

1. Government Schemes & Initiatives

Cabinet Approves ₹53,428 Crore Continuation of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

- **News & Details:** The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** for a 5-year period (FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31) with a total financial outlay of **₹53,428 crore**.
- **Renaming & Restructuring:**
 - The umbrella scheme has been renamed as **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (PMSSY)**.
 - Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) is renamed as **Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana**.
 - National Family Benefit Scheme is renamed as **Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana**.
- **Revised Disability Pension Assistance:** Under the updated guidelines, assistance rates stand at:
 - **₹375/month** for eligible disabled beneficiaries up to 79 years.
 - **₹625/month** for disabled beneficiaries aged 80 years and above.
- **Static Context:** NSAP was originally launched on **15 August 1995** under Article 41 of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) in the Indian Constitution.

Sample Practice Question: Q. Under the newly renamed Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (PMSSY), what is the financial outlay approved for the period FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31?

(A) ₹42,500 crore

(B) ₹53,428 crore

(C) ₹61,200 crore

(D) ₹35,800 crore

Answer: (B) ₹53,428 crore

2. Economics, Banking & Corporate News

CCEA Approves Stake Sale in IDBI Bank to Fairfax Arm

- **News & Details:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the strategic disinvestment of a **60.72% stake** in **IDBI Bank Limited** to M/s 10955230 Canada Inc. (a subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings) for **₹52,878.08 crore**.
- **Banking Sector Context:** The divestment comprises 30.48% from the Government of India (GoI) and 30.24% from the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- **Static Context:** IDBI Bank was set up in 1964 under an Act of Parliament as a development financial institution (DFI) before being converted into a commercial bank in 2004.

NSE IX Signs MoU with London Stock Exchange (LSE)

- **News & Details:** NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **London Stock Exchange plc (LSE)** to explore cross-border dual listings, trading connectivity, and new structured financial products.
- **Key Takeaways:** Facilitates seamless capital flow between GIFT City (Gujarat) and international investors in London.

Sample Practice Question: Q. Which subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings was approved to acquire a 60.72% stake in IDBI Bank Limited?

(A) Fairfax India Holdings Ltd



- (B) M/s 10955230 Canada Inc.
- (C) Prem Watsa Capital Ltd
- (D) Fairfax Global Markets

Answer: (B) M/s 10955230 Canada Inc.

3. Defense & Security News

Indian Navy Participates in IBSAMAR IX in South Africa

- **News & Details:** The Indian Navy's frontline guided-missile stealth frigate **INS Tarkash** along with a **Chetak helicopter** participated in the 9th edition of the **IBSAMAR IX** maritime exercise.
- **Location:** Simon's Town, Western Cape, South Africa.
- **Participants:** Navies of **India, Brazil, and South Africa** (IBSA trilateral framework). Participating assets included BNS Barroso (Brazil) and SAS Amatola (South Africa).
- **Static Context:** Exercise **IBSAMAR** was established in 2008 to enhance maritime interoperability and security among the three Southern Hemisphere democracies.

Indian Army Inducts Nagastra-1R Loitering Munitions

- **News & Details:** Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) delivered **450 Nagastra-1R loitering munitions** ("kamikaze drones") to the Indian Army under emergency procurement orders.
- **Key Technical Features:** Nagastra-1R combines real-time surveillance with high-precision strike capabilities using high-explosive fragmentation warheads.

Sample Practice Question: Q. Which Indian Naval Ship (INS) was deployed to South Africa for the trilateral exercise IBSAMAR IX?

- (A) INS Sahyadri

- (B) INS Tarkash
- (C) INS Tabar
- (D) INS Chennai

Answer: (B) INS Tarkash

4. National & International News

Ladakh Infrastructure Upgrade: Projects Worth ₹3,350 Crore Inaugurated

- **News & Details:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicated five major infrastructure development projects worth **₹3,350 crore** in the UT of Ladakh.
- **Key Infrastructure Highlights:**
 - **Kushok Bakula Rimpoochee Airport (Leh):** New Passenger Terminal Building constructed at a cost of **₹640 crore** (capacity: 35 lakh passengers annually).
 - **Nimmu-Padum-Darcha Road:** 298-km strategic road dedicated to the nation, providing all-weather connectivity.
 - **Project Him Sarovar:** Inauguration of 40 water bodies created across 40 high-altitude villages to tackle regional water scarcity.

