1. National News

Extension of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II

- **Details:** The Union Government has officially extended the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II** until **March 2028**.
- **Exam Relevance:** This extension enables the government to allocate approximately ₹7,000 crore for its flagship rural sanitation and ODF (Open Defecation Free) Plus sustenance goals in the upcoming Union Budget. Questions often focus on the timeline extensions and financial outlays of key central sector schemes.
- **Key Focus for Exams:** Objectives of SBM-G Phase-II include solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) in villages.

Union Cabinet Approves Service Extension for Agniveers

- **Details:** In a major policy update concerning national defense recruitment, the Union Cabinet approved a two-year service extension plan for 75% of personnel recruited under the **Agnipath Scheme (Agniveers)**.
- **Exam Relevance:** Important for questions regarding defense personnel reforms, short-term military commissions, and structural modifications in India's armed forces.

2. International News

US Midterm Elections & Historic Political Milestones

- **Details:** The United States midterm election results concluded with significant political shifts, where Democrats secured control of both chambers of Congress.
- **Key Milestone: Keisha Lance Bottoms** (56) made history by becoming the **first Black woman to be elected as the Governor of a US state** (winning Georgia's gubernatorial election). She previously served as a senior advisor in the Biden administration.
- **Exam Relevance:** Questions on international political milestones, firsts in global governance, and US legislative structures.

3. Economics & Banking News

State Transport Fare Revisions (Karnataka)

- **Details:** The Karnataka government revised KSRTC (Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation) and BMTC bus fares (up to ₹9 increase for regular routes, and Bengaluru's AC Vajra bus maximum fare hiked from ₹75 to ₹90) to offset mounting operational costs driven by rising global diesel prices.
- **Exam Relevance:** Illustrates state-level fiscal management challenges and public utility economics.

Corporate Cost-Cutting Measures: Google (Alphabet)

- **Details:** Technology major Google expanded voluntary buyout packages for employees across Canada, France, Germany, Japan, and Switzerland as parent company Alphabet seeks to manage expenditures amid massive capital investments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure.
- **Exam Relevance:** Useful for banking/economy descriptive writing or objective trends regarding global tech sector adjustments.

4. Sports News

Asian Champions Trophy 2026 (Hockey)

- **Details:** The Indian men's hockey team delivered a dominant performance, defeating South Korea **8-1** in the semi-finals of the Asian Champions Trophy 2026 to

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secure a spot in the final against Japan. Shilanand Lakra and Dilpreet Singh scored braces (two goals each).

- **Exam Relevance:** Trophy names, hosting nations, and standout players in continental hockey tournaments.

India vs New Zealand ODI Series

- **Details:** The Indian cricket team registered a victory in the first ODI of the series against New Zealand at Eden Park, Auckland, chasing down a revised target with Virat Kohli anchoring the innings. Fast bowler **Anshul Kamboj** claimed the Player of the Match award for an economical spell (2 wickets for 22 runs in 10 overs).
- **Exam Relevance:** Match venues, outstanding bowling/batting performances, and bilateral cricket updates.

Tammer Boxing Tournament 2026

- **Details:** India finished on top at the **46th International Tammer Boxing Tournament**, bagging an impressive **14 medals, including 4 Gold medals**.
- **Exam Relevance:** Medal tallies of Indian contingents in international boxing championships.

5. Defence News & MoUs (Memorandums of Understanding)

- **Defence Strategic Updates:** Continued emphasis on indigenous military hardware production. Recent framework agreements involve collaborations between public sector undertakings (such as Munitions India Limited) and private aerospace innovators for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and loitering munitions.
- **Academic-Defence Integration:** MoUs signed between premier technical institutions (like IIT Ropar) and the Army Air Defence College to confer specialized M.Tech degrees in Defence Technology for officers.
- **Exam Relevance:** Questions targeting "Make in India" defense initiatives, private-public partnerships in defense manufacturing, and academic tie-ups with the armed forces.

