

### 1. National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) Announces Key Initiatives and Reconstitution

- **DPI @ 2047 Roadmap:** NITI Aayog unveiled the "DPI 2.0" roadmap under the tagline "Roadmap to Prosperity". (DPI: Digital Public Infrastructure)
- The roadmap was launched by the outgoing Vice Chairman **Suman K Bery** and Principal Scientific Adviser **Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood**.
- **Reconstitution:** Former Chief Economic Advisor **Dr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri** was appointed as the new Vice-Chairperson, replacing **Suman K Bery**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** remains the default Chairperson, and **Nidhi Chhibber** serves as the CEO.
- Newly appointed full-time members include **Dr. Govardhan Das, K.V. Raju, Abhay Karandikar, and M. Srinivas**, with **Rajiv Gauba** as a retained member.
- **City Government Report:** Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs **Manohar Lal Khattar** released a NITI Aayog report titled "Moving Towards Effective City Government".
- The **DPI 2.0** roadmap targets a **\$30 Trillion** economy and a per capita income of **\$18,000** by **2047**, aiming to elevate **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**'s GDP contribution from **1% to 4%** by **2030**.

### 2. Government Monitors Initiatives via PRAGATI Platform and Launches Namu Stall Scheme

- **Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)** is a digital governance platform launched in **2015** to monitor government projects, schemes, and grievances in real-time.
- Initiatives are continuously launched to support unorganized sectors, such as the **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** scheme launched on **June 1, 2020**, which provides collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors.
- Union Minister of State for Defense **Sanjay Seth** launched the **Namu Stall Scheme** in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**.
- Designed to support street fruit and vegetable vendors, the first phase provided five vendors with free stalls worth approximately **₹50,000** each along with designated selling spaces.
- The **PM SVANidhi** scheme was also reviewed during this launch event.
- Oxford's **Saïd Business School** recognized the **PRAGATI** platform as a global best practice model for developing nations.

### 3. Prime Minister Inaugurates Major Infrastructure and Sports Projects in Sikkim

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** participated in the closing ceremony of **Sikkim's Golden Jubilee** (50th year of statehood) in Gangtok on **28 April 2026**. Sikkim officially became the 22nd state of India on **16 May 1975**
- **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated and laid foundation stones for over **30 development projects** worth **₹4,000 crore** covering infrastructure, healthcare, education, connectivity, housing, and agriculture.
- He visited the **Swarna Jayanti Maitri Manjari Park**, a world-class orchid experience center.

### 4. Major State Developments: Ladakh Districts, UP Expressway, and AP Data Hub

- **Ladakh Districts:** The **Ministry of Home Affairs** approved expanding the number of districts in the Union Territory of **Ladakh** from **two (Leh and Kargil)** to **seven**. The new districts are **Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass**, confirmed by Lieutenant Governor **Vinai Kumar Saxena**.
- **Google AI Hub:** Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** laid the foundation for the **Google Cloud India AI Hub** in **Visakhapatnam**, which must be completed by **AdaniConneX** and **Airtel Nxtra** by **September 2028**.
- **UP Ganga Expressway:** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **594 km Ganga Expressway**, connecting **Meerut** to **Prayagraj** across **12 districts**.
- **UP Water Warranty:** **Uttar Pradesh** became the first state to introduce a **10-year** operation and maintenance warranty for rural drinking water schemes under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**.
- **APEDA Facility:** The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** is investing **₹15 crore** to set up a **Basmati and Organic Farming Training Center** in **Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh**.

### 5. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Issues Penalties, NBFC Licenses, and New Directives

- **Penalties:** The RBI imposed a ₹41.8 Lakh penalty on **Bandhan Bank** (for failing periodic risk categorizations for Re-KYC and providing unsecured loans to directors) and an ₹80,000 fine on **Muthoot Housing Finance** (fair practice code violations regarding interest rates and pre-closure charges).
- **NBFC License:** **MobiKwik** (via **One MobiKwik Systems/MobiKwik Financial Services**) secured a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** license to offer secured/unsecured loans to MSMEs and underserved consumers in Tier-2/Tier-3 cities.
- **ECL Model:** The RBI mandated banks to estimate **Expected Credit Losses (ECL)** using forward-looking risk measures rather than waiting for defaults, categorizing loans as **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** if overdue for more than **90 days**.
- **OTC Reporting:** The RBI issued reporting directions for **Authorized Dealer Category-1** banks regarding **Over-The-Counter (OTC)** foreign exchange derivative contracts involving the Indian Rupee.
- **SAKSHAM Initiative:** The RBI introduced **SAKSHAM (Sahakari Bank Kshмата Nirman)**, a capacity-building initiative targeting **1,40,000** employees in **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**.

