



PIB Current Affairs

July Fourth Week

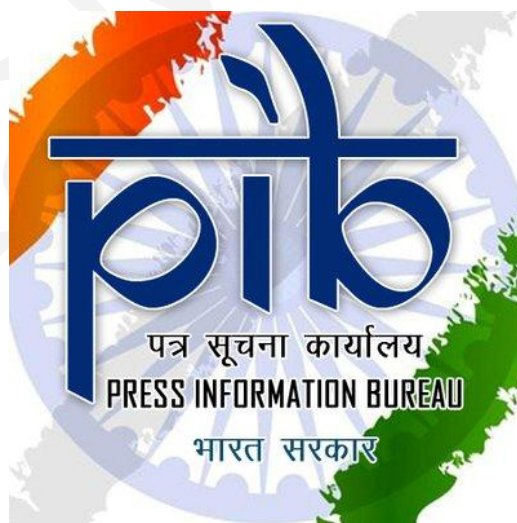


Table of Contents

India's Cotton Story.....	3
Awarding Body Recognition.....	4
Rajmarg Yatra Mobile App.....	5
New Series of Index of Core Industries	6
WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies	7
Mission Aagaman: Vikram-1	8
Welfare of Senior Citizens and PwDs.....	8
INSPIRE Program	9
Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program.....	10
Sarnath in UNESCO World Heritage List	11
BHAVYA – Rasayan Scheme	12
Urban Challenge Fund.....	13
Atmanirbhar Panchayat Program	15
PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme.....	16
Nutritional Standards under PM POSHAN.....	18
Digital Learning Initiatives	18
National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme	20
India's Performance in Structural and Pro-competitive Reforms	21
Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Act, 2026.....	21
DAANVEER	23
President of India Completed 4 Years of Service.....	24
Samudra Manthan.....	25
Extension of PM KISAN Scheme	26
Extension of Khelo India	27
PM Surya Sarovar Yojana	28
Initiatives under Nipun Bharat Mission.....	28
Questions in Short.....	29

India's Cotton Story

What: Cotton occupies a unique position in India's agricultural and industrial economy

Key Highlights

- India is the only country that cultivates all four recognized cotton species. These include –
 - **G. Arboreum** and **G. Herbaceum**, commonly referred to as **Asian cotton**.
 - **G. Barbadense**, known as **Egyptian cotton**
 - **G. Hirsutum**, known as **American upland cotton**
- India ranks first globally in acreage and second in production and consumption.
- Production in India – 290.91 lakh bales in 2025-26 (provisional).
 - Domestic consumption reached **328 lakh bales** during the same period.
 - The sector contributes nearly **19 percent** of global fibre production
- Due to its economic importance in India, it is also termed as **“White-Gold”**
- **Geographical Spread of Cotton Cultivation** - Cotton production in India is largely concentrated in 9 major states, grouped into 3 distinct agro-ecological zones –
 - **Northern Zone** comprising Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan
 - **Central Zone** comprising Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh
 - **Southern Zone** comprising Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka
- The USA emerged as the largest destination for Indian cotton fabrics
- MSP in cotton – MSP ensures remunerative prices when market rates fall below the announced support level.
 - Before each cotton year (Oct. to Sept.), MSP is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
 - **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)** undertakes MSP operations for cotton procurement

Key Initiatives for Cotton

Mission for Cotton Productivity

- It was launched in 2025-26 to strengthen cotton production nationwide
- The mission will cover **nearly 24 lakh hectares** across **140 districts in 14 cotton-producing states** and is expected to benefit around **32 lakh** farmers
- Target - Cotton production is targeted to increase from 297 lakh bales to 498 lakh bales by 2031

Special Project on Cotton under National Food Security Mission

- Since 2023-24, a Special Project on Cotton has been implemented under the National Food Security Mission
- It focuses on large-scale demonstrations of technologies suited to different agro-ecological zones.

- 8 major cotton-growing states across the country are covered

Kapas Kisan App

- It streamlines procurement under the MSP system and place farmers at the centre of the process.
- It enables cotton growers to complete self-registration and book procurement slots.

Kasturi Cotton Bharat

- It seeks to enhance the value and global positioning of Indian cotton through traceability, certification, and branding.
- Partnership – Ministry of Textiles, the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, and the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL).
- Outlay – Rs.30 crore, with Rs.15 crore contributed by trade and industry bodies

Q.) Which of the following statements is incorrect with respect to the Cotton in India?

- [a] India is the only country that cultivates all four recognized cotton species
- [b] Cotton Corporation of India undertakes MSP operations for cotton procurement
- [c] India ranks second globally in acreage and first in production and consumption
- [d] Cotton production in India is largely concentrated in 9 major states
- [e] The USA emerged as the largest destination for Indian cotton fabrics

Solution – [c]

Awarding Body Recognition

What: National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) has granted Awarding body recognition to different organizations

Key Highlights

- **Universities/Organizations/Institutions –**
 - GD Goenka University – Awarding Body (AB–Standard)
 - National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj – Awarding Body (AB - Dual)
 - National Institute of Technical Teachers’ Training and Research, Kolkata – Awarding Body (Dual)
 - Nettur Technical Training Foundation – Awarding Body (AB–Dual)
 - NIIT Foundation – Awarding Body (Dual)
 - Central Hindi Training Institute (CHTI), Department of Official Language – Awarding Body (Dual)

What is an Awarding Body?

- Awarding Body means an entity which awards or proposes to award certification to trainees for an NSQF aligned and approved qualification
- Recognition of an entity as an Awarding Body entitles the Awarding Body to award NCVET certificate to trainees
 - The certificates are awarded after successful completion of training and assessment of NSQF aligned and approved qualifications
- **Types of Recognition –**
 - **Standard** – The entity is authorized to award certificates to trainees after successful completion of training and assessment for an approved qualification
 - They also perform all such other functions of an Awarding Body as specified in the Awarding Body Guidelines and Operation Manual
 - **Dual** – The entity can award, assess and certify the learners where training is directly being imparted by the Awarding Body in campuses owned or fully managed by it.

Rajmarg Yatra Mobile App

What: NHAI has introduced two major citizen-centric features on the Rajmargyatra Mobile App

Features

- **Local Pass** – It enables eligible commuters to purchase the toll pass digitally through the Rajmarg Yatra Mobile App without visiting the toll plaza.
 - Residents living within a **20 km radius** of an eligible toll plaza will be able to purchase a 'Local Pass' digitally
 - The first facility of digital local toll pass has been introduced at the **Mundka – Bakkarwala Toll Plaza** in Delhi
 - It will be rolled out at other toll plazas across the country in the coming months
- **'MargMitra' Help Centre** – It is an intelligent digital assistance platform integrated within the Rajmargyatra Mobile App.
 - It will enable **commuters to access information, seek assistance and register grievances** through an intuitive conversational interface
 - Users can simply type or speak their queries, feedback or grievances in any of the **22 Indian languages**
 - The platform provides them with appropriate information or guides them to the relevant service.

Q.) NHAI has introduced two major citizen-centric features on the Rajmargyatra Mobile App. One of the features is the help centre, which will enable commuters to access information, seek assistance and register grievances through an intuitive conversational interface. Name the help centre.

