

Part 1: International & National News

Q1. In June 2026, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected five countries as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the 2027–2028 term. Which country among the following secured its first-ever term since joining the UN in 1992?

- A) Austria
- B) Trinidad and Tobago
- C) Kyrgyzstan
- D) Portugal

Answer: C) Kyrgyzstan

Detailed Explanation: The UNGA elected Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad & Tobago, and Zimbabwe to serve as non-permanent members of the 15-member UNSC for a two-year tenure beginning January 1, 2027. This election was highly contested with 7 nations vying for 5 seats. Crucially, this marks Kyrgyzstan's historic first-ever term on the council since it achieved independence and joined the United Nations in 1992.

Q2. The Government of India has issued an official Letter of Request (LoR) to which foreign nation for a massive government-to-government deal to acquire 114 multi-role fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF)?

- A) Russia
- B) United States of America
- C) France

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D) United Kingdom

Answer: C) France

Detailed Explanation: Underlining a massive push for air superiority and domestic manufacturing, India issued an official LoR to France for a deal valued at approximately Rs 3.25 lakh crore (\$39 Billion) to acquire 114 Rafale fighter jets. Under the "Make in India" structure of this strategic deal, out of the 114 jets, 94 aircraft will be manufactured within India by French aviation major Dassault Aviation in collaboration with an Indian partner enterprise.

Q3. Who was elected as the President of the upcoming 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)?

- A) Dennis Francis
- B) Philémon Yang
- C) Khalilur Rahman
- D) Antonio Guterres

Answer: C) Khalilur Rahman

Detailed Explanation: In a significant diplomatic milestone for South Asia, Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman has been elected to lead the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly as its President. The position rotates annually among five geographic groups of member states, with the Asia-Pacific region holding the mantle for this session.

Q4. Which Indian state became the focus of India's first comprehensive "Model Border Village" developmental infrastructure project to counter cross-border migration and strengthen regional security?

A) Arunachal Pradesh

Indiags

B) Uttarakhand

C) Sikkim

D) Ladakh

Answer: D) Ladakh

Detailed Explanation: The Government of India initiated its pioneering Model Border Village project in Chumur, Ladakh. The project focuses on improving telecommunications, setting up green-energy microgrids, offering livelihood training, and providing sustained road connectivity to border communities, aiming to stall outward migration from vulnerable frontline regions.

Q5. India was recently ranked fourth globally on the "CHIPS Index" for Artificial Intelligence. Which country holds the top spot on this global evaluation?

A) Singapore

B) China

C) United States of America

D) United Kingdom

Answer: C) United States of America

Detailed Explanation: The CHIPS (Connect, Harness, Innovate, Protect, and Sustain) Index for Artificial Intelligence tracks national capability across AI pipelines. India advanced rapidly to rank 4th globally, driven by holding 19.9% of global AI users and possessing the second-largest concentration of AI talent. The United States leads the index, followed by China and Singapore in second and third places respectively.

Part 2: Economics & Banking

Q6. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a landmark risk-sharing agreement in June 2026 to strengthen supply chain finance in India covering both USD and INR transactions. Which commercial bank partnered with ADB for this initiative?

A) State Bank of India

B) Standard Chartered Bank

C) HDFC Bank

D) Axis Bank

Answer: B) Standard Chartered Bank

Detailed Explanation: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Standard Chartered Bank formalized a risk-sharing framework specifically engineered to enhance trade and supply chain finance operations across India. Uniquely, the arrangement covers transactions cleared in both US Dollars (USD) and Indian Rupees (INR), easing credit availability for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) integrated into global supply pipelines.

Q7. Which major fintech and payments firm collaborated with YES Bank to launch 'BharatPe Flex', a dedicated Credit-on-UPI consumer solution?

A) PhonePe

B) BharatPe

C) Paytm

D) CRED

Answer: B) BharatPe

Detailed Explanation: BharatPe partnered with YES Bank to launch "BharatPe Flex". This service

functions as a Credit-on-UPI mechanism, allowing eligible consumers to leverage a pre-approved, digital credit line to settle daily transactions directly through regular UPI QR codes under a "Pay Now, Settle Later" model.

Q8. According to the latest macroeconomic outlook reports, what is India's projected GDP growth rate for the ongoing Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26)?

- A) 6.8%
- B) 7.2%
- C) 7.6%

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- D) 8.1%

Answer: C) 7.6%

Detailed Explanation: Recent economic indicators place India's estimated real GDP growth rate at 7.6% for FY26. While the economy continues to show robust domestic manufacturing and resilient urban demand, the growth rate reflects slight structural dampening due to higher global crude oil and energy import pricing.

Q9. With which Southeast Asian nation did India officially inaugurate its first operational phase of cross-border QR code payment linkages via the UPI network?

