

National News & Government Schemes

Q1. The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) recently observed a major milestone in July 2026. In which year was this flagship irrigation scheme launched?

- A) 2014
- B) 2015
- C) 2018
- D) 2020

• **Correct Answer: B) 2015**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) officially completed **10 years of implementation** on July 1, 2026. Launched in 2015 with the motto of "*Har Khet Ko Pani*" and "*Per Drop More Crop*", the scheme focuses on expanding cultivable area under assured irrigation, improving on-farm water use efficiency, and introducing sustainable water conservation practices.

Q2. In July 2026, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a major funding package to support which specific renewable energy program in India?

- A) PM-KUSUM Scheme
- B) National Green Hydrogen Mission
- C) PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana
- D) FAME India Phase-III

• **Correct Answer: C) PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**

• **Detailed Explanation:** On July 9, 2026, the World Bank approved an extensive financing package to accelerate India's **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**. The financing includes an \$820 million loan from the IBRD,

a \$60 million concessional loan from the Clean Technology Fund, and a \$10 million grant, alongside mobilizing \$4.2 billion in private commercial financing to help 10 million households install solar rooftops.

Q3. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) conducted an extensive online hearing on July 10, 2026, concerning alleged bonded labor practices in the brick kilns of which state?

- A) Punjab
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Bihar
- D) Haryana

• **Correct Answer: D) Haryana**

• **Detailed Explanation:** On July 10, 2026, the NHRC, chaired by Justice V. Ramasubramanian, heard 86 online cases concerning alleged bonded labor across brick kilns in Haryana. The commission strictly directed the state administration to enforce "Advisory 2.0 to Identify, Release and Rehabilitate Bonded Labourers" and set up dedicated tracking helplines.

Q4. Which statutory body in India collaborated with the Ministry of Tourism to release a comprehensive July 2026 report identifying structural gaps and infrastructure challenges in India's tourism sector?

- A) National Development Council (NDC)
- B) NITI Aayog
- C) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
- D) Quality Council of India (QCI)

• **Correct Answer: B) NITI Aayog**

• **Detailed Explanation:** A joint comprehensive report on **India's Tourism Sector** was published by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of

Tourism in early July 2026. The study highlights critical infrastructure deficits, digital connectivity gaps, and recommends public-private partnership models to boost green and sustainable tourism across Indian states.

Q5. A report released in July 2026 highlighting low community participation in 'Gram Sabhas' was prepared by which prestigious institute?

- A) National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad
- B) Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie
- C) Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi
- D) Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai

- **Correct Answer: A) National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The NIRDPR, Hyderabad, released a specialized assessment report in July 2026 pointing out dropping quorum and low civic participation levels during local Gram Sabhas. The report recommends mandatory real-time digital tracking and better integration of women-led Panchayati Raj systems.

International Relations & Global Affairs

Q6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi traveled to Melbourne on July 9, 2026, to participate in which bilateral forum?

- A) 5th India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue
- B) 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit
- C) Quad Leaders' Extraordinary Session

D) Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) Meet

- **Correct Answer: B) 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit**
- **Detailed Explanation:** PM Narendra Modi and Australian PM Anthony Albanese co-chaired the **3rd India-Australia Annual Summit** in Melbourne on July 9, 2026. The summit accelerated negotiations for the early finalization of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) and finalized major MoUs in maritime security, civil nuclear energy, and skill development.

Q7. The strategic "Bilateral Investment Agreement" (BIA), which officially entered into force on July 4, 2026, completely replaces a historical 1996 investment treaty between India and which nation?

- A) Japan
- B) Israel
- C) Germany
- D) UAE

- **Correct Answer: B) Israel**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The **India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA)** officially came into effect on July 4, 2026. It supersedes their outdated 1996 investment treaty. This updated framework is structured to offer robust legal protections to modern investments, expanding collaborations under the I2U2 minilateral framework.

Q8. During the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit in July 2026, both nations finalized the technical aspects of the "UNICORN" project. What is the primary purpose of the UNICORN project?

