1. International News

ASEAN Summit and Regional Geopolitical Framework

- **Key Event:** The annual ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit proceedings emphasized collective regional resilience, security frameworks, and regional trade partnerships.
- **Institutional Update:** The institutional identity transitioned to an official **11-member framework** following the formal integration of **Timor-Leste** under the Cebu Protocol amending the ASEAN Charter.
- **Key Agendas:** Finalizing the Code of Conduct (CoC) in the South China Sea, handling the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, and curbing transnational cyber-scam syndicates.
- **Leadership Handover:** The Philippines formally concluded its tenure and transferred the ASEAN Chairmanship gavel to **Singapore for 2027**.
- **Exam Relevance:** UPSC (IR/Prelims) & SSC — Questions on ASEAN founding members, expansion dynamics, and maritime security codes.

2. National News

Yamuna River Cleaning Drive & Environmental Initiatives

- **Key Event:** The Government of India introduced a comprehensive **four-pronged strategy** targeted at cleaning and restoring the Yamuna River stretch over a strict **3-year timeline**.
- **Geographical Context:** The Yamuna is the longest and most important tributary of the Ganga. It originates from the Yamunotri Glacier on the southwestern slopes of Banderpooch peaks in the Lower Himalayas.
- **Biodiversity Update:** Recent ecological surveys in **Silent Valley National Park** recorded three new butterfly species (Branded Royal, Extra Lascar, and Orange-spotted Grass Jewel) for the first time. Furthermore, scientists discovered **five new diminutive horned frog species (genus Jingophrys)** in **Arunachal Pradesh**, including India's first documented snail-eating frog.
- **Exam Relevance:** UPSC (Environment & Ecology) & State PSCs — Focus on river systems, tributaries, and endemic species discoveries.

3. Economy and Banking

Key Economic Metrics and RBI Updates

- **Retail Inflation (CPI):** India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) retail inflation printed at **6.09% for October 2026**, breaching the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance threshold of 6% (4% ± 2%) for the first time in the year. Food inflation stood higher at 8.94%.
- **Foreign Trade Data:** India's total exports (goods and services combined) for October recorded a high of **$89.99 billion**, marking a robust 29.90% year-on-year growth, pushing cumulative April–October exports to $568.84 billion.
- **RBI Regulatory Approvals: Paytm Payments Services** received in-principle authorization from the RBI to issue Pre-Paid Instruments (PPIs) such as digital wallets, subject to a mandatory cybersecurity audit completion within six months.
- **Exam Relevance:** Banking Exams (IBPS/SBI) & SSC CGL — Monetary policy parameters, inflation targets, and fintech regulatory updates.

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4. Appointments

Name	Position / Designation	Details / Context
Pratap Singh	MD & CEO, Fino Payments Bank	Approved by the RBI for a three-year tenure effective 27 November 2026.
Jay Shah	Chairman, International Cricket Council (ICC)	Reappointed for a second consecutive term leading global cricket administration.
Colette Kress	Interim CEO, NVIDIA	Appointed to take over leadership temporarily while continuing her role as CFO following leadership changes.

Exam Relevance: Banking & SSC — Direct factual questions regarding corporate leadership changes and apex regulatory/sports appointments.

5. Awards and Honors

National Sports Awards 2025-26

- **Ceremony:** Hosted at Rashtrapati Bhavan, where President Droupadi Murmu conferred prestigious honors.
- **Arjuna Awards:** 17 prominent athletes and one lifetime Arjuna Award (awarded to footballer **I. Arumainayagam**) were presented. Notable winners included Tejaswin Shankar, Divya Deshmukh, Vidit Gujrathi, Treesa Jolly, and Gayatri Gopichand.
- **Dronacharya Awards:** Conferred across regular and lifetime categories for excellence in sports coaching. (Note: No Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award was distributed for this cycle).
- **Swachh Survekshan Awards:** Announced at Vigyan Bhawan, with **Navi Mumbai** securing the top position in the Super Swachh League.
- **Exam Relevance:** All Competitive Exams — Direct queries on national civilian honors, sports awardees, and cleanliness rankings.

