

April 2026

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1. G V Satish Sir- Best Picks

1. Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 213 km, six-lane corridor on April 14
- Total construction cost: ₹12,000 crore
- Travel time reduced from 6 hours to 2.5 hours

2. India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Signed

- Signed on April 27, 2026 in New Delhi
- Signed by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Trade Minister Todd McClay
- Aims to boost bilateral trade to \$20 billion over 15 years
- India gets 100% duty-free access for MSME, textile, and leather exports
- India liberalized 8,284 tariff lines (70.3%)
- The FTA has 20 chapters aligning with "Viksit Bharat 2047" vision

3. RBI Launches Utkarsh 3.0 (Utkarsh 2029) Framework

- RBI officially launched Utkarsh 2029 (Utkarsh 3.0)
- Three-year medium-term strategy framework running from April 2026 to March 2029
- 26th RBI Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
- RBI established on April 1, 1935 (Hilton Young Commission); nationalized January 1, 1949
- Four Deputy Governors: T. Rabi Sankar, Swaminathan Janakiraman, Punam Gupta, and Srijish Chandra Murmu

4. Samrat Choudhary Sworn in as 24th Chief Minister of Bihar

- Nitish Kumar resigned as CM to join the Rajya Sabha
- Samrat Choudhary of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sworn in as 24th Chief Minister of Bihar
- Oath administered by Governor Syed Ata Hasnain at Raj Bhavan, Patna
- Bihar Governor: Syed Ata Hasnain

5. UPI Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary with Record Growth

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was originally launched on April 11, 2016 by NPCI
- Transactions scaled from 1.78 crore to 21,900 crore over the decade
- Total value jumped from ₹6,952 crore to ₹308 lakh crore
- Worldline Report 2025: UPI handled 228.5 billion transactions in 2025 (33% YoY increase)
- PhonePe first UPI app to cross 10 billion monthly transactions; holds 46.4% market share in volume
- Google Pay holds 33% market share

6. India Becomes 5th Largest Military Spender – SIPRI Report

- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released global military spending data for 2025
- India became the 5th largest global military spender in 2025
- Spending: \$92.1 billion (3.2% of global spending)
- Defense spending increased by 8.9%, driven by "Operation Sindoor"
- India is 2nd largest importer of arms globally, behind Ukraine
- Top 5: USA (\$954B), China (\$336B), Russia (\$190B), Germany, India (\$92.1B)
- Top 5 collectively account for 58% of global military spending

7. R Vaishali Wins FIDE Women's Candidates 2026 – First Indian Woman

- FIDE Women's Candidates 2026 held in Cyprus
- R Vaishali became the first Indian woman to win the FIDE Women's Candidates tournament
- Scored 8.5/14 points; defeated Russia's Kateryna Lagno
- Qualified for the World Championship to challenge China's Ju Wenjun
- Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov won the open section
- Aronyak Ghosh (Kolkata) became India's 95th Chess Grandmaster
- A.S. Sharvaanica won FIDE World Rapid Under-12 Girls Championship in Serbia

8. India's Renewable Energy – Record Additions and Global Ranking

- India scaling up to meet its 2030 goal of 500 GW of non-fossil capacity (COP26)
- India added unprecedented 45 GW of solar capacity in Financial Year (FY) 26
- March 2026 saw single-month record of 6.65 GW led by Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra
- India added record 6.05 GW of wind power (46% YoY increase); cumulative wind: over 56 GW
- India overtook Brazil to become 3rd ranked globally in installed renewable capacity (behind China and USA)
- India now 4th globally in wind turbines (after China, US, Germany)
- MNRE allocated ₹500 crore capex for Wind Generation Based Incentive (GBI) scheme
- Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) issued dividend cheque of ₹155 crore to MNRE

9. Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) – ₹1 Lakh Crore Launched

- Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) launched with total outlay of ₹1 Lakh Crore (2025-26 to 2030-31; extendable to 2033-34)

- ₹90,000 crore for projects; ₹5,000 crore capacity building; ₹5,000 crore for **Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub Scheme**
- Centre: **25%**; Market/Bank Loans: **50%**; States/UTs: **25%**
- Ultimate goal: drive total urban infrastructure investment of **₹4 lakh crore**

10. China Overtakes USA as India's Largest Trading Partner

- **China** overtook the **USA** to become India's **largest trading partner** with bilateral trade of **\$151.1 billion**
- **USA** now ranks **second** with total trade volume of **\$140 billion**
- India's trade deficit with **China**: **\$112.16 billion** (imports **\$131.63 billion**; exports **\$19.47 billion**)
- India's total exports: **\$860 billion** in FY26 (**4.2% YoY growth**)
- Total imports: **\$978.4 billion**; trade deficit: **\$119.30 billion**
- Data released by **Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal**
- India's exports to **China** grew **36.66%** to **\$19.47 billion**
- India is officially the world's **sixth-largest economy**

11. Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 – ₹10,000 Crore Corpus

- **Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** notified the **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0**
- Corpus: **₹10,000 crore**
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** designated as implementing agency
- Over **55,200** startups recognized in FY 2025-26; India's total: **2.23 lakh**
- Maximum loan facility per borrower increased to **₹20 crore**
- India now has **2.23 lakh** recognized startups

12. RBI Cancels Paytm Payments Bank License

- **RBI** officially cancelled the banking license of **Paytm Payments Bank** under **Section 22(4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**
- Effective: **April 24, 2026**; reason: persistent non-compliance
- **RBI** will apply to the **High Court** for formal winding up
- India currently has **5** operational payment banks; will drop to **4** after **Fino Payments Bank** converts (Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), Jio Payments Bank, NSDL Payments Bank)
- Payment banks require minimum capital of **₹100 crore**; deposit limit: **₹2 lakh** per depositor
- Cannot issue loans or accept term/fixed deposits; FDI cap at **74%**

13. India's GDP Projections – Multi-Agency Summary

- **IMF**: **6.5%** (FY27 & FY28); **7.6%** for FY26
- **World Bank**: **6.6%**; revised up from **6.3%**; **7.2%** for FY26
- **ADB**: **6.9%** (FY27), **7.6%** (FY26), **7.3%** (FY28)
- **RBI**: **6.9%** for FY27
- **SBI Research**: **6.8%–7.1%** for FY27
- **Moody's**: **6.0%** (downgraded from **6.8%**)
- India slipped from **4th to 6th** spot globally in GDP ranking
- Top four global economies: **USA, China, Germany, Japan**
- **IMF HQ**: **Washington D.C.**; **MD**: **Kristalina Georgieva**; **190 member countries**

14. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Crosses 9 Crore Subscribers

- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** regulated by **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**
- Crossed **9 crore** total enrolments by **April 21, 2026**
- Record **1.35 crore** new subscribers in **FY 2025-26**
- Combined **APY and NPS** Assets Under Management (AUM) crossed **₹16.46 lakh crore**
- **Female participation**: **48%**
- Launched: **May 9, 2015**; eligible: ages **18–40**; pension at **60**: **₹1,000–₹5,000/month**
- Income taxpayers barred since **October 1, 2022**

15. India's Patent Filings Grow 30.2% – Ranks 6th in WIPO

- Total patent filings in India increased by **30.2%** to **1.43 lakh (143,729)** in FY26
- **69%** domestic; top states: **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra**
- India globally ranks **6th** in the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** index
- Top four nations: **USA, Japan, South Korea, China**

16. SEBI Rolls Out Three New IT Platforms

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** celebrated its **38th Foundation Day** on **April 25**
- **SEBI** rolled out three new IT platforms:
 - **SUPComms (Single Universal Platform)**: replaces traditional emails
 - **E-Adjudication Portal**: handles online quasi-judicial proceedings
 - **C-SAC (Cyber Security Audit Compliance)**: AI-driven tool for cybersecurity audits
- **Mission Jagrook** launched by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** at the event
- **SEBI** extended NPO registration validity on **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** from **2 to 3 years**
- **SEBI** and **DoT** signed MoU to prevent telecom-linked financial frauds

17. London Marathon 2026 – First Sub-2-Hour Marathon Record

- **Sebastian Sawa** (Kenya) became the **first man** in history to officially finish a marathon in **under two hours**
- Exact time: **1 hour, 59 minutes, and 30 seconds**
- **Tigst Assefa** (Ethiopia) set a **women-only world record** of **2:15:41** at the same event
- First-ever sub-2-hour competitive marathon in history
- Event: **London Marathon 2026**

18. Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 – Madrid

- Held in **Madrid, Spain**
- **Sportsman of the Year:** **Carlos Alcaraz** (Spain, Tennis)
- **Sportswoman of the Year:** **Aryna Sabalenka** (Belarus, Tennis)
- **Team of the Year:** **Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)**
- **Lifetime Achievement:** **Nadia Comăneci** (Gymnastics)
- **Breakthrough:** **Lando Norris** (F1); **Comeback:** **Rory McIlroy** (Golf)
- **Young Sportsperson:** **Lamine Yamal** (Football)
- **Sport for Good:** **Fútbol Más** (Chile NGO)

19. India's First Digital Census 2027 Announced

- India's **16th overall census** and **8th post-independence**
- First fully digital census using mobile apps in **16 languages**
- Budget: **₹11,718.24 crore**
- Timeline: House listing (April–Sept 2026); Population enumeration (Feb 2027); Reference release: **March 1, 2027**
- Includes **caste-based enumeration** and self-enumeration portal
- Brand Ambassador: **Padma Shri** sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik**
- Mascots: **Pragati** (female) and **Vikas** (male); Toll-free helpline: **1855**
- **Mritunjay Kumar Narayan:** Registrar General and Census Commissioner
- First modern census conducted under **Lord Mayo (1865–72)**

20. BRICS Health Working Group Meeting – India as 2026 Chair

- India holding **BRICS Chairship for 2026**
- India hosted the **1st BRICS Health Working Group Meeting** in **New Delhi**
- Chaired by **Union Health Secretary** **Punya Salila Srivastava**
- **2026 BRICS Chairship** theme: **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"**
- India proposed a **"BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle"**
- India also proposing a **"BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle"** focusing on diet, mental health, tobacco/alcohol risks

- **4th India-Africa Forum Summit** scheduled in **New Delhi** on **May 31, 2026**; theme: **"India Africa SPRINT"**

21. Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2025 Awards – India Dominates

- Indians secured **7 of 9** honors:
 - **Deepti Sharma** – **Leading Women's Cricketer of the Year**
 - **Abhishek Sharma** – **Leading T20 Cricketer of the Year**
 - **Shubman Gill** – **Wisden Trophy** (for scoring over **430 runs**)
 - **Mitchell Starc** (Australia) – **Leading Men's Cricketer**
- **Sanju Samson** won **ICC Player of the Month (March 2026)** – Men's award
- **Amelia Kerr** won **ICC Player of the Month** – Women's award
- **Virat Kohli** became **first player in IPL history** to reach **800 boundaries**
- **Ajit Agarkar** reappointed as **BCCI Chief Selector** for one year (targeting **2027 ODI World Cup**)

22. Susan Coyle – First Female Chief of Army, Australia

- **Susan Coyle** became the **first female Chief of Army** in Australia's **125-year history**
- Succeeded **Simon Stuart**
- **Mark Hammond** appointed **Chief of Defence Force**, replacing **David Johnston**
- Female participation in **ADF**: currently **21%**; target **25% by 2030**
- Joint exercises with India: **AUSINDEX** and **AUSTRA HIND**
- Australia part of **AUKUS / QUAD**; **Prime Minister:** **Anthony Albanese**; **Capital:** **Canberra**

23. Nazar Muhammad Sed Ahmedi Elected as 9th President of Iraq

- **Nazar Muhammad Sed Ahmedi** (also cited as **Nizar Amedi**) elected by the **Iraqi parliament** as the **9th President of Iraq**
- Succeeded **Abdul Latif Rashid**
- Nominated businessman **Ali Al-Zeidi** as the next **Prime Minister of Iraq**

24. India's FDI Inflows – Singapore Tops with \$17.6 Billion

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) data for April–December FY26 released
- Total FDI equity inflows: **\$47.87 billion** (April–December FY26)
- **Singapore:** top investing country (**\$17.6 billion, 37% share**)
- **USA** (**\$7.8 billion**) and **Mauritius** (**\$4.8 billion**) followed
- Top FDI sectors: **Computer software/hardware** (**22%**) and **services** (**18%**)
- Top FDI states: **Maharashtra** (**\$15.38 billion**) and **Karnataka** (**\$11.15 billion**)

- India is top destination for **greenfield FDI** in Asia-Pacific
- India is world's **largest recipient of remittances** (estimated **\$137 billion in 2024**)

25. Goldman Environmental Prize 2026 – All-Women Cohort

- **Goldman Environmental Prize** – often called the "**Green Nobel Prize**"
- Awarded exclusively to **six women** for the first time in **2026**:
 - **Iroro Tanshi** (Nigeria), **Boram Kim** (South Korea), **Sarah Finch** (UK), **Theonila Roka Matbob** (Papua New Guinea), **Alannah Acaq Hurley** (USA), **Yuvelis Morales Blanco** (Colombia)
- Prize: **\$200,000**; established **1989**
- First Indian recipient: **Medha Patkar (1992)** for saving the **Narmada River**
- Prize often described as the "**Green Nobel Prize**"

26. PMGSY Phase 3 Extended + Phase 4 Approved

- **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** extended for rural road connectivity
- **Phase 3** extended from **March 2025 to March 2028** (till **March 2029** for hilly areas)
- Budget increased to **₹83,977 crore** to upgrade **1.25 lakh km** of existing rural routes
- **Phase 4 (FY25–FY29)**: allocated **₹70,125 crore**; aims to construct **62,500 km** of new roads
- **World Bank (IBRD)** approved **\$225 million** loan for **800 km** highway corridor in **Rajasthan** (first "**Step Up Loan Structure**" in India; **35-year** maturity)
- **Ganga Expressway: 594 km, six-lane**; connects **Meerut to Prayagraj**; inaugurated by **PM Modi**

27. RBI's New NBFC Regulatory Framework – Upper Layer Threshold

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** restructured regulatory approach for **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**
- **RBI** replaced old scoring model with new absolute asset size threshold of **₹1 Lakh Crore** for **Upper Layer NBFCs**
- Entities reviewed every **5 years**
- Branch expansion rules:
 - **NOF > ₹50 crore + AA rating**: Open branches anywhere in India
 - **NOF > ₹50 crore + below AA**: Restricted to home state
 - **NOF ≤ ₹50 crore**: Only in state of registered office
- All applications via **PRAVAAH portal**
- **PayPoint India** became first **NBFC/fintech** to join RBI's **Centralised Payment System**

28. India's Macroeconomic Indicators – WPI, CPI, Unemployment

- Key economic data released for **March 2026**

- **WPI inflation: 3.88% (3.9%) – 38-month high**; up from **2.13%** in February
- **CPI inflation: 3.4% – 13-month high**; up from **3.21%** in February
- **Unemployment rate (NSO PLFS): 5.1% – 5-month high**
- **CPI Base Year** updated to **2024**; basket items increased to **358**; food/beverage weight: **36.75%**
- **WPI Base Year: 2011-2012**; measures goods using **697 articles**
- **GDP Base Year: revised to 2022–23**
- **Worker Population Ratio (15–59 years): 52.6%**
- **Labour Force Participation Rate: 55.4%**

29. India-South Korea Bilateral Visit – 25 MoUs Signed

- **South Korean President Lee Jae-myung** visited India (**April 19–21**)
- **~25 MoUs** signed in sectors like **shipbuilding, logistics, and energy**
- Bilateral trade target: **\$50 billion by 2030** (current: **\$27 billion**)
- **POSCO Group (South Korea)** and **JSW Steel** signed a **\$7.3 billion** joint venture for a **6 million ton** steel plant in **Odisha by 2031** (50/50 JV)
- Agreed to resume **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**
- Celebrate **2028–29 as Friendship Year**

30. TIME 100 Most Influential People 2026 – Three Indians Featured

- Three Indians featured:
 - **Sundar Pichai** (Google CEO) – **Titans** category (AI leadership)
 - **Vikas Khanna** (Chef) – **Innovator** category (global Indian cuisine)
 - **Ranbir Kapoor** (Actor) – **Artist** category
- Youngest honoree: **19-year-old Alisa Liu**; Oldest: **96-year-old Dollar**
- Other global leaders featured: **Donald Trump**, Japan's PM **Sanai Takaichi**, Nepal's PM **Balendra Shah**
- **Jay Shah (BCCI)** included in **WEF Young Global Leaders Class of 2026**

31. India-Maldives SAARC Currency Swap – ₹30 Billion

- India providing economic support to **Maldives** under **SAARC Currency Swap Framework (2024–27)**
- India approved **₹30 billion** currency swap for **Maldives**
- Allows **Maldives** to use **Indian Rupees** instead of **US Dollars** for trade
- India increased Maldives aid to **₹600 crore** (up from **₹470 crore**) in 2025-26 Union Budget

32. PM e-VIDYA Program – Coverage and Six Pillars

- Launched: **May 17, 2020** during **COVID-19 pandemic**; part of **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**

- Covers **24.8 crore** school students and **4.33 crore** higher education learners
- Six pillars: **SWAYAM, SWAYAM PRABHA, DIKSHA, Radio/Community Radio, Special e-content for CWSN, Online Coaching (SATHEE)**
- **SATHEE Platform**: launched **November 2023** by **IIT Kanpur** for **JEE and NEET** coaching
- Aim: "**One Nation, One Digital Education Infrastructure**"

33. India's First Greenfield Integrated Refinery – Pachpadra, Rajasthan

- **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated India's first greenfield integrated **refinery-cum-petrochemical complex** in **Pachpadra, Rajasthan**
- Built jointly by **HPCL and Rajasthan Government**
- Cost: **₹1,79,450 crore** (one of the largest energy investments)
- **Pachpadra** is in **Barmer district, Rajasthan**

