

1. International News & Relations

1st ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum

- **News Summary:** India participated in the 1st ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum.
- **Key Details:**
 - **Objective:** Enhance strategic dialogue, mutual defense cooperation, and regional stability across the Indo-Pacific.
 - **Key Indian Leadership:** Defense Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted joint security frameworks.
 - **Static GK Connection:** ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) was established on **8 August 1967** via the **Bangkok Declaration**. Secretariat: **Jakarta, Indonesia**.

ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2026-2030

- **News Summary:** India welcomed regional energy cooperation initiatives under the newly framed **APAEC 2026-2030** guidelines to facilitate cross-border clean energy grids.

2. National News

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan Completes 5 Years

- **News Summary:** PM GatiShakti completed 5 years of operation.
- **Key Details:** Launched in October 2021, this multi-modal connectivity platform integrates 16 Central Ministries to optimize infrastructure planning, cut logistics costs, and accelerate project execution nationwide.

Lakshadweep Declared 100% Literate UT under ULLAS Scheme

- **News Summary:** Lakshadweep achieved 100% literacy status under the **ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All**

in Society) - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.

• Key Details:

- All eligible identified adult learners successfully cleared the **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)**.
- **Alignment:** Implemented from FY2022-23 to FY2026-27 aligned with NEP 2020. (Note: Mizoram was the first state declared fully literate under ULLAS in May 2025).

3. Economics & Banking

Fitch's BMI Elevates India's FY27 GDP Forecast to 7.5%

- **News Summary:** Business Monitor International (BMI), a Fitch Solutions unit, revised India's GDP growth projection for **FY2026-27 to 7.5%** (up from 6.8%).
- **Key Drivers:** Strong industrial manufacturing, resilient internal consumption, and expanding capital investment in domestic Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology infrastructure.

Karnataka Bank Launches 'Trade Konnect'

- **News Summary:** Karnataka Bank introduced a dedicated digital forex platform called **Trade Konnect**.
- **Key Objective:** Streamline cross-border remittances, foreign exchange transactions, and trade financing for exporters and MSMEs.

Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) & Zurich Kotak General Insurance Partnership

- **News Summary:** KVB signed a bancassurance agreement with Zurich Kotak General Insurance to distribute non-life

insurance products across its branch network.

LIC Launches Three New Insurance Plans

- **News Summary:** Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) introduced three products: **New Jeevan Dhara-II (Plan 892)** (savings & deferred annuity), **Health Shield (Plan 907)**, and **New Cancer Cover (Plan 908)**.

4. Defense News

Handover of Command of Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154)

- **News Summary:** The Indian Navy announced the formal handover of command for CTF 154.
- **Key Details:** CTF 154 operates under the multi-nation **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)** framework, focusing primarily on maritime security training and tactical capacity building.

Indian Coast Guard Inducts ALH MK-III Helicopter

- **News Summary:** The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) inducted the indigenously built **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK-III** in Maharashtra.
- **Key Details:** Built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), it substantially strengthens maritime search-and-rescue and coastal surveillance capabilities along India's western coastline.

5. Government Schemes & MoUs

PM-SETU Scheme: MSDE Signs Sharing Agreement

- **News Summary:** The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed an agreement to upgrade 9 ITI clusters in Andhra Pradesh (Visakhapatnam) and Gujarat (Surat).

- **Budget:** Outlay of ~₹440 crore under the PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) scheme.

Adani Enterprises & Jabil Partner for AI Hardware

- **News Summary:** Adani Enterprises formed a 50:50 Joint Venture with Jabil to manufacture AI data center hardware components domestically.

6. Art, Culture & Geographical Indications (GI)

Ambaji Mohanthal Prasad Granted GI Tag

- **News Summary:** The traditional sweet prasad 'Ambaji Mohanthal', associated with the famous Ambaji Temple in Gujarat, received an official Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

7. Sports

World Roller Games / World Championship Sprint

- **News Summary:** India's **Anandkumar Velkumar** secured a **Bronze Medal** in the 500-metre sprint event.

World T20 Calendar Sixes Record

- **News Summary:** Indian batter **Abhishek Sharma** surpassed the record for the most T20 sixes in a single calendar year by a player from a Full Member nation, crossing 69 sixes.

8. Birth & Death Anniversaries / Obituaries

Birth Anniversary: Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (15 Oct 1931)

- **Key Highlights:** Known as the "Missile Man of India," served as 11th President (2002-2007). Awarded **Bharat Ratna** in

1997. Key books: Wings of Fire, Ignited Minds, India 2020.

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Obituary: Dr. Alluri Venkata Satyanarayana (A.V.S.) Raju

- Key Highlights:** Founder and Chairman Emeritus of **NCC Limited** (Nagarjuna Construction Company) passed away at 89. Recipient of Padma Shri for industry contributions.

9. Important Days (National & International)

Date	Day	Theme / Significance
15 October	World Students' Day	Commemorates the 95th birth anniversary of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (11th President of India, missile pioneer, and Bharat Ratna awardee).
15 October	International Day of Rural Women	Established by the UN in 2007 to recognize rural women's role in agriculture and food security.
15 October	Mahila Kisan Diwas	Observed nationally in India alongside International Day of Rural Women to honor female farmers.

