

1. India Semiconductor Mission — Two Projects Approved in Gujarat

- **Project 1: Crystal Matrix Limited** — A Compound Semiconductor Fabrication Facility in **Dholera, Gujarat**, focused on Establishment of India's first commercial Mini/Micro-LED display facility using advanced Gallium Nitride (GaN) technology.
- **Investment:** ₹3,068 crore
- **Project 2: Suchi Semicon Private Limited (SSPL)**— A Semiconductor Assembly Test Facility in **Surat, Gujarat**.
- **Investment:** ₹868 crore

2. Brownfield Ship Repair Facility Approved in Vadinar, Gujarat

- **Project Type:** State-of-the-art **brownfield ship repair facility**.
- **Investment:** ₹1,570 crore (also reported as ₹1,500 crore in some sources).
- **Partnership:** Joint venture between **Deendayal Port Authority** and **Cochin Shipyard Limited**.

3. Railway Multi-Tracking Project Approved & 18th Railway Zone Notified

- **CCEA** approved a ₹23,437 crore railway multi-tracking project.
- The **Union Government** officially notified the creation of India's **18th Railway Zone** — the **South Coast Railway Zone**.
- **Headquarters:** **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Effective Date:** **June 1st**.
- **Formation:** Created by reorganizing the **East Coast Railway Zone** and **South Central Railway Zone**, taking over the **Guntakal, Guntur, and Vijayawada** divisions.
- India has **18 Railway Zones** as of June 1st (with South Coast Railway Zone being the newest).

4. 100th Next Generation Post Office Inaugurated at NEHU, Shillong

- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** virtually inaugurated the **100th Next Generation Post Office**.
- **Location:** **North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya**.
- **Jyotiraditya Scindia** is the **Minister of Communications**.

5. Supreme Court Judges Strength Increased from 34 to 38

- **New Strength:** The sanctioned strength is being increased from **34 to 38** (including the Chief Justice of India).
 - **Previous:** 33 judges + 1 CJI = 34 total.
 - **New:** 37 judges + 1 CJI = 38 total.
- **Constitutional Basis:**
 - **Article 124(1):** Empowers **Parliament** to increase the number of judges by law.
 - **Article 125:** Relates to the salaries and expenditure of judges, which are met from the **Consolidated Fund of India**.
- **Legislative Action:** This change is implemented by amending **The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**.
- **Retirement Age:** Supreme Court judges retire at **65 years**, as mandated by the Constitution.
- **Retirement age** for Supreme Court judges: **65 years**.

6. NCERT Launches PRASHAST 2.0 — Digital Disability Screening Tool

- **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** launched **PRASHAST 2.0** in alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- **PRASHAST** stands for **Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool/Test**.
- **PRASHAST 2.0** is a **digital platform** (both **mobile** and **web-based**).
- **Purpose:** Early identification of **21 types of disabilities** in young schoolchildren.

7. Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram 2.0 (RBSK 2.0) Guidelines Released

- The **Ministry of Health** released updated guidelines for **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram 2.0 (RBSK 2.0)** — India's national child health screening programme.
- The guidelines were unveiled at a **summit in Chandigarh**.
- The programme is centered on the **"4D Model"** covering:
 - **Defects at birth**
 - **Disease**

