

1. International News

US Sanctions Waiver & Global Energy Dynamics

- **Key Event:** US President Donald Trump issued a strategic waiver on key provisions under Russian sanctions legislation. This waives authority to levy tariffs (up to 100%) on countries importing Russian crude oil, directly benefiting India's continuous energy procurement.
- **Background & Impact:** The move follows a bilateral agreement between the US and Russia aimed at Moscow supplying diesel to stabilize volatile global energy markets.
- **Exam Key Takeaway (UPSC / State PSC):**
 - **CAATSA / Secondary Sanctions:** Mechanism of extraterritorial energy sanctions.
 - **India's Energy Basket:** Strategic autonomy in crude imports while retaining balance between Western trade partners and Russia.

High-Level Diplomatic Visits & Bilateral Ties

- **India-Canada Bilateral Talks:** Former Bank of England Governor and Canadian political figure Mark Carney confirmed an official bilateral visit by Indian PM Narendra Modi to Canada scheduled for December 11-12, 2026, aimed at strengthening trade and strategic cooperation.
- **India-Mongolia Defence Cooperation:** The 14th India-Mongolia Joint Working Group meeting convened to review defence ties following the successful execution of Exercise Nomadic Elephant.

2. National News & Governance

Government Notifies Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Key Provision:** Amends previous restrictions by significantly broadening the pool of eligible enumerators. Officials and clerks from Central/State governments, PSUs, statutory bodies, public sector banks, and registered government companies can now be appointed as enumerators.
- **Statutory Framework:** Conducted under the statutory provisions of the **Census Act, 1948**.

Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026 Report

- **India's Rank:** 100th out of 122 countries with a score of 24.1 (Categorized under the "Serious" hunger severity band).
- **Key Indicators & Stats:**
 - **Child Wasting:** 19% (up from 15% in 2012).
 - **Child Stunting:** 29.3% (improved from 50% in 2000).
 - **Neighbouring Scores:** Nepal (14.5), Bangladesh (19.2), Pakistan (25.5), Afghanistan (28.6).

3. Economics, Banking & Financial News

Supreme Court Ruling on Yes Bank AT-1 Bonds

- **Verdict:** The Supreme Court of India upheld the quashing of the **₹8,415 Crore Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) Bond write-off** executed during Yes Bank's 2020 bailout.
- **Exam Focus (Banking / RBI Grade B):**
 - **AT-1 Bonds:** Perpetual, non-cumulative debt instruments issued by banks under **Basel III framework** to absorb shocks without diluting equity capital. They carry higher risk and interest rates, featuring explicit "Principal Loss Absorption" clauses.



FSSAI Regulatory Proposal on Infant Formula

- Proposer:** Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- Key Proposal:** Complete ban on added sugars/sweeteners in infant foods and formula to mitigate early childhood metabolic disorders and promote clean nutrition.

4. Government Schemes & MoUs

PM-SETU (Skill Upgradation)

- Approval:** The PM-SETU National Steering Committee cleared ₹1,194.92 crore dedicated to setting up five ITI (Industrial Training Institute) Clusters across Maharashtra, Odisha, and Jammu & Kashmir.
- Cumulative Outlay:** Total investment cleared under PM-SETU has surpassed ₹3,687 crore.

Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (Formerly NSAP)

- Outlay & Extension:** Union Cabinet approved continuation for 5 years (2026–27 to 2030–31) with an outlay of ₹53,428 crore.
- Key Policy Reform:** Benchmark disability threshold for Divyangjan pension reduced from 80% to 40%, removing minimum-age constraints.

IBM & MeitY Startup Hub MoU

- Partnership:** IBM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the MeitY Startup Hub during IBM Think 2026 in Mumbai.
- Objective:** Nurturing and scaling Indian deep-tech startups specializing in Artificial Intelligence (AI), hybrid cloud computing, and quantum technology.

5. Defense & Security News

Commissioning of INS Samarthak

- Type:** First Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) indigenously designed and built for the Indian Navy.
- Location & Chief Guest:** Commissioned at INS Kadamba, Karwar, Karnataka by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan.
- Manufacturer:** Built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipbuilding at Kattupalli, featuring over 75% indigenous content. First of four scheduled MPVs.

Nagastra-1R Munitions Handover

- Delivery:** Solar Defence & Aerospace Ltd delivered 450 Nagastra-1R loitering munitions to the Indian Army.
- Specifications:** Man-portable, GPS-guided precision suicide drone with 60-minute endurance and 80%+ indigenous content.