Exam-Oriented Practice Questions

Question 1 Which Union Territory was declared 100% literate under the ULLAS (Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram) scheme following the FLNAT evaluation in October 2026?

- (A) Puducherry
(B) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
(C) Lakshadweep
(D) Ladakh

Answer: (C) Lakshadweep

Explanation: Lakshadweep achieved full literacy after all identified adult learners cleared the FLNAT exam under the ULLAS scheme.

Question 2 What is India's revised GDP growth forecast for FY2026–27 according to Fitch's BMI report?

- (A) 6.8%
(B) 7.2%
(C) 7.5%
(D) 8.1%

Answer: (C) 7.5%

Explanation: Fitch's BMI unit raised India's FY27 growth projection from 6.8% to 7.5% citing strong industrial performance and AI investments.

Question 3 The Geographical Indication (GI) tagged sweet prasad 'Ambaji Mohanthal' belongs to which Indian state?

- (A) Rajasthan
(B) Gujarat
(C) Madhya Pradesh
(D) Maharashtra

Answer: (B) Gujarat

Explanation: Ambaji Mohanthal, offered at the Ambaji Temple in Gujarat, received the GI tag.



30 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Under the PM-SETU scheme, 09 ITI clusters in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh are being upgraded with an outlay of ₹440 crore. What does "SETU" stand for?

- (a) Skilling and Employment Transformation through Upgraded ITIs
- (b) Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs
- (c) Sustainable Education and Technical Training Unit
- (d) Scheme for Entrepreneurship Training in Universities

Answer: (b)

Explanation: PM-SETU stands for Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs.

Q2. Which Union Territory was declared 100% literate in October 2026 under the ULLAS scheme?

- (a) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- (b) Chandigarh
- (c) Lakshadweep
- (d) Puducherry

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Lakshadweep achieved 100% literacy after eligible learners successfully cleared the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT).

Q3. Fitch unit BMI has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026-27 to what percentage?

- (a) 6.8%
- (b) 7.2%
- (c) 7.5%
- (d) 8.0%

Answer: (c)

Explanation: BMI raised India's growth projection to 7.5% from 6.8% citing strong industrial performance and AI sector expansion.

Q4. India is planning a 2,000 MW cross-border power interconnection spanning 3,000 km with which country via Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Singapore
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Sri Lanka

Answer: (b)

Explanation: India and Singapore are exploring a 2,000 MW power grid link across Southeast Asia.

Q5. Traditional 'Mohanthal' prasad of which temple in Gujarat was awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?

- (a) Somnath Temple
- (b) Dwarkadhish Temple
- (c) Ambaji Temple
- (d) Pavagadh Mahakali Temple

Answer: (c)

Explanation: 'Ambaji Mohanthal' from Banaskantha district, Gujarat received the official GI tag.

Q6. Which indigenous helicopter was inducted into the Indian Coast Guard squadron along the western coast in Maharashtra?

- (a) Light Combat Helicopter Prachand
- (b) ALH MK-III
- (c) Chetak
- (d) Apache AH-64E

Answer: (b)



Explanation: The Indian Coast Guard inducted the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK-III.

Q7. On October 15, World Students' Day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of which eminent leader?

- (a) Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
- (b) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- (c) Swami Vivekananda
- (d) Jawaharlal Nehru

Answer: (b)

Explanation: October 15 marks the 95th birth anniversary of former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

Q8. How many days of Productivity-Linked Bonus (PLB) did the Cabinet approve for railway employees for FY 2025-26?

- (a) 60 days
- (b) 72 days
- (c) 78 days
- (d) 90 days

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Cabinet approved a PLB equivalent to 78 days' wages for ~11.4 lakh eligible non-gazetted railway staff.

Q9. Which bank launched the digital platform 'Trade Konnect' for forex and cross-border transaction services?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) Karnataka Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) Axis Bank

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Karnataka Bank introduced 'Trade Konnect' to streamline forex and trade operations.

Q10. Adani Enterprises signed an MoU for a 50:50 Joint Venture with which global tech firm to manufacture AI data center hardware?

- (a) Foxconn
- (b) Jabil
- (c) Pegatron
- (d) Wistron

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Adani Enterprises partnered with Jabil to produce AI data center components in India.

Q11. The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan completed how many years of implementation in October 2026?

- (a) 3 Years
- (b) 4 Years
- (c) 5 Years
- (d) 7 Years

Answer: (c)

Explanation: PM GatiShakti was launched on October 13, 2021, completing 5 years in October 2026.

Q12. What is the theme/focus of the UN International Day of Rural Women observed on October 15?

- (a) Women in STEM
- (b) Empowering rural women and agriculture
- (c) Urban Livelihoods and Skill Training
- (d) Digital Literacy for Girls

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The International Day of Rural Women honors the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development.

Q13. Which insurance company launched three new plans named *New Jeevan Dhara-II, Health Shield, and New Cancer Cover*?