6. Sports News

Recent National and International Highlights

- **Cricket (Bilateral Series):** India clinched an away ODI series victory against New Zealand (**3–1**), marking their first bilateral ODI series win on New Zealand soil in seven years.
- **Cricket (U-19 Asia Cup):** India won the **9th Men's Under-19 Asia Cup** by defeating Pakistan by a thrilling **one wicket off the last ball** in the Muscat final.
- **Badminton:** Star shuttler **Lakshya Sen** secured the **Kumamoto Masters Japan (BWF Super 500)** men's singles title, defeating Japan's Koki Watanabe, marking his second consecutive Super 500 crown.
- **Multi-Discipline Games:** The logo and official mascot (Neelamani) for the **8th Khelo India Youth Games (Telangana)** were officially unveiled, scheduled across six cities featuring 27 sports.
- **Exam Relevance:** Railway, SSC, and Banking — Tournament winners, host nations, and sports terminology.

7. Government Schemes & MoUs

Lakhpati Didi Initiative & Trade Pacts

- **Lakhpati Didi Scheme Target Upgrade:** The Central Government officially scaled up its

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target under the Lakhpati Didi rural empowerment initiative to reach **6 crore women by March 2029**, aiming to boost sustainable micro-enterprise incomes through Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

- **India-Egypt Economic Bilateral Trade:** Both nations held the **7th Joint Trade Committee Meeting**, focusing on expanding bilateral commercial frameworks, pharmaceutical cooperation, and strategic supply chain diversification.
- **Exam Relevance:** UPSC (Govt Schemes) & Banking — Financial inclusion targets, deadline years, and bilateral trade milestone metrics.

8. Important Days

International Day for Tolerance – November 16

- **Date & Objective:** Observed globally on **November 16** every year to promote mutual respect, cultural harmony, and peaceful coexistence, educating communities to counter prejudice and discrimination.
- **Background:** Established by a landmark UNESCO Declaration of Principles on Tolerance adopted on November 16, 1995, and formally supported by a UN General Assembly resolution.
- **Global Alignment:** Strongly aligns with **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16)**, which targets building peaceful, inclusive societies and ensuring equitable access to justice.
- **Exam Relevance:** All Exams — Dates, themes, and alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

9. Art & Culture, Festivals, Birth & Death Anniversaries

- **Tribal Heritage Commemorations:** Across the nation, programs marked the ongoing legacy of legendary tribal freedom fighter **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**, highlighting the inauguration of new Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) to expand quality education access for tribal youth.
- **Cultural Festivals:** Preparations for major regional traditions like **Chhath Mahaparv** reached their peak, with municipal and transport bodies (such as the Delhi Metro operating early services from 4:30 AM) scaling up public infrastructure support.
- **Exam Relevance:** UPSC (Art & Culture / History) & State PSCs — Freedom fighters, socio-cultural festival management, and tribal welfare policies.

Part 1: National & International News, Defence, & Schemes

Q1. The 12th edition of the bilateral military exercise "Mitra Shakti 2026" was conducted between India and which country?

A) Maldives

B) Sri Lanka

C) Seychelles

D) Mauritius

- **Answer: B) Sri Lanka**

Detailed Explanation: The 12th edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti 2026 commenced at the Army Training School in Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka. The 14-day exercise focuses on enhancing interoperability, tactical coordination, and joint counter-terrorism operations under a United Nations mandate.

Q2. India recently joined nine other countries in signing which declaration focused on securing artificial intelligence supply chains and advanced manufacturing?

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A) Geneva AI Compact

B) San Francisco Declaration

C) Paris Tech Accord

D) Tokyo Silicon Agreement

- **Answer: B) San Francisco Declaration**

Detailed Explanation: India, the US, and eight other nations signed the San Francisco Declaration on the Secure Foundations of Enduring Prosperity at the Pax Silica Founders Retreat. The pact aims to protect critical supply chains, semiconductors, and energy infrastructure.

Q3. What is the official mascot for the 8th Khelo India Youth Games 2026, unveiled in Telangana?