6. Important Days, Anniversaries & Festivals

World Tsunami Awareness Day (5 November)

- **Significance:** Designated by the United Nations General Assembly, this day aims to bring global attention to tsunami risk reduction, early warning systems, and community resilience.
- **Exam Relevance:** UN observational days and themes focused on disaster risk management (Sendai Framework).

Birth and Death Anniversaries

- **Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika (Death Anniversary - 5 November):** Remembering the legendary Assamese singer, lyricist, musician, poet, and filmmaker often referred to as Sudhakantha.
- **Virat Kohli (Birth Anniversary - 5 November):** Celebrated across sports media as the birthday of the iconic Indian modern-era cricket maestro.

7. Art, Culture & Books

- **Cultural Legacy:** Traditional arts, classical music/dance festivals, and regional folk art forms continue to receive promotional backing via cultural ministries.
- **Exam Tip:** Keep track of classical dance exponents (such as the legacy of Kathak maestro Pandit Shambhu Maharaj, whose death anniversary falls early in November) and prominent literary releases for static-to-

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current dynamic questions in UPSC/SSC exams.

National & International News, Govt Schemes & Economics

Q1. Which initiative was approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2026 to modernise India's official statistical system, data analytics, and research capabilities?

A) PRAGATI Scheme

B) VISTAR Scheme

C) PM-STAT Initiative

D) DISHA Analytics Platform

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: The Union Cabinet approved the **Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research (VISTAR) Scheme** with an outlay of ₹4,371.10 crore from FY 2026–27 to 2030–31 to scale up national surveys, integrate AI, and execute economic censuses.

Q2. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) partnered with which state government in November 2026 to establish a Skill India International Centre (SIIC)?

A) Gujarat

B) Maharashtra

C) Assam

D) Karnataka

- **Answer:** C

Explanation: MSDE announced a partnership with the **Government of Assam** to set up an SIIC and upgrade ITI clusters under the PM-SETU scheme.

Q3. Who launched the interactive India Science and Technology (S&T) Scoreboard in November 2026 to assess S&T performance across States and UTs?

A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi

B) Ashok Kumar Lahiri, Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog

C) Principal Scientific Adviser to GoI

D) Union Minister of Science and Technology

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: Ashok Kumar Lahiri, Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog, launched the interactive India S&T Scoreboard to foster evidence-based policymaking and highlight regional innovation gaps.

Q4. Which institution topped the QS World University Rankings (Asia) for the 2027 edition?

A) National University of Singapore (NUS)

B) Peking University

C) The University of Hong Kong

D) Nanyang Technological University

- **Answer:** C

Explanation: In the **QS World University Rankings Asia 2027**, **The University of Hong Kong** claimed the top spot, while IIT Delhi stood at the 66th rank.

Q5. Which regulatory body directed general insurers to implement a four-layer motor insurance policy structure for private cars and two-wheelers starting December 2026?

A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

C) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

D) Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- **Answer:** C

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Explanation: The **IRDAI** directed general insurers to execute a four-layer motor insurance structure starting 15 December 2026 to streamline policy provisions and cover.

Q6. Which division signed an MoU with SEBI in November 2026 to expand regional-language services?

A) MyGov India

B) Digital India BHASHINI Division

C) National Informatics Centre (NIC)

D) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: **SEBI** signed an MoU with the Digital India **BHASHINI Division** to bolster linguistic accessibility and expand financial services content into diverse Indian regional languages.

Q7. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited's (KMBL) acquisition of retail and wealth management businesses belonging to which international bank?

A) Standard Chartered Bank

B) HSBC India

C) Deutsche Bank

D) Barclays Bank

- **Answer:** C

Explanation: The CCI approved KMBL's strategic acquisition of the retail and wealth management operations of **Deutsche Bank** in India.

Q8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for metro projects worth around ₹21,800 crore in which city?

