

1. RBI Relaxes Framework for Outward Remittances

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had, since 2016, required non-banking entities to obtain specific prior approval to tie up with Authorized Dealer (AD) Category-1 Banks for cross-border outward remittances.
- RBI has completely dispensed with the requirement for prior approval under a newly issued Operating Framework.
- Eligible non-bank entities under the new framework include fintechs and digital platforms facilitating non-trade current account outward remittances.

2. Emirates NBD Bank Acquires Majority Stake in RBL Bank

- Emirates NBD Bank will invest approximately \$3 billion (₹26,850 – ₹26,853 crore) to acquire up to a 74% stake in RBL Bank.

3. Taiwan's CTBC Bank Opens Branch in GIFT City

- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar, was established in April 2015.
- CTBC Bank of Taiwan already has existing Indian branches in New Delhi and Sriperumbudur.
- CTBC Bank received official approval from Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission to open a new branch in GIFT City, Gandhinagar.

4. NSO Revises GDP Data Release Schedule

- NSO revised the release schedule for both Annual GDP and Q4 Quarterly GDP Estimates.
- New date: June 7 (or the preceding day if June 7 is a holiday)
- NSO is headquartered in New Delhi.
- NSO is Chaired by Prof. Rajeev Lakshman Karatkar.

5. India's Unemployment Rate — PLFS April 2026 Data

- According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by NSO, the overall unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 and above stood at 5.2% in April 2026.
- Rural unemployment rate: 4.6%
- Urban unemployment rate: 6.6%

6. RBI Raises Annual Bond Trading Target for Primary Dealers

- RBI raised the annual bond trading target for 21 Primary Dealers to a minimum of ₹4 lakh crore for the 2026-27 financial year.
- This represents a 48% increase from the previous year.
- The daily trading volume target specifically for 10-year bonds was elevated by 40%.

7. IEPFA Signs MoU with Prasar Bharati for Investor Awareness

- Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) was founded in September 2016.
- CEO of IEPFA: Anita Shah Akella
- IEPFA signed an MoU with Prasar Bharati to broadcast nationwide investor awareness campaigns via scroll messages on Doordarshan.

8. N. Rangasamy Sworn in as Puducherry Chief Minister (5th Term)

- The oath of office was administered by Lieutenant Governor Kuniyil Kailashnathan (K. Kailashnathan).

9. Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rojgar & Aajeevika Act 2025 — Replaces MGNREGA

- This act officially replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with effect from July 1, 2026.
- Guarantees 125 days of wage employment (increased from previous 100 days).
- Central government will take over 100% of the wage bill.
- Funding Ratios:
 - ▶ 60:40 (Center:State) for general states
 - ▶ 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan states
 - ▶ 100% Central funding for Union Territories without legislatures
- Dedicated budget allocation: ₹95,692.31 crore

10. Madhya Pradesh High Court ruled that the disputed Bhojshala Complex (Kamal Maula Mosque) in Dhar district is officially a temple dedicated to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati).

11. Cabinet Approves MSP Hike for 14 Kharif Crops 2026-27

- Estimated total payout: ₹2.6 lakh crore, anticipating procurement of 824 lakh metric tonnes.
- Highest absolute increases:
 - ▶ Sunflower seeds: +₹622/quintal
 - ▶ Cotton: +₹557/quintal
 - ▶ Niger seed: +₹515/quintal
 - ▶ Sesamum: +₹500/quintal
- New MSP Values:
 - ▶ Paddy: ₹2441 (Grade A: ₹2461)
 - ▶ Maize: ₹2410
 - ▶ Bajra: ₹2900
 - ▶ Ragi: ₹5205
 - ▶ Tur/Arhar: ₹8195
 - ▶ Moong: ₹8680
 - ▶ Urad: ₹9550

12. PMAY-G 'Griha Pravesh' Ceremony — 5 Lakh Houses in Maharashtra

- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the 'Griha Pravesh' ceremony for 5 lakh houses in Satara, Maharashtra.

13. Mizoram Ginger Mission Launched with ₹189.79 Crore Outlay

- Mizoram Capital: Aizawl | CM: Lalduhoma | Governor: General V.K. Singh

14. Cabinet Approves ₹37,500 Crore Scheme for Coal & Lignite Gasification

- Cabinet approved a ₹37,500 crore outlay to accelerate coal and lignite gasification.
- National target: Gasify 100 million tonnes by 2030.

15. SVAMITVA Scheme Presented to World Bank as Rural Governance Model

- SVAMITVA stands for "Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas".
- Officially launched by PM Narendra Modi on National Panchayati Raj Day — April 24, 2020.
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad presented the SVAMITVA Scheme to the World Bank, highlighting it as a successful model of Rural Governance.

