

### 1. Launch of Biodiversity Governance Project

- A 5-year project (2025-2030) titled "Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitment" was launched.
- The project is supported by a \$4.88 million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- It will be implemented in specific areas, including the Sathyamangalam Landscape in Tamil Nadu and the Garo Hills of Meghalaya.

### 2. Andhra Pradesh Launches Mushroom Mission

- The state government of Andhra Pradesh aims to surpass Bihar to become India's largest mushroom producer.
- A ₹1,000 crore mission was launched with an annual production target of 67,000 tons of mushrooms.
- A ₹518.4 crore subsidy, which covers 40% of the project cost, will be provided.

### 3. Launch of SMILE Beggary Survey App

- The Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) scheme was originally introduced in 2022 to rehabilitate transgender individuals and beggars toward creating a beggar-free India.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched a new mobile application during a Chintan Shivir held in Chandigarh from April 24–26, 2026.
- The app is designed to collect vital data on street beggars and their living conditions.
- Indore is recognized as India's first beggar-free city.
- Surat is expected to become the first slum-free city.

### 4. Government Approves Small Hydro Power Development Scheme

- India has a national potential of 21,133.61 Megawatts (MW) across 7,133 identified sites for small hydro projects, of which 24.5% (5,171 MW) has been utilized so far.
- The Union Cabinet allocated ₹2,584.60 crore to add 1,500 MW of capacity between 2026-27 and 2030-31.

### 5. Expansion of Vibrant Village Program

- The Vibrant Village Program focuses on border area development to provide better infrastructure and halt out-migration.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs has included specific border villages in Jammu and Kashmir into the initiative.
- The included villages are: Bobby Kadiala, Gajnal, Karul, Krishna Ratua, and Gujar Chak

### 6. Extension of PM SVANidhi Scheme

- The PM SVANidhi Scheme has been extended until March 31, 2030.
- The scheme received a budget allocation of ₹7,332 crore.
- tiered working capital loans: 1st tranche up to ₹15,000, 2nd up to ₹25,000, and 3rd up to ₹50,000

### 7. Implementation of National Technical Textile Mission

- The National Technical Textile Mission will span a 5-year duration.
- It has been granted a financial outlay of ₹1,480 crore.

### 8. Finalization of PM MITRA Parks Locations

- Seven distinct locations have been officially finalized across India for the PM MITRA Parks.
- The locations are: Virudhunagar, Warangal, Navsari, Kalaburagi, Dhar, Lucknow, and Amravati.

### 9. New Recruitment Rules for DCGI

- The government notified new recruitment rules for the position of Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).
- The age limit for the position has been officially increased from 56 to 58 years.
- The maximum tenure for the role remains capped at five years, while widening the eligibility age bracket.

### 10. DRDO Unveils Advanced Armored Platform

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Chairman Dr. Samir V Kamat unveiled advanced tracked and wheeled armored platforms.

- The event took place at the **Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (VRDE)** laboratory in **Ahmednagar/Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra**.

### 11. IRDAI Announces Insurance Sector Updates

- India is currently the world's **10th largest** insurance market, and the government is pushing the "Insurance for All" goal by **2047**.
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** rolled out a national awareness campaign.
- Updated regulations now allow an insurance company to buy up to a **5% stake** (increased from **1%**) in another insurer without prior **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** approval.
- The net-owned fund requirement for foreign reinsurers was dropped from **₹5,000 crore** to **₹1,000 crore**.

### 12. MobiKwik Granted NBFC License

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** granted a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** license to **MobiKwik Financial Services Private Limited**.

### 13. Launch of Mission Jagrook (or Mission Jagruk) Campaign

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** launched the awareness campaign "Mission Jagruk".
- The launch took place during the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**'s **38th foundation day (25<sup>th</sup> April 2026)** keynote in **Mumbai**.

### 14. RBI Imposes Penalty on Bandhan Bank

- **Bandhan Bank** is headquartered in **Kolkata**. Its Chairman is **Anup Kumar Sinha**, and the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is **Partha Pratim Sengupta**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **₹41.8 lakh** penalty on **Bandhan Bank**.
- The penalty was levied due to Know Your Customer (KYC) and regulatory non-compliance.

### 15. Reappointment of Karur Vysya Bank MD and CEO

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the reappointment of **B Ramesh Babu** as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)**.

### 16. Exim Bank Extends Loan to Africa Finance Corporation

- The **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** was established in **Mumbai** in **1982** and is currently led by Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) **Harsha Bangari**.
- **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** extended a **\$100 million** loan (approximately **₹830 crore**) to the **Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)**.