34. India's 99th Ramsar Site – Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary, UP

- **Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary** in **Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh** declared India's **99th Ramsar site** on **April 22, 2026** (World Earth Day)
- **Uttar Pradesh** now hosts **12 Ramsar sites** (2nd highest after **Tamil Nadu** with **20**)
- India now has **99 Ramsar sites** – **highest in Asia**; **3rd highest globally** (after **UK and Mexico**)
- Recent 2026 additions: **Patna Bird Sanctuary (UP)** and **Chhari-Dhand Wetland Conservation Reserve (Gujarat)**
- India has **496** protected areas and **353** notified **Eco-Sensitive Zones**

35. ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 – India Tops Medal Tally

- **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup 2026** held in **Cairo, Egypt**
- **India** topped the medal tally with **16 medals** (**5 Gold, 6 Silver, 5 Bronze**)
- **Palak Gulia** and **Mukesh Nelavalli** won gold in **10m Air Pistol mixed team** at **ISSF World Cup** in **Granada, Spain**, setting a **junior category world record**
- **Oleg Noskov** set a record winning gold in men's **50m rifle 3 positions**
- **Sonam Maskar** finished **5th** in women's **10m air rifle** at **ISSF World Cup, Spain**
- **China's Wang Zifi** won gold in women's **10m air rifle**

36. Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool – ₹12,980 Crore Sovereign Guarantee

- **Union Cabinet** approved creation of **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool** with sovereign guarantee of **₹12,980 crore**

- India also approved a **10-year, ₹129.8 billion (\$1.4 billion)** dedicated **Maritime Insurance Pool**

37. VAANI 3.0 Scheme – AICTE Promotes 22 Indian Languages

- **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** promotes technical education in regional languages
- **AICTE** launched **VAANI 3.0 (Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages)** – 3rd edition
- Annual allocation: **₹4 crore**; supports **200 conferences/workshops** annually
- **₹2 lakh per event** to selected institutions
- Promotes **22 Indian languages** in fields: **AI, Quantum Technology, Cyber Security, Space, Defense, Agrotech**

38. India-Russia RELOS Agreement Comes into Force

- **Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)** between **India and Russia** officially came into force
- Valid for **5 years**
- Introduces a **dollar-bypassing barter system** for mutual exchanges

39. Meghalaya Grants Official Language Status to Khasi and Garo

- **Meghalaya** government passed **Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026** on **April 16, 2026**
- Grants **full official language status** to **Khasi and Garo** languages alongside **English**
- Replaces the **2005 Language Act** which gave them only **associate status**
- **Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma; Governor: Vijay Shankar**
- **CM INSPIRE Scheme** also launched by **CM Conrad K Sangma** (**₹5,000** for **UPSC Prelims**; **₹1 lakh** for **Mains**)

40. SBI Overtakes ICICI – Second Largest Lender by Market Cap

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** overtook **ICICI Bank** to become India's **second-largest lender by market value** (first time since **August 2019**)
- **HDFC Bank** remains the **largest lender**
- **IDBI Bank** recorded steepest market decline of **40.3%**
- **SBI** aims to expand balance sheet to **25% of India's GDP by 2030** (from current **~20%**)
- **SBI** currently serves **53 crore** customers; ranked **27th globally** (aims for top 10)
- **SBI** adopts "**ABCD Strategy**": **Acquire, Build, Convert, and Deepen**

41. India's First AI Tool for Narcotic Investigation – NARIT AI

- **Gujarat Police** launched **NARIT AI (Narcotics Analysis RAG-based Investigation Tool)**
- India's **first AI tool** for **narcotic investigations**

- **Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC)** also introduced **QR-based passenger feedback system** inside buses
- **CBI** also launched AI chatbot "**Abhay**" (launched by **Supreme Court Justice Surya Kant**)
- **DRDO** handed over "**Prajna**" AI-enabled satellite imaging system to **MHA**

42. India-Austria Bilateral – First Visit in 40 Years

- **Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker** visited India
- First visit by an **Austrian Chancellor** in India in **40 years** (also his first visit to Asia)
- **PM Modi** held talks at **Hyderabad House, New Delhi**; focus: **trade, investment, green technology**
- Letters of Intent signed on **defense policy dialogue** and **fast-track business dispute resolution**
- India and **Germany** celebrated **75 years of diplomatic relations (1951–2026)**
- **Austria**: capital **Vienna**; central European nation; **not a NATO** member
- India-Germany **75th anniversary** commemorative logo launched

43. Ladakh Gets 5 New Districts – Total Now 7

- **Ministry of Home Affairs** approved expansion of districts in the **Union Territory of Ladakh** from **2 (Leh and Kargil)** to **7**
- Five new districts: **Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang**
- Confirmed by **Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena**
- India currently has **28 states** and **8 Union Territories**
- Ladakh is a **Union Territory without legislature**

44. Sikkim's Golden Jubilee – PM Modi Inaugurates ₹4,000 Crore Projects

- Sikkim celebrating **50th year of statehood** (Golden Jubilee)
- **PM Narendra Modi** participated in closing ceremony of **Sikkim's Golden Jubilee** in **Gangtok** on **April 28, 2026**
- Sikkim became **22nd state of India** on **May 16, 1975**
- Inaugurated **30 development projects** worth **₹4,000 crore**
- **PM Modi** also inaugurated **6 state-of-the-art BCCI Cricket Academies** in Northeast India (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland)
- Sikkim borders **China (Tibet), Nepal, Bhutan, and West Bengal**
- Capital: **Gangtok**

45. NSE Approved to Launch National Coal Exchange of India Limited

- **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** received **SEBI** and **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**

approval to establish "**National Coal Exchange of India Limited**"

- **Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX)** also received **SEBI** approval to invest **₹100 crore** and establish **MCX Coal Exchange Limited**

46. Project Sanjeevani – India's First Highway Trauma Care System (Telangana)

- **Project Sanjeevani**: India's first fully integrated highway trauma care and rescue system
- Implemented on **251 km** stretch of **National Highway-44 (NH-44)** between **Hyderabad** and **Adilabad**
- **Telangana** also declared **cancer** a "**notifiable disease**": mandatory reporting within **one month**
- **Telangana CM: Revanth Reddy**; Deputy CM: **Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka**; Governor: **Shiv Pratap Shukla**

47. Samudra Sahas – Indian Army's First Blue Water Sailing Expedition

- **Indian Army** flagged off its **first Blue Water Sailing Expedition** named "**Samudra Sahas**" from **Marve, Mumbai**
- Part of the **Artillery Regiment's bicentenary** celebrations
- **520-nautical-mile** journey on **21-foot Seabird class boats**
- Four legs: **Mumbai to Vijaydurg, Goa, Vijaydurg, and back to Mumbai**
- Led by **Captain Kshitij Nair** and **Subedar Prakash Phande**
- India also conducted **7th edition** of **India-Uzbekistan joint exercise "DUSTLIK"** (April 12–25, 2026, Uzbekistan)
- **Operation Himshetu** launched by **Indian Army's Trishakti Corps** in **North Sikkim**

48. John Ternus Appointed as 8th CEO of Apple Inc.

- **John Ternus** appointed as the **8th Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Apple Inc.**, effective **September 1, 2026**
- Succeeded **Tim Cook** (retiring but remaining as executive/chairperson)
- **Vibha Padalkar's** tenure as **MD & CEO** of **HDFC Life Insurance** extended for **5 years** (till 2031)
- **Srikanth Velamakanni** appointed **NASSCOM Chairperson** for **2026-27** (succeeding **Sindhu Gangadharan**)
- **Ashok Lahiri** appointed **Vice Chairman** of **NITI Aayog**, replacing **Suman K. Bery**

49. Biodiversity Governance Project 2025–2030 Launched

- **5-year project (2025–2030)**: "**Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitment**"
- Backed by **\$4.88 million** grant from **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** and **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

- Implemented in **Sathyamangalam Landscape (Tamil Nadu)** and **Garo Hills (Meghalaya)**
- Launched by **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** and **National Biodiversity Authority**
- Targeted regions include **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu)**, **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu)**, **Nokrek Biosphere Reserve (Meghalaya)**
- **Calamaria garonensis** – new species of burrowing reed snake found in **Meghalaya**

50. 43rd Badminton Asia Championship – South Korea Wins; India 5th

- **43rd Badminton Asia Championship** held in **Ningbo, China**
- **South Korea** won the **43rd Badminton Asia Championship** in **Ningbo, China**
- **India** finished **5th**; highlighted by **Ayush Shetty** winning **silver**
- **Viktor Axelsen** (Denmark) retired from international badminton due to a back injury:
 - Held world **No. 1** spot for **183 weeks**; won **Olympic golds** in **Tokyo** and **Paris**; bronze in **Rio**
- **P.V. Sindhu** appointed **Chairperson of Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athlete Commission**
- **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** sanctioned **₹1.45 crore** for Indian badminton contingent
- **FIDE** joined the **International World Games Association (IWGA)** as the **40th member** (Chess joins World Games)

Quick Revision Summary Table

#	News Item	Key Fact
1	Delhi-Dehradun Corridor	213 km, ₹12,000 crore
2	India-NZ FTA	April 27, \$20B target
3	RBI Utkarsh 3.0	April 2026–March 2029
4	Bihar CM	Samrat Choudhary, 24th CM
5	UPI 10 Years	228.5B transactions, 33% growth
6	SIPRI Military	India 5th, \$92.1B
7	R Vaishali Chess	First Indian woman, FIDE 2026
8	Renewable Energy	India 3rd globally, 45 GW solar
9	UCF Fund	₹1 Lakh Crore, 2025-31
10	China-India Trade	\$151.1B, largest partner
11	Startup Fund of Funds 2.0	₹10,000 crore, SIDBI
12	Paytm Bank License	Cancelled April 24, Section 22(4)
13	GDP Projections	IMF 6.5%, ADB 6.9%
14	APY 9 Crore	April 21, 2026; 1.35 crore new
15	Patent Rankings	6th in WIPO, 30.2% growth
16	SEBI IT Platforms	SUPComms, E-Adj, C-SAC
17	London Marathon	Sawe, 1:59:30, First sub-2hr
18	Laureus Awards	Alcaraz, Sabalenka, PSG
19	Digital Census 2027	₹11,718 crore, 16th census

20	BRICS Health Meeting	India Chair, New Delhi
21	Wisden Awards	7/9 Indians; Deepti, Abhishek
22	Susan Coyle	First female Army Chief, Australia
23	Iraq President	Nizar Amedi, 9th President
24	India FDI	\$47.87B; Singapore tops
25	Goldman Prize	All-women, 6 winners
26	PMGSY Extension	Phase 3 till 2028, ₹83,977 crore
27	NBFC Framework	₹1 Lakh Crore threshold
28	WPI/CPI Data	3.88% WPI, 3.4% CPI
29	India-South Korea	25 MoUs, \$50B trade target
30	TIME 100	Pichai, Khanna, Kapoor
31	India-Maldives Swap	₹30 billion, SAARC framework
32	PM e-VIDYA	6 pillars, 24.8 crore students
33	Pachpadra Refinery	₹1,79,450 crore, HPCL+Rajasthan
34	99th Ramsar Site	Shekha Jheel, Aligarh, UP
35	ISSF Junior World Cup	India tops, 16 medals, Cairo
36	Maritime Insurance Pool	₹12,980 crore sovereign guarantee
37	VAANI 3.0	AICTE, 22 languages, ₹4 crore
38	India-Russia RELOS	5 years, dollar-bypass barter
39	Meghalaya Languages	Khasi, Garo – official status
40	SBI Market Cap	2nd largest, first since Aug 2019
41	NARIT AI Gujarat	First AI narcotic investigation tool
42	India-Austria Visit	First in 40 years, Stocker
43	Ladakh 5 New Districts	Total 7 districts now
44	Sikkim Golden Jubilee	22nd state, May 16, 1975
45	National Coal Exchange	NSE + SEBI + MCA approval
46	Project Sanjeevani	India's first highway trauma care
47	Samudra Sahas	Army's first blue water expedition
48	John Ternus Apple CEO	8th CEO, effective Sept 1, 2026
49	Biodiversity Project	\$4.88M GEF+UNDP, 2025-2030
50	Badminton Asia Champ.	South Korea wins; India 5th

2. Amounts & Agreements

Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor

- ₹12,000 crore total construction cost for the 213 km, six-lane corridor
- Travel time reduced from 6 hours to 2.5 hours

Amaravati Capital Phase-1 Development

- Government of India contributing ₹1,400 crore out of total committed ₹15,000 crore
- World Bank (WB) released \$340 million for development
- Additional \$150 million expected from World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) by end of April 2026
- World Bank and ADB committed a total of \$1,600 million for the project

Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

- Corpus of ₹10,000 crore notified by Ministry of Commerce and Industry and DPIIT
- SIDBI designated as implementing agency

Punjab Anti-Sacrilege Bill

- Penalties: up to 10 years in jail and fines ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹25 lakh

India-ADB Loan for Infrastructure

- India and ADB signed a loan exceeding \$800 million for power, metro, and skill development

Mojali Semiconductor Laboratory

- Government pledged investment of ₹4,500 crore to upgrade the laboratory

Maritime Insurance Pool

- India approved a 10-year, ₹129.8 billion (\$1.4 billion USD) dedicated Maritime Insurance Pool

Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool

- Union Cabinet approved creation with a sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore

PMGSY Phase 3 & 4

- Phase 3 outlay increased from ₹8,250 crore to ₹83,977 crore (extended to March 2028)
- Phase 4 allocated ₹70,125 crore (FY25–FY29); targets 62,500 km of roads

Ganga Expressway

- 594 km, six-lane expressway; cost not separately listed
- Connects Bijauli (Meerut) to Judapur Dandu (Prayagraj) across 12 districts

Railway Multi-tracking Projects

- Total ₹24,815 crore approved
- Ghaziabad-Sitapur line (UP): 403 km at ₹14,926 crore
- Rajahmundry-Visakhapatnam line (AP): 198 km at ₹9,889 crore

World Bank Loan for Rajasthan Highways

- \$225 million (approx ₹2,000 crore) approved by IBRD for 800 km highway corridor with 35-year maturity; first "Step Up Loan Structure" in India

SWAMIH Investment Fund II

- ₹15,000 crore budget to complete 1 lakh stalled homes (Fund II for FY 2025-26)

Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

- Total outlay: ₹1 Lakh Crore (2025-26 to 2030-31, extendable to 2033-34)
- ₹90,000 crore for projects; ₹5,000 crore for capacity building; ₹5,000 crore for Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub Scheme
- Centre: 25%; Market/Bank Loans: 50%; States/UTs: 25%
- Aims to drive total urban infrastructure investment of ₹4 lakh crore

India-South Korea POSCO-JSW Steel JV

- \$7.3 billion joint venture for a 6 million ton steel plant in Odisha by 2031; 50/50 JV

Alliance Air Revival

- Central Government approved a ₹460 crore loan support package

UDAN Scheme

- Extended 10 years to FY 35/36 with a ₹28,840 crore outlay

PM SVANidhi Scheme Extension

- Extended to March 31, 2030 with ₹7,332 crore allocation
- Tiered loans: ₹15,000, ₹25,000, and ₹50,000; up to ₹1,600 digital cashback

Small Hydro Power Scheme

- ₹2,584.60 crore to add 1,500 MW capacity (2026-27 to 2030-31)

National Technical Textile Mission

- ₹1,480 crore outlay over 5 years

Jal Jeevan Mission Extension

- Extended to December 2028 with ₹8.69 lakh crore budget

Biodiversity Governance Project

- \$4.88 million grant from GEF and UNDP for 5-year project (2025-2030)

Andhra Pradesh Mushroom Mission

- ₹1,000 crore mission; ₹518.4 crore subsidy (40% of project cost); target 67,000 tons/year

3D Semiconductor Packaging Unit – Odisha

- ₹1,943 crore investment by 3D Glass Solutions Ltd

DRDO-BEML Contract

- ₹975 crore with BEML and EHP for TRAWL assembly line for T-72 and T-90 tanks

RBI Fines & Penalties

- Manak Krishna Investment: ₹3.1 lakh fine
- Bandhan Bank: ₹41.8 lakh penalty

- **Muthoot Housing Finance: ₹80,000 fine**
- **Hardoi Zila Sahakari Bank: ₹1 lakh**
- **Ebix Payment Services Ltd: ₹80,000**
- **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Nagari Sahakari Bank: ₹80,000**

RBI E-Mandate Framework 2026

- AFA threshold: **₹15,000** for standard mandates
- Enhanced limit up to **₹1 lakh** for mutual fund subscriptions, insurance, and credit card bills

India-New Zealand FTA

- Signed on **April 27, 2026** in **New Delhi**; aims to boost bilateral trade to **\$20 billion** over **15 years**
- India liberalized **8,284 tariff lines (70.3%)**; India gets **100% duty-free access** for MSMEs, textiles, leather

India-Maldives Currency Swap

- **₹30 billion** drawdown under **SAARC Currency Swap Framework**
- India increased Maldives aid to **₹600 crore** (up from **₹470 crore**) in 2025-26 Union Budget

India-Russia RELOS Agreement

- Valid for **5 years**; dollar-bypassing barter system

India-Korea Bilateral Trade Target

- Target: **\$50 billion** by **2030**; current trade **\$27 billion**
- India-Korea goals: Resume **CEPA**, celebrate **2028-29 as Friendship Year**; **~25 MoUs** signed

India-Austria Bilateral

- **Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker** visited India (first visit in **40 years**)
- Letters of Intent signed on defense policy dialogue and fast-track business dispute resolution

India-Africa Forum Summit

- **4th India-Africa Forum Summit** scheduled in **New Delhi** on **May 31**; theme: "**India Africa SPRINT**"