A) Veera

B) Neelamani

C) Jaya

D) Toofan

- **Answer: B) Neelamani**

Detailed Explanation: The official logo and mascot, **Neelamani** (a bird-inspired character representing energy, agility, and sporting spirit), were unveiled for the 8th Khelo India Youth Games, scheduled across six cities in Telangana.

Q4. Which state's 100 Drums Wangala Festival recently set a Guinness World Record for the Largest Wangala Dance?

A) Nagaland

B) Meghalaya

C) Mizoram

D) Assam

- **Answer: B) Meghalaya**

Detailed Explanation: Meghalaya's 100 Drums Wangala Festival—a prominent post-harvest thanksgiving celebration by the Garo tribe honoring the Sun God Misi Saljong—set a Guinness World Record with 1,000 drummers and 1,500 dancers.

Q5. Israel's RAFAEL Advanced Defense Systems unveiled a fifth-generation precision cruise missile by what name?

A) SUPER ICE

B) IRON SPEAR

C) GOLIATH-V

D) STORM SHIELD X

- **Answer: A) SUPER ICE**

Detailed Explanation: SUPER ICE is a newly unveiled advanced fifth-generation precision cruise missile featuring a 1,000-pound warhead with air, land, and sea launch compatibility.

Q6. Where was the 49th ASEAN Summit convened, focusing heavily on regional unity and maritime stability?

A) Jakarta, Indonesia

B) Manila, Philippines

C) Bangkok, Thailand

D) Vientiane, Laos

- **Answer: B) Manila, Philippines**

Detailed Explanation: The 49th ASEAN Summit kicked off in Manila under regional calls to address ongoing maritime disputes, geopolitical challenges, and economic integration following Timor-Leste's historic integration into the bloc.

Q7. Five new species of diminutive horned frogs belonging to the genus Jingophrys were discovered in which Indian state?

A) Sikkim

B) Arunachal Pradesh

C) Uttarakhand

D) Himachal Pradesh

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- **Answer: B) Arunachal Pradesh**

Detailed Explanation: A joint team of Indian and American scientists from Delhi University and Harvard discovered five new miniature horned frog species tucked into the Eastern Himalayas of Arunachal Pradesh.

Q8. Which state cabinet approved the "Chief Minister Apna Parivar Sukhi Parivar Yojana" to offer ₹1,500 monthly financial aid to eligible women?

A) Himachal Pradesh

B) Punjab

C) Karnataka

D) Odisha

- **Answer: A) Himachal Pradesh**

Detailed Explanation: The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet greenlit the scheme to support women aged 18–59 years alongside rolling out the Khelo Himachal Chitta Mukt Abhiyan to fight drug abuse.

Part 2: Economy, Banking, & Government Schemes

Q9. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) introduced which scheme to expand digital payment acceptance infrastructure via soundboxes and QR codes for small merchants?

A) UPI Saksham Vikas Yojana

B) UPI Vyapaar Saksham Scheme

C) Digital Gram Merchant Program

D) Bharat QR Soundbox Mission

- **Answer: B) UPI Vyapaar Saksham Scheme**

Detailed Explanation: NPCI rolled out the UPI Vyapaar Saksham Scheme to drive digital payment acceptance in Tier-III to Tier-VI regions, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and the North-Eastern states by subsidizing physical QR codes and soundboxes.

Q10. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, what was India's total export value (merchandise and services) during April–October of FY 2026–27?

A) USD 412.50 billion

B) USD 568.84 billion

C) USD 620.10 billion

D) USD 495.30 billion

- **Answer: B) USD 568.84 billion**

Detailed Explanation: India's cumulative exports registered a robust 16.66% year-on-year growth to touch **USD 568.84 billion** driven by steady performance across both merchandise and service sectors.

Q11. According to the WHO Global TB Report, what notable milestones did India achieve in its fight against tuberculosis?

A) 12% decline in mortality and 50% treatment success

B) 38% decline in TB mortality and 94% treatment success rate

C) 55% decline in mortality and 80% treatment success

D) Eradication of all drug-resistant strains

- **Answer: B) 38% decline in TB mortality and 94% treatment success rate**

Detailed Explanation: The WHO Global TB Report highlighted India's impressive health sector strides, noting a 38% drop in mortality and a benchmark 94% treatment success rate.

