

1. National News

Parliament Passes the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026

- **Key Detail:** The Parliament passed the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, elevating the legal standing of the National Song (**Vande Mataram**) to be at par with the National Anthem (**Jana Gana Mana**).
- **Detailed Context:** Under the amended provision, intentionally preventing the singing of *Vande Mataram* or causing disturbance to an assembly engaged in singing it is now a penal offense carrying identical penalties to those for disrupting the National Anthem.
- **Exam Relevance (UPSC GS-II / SSC):**
 - **Historical Note:** *Vande Mataram* was originally composed in Sanskritized Bengali by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in the 1870s and later incorporated into his 1882 novel *Anandamath* (set against the backdrop of the Sannyasi Rebellion).
 - **Constituent Assembly Resolution:** On January 24, 1950, Dr. Rajendra Prasad announced that *Vande Mataram* would have equal status with *Jana Gana Mana*.

Lok Sabha Passes Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026

- **Key Detail:** The Lok Sabha passed the **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026**.
- **Detailed Context:** The bill aims to further streamline digital registration processes, linking birth records to Aadhaar and national database frameworks to enable automated updates for voter lists, school admissions, and passport issuance.

2. International News

Tensions Escalation in West Asia & Migration Crisis in Ceuta

- **Key Detail:** Broader military activity in West Asia saw reported Iranian strikes in Kuwait following US actions in the region. Meanwhile, a severe humanitarian crisis unfolded at the border between Morocco and Spain's exclave of **Ceuta**, leading to border breaches and military deployment.
- **Exam Relevance (UPSC / SSC Geography):**
 - **Ceuta & Melilla:** Two Spanish autonomous cities/exclaves located on the northern coast of Africa bordering Morocco, acting as the only land borders between the EU and Africa.
 - **Bab al-Mandab Strait:** Strategic choke-point connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea.

3. Economics & Banking

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) & MP Sign MoU for 1st Telecom Manufacturing Zone

- **Key Detail:** The DoT (Ministry of Communications) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Madhya Pradesh to set up India's first **Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ, Phase-I)** at Gwalior, MP.
- **Detailed Context:** The project operates on a "plug-and-play" infrastructure model to fast-track telecom component manufacturing and reduce import reliance.

SBI Card & Google Pay Launch Co-Branded Credit Card

- **Key Detail:** SBI Card collaborated with Google Pay to launch a co-branded RuPay credit card integrated with UPI capability.

- Exam Relevance (Banking / IBPS / SBI):** Allows users to link their RuPay credit cards to UPI handles for seamless merchant payments directly via QR codes.

IRDAI Grants Share Acquisition Approval for Magma General Insurance

- Key Detail:** IRDAI approved Patanjali Ayurved (73.56% stake) and DS Group (24.50% stake) to acquire **Magma General Insurance** for ₹4,500 crore under Section 6A of the Insurance Act, 1938.

4. Defense News

Delivery of Deep Submergence Support Vessel 'INS Nipun' to Indian Navy

- Key Detail:** Built by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)**, Visakhapatnam, the Deep Submergence Support Vessel **INS Nipun** was delivered to the Indian Navy.
- Detailed Context:** "Nipun" (meaning *adept* or *skilled*) is equipped for saturation diving below 50 meters, submarine rescue operations, Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) deployment, and underwater wreck salvage.

Department of Military Medicine Inaugurated in Lucknow

- Key Detail:** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated India's 1st dedicated **Department of Military Medicine** at the Command Hospital (Central Command) in Lucknow, UP.
- Focus Areas:** Military trauma, combat psychiatry, operational medicine, CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives) response, and HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief).

5. Government Schemes & Initiatives

Ministry of Panchayati Raj Launches 'DAANVEER' Initiative

- Key Detail:** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) launched the **DAANVEER** initiative via the 'Meri Panchayat' mobile application.
- Objective:** Encourages citizens, CSR bodies, and organizations to donate IT hardware (computers/laptops) directly to Gram Panchayats to bridge the rural digital divide.

Union Cabinet Scheme Approvals (PIB Update)

- PM Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY):** Approved for solarizing local water bodies and rural energy enhancement.
- Khelo India Revamp:** Extension and restructuring of the Khelo India scheme with enhanced assistance to national sports federations.
- Samudra Manthan:** Approval for the National Offshore Exploration Scheme to accelerate deep-sea energy and mineral resource exploration.