- A) An AI-driven deep ocean exploration submarine
- B) A unified unified monetary gateway for UPI-JCB integration
- C) A specialized naval antenna system for stealth warships
- D) A joint satellite constellation for climate tracking

• **Correct Answer: C) A specialized naval antenna system for stealth warships**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The UNICORN project marks the very first defense technology co-development initiative between India and Japan. It involves integrating advanced, unified naval communication antenna structures onto Indian naval vessels to maximize stealth capabilities and minimize radar cross-sections.

Q9. In July 2026, maritime agencies reported multiple drone and projectile attacks striking international cargo vessels, including a Qatari LNG tanker, within which strategic global bottleneck?

- A) Bab-el-Mandeb
- B) Strait of Malacca
- C) Strait of Hormuz
- D) Bosphorus Strait

• **Correct Answer: C) Strait of Hormuz**

• **Detailed Explanation:** On July 7, 2026, three commercial tankers, including a Qatari LNG vessel, were struck by drones and projectiles within a 24-hour window inside the **Strait of Hormuz** off the coast of Oman. The attacks triggered fresh geopolitical escalations and disruptions along the vital energy transit corridor.

Q10. The World Health Organization (WHO) issued an urgent alert in July 2026 regarding the rising death toll and expansion of the "Bundibugyo" species of which virus?

- A) Zika Virus
- B) Ebola Virus
- C) MERS-CoV
- D) Avian Influenza (H5N1)

• **Correct Answer: B) Ebola Virus**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The WHO confirmed that a major outbreak of the deadly **Bundibugyo species of the Ebola virus** is actively expanding in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as of July 2026, with the official death toll climbing past 500.

Economics, Banking & Finance

Q11. The Central Government introduced the landmark "Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 2026" to bring provident fund administration under the statutory umbrella of which code?

- A) Code on Wages, 2019
- B) Code on Social Security, 2020
- C) Industrial Relations Code, 2020
- D) Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020

• **Correct Answer: B) Code on Social Security, 2020**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The new **EPF Scheme, 2026** officially supersedes the legacy Employees' Provident Funds Scheme of 1952. It aligns administration directly under the **Code on Social Security, 2020**, shifting operations to fully Aadhaar-linked Universal

Account Numbers (UAN) and enabling modern UPI-based direct withdrawals.

Q12. According to data tracking from the India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) released in July 2026, India's deployment of BESS is projected to experience exponential growth. What does the acronym BESS stand for?

- A) Biogas Energy Sustainable Systems
- B) Battery Energy Storage Systems
- C) Bureau of Energy Security Standards
- D) Basal Energy Solenoid Structures

• **Correct Answer: B) Battery Energy Storage Systems**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The joint report by IESA and Customized Energy Solutions (CES) released in July 2026 tracks the market growth of **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)**. It outlines massive integration targets across India's national grid to support fluctuating wind and solar power distributions.

Q13. In July 2026, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) reviewed policy guidelines to safely allow transactions executed via which technology over the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network?

- A) Quantum Cryptographic Keys
- B) Agentic Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- C) Decentralized Blockchain Ledgers
- D) Near-Field Biometric Vectors

• **Correct Answer: B) Agentic Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The NPCI and RBI are framing safe regulatory models to permit **agentic AI-led UPI transactions**. This technology allows specialized AI assistants

to execute secure micro-payments on behalf of users under predefined authentication boundaries.

Q14. Which two entities jointly released the landmark "Global Status Report on Cancer 2026" on July 9, 2026?

A) World Health Organization (WHO) & International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

B) UNICEF & Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

C) World Bank & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

D) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) & Lancet Commission

• **Correct Answer: A) World Health Organization (WHO) & International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)**

• **Detailed Explanation:** Released on July 9, 2026, this global survey represents a comprehensive data compilation tracking global demographic cancer shifts, structural deficiencies in regional healthcare, and rising oncological trends across developing countries.

Q15. India held its inaugural Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) meeting in July 2026 to systematically elevate trade and bilateral commercial ties with which Latin American nation?