- A) Vietnam
- B) Cambodia
- C) Indonesia
- D) Thailand

Answer: B) Cambodia

Detailed Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) operationalized the first phase of their cross-border QR code payment linkage. Indian tourists and business travelers can now seamlessly use Indian UPI-enabled mobile applications to scan and make instant payments across 4.5 million KHQR merchant terminals across Cambodia.

Q10. Which regulatory authority notified the introduction of a new, mandatory standardized 'Vegan Logo' for food items, set to take strict legal effect from July 2027?

- A) FSSAI
- B) BIS
- C) AGMARK
- D) APEDA

Answer: A) FSSAI

Detailed Explanation: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has updated its food packaging compliance regulations, notifying a new standardized Vegan Logo. Featuring a green square frame enclosing a stylized "V" with a leaf, the logo becomes mandatory for all verified vegan food products in India starting July 1, 2027, ensuring transparent labeling for plant-based consumers.

Part 3: Government Schemes & MoUs

Q11. The Union Cabinet approved a massive budget allocation of Rs 9,585 crore for a clean mobility scheme aimed at replacing over 2 lakh old commercial trucks and buses in the Delhi-NCR zone. This scheme is implemented via which statutory board?

- A) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
- B) National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)
- C) NITI Aayog
- D) NHAI

Answer: B) National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)

Detailed Explanation: To mitigate severe seasonal air pollution in the Delhi-NCR area, the Union Cabinet approved a Rs 9,585 crore clean mobility allocation channelled through the NCRPB. Over a two-year timeline, the initiative aims to phase out and replace approximately 2.07 lakh commercial trucks and buses conforming to older BS-IV or lower emission standards with modern BS-VI compliant internal combustion engines or zero-emission Electric Vehicles (EVs).

Q12. The Ministry of Education has launched the 'Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026'. What is the central objective of this global talent scheme?

- A) Fully funding rural Indian students for PhDs in Ivy League colleges
- B) Attracting accomplished Indian-origin researchers from around the world back into India's academic ecosystem
- C) Setting up AI research centers in every government school
- D) Offering monthly stipends to non-technical humanities graduates

Answer: B) Attracting accomplished Indian-origin researchers from around the world back into India's academic ecosystem

Detailed Explanation: Launched by the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, the PMRC Scheme 2026 targets highly accomplished researchers, scientists, and industry innovators of Indian descent settled abroad. The scheme provides funded Research Chairs, world-class laboratory access, and institutional support to bring this global brain trust back into Indian universities to elevate local innovation.

Q13. Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launched 'Mission Senehjori' in June 2026. This cluster-based scheme is designed to boost the unique selling proposition (USP) of which textile or handloom product?

- A) Pashmina Wool of Jammu & Kashmir
- B) Bhagalpuri Silk of Bihar
- C) Muga Silk of Assam
- D) Chanderi Fabric of Madhya Pradesh

Answer: C) Muga Silk of Assam

Detailed Explanation: Launched jointly by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) and the Government of Assam, 'Mission Senehjori' is a structured cluster-development initiative. It provides financial assistance, modern twisting machines, and direct global e-commerce market links to local sericulturists to preserve and scale up the production of Assam's golden Muga Silk.

Q14. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched 'Navachar Mantra', a flagship national initiative at which premier Indian institute?

- A) IISc Bangalore
- B) IIT Delhi

- C) IIT Bombay
- D) IIT Madras

Answer: B) IIT Delhi

Detailed Explanation: Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary launched 'Navachar Mantra' at IIT Delhi. This nationwide initiative is designed to discover grassroots innovators, provide them with year-long academic and technical mentorship, connect them with venture capital funds, and utilize the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) infrastructure to scale sustainable, practical solutions into commercially viable enterprises.

Q15. The Government of India decided to expand the Quick Response (QR) code tagging initiative for Food Corporation of India (FCI) foodgrain bags to three new states. Which of the following groups represents these three states?

- A) Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal
- B) Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha
- C) Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan
- D) Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra

Answer: B) Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha

Detailed Explanation: To arrest systemic leakages, combat black-marketing, and bring operational transparency to the Public Distribution System (PDS), the government expanded FCI's QR-code bag tracking initiative to Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha. The QR tags interface directly with Electronic Point-of-Sale (ePoS) devices at Fair Price Shops, enabling automated billing, grain-season tracking, and real-time food subsidy validation.

Part 4: Defense, Science & Technology

Q16. Which Indian educational institution has created history by becoming the country's first private university to establish a dedicated 'IndiaAI Data Lab' in collaboration with Intel India?