6. MoUs & Agreements

Entities Involved	Purpose of MoU	Key Location / Term
DoT & Govt of Madhya Pradesh	Establishment of 1st Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)	Gwalior, MP
Ministry of Tribal Affairs &	Conservation of Rare, Endangered, & Threatened	3-Year Agreement

Entities Involved	Purpose of MoU	Key Location / Term
CSIR-NBRI	(RET) Medicinal Plants	(Lucknow, UP)

7. Appointments & Resignations

- **Stephen Fleming:** Appointed as England's Test Head Coach in cricket.
- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi:** Named Vice-Captain of the East Zone team for the upcoming Duleep Trophy.

8. Awards & Honors

Fields Medal Winners Announced at ICM Philadelphia

- **Key Detail:** The prestigious **Fields Medal** (often dubbed the "Nobel Prize of Mathematics") was awarded at the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) in Philadelphia, USA.
- **Historical Milestone:** **Yu Deng** and **Hong Wang** became the first Chinese nationals to win the award since 1982.
- **Exam Note:** The Fields Medal is awarded every 4 years by the International Mathematical Union (IMU) to mathematicians under the age of 40.

9. Sports News

Commonwealth Games Performance

- **Lovepreet Singh:** Won the **Silver Medal** in the Men's 110kg+ weightlifting category with a combined total lift of 388 kg.
- **India's Tally:** India sits at 15 medals (3 Gold, 9 Silver, 3 Bronze).

Retirement in Indian Cricket

- **Ajinkya Rahane:** Former Indian Test Vice-Captain announced his complete retirement from all forms of Indian cricket, prompting tributes from the BCCI.

10. Books & Authors

Anandamath & Soz-e-Watan (In Exam Highlight Today)

- **Anandamath:** Authored by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** (1882); source of *Vande Mataram*.
- **Soz-e-Watan (Sorrow of the Nation):** First collection of short stories by **Munshi Premchand** (1907 in Urdu), which was banned by the British government.

11. Art, Culture & Festivals

- **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 Amendment:** Reaffirms cultural reverence for national symbols, putting *Vande Mataram* on equal status with the National Anthem.

12. Important Days (National & International)

International Friendship Day (July 30 / 31)

- **Background:** Proposed by Joyce Hall in 1930 and formally conceptualized by Dr. Ramon Artemio Bracho's World Friendship Crusade in 1958; recognized by the UN to promote peace through intercultural unity.

13. Birth & Death Anniversaries

146th Birth Anniversary of Munshi Premchand (31 July 1880 – 8 October 1936)

- **Title:** Known as **Upanyas Samrat** (Emperor of Novels).
- **Original Name:** Dhanpat Rai Srivastava (wrote under the pen name *Nawab Rai* initially, later *Premchand*).



- **Birthplace:** Lamhi Village, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Major Works:** *Godaan, Gaban, Sevasadan, Nirmala, Karmabhoomi, Rangbhoomi, Idgah, Poos Ki Raat, Kafan, Panch Parameshwar*. Unfinished novel: *Mangalsutra*.
- **Literary Magazine:** Founded *Hans* magazine in 1930. First President of the Progressive Writers' Association (1936, Lucknow).

National News & Legislation

Q1. The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, passed by Parliament, grants statutory protection to which national symbol on par with the National Anthem?

- [A] National Emblem
- [B] National Song (Vande Mataram)
- [C] National Flag
- [D] National Pledge

Answer: [B] National Song (Vande Mataram)

Full Explanation: Parliament passed the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, which amends the original 1971 Act to extend identical statutory protection to the **National Song (Vande Mataram)** as enjoyed by the National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana).

Background: On January 24, 1950, the President of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, declared that Vande Mataram should be honoured equally with Jana Gana Mana. However, the 1971 Act previously penalized disruption/insult only to the National Flag, Constitution, and National Anthem.

Key Provision: Intentionally preventing the singing of Vande Mataram or causing disturbance to an assembly engaged in singing

it is now a criminal offence punishable under the same penal guidelines as the National Anthem.