Q12. Which digital tracking and procurement platform was integrated by the Chhattisgarh government to streamline transparent Minimum Support Price (MSP) paddy procurement?

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A) e-Mandee portal

B) AgriStack

C) Krishi Direct

D) Annadata Connect

- **Answer: B) AgriStack**

Detailed Explanation: Chhattisgarh adopted AgriStack, incorporating biometric verification, AI, and QR code tracking to bring complete transparency to paddy procurement processes.

Part 3: Sports & Appointments

Q13. How many total medals did India win at the 4th Summer Youth Olympic Games (Dakar 2026)?

A) 6 medals

B) 10 medals

C) 14 medals

D) 8 medals

- **Answer: B) 10 medals**

Detailed Explanation: India wrapped up its impressive campaign at Dakar 2026 with **10 medals** (2 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze), finishing 21st in the overall standings.

Q14. Who became the first-ever Indian boxers to win gold medals at the Youth Olympic Games during Dakar 2026?

A) Amit Panghal and Nikhat Zareen

B) Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei and Gunjan

C) Deepak Kumar and Nitu Ghanghas

D) Sachin Kumar and Manisha Mohn

- **Answer: B) Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei and Gunjan**

Detailed Explanation: History was scripted in Senegal as Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei and Gunjan secured India's maiden boxing gold medals at the Youth Olympics.

Q15. Which Indian swimmer created history at Dakar 2026 by becoming the first Indian to win two individual medals at a single Youth Olympic edition?

A) Likith Prema

B) Srihari Nataraj

C) Dhinidhi Desinghu

D) Maana Patel

- **Answer: C) Dhinidhi Desinghu**

Detailed Explanation: Ace swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu carved her name in the record books by bagging two individual medals in swimming events at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

Q16. Which city hosted the final match of the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, where India claimed its third title?

A) Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai

B) Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad

C) M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru

D) Eden Gardens, Kolkata

- **Answer: B) Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad**

Detailed Explanation: Co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, the 10th edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup concluded with India winning the championship match at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Q17. Which players shared the honors for taking the highest number of wickets (14 wickets) in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup?

A) Rashid Khan and Trent Boult

B) Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy

C) Shaheen Afridi and Adam Zampa

D) Kuldeep Yadav and Pat Cummins

- **Answer: B) Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy**

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Detailed Explanation: Indian bowling spearheads Jasprit Bumrah and mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy finished joint-highest wicket-takers of the tournament with 14 scalps each.

Part 4: Awards, Index, Art & Culture, & Important Days

Q18. Which institution launched the "Fiscal Health Index 2026," ranking states based on spending quality and revenue mobilization?

A) Reserve Bank of India

B) NITI Aayog

C) Ministry of Finance

D) Finance Commission

- **Answer: B) NITI Aayog**

Detailed Explanation: NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index evaluates states across parameters like debt sustainability, revenue collection, and fiscal discipline, placing states like Odisha and Goa near the top.

Q19. Which state became the second state in India to pass the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill?

A) Gujarat

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Assam

D) Uttarakhand

- **Answer: A) Gujarat**

Detailed Explanation: Following Uttarakhand (which was the first post-independence state to implement UCC), **Gujarat** became the second state to pass the landmark legislative bill.

Q20. INS Taragiri, which was recently commissioned into the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam, belongs to which warship project?

A) Project 75

B) Project 17A (Nilgiri-Class Stealth Frigates)

C) Project 28

D) Project 15B

- **Answer: B) Project 17A (Nilgiri-Class Stealth Frigates)**

Detailed Explanation: Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, INS Taragiri is a potent guided-missile stealth frigate constructed under the prestigious **Project 17A** series.

Q21. Balen Shah recently took charge as the Prime Minister of which neighboring country?

A) Bangladesh

B) Bhutan

C) Nepal

D) Maldives

- **Answer: C) Nepal**

Detailed Explanation: Balen Shah assumed office as Prime Minister of Nepal, representing the Rastriya Swatantra Party, making headlines as one of the nation's youngest leaders.

