

Part 1: International & National News

Q1. According to the UNCTAD '2026 World Investment Report', what is India's rank globally as a recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for the year 2025?

- A) 9th
- B) 11th
- C) 14th
- D) 18th

Answer: B) 11th

Explanation: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released its "2026 World Investment Report: International Investment in a Turbulent Era". The report highlights that India emerged as the world's 11th largest recipient of FDI, moving up two places compared to 2024. Total inflows surged by approximately 44% to USD 38.89 billion in 2025. The USA remains the world's largest source and recipient of FDI.

Q2. In July 2026, which city hosted the BRICS Women's Ministerial Meeting under India's BRICS Chairship?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Mumbai
- C) Kochi
- D) Bengaluru

Answer: C) Kochi

Explanation: India hosted the BRICS Women's Ministerial Meeting in Kochi, Kerala, on July 8 and 9, 2026, under its BRICS Chairship. The meeting centered on gender-responsive governance, socio-economic empowerment of women, and bridging digital and skill gaps across member nations.

Q3. The "Hummus Trail," which recently appeared in international and domestic news regarding tourism governance and legal accountability, primarily involves tourists from which country?

- A) Germany
- B) Israel
- C) United States
- D) Russia

Answer: B) Israel

Explanation: The "Hummus Trail" refers to a popular, informal travel route in India (encompassing places like Kasol, Dharamshala, Pushkar, and parts of Goa) heavily frequented by young Israeli tourists, typically post-military service. It has come under geopolitical and legal scrutiny in mid-2026 regarding local tourism governance, international humanitarian law issues, and accountability mechanisms.

Q4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with "Bintang Adipurna," the highest civilian honor of which country, during his official bilateral visit in July 2026?

- A) Indonesia
- B) Egypt
- C) UAE
- D) Bhutan

Answer: A) Indonesia

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi received "Bintang Adipurna" (Star of Merit), Indonesia's highest civilian honor, from Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto during his official state visit to Jakarta. The award recognizes his exceptional contributions to strengthening the comprehensive strategic partnership between India and Indonesia.

Q5. According to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2026, what is India's rank among 167 nations?

- A) 102nd
- B) 99th
- C) 94th
- D) 87th

Answer: C) 94th

Explanation: In the 11th Edition of the Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2026 published by the UNSDSN, India secured its highest-ever rank of 94th among 167 countries with a score of 68.3 out of 100, improving from the 99th position in 2025. Finland grabbed the top spot.

Q6. The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved renaming the historic town of Jalalabad in Shahjahanpur district to which of the following names?

- A) Parashurampuri
- B) Ramnagar
- C) Kalyan Nagar
- D) Ahilyabai Nagar

Answer: A) Parashurampuri

Explanation: The Uttar Pradesh state cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, approved the proposal to rename Jalalabad town in Shahjahanpur district as Parashurampuri. The decision reflects the region's historical and religious links as the legendary birthplace of Lord Parashuram.

Part 2: Economics, Banking & Corporate

Q7. As per the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) disclosures, India's external debt stood at what amount as of March 31, 2026?

- A) US\$ 612.5 billion
- B) US\$ 685.2 billion
- C) US\$ 762.8 billion
- D) US\$ 810.4 billion

Answer: C) US\$ 762.8 billion

Explanation: According to official data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's total external debt rose to US\$ 762.8 billion as of March 31, 2026. This reflects a year-on-year expansion of US\$ 26.3 billion compared to the previous financial year, primarily driven by commercial borrowings and short-term trade credits.

Q8. State Bank of India (SBI) recently expanded its presence in the housing finance ecosystem by acquiring a 10% equity stake in RDCL from which institution?

- A) National Housing Bank (NHB)
- B) HUDCO
- C) LIC Housing Finance
- D) HDFC Bank

Answer: A) National Housing Bank (NHB)

Explanation: State Bank of India (SBI) signed an agreement to acquire the National Housing Bank's (NHB) entire 10% equity stake in RMBS Development Company Limited (RDCL). Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities (RMBS) secondary markets are being actively deepened through this venture.

Q9. Which global tech business figures were named among the founding members of the UN-backed 'AI for Good Global Commission'?

launched by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in July 2026?