- A) Amity University, Noida
- B) Chandigarh University, Punjab
- C) BITS Pilani
- D) Lovely Professional University, Phagwara

Answer: B) Chandigarh University, Punjab

Detailed Explanation: Chandigarh University became India's first private varsity to launch an 'IndiaAI Data Lab'. Developed in direct corporate partnership with Intel India, the lab provides students with advanced computing architectures to master industry-level skills in deep learning, data engineering, and generative AI models.

Q17. The 'VYOMA Innovation Challenge', which seeks to drive the domestic creation of open-source, multilingual, and voice-first applications, was launched by which division?

- A) ISRO Space Applications Centre
- B) Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)
- C) DRDO Advanced Computing Lab
- D) NITI Aayog Atal Innovation Mission

Answer: B) Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)

Detailed Explanation: The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), operating under the Ministry of Electronics and Information

Technology (MeitY), launched the VYOMA Innovation Challenge. The competitive challenge incentivizes local developers and startups to engineer highly localized, voice-first, open-source digital tools to bridge the digital divide for non-English speaking citizens using AI translation.

Q18. NASA officially declared the formal conclusion of which Mars exploration mission on June 3, 2026, following a prolonged, irrecoverable loss of contact with the automated spacecraft?

- A) Curiosity Rover
- B) Perseverance Rover
- C) InSight Lander
- D) MAVEN Orbiter

Answer: C) InSight Lander

Detailed Explanation: After a highly successful multi-year science deployment mapping the deep interior of Mars and recording hundreds of "marsquakes," NASA formally brought the InSight Lander mission to a close. The decision followed months of failed communication attempts caused by heavy Martian dust accumulating on the lander's solar arrays, cutting off its power supply.

Q19. The 'Fotu La Tunnel Project', an infrastructure development designed to ensure all-weather defense and civilian mobility across rugged terrain, is located in which Union Territory?

- A) Jammu & Kashmir
- B) Ladakh
- C) Himachal Pradesh

D) Uttarakhand

Answer: B) Ladakh

Detailed Explanation: The Fotu La Tunnel Project is situated in the high-altitude Union Territory of Ladakh on the strategic Srinagar-Leh National Highway. The tunnel bypasses the treacherous Fotu La pass, which experiences severe snowfall and avalanches, ensuring uninterrupted military logistics and civilian supply lines to the frontier zones throughout the winter months.

Q20. T-Hub launched the third cohort of its 'ORBIT' accelerator program in June 2026, inducting 13 advanced startups. Which sector is this accelerator uniquely focused on?

- A) FinTech and Blockchain
- B) AgriTech and Hydroponics
- C) Space-Tech
- D) Bio-Genetics and Pharma

Answer: C) Space-Tech

Detailed Explanation: Hyderabad-based startup incubator T-Hub launched the 3rd cohort of ORBIT, an Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)-supported Space-Tech Accelerator Programme. By onboarding 13 new deep-tech startups, the program offers specialized mentoring, testing bed accesses, and investor linkages specifically to fast-track domestic upstream and downstream aerospace and satellite innovations.

Part 5: Appointments, Awards & Honors

Q21. Who was conferred with a prestigious Knighthood by King Charles III in June 2026,

officially receiving the title of "Sir" for outstanding contributions to global cinema and philanthropy?

- A) Benedict Cumberbatch
- B) Tom Hardy
- C) Idris Elba
- D) Daniel Craig

Answer: C) Idris Elba

Detailed Explanation: Celebrated British actor, filmmaker, and humanitarian Idris Elba was officially awarded a Knighthood by King Charles III at Buckingham Palace. The honor recognizes his extensive contributions to the global arts and creative industries alongside his dedicated community work with British youth against crime and poverty through the Prince's Trust.

Q22. Who became the first professional football player in history to be honored with the prestigious 'Princess of Asturias Award for Sports'?

- A) Cristiano Ronaldo
- B) Lionel Messi
- C) Kylian Mbappé
- D) Neymar Jr.

Answer: C) Kylian Mbappé

Detailed Explanation: French football captain and forward Kylian Mbappé was awarded Spain's prestigious Princess of Asturias Award for Sports. This marks the first time an individual football player has received this top European cultural honor, recognized not only for his sporting achievements on the pitch but also for his extensive charitable foundation

providing sports access to underprivileged children.

Q23. D.K. Shivakumar, a prominent political figure whose long legislative journey from Sathanur to Kanakapura since 1989 was highlighted in recent state journals, is the current Deputy Chief Minister of which Indian state?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Kerala
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Karnataka

Answer: D) Karnataka

Detailed Explanation: D.K. Shivakumar serves as the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka. His extensive political career began with his first assembly election victory in 1989 from the Sathanur constituency at age 27. He held that seat continuously before shifting to Kanakapura, where he won consecutive assembly mandates through 2023, making him one of the most senior legislators in the state.