Q2. Which state government launched the 'SAMPATH' portal to create a centralized digital asset management registry for all public properties?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Karnataka
- [C] Kerala
- [D] Maharashtra

Answer: [C] Kerala

Full Explanation: The **Kerala State Government** launched the **SAMPATH** portal to serve as a unified, centralized digital registry for government assets.

Objective: It digitizes records of public lands, buildings, roads, vehicles, and machinery owned by government departments.

Key Impact: Replaces fragmented physical ledgers, prevents unauthorized land transfers, identifies underutilized public assets, and simplifies internal auditing as well as audits by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Q3. The 'e-Upahaar' portal, recently seen in the news for its third edition launch, serves which specific function?

- [A] Online auction of curated gifts and memorabilia received by the President of India
- [B] Distribution of financial relief under PM-KISAN
- [C] Online registration for GI-tagged handicraft artisans
- [D] Direct tax refund claim facility for senior citizens

Answer: [A] Online auction of curated gifts and memorabilia received by the President of India

Full Explanation: The e-Upahaar portal is an official online platform established for the transparent public auction of state gifts and souvenirs presented to the **President of India**.

Details: The 3rd edition was launched to auction approximately 300 selected presidential collectibles.

Purpose: Ensures complete transparency in handling state gifts, allows citizens to purchase historic items, and directs the funds raised toward national social welfare initiatives.

International News

Q4. Which iconic global landmark recently became the first tourist attraction in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to accept Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments for online ticket bookings?

- [A] Louvre Abu Dhabi
- [B] Burj Khalifa
- [C] Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque
- [D] Museum of the Future

Answer: [B] Burj Khalifa

Full Explanation: Burj Khalifa in Dubai became the first tourist attraction in the UAE to enable online ticket purchases using India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

Partnership: The service was launched by **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** in collaboration with UAE-based digital payment platform **NEOPAY** and **Emaar Entertainment**.

Significance: Allows millions of Indian tourists visiting Dubai to pay directly using their preferred Indian UPI apps in local currency seamless integration.

Q5. According to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026, what is India's global

rank in supplying seafarers to the global maritime industry?

- [A] First
- [B] Second
- [C] Third
- [D] Fifth

Answer: [B] Second

Full Explanation: According to the **BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026**, India has become the world's second-largest supplier of qualified seafarers (officers and ratings combined) to international shipping lines, trailing only the Philippines.

Drivers: The growth is driven by modernizations in Indian maritime training institutes, streamlined licensing, and digital issuance of Continuous Discharge Certificates (CDC) by the Directorate General of Shipping.

Q6. QW-12 and FN-16, which were featured in international defense developments, are short-range Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) developed by which nation?

- [A] Russia
- [B] North Korea
- [C] China
- [D] Iran

Answer: [C] China

Full Explanation: QW-12 and FN-16 are shoulder-fired, short-range surface-to-air **Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)** developed by China.

Technical Aspects: They utilize advanced dual-band infrared (IR) / ultraviolet (UV) seekers or laser beam-riding technology designed to intercept low-altitude aerial targets, including UAVs, cruise missiles, and low-flying combat helicopters



Economics & Banking News

Q7. Under Section 6A of the Insurance Act, 1938, IRDAI approved which two business groups to acquire Magma General Insurance?

- [A] Patanjali Ayurved and DS Group
- [B] Reliance Retail and Adani Enterprises
- [C] Tata Digital and Mahindra Finance
- [D] Godrej Consumer and Dabur India

Answer: [A] Patanjali Ayurved and DS Group

Full Explanation: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved the stake acquisition of Magma General Insurance from Sanoti Properties.

Stake Distribution: Patanjali Ayurved will acquire a **73.56%** controlling stake, while DS Group (Dharampal Satyapal) will hold **24.50%**.

Statutory Mandate: The approval was granted under Section 6A of the Insurance Act, 1938, read with IRDAI Regulations, 2024, valid for 3 months from issuance.

Q8. SBI Card, in collaboration with Google Pay, launched which co-branded credit card offering RuPay integration for seamless UPI payments?

- [A] Google Pay Prime SBI Card
- [B] Google Pay Flex SBI Card
- [C] Google Pay Vantage SBI Card
- [D] Google Pay Pulse SBI Card

Answer: [B] Google Pay Flex SBI Card

Full Explanation: SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd. partnered with Google Pay to launch the 'Google Pay Flex SBI Card' on the RuPay network.