A) Bengaluru

B) Pune

C) Ahmedabad

D) Nagpur

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for expansive **Pune Metro** infrastructural expansion projects valued at approximately ₹21,800 crore.

Banking, Appointments, & Corporate Updates

Q9. Who was appointed as the Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Equitas Small Finance Bank in November 2026?

A) Natarajan Chandrasekaran

B) Balaji Nuthalapadi

C) Prashant Kumar

D) Amitabh Chaudhry

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: **Balaji Nuthalapadi**, the Whole-Time Director and Executive Director of Equitas Small Finance Bank, was appointed as Interim CEO following board approvals and RBI's procedural guidelines.

Q10. Which small finance bank or entity was recently in the news for tightening its ESOP (Employee Stock Option Plan) guidelines alongside IRDAI directives?

A) Equitas Small Finance Bank

B) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

C) General Insurers governed by IRDAI

D) AU Small Finance Bank

- **Answer:** C

Explanation: Along with the four-layer motor insurance rollouts, **IRDAI** tightened compliance

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norms concerning ESOP structures for insurance sector employees.

Defense & Science and Technology

Q11. DRDO successfully tested which quasi-ballistic missile off the coast of Odisha in November 2026?

A) Shaurya

B) Pralay

C) Agni-P

D) BrahMos-NG

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the **Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile** off the coast of Odisha, showcasing high-precision strike capabilities.

Q12. Which domestic enterprise secured a key order from DRDO for the indigenous VANA multi-mission UAV platform?

A) IdeaForge Technology

B) IZI Enterprise

C) Asteria Aerospace

D) Paras Defence

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: IZI Enterprise bagged a contract from DRDO for supplying the indigenous **VANA multi-mission Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** platform.

Q13. Which neighboring country successfully tested its indigenous 'Fa'az' air-to-air missile in November 2026?

A) China

B) Pakistan

C) Iran

D) Turkey

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: Pakistan announced the successful test flight of its indigenous air-to-air missile named **Fa'az**.

Sports Current Affairs

Q14. Which country topped the overall medal standings at the 46th International Tammer Boxing Tournament held in Tampere, Finland?

A) Cuba

B) Ireland

C) India

D) Kazakhstan

- **Answer:** C

Explanation: India finished at the top of the medal tally at the 46th International Tammer Boxing Tournament, bagging a total of 14 medals, which included 4 gold, 2 silver, and 8 bronze medals.

Q15. Who won the gold medal in the women's 70 kg category at the 46th International Tammer Boxing Tournament 2026?

A) Nikhat Zareen

B) Lovlina Borgohain

C) Arundhati Chaudhary

D) Jaismine Lamboria

- **Answer:** C

Explanation: Indian Army boxer and Commonwealth Games gold medallist **Havildar Arundhati Chaudhary** clinched the gold medal in the women's 70 kg division.

Q16. Which Indian male boxer secured a gold medal in the 55 kg category at the Tammer Boxing Tournament 2026?

A) Deepak Bhoria

B) Pawan Bartwal

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C) Amit Panghal

D) Shiva Thapa

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: Indian Army's **Havildar Pawan Bartwal** put up a stellar performance to secure a gold medal in the men's 55 kg weight class.

Important Days, Anniversaries, & Culture

Q17. World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed globally across UN member states on which date?

A) November 3

B) November 4

C) November 5

D) November 7

- **Answer:** C

Explanation: Observed annually on **5 November**, **World Tsunami Awareness Day** is promoted by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to build resilient communities and scale up disaster risk mitigation.

Q18. National Cancer Awareness Day in India is observed annually on which date?

A) November 5

B) November 7

C) November 9

D) November 11

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: National Cancer Awareness Day is marked on **November 7** to spread awareness regarding early detection, clinical screening, and prevention of cancer.

Q19. National Legal Services Day commemorates the enactment of which landmark Indian legislation?

A) Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973

B) Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

C) Right to Information Act, 2005

D) Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: Observed on **November 9**, **National Legal Services Day** marks the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, aiming to provide free and competent legal aid to weaker sections.

Q20. World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated globally on:

A) November 8

B) November 10

C) November 14

D) November 21

- **Answer:** B
- **Explanation: World Science Day for Peace and Development** falls on **November 10**, highlighting the critical role of science in society and sustainable global development.

Q21. National Education Day in India is observed on November 11 to commemorate the birth anniversary of whom?

A) Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

B) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

C) C.V. Raman

D) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: National Education Day honors **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, independent India's first Minister of Education, recognizing his monumental contributions to institution-building and education.

Q22. Children's Day is celebrated across India on November 14, marking the birth anniversary of:

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A) Mahatma Gandhi

B) Subhas Chandra Bose

C) Jawaharlal Nehru

D) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- **Answer:** C

Explanation: Celebrated on **November 14**, Children's Day marks the birth anniversary of **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**, emphasizing child welfare, rights, and education.

Q23. Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is celebrated nationwide on November 15 to honor the birth anniversary of which iconic tribal freedom fighter?

A) Tantia Tope

B) Birsa Munda

C) Sidhu Murmu

D) Alluri Sitarama Raju

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: Janjjatiya Gaurav Divas (November 15) commemorates **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**, celebrating tribal heritage, culture, and resistance against colonial oppression.

Q24. Which major festival celebrated across India in November represents the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil?

A) Eid-ul-Fitr

B) Diwali

C) Guru Purnima

D) Mahashivratri

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: Diwali (Deepavali) is the prominent Hindu festival of lights symbolizing spiritual illumination, hope, and prosperity.

Q25. Chhath Puja, a prominent festival heavily celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, and parts of Uttar Pradesh, is dedicated to the worship of:

A) Lord Shiva

B) Goddess Durga

C) The Sun God (Surya)

D) Lord Vishnu

- **Answer:** C

Explanation: Chhath Puja is an ancient Hindu Vedic festival dedicated to **Surya (the Sun God)** and Chhathi Maiya to express gratitude for sustaining life on Earth.

Q26. Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) is celebrated annually in India on:

A) August 15

B) January 26

C) November 26

D) October 2

- **Answer:** C

Explanation: Constitution Day is observed on **November 26** to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.

Q27. National Milk Day is observed in India on November 26 to honor the birth anniversary of which pioneer of the White Revolution?

A) Dr. M.S. Swaminathan

B) Dr. Verghese Kurien

C) Tribhuvandas Patel

D) Amrita Patel

- **Answer:** B

Explanation: National Milk Day marks the birth anniversary of **Dr. Verghese Kurien**, the "Father of the White Revolution" in India, acknowledging Operation Flood's success.

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Q28. Lachit Diwas is celebrated annually to honor Ahom General Lachit Borphukan and commemorate the historic Assamese victory at which battle?

A) Battle of Haldighati

B) Battle of Plassey

C) Battle of Saraighat

D) Battle of Buxar

- **Answer:** C

Explanation: Lachit Diwas (observed on November 24) commemorates Ahom General Lachit Borphukan and the legendary naval victory of the Ahom Kingdom against the Mughals at the **Battle of Saraighat (1671)**.

Q29. World Television Day is observed internationally every year on:

A) November 15

B) November 21

C) November 25

D) November 30

- **Answer:** B
- **Explanation: World Television Day** is observed on **November 21** to recognize the role of television and broadcast media in shaping global communication, public awareness, and culture.

Q30. Which international week is led by the World Health Organization (WHO) starting from November 18 to address global health security concerns?

A) World Immunization Week

B) World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week

C) World Mental Health Week

D) Patient Safety Week

- **Answer:** B
- **Explanation:** The WHO-led **World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week** starts on **November 18** annually to drive global awareness and combat the escalating threat of drug-resistant infections.

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