) Cyprus
- C) Crete
- D) Sicily

Answer: B) Cyprus

Detailed Explanation: Strategic mapping updates reveal that Cyprus is actively exploring the procurement of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles from India to fortify its coastal defensive lines. This represents India's broadening defense export horizons within European and Mediterranean borders, matching its domestic self-reliance targets.

Q14. A major tragic transit accident involving returning refugees from Pakistan resulted in 22 casualties in which country's Laghman province?

- A) Iran

- B) Afghanistan
- C) Tajikistan
- D) Uzbekistan

Answer: B) Afghanistan

Detailed Explanation: A vehicle transport carrying returning Afghan refugees back from Pakistani territories overturned on the mountainous trunk highway connecting Kabul to Nangarhar province in eastern Afghanistan (specifically within Laghman province). The crash claimed the lives of 22 refugees and left 36 others seriously injured.

Part 4: Defence & Science-Tech News

Q15. The Indian Air Force (IAF) inked three strategic research contracts with which premier institute to design AI-driven predictive maintenance and diagnostic models for Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighters?

- A) IIT Delhi
- B) IIT Madras
- C) IIT Bombay
- D) IISc Bangalore

Answer: C) IIT Bombay

Detailed Explanation: The IAF entered into 3 formal collaboration pacts with IIT Bombay to build specialized AI data tools, notably an indigenous digital diagnostic health index for frontline Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter platforms. This predictive maintenance network reduces sudden technical snags and lowers service overheads using locally made software layers.

Q16. Which defense PSU utilized its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to construct the state-of-the-art "Circulating Water Tunnel Facility" launched by IIT Madras in Thaiyur?

- A) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- B) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
- D) Garden Reach Shipbuilders (GRSE)

Answer: C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)

Detailed Explanation: IIT Madras unveiled an advanced hydrodynamic and ocean research station, the "Circulating Water Tunnel Facility," located at its satellite infrastructure campus in Thaiyur, Tamil Nadu. The project was executed using ₹4.5 crore in CSR funding provided by Navratna defense public sector undertaking Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), setting a template for specialized public-academic infrastructure setups.

Q17. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the RETINA incubation centre. What does the acronym RETINA stand for?

- A) Real-time Engineering Technology and Innovation Network Association
- B) Research Entrepreneurship for Translation, Innovation and Navigation
- C) Renewable Energy Training Institute for National Advancement
- D) Radar Engineering Testing Innovation and Naval Architecture

Answer: B) Research Entrepreneurship for Translation, Innovation and Navigation

Detailed Explanation: Inaugurated at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), RETINA (Research Entrepreneurship for Translation, Innovation and Navigation) is a dedicated incubation wing engineered to help deep-tech academic research smoothly convert into market-ready commercial startups, bolstering India's domestic technical ecosystem.

Q18. Along with RETINA, what indigenous system was launched at the IACS campus to manufacture India's first amorphous silicon solar cells?

- A) Tokamak Fusion System
- B) Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition (PECVD) system
- C) Molecular Beam Epitaxy (MBE) array
- D) Quantum Dot Lithography rig

Answer: B) Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition (PECVD) system

Detailed Explanation: The indigenous Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition (PECVD) system was deployed at IACS under a national development legacy initiated by solar pioneer Ashok Kumar Barua. It acts as India's first completely self-reliant production apparatus for fabricating amorphous silicon solar cells, minimizing import reliance on baseline renewable tech components.

Part 5: Sports, Appointments & Awards

Q19. Who defeated star grappler Vinesh Phogat (4-6) in the tense 53kg women's freestyle wrestling category during the Asian Games selection trials?

- A) Meenakshi Goyat
- B) Antim Panghal
- C) Anshu Malik
- D) Sakshi Malik

Answer: A) Meenakshi Goyat

Detailed Explanation: During the high-stakes Asian Games wrestling selection trials, upcoming national wrestler Meenakshi Goyat staged a massive upset by knocking out seasoned Olympian Vinesh Phogat with a 4-6

victory margin in the 53kg category semifinal. This win alters the Indian wrestling contingent lineup bound for the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Q20. Which football club announced the sudden termination of its manager Arne Slot, just one year after he successfully managed the team to a major championship?

- A) Manchester United
- B) Bayern Munich
- C) Liverpool
- D) Barcelona

Answer: C) Liverpool

Detailed Explanation: In a sudden development in European club football, Liverpool FC officially severed terms with manager Arne Slot. The departure came exactly a year following his championship victory run, reflecting the intense performance expectations and management restructurings currently tracking top-flight global football leagues.

Q21. Who currently chairs the apex election body of India as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), and recently emphasized the dictum "Fair rolls lead to fair polls"?

- A) Rajiv Kumar
- B) Gyanesh Kumar
- C) Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
- D) Anup Chandra Pandey

Answer: B) Gyanesh Kumar

Detailed Explanation: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, while steering review conferences over ongoing local and state institutional boundaries, reiterated the absolute baseline necessity of clean, audited, and error-

free electoral databases, coining the policy working slogan: "Fair rolls lead to fair polls."