- Deficiencies
 - Development delays
 - **Coverage:** Children from **birth to 18 years** of age.
- 8. Swasth Bharat Portal Launched by Health Minister JP Nadda**
- The **Swasth Bharat Portal** was launched during the **10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity** held in **New Delhi**.
 - **Launched by:** Union **Health Minister JP Nadda**.
 - **Designed for:** Frontline health workers — **ASHA workers** and **Medical Officers**.
 - **Linked scheme:** **Ayushman Bharat**.
 - **Purpose:** To collect and integrate health databases for improved service delivery.
 - **Ayushman Bharat** is India's flagship health insurance scheme providing coverage of up to **₹5 lakh** per family per year.
- 9. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Launches Standards for Assistive Medical Devices**
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, functioning under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**, launched **six new Indian standards** for priority assistive technologies.
 - **Certified assistive devices include:**
 - **Elbow crutches**
 - **Regular and multi-leg walking sticks**
 - **Portable ramps**
 - **Tactile guide maps** (for navigation by visually impaired persons within institutions)
 - **Braille on signage**
 - **BIS** operates under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.
- 10. NLC India Signs Agreement with France's EDF for Nuclear Power Technologies**
- India is pursuing an aggressive **nuclear energy expansion** with a target of **100 Gigawatt (GW) nuclear capacity by 2047**.
 - **NLC India** (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation) signed an agreement with **France's EDF (Électricité de France)**.
 - **Focus:** Exploring **European Pressurized Reactor (EPR)** and **Small Modular Reactor (SMR)** technologies.
- 11. UIDAI-NFSU Sign 5-Year Cybersecurity Pact for Aadhaar Infrastructure**
- **UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India)** and **NFSU (National Forensic Sciences University)** signed a **5-year pact**.
 - **Purpose:** Enhance **cybersecurity** and **digital forensics** capabilities for India's **Aadhaar** infrastructure.
- 12. CBI Launches AI Chatbot "ABH" to Combat Digital Scams**
- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** launched an **AI chatbot** named **"ABH"**.
 - **Purpose:** To help citizens **verify CBI notices** and **combat digital scams**.
 - **CBI** operates under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.
- 13. NITI Aayog Launches Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal for Real-Time Governance**
- **Launched by:** **NITI Aayog's Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
 - **Portal name:** **Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal**.
 - **Purpose:** Enables **real-time governance**, **field monitoring**, and **last-mile service delivery** across aspirational districts.
- 14. Uttar Pradesh — "One District One Dish" Scheme Launched**
- The scheme was inspired by the **Central Government's "One District One Product" (ODOP)** initiative to promote local specialties.
 - **Launch Date:** **January 24, 2026** (by the **Uttar Pradesh** government).
 - **Objective:** Highlight and brand **traditional regional dishes** from each district of **Uttar Pradesh** to boost the local economy and **tourism**.
 - **Examples:** **Agra's Petha, Mathura's Peda, Jaunpur's Imarti**.
 - **Budget:** **₹150 crores**.

- **Assistance:** Up to ₹20 lakh to associated individuals/businesses.
- **Application Deadline:** May 31, 2026.

15. Mission for Cotton Productivity — ₹5,659.22 Crore Outlay Approved

- India is the **largest global Cultivator of cotton (Not producer of Cotton)**, but the **Brazil** is the **largest exporter**
- Current cotton yield in India stands at **440 kg/hectare**, which is lower than global standards.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **Mission for Cotton Productivity** with an outlay of **₹5,659.22 crore** for the period **2026–27 to 2030–31**.
- **Lead Ministries:** **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** and **Ministry of Textiles** (headed by **Giriraj Singh**).
- **Vision:** Follows the **"5F" framework** — **Farm → Fibre → Factory → Fashion → Foreign**.
- **Production Target:** Increase national cotton production to **498 lakh bales** by **2031**.
- **Yield Target:** Improve yield from **440 kg/hectare** to **755 kg/hectare**.
- **Chaina → Largest producer** | **India → 2nd largest producer** | **Brazil → Largest exporter**.
- The **5F Vision** (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign) encapsulates the full textile supply chain.

16. State-Level News — Language, Infrastructure, Wildlife, and Cultural Updates

- **Meghalaya's Khasi and Garo** languages received **official status**.
- **Odisha** launched the **4th Phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** for rural road connectivity.
- **Nagaland** launched a **100-day Ayushman student coverage mission** to extend health coverage to students.
- A **female black panther** was introduced at the **Visakhapatnam Zoo**.
- **Assam** celebrated the **114th Sari Festival**.

17. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 Approved

- **ECLGS** was originally launched during **COVID-19** to support **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- The latest version — **ECLGS 5.0** — addresses liquidity stress caused by the **West Asia Crisis** (Iran–Israel–US conflict blocking the **Strait of Hormuz**, disrupting global trade and crude oil prices).
- **Total Outlay:** **₹18,100 crore**.
- **Guarantee Provider:** **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC)**.
- **Guarantee Coverage:** **100%** for **MSMEs** | **90%** for **non-MSMEs** and the **airline sector**.
- **Borrowing Limits:** **MSMEs/non-MSMEs** — up to **₹100 crore** (5-year tenure with 2-year moratorium) | **Airlines** — up to **₹1,500 crore** (7-year tenure).
- **Eligibility:** Valid until **March 31, 2027**. Only **standard loan accounts (non-NPA)** as of **March 31, 2026** are eligible.