A) Chile

B) Brazil

C) Costa Rica

D) Argentina

• **Correct Answer: C) Costa Rica**

• **Detailed Explanation:** India and Costa Rica conducted their first official JETCO

ministerial dialogue in July 2026. The talks focused on relaxing import duties on pharmaceuticals, increasing digital public infrastructure export from India, and setting up direct agricultural trade routes.

Science, Technology & Defense

Q16. Skyroot Aerospace's private orbital vehicle, Vikram-1, is scheduled for a milestone commercial mission in July 2026. What is the official name given to this specific private space launch mission?

- A) Mission Prarambh
- B) Mission Aagaman
- C) Mission Gagan-Uday
- D) Mission Viksit-Antariksh

• **Correct Answer: B) Mission Aagaman**

• **Detailed Explanation:** Named **Mission Aagaman** (meaning "arrival"), this launch symbolizes the commercial arrival of India's private aerospace sector on the global stage. Vikram-1 features a lightweight all-carbon composite airframe structure and utilizes in-house developed solid and liquid propulsion systems to drop up to 350 kg payloads into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Q17. The Indian Air Force and Indian Navy recently inducted advanced variants of the "Astra" missile system. What category of weapon system is the Astra missile?

- A) Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM)
- B) Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)
- C) Anti-Submarine Heavyweight Torpedo
- D) Air-to-Surface Anti-Radiation Missile

• **Correct Answer: B) Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The **Astra** is an indigenously developed Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). In July 2026, newer, longer-range iterations with advanced electronic counter-countermeasure (ECCM) capabilities are undergoing deployment.

Q18. Which premier technology platform did India and Japan launch a formal "Strategic Dialogue" on during their high-level bilateral discussions in July 2026?

- A) Quantum Telemetry
- B) Semiconductors & Chip Fabrication
- C) Trusted and Secure Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- D) Commercial Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

• **Correct Answer: C) Trusted and Secure Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

• **Detailed Explanation:** Recognizing the security risks of deepfakes and algorithmic vulnerabilities, both countries established the **India-Japan AI Strategic Dialogue** in July 2026 to co-develop frameworks for ethical, secure, and resilient generative technologies.

Q19. The "Negotiated Dealing System-Order Matching" (NDS-OM) platform, frequently appearing in financial news in July 2026, is managed by which institution?

- A) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- B) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- C) National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- D) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

• **Correct Answer: B) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

- **Detailed Explanation:** NDS-OM is an electronic, screen-based, anonymous order-driven trading system operated by the RBI for dealing in Government Securities (G-Secs). It remains a frequent subject of regulatory updates regarding institutional secondary market access.

Q20. Environmental agencies tracking ecosystem health in Northeast India highlighted the pristine ecology of Nameri Tiger Reserve in July 2026. In which state is Nameri Tiger Reserve located?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Assam
- C) Nagaland
- D) Manipur

- **Correct Answer: B) Assam**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Nameri Tiger Reserve is located in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas in the Sonitpur District of Assam. It shares its northern boundary with Arunachal Pradesh's Pakhui Tiger Reserve, acting as a crucial contiguous habitat zone for the Bengal Tiger and Endangered White-winged wood duck.

Sports News

Q21. Which Indian state has been officially selected to host the upcoming 8th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games in 2026?

- A) Odisha
- B) Telangana
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Madhya Pradesh

- **Correct Answer: B) Telangana**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports confirmed that the **8th Khelo India Youth Games 2026** will be hosted entirely by **Telangana** across multiple sports complexes in Hyderabad and other regional hubs.

Q22. In the 2026 FIFA World Cup matches concluding in July 2026, which European football powerhouse defeated Morocco 2-0 in a high-stakes quarterfinal match in Boston to reach the semifinals?

- A) Argentina
- B) France
- C) Switzerland
- D) England

- **Correct Answer: B) France**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Defending finalists **France** beat Morocco 2-0 in the quarterfinals in Boston during the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Kylian Mbappé and Ousmane Dembélé scored the decisive goals to advance Les Bleus to the semi-final stage.