- [a] Rajmarg Mitra
- [b] MargMitra
- [c] RahMitra
- [d] Rahgeer
- [e] SadakMitra

Solution – [b]

New Series of Index of Core Industries

What: Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT has released the revised series of Index of Core Industries with **Base Year 2022-23**

- The new series will replace the existing series of ICI with Base Year 2011- 12

About the Index

- The number of core industries have increased from eight to **nine** in the new series
 - Iron Ore industry has been included as the ninth core industry
- **Only Raw Coal** has been retained in the new series of ICI
 - Coal Middling and Washed Coal have been removed in order to avoid double counting
- **Release Date** – Provisional index of ICI for a reference month will be released on the 20th of the following month (if it is a working day, else on next working day)

Key Highlights

- Growth – ICI grew by 5.0% in June 2026 on a year-on-year basis
- Negative Growth - Natural Gas, Crude Oil, Refinery Products, and Fertilizers
- Positive Growth – Iron Ore, Electricity, Cement, Steel, and Coal
- Highest Growth – Iron Ore (43.9%)

Q.) Consider the following statements with respect to the revised series of Index of Core Industries and identify the correct statements

- (1) The new series has the base year as 2022-23
- (2) The number of core industries have increased from eight to nine in the new series
- (3) Aluminium has been added as the ninth industry

(4) Provisional index of ICI for a reference month will be released on the 20th of the following month

[a] Only 2 and 4

[b] Only 1 and 3

[c] Only 3 and 4

[d] Only 1, 2 and 4

[e] Only 2, 3 and 4

Solution – [d]

WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

What: India has become party to the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS) on 20th July 2026

About the Agreement

- **Objective** – It is the first multilateral WTO agreement with an environmental sustainability objective
 - It **prohibits government support to illegal fishing activities** and overexploitation of stocks, contributing to the protection of marine life
 - It focuses on subsidies related to marine wild capture fishing and fishing-related activities at sea.
 - It **prohibits subsidies linked to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU)** fishing and fishing of overfished stocks
 - Aquaculture and inland fisheries remain outside the scope of this Agreement.
- **Adopted** – 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva in June 2022
 - It entered into force on 15 September 2025 after acceptance by two-thirds of WTO Members
- India is the **123rd Member of the WTO** to deposit its Instrument of Acceptance

Q.) India has become party to the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS) on 20th July 2026. It prohibits subsidies linked to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and fishing of overfished stocks. When did this agreement come into force?

[a] 15th September 2024

[b] 31st December 2025

[c] 15th September 2025

[d] 15th August 2025

[e] 15th August 2024

Solution – [c]

Mission Aagaman: Vikram-1

What: Skyroot Aerospace has launched Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket

About the Mission

- Vikram-1, developed by **Skyroot Aerospace**, is India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle
- It is capable of placing **350 kg into Low Earth Orbit**
- It is built with an all-carbon composite structure, reliable solid-fuel boosters and a 3D-printed liquid engine
- The mission will deploy multiple customer payloads into LEO at an altitude of 450 kilometres (280 miles). These include –
 - Skyroot's SCOPE satellite
 - DCUBED's technology demonstration payload
 - Grahaa Space's SOLARAS S3 satellite
 - Cosmoserve Space's Embrace
- The maiden flight carried **two symbolic payloads** –
 - "Cosmic Bloom", a floral-shaped artwork
 - 18-karat gold micro-rocket

Q.) Name the mission under which Skyroot Aerospace has launched Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket.

- [a] Mission Prasthan
- [b] Mission Aagaman
- [c] Mission Savdhan
- [d] Mission Jeevan
- [e] Mission Vyom

Solution – [b]

Welfare of Senior Citizens and PwDs

What: Ministry of social justice and empowerment has taken several measures for welfare of senior citizens and PwDs

Initiatives

Pradhan Mantri Divyasha-Vayoshri Kendra

- These kendras are managed by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (**ALIMCO**)
- These centers provide **assistive devices, assessment services, and rehabilitation support** under one roof for senior citizens and persons with disabilities free of cost

National Action Plan for Skill Development of Divyangjan

- To enhance their skills for gainful employment and to facilitate their transition towards self-reliance and economic participation.
- Target Age Group - 15 to 59 years

Samarth (Respite Care Scheme)

- To provide respite care home for orphans or abandoned, families in crisis and also for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) from BPL & LIG families
 - The beneficiaries also include destitute with at least one of the four disabilities covered under the National Trust Act.
- Under the Scheme **Samarth Centres are set up for providing group home facility** for all age groups
- They are provided with adequate and quality care service with acceptable living standards including provision of basic medical care from professional doctors

Niramaya (Health Insurance Scheme)

- It is a **Health Insurance Scheme for persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disabilities and Multiple Disabilities.**
- Under the Scheme, **insurance cover of Rs.1 lakh** is provided
- Implemented by – **The National Trust**
- There is no age bar for enrolment under the scheme, and the treatment can be taken from any authorized medical practitioner/health care center.

INSPIRE Program

What: Ministry of Science & Technology is implementing Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Program

About the Program

- **Objective** – To nurture scientific talent and build scientific temper among students
- **Components** –
 - **INSPIRE MANAK** – It promotes scientific creativity among students of Classes VI to XII by encouraging original ideas and innovations.

- **INSPIRE Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)** - 12,000 scholarships are awarded every year to meritorious students pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate studies in natural and basic sciences
 - Amount of Scholarship – Rs.80,000
- **INSPIRE Fellowship** – It provides financial support for doctoral research for up to five years
- **INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship** – It enables outstanding postdoctoral researchers to undertake independent research with fellowship support and research grants

Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program

What: Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program is being implemented as a sub-scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission

About SVEP

- **Objective** – It supports SHGs and their family members in establishing small enterprises in the non-farm sector.
 - It provides financial assistance, institutional support, business management training, soft skill development, and business development services.
- **Launch Year** – 2016
- **Implementation** – It is implemented through the State Rural Livelihoods Missions
 - **Block level** – Block Resource Centres–Enterprise Promotion (BRC-EPs) coordinate program implementation
 - **Trained Community Resource Persons**–Enterprise Promotion provide technical assistance to the Block Resource Centres on enterprise promotion
 - CRP-EPs are selected jointly by SRLMs
 - At least 90% of CRP-EPs are selected from SHG households, with women constituting a minimum of 60% of the cadre.
 - Community institutions facilitate enterprise establishment and provide handholding support.
 - There is a community-based decision-making for funding and supporting enterprises locally
- **Women Beneficiaries** – At least 60% of beneficiaries are women
- **Financial Assistance** – **Rs.6.50 crore per block**; Rs.27,083 per enterprise

Q.) Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program supports SHGs and their family members in establishing small enterprises in the non-farm sector. It is being implemented as a sub-scheme of –

[a] DDU-GKY

[b] DAY-NRLM

[c] PM Vishwakarma

[d] PM Employment Generation Program

[e] MSME RAMP Scheme

Solution – [b]

Sarnath in UNESCO World Heritage List

What: India's official nomination for 2025-26 cycle, "Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath" got inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List

Key Highlights

- The **48th Session** of the World Heritage Committee took place at **Busan, South Korea**
- Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath is **India's 45th property** to receive this recognition
- With 45 sites in the List, India ranks 6th globally and 2nd in Asia Pacific Region for the most number of World Heritage Sites
- India also has **69 sites in the Tentative List** of the World Heritage
- Archaeological Survey of India is the nodal agency of all the World Heritage related matters in the country
- India became a member of the coveted **World Heritage Committee from 2021-25**
- India hosted for the first time the World Heritage Committee Meeting in July 2024 at New Delhi

About the Site

- It comprises two component parts
 - **Chaukhandi Stupa and the Archaeological Remains of Sarnath** (Dhamekh Stupa, Dharmrajika Stupa, Mulagandhakuti Vihara, Ashokan Pillar, etc.)
- It is located within **Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh
- It is the same place where Buddha delivered his first sermon known as the "Turning of the Wheel of the Law"

Q.) Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath got inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is India's 45th property to receive this recognition. India ranks globally and in Asia Pacific Region for the most number of World Heritage Sites.