India-Kenya Joint Trade

- **10th India-Kenya Joint Trade Conference**; bilateral trade increased by **24.91%**; chaired by **Rajesh Agrawal**

Sigma Advanced Systems – Rolls-Royce

- **7-year agreement** valued at **₹38,000 crore** for high-precision safety-critical components

EU Aid to Ukraine

- **90 billion Euro** loan; **half in 2026, half in 2027**

Amazon Acquires Globalstar

- **\$11.57 billion** deal to bolster **Project Kuiper** (LEO satellite network)

Sun Pharma Acquires Organon

- **\$11.75 billion** cash deal to acquire US-based **Organon**; expected to close by **early 2027**

Google AI Data Center – Andhra Pradesh

- **\$15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore)** investment; **1 GW AI Data Center** in **Visakhapatnam**

IFC Investment Plan for India

- **\$10 billion** annual investment in India by **2030** (up from **\$5.4 billion**)

IRFC Loan for Hyderabad Metro

- **₹13,615 crore** loan to **Telangana** government for **100% stake** in **Hyderabad Metro Rail** from **L&T**

Exim Bank Loan to Africa Finance Corporation

- **\$100 million (₹830 crore)** loan extended

National Beekeeping and Honey Mission

- Budget extended by **₹300 crore**; Minimum Export Price (MEP) of **\$1,400 per metric ton** on honey extended to **December 31, 2026**

PM MITRA Parks

- Seven locations: **Virudhunagar, Warangal, Navsari, Kalaburagi, Dhar, Lucknow, Andhra Pradesh**

VAANI 3.0 Scheme

- Annual budget **₹4 crore (AICTE)**
- Supports **~200 conferences/seminars/workshops**; **₹2 lakh per event**

Namo Stall Scheme

- First phase: Five vendors received free stalls worth **₹50,000** each

NSO Agri Exports

- Agricultural exports grew **2.8%** from **\$51.21 billion** to **\$52.55 billion**

Textile Exports

- Grew **2.1%** in FY 2025-26, reaching **₹3.16 lakh crore** across **120** destinations

Seafood Exports

- **₹72,325 crore**; volume **19.32 lakh metric tons**; frozen shrimp: **₹47,900 crore**

Pachpadra Refinery Complex

- Built by **HPCL** and **Rajasthan Government** at a cost of **₹1,79,450 crore**

Surya Bhumi Challenge 2.0

- **113 km** expedition across the **Char Dham corridor**

Jio Financial Services – Allianz JV

- **50-50** joint venture for general and health insurance in India

TDIP Scheme

- **₹203 crore** outlay over **5 years (2026-2031)**; targets **10% of global 6G patents** by **2030**

IRDAI Insurance Sector Updates

- **FDI limit** raised to **100%**; net-owned fund for foreign reinsurers reduced from **₹5,000 crore to ₹1,000 crore**
- Insurer can buy up to **5% stake** (up from 1%) without prior IRDAI approval

IRFC Loan – Telangana

- **₹13,615 crore** for 100% equity takeover of Hyderabad Metro (first phase)

India Digital Census 2027

- Budget: **₹11,718 crore**; Phase 1 (April–Sept 2026); Phase 2 (Feb 2027)

Bharat Gen – L&T MOU

- **5-year MoU** to develop an indigenous **Large Language Model (LLM)**

DPI 2.0 Roadmap

- Targets **\$30 Trillion** economy and per capita income of **\$18,000 by 2047**
- Aims to elevate DPI's GDP contribution from **1% to 4% by 2030**

PM Kisan 22nd Installment

- Provides **₹6,000 annually** in three installments to landholding farmers

3. Appointments

Indian Government & Constitutional Bodies

- **Samrat Choudhary** (BJP) sworn in as the **24th Chief Minister of Bihar**; oath administered by **Governor Syed Ata Hasnain at Raj Bhavan, Patna**; succeeded **Nitish Kumar** (who resigned to join **Rajya Sabha**)
- **Harivansh Narayan Singh** re-elected **unopposed** as **Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** (third consecutive term)
- **Dr. K.S. Somasekhar** (also cited as **Dr. K.S. Soma Sekhar**) appointed as new **Rajya Sabha Secretary** by Chairman **CP Radhakrishnan**
- **Rajya Sabha** panel of six MPs reconstituted; nominated by **Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan**
- **Mritunjay Kumar Narayan** serves as **Registrar General and Census Commissioner** for Digital Census 2027
- **Dinesh Trivedi** (former Union Railway Minister, MP from Barrackpore) appointed as India's new **High Commissioner to Bangladesh**, succeeding **Pranay Verma**
- **Justice Lisa Gill** (also cited as **Leesha Gill**) appointed as new **Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court**, succeeding **Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur**
- **Abhishek Singh (IAS)** appointed as **Director General of National Testing Agency (NTA)**

- **Ashok Lahiri** (former Chief Economic Advisor; West Bengal MLA; member of 15th Finance Commission) appointed as new **Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog**, replacing **Suman K. Bery**
- Newly appointed full-time **NITI Aayog** members: **Dr. Govardhan Das, K.V. Raju, Abhay Karandikar, and M. Srinivas; Rajiv Gauba** retained as member
- **PM Narendra Modi** remains Chairperson of **NITI Aayog**; **Nidhi Chhibber** serves as CEO
- **Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi** appointed as new **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)**; age limit raised from **56 to 58**; tenure capped at **5 years**
- **Rakesh Bhanot** appointed as Acting **Director General of Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, succeeding **Anshuman Patnaik** (also cited as **Anuman Patnayak**)
- **CA Usha Janir Raman** appointed as new **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Executive Director**
- **Vivek Tripathi** approved by RBI as **Whole-Time Director/Executive Director of AU Small Finance Bank** for **3 years**
- **Nitu Sharma** (former CFO) appointed as **interim CEO of Noida International Airport**, replacing Swiss national **Christopher Schnellmann** (to comply with **BCAS** directive requiring Indian national as CEO)
- **Sanjay Jamuwar** appointed as the first **CEO of Delhi Metro International (DMIL)** by **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)**
- **Dilip Kumar** appointed as **Central Vigilance Officer of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**

Public Sector & Banking Appointments

- **Sanjay Khanna** appointed **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** until **May 31, 2029**
- **Ramak Krishnan Chandra** appointed **Managing Director (MD)** of **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**
- **Sunil Bajpai** assumed charge as **Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax** for **Tamil Nadu and Puducherry**, succeeding **Sanjay Kumar Verma**
- **Devadatta Chand** (**Bank of Baroda MD & CEO**) extended for **3 years** (till **July 2029**)
- **Rajneesh Karnatak** (**Bank of India MD & CEO**) extended for **3 years** (till **April 2029**)

- **Ashutosh Choudhury** (Executive Director, **Indian Bank**) extended till **May 2029**
- **PN Vasudevan** appointed CEO of **Equitas Small Finance Bank** till **2029**
- **B. Ramesh Babu** (also cited as **V. Ramesh Babu**) reappointed as **MD & CEO of Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)** for a **third term** (till **July 2028**)
- **Srikanth Velamakanni** (Co-founder & CEO, **Fractal Analytics**) appointed **Chairperson of NASSCOM** for **2026-27** term, succeeding **Sindhu Gangadharan**; **Kishore Patil** named **Vice Chairperson**
- **UV Pravin Rao** became **Chairperson of NASSCOM Foundation**, replacing **Rostow Ravanan**
- **Suresh Sethi** appointed **Visa's Group Country Manager for India and South Asia**, succeeding **Sandeep Ghosh**

Corporate & Industry Appointments

- **Anant Swarup** named **Secretary-General of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** (est. **1927**, HQ **New Delhi**)
- **John Ternus** appointed as the **8th CEO of Apple Inc.**, effective **September 1, 2026**; **Tim Cook** retiring but remaining as executive/chairperson
- **Vibha Padalkar's** tenure as **MD & CEO of HDFC Life Insurance** extended for another **5 years** (till **2031**)
- **Ram Prasad Shridan** named **MD of Puma India**
- **Manali Shriagar** became the **first full-time female Vice-Chancellor of Nagpur University**
- **Srikanth Velamakanni** appointed **NASSCOM Chairperson** (replacing **Sindhu Gangadharan**), with **Kishore Patil** as **Vice Chairperson**

Defence & Security Appointments

- **Air Marshal Tbir Singh** took charge as **Director General (DG) for Inspection and Safety** at **Air Headquarters**
- **Pravin Kumar** assumed additional charge as **Border Security Force (BSF) Director General**
- **Susan Coyle** became the **first female Chief of Army** in **Australia's 125-year history**, succeeding **Simon Stuart**
- **Mark Hammond** appointed **Chief of Defence Force** of **Australia**, replacing **David Johnston**
- **Pashal Dunohhi** appointed **MD and Chief Knowledge Officer (CKO)** of **World Bank Group**

International Appointments & Elections

- **Ismail Omar Guelleh** re-elected as **President of Djibouti**
- **Nazar Muhammad Sed Ahmedi** (also cited as **Nizar Amedi / Kurdish politician Nizar Amde**) elected by **Iraqi parliament** as the **9th President of Iraq**, succeeding **Abdul Latif Rashid**
- **Ali Al-Zeidi** nominated by **President Nizar Amde** as **next Prime Minister of Iraq**
- **Anura Karunathilake** appointed as new **Energy Minister of Sri Lanka** by **President Anura Kumara Dissanayake**
- **Michael Lotem** appointed as **Israel's first ambassador to Somaliland**
- **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Ganesh Kumar** became **Chairperson of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)** for **2026**
- **Preeti Saran** re-elected to the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2027-30)**
- **Annalena Baerbock** (German diplomat) visited **India**, met **S. Jaishankar**
- **Ashok Lahiri** appointed **Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog** (replaces **Suman Bery**); **Dr. Gobardhan Das** also joined as member

Sports Appointments

- **Ajit Agarkar's** contract as **Chief Selector of BCCI Senior Selection Committee** renewed for another year (targeting **2027 ODI World Cup**)
- **P.V. Sindhu** appointed **Chairperson of Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athlete Commission** (also elected as voting member)

Brand Ambassador Appointments

- **Carlos Alcaraz** (tennis star, world No. 1) appointed as brand ambassador for **Infosys** (promoting AI platform '**Topaz**')
- **Abhishek Sharma** (cricketer) appointed as brand ambassador for **DP World**

Obituaries / Resignations Related

- **Nitish Kumar** resigned as **Bihar CM** to join **Rajya Sabha**
- **Suman K. Bery** replaced as **NITI Aayog Vice Chairman** by **Ashok Lahiri**
- **Sindhu Gangadharan** replaced as **NASSCOM Chairperson** by **Srikanth Velamakanni**

4. Arts & Culture

Temple Inaugurations & Religious Events

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Guru Bhairavakya Temple** (also cited as **Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Temple / Shriguru Bharavakia Mandara**) located in **Adichunchanagiri, Mandya district, Karnataka / Shri Shishtra Adi Chunangiri**
- PM Modi jointly released the book **Saundarya Lahari and Shiva Mahimna Stotram** with former Prime Minister **H.D. Deve Gowda** during his Karnataka visit
- The **Dr. Ambedkar Foundation** (under **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**) celebrated the **136th birth anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar** on **April 14, 2026**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially unveiled a bust of **Dr. Baba Ambedkar** at **UNESCO headquarters**

Statues & Memorials

- **Seattle** became the **first US city** to officially install a statue of **Swami Vivekananda**

Festivals & Cultural Celebrations

- **Pohela Boishakh** (Bengali New Year) was joyously celebrated across **West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, and Bangladesh**
- **Solar New Year (Mesh Sankranti)** observed on **April 14**, marking the sun's entry into **Aries**
- The **114th Suwari Festival** (traditional cultural and dance event) celebrated in **Boko, Assam**
- **Sikkim's Golden Jubilee** (50th year of statehood) closing ceremony held in **Gangtok** on **April 28, 2026**; PM Modi visited the **Swarna Jayanti Maitri Manjari Park** (a world-class orchid experience center)

Heritage & Conservation

- **Ladakh's first petroglyph conservation park** (dedicated to preserving ancient rock carvings) was inaugurated at **Sindhu Ghat, Leh** on **World Heritage Day (April 18)**; foundation stone laid for India's first park dedicated to conserving petroglyphs
- **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** and **IIT Madras** began safely removing sand from the **Konark Sun Temple's Jagamohan** (assembly hall), which British engineers filled between **1901 and 1903**
- **UNESCO** currently has **1,248 heritage sites** worldwide, led by **Italy (59)** and **China (57)**;

India ranks **6th globally** with **44 sites** (36 Cultural, 7 Natural, 1 Mixed)

- India's first heritage sites officially designated in **1983: Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, and the Taj Mahal**
- **World Heritage Day** (International Day for Monuments and Sites) observed on **April 18**; 2026 theme: **"Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Context of Conflicts and Disasters"**
- **ICOMOS** initiated World Heritage Day in **1982**

Language & Linguistics

- **Oxford University Press** declared **"ragebait"** as the official word of the year for **2025**
- **Meghalaya** government passed an ordinance granting **full official language status** to the **Khasi and Garo** languages alongside **English** (replacing the **2005 Language Act** which gave them only associate status); Meghalaya Cabinet approved the **Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026** on **April 16, 2026**
- **Meghalaya's** Chief Minister is **Conrad Sangma**; Governor is **Vijay Shankar**

Literary Awards & Book Releases

- **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025** announced:
 - **Navtej Sarna** (English) for **Crimson Spring**
 - **Mamta Kalia** (Hindi) for **Jeete Ji Allahabad**
 - **Yogesh Vaidya** (Gujarati) for poetry **Bhatt Khadki**
- Former Army Chief **General Manoj Mukund Naravane** (MM Naravane) released new non-fiction book **"The Curious and the Classified: Unearthing Military Myths and Mysteries"** (published by **Rupa Publications**); he also authored **"Four Stars of Destiny"** and **"The Cantonment Conspiracy"**
- Book titled **"Do You Know Your Hinduism"** authored by **Rajmohan Gandhi** recently highlighted
- **NITI Aayog** Vice Chairman **Suman K. Bery** launched anthology **"Diva Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India"**, featuring **3,000** curated listings to promote cultural heritage
- **13th edition** of **Sur Jyotsna National Music Award** presented to vocalists **Sumitra Guha** and **Pandit Laxman Krishnarao Pandit** in **New Delhi**

Film & Media

- Ministry of Culture organized the **15th Delhi International Film Festival** starting **May 4**, with **China, Russia, and Africa** as focus countries
- Two Marathi films selected for the Market Section at the **Cannes Film Festival** in France:
 - *Jivya The Creature* (Director **Ravi Jadhav**)
 - *April May 99* (Director **Rohan Mapuskar**)
- Ministry of Culture launched the **VM Frames (Vande Mataram)** filmmaking contest to celebrate the upcoming **150th anniversary** of the national song **Vande Mataram**; categories and prizes:
 - **Instagram Reels**: 1st prize **₹1.5 lakh**
 - **AI-based films**: **₹5 lakh**
 - **Short Films**: **₹15 lakh**

Music & Performing Arts

- **Akashvani** (celebrating its **90th** foundation year) and **MyGov** launched nationwide **Signature Tune and Jingle** making contests under the theme "**Akashvani 90: The New Rhythm of Bharat**"; top prize **₹50,000**; specs: **20–50 seconds** length at **128kbps, 44.1 kHz**
- **International Jazz Day** (April 30): initiated by **UNESCO** in **2011**; **2026** marks the **15th anniversary** with **Chicago** as global host
- **International Dance Day**: observed on **April 29** (marks birthday of modern ballet creator **Jean-Georges Noverre**)

Fashion & Textiles as Cultural Outreach

- Ministry of Textiles, alongside **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)** and **DC Handloom**, launched "**Vishwa Sutra**" (also '**Viswasutra: Weaves of India for the World**') at the **61st Femina Miss India 2026** event held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**
 - Features **30** distinct weaves from **30** states
 - Featured weaves: Odisha's **Ikat**, Tamil Nadu's **Kanjeevaram**, Gujarat's **Patola**, Assam's **Muga Silk**
 - Operates on "**5F**" vision: **Farm, Fibre, Factory, Fashion, and Foreign**

Pageants

- **Saadhvi Satish Sel** (from **Goa**) won the **61st Femina Miss India World 2026** at the grand finale held at **Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) / IIT Bhubaneswar, Odisha**; crowned by **Nikita Porwal**; will represent India at **Miss World 2027**

- First runner-up: **Rajnandini Pawar** (Maharashtra)
- Theme: "**Daughters of the Soil**"
- **Nitisha Yogesh Antakar** crowned **Miss Sake India 2026** in **Mumbai**

Important Days – Arts & Culture

- **World Art Day** observed on **April 15**; theme: "**A garden of expression: cultivating community through art**"
- **World Book and Copyright Day** observed on **April 23**; established by **UNESCO** in **1995** commemorating the **1616** death anniversaries of **William Shakespeare** and **Miguel de Cervantes**; designated **World Book Capital for 2026: Rabat, Morocco**
- **UN Chinese Language Day** observed on **April 20**; honors **Cangjie** (legendary inventor of Chinese characters); coincides with "**Guyu**" (Grain Rain); 2026 theme: "**Chinese Language: Shining Civilizations and Fluent Futures Forum**"
- **UN English Language Day** observed on **April 23**
- **UN Spanish Language Day** observed on **April 23**
- **World Voice Day** observed on **April 16**; theme: "**Caring for our vision**"

Commemorative Stamps & Anniversaries

- **PM Modi** released a commemorative postal stamp marking the **100-year milestone (1926–2026)** of **Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC)**

5. Awards

Cricket Awards – Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2025 (163rd Edition)