Q23. In July 2026, who became the first Indian tennis player in 36 years to storm into the boys' singles quarter-finals at the Wimbledon Juniors championship?

- A) Arnav Paparkar
- B) Manas Dhamne
- C) Yuvan Nandal
- D) Rohan Bopanna Jr.

- **Correct Answer: A) Arnav Paparkar**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Arnav Paparkar scripted history in July 2026 by becoming the first Indian player in 36 years to secure a spot in the boys' singles quarter-finals of the Wimbledon Juniors tournament.

Q24. The Indian Pickleball Association (IPA) finalized the national contingent for the high-profile Pickleball World Cup 2026. Which city and country is hosting this tournament?

- A) Bangkok, Thailand
- B) Da Nang, Vietnam
- C) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- D) Incheon, South Korea

- **Correct Answer: B) Da Nang, Vietnam**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Pickleball World Cup 2026 is scheduled to take place at Da Nang, Vietnam, from August 30 to September 6, 2026. The sport has seen massive growth across the Asian subcontinent.

Q25. Which tennis star from the Czech Republic achieved a major milestone by storming into the Women's Singles Final at the Wimbledon Championships in July 2026?

- A) Karolína Muchová
- B) Barbora Krejčíková
- C) Markéta Vondroušová
- D) Petra Kvitová

- **Correct Answer: A) Karolína Muchová**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Karolína Muchová of the Czech Republic displayed a phenomenal performance on grass to earn her place in the Women's Singles final at the Wimbledon Championships in July 2026.

Awards, Appointments, Culture & Days

Q26. During the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne, Australia officially handed back three priceless antique artifacts of

historical origin to PM Modi. Which state do these three sculptures belong to?

- A) Odisha
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Gujarat

- **Correct Answer: C) Tamil Nadu**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Australian government repatriated three ancient stolen artifacts: a stone sculpture of the sacred Nandi, a metal Trident depicting Bhadrakali, and a stone statue of the six-headed Karthikeya. All three items trace back directly to historical temples in Tamil Nadu.

Q27. During the high-level BRICS Women Ministerial Meeting held in Kochi, Kerala, which grassroots system did India showcase globally to highlight women-led development?

- A) Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) networks
- B) Women-led Panchayati Raj Institutions
- C) Mahila E-Haat digital networks
- D) Lakhpati Didi rural clusters

- **Correct Answer: B) Women-led Panchayati Raj Institutions**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj used the July 2026 BRICS platform to showcase how constitutional reservation has placed over 1.4 million elected women in local self-governance leadership roles, fundamentally shifting rural policy decisions.

Q28. In July 2026, the state government of West Bengal granted formal "Biodiversity Heritage Site" status to which vulnerable ecological system to prevent urbanization impacts?

- A) Deepor Beel
- B) Borjuli Wetland
- C) East Kolkata Wetlands
- D) Ahiran Lake

- **Correct Answer: B) Borjuli Wetland**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Borjuli Wetland was declared a **Biodiversity Heritage Site** under the Biological Diversity Act to provide strong statutory protection to its highly localized avifauna and fish breeding habitats.

- B) 2020
- C) 2022
- D) 2024

- **Correct Answer: B) 2020**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The **Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)** was launched on August 15, 2020, by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It coordinates mass sensitization programs, institutional de-addiction frameworks, and mapping of high-risk districts across India.

Q29. June 2026 was recorded as the fifth-driest June in India since 1901, with an average rainfall deficit of 40%. To counter this, the government highlighted the work of the "Atal Bhujal Yojana". Which international financial institution supports this scheme?

- A) New Development Bank (NDB)
- B) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- C) World Bank
- D) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- **Correct Answer: C) World Bank**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The **Atal Bhujal Yojana** is a Central Sector Scheme funded on a 50:50 sharing basis between the Government of India and the **World Bank**. It explicitly focuses on community-led participatory groundwater management across thousands of water-stressed Gram Panchayats.

Q30. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs reviewed the progress of the "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan" (NMBA) in early July 2026. In which year was this national anti-drug campaign launched?

- A) 2018