- A) Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal, Lakshmi N. Mittal
- B) Nandan Nilekani, Azim Premji, Anand Mahindra
- C) Gautam Adani, Shiv Nadar, Cyrus Poonawalla
- D) N. Chandrasekaran, Sajjan Jindal, Uday Kotak

Answer: A) Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal, Lakshmi N. Mittal

Explanation: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) launched the AI for Good Global Commission with 44 founding members in Geneva, Switzerland. Leading Indian corporate titans Mukesh Ambani (Reliance), Sunil Bharti Mittal (Bharti Enterprises), and Lakshmi N. Mittal (ArcelorMittal) represent India on this global panel tasked with developing robust AI governance and inclusion frameworks.

Q10. Which financial platform's European arm secured a Payment Institution (PI) license from Luxembourg's financial regulator (CSSF) in July 2026?

- A) PhonePe Europe
- B) Razorpay International
- C) Paytm Europe
- D) BharatPe Global

Answer: C) Paytm Europe

Explanation: Paytm Europe Payments S.A., the European arm of One97 Communications (Paytm), officially secured a Payment Institution (PI) license from Luxembourg's financial regulator, the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF), effective July 2, 2026, allowing it to provide cross-border payment services across the EU.

Q11. The India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA), which officially entered into force on July 4, 2026, replaces a historical investment treaty signed in which year?

- A) 1991
- B) 1996
- C) 2002
- D) 2015

Answer: B) 1996

Explanation: The India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA), originally signed back in September 2025, formally came into force on July 4, 2026. It replaces the obsolete 1996 India-Israel investment treaty, offering upgraded legal safety nets, transparent dispute resolutions, and alignment with modern frameworks like the I2U2 minilateral group.

Part 3: Government Schemes & MoUs

Q12. The Government of India approved the nationwide expansion of 'PM-SETU' across 200 identified clusters. What does 'SETU' stand for in this flagship scheme?

- A) Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs
- B) Social Empowerment and Technology Upgradation
- C) Secondary Education and Training Union
- D) Scheme for Entrepreneurship and Technical Upliftment

Answer: A) Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs

Explanation: The Government of India approved the nationwide expansion of PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs). The



scheme modernizes Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across 200 strategic industry clusters to transform vocational training, boost technological hands-on experience, and align curricula with industry 4.0 standards.

Q13. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'PRAGATI' initiative in New Delhi. What is the core objective of this scheme?

- A) Promoting digital literacy among rural women
- B) Supporting 20 lakh smallholder farmers through regenerative agriculture
- C) Providing direct cash incentives for drone procurement
- D) Enhancing cold chain infrastructure in coastal zones

Answer: B) Supporting 20 lakh smallholder farmers through regenerative agriculture

Explanation: The PRAGATI (Promoting Regenerative Agriculture Through Agri-Entrepreneurship Initiative) programme aims to empower 20,000 agri-entrepreneurs and directly support 20 lakh smallholder farmers across India. It heavily promotes climate-resilient, chemical-free, and sustainable farming systems.

Q14. The Ministry of Education released the 'UDISE+ 2025-26' report. According to the report, what is the current Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the Secondary school level in India?

- A) 64.2%
- B) 68.5%
- C) 71.7%
- D) 75.1%

Answer: C) 71.7%

Explanation: The Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2025-26 report shows positive structural improvements in school education. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the Secondary stage increased notably to 71.7% (up from 68.5% in the previous year's window), while dropout rates fell significantly to 7.0% at the secondary level.

Q15. Air India signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which global entity to establish India as a dominant global aviation Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) hub?

- A) Boeing Aerospace
- B) Lufthansa Technik
- C) SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC)
- D) Emirates Engineering

Answer: C) SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC)

Explanation: Air India entered into an MoU with Singapore's SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC) in Mumbai to jointly explore and build comprehensive Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facilities in India, boosting domestic infrastructure for widebody and narrowbody commercial fleets.

Q16. The West Bengal Government recently approved the implementation framework of the 'PMCSKY' scheme. Who are the primary target beneficiaries of this scheme?

- A) Jute mill workers in southern districts
- B) Tea garden workers in North Bengal
- C) Traditional handicraft artisans in Purulia
- D) Coastal deep-sea fishermen

Answer: B) Tea garden workers in North Bengal

Explanation: The West Bengal state cabinet approved the formal execution framework for

the Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana (PMCSPIY). The scheme systematically uplifts the socio-economic livelihood, housing, healthcare, and welfare standards of vulnerable tea garden labourers across North Bengal.