- Indians dominated, securing **7 of 9** honors
- **Deepti Sharma** – **Leading Women's Cricketer of the Year** (Wisden)
- **Abhishek Sharma** – **Leading T20 Cricketer of the Year** (Wisden)
- **Shubman Gill** – **Wisden Trophy** (for scoring over **430** runs)
- **Mitchell Starc** (Australia) – **Leading Men's Cricketer** (Wisden)
- Others recognized: **Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, Mohammed Siraj**, and England's **Haseeb Hameed**

ICC Awards

- **Sanju Samson** – **ICC Player of the Month (March 2026)** – Men's award
- **Amelia Kerr** – **ICC Player of the Month (March 2026)** – Women's award

Laureus World Sports Awards 2026

- Held in **Madrid, Spain**
- **Sportsman of the Year: Carlos Alcaraz** (Spain, Tennis)
- **Sportswoman of the Year: Aryna Sabalenka** (Belarus, Tennis)
- **Team of the Year: Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)**
- **Breakthrough: Lando Norris** (F1)
- **Comeback: Rory McIlroy** (Golf)
- **Disability: Gabriel Araujo** (Swimming)
- **Action Sport: Chloe Kim** (Snowboarding)
- **Young Sportsperson: Lamine Yamal** (Football)
- **Inspiration: Toni Kroos** (Football)
- **Lifetime Achievement: Nadia Comăneci** (Gymnastics)
- **Sport for Good: Fútbol Más** (Chile NGO)
- Indian Women's Cricket team was nominated but did not win **Team of the Year**

Goldman Environmental Prize 2026

- Known as the "**Green Nobel Prize**"; carries a **\$200,000** reward
- Established in **1989**; first Indian recipient: **Medha Patkar (1992)** for saving the **Narmada River**
- Awarded exclusively to **six women** for the first time in 2026:
 - **Iroro Tanshi** (Nigeria)
 - **Boram Kim / Borim Kim** (Republic of Korea) – representing Asia
 - **Sarah Finch** (United Kingdom)
 - **Theonila Roka Matbob** (Papua New Guinea)
 - **Alannah Acaq Hurley** (United States)
 - **Yuvelis Morales Blanco** (Colombia)

TIME 100 Most Influential People 2026 (23rd Edition)

- Three Indians featured:
 - **Sundar Pichai** (Google CEO) – **Titans** category (AI leadership)
 - **Vikas Khanna** (Chef) – **Innovator** category (global Indian cuisine)
 - **Ranbir Kapoor** (Actor) – **Artist** category
- Youngest honoree: **19-year-old Alisa Liu**
- Oldest honoree: **96-year-old Dollar**
- Other global leaders featured: **Donald Trump**, Japan's PM **Sanai Takaichi**, Nepal's PM **Balendra Shah**

World Economic Forum (WEF) Recognition

- **BCCI Secretary Jay Shah** included in WEF's "**Young Global Leaders Class of 2026**"

- **Jay Shah** recognized globally for getting cricket included in the **2028 Los Angeles Olympics**
- **Arthur Law** (co-founder of **Storefriendly Asia**) named **2026 Young Global Leader** by WEF

Wisden Asia Championship – Badminton

- **South Korea** won the **43rd Badminton Asia Championship** held in **Ningbo, China**
- India finished **5th**; **Ayush Shetty** won silver

Environmental & Nature Awards

- **N. Aleem Yusuf** (Kerala Botanist, also cited as **Alim Yusuf**) won the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF) / World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) National Award** at the **Eko Youth Innovation Summit 2026**
 - Awarded for developing "**Neophyte ID**" (also cited as "**neight ID**") – an AI-powered mobile app to detect invasive plant species in **Kerala**
- **J. Santosh Kumar** (Environmentalist and former MP) honored at the **World Climate Leaders Conclave** in the **United Kingdom**; recognized for work on the **Green India Challenge**
- **2026 Goldman Environmental Prize** awarded to all-women cohort (details above)

Agricultural & Scientific Awards

- **Dr. CH Srinivasa Rao** (also cited as **Dr. Chadri Shin Nas Rao**), Director of **Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI)**, received the **9th MS Swaminathan Award (2024-25)** in **Hyderabad**

ISO & Quality Certifications

- **Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI)** in **Bengaluru** received **ISO 15189 accreditation** for its clinical laboratory (biochemistry and hematology); overseen by **CCRAS**, headed by **Director General Prof. Vaidya Rabinarayan Acharya**
- **Bengaluru Water Board** (Karnataka) became the **first in India** to receive **ISO 50001** certification by **Bureau Veritas**
- **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** awarded the **GreenPro Eco Label** to **Rathi Steel and Power Limited**

National Awards & Honours

- **Ayushman Bharat Awards: National Health Authority** presented **18 Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) awards** and **5 Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission excellence awards** to states and UTs at '**Chintan Shivir 2026**' in **Pune, Maharashtra**
- **Bhagwandas Raikwar (Dao)** received the **Padma Shri** in April 2026 (pioneer of

Bundeli martial arts); passed away at 83 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

- **Asha Bhosle** – recipient of the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2000)** and **Padma Vibhushan (2008)**; sang in over 20 languages
- **Raghu Rai** – renowned photojournalist and **Padma Shri** awardee; received "**Photographer of the Year**" award in the USA; passed away at 83
- **General Upendra Dwivedi** (Indian Army Chief) inducted into the **US Army War College International Hall of Fame** in **Pennsylvania**; hosted by Indian Ambassador **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**; he is the **3rd Indian Chief** to receive this distinction

Institutional Recognition

- **UNIDO** awarded the **4th Gender Equality Mobilization Award 2026** to **Guntur Municipal Corporation (Andhra Pradesh)**; received by **Olga Rataj** for employing **200 women** as electric garbage auto drivers
- **Samridh Gram Initiative** nominated for **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2026** in Geneva in the "**enabling environment**" category
- **PRAGATI Platform** recognized by Oxford's **Saïd Business School** as a global best practice model for developing nations

Film & Personal Recognition

- **Bollywood actress Sayani Gupta** (also cited as **Sani Gupta**) named **Person of the Year 2026** by the **Harvard South Asian Association**; honored for representation and film storytelling excellence

UNIDO Award

- **Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC)** in **Andhra Pradesh** won the **4th UNIDO Gender Equality Mobilization Award**

Asia Power Index

- **India** ranked **3rd** in the **Asia Power Index**

World Skills Asia 2025

- **India** secured **8th rank** in its debut at the **World Skills Asia 2025**

Wealth Rankings

- **Gautam Adani** surpassed **Mukesh Ambani** to become Asia's richest person
 - **Adani: \$92.6 billion** (ranked **19th globally**) – **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**
 - **Ambani: \$90.8 billion** (ranked **20th globally**)
 - Globally: **Elon Musk** is wealthiest (**\$656 billion**), followed by **Larry Page** and **Jeff Bezos**

Knight Frank's Wealth Report 2026

- India ranks **6th globally** in wealth metrics
- USA holds **1st position** globally
- India has **19,877 Ultra-High Net Worth Individuals (UHNWI)** and **207 billionaires**

Military & Defense Honours

- **DRDO Chief Samir V Kamat** handed over "**Prajna**" (AI-enabled satellite imaging system) to the **Ministry of Home Affairs**
- **India** became the **5th largest global military spender** in 2025 spending **\$92.1 billion (3.2% of global spending)** per SIPRI Report

International Recognition – Cricket Governance

- **BCCI Secretary Jay Shah** included in **WEF Young Global Leaders Class of 2026** for contributions to cricket governance and getting cricket into **2028 LA Olympics**

Chess Recognition

- **R Vaishali** became the **first Indian woman** to win the **FIDE Women's Candidates 2026** tournament; scored **8.5/14 points**
- **Aronyak Ghosh** (Kolkata, West Bengal) became India's **95th Chess Grandmaster**
- **A.S. Sharvaanica** won the **FIDE World Rapid Under-12 Girls Championship** held in **Serbia**
- **Aaradhya Kapil** (10 years and 7 months old) became the **youngest Indian chess player** to secure an **International Master norm** after drawing against Australia's **Samuel Asaka** in **Spain**

Shooting Awards

- **Palak Gulia** and **Mukesh Nelavalli** won gold in the **10m Air Pistol mixed team** event at **ISSF World Cup 2026** in **Granada, Spain**, setting a **junior category world record**
- India topped the **ISSF Junior World Cup 2026** tally (Cairo, Egypt): **16 medals (5 Gold, 6 Silver, 5 Bronze)**
- **Oleg Noskov** set a record winning gold in the men's **50m rifle 3 positions** event

Hockey Recognition

- **Hockey Jharkhand** won the **16th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women National Championship** for the **third consecutive year (2024, 2025, 2026)** held in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**

Tennis Recognition

- **Jannik Sinner** secured the **Men's Singles title** at the **Monte Carlo Masters 2026**
- **Carlos Alcaraz** – **Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2026**
- **Aryna Sabalenka** – **Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year 2026**

Marathon Record

- **Sebastian Sawe** (Kenya) became the **first man** to officially finish a marathon in **under two hours**, recording **1 hour, 59 minutes, and 30 seconds** at the **London Marathon 2026**
- **Tigst Assefa** (Ethiopia) set a **women-only world record** of **2:15:41** at the same event

Squash Recognition

- **Suraj Kumar Chand** (India) won the **Men's Singles** title at the **HCL Squash PSA Challenger Tour** in **Chennai**, defeating **South Korea's Jing Men Rio**
- **Egypt's Rukaiya Othman** won the **Women's** title against **Malaysia's Harleen Tan**

IPL Milestone

- **Virat Kohli** became the **first player in IPL history** to reach **800 boundaries**

UNESCO Chair

- Union Minister **Jayant Chaudhary** launched India and Asia's **first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development** at **Symbiosis Skill and Professional University** in **Pune, Maharashtra**

Femina Miss India 2026

- **Saadvi Satish Sel** (Goa) won the **61st edition** at **KIIT, Bhubaneswar**; crowned by **Nikita Porwal**; will represent India at **Miss World 2027**; runner-up: **Rajnandini Pawar** (Maharashtra); theme: "**Daughters of the Soil**"

WSIS Prize 2026

- **Samridh Gram Initiative** (Government of India) nominated for the prize in Geneva

9th MS Swaminathan Award

- Awarded to **Dr. CH Srinivasa Rao** (Director, IARI) for contributions to agriculture

6. Banking and Finance

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – Key Facts & Leadership

- **RBI** established on **April 1, 1935** (Hilton Young Commission); nationalized on **January 1, 1949**
- **26th Governor: Sanjay Malhotra**
- Four Deputy Governors: **T. Rabi Sankar, Swaminathan Janakiraman, Punam Gupta, and Srijish Chandra Murmu**
- Terms: **3–5 years** or up to age **62**

RBI – Regulatory Actions & Penalties

- **RBI** officially revoked the banking license of **Paytm Payments Bank Limited** under

Section 22(4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, effective **April 24, 2026**, due to persistent non-compliance

- **RBI** will apply to the **High Court** for formal winding up; bank has sufficient liquidity to pay depositors
- **Bandhan Bank** fined **₹41.8 lakh** for lending to related parties, failing to review risk categorization, and KYC non-compliance; HQ **Kolkata**; Chairman **Anup Kumar Sinha**; MD & CEO **Partha Pratim Sengupta**
- **Muthoot Housing Finance** fined **₹80,000** for violating **Fair Practice Code** (failed to disclose risk grading methods and interest rate differentials)
- **Hardoi Zila Sahakari Bank** fined **₹1 lakh**
- **Ebix Payment Services Ltd** fined **₹80,000** for failing to correctly categorize customers into low, medium, and high-risk tiers
- **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Nagari Sahakari Bank** fined **₹80,000** for violating the **Supervisory Action Framework (SAF)** (acts as **Prompt Corrective Action / PCA**)
- **Manak Krishna Investment** fined **₹3.1 lakh** for governance violations
- **RBI** cancelled the license of the **National Urban Co-operative Bank of Pratapgarh**; depositors protected up to **₹5 lakh** by **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**
- **RBI** rejected **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank's** application to convert into a **Universal Bank**; **AU Small Finance Bank** was the first to successfully achieve this status
- Conversion criteria: **5-year** satisfactory track record, listed on recognized stock exchanges, minimum net worth of **₹1,000 crore**, **CRAR of 15%** or above, **GNPA below 3%**, **Net NPA below 1%**

RBI – New Frameworks & Directives

- **RBI** launched **Utkarsh 2029 (Utkarsh 3.0)**: three-year medium-term strategy framework running from **April 2026 to March 2029**
- **RBI** released master framework consolidating all guidelines for recurring digital payments (**e-mandates**) via **UPI, NEFT, and RTGS**:
 - One-time registration using **Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA)** such as **OTP**
 - Banks to auto-map existing recurring e-mandates to newly reissued debit/credit cards upon expiry
 - Transaction threshold without AFA: **₹15,000** for standard mandates

- Enhanced limit up to ₹1 lakh for mutual fund subscriptions, insurance premium payments, and credit card bills
- **RBI** mandated all bank branches to provide **free, non-discriminatory currency exchange services** to the general public (including non-customers):
 - **Soiled notes**: exchange limit **20 pieces** or ₹5,000 per day; larger amounts credited within **7 days**
 - **Mutilated notes**: **5 pieces** on the spot; more pieces take **30 days**
 - Notes with political/religious slogans (e.g., "**Modi Hatao**") rejected
 - Severely burnt/brittle notes: submit directly to **RBI** office
- **RBI** amended branch authorization directions for NBFCs via the **PRAVAAH portal**; NBFCs no longer need prior approval to expand branches; new limits based on **Net Owned Funds (NOF)** and credit ratings:
 - **NOF over ₹50 crore + 'AA' rating or above**: Can open branches anywhere in India
 - **NOF over ₹50 crore + rating below 'AA'**: Restricted to home state only
 - **NOF up to ₹50 crore or lower ratings**: Only in the state of registered office
- **RBI** replaced old scoring model to identify **Upper Layer NBFCs** with new absolute asset size threshold of **₹1 Lakh Crore**; entities reviewed every **5 years**
- Government-owned NBFCs (like **NABARD, SIDBI, and EXIM Bank**) now subject to tighter regulatory oversight
- **RBI** issued master directions on **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)**:
 - Non-bank PPIs: minimum net worth **₹5 crore** (expanding to **₹15 crore** within 3 years); no interest on balances
 - **Full KYC PPIs**: monthly limit and max balance **₹2 lakh**; P2P transfers and cash withdrawals up to **₹25,000**; cash loading limit **₹10,000/month**; Re-KYC required annually
 - **Small/Mini KYC PPIs**: max balance and monthly limit **₹10,000**; strictly for merchant payments; no cash withdrawals or P2P transfers
 - **Gift PPIs**: limit **₹10,000**; 1-year validity; non-reloadable; no P2P or cash withdrawals
- **Transit PPIs**: limit **₹3,000**; no KYC required; restricted to transportation (e.g., metro cards)
- **UPI One World**: for foreign nationals and NRIs; verified via passport/visa; monthly limit **₹5 lakh**; unused balances refunded to foreign bank upon visa expiry
- **Corporate Credit Cards**: joint liability on corporate entity only; late charges apply to outstanding amount only; accounts marked "past due" after **3 days** of non-payment
- **Basel III Guidelines**: RBI raised risk weights on unrated loans:
 - Unrated corporate exposures up to **₹500 crore: 150% risk weight**
 - Short-term unrated loans: **50%**; Long-term unrated loans: **100%**
- **RBI** mandated banks to estimate **Expected Credit Losses (ECL)** using forward-looking risk measures; NPAs defined as overdue for more than **90 days**
- **RBI** eased forex rules for banks: allowing related party hedging under **\$100 million** exposure cap; capped banks' net open positions in offshore derivative market at **\$100 million**; banned arbitrage trades and prohibited non-deliverable forwards to corporate clients
- **RBI** made a net purchase of **\$7.4 billion** in the spot forex market in **February 2026**
- **RBI** rolled back its **April 1** restrictions on **Non-Deliverable Forward (NDF)** contracts involving the Indian Rupee
- **RBI** issued reporting directions for **Authorized Dealer Category-1** banks regarding **Over-The-Counter (OTC)** foreign exchange derivative contracts
- **RBI** launched **49th round** of the **Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey** for **April–June 2026** quarter
- **RBI** launched **4th Global Hackathon "Harbinger – Innovation for Transformation"** (Theme: "**Secure Banking Powered by Identity, Integrity, Inclusivity**"):
 - Winners: **EarthID** (tokenized KYC), **Team e-Sparsh** (offline CBDC), **Bank of Baroda's Team Nidaan** (enhancing trust for disabled customers)
- **RBI** allowed premature redemption for **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs)** issued in **2020-21 (Series VII)**:

- SGBs have **8-year** maturity; investors can opt for premature withdrawal after **5 years**
- Redemption prices fixed by RBI based on **Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA)** gold price data
- **RBI** introduced **SAKSHAM (Sahakari Bank Kshamata Nirman / Mission Saksham)**: capacity-building initiative targeting **1,40,000** employees in **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**
- **RBI** launched **Mission Jagrook** at **SEBI's 38th Foundation Day** (also attributed to **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**): nationwide investor awareness and financial literacy initiative to protect investors from fake apps/deepfakes
- **RBI** approved **Shriram Finance** (via subsidiary **Shriram Overseas Investment Limited**) to begin a **Primary Dealer (PD)** business to underwrite and trade government securities
- **RBI** granted **NBFC** license to **MobiKwik Financial Services Private Limited**
- **RBI** approved **MobiKwik** to offer secured/unsecured loans to MSMEs and underserved consumers in Tier-2/Tier-3 cities
- **RBI** cleared **B. Ramesh Babu's** reappointment as **MD & CEO of Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)** for a third term (till **July 2028**)
- **RBI** approved **Vivek Tripathi** as **Whole-Time Director** for **AU Small Finance Bank** for **3 years**
- **Payment Banks** static facts: require minimum capital of **₹100 crore**; can accept demand deposits up to **₹2 lakh**; cannot issue loans or accept term/fixed deposits; must maintain **CRR**, invest **75%** in government securities; **FDI** capped at **74%**
- India currently has **5** operational payment banks; will drop to **4** after **Fino Payments Bank** converts into Small Finance Bank