Q24. Which Indian corporate personality or scientist was recently appointed to the Global Advisory Board of the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Artificial Intelligence Governance?

- A) Nandan Nilekani
- B) S Somanath
- C) Dr. Samir V. Kamat
- D) C.P. Gurnani

Answer: A) Nandan Nilekani

Detailed Explanation: Infosys Chairman and the architect of India's Aadhaar program, Nandan

Nilekani, was appointed to the WEF's Global Advisory Board on AI Governance. His inclusion reflects India's rising status as a digital superpower, and his role will focus on balancing AI innovation with inclusive regulatory safety frameworks for developing economies.

Q25. India's prominent environmental activist, known widely for leading massive multi-state afforestation drives, was awarded the UN 'Champions of the Earth' award for 2026 under the Inspiration and Action category. Who is this activist?

- A) Jadav Payeng
- B) Sonam Wangchuk
- C) Medha Patkar
- D) Dr. Purnima Devi Barman

Answer: A) Jadav Payeng

Detailed Explanation: Jadav Payeng, famously known as the "Forest Man of India" for single-handedly transforming a barren sandbar of the Brahmaputra into a sprawling forest reserve, was honored with the UN's highest environmental accolade, the 'Champions of the Earth' award for 2026, for his lifelong dedication to ecological restoration.

Part 6: Sports, Books, Days & Culture

Q26. World Environment Day is celebrated globally every year on June 5. What is the specific global host country and focus theme designated for World Environment Day 2026?

- A) India — Beat Plastic Pollution
- B) Saudi Arabia — Land Restoration, Desertification & Drought Resilience

- C) Brazil — Accelerating Climate Action
- D) Egypt — Protecting Marine Ecosystems

Answer: B) Saudi Arabia — Land Restoration, Desertification & Drought Resilience

Detailed Explanation: June 5 marks World Environment Day. For 2026, the global host nation is Saudi Arabia, with the focus theme revolving around "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience." The day serves to mobilize global policy and local public action toward repairing degraded ecosystems, expanding dryland forestry, and securing sustainable water channels.

Q27. June 3, 2026, marked which specific historic anniversary of the Mountbatten Plan (also famously known as the June 3rd Declaration) of 1947?

- A) 75th Anniversary
- B) 77th Anniversary
- C) 79th Anniversary
- D) 80th Anniversary

Answer: C) 79th Anniversary

Detailed Explanation: June 3, 2026, marked the 79th anniversary of the historic 1947 Mountbatten Plan. Presented by the last Viceroy of India, Lord Louis Mountbatten, this definitive political blueprint outlined the partition of British India into two independent dominions—India and Pakistan—and established the legislative framework for the transfer of political power.

Q28. A new book titled "The AI Century: Geopolitics, Code, and the New World Order," which is trending heavily in policy and civil

services reading lists, has been authored by whom?

- A) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- B) Amitabh Kant
- C) Shashi Tharoor
- D) Nandan Nilekani

Answer: B) Amitabh Kant

Detailed Explanation: The book is authored by Amitabh Kant, India's former G20 Sherpa and ex-CEO of NITI Aayog. In this work, Kant offers an insider's look into how artificial intelligence is reshaping sovereign power structures, cross-border digital trade networks, and global labor markets, while emphasizing the role India can play in democratic AI deployment.

Q29. The historic 'Sital Sasthi' festival, a major cultural and religious celebration depicting the divine marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, concluded recently. In which Indian state is this festival primarily celebrated?

- A) Odisha
- B) West Bengal
- C) Chhattisgarh
- D) Jharkhand

Answer: A) Odisha

Detailed Explanation: Sital Sasthi is a major week-long festival celebrated with grand carnivals and traditional folk dances in Western Odisha, most notably in Sambalpur. Observed as a major monsoon-seeking festival, it ritualistically depicts the wedding of Lord Shiva (Kapileswar) and Goddess Parvati, drawing thousands of devotees to witness the cultural street processions.

Q30. June 2026 marks the birth centenary of which legendary Indian classical musician, a maestro who revolutionized the global appeal of the Santoor?

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- A) Pandit Shivkumar Sharma
- B) Pandit Ravi Shankar
- C) Ustad Bismillah Khan
- D) Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia

Answer: A) Pandit Shivkumar Sharma

Detailed Explanation: Born in 1938, commemorative national events leading up to Pandit Shivkumar Sharma's centenary milestones have begun. He single-handedly elevated the Santoor from an obscure folk instrument of the Jammu and Kashmir valleys into a globally respected powerhouse of Hindustani classical music. His structural innovations modified the instrument to sustain notes, forever changing India's classical landscape.