

1. Government Advances Environment and Biodiversity Protection Measures

- The **15th meeting of the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (Bonn Convention)** recently concluded in **Campo Grande, Brazil**, focusing on expanding global species protection.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** officially designated **Bhawasagra** (the **Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology** located in **Kochi, Kerala**) as the **National Repository** for deep-sea fauna.
- At the **Bonn Convention**, **40 new species** were granted protection, **16** of which are native to **Brazil**.
- **India** emerged as a global leader in issuing **Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs)** under the **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing**, issuing **3,561** out of the **6,311** certificates globally (representing over **56%**).
- **World Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF India)** developed **Goa's** first biodiversity and cultural feature map aimed specifically at school students.
- **Goa** became the second state in **India** to publish a comprehensive bird atlas.
- **Kerala** launched "**Neosight ID**", a system exclusively designed for the detection of invasive plants.
- Static Facts: **Ranthambore National Park** is located in **Rajasthan**.
- Static Facts: **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve** is located in **Madhya Pradesh**.

2. Major Restructuring, Mergers, and Milestones in the Energy Sector

- **BGCCL and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited** signed a lease to establish **India's** first indigenous coal-to-ammonium nitrate project at **Lakhanpur, Odisha**.
- The commissioning timeline for specific agricultural solar projects under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM)** scheme (launched in **2019**) is extended to **March 31, 2027** (strictly for agreements signed before **December 31, 2025**). The scheme aims to add **34,800 MW** of solar capacity by **March 2026**.
- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)** extended the **National PNG Drive 2.0** to **June 30, 2026** (originally Jan 1 to March 31). The drive gasified over **3.1 lakh** connections (domestic, commercial, hostels) by **March 2026**, with **2.7 lakh** more in progress. MoPNG Minister is **Hardeep Singh Puri** (UP constituency) and Minister of State is **Suresh Gopi**.

3. Regulatory Actions, FDI Approvals, and Milestones in Banking and Economy

- Small savings interest rates are reviewed every 3 months across **12 schemes**.
- The **Finance Ministry** kept small savings interest rates unchanged for the **8th** consecutive quarter (**April 1 to June 2026**):
 - **Post Office Saving Deposit: 4%**.
 - **Monthly Income Account: 7.4%**.
 - **Post Office Time Deposits: 1-year (6.9%), 2-year (7.0%), 3-year (7.1%), 5-year (7.5%)**.
 - **5-year Recurring Deposit (RD): 6.7%**.
 - **National Saving Certificate (NSC): 7.7%** (5-year lock-in).
 - **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP): 7.5%** (matures in **115 months** / 9 years and 7 months).
 - **Public Provident Fund (PPF): 7.1%** (15-year minimum).
 - **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY): 8.2%** (matures in 21 years; 15-year contribution; partial withdrawal allowed after age 18).
 - **Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS): 8.2%** (Initial 5-year duration, extendable once by 3 years).
- **RBI** approved Dubai-based **Emirates NBD** to acquire up to a **74%** stake in **RBL Bank** (formerly Ratnakar Bank Limited). **60%** stake acquisition approved for **₹26,853 crore**. Valid for one year from **April 1, 2026**, **Emirates NBD** must maintain a **51%** shareholding.
- **IRDAI** identified **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**, **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)**, and **New India Assurance Company** as **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (DSIIs)** ("Too Big to Fail").

- **RBI Monetary Penalties:**
 - **Airtel Payments Bank: ₹31.8 lakh** (disclosure lapses).
 - **Union Bank of India (HQ Mumbai): ₹95.40 lakh** (delayed crediting).
 - **Central Bank of India (HQ Mumbai): ₹63.6 lakh** (KYC/inclusion issues).
 - **Bank of India (HQ Mumbai): ₹58.5 lakh** (Priority Sector Lending / deposit lapses).
 - **Pine Labs (Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)): ₹3.1 lakh** (prepaid instrument KYC).
- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI):** In March 2026, **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** recorded **22.64 billion** total transactions valued at **₹29.53 lakh crore**.
- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** Growth reached **5.2%** in **February 2026** (up from 4.8% in Jan), with manufacturing growing at **~6%**. Released by **MoSPI**, the eight core industries carry **40.27%** of IIP weightage (Highest: Refinery Petroleum Products at **28.04%**; Lowest: Fertilizers at **2.63%**).
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** crossed the **₹10 lakh crore** market cap milestone.
- **Alwar, Rajasthan** became **India's** first district to achieve **100%** insurance coverage.
- **IIT Madras Research Park** launched a **₹600 crore** Unicorn Frontier Fund for deep-tech startups.
- Static Fact: **Airtel Payments Bank** is **India's** first payment bank, established **Jan 1, 2017**, HQ **New Delhi**.