### 6. Economic Trends: Surge in Credit Card Spending, Gold Investment, and Ag Exports

- **Credit Card Surge:** RBI data showed credit card spending hit a three-month high in **March 2026** at **Rs 2.19 trillion** (a **23.81%** month-on-month increase).
- **Payment Innovations:** **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** partnered with **KV** to launch a visually combined (red and green) RuPay-based credit card for UPI payments.
- **Agricultural Exports:** India's agricultural exports witnessed a **2.8%** increase, growing from **\$51.21 Billion** to **\$52.55 Billion** in the last financial year.
- **SEBI Foundation Day:** The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** celebrated its **38th Foundation Day** on **April 25** at the **Jio World Convention Centre** in **Mumbai**.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** attended the **SEBI** event as chief guest and launched "**Mission Jagrook**," a nationwide investor awareness and financial literacy initiative.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** proposed a new monthly **Index of Service Production** using a **2024-25** base year and GST network data.

### 7. India Forges Strategic International Economic and Corporate Alliances

- **India-Maldives Currency Swap:** India approved **₹3000 crore (30 billion)** currency swap support for the **Maldives** under the **SAARC Currency Swap Framework** (following a previous **\$400 million** facility).
- **India-Kenya Trade:** The **10th India-Kenya Joint Trade Conference** was chaired by **Rajesh Agrawal**. Trade volume between the nations increased by **24.91%**.
- **Corporate Agreements:** **Sigma Advanced Systems** and **Rolls-Royce** signed a **7-year** long-term agreement valued at **Rs 38,000 crore** to supply high-precision safety-critical components.
- **Petrochemical JV:** **Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)**, **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, and **ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL)** signed a joint venture to integrate operations.
- **Jordan** officially joined the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**, and the **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, while agreeing with India to boost bilateral trade from **\$3 billion** to **\$5 billion**.

### 8. India Emerges as 5th Largest Military Spender Amidst Defense Innovations

- **SIPRI Report:** According to the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, India became the **5th** largest global military spender in **2025**, spending **\$92.1 billion (3.2%** of global spending).
- The **Indian Army** is hosting the inaugural edition of the multilateral exercise **PRAGATI (Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region)**. **Location:** The exercise is held at the **Foreign Training Node** in **Umroi, Meghalaya**. **Participants:** It involves military delegations from **11 friendly nations**, including:

**South Asia:** Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives.

**Southeast Asia:** Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia.

**Indian Ocean Region:** Seychelles.

- India's defense spending increased by **8.9%**, driven largely by "**Operation Sindoor**" and preparedness conflicts. India also stands as the **2nd** largest importer of arms globally, behind **Ukraine**.
- The top 5 global military spenders collectively account for **58%** of global military spending: **USA (\$954 billion)**, **China (\$336 billion)**, **Russia (\$190 billion)**, **Germany**, and **India**.

### 9. Private Sector and Government Expand India's Space and Aerospace Infrastructure

- **Private Rocket Launch:** Skyroot Aerospace flagged off the payload fairing of the "**Vikram-1**" rocket (named after **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai**) from **Hyderabad** to **Sriharikota**.
- **Astrophysics Infrastructure:** Union Minister **Jitendra Singh** laid the foundation for the **₹75 crore**, 7-story facility named **MKV Bappu Bhawan** at the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** (established **1971**) campus in **Koramangala, Bengaluru**.

### 10. Healthcare Access Improves as Supreme Court Expands Article 21 Rights

- **NSO Health Survey:** The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** released its 80th Round Survey on Health.
- **Health Summit:** Health Minister **JP Nadda** inaugurated the **10th National Summit on Public Health Innovation**, held **April 30-May 1** in **Chandigarh** (organized by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**).
- **EPFO Portal:** The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** launched the '**e-Prapti**' portal, an Aadhaar-based digital platform to track and activate old/inoperative PF accounts without a **Universal Account Number (UAN)**.
- In a landmark judgment delivered on **April 13, 2026**, the Supreme Court of India officially declared the "**Right to Safe Road Travel**" as a fundamental right under **Article 21** (Right to Life) of the Constitution.
- **Ayushman Bharat Diwas** was observed on **April 30**, promoting the **2018** scheme that provides up to **₹5 lakh** in health insurance.