18. SEBI Introduces Fast-Track Approval for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)

- **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)** are privately pooled investment funds that invest in startups, real estate, and other non-traditional assets with a **minimum investment of ₹1 crore**.
- Previously, **Asset Management Companies (AMCs)** had to wait **60–90 days** after filing the **Private Placement Memorandum (PPM)**.
- **SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)** introduced a **fast-track approval system** for **AIFs**.
- **New waiting period:** **30 days** (reduced from 60–90 days) after submitting the **Private Placement Memorandum (PPM)**.

19. NSE Introduces Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) for Digital Gold Trading

- Currently, the **Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB)** scheme was stopped and the **Gold Monetization Scheme** was closed.
- **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** introduced **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)**.
- **Nature:** Transparent **digital ("soft gold")** trading instruments backed by **physical gold** stored in **SEBI-approved vaults**.

- **Taxation:** Trading EGRs on the exchange **does not attract the 3% GST** that applies to physical gold. GST is only levied when an investor decides to **convert the digital receipt into physical gold** and takes delivery.
- NSE is India's largest stock exchange by trading volume.
- **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs):** Previously issued by the **RBI** on behalf of the government — now discontinued.
- **Gold Monetization Scheme:** Allowed depositing idle gold with banks — now closed.

20. Viability Plan 2.0 for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

- India currently has **28 RRBs**.
- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** approved **Viability Plan 2.0** for India's **28 RRBs**.
- **Period: 2025–26 to 2027–28.**
- **Evaluation Framework:** Banks will be assessed on **30 parameters** across **four pillars**:
 - **Operational Excellence**
 - **Asset Quality**
 - **Profitability**
 - **Growth**
- **RRBs** are jointly owned by the **Central Government (50%)**, **State Government (15%)**, and **Sponsor Bank (35%)**.

21. PFRDA Grants Pension Fund License to Motilal Oswal AMC

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** oversees the **National Pension System (NPS)** in India.
- **PFRDA** granted **Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company (AMC)** the license to **launch and manage a pension fund** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.
- **PFRDA** is a statutory regulatory body under the **Ministry of Finance**.
- **NPS** is a government-backed voluntary retirement savings scheme open to **all Indian citizens** aged **18–70 years**.

22. S&P Global Lowers India's FY26 GDP Forecast to 6.6%

- **S&P Global** lowered India's **FY26 GDP growth forecast** from **7.1%** to **6.6%**.
- **S&P Global:** One of the three major global credit rating agencies (along with **Moody's** and **Fitch**).
- **CRISIL:** A leading **Indian credit rating and research agency**, a subsidiary of **S&P Global**.

23. Key Economic Data — Exports, Unemployment, Banking Credit & FDI

- India achieved **\$860 billion** in total **exports for FY26** — a **4.2% increase** over the previous year.
- The **unemployment rate** stood at **5.1%** in **March** (latest reported period).
- **Scheduled commercial banks** recorded **15.9% Year-on-Year (YoY) non-food credit growth** in **FY27**.
- **Sector-wise breakdown:**
 - **Agriculture: 15.7%** growth
 - **Industry: 15%** growth
 - **Services: 19%** growth (highest)
 - **Personal Loans: 16.2%** growth
- **DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)** established a **60-day expedited clearance mechanism** for **FDI proposals** in **40 sub-sectors**.
- **Sub-sectors include:** Rare earth magnets, printed circuit boards, and others.
- **Applicable to:** FDI originating from **land-border sharing countries** — **China, Pakistan, Bangladesh**.
- **Jio Payments Bank** partnered with fintech platform **EasyPay** to expand **last-mile digital banking** in **rural and semi-urban India**.

24. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar's Historic First Bilateral Visit to Jamaica

- This was the **first-ever bilateral visit** by an **Indian External Affairs Minister (EAM)** to **Jamaica**.
- **Jamaica:** Capital — **Kingston** | Currency — **Jamaican Dollar (JMD)**.
- **MOUs Signed:** **Healthcare, Solar Energy, and Broadcasting**.

- **Humanitarian Gift:** India gifted **BHISHM Cubes** (**Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri**) — easily transportable, rapid-response health cubes.
- **BHISHM Cubes** are India's innovative **portable medical kits** capable of catering to emergency medical needs.

25. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) — Inaugural Summit to be Hosted in New Delhi

- The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **2023** to protect the world's seven big cat species.
- **New Delhi** will host the **inaugural IBCA Summit** in **June**.
- **Seven Big Cats Protected:** **Tiger, Lion, Cheetah, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Jaguar, Puma.**
- **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav** launched the **IBCA logo and theme**.
- **Theme:** "**Save Big Cat, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem**".
- India is home to **6 of the 7 big cats** (all except **Jaguar**, which is native to the Americas).
- **Project Tiger** (launched **1973**) is India's flagship tiger conservation programme.

26. India–EU Launch €15.2 Million Joint EV Battery Recycling Initiative

- **India** and the **European Union (EU)** jointly launched a **€15.2 million (₹169 crore)** initiative for **Electric Vehicle (EV) battery recycling**.
- **EU Funding Source:** **Horizon Europe** programme.
- **Indian Partner:** **Ministry of Heavy Industries**.

27. ADB 59th Annual Meeting Held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** holds its annual meeting to address major economic and developmental challenges in Asia.
- **Venue:** **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.
- **Meeting:** **59th Annual Meeting** of the **ADB**.
- **ADB Announcement:** Following a **\$70 billion infrastructure investment**, ADB announced new initiatives for **Asian self-reliance in critical minerals**.
- **Critical Minerals covered:** **Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel, Graphite, Rare Earth Metals**.
- **New windows announced:**
 - **Research Grant Window** — for mineral research
 - **Catalytic Finance Window** — to mobilize private investment in critical minerals
- **ADB Headquarters:** **Manila, Philippines**.
- **ADB President:** **Masato Kanda** (as of recent reports).
- India is a founding member and major shareholder of **ADB**.

28. USA's "Project Freedom" — Protecting International Shipping in Strait of Hormuz

- The **USA** launched "**Project Freedom**".
- **Deployment:** **Warships, aircraft, and 15,000 personnel**.
- **Objective:** Protect **international ships** navigating the **Strait of Hormuz** from mutual blockades.
- The Strait of Hormuz lies between **Iran** and **Oman**.

29. India Tops Global Remittances — IOM World Migration Report 2026

- The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** publishes the **World Migration Report** periodically.
- The **IOM's World Migration Report 2026** revealed **India** as the **top global remittance recipient** in **2024**.
- **India's remittances:** Over **\$137 billion** in **2024**.
- **2nd place:** **Mexico** with **\$67.6 billion**.
- **IOM** is an **intergovernmental organization** working on international migration.
- **IOM HQ:** **Geneva, Switzerland**.

30. Inaugural BRICS Health Working Group Meeting Hosted in New Delhi

- **BRICS** (**Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa**) has been expanding its cooperation beyond economics into health.
- The **first-ever BRICS Health Working Group Meeting** was hosted in **New Delhi**.