4. Major Upgrades in Transport, Ports, and Aviation Infrastructure

- **India** successfully tested its first hydrogen-powered train on the **20 km Jind-Sonipat** route in **Haryana**. Conducted by the **Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)** and developed by the **Integral Coach Factory (ICF)** in **Chennai**, reaching speeds of **70 km/hr**.
- **Deendayal Port Authority** (formerly Kandla Port, **Gujarat**) ranked **1st** in **India** for cargo handling in **FY 2025-26** with **160.11 million tonnes** (**7%** growth), overtaking **Paradip Port** (**156.45 million tonnes**).
- **Veer Vikram Yadav** replaced **Faiz Ahmed Kidwai** as Director General of the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.
- **DGCA** mandated that from **April 2026**, airlines must offer at least **60%** of seats for free selection (up from **20%**).
- **DGCA** and the **EU Aviation Safety Agency** signed a pact to boost manufacturing and safety.
- **Airbus** and **Tata Advanced Systems** launched a private final assembly line for **H125 & AS350** helicopters in **Bengaluru**. **Airbus** also partnered with **Mahindra & Mahindra** to manufacture the **H125** main fuselage.
- **Willie Walsh** (former **IATA DG** and **British Airways CEO**) will become **IndiGo CEO** on **August 3**, replacing **Pieter Elbers**. (**IndiGo HQ** is in **Gurugram**; Chairman is **Vikram Singh Mehta**).
- **Air India** and **Uzbekistan Airways** signed a codeshare agreement using the '**AI**' code on **Delhi/Mumbai/Goa** to **Tashkent** flights with single-ticket baggage check-through.
- **Skytrax World Airport Awards 2026:** **Singapore's Changi** won **World's Best Airport** (14th time), **Best Dining**, and **Best Immigration**.
- Indian Airports in Skytrax Top 100: **Delhi IGI** (**28th**, Best in India/South Asia); **Bengaluru Kempegowda** (**41st**, Best Regional in India/SA); **Hyderabad Rajiv Gandhi** (**43rd**, Best Staff Service in India/SA); **Goa Manohar** (**64th**); **Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** (**66th**).

5. Advancements in AI, Cyber Security, Telecommunications, and Space Exploration

- **Bharti Airtel** crossed **650 million** global customers (**368 million** in **India**, **179 million** in **Africa**), becoming the world's second-largest telecom operator by mobile subscribers, behind **China Mobile**.
- The **Department of Telecommunication (DoT)** extended the deadline for OTT platforms to implement SIM binding to **December 31, 2026**, preventing inactive SIMs from accessing **Netflix** and **Amazon Prime**.
- **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** partnered with **MapmyIndia** to display verified Aadhaar Seva Kendras on **Mappls Map**.

- **Starlink** signed letters of intent with the **Gujarat** and **Maharashtra** governments to provide satellite internet to remote locations.
- The **Black Swan Summit** in **Bhubaneswar** was launched to boost the AI and digital finance ecosystem.
- **Telangana** launched 'ICoE' to boost its AI ecosystem.
- **Assam** launched the "Atal Bhujal Agrani Asam Scheme" for agricultural AI innovation.