Key Feature: Allows users to link their credit card directly to Google Pay UPI for peer-to-merchant (P2M) transactions, providing

reward points on everyday digital spending across merchant outlets.

Q9. Which prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuer introduced India's first "Flexi Benefits Basket" integrated on the UPI network for corporate employee allowances?

- [A] Mobikwik
- [B] OmniCard
- [C] Zaggle
- [D] Pine Labs

Answer: [B] OmniCard

Full Explanation: OmniCard (operated by Eroute Technologies Pvt Ltd) launched India's first **Flexi Benefits Basket on UPI**.

Functionality: It enables companies to disburse tax-free employee perks (meal allowances, fuel, gadgets, medical reimbursements, telecommunications) into a single unified wallet. Employees can spend these tax-exempt benefit categories via any standard QR code on the UPI network.

Q10. Which statutory authority recommends the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane, which is ultimately approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)?

- [A] Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- [B] Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- [C] NABARD
- [D] National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED)

Answer: [A] Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)

Full Explanation: The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends the Fair and Remunerative Price

(FRP) of sugarcane based on production costs, domestic/international price trends, and return on alternate crops.

Approving Body: The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by the Prime Minister, grants final approval.

Current Context: The decision comes as the Central Government enforced nationwide sugar stockholding limits under the Essential Commodities Act and Sugar (Control) Order.

Defense News

Q11. Union Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated India's first dedicated academic and operational Department of Military Medicine at which hospital?

- [A] Army Hospital (Research & Referral), New Delhi
- [B] Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow
- [C] Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune
- [D] Command Hospital (Eastern Command), Kolkata

Answer: [B] **Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow**

Full Explanation: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated India's 1st dedicated **Department of Military Medicine** at the **Command Hospital (Central Command)** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.

Role: Formed under the Directorate General of Medical Services (DGMS) - Army, it will offer PG programs focusing on combat trauma, operational medicine, military psychiatry, CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives) response, and Disaster Management.

Q12. 'Machilipatnam', which was launched into water, is the 7th ship of which series built for the Indian Navy?

- [A] Stealth Guided Missile Destroyers
- [B] Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)
- [C] Nuclear Powered Attack Submarines
- [D] Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV)

Answer: [B] **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**

Full Explanation: 'Machilipatnam' is the 7th of 8 indigenously built **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC)** manufactured by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** for the Indian Navy.

Purpose: Designed to replace the aging Abhay-class corvettes, these vessels conduct coastal anti-submarine operations, mine laying, subsurface surveillance, and Search and Rescue (SAR) in littoral waters.

Q13. The Indian Navy delivered its 2nd indigenously built Diving Support Vessel (DSV), INS Nipun, constructed by which Indian shipyard?

- [A] Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai
- [B] Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam
- [C] Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata
- [D] Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa

Answer: [B] **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam**

Full Explanation: **INS Nipun**, the 2nd indigenously designed and built **Diving Support Vessel (DSV)**, was delivered by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)** in **Visakhapatnam**.



Features: Achieves over 75% indigenous content and is equipped with advanced deep-sea saturation diving systems, submarine rescue apparatus, and dynamic positioning systems.

Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q14. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the "DAANVEER" initiative through which official digital platform?

- [A] e-GramSwaraj Mobile App
- [B] Meri Panchayat Mobile App
- [C] Gram Samvaad App
- [D] PM-GatiShakti Portal

Answer: [B] Meri Panchayat Mobile App

Full Explanation: The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) launched DAANVEER, a social contribution program, integrated into the 'Meri Panchayat' mobile application.

Objective: Allows individual citizens, CSR divisions, and non-profits to donate quality-verified, standardized IT equipment (computers, printers, digital boards) directly to digitally deprived Gram Panchayats via the DigiHaat marketplace.

Q15. PM Narendra Modi launched the national youth campaign 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat'. Which Union Ministry is the nodal ministry executing this initiative?

- [A] Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- [B] Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- [C] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- [D] Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer: [B] Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Full Explanation: The 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat' campaign was launched to mobilize youth against substance abuse as part of the broader **Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)** led by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

Focus: Employs educational institution chapters, digital awareness drives, rehabilitation tracking, and peer counseling across vulnerable districts in India.

