1. National News

- **Union Cabinet Approves VISTAR Scheme:**
  - Details: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the **Vikasit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research (VISTAR) Scheme**. It is a Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of **₹4,371.10 crore** for five years (from FY27 to FY31) to modernize India's statistical and data-analytics system.
- **1st International Maize Conference 2026:**
  - Details: Held at the JD Convention Centre in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
  - Theme: "Maize Revolution for Food, Feed, Fodder, Fuel and Sustainability in the Changing World (M4FS)". The conference focused on enhancing maize productivity, farmer-centric innovations, and sustainable value chains.
- **IndiaAI Mission Releases Indigenous AI Models:**
  - Details: The IndiaAI Mission under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched three indigenous AI foundation models: **EKA-1, Dhīr 2B, and Dhīr 5B**, developed by domestic tech research firms (Soket Labs and ZenteiQ).
- **Martyrs' Memorial Inaugurated in Ambala:**
  - Details: Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a grand **₹594-crore memorial dedicated to the 1857 First War of Independence** in Ambala, Haryana, celebrating unsung heroes and historical leaders of the revolt.

2. International News

- **Bahamas Joins International Solar Alliance (ISA):**
  - Details: The **Bahamas** officially became the **116th member country** of the International Solar Alliance, reinforcing global cooperation in expanding solar energy deployment and climate action.
- **UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Adaptation Gap Report 2026:**
  - Details: Released ahead of major climate negotiations, the report highlighted that wealthy nations are falling severely short of the annual **$305 billion** needed to assist developing nations with climate change adaptation.

3. Economics and Banking

- **RBI Constitutes Technical Consultative Committee for Financial Markets (TCCFM):**
  - Details: The Reserve Bank of India set up the TCCFM—chaired by Deputy Governor **Rohit Jain**—to enhance stakeholder engagement on policy and operational parameters across money markets, government securities, and foreign exchange segments.
- **NPCI Establishes Wholly-Owned Subsidiary (NTSL):**
  - Details: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched its 4th wholly-owned subsidiary, **NPCI Tech Solutions Limited (NTSL)**, appointing **Vishal Kanvaty** as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to spearhead advancements in emerging tech domains like AI and blockchain.
- **SEBI Relaxes NRI KYC Norms:**
  - Details: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) streamlined digital onboarding frameworks, allowing Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) to complete KYC

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authentication remotely from abroad without physical verification inside India.

4. Defence News

- **Indigenous Warship 'Amini' Delivered:**
  - Details: Strengthening coastal security and anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the indigenous naval ship **INS Amini** (named after Amini Island in Lakshadweep) was formally delivered to the Indian Navy. It is propelled by waterjets and features over **80% indigenous content**.
- **India's 2029 Defence Production Targets:**
  - Details: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced that India aims to achieve **₹3 lakh crore** in domestic defence production and **₹50,000 crore** in defence exports by 2029, supported by a record capital outlay in the defence budget.

5. Appointments

- **Vishal Kanvaty:** Appointed as the CEO of NPCI's newly launched subsidiary, **NTSL** (NPCI Tech Solutions Limited).
- **Rohit Jain:** Appointed as Chairperson of the newly formed Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Technical Consultative Committee for Financial Markets (TCCFM).

6. Awards and Honors

- **Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction 2026:**
  - Winner: **Edmund Richardson** (Professor of Classics at Durham University) for his critically acclaimed historical biography, "Alexander: God, King, Man".
- **Sharjah Award for Best International Non-Fiction Book:**
  - Winner: **Nirmala Lakshman** (Director, The Hindu Group) for her comprehensive sociological and cultural work, "The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community".
- **PM Surya Ghar Excellence Award 2026:**
  - Winner: The **Ministry of Railways** bagged the top position among Central Ministries/Departments for achieving the highest number of rooftop solarized government buildings.

7. Books and Authors

- "Alexander: God, King, Man" – Authored by **Edmund Richardson** (Wins recognition for exploring Alexander the Great's life beyond conventional narratives).
- "The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community" – Authored by **Nirmala Lakshman** (Explores the rich historical, social, and cultural evolution of the Tamil community).