6. National Governance, State Initiatives, and Rural Welfare Awards

- **Tripura** institutions secured top positions at the **National Panchayat Awards 2025** under the **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar**:
 - Best District Panchayat: **Sepahijala (Tripura, 1st)**.
 - Healthy Panchayat: **Kanchanbari (Tripura, 1st)**.
 - Women-Friendly Panchayat: **Baikunthpur (Tripura, 3rd)**.
- **Climate Action Awards**: **Dawha (MH), Biradhali (KA), Motipur (BR)**.
- **Aatmanirbhar Panchayat Awards**: **Malyal (TS), Patabhadra (OD), Gollapudi (AP)**.
- **Andhra Pradesh** (Capital: **Amaravati**, CM: **Chandrababu Naidu**, Gov: **S. Abdul Nazeer**) announced a **30-acre** women industrial park and a **₹150 crore** free electricity scheme for weavers. Handloom units receive **200 free units/month** (saving **₹8,640** annually, aiding **14,488** families); power looms get **500 free units/month** (saving **₹21,600** annually, aiding **93,000** families). Weavers get enhanced **₹4,000** pension, **90%** cooperative financial assistance, and **15%** machinery/raw material subsidies.
- **Telangana** launched the "**Bhoo Bharati**" portal to digitize land registration, permanently replacing the **Dharani** portal.
- **New Delhi** launched the "**Lakhpati Beti Yojana**" for girls from economically weaker families, partnered with "**Bharat Taxi**" to rival Uber/Ola, and launched '**Operation Shastra**' against online threats.
- **Agriculture Ministry** signed an MoU with the **Department of Post** for traceable agri-input sample logistics.
- **Maharashtra**: **Mumbai's** coastal road became **India's** first musical path, playing "**Jai Ho**".

7. Record Growth in Defense Exports, Vessel Deliveries, and Military Deployments

- **Lt. Gen. Dhiraj Seth** was appointed as the **49th Vice Chief of Army Staff**, taking over from **Lt. Gen. Pushpendra Pal Singh**.
- **India's** defense exports hit a record **₹38,424 crore** in FY **2025-26**, a massive **62.66%** growth (**54.84%** from Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), **45.16%** from the private sector).
- **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** (HQ: **Vasco da Gama**, CMD: **Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay**) launched the **Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) INS Shachi** (Yard 1280, **76%** indigenous content) for the Navy, and delivered **ICGS Achal** (**65%** indigenous) to the Coast Guard. **GSL** has launched **14 vessels** in **600 days** (averaging one every 40-43 days).
- **Cochin Shipyard Limited** delivered **INS Malwan**, the second anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft, to the Navy.
- **Mission SAGAR**: The **Indian Navy** flagged off **INS Sunayna** from **Mumbai** to patrol the **Indian Ocean**. Carrying delegates from **16 countries**, it visits **Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Maldives**, ending in **Kochi**.
- Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** flagged off an expedition to **Mount Aconcagua** in **Argentina**.
- **VOC Port** in **Tamil Nadu** deployed **India's** first anti-drone system.
- Static Army Command Facts: **Gen. Upendra Dwivedi** is Chief of Army Staff (COAS); Western Command HQ **Chandimandir** is led by **Lt. Gen. Pushpendra Pal Singh**; Eastern Command HQ **Kolkata** is led by **Lt. Gen. VMV Krishnan**; Southern Command HQ **Pune** is led by **Lt. Gen. Sandeep Jain**.

8. International Treaties, Social Media Restrictions for Minors, and Global Reports

- **Spain** became the first European nation to ban social media for children under **16**.

- **Indonesia** became the first Southeast Asian/non-Western country to ban social media (**YouTube, TikTok, FB, IG, Threads, X, Bigo Live, Roblox**) for users under **16**, requiring age verification and deactivation to protect **70 million** minors. (Capital: **Jakarta**, Currency: **Rupiah**, President: **Prabowo Subianto**). **Australia** passed similar laws in **Dec 2025**.
- **India** and the **United Kingdom (UK)** signed a social security agreement covering temporary employees.
- **India** was named "**Country of the Year**" at **BioAct 2026** in **Germany**.
- **Uchral Nyam-Osor** (former hip-hop artist) was appointed Prime Minister of **Mongolia**, replacing **Zandanshatar Gombojav**. He is the **3rd PM** in **9 months** from the **Mongolian People's Party**.
- **Thailand** will host the **World Bank** and **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** annual meeting in **Bangkok (Queen Sirikit National Convention Center)** in **October 2026**, the first time in **35** years (since 1991).