6. Appointments & Transfers

Name	Position / Role	Key Details
Sudhakar Dalela	India's Ambassador to Nepal	Senior 1993-batch IFS officer; previously Secretary in MEA and Former Ambassador to Bhutan.
Om Prakash Mathur	Governor of Keralam	Transferred from Sikkim.
Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Governor of Tamil Nadu	Transferred from Keralam.

Name	Position / Role	Key Details
Braj Mohan Ram	Governor of Odisha	Fresh gubernatorial appointment by Rashtrapati Bhavan.
Dr. Sudha Yadav	Governor of Karnataka	Fresh gubernatorial appointment.

7. Awards, Honors & Sports

ICC Player of the Month (September 2026)

- Men's Winner: Shubman Gill (India)** — Sets a historical record by winning his 5th ICC Player of the Month award.
- Women's Winner: Shafali Verma (India).**

Other Sports Updates

- Badminton:** Jagsher Singh Khangurra clinched the **Bronze Medal** in Boys' Singles at the BWF World Junior Championships 2026 in Cairo, Egypt.
- Wrestling:** Komal bagged the **Bronze Medal** (Women's 59 kg freestyle) at the U23 World Wrestling Championships in Las Vegas.
- Scheme Outlay:** Sports Ministry notified revised operational guidelines for the NSF (National Sports Federations) scheme worth ₹7,386.74 crore (2026–31).

8. Important Days, Observances & Anniversaries

42nd Raising Day of National Security Guard (NSG)

- Date:** Observed on 16–17 October 2026.

- Background:** The NSG ("Black Cats") was raised under the **National Security Guard Act, 1986** as India's premier federal counter-terrorism agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Inaugural Lecture:** Hosted the 1st Dr. S. Subramanian Memorial Lecture honoring the founder DG of NSG/SPG.

9. Obituary & Culture

Passing of Cheruvayal Raman ("Nellachan")

- Field:** Veteran rice conservationist from Kerala.
- Contributions:** Saved and preserved over **45** traditional, indigenous rice varieties.
- Honors:** Awarded the **Padma Shri** in **2023** and National Plant Genome Saviour Award in 2016.

Quick Revision Practice Questions

- INS Samarthak, recently commissioned into the Indian Navy at Karwar, belongs to which category of vessels?**
 - A) Nuclear Submarine
 - B) Aircraft Carrier
 - C) Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)
 - D) Stealth Frigate
 - Answer: C**
- Under the Census (Amendment) Rules 2026, which Act governs the population enumeration procedures in India?**
 - A) Representation of the People Act, 1951
 - B) Census Act, 1948
 - C) Disaster Management Act, 2005
 - D) Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969

○ Answer: B

3. Who among the following set a record by winning the ICC Player of the Month award for the 5th time in September 2026?

- A) Virat Kohli
- B) Yashasvi Jaiswal
- C) Shubman Gill
- D) Suryakumar Yadav
- Answer: C

• (D) 110

Answer: (C) 103

Explanation: The designation of Sukhna Wetland (Chandigarh) and Sauj Jheel (Uttar Pradesh) brought India's Ramsar site total to 103.

3. Sauj Jheel, newly recognized as a Ramsar Site, is located in which district of Uttar Pradesh?

- (A) Mainpuri
- (B) Gorakhpur
- (C) Mathura
- (D) Ayodhya

Answer: (A) Mainpuri

Explanation: Sauj Jheel is a wetland site situated in the Mainpuri district of UP.

4. The Ministry of Defence signed a contract worth ₹2,563 crore with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for which dedicated satellite?

- (A) GSAT-7A
- (B) GSAT-7C
- (C) RISAT-1B
- (D) EOS-06

Answer: (B) GSAT-7C

Explanation: GSAT-7C is a dedicated military communication satellite acquired for the Indian Air Force.

5. Heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo 'Varunastra' is manufactured by which public sector enterprise?

- (A) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- (B) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- (C) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
- (D) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)

30 Practice Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)

1. India recently approved accession to which international ocean agreement to expand its high-seas fishing rights for toothfish and squid?

- (A) South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)
- (B) Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
- (C) Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
- (D) Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

Answer: (B) Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Explanation: India was elevated from Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status to full member under SIOFA, allowing Indian vessels to operate in the high seas of the Southern Indian Ocean.

2. With the inclusion of Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel in October 2026, what is the total count of Ramsar Sites in India?