8. Government Schemes & Initiatives

- **VISTAR Scheme:** Launched via a Cabinet outlay of ₹4,371.10 crore to overhaul India's statistical data pipelines and economic analytics infrastructure.
- **Grid-Scale Energy Storage Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme:** Approved with a layout of ₹14,500 crore to fast-track **92 GWh** of energy storage systems (including Pumped Storage Plants and Battery Energy Storage Systems).

9. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

- **Ministry of Culture & Google Arts & Culture:** Signed an MoU to digitize India's vast cultural heritage, monuments, and manuscripts, making them digitally accessible globally in multiple Indian languages.

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- **Odisha Government & J-PAL South Asia:** Signed a 3-year partnership to utilize evidence-based public policy research for optimizing state governance and welfare programs.
- **IICA & IAMC:** The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) signed an MoU with the International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC), Hyderabad, to boost alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in corporate frameworks.

10. Art, Culture, and Festivals

- **Cultural Fusion Celebrations (Diwali/Dhanteras context):** Embassies and cultural hubs worldwide highlighted traditional arts, strengthening diaspora ties (such as the Indian Embassy in Kuwait hosting joint cultural showcases).
- **Digital Heritage Archiving:** Ongoing nationwide drives supported by the Ministry of Culture to map historical texts, ancient manuscripts (like parts of regional epics), and localized folklore through immersive digital applications.

11. Important Days

- **Date: November 6**
- **Day Observed: International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.**
- **Significance:** Designated by the United Nations to raise awareness about how ecological destruction and environmental degradation during armed conflicts undermine long-term ecosystem security and human survival.

12. Sports News

- **Cristiano Ronaldo's Milestone Legacy:** Portuguese football icon Cristiano Ronaldo made international headlines, capping off an unmatched career holding all-time records with 234 international appearances and 146 international goals.
- **Obituary - Alan Jones:** Former Australian Formula One (F1) World Champion **Alan Stanley Jones** (who clinched the 1980 F1 World Drivers' Championship with Williams Racing) passed away at the age of 80.

13. Birth and Death Anniversaries

- **Shyama Prasad Mukherji:** Commemorated via landmark tributes, including the unveiling of statues across educational institutions (such as Delhi University) on his birth anniversary milestones, honoring his role in Indian education, industrialization, and national integration.
- **Nand Lal:** Former Chief Parliamentary Secretary, four-time Himachal Pradesh MLA, and former SPG commando passed away at the age of 72, leaving behind a notable legacy in regional public service.

30 Practice MCQs with Answers & Full Explanations

Q1. What is the total financial outlay approved by the Union Cabinet for the VISTAR Scheme over 5 years (FY27 to FY31)?

(a) ₹2,814.00 crore

(b) ₹3,788.04 crore

(c) ₹4,371.10 crore

(d) ₹14,500.00 crore

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Union Cabinet approved the *Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research (VISTAR) Scheme* with an outlay of **₹4,371.10 crore** to modernise data systems.

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Q2. Which country became the 116th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) during its 9th Assembly in New Delhi?
(a) Jamaica

(b) The Bahamas

(c) Barbados

(d) Maldives

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The Commonwealth of **The Bahamas** formally handed over its Instrument of Accession to become the 116th member of the ISA.

Q3. India has been re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for which term?
(a) 2025–2027

(b) 2026–2028

(c) 2027–2029

(d) 2026–2030

Answer: (b)

Explanation: India was unanimously re-elected as President of the ISA for a third consecutive term from **2026 to 2028**, with France as Co-President.

Q4. What percentage of capital subsidy is provided under the Capex Support Scheme for domestic critical mineral processing (Lithium & Nickel)?
(a) 15%

(b) 25%

(c) 30%

(d) 50%

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The ₹2,814-crore Capex Support Scheme provides a **30% financial subsidy** on total capital investments for setting up processing plants for critical minerals.