16. India Plans ₹40,000 Crore Oman–Gujarat Undersea Gas Pipeline

- Oman's capital: Muscat | Currency: Omani Rial

17. India's First Mega Greenfield Shipyard to Come Up in Tamil Nadu

- A tripartite MoU was signed between HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering, National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park (NSHIP) Tamil Nadu, and Sagarmala Finance Corporation.
- Shipyard location: Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

18. Rajasthan's First Semiconductor Plant Inaugurated in Bhiwadi

19. 7th edition of the LEADS Report and presented the 4th edition of the LEAPS Awards (Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shield)

- Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) awards are organised by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal presented LEADS awards across 13 categories during the 4th edition.
- Exemplars: Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, Delhi
- High Performers: Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, J&K, Puducherry, Haryana, Telangana, Bihar, Tripura, Meghalaya
- Accelerators: Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, Karnataka, Punjab, Jharkhand, MP, Uttarakhand, HP, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam, DNH & DD, Chandigarh, Ladakh, Lakshadweep
- Growth Seekers: West Bengal, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar
- Private Service Provider Awards **LEAPS Awards 2025:**
 - ▶ FedEx — Air Freight
 - ▶ Safexpress — Road

- ▶ DP World — Rail
 - ▶ IIM Mumbai — Education promoting logistics
- 20. India's AI Combat Aircraft 'Kaal Bhairav' to be Manufactured in Portugal**
- Aircraft specifications:
 - ▶ Range: 3000 km
 - ▶ Endurance: 30+ hours
 - ▶ Strike capability: Air-to-Air and Air-to-Ground
 - Developed under "Operation 777" — an initiative to globally expand Indian defense manufacturing.

21. Ministry of Ayush Partners with Bhashini for Multilingual Digital Healthcare

- Services cover 22 different languages leveraging AI-powered language technology.

22. Yoweri Museveni Sworn in for Historic 7th Term as Uganda's President

Uganda's capital: Kampala | Currency: Ugandan Shilling | PM: Robinah Nabbanja

23. India Hosts 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue & Assumes IORA Chairmanship

- The 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue was held in New Delhi under the theme "Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World".
- India officially assumed the Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for the 2025–2027 term.
- IORA is headquartered in Ebene, Mauritius.

24. Indian Naval Ships Deployed to Sri Lanka and Malaysia

- INS Sunayna arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka, as part of the Sagar Mission, an operation involving 17 nations.
- INS Sagar Dhvani visited Port Klang, Malaysia, during a South East Asian deployment mission.

25. Henley Passport Index 2026 — India Ranked 78th

- The Indian passport is currently ranked 78th globally, granting visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry to 56 countries.
- Top rankings:
 - ▶ 1st: Singapore (access to 192 destinations)
 - ▶ Followed by Japan, South Korea, UAE

26. India Assumes Chairmanship of Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)

- India assumed the chairmanship of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) for a term from April 2026 to April 2028.

27. Key Corporate & Government Appointments

- Deepak Gupta: Assumed charge as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of GAIL (India) Limited, succeeding Sandeep Kumar Gupta.
- (GAIL HQ: New Delhi; Founded: 1984; Status: Maharatna CPSE)
- Sunil Bharti Mittal: Reappointed as Chairman of Bharti Airtel for a 5-year term.
- Nisaba Godrej: Reappointed as Independent Director of Bharti Airtel for a 5-year term.
- Akash Ambani: Appointed as Managing Director (MD) of Jio Platforms for a 5-year term; also serves as Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm.

28. Hinduja Family Tops Sunday Times UK Rich List 2026

- Indian-origin businessmen Sanjay and Dheeraj Hinduja and family claimed the top spot on the Sunday Times Rich List in the UK.
- Total wealth: £38 billion

29. Important Days — May 2026

- International Day of Light (May 16):
 - ▶ Commemorates physicist Theodore Maiman's first successful laser operation on this date in 1960
 - ▶ Established by UNESCO in 2015
 - ▶ 2026 Theme: "Light for a Sustainable Future"
 - ▶ Highlights the role of light in science, culture, and sustainable development (solar, LEDs)
- International Day of Living Together in Peace (May 16):

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- ▶ 2026 Theme: "Building Trust through Dialogue, Inclusion and Reconciliation"
- Sikkim Statehood Day (May 16):
- ▶ Sikkim celebrated its 51st Statehood Anniversary, having integrated as the 22nd state in 1975
- ▶ Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan served as the chief guest at the main event in Gangtok
- International Day of Families (May 15):
- ▶ 2026 Theme: "Families, Inequalities and Child Well-being"
- Endangered Species Day: Observed on May 15
- Coal Miners Day: Observed on May 4

30. Football club Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) won the French professional football Ligue 1 Title for their 5th consecutive time.

31. Two brand new species of spiders — Cheiracanthium intio and Cheiracanthium pensive — were recently discovered in Nagaland.

32. A new book titled "Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman" was authored by Vijay Goel.

33. Obituaries

- Santosh K. Nair: Prominent Malayalam actor, passed away recently.
- R.B. Choudhary: Prominent film producer and founder of Super Good Films, passed away recently.