

1. NITI Aayog Reports:

- NITI Aayog was established in 2015 to replace the old Planning Commission, whose final 12th Five-Year Plan ran from 2012 to 2017.
- The Prime Minister of India serves as NITI Aayog's ex-officio Chairperson.
- High-potential sectors highlighted:
 - o Textile and Apparel — a major engine for employment; contributes 2% of India's total GDP, 11% of Manufacturing Gross Value Added (GVA) and 9% of merchandise exports.
- India's national target of **500 GW of non-fossil-fuel electricity capacity by 2030**,
- Anurag Jain assumed charge as the CEO of NITI Aayog in August 2026 for a 2-year tenure.

2. SMILE Scheme: Beggary Rehabilitation Progress & National Portal

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment runs the SMILE Scheme — Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise.
- Objective: to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate individuals engaged in begging, with the ultimate goal of a "Bhikshavriti Mukta" (Begging-free) India.
- Currently active across 216 cities; aims to expand to 295 cities by FY 2030-31.
- Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment: Dr. Virendra Kumar (Constituency: Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh).
- Minister of State (MoS): Ramdas Athawale.

3. ₹19,216.46 Crore Scholarship Disbursal for Scheduled Caste (SC) Students

4. PM CARES Fund trust balance rose to ₹8,452 crore as of 31 March 2025.

- The PM CARES Fund was established in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi serves as its Chairman

5. Karnataka Vidyarthi Sahayahasta Scheme for Rural Government School Students

- A new educational scheme supporting students of Classes 1 to 10 in rural government schools.
- Provides an additional 7.5% reservation (within the existing 15% rural reservation framework) for professional courses, including medical and engineering courses.

6. 9th National Anubhav Awards Presented in New Delhi

- Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the 9th National Anubhav Awards to 15 selected awardees — 5 Anubhav awardees and 10 jury certification winners — in New Delhi.

7. India and Armenia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their bilateral defence partnership.

- Armenia: Capital — Yerevan; Currency — Armenian Dram.

8. 210 Indian Peacekeepers serving under UNMISS (United Nations Mission in South Sudan) were awarded the United Nations Peacekeeping Medal on 17 August 2026.

9. "Aparajita – Parang La 2026" : NCC All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek

- Organised by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) under the Ministry of Defence.
- "All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek" is a 30-day land expedition and trekking programme in the Himalayas.

10. Operation Bhola: EAGLE Busts Ganja Smuggling Network

- Operation Bhola was conducted by EAGLE (Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement).

11. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs): 10.3% Credit Growth & Priority Sector Lending Performance

- Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are owned 50% by the Central Government, 35% by the Sponsor Bank and 15% by the State Government.
- Under the "One State, One RRB" initiative, the number of RRBs was consolidated from 43 down to 28 as of 1 May 2025.
- During FY 2025-26, RRBs registered a robust 10.3% credit growth, with gross outstanding loans reaching ₹5.78 lakh crore, up from ₹5.24 lakh crore in FY 2024-25.
- Priority Sector Lending (PSL) Outperformance: Against the RBI-mandated 75% PSL target for RRBs, they dedicated an average of 91.7% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to priority sectors in FY 2025-26.

- RRBs disbursed ₹3.49 lakh crore in loans specifically to weaker sections.
- PSL Target Comparison:
 - o Scheduled Commercial Banks (Public, Private and Foreign banks): 40%
 - o Regional Rural Banks (RRBs): 75%
 - o Small Finance Banks (SFBs): 60% (reduced from 75%)
 - o Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs): 60% (reduced from 75%)
- The 8 Priority Sectors: Housing, Renewable Energy, Social Infrastructure, Education, Export Finance, MSME, Agriculture, Others.

12. SEBI Annual Report: India Ranks 1st Globally in Number of IPOs

- India retained 1st rank globally in the number of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) and ranked 3rd globally in capital fundraising.

13. NSE Indices Expansion & Launch of BSE "Satvik Index"

- NSE Indices: There are now 34 sectorial indices under NSE Indices, with 11 newly added recently.
- Satvik Index: The "Satvik Index" — India's first values and ethics-based stock index — was launched on the BSE

14. The Wealth Company Launches "IFSC Fund of Funds" in GIFT City

15. Indian Banks Write Off ₹9.95 Lakh Crore of Loans in 12 Years

- Highest write-off year: FY 2019, totalling ₹1.48 lakh crore (

16. Digital Fraud: 5,85,751 Online Fraud Cases in 5 Years & "Mule Hunter AI"

- Over the last 5 financial years, 5,85,751 online fraud cases were recorded, involving ₹3,590 crore.
- To combat this, the RBI and NPCI established the Digital Payments Intelligence Platform (DPiP). Introduced "MuleHunter.AI", developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), to detect and block "mule accounts".
- Mule accounts are accounts owned by one individual but operated by fraudsters to launder money

17. Bank of India Launches "BOINZ Freedom" Mobile App in New Zealand

- MD & CEO of Bank of India: Rajneesh Karnatak.
- BOI is active in 15 countries; its first overseas branch opened in London in 1946.

18. Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in Qatar can now send money directly to India using UPI.

PosTransfer powered by UPI, via Qatar Post outlets, launched. It's a postal remittance channel

19. Yes Essence Credit Card: Yes Bank launched Yes Essence, a lifestyle and reward credit card tailored for professional and digital-savvy women aged 21 to 60 with a minimum net salary of ₹30,000.

20. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Indian Banks: Emirates NBD Acquires 60% of RBL Bank

21. The government introduced the FAST DS (Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme) — a one-time voluntary window for small taxpayers to report previously undisclosed foreign income or assets.

- The Two Categories:
 - o Category 1 (Undisclosed up to ₹1 crore): for foreign income/assets never disclosed — taxpayers must pay 30% tax on the fair market value plus an additional 30% penalty.
 - o Category 2 (Taxed but Unreported up to ₹5 crore): for foreign assets taxed while the taxpayer was a non-resident but not reported in India — attracts a flat ₹1 lakh fee instead of standard tax brackets.

22. India Ratings projected India's GDP growth rate for FY 2026-27 at 6.8%, up from 6.7%.

- For comparison, actual GDP growth in FY 2025-26 stood at 7.6%.

23. Unemployment rate declined to 5.1% in July 2026, down from 5.5% in June.

- o Rural unemployment: 4.5%
- o Urban unemployment: 6.7%
- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) improved to 55.4% overall, with rural LFPR at 58%.
- Worker Population Ratio (WPR) rose to 52.5%.

24. PM Internship Scheme (PMIS) Industry Awards 2026

- Award Categories & Winners:

- o Overall Industry Champion: Mahindra & Mahindra
 - o Top Performing PSUs: NTPC Limited, ONGC, Western Coalfields (WCL)
 - o Top Private Partners: Reliance, Infosys Limited, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories
 - o Pre-Internship Excellence: HDFC Bank
 - o Internship Management Excellence: Shriram Finance
 - o Programme Innovation: IBM
 - o Exit Pathways Innovation: Power Grid
- 25. Assam carried out a pioneering/world-first release of captive-bred Slender-billed Vultures fitted with GSM-GPS transmitters**
- 26. India Launches First-Ever "Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems" at UNCCD COP 17**
- Launched during the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, held from 17 to 28 August 2026.
 - Theme: "Restoring Land, Restoring Hope".
 - The United Nations (UN) has declared 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.
 - UNCCD: headquartered in Bonn, Germany; established 1994; Executive Secretary: Yasmine Fouad
- 27. V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority, located in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, became the first port in India to receive ISO 50001:2018 (Energy Management System) certification.**
- 28. National Green Hydrogen Mission: ₹292 Crore Spent Till August 2026**
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission was approved in January 2023 with an initial outlay of ₹19,744 crore.
 - Target: production capacity of 5 MMTPA (Million Metric Tons Per Annum) of green hydrogen by 2030.
- 29. Asia's first Desert Night Safari will be established in Juna Disa, Banaskantha, Gujarat.**
- 30. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated India's first Virtual Zoo at the Kamla Nehru Zoological Garden, Indore.**
- Indore's Malvi Potato recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag
- 31. Chandigarh University hosted a two-day National Space Technology Conclave in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**
- 32. Hyderabad-born Indian-origin astronomer Dr. Rohan Naidu, Assistant Professor at the University of Hawaii, discovered a massive star 100 times more powerful than our Sun orbiting a black hole.**
- The discovery is named MOM BH1.
- 33. India's first National Conclave on Handloom Technology, titled "IIHT Sutra", was organised in New Delhi by the Ministry of Textiles.**
- Theme: "IIHTs: Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector: Educate, Innovate, and Transform".
- 34. National Conference on Affordable Housing Held in New Delhi**
- A conference focusing on affordable housing reforms was held in New Delhi, organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
 - Theme: "Reimagining Affordable Housing: From Scheme to Sustainable Ecosystem".
- 35. M. Venkaiah Naidu Biography: A Hindi biography of former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu was released, titled "Janpriya Neta Venkaiah Naidu: Udaygiri se Up-Rashtrapati tak".**
- o Author: former Rajya Sabha MP Y. Lakshmi Prasad.
- 36. Sonia Gandhi's Upcoming Memoir: Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi is releasing her upcoming book "Belonging: A Journey of Love", published by Alfred A. Knopf, scheduled for release on 10 November 2026.**
- 37. Dr. Devulapalli Ramanuja Rao Sahithi Puraskaram 2026: Awarded to Dr. Nalimela Bhaskar, a famous translator, poet and writer and previously President of Telangana Saraswatha Parishath.**
- 38. Pew Research Survey: Sri Lanka Records Highest Favourability Towards India (79%)**