Q5. What total grid-scale energy storage capacity is targeted under the ₹14,500 crore Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme?
(a) 45 GWh

(b) 75 GWh

(c) 92 GWh

(d) 110 GWh

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Cabinet approved ₹14,500 crore in VGF to develop **92 GWh** of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

Q6. Under the extended Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC) scheme till March 2031, how many total courts will be functional?
(a) 779

(b) 800

(c) 850

(d) 920

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The scheme's extension increases the target number of functional Fast Track Special Courts (including POCSO courts) from 779 to **850**.

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Q7. Which non-governmental framework element was added to the traditional 4F framework (Food, Feed, Fodder, Fuel) at the 1st International Maize Conference?
(a) Finance

(b) Farmers

(c) Fertilizer

(d) Forecasting

Answer: (b)

Explanation: At the 1st International Maize Conference in Hyderabad, the 4F framework was expanded to **5F** by adding **Farmers** to put growers at the center of research.

Q8. Who heads the newly constituted Technical Consultative Committee for Financial Markets (TCCFM) formed by RBI?
(a) Swaminathan J.

(b) Rohit Jain

(c) Michael Patra

(d) T. Rabi Sankar

Answer: (b)

Explanation: RBI Deputy Governor **Rohit Jain** was appointed to chair the TCCFM to consult on money and forex markets.

Q9. Under the revised FEMA regulations for service trade, AD banks must log service import details in IDPMS within how many working days?
(a) 3 working days

(b) 5 working days

(c) 7 working days

(d) 10 working days

Answer: (b)

Explanation: AD banks are mandated to log service import transactions into the Import Data Processing and Monitoring System within **5 working days**.

Q10. SEBI formed an 18-member panel to review which platform's regulatory framework?
(a) Social Stock Exchange (SSE)

(b) Innovators Growth Platform (IGP)

(c) Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) Platform

(d) Municipal Bond Market Platform

Answer: (b)

Explanation: SEBI established the working group to review listing norms for startup and deep-tech companies on the **Innovators Growth Platform (IGP)**.

Q11. Which state became the first in India to officially notify a 'State Amphibian'?
(a) Kerala

(b) Tamil Nadu

(c) Karnataka

(d) Maharashtra

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Karnataka declared the Malabar Tree Toad as its state amphibian, becoming the first state in India to adopt an official amphibian symbol.

Q12. Which two entities collaborated to launch indigenous AI models named EKA-1, Dhīr 2B, and Dhīr 5B under the IndiaAI Mission?
(a) Soket Labs & ZenteiQ AiTech

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(b) Sarvam AI & BharatGPT

(c) Infosys & IIT Madras

(d) C-DAC & TIFR

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The models were developed by **Soket Labs Technology** and **ZenteiQ AiTech Innovations** supported by the IndiaAI Mission under MeitY.

Q13. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj signed an MoU with which enterprise to install EV charging points on Panchayat land?

(a) Tata Power

(b) Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL)

(c) NTPC Vidyut Vyapar

(d) Power Grid Corporation

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The MoU was signed with **CESL** (a subsidiary of EESL) to deploy EV charging infrastructure across rural Panchayats.

Q14. What are India's targets for domestic defense production and defense exports set for the year 2029?

(a) ₹2 Lakh Cr production & ₹25,000 Cr exports

(b) ₹3 Lakh Cr production & ₹50,000 Cr exports

(c) ₹5 Lakh Cr production & ₹1 Lakh Cr exports

(d) ₹2.5 Lakh Cr production & ₹35,000 Cr exports

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh outlined goals of **₹3 lakh crore** in total production and **₹50,000 crore** in exports by FY2028-29.

Q15. Where was the 5th edition of the bilateral tri-service exercise 'Tiger Triumph' between India and the US conducted?

(a) Umroi, Meghalaya

(b) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

(c) Pune, Maharashtra

(d) Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Answer: (b)

Explanation: **Exercise Tiger Triumph** commenced off the coast of **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh.

Q16. Which country won the 6th Men's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey tournament held in Mohali?

(a) Japan

(b) Malaysia

(c) India

(d) South Korea

Answer: (c)

Explanation: **India** defeated Japan 4-1 in the final to claim its sixth Asian Champions Trophy title.

Q17. Which sports team won BOTH the Men's and Women's titles at the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship held in Ahmedabad?

(a) Iran

(b) India

(c) England

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(d) Pakistan

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Host nation **India** swept both the men's and women's titles in the maiden edition.