SEBI – Regulatory Actions & New Platforms

- **SEBI** celebrated its **38th Foundation Day** on **April 25** at the **Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai**
- **SEBI** rolled out three new IT platforms:
 - **SUPComms (Single Universal Platform)**: replaces traditional emails for seamless communications
 - **E-Adjudication Portal**: handles online quasi-judicial proceedings and show-cause notices

- **C-SAC (Cyber Security Audit Compliance)**: AI-driven tool for analyzing cybersecurity audits and compliance gaps
- **SEBI** relaxed educational criteria for **investment advisors** and **research analysts**
- **SEBI** extended registration validity for **Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs)** on the **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** from **2 years to 3 years**
- **SEBI** lowered minimum subscription requirement for **Zero Coupon Zero Principal** instruments from **75% to 50%**
- **SEBI** reduced minimum investment in **Social Impact Funds** from **₹2 lakhs to ₹1,000** using "**Zero Coupon Zero Principal**" instruments
- **SEBI** and **DoT** signed a **MoU** to prevent telecom-linked financial frauds
- **SEBI** approved **NSE** to establish "**National Coal Exchange of India Limited**"
- **MCX (Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd)** received **SEBI** approval to invest **₹100 crore** and establish **MCX Coal Exchange Limited** to trade coal digitally
- **BSE Housing Finance Index** launched on **April 20, 2026**: tracks **11 housing finance stocks**; derived from **BSE 1000** universe; data published twice a year (**June** and **December**); base value **1,000**; base year **2015**; **LIC Housing Finance** holds highest weightage

Digital Payments & Banking Technology

- **UPI** originally launched on **April 11, 2016** by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**
- Over a decade: transactions scaled from **1.78 crore to 21,900 crore**; total value from **₹6,952 crore to ₹308 lakh crore**
- **Worldline Report 2025**: **UPI** handled **228.5 billion transactions** in **2025** – a **33% year-on-year increase**; average ticket size declined by **10%**
- **PhonePe** became the first UPI app to cross **10 billion** monthly transactions (**10.5 billion** in March 2026); holds **46.4%** market share in volume and **49%** in value
- **Google Pay** holds **33%** market share; followed by **Paytm**
- **NPCI's 30%** market share cap on single providers remains unenforced
- **Paytm** implemented **Face ID** and fingerprints for transactions without needing a **UPI PIN**; enabled cardless **ATM QR** withdrawals up to **₹10,000 per transaction**;

maximum PIN-less UPI limit: **₹5,000 per transaction** (as per NPCI rules)

- **PayPoint India** became the **first NBFC/fintech** to join the **RBI's Centralised Payment System (NEFT and RTGS)**; HQ: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- NPCI partnered with **TransUnion CIBIL** to allow users to check credit scores directly on **BHIM** application
- **CBI** launched AI-powered chatbot "**Abhay**"; launched by **Supreme Court Justice Surya Kant**; empowers citizens to verify official legal notices and fight "**digital arrest**" scams
- **Bank of Baroda** introduced **Indian Sign Language (ISL)** support via video calls for hearing and speech-impaired customers
- **Aahana** launched a new **RBI** reporting solution for **Cooperative Banks** using a proprietary data model
- Credit card spending hit a **three-month high** in **March 2026** at **₹2.19 trillion** (a **23.81%** month-on-month increase); total yearly expenditure: **₹23.62 lakh crore**; **HDFC Bank** led the market

Banking Partnerships & New Products

- **Bank of Baroda** and **Reliance Jio** launched "**bob World Lite**" – a lightweight mobile banking app on the **JioBharat 4G** platform
- **Visa** and **HDFC Bank** launched limited-edition digital "**FIFA World Cup 2026 Pixel Play Credit Card**" in **Mumbai**; features "**Spend and Win**" campaign (match tickets, merchandise); for 48-team tournament in **US, Canada, Mexico**
- **CheQ** and **AU Small Finance Bank** launched India's **first co-branded LED-powered credit card** (glows via **NFC** energy from **POS** terminals; no internal battery)
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **Kiwi / Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)** launched **PNB KVB RuPay Credit Card** on **UPI** platform
- **Karnataka Bank** partnered with **Pine Labs** for advanced **Point of Sale (POS)** terminal solutions for **MSME/retail** customers; Karnataka Bank: founded **1924**, HQ **Bengaluru**, MD **Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma**, Tagline: "**Your Family Bank Across India**"
- **Razorpay** partnered with **Sam Altman's OpenAI** to enable instant embedded payments in AI applications
- **DBS Bank India** debuted the "**DBS Aspire**" program and **Debit Card** for affluent travelers

- **Jio Financial Services** and **Allianz SE** signed a pact to establish a **50-50** insurance joint venture for general and health insurance
- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** launched two new mobile apps via **DIVE (Digital Innovation & Value Enhancement)** platform:
 - "**My LIC**": for customers to manage policies, pay premiums, take paperless loans
 - "**Super Sales Saathi**" / "**LIC Super Sales**": for agents/intermediaries to track policies and manage marketing tools
- **LIC** founded: **September 1, 1956**; HQ: **Mumbai**; CEO & MD: **R. Doraiswamy**
- **Catholic Syrian Bank (CSB Bank)** (founded **1920**, HQ **Thrissur, Kerala**) launched "**Smart Save Account**"
- **Postal Life Insurance (PLI)** onboarded on **Bharat Connect** by **NPCI Bharat BillPay**; customers can set up e-mandates for automated premium payments; **SBI** acts as **Biller Operating Unit**
- **EPFO** launched '**e-Prapti**' portal: Aadhaar-based digital platform to track and activate old/inoperative PF accounts without **Universal Account Number (UAN)**

IRDAI & Insurance Sector

- **IRDAI** issued **R1 approval** to **M Pallonji Group** (promoted by **Mehli and Pheroze Mistry**) for general insurance venture featuring **51% stake** and **₹200 crore capital**, supported by **Federal Bank**
- **Kiwi General Insurance** (backed by **WestBridge Capital**, led by CEO **Nilesh Garg**) received formal operating license from **IRDAI**
- **IRDAI** revised cyber security guidelines: **Information Security Risk Management Committee** to meet at least **once a quarter**; compliance reports submitted within **30 days**
- **Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company (ADNIC)** received regulatory approval to establish a reinsurance branch in India's **GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**
- **Swiss Re** report: India is the **10th largest** insurance market globally based on premium collections
- India raised **FDI limit** for insurance to **100%**; national target: "**Insurance for All by 2047**"
- Net-owned fund requirement for foreign reinsurers reduced from **₹5,000 crore** to **₹1,000 crore**

- Insurer can buy up to **5% stake** (increased from **1%**) in another insurer without prior IRDAI approval
- NSSO data (April 2026): rural health insurance coverage spiked to **47.4%** (up from **14.1%** eight years prior); urban health insurance: **44.3%**
- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY): ₹2 lakh** cover; annual premium **₹436**; eligible ages **18–50**; **26.88 crore** enrollments
- **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY): ₹2 lakh** cover; annual premium **₹20**; eligible ages **18–70**

Macroeconomic Indicators

- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI):** rose to **3.88%** (**3.9%**) in March 2026 (38-month high); up from **2.13%** in February; base year **2011-2012**; measures goods using **697** articles
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI / Retail inflation):** stood at **3.4%** in March 2026 (13-month high); up from **2.75%** in January and **3.21%** in February; base year updated to **2024**; basket items increased to **358**; food/beverage weight reduced to **36.75%**; travel weight increased to **17%**
- **Unemployment Rate** (NSO Periodic Labour Force Survey): **5.1%** in March 2026 (5-month high); up from **4.9%** in February
- **Worker Population Ratio** (15–59 years): **52.6%**
- **Labour Force Participation Rate:** **55.4%**
- **GDP Base Year:** revised to **2022–23** from previous **2011–12** series
- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** slowed to **4.1%** in March 2026 (5-month low); February 2026 revised from **5.2%** to **5.1%**
- **India's Current Account Deficit (CAD):** projected to rise to **2%** of GDP (up from earlier **0.8%** to **1.5%**)
- **India's inflation target:** **4% ± 2%** tolerance band
- **SBI** projects inflation at **4.5%** and fiscal deficit between **4.5%** to **4.6%**
- **UN** projected India's economic inflation at approximately **4.4%**

GDP Projections for India

- **IMF:** **6.9%** and **6.5%** for FY27; **7.6%** for FY26; global growth **3.1%** for CY26; IMF has **190 member countries** (Andorra the 190th); MD: **Kristalina Georgieva**; HQ: **Washington D.C.**

- **World Bank:** **6.6%** (revised up from **6.3%**); FY26 revised to **7.2%**; HQ: **Washington D.C.**
- **ADB:** **6.9%** (FY27), **7.6%** (FY26), **7.3%** (FY28)
- **RBI:** **6.9%** for FY27
- **SBI Research:** **6.8%** to **7.1%** for FY27; **7.6%** for FY 2025-26
- **S&P and CRISIL:** **7.1%** for FY27
- **Morgan Stanley:** **6.2%** for FY27
- **OECD:** **6.1%** for FY27
- **Moody's:** **6.0%** for FY27 (downgraded from **6.8%**)
- **UN / UN ESCAP:** **6.4%** for 2026; **6.6%** for 2027
- **Economic Survey 2025-26:** FY27 growth range **6.8%–7.2%**
- **WEF Report:** global economy to expand by **\$56 trillion** over next five years

India's Global Economic Standing

- India slipped from **4th** to **6th** spot globally in GDP ranking; behind **UK** and **Japan**
- Top four global economies: **USA, China, Germany, Japan**
- India recognized as world's **6th largest economy**
- India is world's **largest recipient of remittances** (estimated **\$137 billion** in **2024**)
- India is top destination for **greenfield FDI** in Asia-Pacific

Trade Data & FDI

- India's total exports (goods + services): **\$860 billion** in FY 2025-26 (**4.2% YoY growth** from **\$825 billion** in FY24-25); **84.5%** growth over 12 years from **\$466 billion** in FY 2013-14
- Total imports: **\$978.4 billion**; overall trade deficit: **\$119.30 billion**
- Data released by **Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal**
- **China** overtook **USA** to become India's **largest trading partner** in FY26; bilateral trade: **\$151.1 billion**
- **USA** now ranks second; total trade volume: **\$140 billion**
- India's trade deficit with **China:** **\$112.16 billion** (imports: **\$131.63 billion**; exports: **\$19.47 billion**; exports grew **36.66%**)
- **FDI Equity Inflows** (April–December FY26): **\$47.87 billion**
- Top FDI source: **Singapore** (**\$17.6 billion**, **37%** share); followed by **USA** (**\$7.8 billion**) and **Mauritius** (**\$4.8 billion**)

- Top FDI sectors: **Computer software/hardware (22%)** and **services (18%)**
- Top FDI states: **Maharashtra (\$15.38 billion / \$50.38 billion)** and **Karnataka (\$11.15 billion)**
- **NITI Aayog "Trade Watch Quarterly"**: India's trade with FTA countries reached **28.8%** of total trade in **2024**

Banking Market Capitalization

- **SBI** overtook **ICICI Bank** to become India's **second-largest lender by market value** (first time since **August 2019**)
- **HDFC Bank** remains the largest lender
- **IDBI Bank** recorded steepest market decline of **40.3%**
- **SBI** currently: **22% market share in deposits, 20% in advances**, serving **53 crore customers**; aims to expand balance sheet to **25% of India's GDP by 2030** (current balance sheet: **₹71.62 lakh crore** as of Dec 2025; deposits **₹57 lakh crore**; advances **₹46 lakh crore**); aims to enter **global top 10** (currently ranked **27th globally**)
- **SBI** adopts "**ABCD Strategy**": Acquire, Build, Convert, and Deepen; plans to deploy **10,000 "Seva Saarthis"** (apprentices) in high-footfall branches
- **NSE** reported **7% decline** in active investors, dropping to **4.57 crore** in 2026

Small Saving Schemes – Interest Rates

- **Senior Citizen Savings Scheme & Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana: 8.2%**
- **National Savings Certificate: 7.7%**
- **Kisan Vikas Patra: 7.5%** (doubles in **115 months**)
- **Public Provident Fund (PPF): 7.1%**

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- Launched **May 9, 2015** (operational **June 1, 2015**); regulated by **PFRDA**
- Crossed **9 crore** total enrolments by **April 21, 2026**; record **1.35 crore** new subscribers in FY 2025-26
- Eligible: Indian citizens aged **18–40**; must contribute for at least **20 years**
- Guaranteed monthly pension: **₹1,000 to ₹5,000** at age **60**; spouse receives **50%** upon death; nominees get principal
- Female participation: **48%**; extended to **2030-31**
- Since **October 1, 2022**: income taxpayers barred from joining
- Combined **APY and NPS Assets Under Management (AUM)**: crossed **₹16.46 lakh crore**; pension corpus: **₹45,974.67 crore**

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)

- Completed **11 years** (launched **January 22, 2015**)
- Allows **₹250 to ₹1.5 lakh** yearly investment for girls up to **10 years**
- Deposits for **15 years**; matures at **21 years**

DGFT & Customs

- **DGFT** authorized **17 banks** to import gold and silver until **March 31, 2029**; **15 banks** can import both metals; **Union Bank of India** and **SBER Bank** authorized for gold only
- **CBIC** removed **₹10 lakh** value limit on international courier exports from **April 1, 2026**
- New "**Return to Origin (RTO)**" policy: un-cleared/rejected exported goods returnable within **15 days** without customs duties
- **India-Bhutan 7th Customs Meeting** held in **Munnar, Kerala** (officially renamed **Keralam**); operated by **CBIC**; focus on anti-smuggling; India accounts for **~80%** of Bhutan's total trade via **10 notified land custom stations** (**6 in West Bengal, 4 in Assam**)

Department of Posts

- Achieved record revenue of **₹15,296 crore** for FY26; **16% growth**
- Introduced "**Speed Post 24**" (same-day delivery) and "**Speed Post 48**" (next-day delivery)
- **Department of Post** signed pact with **DTDC Express Limited** to boost rural e-commerce

CSR Spending

- CSR spending by **NSE-listed** companies increased by **23%** to **₹22,212 crore** in 2024-25
- Top CSR spenders: **Reliance Industries (₹139 crore)**, **HDFC Bank (₹168 crore)**, **TCS (₹960 crore)**
- Top states receiving CSR funds: **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu**
- CSR mandate criteria: net worth **>₹500 crore**, turnover **>₹1,000 crore**, or net profit **>₹5 crore**; eligible companies must spend **2%** of average net profit from last three years

Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)

- **FIU India** signed two **MoUs** with **SEBI** and **PFRDA** to share suspicious transaction information

PPFAS / NPS

- **PPFAS Asset Management Company** received **PFRDA** approval to act as sponsor

and set up a pension fund under **National Pension System (NPS)** in **Mumbai**

World Bank & Multilateral Finance

- **World Bank Group** launched "**Water Forward**" initiative; targets water security for **1 billion people by 2030**; 400 million via country-led "Water Compacts"; partners: **ADB, AIIB, EIB, NDB** for remaining 600 million
- **IFC** plans annual investment of **\$10 billion** in India by **2030** (up from **\$5.4 billion**)
- **World Bank** approved **\$225 million** step-up loan for Rajasthan Highway Modernization Project (**IBRD**; **35-year** maturity; first "**Step Up Loan Structure**" in India)
- **Kuwait** and **Papua New Guinea** added to **FATF Grey List**
- **UAE** launched world's first **Sovereign Financial Cloud** in partnership with **Core 42**

Intellectual Property & Patents

- Total patent filings in India increased by **30.2%** to **1.43 lakh (143,729)** in FY26; **69%** domestic; led by **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra**
- India globally ranks **6th** in the **WIPO** index; top four: **USA, Japan, South Korea, China**

MSME Classification (Updated)

- **Micro**: Investment up to **₹2.5 crore**; Turnover **₹10 crore**
- **Small**: Investment **₹25 crore**; Turnover **₹100 crore**
- **Medium**: Investment **₹125 crore**; Turnover **₹500 crore**

Major Textile Schemes (Financial Allocations)

- **PM MITRA**: **₹4,445 crore** for mega parks
- **SAMARTH**: **₹1,300 crore** for capacity building
- **ATUFS**: **₹17,882 crore** for technology upgradation

PLI Scheme

- Originally launched in **2020** for **3** sectors; expanded to **14** sectors in **2021**
- **PLI for Food Processing**: implemented by **Ministry of Food Processing** (2021-22 to 2026-27); outlay **₹10,900 crore**; **₹800 crore** for millet-based products

Credit Information

- Four major credit information companies: **TransUnion CIBIL, CRIF High Mark, Experian, Equifax**
- **CIBIL** scores: **300 to 900**; Above **750** (Excellent), **700–749** (Good), **650–699** (Fair), **600–649** (Doubtful), below **600** (Poor)

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G. V. Satish
 Chairman & Managing Director, NBCC

7. Defence

Indian Army – Operations & Exercises

- **Indian Army's Trishakti Corps** launched "**Radio Sikkim Sunduri**" (88.4 FM) in **East Sikkim**, near the **India-China border**; marks **India's first border village community radio station**
- **Indian Army's Trishakti Corps**, alongside the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**, launched **Operation Himshetu** in **North Sikkim**
- **Indian Army** flagged off its **first Blue Water Sailing Expedition** named "**Samudra Sahas**" from **Marve, Mumbai** as part of the **Artillery Regiment's bicentenary** celebrations:
 - **520-nautical-mile** journey on **21-foot Seabird class boats**
 - Divided into **four legs**: Mumbai to Vijaydurg, Goa, Vijaydurg, and back to Mumbai
 - Led by **Captain Kshitij Nair** and **Subedar Prakash Phande**
 - Also referred to as part of the **Regiment of Artillery of the Indian**