Q22. The "Sea Dragon Exercise 2026," a multi-lateral anti-submarine warfare exercise involving QUAD nations, was hosted at which location?

A) Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

B) Guam, US Island in the Pacific Ocean

C) San Diego Naval Base, USA

D) Yokosuka, Japan

- **Answer: B) Guam, US Island in the Pacific Ocean**

Detailed Explanation: Sea Dragon 2026 is an advanced multi-lateral anti-submarine warfare exercise hosted in Guam, bringing together navies from India, the US, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

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Q23. India conducted the 11th edition of the joint military exercise "LAMITIYE-2026" with which partner nation?

A) Oman

B) Seychelles

C) Kenya

D) France

- **Answer: B) Seychelles**

Detailed Explanation: Exercise LAMITIYE-2026 is a regular bilateral defense cooperation engagement held biennially/annually with the Seychelles People's Defence Forces (SPDF) in Victoria.

Q24. The Ministry of Culture declared the historic 'Raniwas Mound' a site of national importance under which historic legislative act?

A) AMASR Act, 1958

B) Wild Life Protection Act, 1972

C) Environmental Protection Act, 1986

D) Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972

- **Answer: A) AMASR Act, 1958**

Detailed Explanation: Located in Bihar, the 'Raniwas Mound' was officially notified and granted protection as a monument of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958.

Q25. Who was awarded the prestigious Abel Prize for Mathematics?

A) Dennis P. Sullivan

B) Gerd Faltings

C) Luis Caffarelli

D) Masaki Kashiwara

- **Answer: B) Gerd Faltings**

Detailed Explanation: German mathematician **Gerd Faltings** received the Abel Prize, awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, for his monumental contributions to arithmetic algebraic geometry.

Q26. World Diabetes Day is observed globally across healthcare organizations on which date?

A) November 10

B) November 12

C) November 14

D) November 16

- **Answer: C) November 14**

Detailed Explanation: World Diabetes Day is observed annually on November 14 (coinciding with Children's Day) to raise awareness regarding diabetes education, prevention, and management.

Q27. What is the primary objective of the "Maitri Setu Yatra – India-Sri Lanka NCC Cycling Expedition" flagged off from Colombo?

A) Geological mapping of the Palk Strait

B) Strengthening youth ties, cultural diplomacy, and bilateral cooperation under the Neighbourhood First policy

C) Commercial cargo tracking across maritime corridors

D) Promoting deep-sea diving safety

- **Answer: B) Strengthening youth ties, cultural diplomacy, and bilateral cooperation under the Neighbourhood First policy**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Maitri Setu Yatra involves 24 National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets from India and Sri Lanka journeying across borders to foster long-term cultural ties and regional harmony.

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Q28. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated robotics laboratories and launched which digital application to strengthen foundational learning in schools?

A) NIPUN Application

B) Vidya Pravesh Portal

C) Siksha Tech App

D) Odisha Gyan Dashboard

- **Answer: A) NIPUN Application**

Detailed Explanation: In a push toward tech-enabled education, Odisha launched robotics labs in over 807 schools alongside the **NIPUN App** to track and elevate foundational reading, understanding, and numeracy.

Q29. Which eminent German mathematician won the Abel Prize 2026 for his deep breakthroughs in algebraic geometry?

A) Andrew Wiles

B) Gerd Faltings

C) Peter Scholze

D) Jean-Pierre Serre

- **Answer: B) Gerd Faltings**

Detailed Explanation: Gerd Faltings was honored with the Abel Prize by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters for his profound proofs concerning arithmetic conjectures.

Q30. Which international organization compiles global tuberculosis statistics, highlighting India's 38% drop in mortality?

A) UNICEF

B) World Health Organization (WHO)

C) Doctors Without Borders

D) World Bank

- **Answer: B) World Health Organization (WHO)**

Detailed Explanation: The **WHO Global TB Report** tracks worldwide epidemic trends, noting that India has significantly accelerated progress against tuberculosis through expanded diagnostics and treatment coverage.

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