### 17. UN Projections for India's Economic Growth

- India remains the world's largest recipient of remittances (estimated at **\$137 billion in 2024**) and is the top destination for greenfield Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the **Asia-Pacific**.
- The **United Nations (UN)** projected India's economic growth rate at **6.4%** (revised down from **6.6%**).
- Economic inflation is projected to hover around **4.4%**.

### 18. Release of Knight Frank's Wealth Report 2026

- According to **Knight Frank's Wealth Report 2026**, India ranks **6th globally** in terms of wealth metrics.
- The **United States of America (USA)** securely holds the **1st position** globally.
- India has **19,877 ultra-high net worth individuals (UHNWI)** and **207 billionaires**.
- The report importantly noted that India's economy slipped from the **4th to the 6th largest globally**.

### 19. New Customs Export Caps and RTO Policy

- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** removed the **₹10 lakh value limit** on international courier exports, starting **April 1, 2026**.
- A new "**Return to Origin (RTO)**" policy was established, allowing un-cleared or rejected exported goods to be returned within **15 days** without customs duties.

### 20. Growth in India's Textile Exports

- India's textile exports grew by **2.1%** to reach **₹3.16 lakh crore**.
- Readymade garments made up the largest segment of these exports, accounting for **₹1.39 lakh crore**.

### 21. Record High Credit Card Spending in India

- India hit an all-time high credit card expenditure of **₹2.19 trillion** in **March 2026**.

- The total yearly card expenditure reached a massive **₹23.62 lakh crore**.
- **HDFC Bank** successfully led the market in these credit card spending figures.

### 22. Sun Pharma Acquires US-Based Organon

- **Sun Pharmaceutical Industries** is actively acquiring the **United States (US)**-based company **Organon**.
- It is a massive **\$11.75 billion cash deal** expected to fully close by **early 2027**.

### 23. NSE Reduces Stake in Indian Gas Exchange

- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** formally reduced its stake in the **Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)**.
- The stake was reduced from **26% to 25%** by selling off **1%**.

### 24. Signing of India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement

- The **India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** was officially signed in **New Delhi** on **April 27, 2026**.
- Signed by India's Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** and New Zealand's Trade Minister **Todd McClay**.
- The deal aims to boost bilateral trade to **\$20 billion** over **15 years**.

### 25. India-Maldives Currency Swap Agreement

- India released a **30 billion Rupee drawdown** for the **Maldives**.
- This was executed under the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** currency swap framework.
- It crucially allows the **Maldives** to utilize **Indian Rupees** for trade rather than depending on **United States (US) Dollars**.

### 26. UK Parliament Approves Historic Smoking Ban

- The **United Kingdom (UK) Parliament** approved the **Tobacco and Vapes Bill**.
- The bill aims to create a smoke-free generation.
- It completely prohibits the sale of cigarettes, vapes, and tobacco to anyone aged **17 and under**.

### 27. Israel Officially Recognizes Somaliland

- **Somaliland** declared its independence from **Somalia** back in **1991**.
- **Israel** appointed **Michael Lotem** as the very first ambassador to **Somaliland**.
- This move makes **Israel** the first nation to officially recognize **Somaliland's** 1991 independence.

### 28. France Allows Visa-Free Transit for Indians

### 29. Announcement of 4th India-Africa Forum Summit

- The **4th India-Africa Forum Summit** will be organized in **May 2026**.
- It is scheduled to take place in **New Delhi**.

### 30. Bharat Gen and L&T Partner for Indigenous LLM

- The **Bharat Generation Technology Foundation (Bharat Gen)** signed a **5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**.
- The partnership aims to develop an indigenous **Large Language Model (LLM)**.

### 31. Google AI Data Center Foundation Stone Laid in Andhra Pradesh

- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** formally laid the foundation stone for a massive **Google Data Center**.
- The center is located in **Visakhapatnam (Vizag)**.
- The project features a **\$15 billion** (approximately **₹1.35 lakh crore**) total investment.
- The investment will construct a **1 Gigawatt (GW) AI Data Center**, categorizing it among the largest in Asia.

### 32. Inauguration of Mission Mausam Radar

- The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune** successfully inaugurated an **X-band dual-polarization Doppler weather radar**.
- The radar is situated at a high-altitude laboratory in **Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra**.

### 33. India Announces Aviation Fuel Blending Targets

- India announced the official allowance of ethanol blending (ethanol combined with synthetic hydrocarbons) in aviation fuel for international flights.
- The stated blending targets are: **1% by 2027, 2% by 2028, and 5% by 2030**.

### 34. Establishment of Heat Resilience Centre at IIM Nagpur

- The primary goal of the center is to strictly combat and study heat waves.

### 35. Chess Officially Joins World Games

- The **International Chess Federation (FIDE)** officially joined the **International World Games Association (IWGA)**.