Army flagging off the expedition from **Mumbai**

- **Indian Army** departed for the **7th** edition of the **India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise "DUSTLIK"**:
 - Held from **April 12 to 25, 2026**
 - Venue: **Gurumsaray Training Area / Namangan, Uzbekistan**
 - Focus: joint tactical planning to counter unlawful armed groups and terrorism
- **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: **Foreign Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya**
 - Participants: **11 friendly nations** – Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives (South Asia); Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia (Southeast Asia); Seychelles (Indian Ocean Region)
- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan** flagged off the **Surya Bhumi Challenge / Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0** expedition in **Badrinath / Uttarakhand**:
 - **113 km** expedition across the **Char Dham corridor**
 - Aims to promote religious tourism
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is set to chair the first-ever high-level **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) Leadership Conference** in **New Delhi** in **May 2026**

Indian Navy – Operations & Exercises

- **First edition of the Indian Navy Commanders' Conference 2026** took place at **Nausena Bhawan, New Delhi**
- **Indian Navy** and **DRDO** successfully tested the **Air Dropable Container (ADC-150)**:
 - Dropped via parachutes from US-origin **P-8I Boeing** aircraft
 - Tested off the **Goa coast**
- Under the **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)** initiative, **INS Sunayna** visited **Phuket, Thailand**, and sailed for **Indonesia**; conducted a **Passing Exercise (PASSEX)** with the **Royal Thai Navy**
- **INS Sunayna** reached **Changi Naval Base** in **Singapore** under **Mission Sagar**
- **INS Sudarshini** reached **Las Palmas, Spain** as part of the "**Lokayan 26**" mission:
 - **22,000-nautical-mile** journey that commenced in **Kochi** in **January**

- Previously visited **Oman, Egypt, Malta, France, and Morocco**

- **INS Nireekshak** reached **Colombo, Sri Lanka** for a diving exercise (**4th** edition of the bilateral defense/naval exercise **SLINEX 2026 / Divex**), held from **April 21 to 27**
- **India-Sri Lanka** naval ties: **INS Nireekshak** visited **Colombo** for diving support training

Indian Air Force (IAF)

- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and US-based **GE Aerospace** announced a contract to establish **in-country Depot facilities** for **F404-IN20 engines**

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)

- **DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V Kamat** unveiled advanced **tracked and wheeled armored platforms** at the **Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (VRDE)** laboratory in **Ahmednagar/Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra**
- **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** received "**Prajna**" (also known as **PRAZNA**): an AI-enabled satellite imaging system developed by **DRDO's Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) lab**; handed over by **DRDO Chief Samir V Kamat**
- **Ministry of Defense** signed a contract worth **₹975 crore** with **BEML** and **EHP** for a **TRAWL** assembly line developed by **DRDO** for **T-72** and **T-90** tanks
- **IIT Ropar (Punjab)** launched India's first fully integrated advanced **agriculture intelligence ecosystem** (separate from **DRDO** but technology-related)

Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- **BRO** celebrated the **66th Raising Day** of "**Project Dantak**" on **April 24**:
 - **Project Dantak** focuses on building and maintaining critical road infrastructure in **Bhutan**
 - Originally established in **1961**
 - Celebrated **65 years** of establishing border roads in **Bhutan**

Defence Procurement & International Military Cooperation

- **Australia** signed a **\$7 billion** deal to acquire advanced **stealth warships**; **Japan** will build and supply **Mogami-class frigates** to the **Royal Australian Navy** starting in **2029**
- **Pakistan** successfully test-fired the indigenous **Taimur** air-launched **anti-ship cruise missile**

- **Pakistan** became the first country to send foreign astronauts (**Muhammad Zeeshan Ali** and **Khurram Dawood**) to train for **China's Tiangong Space Station**

SIPRI Report – Global Military Spending

- **India** became the **5th largest global military spender** in 2025:
 - Spending: **\$92.1 billion (3.2% of global spending)**
 - Defense spending increased by **8.9%**, driven by "**Operation Sindoor**" and preparedness conflicts
 - India stands as the **2nd largest importer of arms globally**, behind **Ukraine**
- Top 5 global military spenders (collectively **58%** of global spending):
 1. **USA: \$954 billion**
 2. **China: \$336 billion**
 3. **Russia: \$190 billion**
 4. **Germany**
 5. **India: \$92.1 billion**

SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** to attend the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**
- **2026 SCO Heads of State Summit: Kyrgyzstan**
- **2027 SCO Summit: Islamabad, Pakistan**
- **Belarus** officially became the **10th member** of the **SCO** in **2024**

India-Russia Logistics Agreement

- **Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)** between **India** and **Russia** officially came into force
- Valid for a period of **5 years**
- Introduces a **dollar-bypassing barter system** for mutual exchanges

Honours & Recognition – Defence

- **General Upendra Dwivedi** (Indian Army Chief) inducted into the **US Army War College International Hall of Fame** in **Pennsylvania**:
 - Hosted by Indian Ambassador **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**
 - He is the **3rd Indian** Chief to receive this distinction
- India participated in the **World Border Security Congress** in **Vienna, Austria**:
 - Delegation led by **Additional Director General Anand Prakash Badola**
 - Highlighted India's maritime security leadership

India-Sri Lanka Defence Ties

- **Vice President CP Radhakrishnan** completed the first bilateral visit by an Indian Vice President to **Sri Lanka** (April 19–20):
 - Announced completion of **Phase 3** of the **Indian Housing Project (4,000 houses)**
 - **Sri Lanka** agreed to officially join India's **International Big Cat Alliance**
 - **INS Nireekshak** reached **Colombo** for **SLINEX 2026 / Divex** (4th edition; April 21–27)

Australian Defence Forces (ADF) – Static Facts

- Capital: **Canberra**; Prime Minister: **Anthony Albanese**
- Defence groups: **AUKUS / QUAD**
- Joint exercises with India: **AUSINDEX** and **AUSTRA HIND**
- **Susan Coyle** became the **first female Chief of Army** in Australia's **125-year history** (succeeding **Simon Stuart**)
- **Mark Hammond** appointed **Chief of Defence Force** (replacing **David Johnston**)
- Female participation in ADF: currently **21%**; target: **25% by 2030**

Colonel Sonam Wangchuk – Obituary

- Highly decorated **Indian Army** officer; termed the "**Land of Ladakh**"
- **Maha Vir Chakra** awardee for the **1999 Kargil War**

India-UK Defence Dialogue

- **National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval** hosted UK counterpart **Jonathan Powell** in **New Delhi** for annual strategic dialogue on defense and security
- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Anil Chauhan** met with UK defense leaders to discuss global trade imbalances and cybersecurity

Siachen Day

- **April 13: Siachen Day** observed
- Marked the **42nd anniversary** of the Indian Army's presence at the **Siachen Glacier**
- Commemorating the **1984 Operation Meghdoot**

Important Defence-Related Days

- **April 13: Siachen Day** – **42nd anniversary** of **Operation Meghdoot (1984)**
- **April 24: BRO's Project Dantak 66th Raising Day**

8. International

India-Austria Relations

- **Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker** visited India (first visit by an Austrian Chancellor in **40 years**; also his first visit to Asia)
- **PM Modi** held bilateral talks with **Christian Stocker** at **Hyderabad House, New Delhi**
- Focus areas: **trade, investment, green technology**
- Letters of Intent signed on:
 - **Defense policy dialogue**
 - **Fast-track resolution process for business disputes**
- **Static Facts – Austria:** Capital: **Vienna**; not a **NATO** member; central European nation
- India and **Germany** celebrated **75 years of diplomatic relations (1951–2026)** and launched a commemorative logo

India-South Korea Relations

- **South Korean President Lee Jae-myung** (also cited as **Lee Jae-yong**) arrived in India on official visit (**April 19–21**)
- Held critical meetings on **energy, AI, cyber security, and semiconductors**
- Paid respects at **Rajghat** and visited the **Taj Mahal**
- **~25 MoUs** signed in sectors like **shipbuilding, logistics, and energy**
- Key goals:
 - **\$50 billion bilateral trade by 2030** (current: **\$27 billion**)
 - Resumption of **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**
 - Celebrate **2028–29 as a Friendship Year**
- India and South Korea established a target to reach **\$54 billion** in bilateral trade by **2030** (also cited as **\$50 billion**)
- **POSCO Group** (South Korea) and **JSW Steel** signed a **\$7.3 billion** joint venture for a **6 million ton** steel plant in **Odisha** by **2031**

India-New Zealand Relations

- **India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** 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 was finalized in just **9 months**
- Aims to boost bilateral trade to **\$20 billion** over **15 years**
- The FTA has **20 chapters** aligning with "**Viksit Bharat 2047**" vision

- India gets **100% duty-free** access for **MSME, textile, and leather** exports
- India liberalized **8,284 tariff lines (70.3%)** while protecting agriculture/dairy

India-Sri Lanka Relations

- **Vice President CP Radhakrishnan** completed the **first bilateral visit by an Indian Vice President to Sri Lanka** (**April 19–20**)
- Signed **MoUs for healthcare and regional development**
- Formally announced completion of **Phase 3** of the **Indian Housing Project (4,000 houses)**
- **Sri Lanka** agreed to officially join India's **International Big Cat Alliance**
- **INS Nireekshak** reached **Colombo** for the **4th edition** of the bilateral defense/naval exercise (**SLINEX 2026 / Divex**), held from **April 21 to 27**
- India expanded **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** card eligibility for Indian-origin Sri Lankans up to the **6th generation** (previously capped at **4 generations**)

India-Bhutan Relations

- India and **Bhutan** held the **7th Joint Group of Customs Meeting** in **Munnar, Kerala**
- India accounts for around **80%** of **Bhutan's** total trade
- Trade conducted via **10 notified land custom stations (6 in West Bengal, 4 in Assam)**
- **Punatsangchhu-I Hydro Power Project** is a **1200 MW** project located in **Bhutan**
- **IRCTC** launched a **14-day "Bharat Bhutan Mystic Mountain Tour"** (**₹1.16 lakh to ₹1.5 lakh**) via the **Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC train**
- **Project Dantak:** focuses on building critical road infrastructure in **Bhutan**; established in **1961**; celebrated **66th Raising Day** on **April 24**

India-Maldives Relations

- India provided economic assistance under the **SAARC Currency Swap Framework (2024–27)**
- India approved a **\$30 billion / ₹30 billion / ₹3,000 crore** SAARC currency swap
- Allows **Maldives** to utilize **Indian Rupees** for trade rather than depending on **US Dollars**
- India increased aid to Maldives to **₹600 crore** (up from **₹470 crore**) in 2025-26 Union Budget

India-UK Relations

- NSA **Ajit Doval** hosted UK counterpart **Jonathan Powell** in New Delhi for annual strategic dialogue on **defense and security**
- CDS **Anil Chauhan** met UK defense leaders to discuss **global trade imbalances and cybersecurity**

India-Russia Relations

- **Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)** came into force
- Valid for **5 years**; introduces a **dollar-bypassing barter system** for mutual exchanges

India-Kenya Relations

- **10th India-Kenya Joint Trade Conference** chaired by **Rajesh Agrawal**
- Bilateral trade increased by **24.91%**

India-Jordan Relations

- **Jordan** officially joined the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**, and the **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**
- India and Jordan agreed to boost bilateral trade from **\$3 billion to \$5 billion**

India-Bangladesh Relations

- **Dinesh Trivedi** appointed as India's new **High Commissioner to Bangladesh**, succeeding **Pranay Verma**
- **Brazil** overtook India as **Bangladesh's** primary corn exporter (Indian corn diverted to domestic ethanol programs)

India at International Organizations

- **India** secured re-election to the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** council (2026–27) with the highest **Category B** votes
- India elected to crucial **UN ECOSOC** bodies:
 - **Commission on Science and Tech (2027–30)**
 - **Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) (2027–30)**
 - **Program and Coordination (2027–29)**
- **Preeti Saran** re-elected to the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2027–30)**
- **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** **Ganesh Kumar** became **Chairperson of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)** for 2026
- **India** hosted the **1st BRICS Health Working Group Meeting** in New Delhi:
 - Headed by Union Health Secretary **Punya Salila Srivastava**
 - Theme for India's 2026 BRICS Chairship: "**Building for Resilience,**

Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"

- India proposed a "**BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle**" focusing on diet, mental health, reducing tobacco/alcohol risks

- India ranked **3rd** in the **Asia Power Index**
- India secured **8th rank** in debut at **World Skills Asia 2025**

India-Africa Relations

- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** officially launched the logo, theme, and website for the **4th Africa-India Forum Summit**
- Summit scheduled in **New Delhi** on **May 31**
- Theme: "**India Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience and Inclusive Transformation**" / "**India Africa SPRINT**"
- **African Union: 55 countries**; HQ: **Addis Ababa**
- India and Africa participate in joint military exercise **AFINDEX**

India-Australia Relations

- **Australian Chancellor Christian Stalker** visited India from **April 14–17**; participated in the **17th India-Australia Joint Economic Commission in New Delhi**
- Australia signed a **\$7 billion** deal to acquire **Mogami-class frigates** from Japan for the **Royal Australian Navy** starting **2029**
- Joint exercises with India: **AUSINDEX** and **AUSTRA HIND**

France – Visa-Free Transit for Indians

- **France** officially allowed **visa-free transit** for Indian nationals passing via French airports by air

Global Leadership Changes

- **Ismail Omar Guelleh** re-elected as **President of Djibouti**
- **Nazar Muhammad Sed Ahmedi / Nizar Amedi** elected as **9th President of Iraq** by Iraqi parliament, succeeding **Abdul Latif Rashid**
- **Ali Al-Zeidi** nominated as next **Prime Minister of Iraq** by President **Nizar Amde**
- **Anura Karunathilake** appointed as new **Energy Minister of Sri Lanka**
- **Israel** officially recognized **Somaliland's** 1991 independence; appointed **Michael Lotem** as first ambassador; first nation to do so
- **Somaliland** declared independence from **Somalia** in **1991**

European Union (EU)

- EU formally approved a **90 billion Euro** loan package to support **Ukraine**:
 - Half released in **2026**; half in **2027**
- EU has **27 member states**
- **Cyprus** currently holds the **EU Council Presidency**
- **Ursula von der Leyen**: President of the **EU Commission**
- **Antonio Costa**: President of the **EU Council**

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- **UAE** withdrew from **OPEC** and **OPEC+** effective **May 1** (after six decades) to independently set oil production limits
- **UAE** launched the world's first **Sovereign Financial Cloud** in partnership with **Core 42**
- **UAE** launched the world's first commercial upper **6 GHz** internet network on the "**Golden Spectrum**" (**6425–7125 MHz band**) during the **SAMENA Council Leaders' Summit**

Turkey

- **Turkish Parliament** passed a bill restricting access to social media platforms (**Instagram, TikTok, Facebook**), game software, and digital platforms for children under **15 years**

Nigeria

- 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**

United Kingdom

- **UK Parliament** approved the **Tobacco and Vapes Bill**:
 - Creates a **smoke-free generation**
 - Prohibits sale of cigarettes, vapes, and tobacco to anyone aged **17 and under**

US Congressional Bill – H-1B Visa

- New **US Congressional bill** proposes:
 - **Three-year pause** on the **H-1B visa** program
 - Annual cap reduced from **65,000 to 25,000**
 - **\$100,000** minimum salary enforced
 - Ban on family dependents
 - Elimination of Green Card transition path

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** to attend **SCO Defence Ministers' meeting** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**
- **2026 SCO Heads of State Summit**: **Kyrgyzstan**

- **2027 SCO Summit**: **Islamabad, Pakistan**
- **Belarus** officially became the **10th member** of the **SCO** in **2024**

Global Financial & Trade Developments

- **Kuwait** and **Papua New Guinea** added to **FATF Grey List**
- **NITI Aayog "Trade Watch Quarterly"**: India's trade with FTA countries reached **28.8%** of total trade in **2024**

Pakistan

- **Pakistan** successfully test-fired the indigenous **Taimur** air-launched **anti-ship cruise missile**
- **Pakistan** became the first country to send foreign astronauts (**Muhammad Zeeshan Ali** and **Khurram Dawood**) to train for **China's Tiangong Space Station**

South Asian Facts (Memory Trick)

- "**BAN BIM**": **B**angladesh, **A**fghanistan, **N**epal, **B**hutan, **I**ndia, **M**aldives, **P**akistan, **S**ri Lanka

World Bank Initiatives

- **World Bank President Ajay Banga** announced "**Water Forward**" global platform:
 - Targets water security for **1 billion people by 2030**
 - **400 million** targeted directly via country-led "Water Compacts"
 - Partners: **ADB, AIIB, EIB, NDB** for remaining **600 million**

Global Observations & Days – International Context

- **Jakarta** declared the world's largest city on the **UN mega cities index**
- **Riyadh Metro** recognized as the **world's longest driverless metro network**
- **UN** has **six official languages**: Arabic, Chinese (added **1945**), English, French, Russian, Spanish; two working languages: **English and French**
- **UNESCO** added **12** new sites to the **Global Geoparks Network**, bringing total to **241 sites** across **51 countries**; India currently has **zero UNESCO Global Geoparks**
- **WHO** approved the first drug (artemether + lumefantrine) for infants under **5 kg** for malaria treatment; critical for Sub-Saharan Africa
- **International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace** observed on **April 24**

4th India-Africa Forum Summit Preparation

- **EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar** introduced the **4th India-Africa Forum Summit's** logo, website, and theme