Q17. The Delhi Government approved a ₹8,300 crore massive eco-infrastructure project titled "Clean Air, Healthy Delhi." Which global financing institution is primarily supporting this project?

- A) World Bank
- B) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- C) New Development Bank (NDB)
- D) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Answer: A) World Bank

Explanation: The Delhi Government approved the implementation of the ₹8,300 crore "Clean Air, Healthy Delhi" Project. Funded substantially via a World Bank structural loan assistance, the project introduces multi-sectoral actions to curb particulate matter emissions, advance public e-mobility, and set up dense air quality monitoring networks.

Part 4: Defense & Space News

Q18. General Dhiraj Seth, who recently assumed charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), unveiled a future-ready operational roadmap. What is the name of this roadmap?

- A) VIJAY
- B) AGNI
- C) SANKALP
- D) DAKSH

Answer: A) VIJAY

Explanation: Upon taking over the command as the 31st COAS of the Indian Army, General

Dhiraj Seth unveiled the '**VIJAY**' roadmap. The acronym translates to *Vigilance, Innovation, Jointness and Integration, Aatmanirbharta, and Yodha first*—aimed directly at converting the force into an agile, AI-integrated, future-ready military.

Q19. The Indian Navy is scheduled to commission its sixth indigenous Project 17A stealth frigate at Visakhapatnam on July 11, 2026. What is the name of this advanced warship?

- A) INS Nilgiri
- B) INS Himgiri
- C) INS Mahendragiri
- D) INS Taragiri

Answer: C) INS Mahendragiri

Explanation: The Indian Navy will commission **INS Mahendragiri (F38)**, the final and sixth guided-missile stealth frigate built under the prestigious Project 17A program. The warship features highly advanced radar-evading hull geometries, indigenous sensors, and point defense missile networks.

Q20. 'Mission Drishti', which was highlighted in recent space technology reviews, represents India's first indigenous satellite of which specific type?

- A) Quantum Communication Satellite
- B) OptoSAR (Optical + Synthetic Aperture Radar) Earth Observation Satellite
- C) Deep-Space Solar Observatory
- D) Low-Earth Orbit Navigation Satellite

Answer: B) OptoSAR (Optical + Synthetic Aperture Radar) Earth Observation Satellite

Explanation: Developed by GalaxEye, a deep-tech space startup incubated out of IIT Madras,

'Mission Drishti' is India's first hybrid OptoSAR satellite. It combines high-resolution optical imaging and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) on a single platform, enabling uninterrupted all-weather, day-and-night Earth monitoring.

Q21. ISRO successfully completed the first static ground test of 'SOLVE'. What does 'SOLVE' stand for?

- A) Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments
- B) Solid-propellant Orbit Lowering Vehicle
- C) Synchronous Orbital Launch Velocity Engine
- D) Solar Observation Long-range Vehicle

Answer: A) Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments

Explanation: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully fired the first static ground test of its **Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments (SOLVE)**. This marks a major technological leap toward validation of structural baselines for low-cost reusable launch systems and scramjet flight testing environments.

Part 5: Appointments, Awards & Environment

Q22. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified which university's Natural History Museum as India's 21st Designated Repository (DR) under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002?

- A) Manipur University
- B) Mizoram University
- C) Tezpur University
- D) Nagaland University

Answer: B) Mizoram University

Explanation: The MoEFCC notified the Natural History Museum (NHM) at Mizoram University, Aizawl, as India's 21st Designated Repository under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Located inside the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, it is authorized to safe-keep and taxonomically catalog biological type-specimens.

Q23. NITI Aayog released a critical report prepared in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) outlining a long-term phased plan to globalize a traditional Indian medicine system by 2047. What is the title of the roadmap?

- A) Vision 2047: Globalizing Sowa-Rigpa
- B) Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global
- C) Holistic Healing: The Global Unani Mission
- D) National Siddha Export Masterplan

Answer: B) Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global

Explanation: NITI Aayog launched the comprehensive report titled "Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global". The document charts a clear scientific, regulatory, and standardized roadmap to transform Ayurveda into an internationally accepted, evidence-backed healthcare modality by India's centenary of independence in 2047.