- (A) 85
- (B) 92
- (C) 103



Answer: (C) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)

Explanation: BDL, Hyderabad signed the ₹1,543 crore contract for manufacturing Varunastra torpedoes designed by NSTL.

6. The Supreme Court upheld the quashing of AT-1 bond write-offs worth ₹8,415 crore belonging to which bank?

- (A) Lakshmi Vilas Bank
- (B) Yes Bank
- (C) Punjab National Bank
- (D) IDFC First Bank

Answer: (B) Yes Bank

Explanation: The Supreme Court affirmed the Bombay High Court's order invalidating the write-off of AT-1 perpetual bonds issued by Yes Bank.

7. Under the SAARC Currency Swap framework, India approved a ₹30 Billion currency swap rollover for which neighboring country?

- (A) Sri Lanka
- (B) Bhutan
- (C) Maldives
- (D) Nepal

Answer: (C) Maldives

Explanation: India extended financial support to the Maldives by rolling over a ₹30 billion currency swap facility.

8. Who has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Nepal in October 2026?

- (A) Vinay Kwatra
- (B) Sudhakar Dalela
- (C) Vikram Misri
- (D) Gopal Baglay

Answer: (B) Sudhakar Dalela

Explanation: Senior diplomat Sudhakar Dalela was named India's envoy to Nepal.

9. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport terminal in which UT?

- (A) Jammu & Kashmir
- (B) Ladakh
- (C) Sikkim
- (D) Uttarakhand

Answer: (B) Ladakh

Explanation: The terminal was inaugurated at Leh, Ladakh as part of a ₹3,350 crore development package.

10. The 298-km Nimmu-Padum-Darcha strategic road connecting Ladakh was constructed by which organization?

- (A) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- (B) Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
- (C) CPWD
- (D) L&T Construction

Answer: (B) Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

Explanation: The strategic Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road was built by BRO to ensure all-weather connectivity.

11. Which state government launched the digital financial management systems MIWAS, e-Sanction, and e-Budget?

- (A) Assam
- (B) Mizoram
- (C) Meghalaya
- (D) Nagaland

Answer: (B) Mizoram

Explanation: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma launched 4 key digital public finance management initiatives.

12. Under the updated Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026, amendments were brought under which parent law?

- (A) Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969
- (B) Census Act, 1948
- (C) Representation of the People Act, 1951
- (D) Aadhaar Act, 2016

Answer: (B) Census Act, 1948

Explanation: The rules under the Census Act, 1948 were revised to broaden the personnel eligible for enumerator roles.

13. Which organization signed an MoU with NSDF and SAI with ₹40 crore assistance to support Indian Boxing talent?

- (A) Reliance Foundation
- (B) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
- (C) Tata Steel
- (D) NTPC Limited

Answer: (B) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)

Explanation: IOCL partnered with SAI and NSDF to invest ₹40 crore over 2 years in grassroots and elite boxing development.

14. Former Indian cricketer Punam Raut, who announced her retirement, played which predominant role?

- (A) Right-arm Fast Bowler
- (B) Top-order Batter
- (C) Wicketkeeper
- (D) All-rounder

Answer: (B) Top-order Batter

Explanation: Punam Raut was a top-order batter who represented India in three ODI World Cups and four T20 World Cups.

15. Jagsher Singh Khangurra won a Bronze medal at the 2026 BWF World Junior Championships in which sport?

- (A) Squash
- (B) Badminton
- (C) Table Tennis
- (D) Lawn Tennis

Answer: (B) Badminton

Explanation: Khangurra claimed the Boys' Singles bronze medal at Cairo, Egypt in the BWF World Junior Championships.

16. What is the upper financial assistance limit for a National Sports Federation hosting an international tournament in India under the revised NSF guidelines?

- (A) ₹10 crore
- (B) ₹25 crore
- (C) ₹50 crore
- (D) ₹100 crore

Answer: (C) ₹50 crore

Explanation: Up to ₹50 crore can be disbursed to an NSF for conducting major international sporting events within India.

17. Which Union Minister chaired the World Standards Day event where the "BIS Silver Refinery Scheme" was introduced?

- (A) Piyush Goyal
- (B) Pralhad Joshi
- (C) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- (D) Nitin Gadkari

Answer: (B) Pralhad Joshi

Explanation: Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Minister Pralhad Joshi released the standards.

18. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair has been elected as the Chair of which prestigious UNESCO panel?