MoUs & Agreements

Q16. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) signed an MoU with which state government to establish India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) Phase-I at Gwalior?

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Uttar Pradesh
- [D] Gujarat

Answer: [B] Madhya Pradesh

Full Explanation: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Government of Madhya Pradesh** to build India's 1st dedicated **Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)** at Gwalior, MP.

Infrastructure: Operates under a plug-and-play industrial ecosystem equipped with testing labs, high-speed connectivity, and modern logistics to boost indigenous manufacturing of 5G/6G networking hardware.

Q17. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) signed a 3-year agreement with CSIR-NBRI for the conservation of RET plant species. What does RET stand for?

- [A] Rare, Endangered, and Threatened



- [B] Regional, Ecological, and Tropical
[C] Regenerative, Environmental, and Timber
[D] Restorative, Endemic, and Terrestrial

Answer: [A] Rare, Endangered, and Threatened

Full Explanation: MoTA signed an MoU with CSIR–National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow, to conserve Rare, Endangered, and Threatened (RET) medicinal plant species across tribal belts.

Goal: Promotes sustainable harvesting, gene-banking, germplasm conservation, and commercial cultivation techniques to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to forest-dwelling tribal communities.

Q18. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) partnered with which non-profit organization to empower Women-Led Community Enterprises?

- [A] PCI India (Project Concern International)
[B] Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
[C] Oxfam India
[D] CARE India

Answer: [A] PCI India (Project Concern International)

Full Explanation: DAY-NRLM under the Ministry of Rural Development signed a 3-year non-financial MoU (2026-2029) with PCI India.

Focus: Designed to scale women-led institutions, enhance gender integration in self-help groups (SHGs), and improve health, nutrition, and livelihood access for rural women.

Sports News

Q19. In the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun 2026 held in Hangzhou,

China, who won the Gold Medal for India in the Women's 25m Pistol event?

- [A] Manu Bhaker
[B] Esha Singh
[C] Sainyam
[D] Rhythm Sangwan

Answer: [B] Esha Singh

Full Explanation: Indian shooter Esha Singh clinched the Gold Medal in the Women's 25m Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2026 in Hangzhou, China.

India's Tally: India finished the tournament with 4 medals (1 Gold by Esha Singh, 1 Silver by Sainyam in 10m Air Pistol, 1 Bronze by Manu Bhaker in 25m Pistol, and 1 Bronze by Sonam Maskar & Himanshu Dhillon in 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team).

Q20. Which team won the 6th Lieutenant Governor's Cup Horse Polo Tournament 2026 held in Ladakh?

- [A] Ladakh Scouts
[B] Animal Transport Battalion
[C] Indus Polo Club
[D] Drass Polo Club

Answer: [A] Ladakh Scouts

Full Explanation: The Ladakh Scouts regiment team won the 6th Lieutenant Governor's Cup Horse Polo Tournament 2026.

Highlight: The Union Territory administration highlighted plans to promote traditional horse polo to advance adventure tourism and boost women's participation in traditional sports across the region.

Q21. Which sports franchise became the first Indian Premier League (IPL) team to cross a brand valuation of US \$300 Million?



- [A] Mumbai Indians (MI)
- [B] Chennai Super Kings (CSK)
- [C] Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)
- [D] Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)

Answer: [C] Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)

Full Explanation: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) became the first IPL franchise to cross US \$300 Million in brand value according to global brand valuation reports.

Factors: The milestone is attributed to continuous fan engagement, high digital monetizations, global merchandise expansion, and commercial sponsorship deals.

Awards & Honors

Q22. Yu Deng and Hong Wang were awarded the prestigious Fields Medal at the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) in Philadelphia. They belong to which country?

- [A] Japan
- [B] China
- [C] South Korea
- [D] Singapore

Answer: [B] China

Full Explanation: Yu Deng and Hong Wang received the prestigious Fields Medal (often termed the "Nobel Prize of Mathematics") during the ICM in Philadelphia, USA.

Historical Significance: They became the first Chinese nationals to receive the medal since Shing-Tung Yau won it in 1982. The Fields Medal is awarded every 4 years to mathematicians under 40 years of age.

Important Days & Anniversaries

Q23. What is the official date observed annually as World Ranger Day across the globe?

- [A] 28 July
- [B] 29 July
- [C] 30 July
- [D] 31 July

Answer: [D] 31 July

Full Explanation: World Ranger Day is commemorated globally every year on 31 July.