IMD Launches Cyclone Warning & Marine Weather Services DSS

- **News & Details:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) launched the WebGIS-based **Decision Support System (DSS)** for Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services.
- **Objective:** Real-time spatial tracking, hazard impact interpretation, and proactive coastal disaster management.

Sample Practice Question: Q. Under which project were 40 water bodies developed in Ladakh to improve water accessibility in high-altitude villages?



- **Awards:** Honored with the **Padma Shri** in 2023 for his exceptional contributions to agricultural biodiversity preservation.

7. Important Days, Obituary & Birth Anniversaries

- **International Day of Rural Women (Oct 15):** Observed annually to recognize the key role of rural women. *2026 Theme:* "Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature".
- **Global Handwashing Day (Oct 15):** Theme: "Be a Handwashing Hero".
- **Obituary - Cheruvayal Raman ('Nellachan'):** Padma Shri awardee Cheruvayal Raman, fondly known as 'Nellachan' (father of rice) passed away. He was renowned for conserving over 55 native, indigenous rice seed varieties in Wayanad, Kerala.

30 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) & Detailed Answers

Q1. The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) up to 2030-31 with an outlay of ₹53,428 crore. What is the new name given to NSAP?

- (a) Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana
- (b) Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (PMSSY)
- (c) Pradhan Mantri Divyang Sahayata Yojana
- (d) National Social Security Mission
- (e) Pradhan Mantri Social Pension Scheme

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The Union Cabinet renamed NSAP to Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (PMSSY) while extending it for 5 years.

Q2. What is the revised monthly disability pension under PMSSY for beneficiaries aged 80 years and above?

- (a) ₹375
- (b) ₹500
- (c) ₹625
- (d) ₹750
- (e) ₹1,000

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The revised assistance under the disability pension component provides ₹375 for beneficiaries up to 79 years of age and ₹625 for those aged 80 years and above.

Q3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the 298 km Nimmu-Padum-Darcha Road to the nation. In which State/UT is this strategic road located?

- (a) Jammu & Kashmir
- (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Ladakh
- (d) Uttarakhand
- (e) Sikkim

Answer: (c)

Explanation: PM Modi dedicated the Nimmu-Padum-Darcha Road along with projects worth ₹3,350 crore during his address in Ladakh.

Q4. What is the name of the initiative under which 40 water bodies were inaugurated across 40 villages in Ladakh?

- (a) Project Amrit Sarovar
- (b) Project Him Sarovar
- (c) Operation Jal Shakti
- (d) Mission Ladakh Waterways
- (e) Project Glacier Water

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Under *Project Him Sarovar*, 40 water bodies were developed across 40 villages in Ladakh to address water scarcity challenges.

Q5. According to the FAO State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2026 report, which country ranks 1st globally in forest area actively under restoration?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) China
- (c) Ethiopia
- (d) India
- (e) Indonesia

Answer: (d)

Explanation: India ranks 1st globally with ~9.8 million hectares under active restoration according to FRA 2025 assessment data featured in SOFO 2026.

Q6. Which State became the first in India to launch a State-level Red List Assessment of Ecosystems (RLE)?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Assam
- (e) Uttarakhand

Answer: (b)

Explanation: The Kerala State Biodiversity Board initiated India's first state-wide RLE assessment to evaluate risk of collapse across whole ecosystems.

Q7. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which completed 10 years in October 2026, aims to phase down which group of chemicals?

- (a) Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
- (b) Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
- (c) Halons
- (d) Carbon Tetrachloride

(e) Sulfur Hexafluoride

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Adopted in 2016, the Kigali Amendment focuses specifically on phasing down climate-warming Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Q8. The CCEA approved the sale of what percentage of stake in IDBI Bank Limited to a subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings?

- (a) 51.00%
- (b) 60.72%
- (c) 74.00%
- (d) 49.00%
- (e) 100.0%

Answer: (b)

Explanation: CCEA approved the strategic disinvestment of a 60.72% stake (GOI + LIC stake) in IDBI Bank worth ₹52,878 crore.