39. President of Hungary: Former Hungarian Chief Justice Andras Baka has been elected as the new President of Hungary

- o Prime Minister: Peter Magyar; Capital: Budapest.

40. President of Zambia: Hakainde Hichilema has been re-elected as President of Zambia

- o Zambia is a landlocked country in Southern Africa; Capital: Lusaka; Currency: Kwacha

41. E-Visa Facility Expanded to 88 Ports by MHA

- The E-Visa facility was launched in 2014 for 43 countries and now covers 172 countries.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) expanded the E-Visa facility to 88 ports by adding 11 more international ports.
- Newly Added Ports:
 - o 9 Land Ports: Agartala, Daranga Gate, Bhojdanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh, and Attari Road.
 - o 2 Airports: Bhopal and Tirupati.

42. Southern States Chief Ministers' Conference Held in Chennai

43. National Sports Awards 2025 Announced

- Arjuna Award (started in 1961): cash prize of ₹15 lakh.
- Dronacharya Award (started in 1985, for coaches): Regular category — ₹10 lakh; Lifetime category — ₹15 lakh.
- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (started 1991-92): cash prize of ₹25 lakh. For the first time since 2014, no athlete was awarded the Khel Ratna in this round.

Arjuna Award Winners 2025 (17 players selected) include:

- Pullela Gayatri Gopichand (Badminton – Women's Doubles) — Telugu player who recently won the Philippines International Badminton Tournament.
- Treasa Jolly (Badminton – Women's Doubles)
- Dhanush Srikanth (Deaf Shooting) — Telangana-based international Deaf Olympics medallist.
- Divya Deshmukh (Chess) — Maharashtra-based
- Vidit Gujrathi (Chess)
- Tejaswin Shankar (Athletics / Decathlon / High Jump)
- Priyanka Goswami (Race Walking)
- Lalremsiami (Hockey)
- Raj Kumar Pal (Hockey)
- Surjeet Singh (Kabaddi)
- Pooja (Kabaddi)
- Arumainayagam (Football) — honoured with the Arjuna Lifetime Achievement Award

Dronacharya Award Winners (5 coaches selected):

- Regular Category: Parveer Singh (Athletics), Chhote Lal Yadav (Boxing), and Neha Nandkumar Chavan (Shooting).
- Lifetime Category: Dharmendra Yadav (Boxing) and Virendra Kumar (Wrestling).

44. Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026: India Wins 29 Medals

- Hosted in Lagos, Nigeria, from 9 to 14 August 2026.
- India finished with 29 medals — 8 Gold, 7 Silver, 14 Bronze.
- Key Winners:
 - o Senior Women's Foil: Kangan Kankalaxmi (Gold), Joys Ashita (Silver)
 - o Senior Men's Epee: Rajendran Shanthimol Sherjin (Gold)
 - o Senior Men's Sabre: Karan Singh (Gold)
 - o Shared Bronze: India's Kumaresan Padma Shisho Nidhi shared the Bronze with Nigeria's Poluwa Foyami Akinsoye

45. Black Hawks U21 Win Inaugural Guardian Trophy (Volleyball)

- Black Hawks Under-21 (U21) won the first-ever Guardian Trophy, defeating Goa Guardians 3-1 in the final at Panaji, Goa

- 46. FIH Hockey World Cups 2026 are jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands from 15 to 30 August 2026.
- 47. Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy Launched in Dehradun
- 48. Indian skydivers Jamsheer Thanalot (Kerala); Abhishek Rawat (Uttar Pradesh); Isha Raj (Bihar) set a Guinness World Record in Benghazi, Libya.
- 49. Rishabh Pant Sixes Record: Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant became the first Indian batsman and fourth player globally to hit 100 sixes in Test cricket.
- 50. The legendary founder and former founder of the ESPN sports network, Bill Rasmussen, passed away