Significance: Organised by the International Ranger Federation (IRF), the day honors the contributions of park rangers who protect natural heritage and remembers rangers injured or killed in the line of duty.

Q24. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is annually observed on 30 July. Which organization established this day?

- [A] UN General Assembly (UNGA)
- [B] Amnesty International
- [C] INTERPOL
- [D] UNESCO

Answer: [A] UN General Assembly (UNGA)

Full Explanation: World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on 30 July. It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2013 to raise awareness surrounding human trafficking and safeguard victim rights worldwide.

Q25. International Friendship Day is celebrated on July 30. Who originated the initial proposal for Friendship Day in 1930?

- [A] Joyce Hall
- [B] Dr. Ramon Artemio Bracho
- [C] Eleanor Roosevelt
- [D] Henri Dunant



Answer: [A] Joyce Hall

Full Explanation: The concept of Friendship Day was originally created by **Joyce Hall**, the founder of Hallmark Cards, in 1930. Later in 1958, **Dr. Ramon Artemio Bracho** proposed World Friendship Day, which led the UN to officially declare July 30 as International Friendship Day.

Q26. July 31 marks the birth anniversary of Dhanpat Rai Srivastava, one of India's most celebrated literary figures. By which pen name is he widely known?

- [A] Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala'
- [B] Munshi Premchand
- [C] Bharatendu Harishchandra
- [D] Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar'

Answer: [B] Munshi Premchand

Full Explanation: Munshi Premchand (born Dhanpat Rai Srivastava on **31 July 1880** in Lamhi near Varanasi) was a pioneer of modern Hindi and Urdu fiction. Known as Upanyas Samrat ("Emperor among Novelists"), his iconic works include *Godaan*, *Gaban*, *Nirmala*, *Karmabhoomi*, and *Poos Ki Raat*.

Art, Culture & Environment

Q27. As per the revised MoEF&CC draft notification, which state accounts for the largest share of the proposed Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) in the Western Ghats?

- [A] Maharashtra
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Tamil Nadu

Answer: [C] Karnataka

Full Explanation: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) issued a

revised draft notification covering **56,825.7 sq. km** of Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) across 6 states.

State Distribution: **Karnataka** has the largest proposed share (**20,668 sq. km**), followed by Maharashtra (17,340 sq. km), Kerala (9,993.7 sq. km), Tamil Nadu (6,914 sq. km), Goa (1,461 sq. km), and Gujarat (449 sq. km).

Q28. 'Chinkara' and 'Hangul' are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. What is the conservation status of Hangul (Kashmir Stag) on the IUCN Red List?

- [A] Vulnerable
- [B] Critically Endangered
- [C] Endangered
- [D] Near Threatened

Answer: [B] Critically Endangered

Full Explanation: The Hangul (*Cervus hanglu hanglu*), or Kashmir Stag, is listed as **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List and protected under Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. It is the state animal of Jammu & Kashmir, primarily found in the Dachigam National Park.

Q29. Which historic temple built during the Chola dynasty is famous for its "shadowless" main tower (Vimana) at noon and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site?

- [A] Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram
- [B] Brihadeeswarar Temple, Thanjavur
- [C] Meenakshi Temple, Madurai
- [D] Airavatesvara Temple, Darasuram

Answer: [B] Brihadeeswarar Temple, Thanjavur

Full Explanation: The **Brihadeeswarar Temple** at Thanjavur, built by Emperor Rajaraja Chola I between 1003 and 1010 AD, is an exemplar of Dravidian architecture. It features a massive

216-foot granite Vimana topped by a single 80-tonne monolithic cupola. It forms part of the UNESCO World Heritage site "Great Living Chola Temples."

Books, Science & Technology

Q30. Who is the author of the classic book 'Resurgent India: Ideas for the Future', which outlines policy frameworks for Indian economic governance?

[A] Raghuram Rajan

[B] Bimal Jalan

[C] Urjit Patel

[D] Y.V. Reddy

Answer: [B] Bimal Jalan

Full Explanation: **Resurgent India: Ideas for the Future** was authored by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Dr. Bimal Jalan**. The book focuses on key aspects of governance, economic policy, and institutional reforms necessary to accelerate national development.