- Summit to be held in **New Delhi** on **May 31, 2026**
- Theme: "**India Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience and Inclusive Transformation**"

9. Meetings

Naval & Defence Conferences

- **First edition of the Indian Navy Commanders' Conference 2026** took place at **Nausena Bhawan, New Delhi**
 - Focused on naval strategy, operational readiness, and future planning
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is set to chair the **first-ever high-level Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) Leadership Conference** in **New Delhi** in **May 2026**
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** to attend the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**
- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Anil Chauhan** met with **UK defense leaders** to discuss global trade imbalances and cybersecurity
- **NSA Ajit Doval** hosted UK counterpart **Jonathan Powell** in **New Delhi** for annual **India-UK Strategic Dialogue** on defense and security

Health Summits & Conferences

- India hosted the **1st BRICS Health Working Group Meeting** in **New Delhi**:
 - Chaired by Union Health Secretary **Punya Salila Srivastava**
 - Theme for India's **2026 BRICS Chairship**: "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**"
 - India proposed a "**BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle**" focusing on diet, mental health, and reducing tobacco/alcohol risks
- **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)**
- **Ayushman Bharat Awards** presented at '**Chintan Shivir 2026**' in **Pune, Maharashtra**:
 - **18 PM-JAY awards** and **5 Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**

excellence awards given to states and UTs

Diplomatic & Bilateral Meetings

- **PM Modi** held bilateral talks with **Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker** at **Hyderabad House, New Delhi**:
 - Focus: trade, investment, and green technology
 - Letters of Intent signed on defense policy dialogue and fast-track business dispute resolution
 - First visit by an Austrian Chancellor in **40 years**
- **South Korean President Lee Jae-myung** visited India (**April 19–21**):
 - Met **PM Modi**; held meetings on energy, AI, cyber security, semiconductors
 - Paid respects at **Rajghat** and visited the **Taj Mahal**
 - **~25 MoUs** signed; bilateral trade target set at **\$50 billion by 2030**
- **Vice President CP Radhakrishnan** completed the **first bilateral visit by an Indian Vice President to Sri Lanka** (**April 19–20**):
 - Signed MoUs for healthcare and regional development
 - Announced completion of **Phase 3 of the Indian Housing Project (4,000 houses)**
- **Australian Chancellor Christian Stalker** visited India (**April 14–17**):
 - Participated in the **17th India-Australia Joint Economic Commission** in **New Delhi**
- India and **Bhutan** held the **7th Joint Group of Customs Meeting** in **Munnar, Kerala**:
 - Operated by **CBIC**
 - Primary focus: anti-smuggling mechanisms
- **10th India-Kenya Joint Trade Conference** chaired by **Rajesh Agrawal**:
 - Bilateral trade increased by **24.91%**
- **German diplomat Annalena Baerbock** visited India; met **S. Jaishankar**

International Summits

- **4th India-Africa Forum Summit** preparations launched by **EAM S. Jaishankar**:
 - Scheduled in **New Delhi** on **May 31, 2026**
 - Theme: "**India Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience and Inclusive**

Transformation" / "India Africa SPRINT"

- African Union: 55 countries; HQ: Addis Ababa
- **SAMENA Council Leaders' Summit: UAE** launched world's first commercial upper 6 GHz internet network during this summit
- **2026 SCO Heads of State Summit:** to be held in Kyrgyzstan
- **2027 SCO Summit:** to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan
- **World Border Security Congress** held in Vienna, Austria:
 - Indian delegation led by **Additional Director General Anand Prakash Badola**
 - Highlighted India's maritime security leadership

Financial & Economic Meetings

- **India International Water Week (9th Edition):**
 - Launched by **Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil** at **Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi**
 - Set to take place from **September 22–26, 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**
 - Theme: "**Climate Resilient Water Management**"
- **SEBI's 38th Foundation Day** observed on **April 25** at **Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai:**
 - **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** attended as chief guest
 - Launched "**Mission Jagrook**" – nationwide investor awareness initiative
- **World Economic Forum (WEF):** released report titled "**Growth in the New Economy: Toward a Blueprint**"; projected global economy will expand by **\$56 trillion** over next five years
- **RBI** launched the **49th** round of the **Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey** for the **April–June 2026** quarter
- **RBI's 4th Global Hackathon "Harbinger"** conducted:
 - Theme: "**Secure Banking Powered by Identity, Integrity, Inclusivity**"
 - Three problem statements: tokenizing KYC, offline CBDC, and enhancing trust in digital banking

Science, Technology & Space Conferences

- **World Quantum Day (April 14):** Andhra Pradesh CM **N. Chandrababu Naidu**

launched the **Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility** in **Amaravati**

- Theme: "**Shaping the quantum workforce**"
- **UNESCO** added **12** new sites to the **Global Geoparks Network** (total now **241** sites across **51** countries)

Social Justice & Welfare Conferences

- **SMILE Beggary Survey App** launched at a **Chintan Shivir** held in **Chandigarh** from **April 24–26, 2026:**
 - Organized by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

Education Conferences & Events

- **Herbalife India** and **IIT Madras** signed an MoU to establish India's **first Center of Excellence on plant cell fermentation technology** at the **IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai**
- **UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development** launched by Union Minister **Jayant Chaudhary** at **Symbiosis Skill and Professional University, Pune, Maharashtra** (first such chair in India and Asia)

Environment & Conservation Meetings

- **Biodiversity Conservation Project Launch (2025–2030):**
 - Titled: "**Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitment**"
 - Backed by **\$4.88 million** grant from **GEF** and **UNDP**
 - Implemented in **Sathyamangalam Landscape (Tamil Nadu)** and **Garo Hills (Meghalaya)**
 - Launched by **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** and **National Biodiversity Authority**

Cultural & Sports Conferences

- **Laureus World Sports Awards 2026** held in **Madrid, Spain**
- **ISSF Junior World Cup 2026** held in **Cairo, Egypt:**
 - India topped the tally with **16 medals (5 Gold, 6 Silver, 5 Bronze)**
- **World Para Athletics Championship 2027: 13th edition** to be hosted in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan** in **June 2027**
- **SAFF Women's Championship 2026:** to be hosted in **Margao, Goa** (at **PJN Stadium / Fatorda**)
- **IIT Madras** hosted India's first inter-college "**OmegaBall**" tournament

- **PM Modi** inaugurated **6 state-of-the-art BCCI Cricket Academies** in Northeast India:
 - Locations: **Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland**
- **Femina Miss India 2026 (61st edition)** held at **KIIT/IIT Bhubaneswar, Odisha**:
 - Theme: "**Daughters of the Soil**"
 - Promoted "**Vishwa Sutra**" initiative of the Ministry of Textiles

Tourism & Special Expeditions

- **Surya Bhumi / Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0**:
 - Flagged off by **CDS Anil Chauhan** in **Badrinath, Uttarakhand**
 - **113 km** expedition across **Char Dham corridor**
 - Aims to promote religious tourism

Important Bilateral Commission Meetings

- **17th India-Australia Joint Economic Commission** held in **New Delhi** during **Australian Chancellor's visit (April 14–17)**
- **7th India-Bhutan Joint Group of Customs Meeting** held in **Munnar, Kerala**
- **10th India-Kenya Joint Trade Conference** chaired by **Rajesh Agrawal**

10. Miscellaneous

Linguistic & Terminology Developments

- **Oxford University Press** declared "**ragebait**" as the **official word of the year for 2025**
- **UN Chinese Language Day** observed on **April 20**:
 - Honors **Cangjie** (legendary inventor of Chinese characters)
 - Coincides with "**Guyu**" (Grain Rain)
 - 2026 Theme: "**Chinese Language: Shining Civilizations and Fluent Futures Forum. Chinese Learning and Youth Engagement for a Multilingual UN 2.0 World**"
 - The UN has **six official languages**: Arabic, Chinese (added **1945**), English, French, Russian, Spanish
 - Two working languages: **English and French**

Notable Firsts – Global & National

- **Seattle** became the **first US city** to officially install a statue of **Swami Vivekananda**
- **Jakarta** declared the world's **largest city** on the **UN mega cities index**
- **Riyadh Metro** recognized as the **world's longest driverless metro network**

- **Israel** became the **first nation** to officially recognize **Somaliland's 1991 independence**; appointed **Michael Lotem** as first ambassador
- **Pakistan** became the **first country** to send foreign astronauts (**Muhammad Zeeshan Ali** and **Khurram Dawood**) to train for **China's Tiangong Space Station**
- **France** officially allowed **visa-free transit** for Indian nationals passing via French airports by air
- **UAE** launched the world's first **Sovereign Financial Cloud** in partnership with **Core 42**
- **UAE** launched the world's first commercial upper **6 GHz** internet network on the "**Golden Spectrum**"
- **Indore** is India's first **beggar-free city**; **Surat** expected to become first **slum-free city**
- **Kankariya Coaching Depot, Ahmedabad** became **India's first water-neutral railway depot**
- **Radio Sikkim Sunduri (88.4 FM)**: India's **first border village community radio station** launched by **Indian Army's Trishakti Corps** in **East Sikkim**
- **PayPoint India** became the **first private sector NBFC/fintech** to join the **RBI's Centralised Payment System (NEFT and RTGS)**
- **Manali Shriagar** became the **first full-time female Vice-Chancellor** of **Nagpur University**
- **Susan Coyle** became the **first female Chief of Army** in **Australia's 125-year history**
- **Somaliland**: declared independence from **Somalia in 1991**; **Israel** became first nation to officially recognize it
- **Sebastian Sawe** became the **first man** to officially finish a marathon in **under two hours** (**London Marathon 2026; 1:59:30**)
- **R Vaishali** became the **first Indian woman** to win the **FIDE Women's Candidates 2026** tournament
- **Aaradhya Kapil** became the **youngest Indian chess player** to secure an **International Master norm** (age **10 years and 7 months**)
- **MobiKwik** became the first fintech to receive an **NBFC license** from **RBI** for its subsidiary
- **AU Small Finance Bank** was the **first small finance bank** to achieve **Universal Bank** status

- **Bengaluru Water Board** became the **first in India** to receive **ISO 50001** certification

Social Media & Digital Regulation

- **Karnataka** government proposed a strict **social media ban** for children under **16 years**
- **Turkey** banned social media platforms (**Instagram, TikTok, Facebook**), game software, and digital platforms for children under **15 years**
- **MeitY** introduced new regulations under the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act 2025**:
 - Effective: **May 1, 2026**
 - New **Online Gaming Authority of India** to be established
 - Headed by **Additional Secretary-level officer** from MeitY
 - Includes members from **Ministry of Home Affairs** and **Ministry of Finance**

Commemorative Events & Anniversaries

- **Indian Railways: 173rd anniversary** on **April 16**; first passenger train ran on **April 16, 1853** from **Bori Bunder (Mumbai)** to **Thane (34 km)**
- **UPI**: celebrated **10-year anniversary** (launched **April 11, 2016**)
- **LIC**: founded **September 1, 1956**
- **Sikkim's Golden Jubilee: 50th year of statehood** (Sikkim became **22nd state of India** on **May 16, 1975**)
- **India and Germany** celebrated **75 years of diplomatic relations (1951–2026)**; launched a commemorative logo
- **Sahitya Akademi** celebrating various literary milestones
- **Akashvani** celebrating its **90th** foundation year
- **SRCC (Shri Ram College of Commerce): 100-year milestone (1926–2026)**; PM Modi released commemorative postal stamp
- **Femina Miss India: 61st edition** held at **KIIT/IIT Bhubaneswar, Odisha**
- **Jallianwala Bagh: 107th anniversary** of **1919** massacre
- **Operation Meghdoot: 42nd anniversary** in **2026**
- **Champaran Satyagraha: 108th anniversary** on **April 10, 2026 (1917)**
- **International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day (April 26): 40th anniversary** of the **1986** disaster
- **Jim Whittaker**: First American to summit **Mount Everest** on **May 1, 1963** alongside **Nawang Gombu**

Environmental Discoveries & Biological News

- **Calamaria garonensis**: new species of **burrowing reed snake** scientifically found in **Meghalaya**
- **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences** identified that the **Jamun** fruit originated in India around **55 million years ago**
- A **female melanistic leopard (Black Panther)** translocated from **Assam** to **Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh)** – first such translocation after **40 years**
- **Bannerghatta Biological Park, Karnataka** received **four cheetahs** from **South Africa**:
 - First time imported cheetahs are housed outside **Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park**
- **Manipur** developing **227-hectare Kharungpat Bird Sanctuary** in **Kakching district** under **Wildlife Protection Act**
- **Meghalaya** government canceled a proposed luxury island resort on **Lumpongden Island** in **Umiam Lake (near Shillong)**

Human Interest & Medical News

- **NSSO data (April 2026)**: rural health insurance coverage spiked to **47.4%** (up from **14.1%** eight years prior); urban coverage: **44.3%**
- **Telangana** declared cancer a "**notifiable disease**": mandatory for all hospitals, labs, and clinics to report positive cases within **one month**
- **Bihar Government** launched rehabilitation scheme for **acid attack survivors**:
 - Minimum compensation: **₹3 lakh** per victim
 - In collaboration with **Chhav Foundation**
- **WHO** approved the first drug (artemether + lumefantrine) for infants under **5 kg** for malaria treatment – critical for **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Legal & Judicial Developments

- **Supreme Court** declared "**Right to Safe Road Travel**" as a fundamental right under **Article 21 (Right to Life)** on **April 13, 2026** (Paloi accident case)
- **Supreme Court** banned commercial establishments/dhabas adjacent to highway rights-of-way:
 - **30%** of road deaths come from **2%** of accidents
- **UK Parliament** approved the **Tobacco and Vapes Bill**:
 - Creates a **smoke-free generation**

- Prohibits sale of cigarettes, vapes, and tobacco to anyone aged **17 and under**
- **Nigeria** will introduce a **Green Tax** surcharge on high-emission vehicles starting **July 1, 2026**:
 - **2%** tax on **2000–3999cc** engines; **4%** on above **4000cc**
- **Meghalaya** government passed an ordinance granting full official language status to **Khasi and Garo** languages (**April 16, 2026**)
- **Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Amendment Bill 2026** passed:
 - Medical Board headed by **CMO** for medical examination
 - Final certificate issued by **District Magistrate (DM)**
- **Women's Reservation Bill 2026** defeated in **Lok Sabha**:
 - Received only **298 votes** in favor (required minimum: **360 votes**)
- **DCGI Recruitment Rules** revised:
 - Maximum recruitment age raised from **56 to 58 years**; tenure capped at **5 years**
 - **Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi** recently appointed as new **DCGI**

Obituaries – Complete List

- **Asha Bhosle**: Legendary playback singer; passed away at **92**; sang in over **20 languages**; recipient of **Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2000)** and **Padma Vibhushan (2008)**
- **Mohsina Kidwai**: Senior **Congress** leader and former Union Minister during Indira and Rajiv Gandhi's tenures; passed away
- **CD Gopinath**: Former Indian cricketer; last surviving member of India's first test win against England in **1952**; passed away
- **Colonel Sonam Wangchuk**: Decorated **Indian Army** officer; "**Land of Ladakh**"; **Maha Vir Chakra** awardee for **1999 Kargil War**; passed away
- **Jose Emilio Santamaria**: Legendary Uruguayan football defender for **Real Madrid**; **four-time European Cup** winner in **1950s–60s**; passed away
- **Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury (Dalu Babu)**: Veteran **Congress** leader; former MP from **Maldaha Dakshin**; former **Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare**; passed away in **Kolkata** at age **88**
- **Jim Whittaker**: First American to summit **Mount Everest** (May 1, 1963 alongside **Nawang Gombu**); passed away

- **Oscar Schmidt**: **68-year-old Brazilian basketball legend**; five-time Olympian; known as "**Holy Hand**"; passed away
- **Balbir Punj**: Former **BJP Rajya Sabha MP**; senior journalist; author of "**Tryst with Ayodhya**" and "**Narrative Ka Mayajaal**"; passed away at **76**
- **Bhagwandas Raikwar (Dao)**: Pioneer of **Bundeli martial arts (Akhada style)**; received **Padma Shri** in April 2026; passed away at **83** in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**
- **Shiv Ratan Agarwal**: Founder and Chairman of **Bikaji Foods International**; passed away
- **Nadendla Bhaskara Rao**: Former **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister**; passed away at **90**; one of the shortest tenures as CM (**31 days in 1984**)
- **Gurbux Singh Grewal**: **1968 Olympic bronze medalist in hockey**; passed away at **84**
- **Guru Muni Narayana Prasad**: Prominent spiritual leader; passed away
- **Dean Tavoularis**: **Oscar-winning production designer**; passed away
- **Vijay Kumar (Golfer)**: Veteran Indian golfer; passed away at **57**; won the **2002 Indian Open**; four-time Order of Merit champion
- **Sadio Camara**: **Mali's Defense Minister**; killed in a **terrorist suicide truck bombing**
- **Vasu Shroff**: Indian-origin "**Textile King**" of **Dubai**; passed away
- **Dr. Gopalrao Patil**: Renowned **pediatrician** and former **Rajya Sabha MP**; passed away
- **Raghu Rai**: Renowned Indian **photojournalist** and **Padma Shri** awardee; passed away at **83**; documented **Bhopal Gas Tragedy** and **Bangladesh Liberation War**; received "**Photographer of the Year**" award in the USA

Miscellaneous Corporate News

- **Sun Pharmaceutical Industries** is acquiring **Organon (USA)** in an **\$11.75 billion** cash deal; expected to close by **early 2027**
- **NIPER Hajipur** signed agreements with **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** and **Boehringer Ingelheim India** for drug pricing, patient safety, and quality protocols
- **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** awarded the **GreenPro Eco Label** to **Rathi Steel and Power Limited**
- **Google AI Data Center** foundation stone laid in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**: **\$15 billion** investment; **1 GW AI Data Center**; among largest in Asia