- It was inducted as the **40th member** during an annual meeting held in **Lausanne, Switzerland**.

### 36. Historic Sub-2-Hour Marathon Record Broken

- **Kenya's runner Sebastian Sawe** completed the **London Marathon 2026** in exactly **1 hour, 59 minutes, and 30 seconds**.

- This achievement makes him the first athlete in history to run a sub-2-hour competitive marathon.

### 37. Virat Kohli Achieves IPL Boundaries Milestone

- Indian cricketer **Virat Kohli** became the first player in **Indian Premier League (IPL)** history to successfully reach **800 boundaries**.

### 38. India Tops Medal Tally at ISSF Junior World Cup

- India secured the top spot on the medal tally at the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup** held in **Cairo, Egypt**.

- The Indian contingent won an impressive **16 medals** (comprising **5 gold, 6 silver, and 5 bronze**).

### 39. Upcoming Football Milestones for India

- India is slated to host the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship 2026** in **Margao, Goa**.

- Additionally, the **Indian Women's Football team** was named as one of **12 teams globally selected** by the **Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)** for a special development program running from **May to October**.

### 40. Winners of HCL Squash PSA Challenger

- The **HCL Squash Professional Squash Association (PSA) Challenger** tournament took place in **Chennai**.

- In the men's category, **Suraj Kumar Chand** won the title by defeating **South Korea's Jing Men Rio**.

- In the women's category, **Egypt's Rukaiya Othman** won the title against **Malaysia's Harleen Tan**.

- The tournament highlights international competition, especially as Squash will make its official Olympic debut at **Los Angeles 2028**.

### 41. India's 95th Chess Grandmaster Crowned

- **Aranyak Ghosh** from **Kolkata, West Bengal**, officially achieved the title of **Chess Grandmaster**.

- He became India's **95th Chess Grandmaster**.

### 42. New High Commissioner to Bangladesh Appointed

- **Dinesh Trivedi** was successfully appointed as India's next High Commissioner to **Bangladesh**.

### 43. NASSCOM Announces New Leadership

- **Srikanth Velamakanni** (Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Fractal Analytics**) was appointed as the Chairperson of the **National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)** for the **2026-27** term.

- He successfully replaced the outgoing Chairperson, **Sindhu Gangadharan**.

- Concurrently, **Kishore Patil** was officially named as the Vice Chairperson.

### 44. Noida International Airport Appoints Interim CEO

- **Nitu Sharma** (a former Chief Financial Officer (CFO)) was appointed as the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the **Noida International Airport**.

### 45. Delhi Metro International Appoints First CEO

- The **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** officially appointed **Sanjay Jamuwar** as the very first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Delhi Metro International (DMIL)**.

### 46. Former Army Chief Releases New Military Literature

- Former Army Chief **General Manoj Mukund Naravane** (who served as the **28th Army Chief**) authored a new book titled "**The Curious and the Classified: Unearthing Military Myth and Mysteries**".

- He is also the established author of "**The Cantonment Conspiracy**" and "**Four Stars of Destiny**".

### 47. Passing of Renowned Photojournalist Raghu Rai

- Renowned Indian photojournalist and **Padma Shri** awardee **Raghu Rai** passed away at **83** years of age.
- He famously documented devastating and historic events including the **Bhopal Gas Tragedy** and the **Bangladesh Liberation War**.
- He was internationally recognized, having received the highly prestigious "**Photographer of the Year**" award in the **United States (US)**.

### **48. Passing of Spiritual Leader Guru Muni Narayana Prasad**

- Prominent spiritual leader **Guru Muni Narayana Prasad** passed away.

### **49. Passing of Olympian Gurbux Singh Grewal**

- **Gurbux Singh Grewal** tragically passed away at **84** years old.

### **50. Observance of World Day for Safety and Health at Work**

- The **World Day for Safety and Health at Work** was officially observed worldwide on **April 28th**. The theme for **2026** was "**Ensuring a healthy psychological working environment**".

### **51. First Observance of International Day of Women in Industry**

- The **International Day of Women in Industry** was formally observed for the very first time by the **United Nations (UN)** on **April 21, 2026**. The core theme was "**Celebrating women's leadership in industrial development**".
- To mark this occasion, the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** awarded the **Guntur Municipal Corporation (Andhra Pradesh)** the prestigious **Gender Equality Mobilization Award 2026**.

### **52. Important Environmental and Health Days Observed**

- **International Design Day / World Design Day** was observed on **April 27th** carrying the theme "**The spaces in between**".
- **World Malaria Day** was observed on **April 25th** carrying the specific theme "**Driven to end malaria now we can now we must**".
- **World Tapir Day** was officially observed on **April 27th**.