- **BRICS** currently has **10 members** after the 2024 expansion (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia).
- 31. India–South Korea Set \$50 Billion Bilateral Trade Target by 2030**
- **South Korea Capital:** Seoul | **Currency:** South Korean Won (KRW).
- 32. Record Defence Production at ₹1.54 Lakh Crore; Exports at ₹23,622 Crore**
- **Announced by:** Dr. Jitendra Singh at the North Tech Symposium in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.
 - **Symposium Theme:** "Raksha Triveni Sangam".
 - **Defence Production:** Reached ₹1.54 lakh crore — a 174% growth.
 - **Defence Exports:** Reached exactly ₹23,622 crore.
 - **Private Sector Contribution:** Approximately ₹1,000 crore to defence exports.
 - India's defence export target is ₹50,000 crore by 2028–29 set by the **Ministry of Defence**.
- 33. MoD Signs ₹1,476 Crore Deal with BEL for Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems**
- **Contract value:** ₹1,476 crore.
 - **Vendor:** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Hyderabad.
 - **Equipment:** Five Ground-based Mobile Electronic Systems for the **Indian Army**.
 - **Capability:** These armored vehicles detect signals, monitor battlefield activities, and **block battlefield communications**.
 - **Procurement Category:** "Buy Indian — IDDM" (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured).
 - **BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited)** is a Navratna CPSE under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- 34. Brain Computer Interface (BCI) Conference Inaugurated by CDS General Anil Chauhan**
- **Brain Computer Interface (BCI)** technology enables direct communication between the human brain and external devices.
 - **Inaugurated by:** Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan in New Delhi.
 - **Theme:** "Brain Computer Interface: Expanding Neural Frontiers and Strategic Implications".
- 35. DRDO Inaugurates CBRN Field Training and Demo Centre in New Delhi**
- **CBRN** stands for **Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear** threats — one of the most dangerous categories of warfare threats.
 - **DRDO Chairman Samir V. Kamat** inaugurated a **CBRN Field Training and Demonstration Centre** in New Delhi.
 - **DRDO** is under the **Ministry of Defence** with **HQ in New Delhi**.
 - **DRDO Chairman Samir V. Kamat** heads India's largest defence R&D organization.
- 36. Naval Movements — HNLMS De Ruyter and INS Sunayna**
- **Dutch (Netherlands)** naval ship **HNLMS De Ruyter (F804)** arrived at **Kochi** for a **PASSEX (Passing Exercise)**.
 - **INS Sunayna** reached **Yangon, Myanmar**.
 - **HNLMS** stands for **Her Netherlands Majesty's Ship** — prefix for Dutch naval vessels.
 - **INS** stands for **Indian Naval Ship**.
 - **PASSEX:** A short naval exercise conducted when ships of friendly navies are in proximity.
- 37. World Athletics Day — May 7**
- **Theme 2026:** "Using Sports to Build Bridges and Break Barriers".
- 38. Important Days Observed on May 5**
- (i) **International Day of the Midwife (May 5)**
- **Theme 2026:** "1 Million More Midwives" — highlighting the global shortage of midwives.
- (ii) **World Hand Hygiene Day (May 5)**
- **Theme 2026:** "Action Saves Lives — Safe Care Starts with Clean Hands".
- (iii) **World Cartoonist Day (May 5)**
- 39. Thomas Cup (34th) & Uber Cup (31st) 2026 — Results**
- The **Thomas Cup (Men's Badminton Team Championship)** and **Uber Cup (Women's Badminton Team Championship)** are conducted by the **Badminton World Federation (BWF)**.

- **Thomas Cup (34th edition):** China defeated France (score: 3–1) to win their 12th title. Indonesia still holds the record for the most Thomas Cup titles with 14 victories
- **Uber Cup (31st edition):** South Korea defeated China to win the title.

40. New Delhi to Host 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship

41. Chess Milestones — Vaishali Rameshbabu & Arion Goss; ICC Awards

(i) Chess Achievements

- **Vaishali Rameshbabu** won the **FIDE Women's Candidates 2026** — qualifying for the Women's World Chess Championship.
- **Arion Goss** became India's **95th Chess Grandmaster**.

(ii) ICC Players of the Month — March

- **ICC Players of the Month for March:**
 - **Men's Award:** Sanju Samson
 - **Women's Award:** Amelia Kerr

(iii) Hockey

- **Jharkhand's women's hockey team** won their **third consecutive sub-junior women's national title**.

42. Shashi Shekhar Vempati Appointed CBFC Chairperson

- The **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** is a statutory body established in **1951**, headquartered in **Mumbai**, functioning under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
- **Shashi Shekhar Vempati** was appointed as the new **Chairperson of CBFC**.
- **Predecessor:** Prasoon Joshi (who joined **Prasar Bharati**).

43. Sports & Corporate Appointments / Miss India 2026 / Wealth Record

(i) Sports & Corporate Appointments

- **Smriti Mandhana** (Indian women's cricket vice-captain) partnered with **Agelita Sports**.
- **Infosys** named **Carlos Alcaraz** (World No. 1 tennis player) as a **global brand ambassador**.
- **Ajit Agarkar** was **reappointed** as **chairman of the BCCI Selection Committee**.
- **John Ternus** became the new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Apple**.

(ii) Miss India 2026

- **Sadhi Satish Sail** (representing **Goa**) was crowned **Femina Miss India World 2026**.

(iii) Wealth Record

- **Gautam Adani** became the **richest person in Asia**.

44. Obituaries — R.B. Choudary & Ted Turner

- **R.B. Choudary** — Veteran Indian **film producer** — passed away.
- **Ted Turner** — American **entrepreneur** and **founder of CNN (Cable News Network)** in **1980** — passed away.