- [a] 6th, 1st
- [b] 4th, 2nd
- [c] 5th, 1st
- [d] 2nd, 1st
- [e] 6th, 2nd

Solution – [e]

BHAVYA – Rasayan Scheme

What: The Union Cabinet has approved Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA) – Rasayan

- It was announced in Union Budget 2026-27

About the Scheme

- **Objective** – To promote development of the Chemical industry through shared Common Infrastructure Facilities and Basic Utilities
- Common Infrastructure Facilities – **Three dedicated Chemical Parks** will be established
- **Outlay** - Rs.3,030 crore
 - Rs.3,000 crore – For establishing the Common Infrastructure Facilities and Basic Utilities inside the park
 - Rs.1000 Crore per park
 - Minimum Rs.500 Crore by the concerned state government
 - Rs. 30 Crores – Administrative expenditure
- Minimum area of Park – **8km² (2000 Acres)**
- **Sustainable Development** – The scheme will creating an environment friendly ecosystem which will consist of –
 - Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility, and Hazardous Waste Management infrastructure etc.

Q.) Consider the following statements with respect to the BHAVYA-Rasayan scheme and identify the correct statements

(1) Three dedicated Chemical Parks will be established under the scheme

(2) Total outlay of the scheme is Rs.3030 Crores with per park expenditure being Rs.1010 Crores

(3) Minimum area of the park must be 1000 Acres

(4) The scheme will promote development of the Chemical industry through shared Common Infrastructure Facilities and Basic Utilities

[a] Only 2 and 3

[b] Only 2 and 4

[c] Only 1 and 4

[d] Only 3 and 4

[e] Only 1 and 3

Solution – [c]

Urban Challenge Fund

What: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched Operational Guidelines for the Urban Challenge Fund

About Urban Challenge Fund

- **Objective** – To improve urban development by encouraging cities to raise funds from the market instead of depending only on government grants.
 - It seeks to make cities financially strong and attractive for investment through reforms, better governance, improved planning, stronger institutions, and the creation of revenue-generating urban infrastructure
- **Outlay – Rs.1,00,000 Crores**
 - Central government's assistance is limited to **25% of the project cost**
 - At least **50% of the project cost** is funded from bonds, bank loans, and PPP
 - **Structure of Outlay –**
 - Projects: ₹90,000 crore
 - Project Preparation and Capacity Building at National, State/UT, and City levels: ₹5,000 crore
 - Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub-Scheme: ₹5,000 crore
- **Mission Period** – FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31, extendable by three years
- **Eligible Cities** –
 - All cities with a population of 10 lakh or more
 - All State and Union Territory capitals not covered above
 - Major industrial cities with a population of 1 lakh or more
 - All ULBs in hilly States, North-Eastern States, and smaller ULBs with population below 1 lakh

- **Selection of Projects** – Projects will be selected through a transparent and competitive challenge mode
- **Admissible Projects** – The Fund supports urban transformation through three verticals viz;
 - Cities as Growth Hubs
 - Creative Redevelopment of Cities
 - Water and Sanitation
- **Credit Repayment Guarantee Access Scheme** –
 - To facilitate first-time access to market finance for all Cities/ULBs in Northeastern & Hilly States and smaller ULBs (<1,00,000 population) in other States/UTs
 - Outlay – **Rs.5000 Crores**
 - Central Guarantee – The scheme will provide a Central guarantee of up to **₹7 crore or 70% of the loan amount** (whichever is lower) for first-time loans
 - On successful repayment of first loan, central guarantee of ₹7 crore or 50% of the loan amount (whichever is lower) will be provided.
 - Minimum Project cost for first time – Rs.20 Crores
 - Minimum Project cost for subsequent projects – Rs.28 Crores
- **Reform-Linked Funding Framework** – Funding under the Urban Challenge Fund is anchored to a comprehensive reforms like Governance and digital reforms, Market and financial reforms etc.

Q.) Consider the following statements with respect to the Urban Challenge Fund and identify the correct statements

- (1) The total central assistance will be Rs.1 Lakh Crores
- (2) The central assistance will be limited to 25% of the project cost, subject to raising minimum 50% of the project cost from market
- (3) The fund will be operationalized from FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31, extendable by 5 years
- (4) A Credit Repayment Guarantee Access Scheme will facilitate first-time access to market finance for all Cities/ULBs in Northeastern & Hilly States only

[a] Only 3 and 4

[b] Only 1 and 2

[c] Only 2 and 4

[d] Only 1 and 3

[e] Only 2 and 3

Solution – [b]

Atmanirbhar Panchayat Program

What: Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched the Atmanirbhar Panchayat Program

- SAMARTH Panchayat Portal and Model OSR (Own Source of Revenue) Rules for Panchayati Raj Institutions have also launched

About Atmanirbhar Panchayat Program

- It enables Gram Panchayats and Block Panchayats **to identify local assets and opportunities** and develop them into bankable, revenue-generating projects that build sustainable OSR
- Ministry will provide the technical support to the panchayats
- **Financing** – Public Private Partnerships, Corporate Social Responsibility contributions, convergence with other schemes and bank finance
- Institutional Partners – **HUDCO and NABARD**
- **Eligibility**
 - **Gram Panchayats** – Minimum OSR of Rs.50 lakh with at least three years of tenure remaining
 - Special Category States – Minimum OSR of Rs.10 Lakhs
 - **Block Panchayats** – Minimum OSR of Rs. 1 crore with at least three years of tenure remaining
 - Special Category States – Minimum OSR of Rs.20 Lakhs
- Duration of the Program – **4 years**
- Number of projects to be developed – **350**
 - 50 projects in the first year and 100 in each of the following three years
- **Maximum number of proposals** to be selected from a state –
 - Year 1 – 10
 - Year 2, 3 and 4 – 20

About Samarth Panchayat Portal

- It is a first-of-its-kind digital initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- It is designed to strengthen the financial capacity of Gram Panchayats through technology-enabled management of OSR
- It **enables Gram Panchayats to digitally manage the complete OSR** lifecycle –
 - from taxpayer registration and demand generation to online payments, collection and real-time monitoring
- Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh have already been onboarded on the portal

About Model OSR Rules

- These rules aim to support States in creating a transparent system for the assessment, collection and management of Panchayat revenues such as property tax, user charges, fees and other non-tax revenues.
- These are advisory in nature and may be adopted or adapted by States according to their local requirements
- Created based on the recommendations of 16th Finance Commission