Q9. Which Indian Naval Ship (INS) participated in the 9th edition of the trilateral IBSAMAR IX exercise in South Africa?

- (a) INS Vikrant
- (b) INS Tarkash
- (c) INS Tabar
- (d) INS Chennai
- (e) INS Sahyadri

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Guided-missile stealth frigate INS Tarkash along with a Chetak helicopter represented India at IBSAMAR IX at Simon's Town, South Africa.

Q10. Which three nations participate in the trilateral IBSAMAR maritime exercise?

- (a) India, Bangladesh, South Africa
- (b) India, Brazil, South Africa



- (c) India, Britain, Singapore
(d) Italy, Brazil, South Africa
(e) India, Belgium, Saudi Arabia

Answer: (b)

Explanation: IBSAMAR is a joint maritime exercise involving India, Brazil, and South Africa.

Q11. How many Nagastra-1R loitering munitions were delivered by SDAL to the Indian Army?

- (a) 150
(b) 250
(c) 450
(d) 600
(e) 1,000

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) delivered 450 units of Nagastra-1R precision loitering munitions to the Indian Army.

Q12. Under the PM-SETU initiative, ₹440 crore was sanctioned to upgrade nine ITIs in which two industrial clusters?

- (a) Pune and Chennai
(b) Surat and Visakhapatnam
(c) Ahmedabad and Hyderabad
(d) Coimbatore and Jamshedpur
(e) Bengaluru and Kochi

Answer: (b)

Explanation: MSDE approved ₹440 crore to upgrade 5 ITIs in Surat and 4 ITIs in Visakhapatnam in partnership with AM/NS India.

Q13. NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) signed an MoU with which global exchange to

explore cross-border listings and trading connectivity?

- (a) New York Stock Exchange
(b) Tokyo Stock Exchange
(c) London Stock Exchange
(d) Singapore Exchange
(e) NASDAQ

Answer: (c)

Explanation: NSE IX signed an MoU with London Stock Exchange plc (LSE) to boost capital market cooperation between India and the UK.

Q14. Which organization collaborated with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to strengthen training standards at RSETIs?

- (a) NABARD
(b) National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR)
(c) NITI Aayog
(d) NSDC
(e) SIDBI

Answer: (b)

Explanation: MoRD signed an MoU with NAR to improve registration and biometric attendance across Rural Self Employment Training Institutes.

Q15. Padma Shri awardee Cheruvayal Raman ('Nellachan'), who passed away recently, was famous for conserving which agricultural biodiversity asset?

- (a) Indigenous Cotton breeds
(b) Indigenous Rice seed varieties
(c) Medicinal Spice crops
(d) Native Wheat strains
(e) Traditional Millets

Answer: (b)



Explanation: Cheruvayal Raman from Wayanad conserved over 55 native rice varieties and was awarded the Padma Shri for indigenous seed preservation.

Q16. Which Indian wrestler won a historic silver medal in the Greco-Roman category at the U-23 World Wrestling Championships?

- (a) Aman Sehrawat
- (b) Vishvajit More
- (c) Antim Panghal
- (d) Sujeet Kalkal
- (e) Ravinder Dahiya

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Vishvajit More won silver in the 55kg Greco-Roman division at the U-23 World Championship.

Q17. What is the official theme for International Day of Rural Women 2026 (observed on 15 October)?

- (a) Gender Equality in Agriculture
- (b) Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature
- (c) Empowering Women in Food Systems
- (d) Sustainable Farming by Rural Women
- (e) Women Leaders in Climate Action

Answer: (b)

Explanation: UN Women declared the 2026 theme as "Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature".

Q18. DRDO successfully demonstrated Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology on a live military network in which state?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Rajasthan

- (d) Karnataka
- (e) Tamil Nadu

Answer: (b)

Explanation: DRDO conducted the live QKD quantum encryption trial at Chandipur, Odisha.

Q19. What is the total project expenditure approved for upgrading the 9 ITIs under PM-SETU in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh?

- (a) ₹250 crore
- (b) ₹350 crore
- (c) ₹440 crore
- (d) ₹500 crore
- (e) ₹650 crore

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The approved outlay is ₹440 crore (₹240 crore for Surat cluster and ₹200 crore for Visakhapatnam cluster).

Q20. Which entity received ₹151 crore financial assistance under the DST Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund?