Part 6: Environment, Art-Culture & Festivals

Q22. The "Rainwater Revolution" model implemented in Raipur has gained nationwide praise for urban water conservation. Which of the following is a primary outcome of this model?

- A) Total shifting of agriculture to organic farming
- B) Minimizing rainwater runoff and reducing urban groundwater depletion
- C) Desalination of local river basins
- D) Establishing India's largest floating solar plant

Answer: B) Minimizing rainwater runoff and reducing urban groundwater depletion

Detailed Explanation: Lauded as an innovative Content for Mains Enrichment (CME) concept, Raipur's Rainwater Revolution framework uses community-led distributed rainwater harvesting structures to trap monsoon rains directly into deep aquifers. It has successfully curbed seasonal localized urban flooding while reversing decades of rapid groundwater depletion.

Q23. Asiatic lions have been reported moving frequently out of their protected core sanctuary zones into non-protected community spaces. Which specific wildlife sanctuary landscape is experiencing this ecological trend?

- A) Ranthambore Landscape
- B) Gir Landscape
- C) Jim Corbett Reserve
- D) Periyar Forest Area

Answer: B) Gir Landscape

Detailed Explanation: Wildlife surveillance tracking indicates that Asiatic lions are increasingly moving outside their designated reservation parameters in Gujarat's Gir landscape, stepping into commercial zones and village outskirts. This requires rapid mitigation policies to counter increasing human-wildlife encounters, uncontrolled local tourist vehicular traffic, and habitat stress.

Q24. Which major global grouping has initiated the "PartNIR" partnership framework to drive collaborative developments in the New Industrial Revolution?

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

Answer: B) BRICS

Detailed Explanation: The BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) is a focused multi-lateral workspace looking to build synchronized frameworks between member states in areas such as green tech manufacturing, sustainable digitalization, AI governance, and shared industrial supply chains.

Part 7: Important Days & Historical Anniversaries

Q25. May 29, 2026, marked the 78th anniversary of UN Peacekeeping operations globally. What was the designated official theme for the year 2026?

- A) "People. Peace. Progress."
- B) "Invest in Peace"
- C) "Women in Peacekeeping: A Key to Peace"

D) "Fit for the Future: Building Together"

Answer: B) "Invest in Peace"

Detailed Explanation: UN Peacekeeping marked its 78th year of continuous frontline deployment, tracking back to its initial 1948 deployment under the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in the Middle East. The global theme assigned for 2026 is "Invest in Peace," highlighting the need for financial and political commitment toward multi-national peacekeeping operations.

Q26. India's first indigenously designed meteorological casting model, launched recently to provide hyperlocal cloud updates, is named what?

- A) WeatherEye-1
- B) SkyCast System
- C) MeghDoot AI
- D) Gagan Cast

Answer: B) SkyCast System

Detailed Explanation: India's First SkyCast System was formally put into rotation. It is an indigenous weather computing framework designed to model sudden weather alterations and micro-climatic disruptions over crucial urban and tactical aviation zones, reducing reliance on generic foreign global forecasting systems.

Q27. The Ministry of Science and Technology actively funds student scientific exchanges under a collaborative international platform known as:

- A) The Sakura Science Programme
- B) The Indo-German STEM Alliance
- C) Horizon Europe Network
- D) Fulbright-Nehru Fellowships

Answer: A) The Sakura Science Programme

Detailed Explanation: The Sakura Science Programme 2026 continues to serve as an international academic platform that enables bright young Indian students to visit premium research ecosystems, labs, and industrial technology centers abroad to work on cutting-edge innovations in science and technology.

Q28. Consider the following statements regarding the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) passed by Assam:

1. It completely brings all Scheduled Tribes of the state under its jurisdiction.
2. It mandates the registration of marriages and divorces within a maximum of 60 days.

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: B) 2 only

Detailed Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect because the Assam UCC explicitly exempts the Scheduled Tribes (STs) living across the state to protect their unwritten traditional customary structures and Sixth Schedule autonomies. Statement 2 is correct; it strictly outlines a compulsory 60-day window to register all marriages and divorces to protect institutional legal documentation and women's rights.

Q29. Under the recently highlighted circular economy frameworks across major departments, which working body has been proposed to map out eco-design and green job integration models?

- A) Circular Economy Working Group

B) Green India Task Force

C) NITI Net-Zero Council

D) Bureau of Energy Efficiency Panel

Answer: A) Circular Economy Working Group

Detailed Explanation: India's clean growth path is setting up a specialized Circular Economy Working Group. This group is responsible for mapping out industrial resource recycling systems, setting guidelines for product remanufacturing, and creating new job opportunities centered around sustainable industrial designs.

Q30. The massive rollout of the Rotavirus vaccine under India's public health expansions saw its nationwide coverage scale up to what percentage as per NFHS-6?

- A) 36.4%
- B) 50.5%
- C) 85.4%
- D) 95.6%

Answer: C) 85.4%

Detailed Explanation: The NFHS-6 report highlights a major success for public immunization programs: Rotavirus vaccine coverage surged from 36.4% to 85.4%. This expansion is crucial for preventing severe diarrheal diseases among infants nationwide.