Q.) Consider the following statements with respect to the Atmanirbhar Panchayat Program and identify the correct statements

(1) Gram Panchayats with minimum OSR of Rs.50 lakh with at least two years of tenure remaining are eligible

(2) The financing will be done through Public Private Partnerships, Corporate Social Responsibility contributions, convergence with other schemes and RBI Financing

(3) Total 350 projects shall be developed under the program

(4) HUDCO and NHB are the institutional partners of the program

[a] Only 1 and 4

[b] Only 2 and 3

[c] Only 3 and 4

[d] Only 2 and 4

[e] Only 1 and 3

Solution – [b]

PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme

What: The Government of India launched the PM-Vidyalaxmi, as a new central sector scheme in November 2024

About the Scheme

- **Objective** – To ensure that no student is denied the opportunity to pursue higher education due to financial constraints
- Under the scheme, education loan is provided to all students who get merit-based admission in top Quality Higher Education Institutions
- Loans are **collateral free and guarantor free**
- **Eligibility** – Family Income of the student must not exceed **Rs.8 Lakhs per annum**
- Interest Subvention – **3% on loans up to Rs.10 lakh**
- Number of scholarships in a year – **1 Lakh** (Targeted number of students – 7 Lakh)

- Outlay – **Rs.3600 Crores** (for the period of 2024-25 to 2030-31)
- Portal – PM Vidyalaxmi portal is operational since 25th February 2025
 - Students can apply for the education loan as well as interest subvention, through a simplified application process to be used by all banks
 - At present, on the Portal, 12 Public Sector Banks, 20 Private Banks, 25 Regional Rural Banks and 7 Cooperative banks have been onboarded

About PM Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans

- Department of Higher Education is implementing the PM Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans
- Central Government gives guarantee for the education loans availed by students
- The guarantee is provided collateral free for a maximum loan limit of Rs 7.5 lakh
- Guarantee cover to the extent of 75% of the loan amount is provided

Q.) How much percent interest subvention is provided under PM-Vidyalaxmi Yojana on education loans up to Rs.10 lakh?

- [a] 2.5%
- [b] 2%
- [c] 1%
- [d] 3%
- [e] 3.5%

Solution – [d]

Q.) Department of Higher Education is implementing the PM Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education loans. Up to how much percent of the loan amount is provided as guarantee cover under the scheme?

- [a] 50%
- [b] 25%
- [c] 75%
- [d] 100%
- [e] 80%

Solution – [c]

Nutritional Standards under PM POSHAN

What: PM POSHAN Scheme is being implemented by ministry of education in partnership with the State Governments and UT Administrations

- Under the scheme hot meals are provided to the children studying in Bal Vatika (just before class 1) and classes I to VIII of Government and Government aided schools
- The responsibility for providing hot and nutritious meals to the students, lies with the State Governments and UT Administrations

Nutritional Standards

Items	Primary Classes	Upper Primary Classes
Calories	450	700
Protein	12 grams	20 grams

Quantum of Food Norms (Per child per day)

Items	Primary Classes	Upper Primary Classes
Food Grains	100 grams	150 grams
Pulses	20 grams	30 grams
Vegetables	50 grams	75 grams
Oils & Fats	5 grams	7.5 grams
Salt & Condiments	As per needs	As per needs

Q.) According to the nutritional standards under PM POSHAN, a meal for a student of primary class shall have calories and gram of protein.

- [a] 700, 12
- [b] 450, 12
- [c] 700, 20
- [d] 450, 20
- [e] 450, 10

Solution – [b]

Digital Learning Initiatives

What: Ministry of education is implementing initiatives for expansion of Digital Learning, Research and Creative Technology

About the Initiatives

Prime Minister Research Chair Scheme

- It aims to **support researchers and professionals** of Indian origin having experience outside of India in **3 categories** –
 - Young Research Fellows (up to 5 years of post-Ph.D. experience required)
 - Senior Fellows (post Ph.D. experience from 5 to 10 years required)
 - Research Chairs (post Ph.D. experience of more than 10 years)
- The fellowship is provided in 13 thematic areas of engineering, science and technology

AVGC Content Creator Labs

- In Union Budget 2026–27, the government announced the establishment of AVGC Content Creator Labs in **15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges**
- These will be established in collaboration with the **Indian Institute of Creative Technologies, Mumbai**
- The labs will equip students with industry-relevant skills in animation, visual effects, gaming and comics

MERITE

- Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education scheme
- Objective – To improve the quality, equity and governance in 275 technical institutions
- Outlay – **Rs.4200 Crores**

PM eVidya and DIKSHA

- To enhance digital learning in government schools across the country, including the rural, remote and tribal areas

NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement)

- To enhance the professional competencies of teachers and school leaders in India, to improve the overall quality of school education.

Q.) Ministry of education is implementing MERITE scheme to improve the quality, equity and governance in 275 technical institutions with an outlay of Rs.4200 Crores. What does “M” stand for in MERITE?

[a] Multidisciplinary

[b] Multiple

[c] Mutual

[d] Multi

[e] Manage

Solution – [a]

National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme

What: The Government of India has approved the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme

About the Scheme

- **Objective** – For developing forensic infrastructure including National Forensic Sciences University and Central Forensic Science Laboratories
 - **9 campuses** of the National Forensic Sciences University
 - **7 Central** Forensic Science Laboratories
- Duration – **2024-25 to 2028-29**
- Outlay – Rs.2254.43 crore
- **Location of 9 campuses of NFSU** –
 - Nagpur (Maharashtra)
 - Raipur (Chhattisgarh)
 - Khordha (Odisha)
 - Chengalpattu (Tamil Nadu)
 - Rajasthan
 - Bihar
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - West Bengal
- **Location of 7 CFSUs**
 - Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Khordha (Odisha), Chengalpattu (Tamil Nadu), Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala

Q.) The Government of India has approved the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme for developing forensic infrastructure including National Forensic Sciences University and Central Forensic Science Laboratories. How many campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University and how many Central Forensic Science Laboratories are going to be established respectively under the scheme?

[a] 7, 9

[b] 9, 7

[c] 8, 5

[d] 5, 8

[e] 9, 6

Solution – [b]

India's Performance in Structural and Pro-competitive Reforms

What: India's Next Growth Frontier: Reducing Anti-Competitive Market Distortions to Build on India's 2010–2023 Reform Progress has been released by the Competere Foundation

Key Highlights

- India has advanced **25 places in the global rankings**, from 82nd to 57th
- This reflects significant progress in structural and pro-competitive reforms between 2010 and 2023
- The report evaluates market distortions **across three broad pillars** –
 - Property rights protection
 - Domestic competition
 - International competition
- It highlights reforms such as the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code etc.