- (a) SBI Life Insurance
- (b) HDFC Life
- (c) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- (d) ICICI Prudential

Answer: (c)

Explanation: LIC introduced these three non-linked product lines.

Q14. The Supreme Court mandated that offline counter railway tickets must include passenger insurance effective from which date?

- (a) October 15, 2026
- (b) October 27, 2026
- (c) November 1, 2026
- (d) January 1, 2027

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The SC directed Railways to provide counter-ticket insurance effective October 27, 2026.

Q15. Dr. A.V.S. Raju, who passed away in October 2026, was notably associated with which organization?

- (a) ISRO
- (b) National Cadet Corps (NCC)
- (c) Reserve Bank of India
- (d) DRDO

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Dr. A.V.S. Raju was an NCC founder-figure and Padma Shri awardee.

Q16. The 20th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers' Meeting (EAS EMM) was hosted in which city?

- (a) Jakarta, Indonesia

- (b) Manila, Philippines
- (c) Bangkok, Thailand
- (d) Hanoi, Vietnam

Answer: (b)

Explanation: MoS Power & MNRE attended the 20th EAS EMM in Manila.

Q17. Karur Vysya Bank entered into a bancassurance distribution agreement with which non-life insurer?

- (a) Star Health Insurance
- (b) Zurich Kotak General Insurance
- (c) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- (d) Tata AIG

Answer: (b)

Explanation: KVB tied up with Zurich Kotak General Insurance to offer non-life insurance products.

Q18. The ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo 'Varunastra' was indigenously developed by which laboratory?

- (a) Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)
- (b) Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)
- (c) High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)
- (d) DRDO Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE)

Answer: (b)

Explanation: NSTL developed the Heavyweight Torpedo Varunastra.

Q19. Which international body hosted the 1st Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi focusing on counter-trafficking and anti-money laundering?

- (a) SAARC

- (b) ASEAN
- (c) BIMSTEC
- (d) SCO

Answer: (c)

Explanation: India hosted the inaugural BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting.

Q20. What is the primary purpose of the ULLAS Scheme run by the Ministry of Education?

- (a) Higher Education Scholarships
- (b) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for Adults/Non-literates
- (c) Vocational training in IT sector
- (d) Free mid-day meals in Anganwadis

Answer: (b)

Explanation: ULLAS (Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram) focuses on lifelong learning, adult literacy, and basic numeracy.

Q21. 'Wings of Fire' is the autobiography of which Indian personality born on October 15?

- (a) Vikram Sarabhai
- (b) Homi J. Bhabha
- (c) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- (d) C.V. Raman

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Dr. Kalam wrote *Wings of Fire* depicting his life and scientific journey.

Q22. Which country became India's top Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supplier in September/October 2026 due to Strait of Hormuz shifts?

- (a) USA
- (b) Qatar
- (c) Oman
- (d) UAE

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Oman replaced the US as India's top LNG supplier during recent shipment realignments.

Q23. World Standards Day is celebrated annually on which date?

- (a) October 12
- (b) October 13
- (c) October 14
- (d) October 15

Answer: (c)

Explanation: World Standards Day is observed globally on October 14.

Q24. Under the newly approved Railway PLB bonus, what is the maximum payout limit per eligible employee?

- (a) ₹12,000
- (b) ₹15,000
- (c) ₹17,951
- (d) ₹21,000

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The maximum payout per eligible non-gazetted employee is fixed at ₹17,951.

Q25. Which Union Ministry implements the PM-SETU scheme for industrial training institutes?

- (a) Ministry of Education
- (b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
- (c) Ministry of Heavy Industries
- (d) Ministry of Labour and Employment

Answer: (b)

Explanation: MSDE executes the PM-SETU scheme to upgrade ITI clusters.

Q26. Mahila Kisan Diwas in India is celebrated concurrently with which international observance on October 15?

- (a) International Day of the Girl Child
- (b) International Day of Rural Women
- (c) World Food Day
- (d) World Agriculture Day

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Mahila Kisan Diwas coincides with UN International Day of Rural Women on October 15.

Q27. The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was celebrated on which date in October 2026?

- (a) October 11
- (b) October 13
- (c) October 15
- (d) October 16

Answer: (b)

Explanation: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed globally on October 13.

Q28. What type of policy is LIC's newly launched New Jeevan Dhara-II?

- (a) Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP)
- (b) Non-linked Deferred Annuity Savings Plan
- (c) Pure Term Health Plan
- (d) Motor Third Party Insurance

Answer: (b)

Explanation: *New Jeevan Dhara-II* is a deferred annuity savings plan providing guaranteed post-retirement income.

Q29. What is the maximum distance proposed for the India-Singapore cross-border electricity grid interconnection project?

- (a) 1,500 km

- (b) 2,200 km
- (c) 3,000 km
- (d) 4,500 km

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The planned regional grid link covers roughly 3,000 km connecting India to Singapore.

Q30. In which city was the 1st BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting held in October 2026?

- (a) Dhaka
- (b) Colombo
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Bangkok

Answer: (c)

Explanation: New Delhi hosted the 1st BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting.