Q18. Who won the 2026 Baillie Gifford Nonfiction Prize?
(a) Nirmala Lakshman

(b) Edmund Richardson

(c) Samantha Harvey

(d) Arundhati Roy

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Edmund Richardson was awarded the 2026 Baillie Gifford Prize for Nonfiction.

Q19. Filpino engineer Aldrei Ong won the James Dyson Global Sustainability Award 2026 for inventing which device?
(a) Eco-Filter

(b) Sentinel

(c) Hydro-Sense

(d) Terra-Guard

Answer: (b)

Explanation: He developed **Sentinel**, an advanced sensor designed for continuous structural health monitoring.

Q20. Which new statutory rule replaced the 89-year-old Aircraft Rules, 1937 in India?
(a) Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026

(b) National Aviation Code, 2026

(c) Bharatiya Nagarik Viman Act, 2026

(d) Digital Sky Regulation Rules, 2026

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The Ministry of Civil Aviation notified the **Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026**, replacing the old 1937 framework.

Q21. Which Indian state hosted the BRICS Sustainable Lifestyle Week 2026 and cyclothon?
(a) Assam

(b) Manipur

(c) Sikkim

(d) Tripura

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh inaugurated the initiative at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex in **Imphal, Manipur**.

Q22. Who became the first Indian female badminton player to win a medal and reach the singles final at the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar?
(a) Anupama Upadhyaya

(b) Unnati Hooda

(c) Tanvi Patri

(d) Tasnim Mir

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Tanvi Patri created history by reaching the Youth Olympics women's badminton singles final.

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Q23. NITI Aayog partnered with TEXMiN to boost innovation in critical minerals. TEXMiN is established at which institution?
(a) IIT Kharagpur

(b) IIT ISM Dhanbad

(c) IIT Bombay

(d) NIT Rourkela

Answer: (b)

Explanation: TEXMiN is an innovation hub supported by DST at **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad**.

Q24. Who was appointed as the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Equitas Small Finance Bank?
(a) Vasudevan P. N.

(b) Balaji Nuthalapadi

(c) Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

(d) Sumant Kathpalia

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Balaji Nuthalapadi was designated as interim CEO by the bank board.

Q25. A Centre of Excellence for the indigenous 'Siri' cattle breed is being established in which state?
(a) Assam

(b) Meghalaya

(c) Sikkim

(d) Nagaland

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying announced the Centre of Excellence in **Sikkim**.

Q26. Which newly discovered catfish species was identified in Manipur?
(a) *Exostoma nasibarbatum*

(b) *Glyptothorax manipurensis*

(c) *Mystus Imphalensis*

(d) *Ambiceps Northeastica*

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Taxonomists identified the new rheophilic catfish species ***Exostoma nasibarbatum*** in Manipur streams.

Q27. What is the cap per borrowing entity for agricultural infrastructure loans in the draft Priority Sector Lending (PSL) revised targets?
(a) ₹10 crore

(b) ₹25 crore

(c) ₹50 crore

(d) ₹100 crore

Answer: (d)

Explanation: Draft PSL guidelines set a loan limit cap of **₹100 crore** per borrower from the entire banking system for ag-infra projects.

Q28. Which organization signed an MoU with Odisha to support 3 years of evidence-based policy formulation?
(a) NITI Aayog

(b) J-PAL South Asia

(c) UNDP India

(d) World Bank

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Answer: (b)

Explanation: Odisha signed a 3-year agreement with **J-PAL South Asia**.

Q29. Which entity is set up as the 4th wholly-owned subsidiary by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?

(a) NSDL

(b) NTSL

(c) NPCL

(d) NFSL

Answer: (b)

Explanation: NPCI established **NPCI Technical Services Limited (NTSL)**, with Vishal Kanvaty appointed as CEO.

Q30. The International Day against Violence and Bullying at School, Including Cyberbullying, is supported globally by which UN body?

(a) UNICEF

(b) UNESCO

(c) UNHCR

(d) WHO

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Designated by **UNESCO** member states, the day highlights anti-bullying measures in education environments.

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