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Act, 2026

What: The parliament has passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026

Key Highlights

- The act further strengthens the provisions of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024
- Fast Tracked Investigation –
 - Speedy trial through Special Fast Track Courts
 - Appointment of Special Public Prosecutors
 - Time-bound disposal of appeals
 - More stringent penal provisions to effectively deter unfair means and organized malpractices in public examinations
- Punishment for persons resorting to unfair means – **Not less than five years**, extendable up to ten years
 - Maximum Fine – **Rs.50 Lakhs**

- Punishment for service providers found involved in offences under the Act –
 - Maximum Fine – **Rs.5 Crores**
 - Debarment from conducting any public examination for eight years
- Punishment for managerial personnel of service providers –
 - Imprisonment for a term of not less than five years, extendable up to ten years
 - Maximum Fine – **Rs.5 Crores**
- Punishment for Organized crime and exam-fraud syndicate
 - Jail term of 7 to 10 years, with a fine of at least **Rs.10 crores**
- Central Government may refer the investigation of offences under the Act to a Special Task Force constituted for this purpose
- **Section 12 A** – A new section 12 A has been inserted which provides for –
 - Completion of investigation within two months
 - Designation of Courts of Session as Special Fast Track Courts for day-to-day trial of offences under the Act
 - Completion of trial within three months from the date of filing of the charge sheet
 - Appointment of Special Public Prosecutors for every Special Fast Track Court
- **Section 12 B** – A new section 12 B has been inserted which provides –
 - That appeals against any judgment, order or sentence of a Special Fast Track Court may be preferred before the High Court within a period of thirty days
 - Shall be disposed of within a period of three months

Q.) Consider the following statements with respect to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 and identify the correct statements

(1) It provides for a maximum fine of Rs.1 Crores for service providers found involved in offences under the act

(2) Central Government may refer the investigation of offences under the Act to a Special Task Force constituted for the offence

(3) It provides for Completion of investigation within three months

(4) The Punishment for persons resorting to unfair means is not less than five years, extendable up to ten years

[a] Only 2 and 4

[b] Only 1 and 3

[c] Only 1 and 4

[d] Only 2 and 3

[e] Only 3 and 4

Solution – [a]

DAANVEER

What: Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched DAANVEER Initiative

About DAANVEER

- **Objective** – To strengthen the digital infrastructure of Gram Panchayats
 - It is a transparent, end-to-end digital and verifiable platform that enables citizens and organizations to contribute towards the identified technology and infrastructure needs of Gram Panchayats in India
- **Developed** – It has been developed in collaboration with the **National Informatics Centre and DigiHaat**.
 - DigiHaat is an Indian e-commerce shopping and buyer app built on the Open Network for Digital Commerce network.
 - It is developed by Nirmat Bharat, a government-backed, not-for-profit subsidiary
- **Tagline** - ***"Give Back to Your Village"***
- **Implementation** –
 - It enables individuals and organizations to contribute standardized, quality-verified computer bundles directly to eligible Gram Panchayats.
 - The initiative integrates the Meri Panchayat app with the DigiHaat marketplace
 - It allows donors to choose from pre-approved computer bundles that are mapped to State-specific technical specifications
 - Donors can also track their contribution from dispatch to installation and receive a digital certificate of appreciation

Q.) Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched DAANVEER Initiative. It has been developed in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre and DigiHaat. What is the tagline of this initiative?

- [a] Together for Stronger Villages
- [b] Donate Today, Empower Tomorrow
- [c] Your Contribution, Village Transformation
- [d] Empowering Rural India Through Giving
- [e] Give Back to Your Village

Solution – [e]

President of India Completed 4 Years of Service

What: The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu completed four years in the Office on July 25, 2026

- To mark this occasion, the President graced the inauguration and laying of foundation stones for various important initiatives

Key Highlights

- **Launch of e-Audio Guide for visitors** – It will be available in Hindi, English and 14 other Indian languages. Its sign language module will also be available for visitors
- **Third edition of e-Upahaar** – 300 curated Presidential gifts for public auction
- **Bachpan 'Bal Parisar'** – It has been launched for children in the President's Estate. It includes –
 - Kilkari – It is a play zone for children
 - Samarth Anganwadi-cum-Palna – It provides a safe and nurturing environment for their growth and development
- **RAAHI** (Rashtrapati Bhavan Access And Heritage Interconnector) – A fare-free electric bus service to promote green and inclusive mobility.
 - This bus service for the staff and residents of the President's Estate is being operated by women drivers and conductors.
- **Publications Released** –
 - Rashtrapati Bhavan: Rashtra Ka Bhavan (President Droupadi Murmu's first year of Presidency)
 - Seva Aur Samvedana (President's second year of Presidency)
 - Samaveshi Sahbhaghita (President's Third year of Presidency)
 - Bharatiyata Ka Utsav (President's Fourth year of Presidency)
 - Ama Rashtrapati - Ama Gourav

Q.) Name the initiative launched by the President of India, which is a fare-free electric bus service to promote green and inclusive mobility.

[a] RAASTA

[b] SAFAR

[c] RAAHI

[d] SADAK

[e] HUMSAFAR

Solution – [c]

Samudra Manthan

What: The Union Cabinet has approved “Samudra Manthan” the National Offshore Exploration Scheme

About the Scheme

- **Objective** – To increase India's domestic oil and gas production
- **Outlay** – **Rs.84,084 crore** (Central Sector Scheme)
- **Ministry** – Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
- **Duration** – **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**

- **Components** –
 - Acquisition and processing of **modern offshore seismic data**
 - Outlay of Rs.28,534 crore
 - Drilling of 60 **deepwater exploration wells**
 - Allocation of Rs.43,200 crore
 - This includes government support of up to 50% of eligible drilling cost or Rs.675 crore per well, whichever is lower
 - Development of **common offshore infrastructure hubs**
 - Outlay of Rs.10,000 crore
 - Establishment of **Oil and Gas Manufacturing and Services Zones** to promote domestic manufacturing and localization of critical equipment and services
 - Outlay of Rs.2,000 crore

- **Targets** –
 - To increase India's domestic oil and gas production from around 62 MMTOE to 80 MMTOE annually
 - MMTOE – Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent
 - To expand the country's hydrocarbon resource base from 1.6 billion TOE to 2.2 billion TOE
 - Tonnes of Oil Equivalent
 - The additional production has the potential to reduce crude oil imports by nearly Rs.1 lakh crore annually

Q.) Consider the following statements with respect to the “Samudra Manthan” the National Offshore Exploration Scheme and identify the correct statements

- (1) It has been launched to increase India's domestic oil and gas production with an outlay of Rs.82,084 Crores
- (2) For Drilling of 60 deepwater exploration wells, Rs.28,534 crore has been allocated
- (3) The nodal ministry will be Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

(4) The target is to increase India's domestic oil and gas production from around 62 MMT0E to 80 MMT0E annually

[a] Only 2 and 3

[b] Only 1 and 4

[c] Only 2 and 4

[d] Only 1 and 4

[e] Only 3 and 4

Solution – [c]

Extension of PM KISAN Scheme

What: The Union Cabinet has approved continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme

Key Highlights

- The scheme has been approved for continuation from **FY 2026-27 to 2030-31**
- Outlay for the period – **Rs.3.15 lakh crores**
- **Key Achievements –**
 - More than Rs.4.47 lakh crore has been transferred directly into farmers' bank accounts through 23 instalments under the Scheme
 - Under the 23rd instalment, more than 9.49 crore farmers benefited, with over Rs.18,984 crore released
 - Women farmers have received more than Rs.1.06 lakh crore under PM-KISAN
 - Nearly one out of every four beneficiaries is a woman farmer

Q.) The Union Cabinet has approved continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme. The scheme has been approved for continuation from FY 2026-27 to 2030-31 with an outlay of –