- (a) Tata Advanced Systems
- (b) ideaForge Technology Limited
- (c) Garuda Aerospace
- (d) Pixxel Space
- (e) Skyroot Aerospace

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Technology Development Board (TDB) signed an agreement to provide ₹151 crore to ideaForge Technology Limited for drone and R&D innovation.

Q21. Which life insurance product launched by LIC provides guaranteed pension annuity rates?

- (a) Health Shield
- (b) New Jeevan Dhara-II

- (c) Jeevan Umang
- (d) New Cancer Cover
- (e) Pension Shield Plus

Answer: (b)

Explanation: LIC introduced *New Jeevan Dhara-II (Plan 892)* as a guaranteed annuity plan for pension income.

Q22. What is the theme for Global Handwashing Day 2026?

- (a) Clean Hands Save Lives
- (b) Be a Handwashing Hero
- (c) Hand Hygiene for All
- (d) Wash Hands, Stop Infections
- (e) Hygiene First

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Global Handwashing Day is observed on October 15 with the ongoing campaign theme "Be a Handwashing Hero".

Q23. What is the cost of the newly inaugurated Passenger Terminal Building at Kushok Bakula Rimpoochee Airport in Leh?

- (a) ₹320 crore
- (b) ₹450 crore
- (c) ₹640 crore
- (d) ₹800 crore
- (e) ₹1,200 crore

Answer: (c)

Explanation: PM Modi inaugurated the terminal building constructed at a cost of ₹640 crore to handle 35 lakh passengers per year.

Q24. How much Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) fund was disbursed by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) to states and UTs?

- (a) ₹1.05 crore

- (b) ₹2.02 crore
- (c) ₹5.50 crore
- (d) ₹10.00 crore
- (e) ₹15.20 crore

Answer: (b)

Explanation: NBA disbursed ₹2.02 crore in ABS funds to 27 States and 3 Union Territories for local biodiversity preservation.

Q25. What is the participation percentage of women in the overall Ayush services workforce?

- (a) 30%
- (b) 38%
- (c) 43%
- (d) 50%
- (e) 55%

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Women account for 43% of the total Ayush workforce in India, exceeding 50% in organized healthcare sectors like spas and day-care facilities.

Q26. ReNew Energy Global plc secured a USD 100 million debt facility from which international development bank?

- (a) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- (b) FMO (Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank)
- (c) World Bank
- (d) European Investment Bank (EIB)
- (e) New Development Bank (NDB)

Answer: (b)

Explanation: ReNew Energy secured \$100 million (approx. ₹955 crore) from Dutch bank FMO for renewable project execution.



Q27. What cell was set up by the Department of Commerce to help businesses leverage free trade benefits?

- (a) Trade Promotion Cell
- (b) Export Facilitation Cell
- (c) FTA Utilisation Cell
- (d) Foreign Investment Cell
- (e) Tariffs Advisory Bureau

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The Department of Commerce launched the *FTA Utilisation Cell* to help Indian enterprises maximize gains from signed FTAs.

Q28. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) bulletin, what was India's urban unemployment rate?

- (a) 4.2%
- (b) 5.0%
- (c) 6.9%
- (d) 7.5%
- (e) 8.1%

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Overall unemployment remained at 5.0%, with urban unemployment recorded higher at 6.9% and rural unemployment at 4.2%.

Q29. Under PMSSY, what is the new name for the National Family Benefit Scheme?

- (a) Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana
- (b) Pradhan Mantri Kutumb Kalyan Yojana
- (c) Pradhan Mantri Family Sahayata Scheme
- (d) PM Jeevan Suraksha Parivar Yojana
- (e) PM Parivar Bima Yojana

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Under the umbrella PMSSY restructuring, the National Family Benefit Scheme was renamed *Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana*.

Q30. What was the global forest restoration gap needed by 2030 as reported in FAO's SOFO 2026 report?

- (a) 200 million hectares
- (b) 350 million hectares
- (c) 470 million hectares
- (d) 600 million hectares
- (e) 1 billion hectares

Answer: (c)

Explanation: Pledges total over 1 billion hectares, but with only 44 million hectares currently restored under FRA 2025, a gap of 470 million hectares remains to hit 2030 targets.