- (A) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
- (B) UNESCO Indian Ocean Regional Panel
- (C) Global Maritime Heritage Council
- (D) World Climate Research Panel

Answer: (B) UNESCO Indian Ocean Regional Panel

Explanation: Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director of INCOIS, was chosen as the Chair.

19. What edition of Raising Day was celebrated by the National Security Guard (NSG) on 16 October 2026?

- (A) 38th
- (B) 40th
- (C) 42nd
- (D) 45th

Answer: (C) 42nd

Explanation: The NSG ("Black Cats") celebrated its 42nd Raising Day on 16 October.

20. The 14th High-Level Meeting between the Indian Coast Guard and the Korea Coast Guard was hosted in which city?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Incheon
- (C) Busan
- (D) Chennai

Answer: (B) Incheon

Explanation: The bilateral delegation meet took place in Incheon, South Korea.

21. Which foreign company's subsidiary is acquiring a 60.72% majority controlling stake in IDBI Bank for ₹52,878 crore?

- (A) Temasek Holdings
- (B) Fairfax Financial Holdings
- (C) SoftBank Group
- (D) Mubadala Investment Company

Answer: (B) Fairfax Financial Holdings

Explanation: Canada-based Fairfax Financial's subsidiary won the bidding process for acquiring controlling stakes held by Government and LIC.

22. Which entity signed an MoU with London Stock Exchange plc (LSE) for capital market dual connectivity?

- (A) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- (B) National Stock Exchange (NSE Mainboard)
- (C) NSE International Exchange (NSE IX)
- (D) India INX

Answer: (C) NSE International Exchange (NSE IX)

Explanation: NSE IX operating in GIFT City partnered with LSE to explore bidirectional market connections.

23. What additional joint research funding contribution did India commit during the 8th India-UK Science and Innovation Council?

- (A) £1 million
- (B) £3 million
- (C) £5 million
- (D) £10 million

Answer: (B) £3 million

Explanation: India pledged £3 million over 5 years toward Phase 2 of the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source project.

24. Under the amended India-Mauritius DTAA, which test was incorporated to prevent treaty shopping and illegal tax avoidance?

- (A) Limitation of Benefits (LOB)
- (B) Principal Purpose Test (PPT)
- (C) Arm's Length Pricing Test
- (D) Permanent Establishment Standard

Answer: (B) Principal Purpose Test (PPT)

Explanation: The PPT anti-abuse clause was officially introduced in the notified protocol.

25. Valency International Pte Ltd announced an investment of ₹350 crore in which state for an agro-processing and export hub?

- (A) Odisha
- (B) Chhattisgarh
- (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) Gujarat

Answer: (B) Chhattisgarh

Explanation: Singapore-based Valency International proposed setting up a cashew, groundnut, and pulse processing hub in Chhattisgarh.

26. Which fintech entity received RBI approval to operate as an NBFC within 90 days for climate and electric vehicle financing?

- (A) NovaFusion Capital
- (B) KrazyBee
- (C) CredAvail
- (D) EcoLend Finance

Answer: (A) NovaFusion Capital

Explanation: NovaFusion Capital, the lending arm of Astranova Mobility, secured NBFC status.

27. What is the maximum permitted time offset between UT1 and UTC mandated under CGPM's Continuous UTC decision starting late 2020s/2030s?

- (A) 60 seconds
- (B) 600 seconds
- (C) 3,600 seconds (1 hour)
- (D) 86,400 seconds

Answer: (C) 3,600 seconds (1 hour)

Explanation: Under CGPM resolutions removing leap seconds, the maximum drift tolerance is expanded to 1 hour.

28. World Students' Day is annually celebrated on October 15 to commemorate the birth anniversary of which Indian leader?

- (A) Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
- (B) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- (C) Swami Vivekananda
- (D) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Answer: (B) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Explanation: World Students' Day honors former Indian President and scientist Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

29. The Ministry of Rural Development signed an MoU with which national body to standardize training across RSETIs?

- (A) NABARD National Academy
- (B) National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR)
- (C) NITI Aayog Rural Wing
- (D) NIRDPR Hyderabad

Answer: (B) National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR)

Explanation: MoRD teamed with NAR to streamline capacity building across Rural Self Employment Training Institutes.

30. Komal won a Bronze medal in the Women's 59 kg freestyle event at the U23 World Wrestling Championships held in which location?

- (A) Las Vegas, USA
- (B) Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- (C) Budapest, Hungary
- (D) Tirana, Albania

Answer: (A) Las Vegas, USA

Explanation: Komal secured the bronze medal in the 59 kg category at Las Vegas.