[a] Rs.8.69 Lakh Crores

[b] Rs.11.80 Lakh Crores

[c] Rs.3.60 Lakh Crores

[d] Rs.3.15 Lakh Crores

[e] Rs.2.45 Lakh Crores

Solution – [d]

Extension of Khelo India

What: The Union Cabinet has approved the expanded Khelo India Scheme and enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations with a combined outlay of Rs.36,441 crore

Key Highlights

- The combined scheme is a comprehensive athlete development pathway, created to support young sportspersons at every stage
- **New initiatives for School Sports –**
 - Khelo India Feeder Schools and Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas
 - These initiatives will integrate sports with mainstream education
- **Emerging Khelo India Athletes category –** This new category shall be created alongside the existing Khelo India Athletes program
 - This will expand the structured athlete development ecosystem, bringing thousands of additional young athletes under professional coaching, scientific support and long-term mentoring
- The scheme also provides support for organizing the National Games and hosting major international sporting events in India
- **Fit India Movement –** It will be significantly expanded to promote fitness as a nationwide movement, particularly among young people
- **National Coach Accreditation Board –** It will be established to standardize coaching qualifications and improve professional standards

Q.) Which of the following statements is incorrect with respect to the expanded Khelo India Scheme and enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations?

[a] Both the scheme will have a combined outlay of Rs.26,441 crore

[b] Emerging Khelo India Athletes category shall be created

[c] National Coach Accreditation Board will be established to standardize coaching qualifications and improve professional standards

[d] Fit India Movement will be significantly expanded to promote fitness as a nationwide movement

[e] Khelo India Feeder Schools and Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas will be launched for school sports

Solution – [a]

PM Surya Sarovar Yojana

What: The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana

About the Scheme

- **Objective** – To develop 5,000 MW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic projects with co-located Energy Storage Systems having a minimum storage capacity of two hours i.e., 10,000 MWh
- **Outlay – Rs.5070 Crores**
- **Projects will be sanctioned during FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**
 - However, disbursement of financial support will continue up to FY 2032-33
- **Financial Assistance – Rs.1 Crore** per MW will be provided for eligible Floating Solar Photovoltaic projects
 - Central Financial Assistance of up to **Rs.50 lakh per project** will be available for undertaking feasibility studies
- **Expected Outcomes –**
 - It would enhance the floating Solar PV capacity in the country by 5,000 MW, which is presently around 700 MW only.
 - Around 10 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions shall be reduced annually
 - 16,000–17,000 full-time employment opportunities shall be created

Q.) The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana to develop 5,000 MW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic projects. How much financial assistance per MW will be provided for eligible Floating Solar Photovoltaic projects?

[a] Rs.1.5 Crores

[b] Rs.1 Crore

[c] Rs.2 Crores

[d] Rs.2.5 Crores

[e] Rs.3 Crores

Solution – [b]

Initiatives under Nipun Bharat Mission

What: Various initiatives are being undertaken under the NIPUN Bharat Mission to achieve universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

About the Initiatives

Vidya Pravesh

- It is a 3-month play based 'School Preparation Module and Guidelines' for Grade I

- Its objective is to promote school preparedness in all children coming to Grade-I from diverse backgrounds (Balvatika, Anganwadi Centers (AWCs), at home, private play schools etc.)
- It is being implemented across the country

Jaadui Pitara

- It is a collection of **Learning Teaching Material (LTM) for 3 to 6 years age group**
- It is a box having 53 LTM for the foundational stage like toys, games, puzzles, puppets, posters, flashcards etc.
- It also consists of a Trainer's Handbook 'Unmukh' which is a comprehensive guide for the trainers
- **e-JaaduiPitara** – It is a mobile based application and website with play-based pedagogy and a way to disseminate the learning of Jaadui Pitara

Play and activity-based textbooks for classes 1 and 2

- Hindi - "Sarangi"
- English - "Mridang"
- "Mathematics – Joyful-Mathematics and Anandmay-Ganit"
- Urdu - "Shahnai"

Primers

- Primers have been developed in 121 local languages for FLN learning in mother tongue.
- These are languages spoken by at least 10,000 population

Questions in Short

Q.) What will be the theme of the 10th edition of India Mobile Congress 2026, scheduled to be held in October 2026 in New Delhi?

- [a] Connecting the Intelligent Future
- [b] Scale without boundaries
- [c] Innovating for a Hyperconnected World
- [d] Digital India: Beyond Connectivity
- [e] Empowering the Future through Next-Gen Networks

Solution – [b]

- The 10th edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026 is anchored around four key pillars –
 - Srishti – Building the Future, which will focus on fostering innovation, emerging technologies
 - Suraksha – Strengthening Trust, which will underscore the importance of secure digital ecosystems
 - Sashakt – Expanding Opportunities, aimed at leveraging technology to empower citizens, businesses, startups and communities
 - Samvardhan – Fueling Growth, which will highlight the role of digital technologies in driving economic growth

Q.) Ministry of Communications has conferred Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Excellence Awards on two organizations. Which of the following is one of the two organizations?

- [a] Saankhya Labs
- [b] QuNu Labs
- [c] Exotel
- [d] Astrome
- [e] Finaara

Solution – [e]

- The second organization is Amantya Technologies Pvt Ltd

Q.) To which country, APEDA has facilitated the export of Assam's Purabi Ice Cream?

- [a] Nepal
- [b] Sri Lanka
- [c] Afghanistan
- [d] Bhutan
- [e] China

Solution – [d]

Q.) YUVIKA program was successfully conducted at nine ISRO Centers, to provide exposure to students to space science, technology, and applications through experiential learning. What does YUVIKA stand for?

- [a] Yuva Vigyani Karyakram
- [b] Young Visionaries in Aerospace Knowledge and Innovation

[c] Yuva Vigyan Innovation Kendra Abhiyan

[d] Youth for Vision and Innovation in Knowledge Advancement

[e] Yuva Vigyan Kendra Initiative

Solution – [a]

Q.) Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan'. It aims to inspire youth to stay away from substance abuse and encourage them to become ambassadors of positive social change in their communities. It will be a nationwide Jan Bhagidari campaign against substance abuse

[a] 3 Months

[b] 50 Weeks

[c] 100 Weeks

[d] 21 Days

[e] 51 Weeks

Solution – [c]

- Under the campaign, weekly activities will be organized every Sunday across the country

Q.) Who has been appointed as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff?

[a] Air Marshal Tejpal Singh

[b] Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry

[c] Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor (Walia)

[d] Air Marshal Jasvir Singh Mann

[e] Air Marshal PV Shivanand

Solution – [a]

Q.) Name the operation carried out by Central Bureau of Narcotics, Madhya Pradesh Unit, to dismantle medicine/illegal counterfeit medicine godowns and one illicit manufacturing facility operating in Gaya and Masaurhi, Bihar?

[a] Operation Kayakalp

[b] Operation Prahar

[c] Operation Prakhar

[d] Operation Vajra

[e] Operation Vijeta

Solution – [d]

Q.) Ministry of health and family welfare has reviewed the project SARATHI. What is the objective of the project?

[a] To improve patient experience through trained youth volunteers while strengthening community participation

[b] To provide telemedicine consultations in rural and tribal health centres

[c] To create a digital referral network connecting primary and tertiary healthcare facilities

[d] To train Accredited Social Health Activists in emergency medical response and first aid

[e] To establish a nationwide patient feedback and hospital quality monitoring system

Solution – [a]

Q.) Who has been awarded the *Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026* for his invaluable contribution to Nation's Security?