9. Major Achievements, Records, and Awards in Sports

- **Asian Squash Federation (ASF) Awards 2025**: Indians topped the honors (awarded **May 2026** at the **33rd Asian Junior Championships** in **Dalian, China**).
Men's Player: **Abhay Singh (IND)**. Girls' Player: **Anahat Singh (IND)**. Women's Player: **Satomi Watanabe (JPN)**. Men's Team: **IND Junior Boys** (2025 Bronze at Egypt). Coaches: **Fahim Gul (PAK)**, **Peter Genever (HK)**.
- **Hockey India Annual Awards 2025**:
 - Major Dhyani Chand Lifetime Achievement: **Zafar Iqbal** (1980 Moscow Gold team).
 - Player of the Year (Men): **Hardik Singh** (3rd win).
 - Player of the Year (Women): **Navneet Kaur**.
 - Goalkeeper (Baljit Singh Award): **Bichu Devi Kharibam**.
 - Defender (Pargat Singh Award): **Sanjay**.
 - Midfielder (Ajit Pal Singh Award): **Sumit**.
 - Forward (Dhanraj Pillay Award): **Sukhjeet Singh**.
 - Upcoming Under-21: **Sakshi Rana** (Women), **Princideep Singh** (Men).
- Cricket: **R Ashwin** joined **USA's Major League Cricket (MLC)** team **San Francisco Unicorns** for **2026**, becoming the first Indian international to do so (Retired Int/IPL in **2024** with **287** matches and **765** wickets).
- Cricket: **Virat Kohli** became the first batsman to complete **4000+** runs in IPL run chases.
- Archery: **Sheetal Devi (19, armless, J&K)** was named **World Archery Para Archer of the Year 2025**. She is the first armless female to win Gold at World Para Archery Champ (**Gwangju, SK**). Also holds **Paris Paralympic Bronze, Asian Para Games 2022 Silver**, and **Asian Champs 2023 Silver**.
- **Karnataka's Chitra Magimairaj** won the **Women's Nine-Ball Pool National Championship** in **Ludhiana**, beating MP's **Ishika Shah**.
- **11-year-old** Indian-origin **Bodhana Sivanandan** became **Britain's** top-rated female chess player (**FIDE 2366**, ranked **72** globally).
- Static Fact: The **5 Olympic rings** (Blue, Yellow, Black, Green, Red) represent the **5 inhabited continents**.
- Static Fact: Squash will debut at the **LA 2028 Olympics**.

10. Key Corporate Appointments, Brand Ambassadors, Books, and Important Days

- **Krishna Kumar Singh** took additional charge as CMD of **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** for **3 months** following **Amarendu Prakash's** resignation.
- **Government Secretaries Appointments**:
 - **Chanchal Kumar** (Information & Broadcasting, replacing **Sanjay Jaju**)
 - **Bhuvnesh Kumar** (Tourism)
 - **Krishna Srivatsa** (Minority Affairs)
 - **Rohit Kansal** (Rural Development)
- **Brand Ambassadors**:

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- **Virat Kohli: United Spirits** (Johnnie Walker Lux surrogate blended water campaign).
- **AR Rahman: DAC Developers and Yamaha Music.**
- **MS Dhoni: Pune Grand Tour 2026.**
- **Sachin Tendulkar:** UN's Road Safety "Make a safety statement" campaign.
- **Bhavita Mandwa: Chanel's** first India House Ambassador.
- **Books: "Tides of Time: Bharat's History Through Murals in Parliament"** authored by **Sudha Murty**, released by Vice President **CP Radha Krishnan**.
- **Important Days:**
 - **April 1: 91st** Foundation Day of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. (Established on April 1, 1935, under the RBI Act, 1934)
 - **April 2: World Autism Awareness Day.** Theme: "Autism and Humanity: Every life has value".
 - **April 2: International Fact-Checking Day.** Theme: "Safeguarding Information Integrity in the Face of Evolving AI and Information Manipulation".
- **Plast India 2026:** Held in **New Delhi**, focusing on sustainable plastics.
- **Thrissur Pooram:** An annual temple festival held at the **Vadakkunnathan Temple** in **Kerala**.