Q24. Which state is developing India's first two air-filled rubber dams using cutting-edge technology imported from South Korea to boost river conservation?

- A) Bihar
- B) Gujarat
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

Answer: B) Gujarat

Explanation: Gujarat is constructing its first two air-filled rubber dams utilizing advanced material technologies sourced from South Korea. Unlike traditional concrete barrages, eco-friendly rubber dams can be rapidly inflated or deflated to optimize seasonal water retention, check tidal inflows, and maximize localized groundwater table recharges.

Part 6: Sports, Culture, Books & Days

Q25. Renowned fast bowler Shapoor Zadran, who announced his complete retirement from all formats of professional cricket in July 2026, represented which international cricket team?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Afghanistan
- C) UAE
- D) Ireland

Answer: B) Afghanistan

Explanation: Veteran left-arm fast bowler Shapoor Zadran announced his retirement from all professional cricket. He was a foundational figure in Afghanistan's historic rise in international cricket, famously hitting the winning runs against Scotland in 2015 to hand Afghanistan its first-ever ICC Cricket World Cup victory.

Q26. Union Minister Jai Oram launched "TribeX", a unique digital learning platform. What is its primary focus?

- A) Direct bank transfers for tribal students
- B) Digital archiving and skill development for tribal arts, culture, and traditional knowledge
- C) Tracking the health parameters of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

D) E-commerce marketing for forest minor produce

Answer: B) Digital archiving and skill development for tribal arts, culture, and traditional knowledge

Explanation: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched "TribeX" during a national workshop in Bhubaneswar. It serves as a specialized, first-of-its-kind digital knowledge portal curated to offer UGC-recognized courses in tribal languages (like Santali Ol Chiki script), indigenous textiles, and museum management.

Q27. Sirsa Kinnow recently became the first fruit from which state to be officially awarded the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) Tag?

- A) Punjab
- B) Haryana
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

Answer: B) Haryana

Explanation: The distinctive hybrid citrus fruit **Sirsa Kinnow** became the very first fruit from Haryana to receive the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag. Developed originally by crossing King Mandarin and Willow Leaf Mandarin, the Sirsa-grown variant is highly prized for its unique sweet-sour balancing flavor profiles, higher juice content, and high Vitamin C levels.

Q28. Legendary folk artist Teejan Bai passed away at the age of 70. She was a world-renowned exponent of which traditional performing art form?

- A) Baul Music
- B) Pandavani
- C) Yakshagana

D) Maach

Answer: B) Pandavani

Explanation: Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan awardee Teejan Bai passed away, marking the end of an era in Indian folk music. She was the most celebrated global face of **Pandavani**, the traditional musical ballad storytelling art form of Chhattisgarh that enacts tales from the Mahabharata with her distinctive structural improvisations.

Q29. What was the central global theme designated for the 104th International Day of Cooperatives (celebrated on July 4, 2026)?

- A) Cooperatives for a Peaceful World
- B) Sustainable Reconstruction through Cooperatives
- C) Economic Inclusion and Cooperative Progress
- D) Cooperatives Build a Better Future for All

Answer: A) Cooperatives for a Peaceful World

Explanation: The International Day of Cooperatives (ICD) is observed globally on the first Saturday of July, which fell on July 4 in 2026. The official United Nations theme adopted for the 2026 celebrations was **"Cooperatives for a Peaceful World"**.

Q30. To commemorate the deep-rooted shared cultural and literary history between India and Indonesia, the two nations officially declared the period 2026-27 to be celebrated as which of the following?

- A) Valmiki-Ramayana Year
- B) Tagore-Dewantara Year
- C) Vivekananda-Sukarno Cultural Exchange
- D) Nehru-Hatta Friendship Milestone

Answer: B) Tagore-Dewantara Year

Explanation: During the bilateral summits in Jakarta, India and Indonesia announced that **2026-27 will be jointly celebrated as the Tagore-Dewantara Year**. This honors the profound cultural interactions and mutual respect between India's Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore and Indonesia's legendary education pioneer Ki Hadjar Dewantara, who hosted Tagore during his historic 1927 visit to Java and Bali.