[a] Parag Jain

[b] Ajit Doval

[c] Mahesh Dixit

[d] General Dhiraj Seth

[e] General N. S. Raja Subramani

Solution – [b]

Q.) The financial health of RRBs has improved in the recent years. RRBs posted the highest ever consolidated net profit of during FY 2025-26.

[a] Rs.10,177 Crores

[b] Rs.12,345 Crores

[c] Rs.11,456 Crores

[d] Rs.13,679 Crores

[e] Rs.9,177 Crores

Solution – [a]

Q.) Which institute has signed an MoU with Centre for Development of Telematics and Foundation for Science Innovation and Development for establishment of a Centre of Excellence to Advance Indigenous Telecom R&D?

- [a] IISC Bengaluru
- [b] IIT Delhi
- [c] IIM Ahmedabad
- [d] AICTE
- [e] UGC

Solution – [a]

- With this initiative, C-DOT has now established five Centres of Excellence
- The other four have been established with IIT Hyderabad, IIT Kanpur, IIT Gandhinagar, and IIT Roorkee

Q.) At which IIT, Ministry of Textiles has inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Handloom Technology, which aims to integrate India's rich handloom heritage with cutting-edge research, innovation and digital technologies?

- [a] IIT Bombay
- [b] IIT Delhi
- [c] IIT Gandhinagar
- [d] IIT Ropar
- [e] IIT Roorkee

Solution – [b]

- Ministry also launched –
 - **HandloomX** – It is an accelerator and incubation platform to nurture startups and innovations across the handloom value chain
 - **Handloom e-Vidya** – It is a problem-linked digital learning and knowledge hub that provides practical, curated solutions for weavers and students
 - **Kalagriha Handloom Studio (GenZ Design Studio)** – It is aimed at connecting handloom with next-generation consumers through digital visualization
 - **Threads of Valour** – It is an initiative promoting circularity by transforming recycled defence textiles into premium handloom products

Q.) Name the second Diving Support Vessel, built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, delivered to the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam.

- [a] Nistar
- [b] Nishan
- [c] Nisha
- [c] Naveen
- [e] Nipun

Solution – [e]

- The first Diving Support Vessel was Nistar

Q.) Department of Telecommunications and the Government of Madhya Pradesh have signed an MoU for the establishment of a Telecom Manufacturing Zone. In which district of MP, the zone will be established?

- [a] Vidisha
- [b] Jabalpur
- [c] Raisen
- [d] Gwalior
- [e] Bhopal

Solution – [d]

- It will be a 350-acre plug-and-play industrial cluster, designed to provide world-class infrastructure and a conducive ecosystem for telecom and electronics manufacturing
- A Special Purpose Vehicle for the TMZ will be established with
 - 51% equity from the Government of Madhya Pradesh
 - 49% from the Department of Telecommunications

Q.) Maritime Development Fund has been established for providing long term financing support to shipbuilding and maritime sector comprising of Maritime Investment Fund of and Interest Incentivization Fund of

- [a] Rs.15000 Crores, Rs.10000 Crores
- [b] Rs.20000 Crores, Rs.5000 Crores
- [c] Rs.5000 Crores, Rs.25000 Crores
- [d] Rs.10000 Crores, Rs.20000 Crores
- [e] Rs.20000 Crores, Rs.10000 Crores

Solution – [b]

Q.) To address the growing demand for skilled elderly care professionals, PM-SPECIAL (System of Providing Elder Care in House and Assisted Living) scheme is being implemented. Under the scheme, geriatric caregivers are being trained, strengthening the country's professional caregiving ecosystem and expanding quality elder care services. Which ministry is implementing PM-SPECIAL?

- [a] Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- [b] Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- [c] Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- [d] Ministry of Finance
- [e] Ministry of Women & Child Development

Solution – [c]

Q.) To which country, APEDA facilitated the first-ever sea shipment of value-added flavoured Makhana from Darbhanga, Bihar?

- [a] USA
- [b] UAE
- [c] Oman
- [d] Australia
- [e] Canada

Solution – [e]

Q.) The Index of Industrial Production growth rate for the month of June 2026 is 7.3%. The IIP is released on 28th of every month. What is the base year of IIP?

- [a] 2021-22
- [b] 2022-23
- [c] 2023-24
- [d] 2024
- [e] 2020-21

Solution – [b]

Q.) India has emerged as the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers, according to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026. India ranks behind only the and ahead of China, the Russian Federation and Indonesia.

- [a] Philippines
- [b] Malaysia
- [c] China
- [d] Russia
- [e] Singapore

Solution – [a]

- India contributes 311,936 maritime professionals to the global shipping industry
- It accounts for 12.16% of the global seafaring workforce
- India ranks behind only the Philippines and ahead of China, the Russian Federation and Indonesia
- In 2015, India contributed only 5.2% of the world's seafarers and ranked fifth globally
- The Government is now pursuing **Mission 20%** to increase India's share of the global seafaring workforce from 12.16% to 20%

Q.) How many states/UTs have signed MoUs for the implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application?

- [a] 31
- [b] 32
- [c] 33
- [d] 34
- [e] 35

Solution – [c]

Q.) Ministry of commerce and industry has announced the setting up of a task force to support the toy sector and identify interventions towards achieving the goal of reaching a 5% share in the global toy market by –

- [a] 2030
- [b] 2032
- [c] 2035
- [d] 2034

[e] 2038

Solution – [b]

Q.) Government of India in partnership with states has been implementing Jal Jeevan Mission since 2019. How many litres of potable water per capita per day is targeted to be provided to every rural household under the mission?

[a] 50

[b] 55

[c] 45

[d] 60

[e] 65

Solution – [b]

Q.) Who has been appointed as the chairperson of high-powered task force on exam reforms?

[a] Nandan Nilekani

[b] S Somnath

[c] Tapan Deka

[d] P Dass

[e] Arjun Kilhor

Solution – [a]

- Other members are –
 - Former ISRO Chairman S Somnath
 - Former IB director Tapan Deka
 - IIT Chennai director V. Kamakoti
 - Former Education Secretary Anita Karwal
 - Logistics expert Amrit Lal Meena

Q.) With which airline, Ministry of Tourism has signed an MoU to establish a strategic framework to promote India as a preferred global tourism destination under the Incredible India brand?

[a] Indigo

[b] Vistara

[c] Singapore Airlines

[d] Spicejet

[e] Air India

Solution – [e]

- Duration of the MoU – 2 Years

Q.) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation has approved extension of the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana from 01.07.2026 to

[a] 30.09.2026

[b] 31.12.2026

[c] 30.06.2027

[d] 31.03.2027

[e] 01.07.2027

Solution – [c]

- Under this scheme relief in the form of cash compensation to the extent of 50% of the average per day earnings is provided
- The compensation is paid up to a maximum of 90 days of unemployment subject to conditions –
 - The employee should have completed 12 months of Insurable employment
 - Has contributed not less than 78 days in each of the three consecutive contribution periods immediately preceding to the claim of the relief
- The unemployment must not arise from misconduct, during lock out, superannuation, or convicted for false statement

Q.) The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) Scheme provides access to over 13,000 journals from 32 publishers to all eligible institutions. In which year, the scheme was launched?