### 11. Global Policy Shifts: UAE Exits OPEC, Turkey Bans Social Media, and New Geoparks

- **UAE OPEC Exit:** The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** announced its withdrawal from the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and the **OPEC+** oil alliance on **May 1st** after six decades.
- **Turkey Social Media Ban:** **Turkey** banned social media usage for children under **15**, mandating age verification and local representatives.
- **Nigeria Green Tax:** Starting **July 1, 2026**, **Nigeria** will introduce a **Green Tax** surcharge on high-emission vehicles (**2% tax on 2000-3999cc engines**; **4% tax on engines above 4000cc**).
- **UNESCO Geoparks:** **UNESCO** added **12** new sites to the **Global Geoparks Network**, bringing the total to **241** sites across **51** countries.

### 12. Key Appointments and Literary Releases Across Corporate and Sports Sectors

- **Karur Vysya Bank:** The **RBI** cleared **B. Ramesh Babu's** reappointment for a third term as **MD & CEO** for two years (**July 2026 to July 2028**).
- **SAIL:** **Dilip Kumar** was appointed as the Central Vigilance Officer of the **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**.
- **Noida International Airport:** **Neetu Sharma** (former CFO) was appointed as interim CEO, replacing Swiss national **Christopher Schnellmann** to comply with **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** directives requiring the CEO to be an Indian national.
- **Visa:** **Suresh Sethi** became **Visa's** Group Country Manager for India and South Asia, succeeding **Sandeep Ghosh**.
- **BWF Athlete Commission:** Indian badminton star **P.V. Sindhu** was appointed as the Chairperson of the **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** Athlete Commission.
- **Book Release:** Former Army Chief **Manoj Mukund Naravane (MM Naravane)** released a new non-fiction book titled "**The Curious and the Classified**" (He also authored "**Four Stars of Destiny**").
- The **13th** edition of the **Sur Jyotsna National Music Award** was presented to vocalists **Sumitra Guha** and **Pandit Laxman Krishnarao Pandit** in **New Delhi**.

### 13. Sports, Arts, and Cultural Developments in India and Abroad

- **Sports IP Waiver:** The Indian government announced a **3-year Intellectual Property (IP)** registration fee waiver for the sports sector, covering trademark, copyright, or patent registrations for sports logos, jerseys, game footage, and unique footwear.
- **Para Sports Governance:** The **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** and the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** signed an agreement to shift the governance of shooting para sports to the **ISSF** next year.
- **London Marathon:** Athlete **Sebastian Sawe** became the first to break the two-hour marathon barrier at the **London Marathon 2026**, finishing in **1 hour, 59 minutes, and 30 seconds**.
- **Bharat Taxi App:** Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** unveiled the "**Bharat Taxi**" app in **Mumbai**.
- **Film Festivals:** The **Ministry of Culture** organized the **15th Delhi International Film Festival** starting **May 4**, with **China, Russia, and Africa** as focus countries. Two Marathi films, **Jivya The Creature** (Director **Ravi Jadhav**) and **April May 99** (Director **Rohan Mapuskar**), were selected for the Market Section at the **Cannes Film Festival** in France.
- **Akashvani Contest:** Celebrating its **90th** foundation year, **Akashvani** and **MyGov** launched nationwide Signature Tune and Jingle making contests.
- The **Bharat Taxi** app operates under the "**Saarhi hi Malik**" model with no subscription fees and provides drivers up to **₹5 lakh** in insurance.
- Veteran Indian Golfer **Vijay Kumar** passed away at **57**. He won the **2002 Indian Open** and was a four-time Order of Merit champion.

#### 14. Important Days and Observances in April 2026

- **April 24 to 30: World Immunization Week** (Observed by **World Health Organization (WHO)**, Theme: "**For every generation, vaccination works**").
- **April 25: World Malaria Day** (Established by **WHO** in 2007; 2026 Theme: "**Driven to end malaria, Now we can, Now we must**"; highlights female Anopheles mosquito).
  - **World Penguin Day** (Theme: "**Save the Penguins**").
  - **International Delegate Day**.
  - **April 26: World Intellectual Property Day** (Established by **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** in 2000; 2026 Theme: "**IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate**").
  - **April 27: World Design Day**.
  - **April 28: World Day for Safety and Health at Work** (Promoted by **International Labour Organization (ILO)** to minimize occupational accidents; Theme: "**Let's ensure a healthy psychosocial working environment**").
  - **April 29: International Day in Memory of Victims of Earthquakes**.
  - **April 30: International Jazz Day** (Initiated by **UNESCO** in 2011; 2026 marks the 15th anniversary with **Chicago** as global host).