[a] 2022

[b] 2023

[c] 2024

[d] 2025

[e] 2026

Solution – [d]

Q.) Which state has become the first state to become eligible for the second installment under RKVY, achieving over 75+ per cent overall utilization of RKVY funds within the stipulated time?

- [a] Gujarat
- [b] Madhya Pradesh
- [c] Maharashtra
- [d] Haryana
- [e] Punjab

Solution – [c]

- A state needs to utilize at least 75% of the funds allocated in first installment under RKVY, to become eligible for the second installment
- Maharashtra was allocated Rs.335 crore as the first installment under RKVY. It has utilized Rs.260 crore, exceeding the prescribed 75% utilization benchmark

Q.) NHAI launched the unique '*Clean Toilet Picture Challenge*' in September 2025 to encourage National Highway users to actively report unclean toilet facilities at the toll plazas along National Highways. The challenge has been extended till –

- [a] 30th June 2027
- [b] 31st December 2026
- [c] 31st October 2026
- [d] 31st March 2027
- [e] 31st December 2027

Solution – [a]

- Users can upload clear, geo-tagged, and time-stamped photographs of unclean toilets through the latest version of the *Rajmargyatra* Mobile App
- Each eligible vehicle registration number reporting such an instance receives a reward of Rs.1,000 in the form of a FASTag recharge credited to the linked Vehicle Registration Number

Q.) Where has National Disaster Management Authority has hosted the BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction under India's BRICS Chairship?

- [a] Bengaluru
- [b] Varanasi
- [c] Hyderabad

[d] Mumbai

[e] New Delhi

Solution – [e]

- Udaipur Declaration (2016) established a Joint Task Force on Disaster Risk Management
- Kazan Declaration (2024) institutionalized the BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction Group

Q.) Ministry of social justice and empowerment inaugurated five Senior Citizen Homes in five states, expanding institutional care and support infrastructure for elderly citizens across the country. Which of the following is not one of the five states?

[a] Tamil Nadu

[b] Madhya Pradesh

[c] Maharashtra

[d] Assam

[e] Jharkhand

Solution – [b]

- The five states are – Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand
- The ministry also launched "**Naitik Patham**", an interactive educational game designed to promote meaningful interaction between younger and older generations
- A cultural program titled "**Aradhana**" was also organized to celebrate the invaluable contribution of senior citizens to society

Q.) Which university has recently conferred an Honorary Doctorate on the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu?

[a] Harvard University

[b] Imperial College, London

[c] Bucharest University of Economic Studies

[d] Delhi University

[e] Banaras Hindu University

Solution – [c]

Q.) Nandyal District Strengthens Water Conservation Infrastructure and Storage Capacity under Catch the Rain Campaign. In which state, Nandyal district located?

- [a] Karnataka
- [b] Andhra Pradesh
- [c] Punjab
- [d] Haryana
- [e] Sikkim

Solution – [b]

Q.) As of July 2026, under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission, how many Self-Help Groups have been formed across the country, covering 10.05 crore rural women?

- [a] 1 Crore
- [b] 99 Lakhs
- [c] 85 Lakhs
- [d] 92 Lakhs
- [e] 67 Lakhs

Solution – [d]

Q.) Name the café inaugurated by Ministry of Ayush, aimed at promoting healthy dietary practices inspired by Ayush Ahaar

- [a] Aahar Café
- [b] Ayush Café
- [c] Prakriti Café
- [d] Vikas Café
- [e] Swasthya Café

Solution – [c]

- The café offers a range of fresh and wholesome food options inspired by the Ayush Ahaar initiative, which seeks to promote nutritious dietary practices rooted in India's traditional knowledge systems.

Q.) Name the report released by Ministry of Coal, which presents India's first comprehensive documentation of scientific mine closure and repurposing practices.

- [a] Aaroh
- [b] Aagrah
- [c] Vishwas
- [d] Sammaan
- [e] Pratigya

Solution – [a]

- It has been developed by the Coal Controller Organisation
- An MoU has been signed between India and Germany for technical cooperation on 'To-be closed mines'

Q.) Name the citizen-focused platform providing location-specific, hyperlocal weather forecasts down to the village level. It delivers hourly forecasts for the next 36 hours, three-hourly forecasts for the next five days, and six-hourly forecasts for up to ten days.

- [a] Ritugram
- [b] Varshagram
- [c] Mausampanchayat
- [d] Mausamgram
- [e] Jalgram

Solution – [d]

- IMD has developed various mobile apps for the dissemination of weather-related warnings such as
 - MAUSAM App for weather forecasting and warnings
 - MEGHDOOT App for agro met services
 - DAMINI App (developed by IITM) for lightning warning
 - UMANG App (developed by Meity) for Weather forecasting and warnings
- IMD has also developed the Panchayat Mausam Seva Portal, providing Panchayat-level weather forecasts through e-GramSwaraj

Q.) Which university has signed an MoU with CSIR to jointly promote technology deployment, sustainability, rural development, skill enhancement and scientific outreach?

- [a] University of Delhi
- [b] Nalanda University
- [c] Banaras Hindu University
- [d] Amity University
- [e] Indraprastha University

Solution – [b]

Q.) Where has Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the first phase of the 'Museum of Word'?

- [a] New Delhi
- [b] Kolkata
- [c] Hyderabad
- [d] Ludhiana
- [e] Amritsar

Solution – [b]

Q.) To which country, APEDA has facilitated the first export of 24 Tonnes of Frozen French Fries from Kashipur in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand?

- [a] Iran
- [b] Oman
- [c] UAE
- [d] Qatar
- [e] Iraq

Solution – [e]

- APEDA has also facilitated the first export shipment of premium Areko Cherries (High-Density European Sweet Cherries) and Scentrose Plums from Shopian and Pulwama to Singapore

Q.) How many redeveloped Railway Stations have been inaugurated by Prime Minister under the flagship Amrit Bharat Station Scheme?

- [a] 100
- [b] 150
- [c] 75
- [d] 80
- [e] 200

Solution – [d]

Q.) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been implementing Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban since 2015 with an aim to provide all weather pucca houses to eligible urban beneficiaries across the country. The scheme period was extended till –

- [a] 30th September 2026
- [b] 31st March 2027
- [c] 31st December 2026
- [d] 1st January 2027
- [e] 15th August 2026

Solution – [a]

Q.) In how many cities SMILE Beggary Scheme is currently operational across the country with the target to cover 295 cities over the next 5 years up to financial year 2030-31?

- [a] 214
- [b] 220
- [c] 216
- [d] 205
- [e] 190

Solution – [c]

- Target number of beneficiaries – 35000

Q.) The Ministry of Textiles is implementing the GREAT scheme under the National Technical Textiles Mission since 2023 to support the start-up ecosystem in the Technical Textiles sector by providing assistance to young innovators, scientists, technologists, and start-up ventures in translating their ideas into commercial technologies and products. What does “G” stand for in GREAT?

[a] Grant

[b] Great

[c] Give

[d] Going

[e] Gift

Solution – [a]

- Under the GREAT scheme, a maximum financial support of Rs. 50 Lakh is provided to each approved start-up