- IRCTC launched a 14-day "Bharat Bhutan Mystic Mountain Tour" (₹1.16 lakh to ₹1.5 lakh) via the Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC train
- 15th Delhi International Film Festival: Starting May 4; focus countries: China, Russia, and Africa; organized by Ministry of Culture
- Income Tax Department organized "Tax Your Brain" quiz: inter-school quiz for classes 9 to 12 across 80+ Delhi-NCR schools; spread awareness about 2025 tax provisions
- NSE reduced its stake in Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) from 26% to 25% by selling off 1%
- NSW and Karnataka proposed social media restrictions for minors

Miscellaneous Science & Discovery

- NASA unveiled the "Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope": a \$4 billion telescope to map exoplanets and study dark matter/dark energy
- Blue Origin experienced a rocket failure during a mission involving the AST SpaceMobile satellite
- Meta replaced LLaMA 4 AI model with "Muse Spark" for reasoning in math, science, and health
- Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences: identified Jamun fruit originated in India around 55 million years ago
- Mission Mausam Radar: inaugurated at Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra (1,400m elevation) for Konkan rainfall detection

Miscellaneous Religious & Spiritual News

- Guru Muni Narayana Prasad: prominent spiritual leader; passed away
- Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) celebrated 136th birth anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar on April 14, 2026
- PM Modi unveiled a bust of Dr. Baba Ambedkar at UNESCO headquarters
- Assam's 114th Suwari Festival celebrated in Boko (traditional cultural and dance event)
- Pohela Boishakh (Bengali New Year) celebrated across West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, and Bangladesh

Miscellaneous International Developments

- Israel officially recognized Somaliland's 1991 independence; appointed Michael Lotem as first ambassador

- France allowed visa-free transit for Indian nationals via French airports
- UAE withdrew from OPEC and OPEC+ effective May 1 (after six decades)
- Turkey banned social media for children under 15 years
- Nigeria: introducing Green Tax on high-emission vehicles from July 1, 2026
- UNESCO added 12 new sites to Global Geoparks Network (total: 241 sites across 51 countries); India has zero UNESCO Geoparks
- Germany: India and Germany celebrated 75 years of diplomatic relations (1951–2026); launched a commemorative logo
- US Congressional bill proposes three-year pause on H-1B visa program; cap reduced from 65,000 to 25,000
- Brazil overtook India as Bangladesh's primary corn exporter (Indian corn diverted to domestic ethanol programs)
- 4th India-Africa Forum Summit: scheduled in New Delhi on May 31, 2026; theme: "India Africa SPRINT"
- Jordan officially joined ISA, CDRI, and GBA

Miscellaneous Schemes & Initiatives

- EPFO launched 'e-Prapti' portal: Aadhaar-based digital platform to track and activate old/inoperative PF accounts without UAN
- IRCTC Bhutan Tour: 14-day tour via Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC train (₹1.16 lakh to ₹1.5 lakh)
- Safe City Project 2026: Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh; ₹100 crore over five years
- Konark Sun Temple Conservation: ASI and IIT Madras safely removing sand from Jagamohan (filled by British engineers 1901–1903)
- Maharashtra launched Center of Excellence for Heat Resilience and Sustainable Cooling at IIM Nagpur; launched by CM Devendra Fadnavis
- India's 9th India International Water Week: launched by CR Patil; September 22–26, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi; theme: "Climate Resilient Water Management"
- IRFC (Navratna company) provided ₹13,615 crore loan for 100% equity takeover of Hyderabad Metro (first phase) by Telangana government
- GeM "Womaniya" Initiative: launched 2019; digital interface to boost women

entrepreneurs' participation in public procurement

- **Akashvani contest**: nationwide contest for Akashvani's 90th anniversary; theme: "Akashvani 90: The New Rhythm of Bharat"; top prize ₹50,000
- **PM Modi** released commemorative postal stamp for SRCC's 100-year milestone (1926–2026)

Miscellaneous Awards & Recognitions

- **Laureus World Sports Awards 2026**: Sport for Good: Fútbol Más (Chile NGO); Lifetime Achievement: Nadia Comăneci (Gymnastics)
- **Sur Jyotsna National Music Award** (13th edition): presented to vocalists **Sumitra Guha** and **Pandit Laxman Krishnarao Pandit** in New Delhi
- **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025**: Navtej Sarna (English, *Crimson Spring*); Mamta Kalia (Hindi, *Jeete Ji Allahabad*); Yogesh Vaidya (Gujarati, *Bhatt Khadki*)
- **GreenPro Eco Label**: awarded by CII to **Rathi Steel and Power Limited**
- **WSIS Prize 2026**: **Samridh Gram Initiative** nominated in "enabling environment" category
- **Ayushman Bharat Awards: 18 PM-JAY awards and 5 Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** excellence awards at 'Chintan Shivir 2026', Pune
- **J. Santosh Kumar** (former MP) honored at **World Climate Leaders Conclave in UK for Green India Challenge**
- **9th MS Swaminathan Award**: awarded to **Dr. CH Srinivasa Rao** (Director, IARI) for agriculture contributions
- **Harvard South Asian Association Award**: **Sayani Gupta** named 2026 Person of the Year

Miscellaneous Books & Publications

- **Saundarya Lahari and Shiva Mahimna Stotram**: jointly released by **PM Modi** and **H.D. Deve Gowda**
- **"Do You Know Your Hinduism"**: authored by **Rajmohan Gandhi**
- **"Diva Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India"**: launched by **NITI Aayog VC Suman K. Bery**; features 3,000 curated listings
- **"The Curious and the Classified: Unearthing Military Myths and Mysteries"**: by former Army Chief **General Manoj Mukund Naravane** (published by **Rupa Publications**)

- **"Tryst with Ayodhya"** and **"Narrative Ka Mayajaal"**: authored by **Balbir Punj**
- **"Crimson Spring"**: by **Navtej Sarna** (Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 – English)
- **"Jeete Ji Allahabad"**: by **Mamta Kalia** (Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 – Hindi)
- **"Bhatt Khadki"**: by **Yogesh Vaidya** (Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 – Gujarati)

Miscellaneous Food Safety & Agriculture

- **FSSAI** banned use of **Ashwagandha** leaves in supplements (only roots permitted)
- **Government** extended **MEP of \$1,400 per metric ton** on natural honey until **December 31, 2026**
- **Andhra Pradesh Mushroom Mission**: ₹1,000 crore; annual target **67,000 tons**; aims to surpass **Bihar**
- **India's seafood exports**: ₹72,325 crore; frozen shrimp: ₹47,900 crore; top ports: **Visakhapatnam, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Kochi, Kolkata, Chennai**
- **Draft Sugarcane Control Order 2026**: minimum distance between sugar mills increased from **15 km to 25 km**
- **APEDA** investing ₹15 crore for **Basmati and Organic Farming Training Center** in **Pilibhit, UP**

Miscellaneous Telecom & Media

- **Akashvani** and **MyGov** launched nationwide **Signature Tune and Jingle** making contests for **Akashvani's 90th anniversary**:
 - Theme: **"Akashvani 90: The New Rhythm of Bharat"**
 - Top prize: ₹50,000; specs: **20–50 seconds** length at **128kbps, 44.1 kHz**
- **GSRTC** introduced **QR-based passenger feedback system** inside buses
- **Department of Post** signed pact with **DTDC Express Limited** to boost rural e-commerce
- **India Post** introduced **"Speed Post 24"** (same-day delivery) and **"Speed Post 48"** (next-day delivery)

Miscellaneous Health Observances

- **Ayushman Bharat Diwas**: observed on **April 30**; promotes the **2018** scheme providing up to ₹5 lakh in health insurance
- **World Chagas Disease Day** (April 14): caused by the **T. cruzi** parasite; 2026 Theme: **"Women at the heart protecting the next generation from Chagas disease"**
- **World Hemophilia Day** (April 17): 2026 Theme: **"Diagnosis: First Step to Care"**; established **1989** by **World Federation of**

Hemophilia honoring founder Frank Schnabel

- **World Malaria Day** (April 25): caused by female **Anopheles** mosquito; 2026 Theme: "Driven to end malaria now, we can, now we must"
- **World Immunization Week** (April 24–30): promoted by **WHO**; Theme: "For Every Generation, Vaccine Works"
- **World Liver Day** (April 19): Theme: "Solid Habit, Strong Liver"
- **10th National Summit on Public Health Innovation**: held **April 30–May 1** in **Chandigarh**; inaugurated by **Health Minister JP Nadda**

Miscellaneous – Institutions & Their Static Details

- **CCRAS (Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences)**:
 - HQ: **New Delhi**
 - Director General: **Prof. Vaidya Rabinarayan Acharya**
- **CARI (Central Ayurveda Research Institute)**:
 - Located in **Bengaluru**
 - Received **ISO 15189 accreditation**
- **IIA (Indian Institute of Astrophysics)**:
 - Established: **1971**; Campus: **Koramangala, Bengaluru**
- **BIRBAL SAHNI INSTITUTE OF PALAEOSCIENCES**:
 - Identified **Jamun** fruit originated in India **55 million** years ago
- **Skyroot Aerospace**:
 - **Telangana**-based private rocket firm
 - **Vikram-1** rocket named after **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai**
 - Payload capacity: **350 kg** to low **Earth orbit**
- **IIT Madras Research Park**:
 - Location: **Chennai**
 - Hosts India's first **Center of Excellence on plant cell fermentation technology** (with **Herbalife India**)
- **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**:
 - Location: **Pune**
 - Deployed **Mission Mausam Radar** at **Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra**
- **Heterogeneous Integration Packaging Solutions Pvt Ltd**:
 - Set up India's first **3D glass chip packaging unit** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

11. MoUs

Government & Institutional MoUs – India

- **Ministry of MSME** signed an **MoU** with **NICDC Logistic Data Service Limited (NLDDSL)** for logistics and data services support
- **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) India** signed two **MoUs**:
 - With **SEBI** – to share suspicious transaction information
 - With **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** – to share suspicious transaction information
- **SEBI** and **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** signed an **MoU** to prevent telecom-linked financial frauds
- **Labor Ministry** signed an **MoU** with **Porter** (logistics company) and **GigIndia** via the **National Career Service (NCS)** portal for gig economy employment
- **Andhra Pradesh** government partnered with the **National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)** to deploy an early warning system to forecast lightning strikes
- **Punjab Government** formed a partnership with **IIT Ropar** to build an **AI-based system**
- **Odisha** signed an **MoU** with the **National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)** under the **Indo-Norway** initiative to implement a **Marine Spatial Plan (MSP)**:
 - Odisha becomes the **first state** to adopt the **MSP** in the initiative's **second phase**
 - **Puducherry** and **Lakshadweep** adopted **MSP** during the **first phase in 2019**
- **ISRO's Space Applications Centre (SAC)** partnered with the **Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)**:
 - To establish standardized protocols for ecosystem monitoring and sustainable land management
 - Formulated to support climate action and biodiversity conservation
- **ISRO** partnered with the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** (Gram Charitra Portal):
 - Completed **1:10,000 scale** high-resolution land and boundary mapping using satellite and drone technology
- **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** and **IIT Madras** collaboration:

- Safely removing sand from the **Konark Sun Temple's Jagamohan** (assembly hall), filled by British engineers between **1901 and 1903**
- **Ministry of Minority Affairs** partnered with **IIT Patna** under **PM VIKAS (Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan)** scheme:
 - To train **600** minority youths from **Bihar** in **Artificial Intelligence** and **Business Analytics**
- **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)** and the **French Institute in India** launched the "**Para Udan Initiative**"
- **Department of Post** signed a pact with **DTDC Express Limited** to boost rural e-commerce

Defence & Security Collaborations

- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **GE Aerospace (USA)** announced a contract to establish **in-country Depot facilities** for **F404-IN20 engines**
- **Ministry of Defense** signed a contract worth **₹975 crore** with **BEML** and **EHP** for a **TRAWL assembly line** developed by **DRDO** for **T-72** and **T-90** tanks
- **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** and **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** signed an agreement to shift governance of **shooting para sports** to **ISSF** next year
- **India-Russia Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)**:
 - Came into force; valid for **5 years**
 - Dollar-bypassing barter system for mutual exchanges
- **Bharat Generation Technology Foundation (Bharat Gen)** signed a **5-year MoU** with **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** to develop an indigenous **Large Language Model (LLM)**

Education & Research Collaborations

- **Herbalife India** and **IIT Madras** signed an **MoU** to establish India's **first Center of Excellence on plant cell fermentation technology** at the **IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai**
- **FedEx** partnered with **IIT Madras' SMART Centre** to conduct India's first **intra-city drone delivery** between two points within the same city (from **Electronic City** to **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru**)
- **Birkbeck, University of London** received **UGC approval** to set up a physical campus in **Bengaluru**

- Other prominent foreign universities setting up campuses in India:
 - **University of New South Wales** and **University of Liverpool** – both in **Bengaluru**
 - **University of Southampton** – in **Gurugram**
- **IIT Ropar (Punjab)** launched India's first fully integrated advanced agriculture intelligence ecosystem for smart farming

Banking & Financial Partnerships

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** formed a partnership with **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**
- **Reliance Jio** and **Bank of Baroda** partnered to launch "**bob World Lite**" mobile banking app on **JioBharat 4G** platform
- **Visa** and **HDFC Bank** partnered to launch the "**FIFA World Cup 2026 Pixel Play Credit Card**"
- **CheQ** and **AU Small Finance Bank** partnered to launch India's **first co-branded LED-powered credit card**
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **Kiwi** partnered to launch a co-branded **RuPay Credit Card** integrating with the **UPI** network
- **PNB** and **Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)** launched the **PNB KVB RuPay Credit Card** on the **UPI** platform
- **Karnataka Bank** partnered with **Pine Labs** for advanced **Point of Sale (POS)** terminal solutions
- **Razorpay** partnered with **Sam Altman's OpenAI** to enable instant embedded payments in AI applications
- **Jio Financial Services** and **Allianz SE** signed a pact to establish a **50-50** joint venture for **general and health insurance** in India
- **PPFAS Asset Management Company** received **PFRDA** approval to act as a sponsor and set up a pension fund under **NPS** in **Mumbai**
- **NPCI** partnered with **TransUnion CIBIL** to allow credit score checking directly on the **BHIM** application
- **NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL)** onboarded **Postal Life Insurance (PLI)** as an insurance biller on the **Bharat Connect** platform
- **Aahana** launched a new **RBI reporting** solution for **Cooperative Banks**
- **Karnataka Bank** partnered with **Pine Labs** for **POS** machine services for **MSME/retail** customers

- **Amazon** acquiring **Globalstar** in an **\$11.57 billion** deal to bolster **Project Kuiper** (LEO satellite network)
- **JSW Steel Board** approved a **50/50 joint venture** with South Korea's **POSCO Group**:
 - To establish an integrated steel plant in **Odisha**; investment **\$7.3 billion**; capacity **6 million tons**; target year **2031**
- **Sigma Advanced Systems** and **Rolls-Royce** signed a **7-year** agreement valued at **₹38,000 crore** for high-precision safety-critical components
- **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
- **Exim Bank** provided a **\$100 million** loan to the **Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)** to support critical infrastructure

Technology & AI Collaborations

- **Google** introduced **Google Gemini** for **NEET** providing an English-language **NEET UG** mock test
- **Meta** replaced its **LLaMA 4** AI model with a new model named "**Muse Spark**" designed for reasoning in math, science, and health
- **Skyroot Aerospace** (Telangana-based private rocket firm) flagged off payload fairing of the "**Vikram-1**" rocket from **Hyderabad** to **Sriharikota**:
 - Scheduled for **June 2026**; payload capacity **350 kg** to low Earth orbit
 - Named after **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai**
- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)** constituted the **AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG)**:
 - Headed by **Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**; Vice-Chairperson: **Jitin Prasada**
- **MEITY** constituted a **Technology and Policy Expert Committee** to support the newly established **AI Governance and Economic Group (AIG)**
- **IIT Ropar (Punjab)** launched India's first fully integrated advanced agriculture intelligence ecosystem
- **Bharat Gen** signed a **5-year MoU** with **L&T** to develop an indigenous **LLM**

Environment & Ecology Collaborations

- **ISRO-ATREE Partnership**: to establish standardized protocols for critical ecosystem monitoring and sustainable land management

- **Maharashtra** signed a mega pact for a **2 GW floating solar plant on Ujani Dam** (built on **Bhima River**, historically known as **Yashwant Sagar Dam**)
- **World Bank's "Water Forward"** initiative: collaboration with **ADB, AIIB, EIB, NDB** for global water security for **1 billion people by 2030**
- **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** and **National Biodiversity Authority** launched the **Biodiversity Governance Project (2025–2030)**:
 - Backed by **GEF** and **UNDP** (**\$4.88 million** grant)

International Bilateral Agreements & Pacts

- **India-New Zealand FTA** signed on **April 27, 2026** in **New Delhi**:
 - Signed by **Piyush Goyal** (India) and **Todd McClay** (New Zealand)
 - **20 chapters**; aims to boost bilateral trade to **\$20 billion** over **15 years**
 - **100% duty-free access** for India's MSME, textile, leather exports
- **India-Austria**: Letters of Intent signed on **defense policy dialogue** and **fast-track business dispute resolution**
- **India-South Korea**: **~25 MoUs** signed in shipbuilding, logistics, and energy during President **Lee Jae-myung's** visit
- **India-Sri Lanka**: **MoUs** signed for **healthcare and regional development** during **VP Radhakrishnan's** visit
- **India-Maldives**: **SAARC Currency Swap** of **₹30 billion** approved
- **India-Jordan**: **Jordan** joined **ISA, CDRI, and GBA**; bilateral trade target raised from **\$3 billion to \$5 billion**
- **India-Russia RELOS**: Logistics agreement valid for **5 years**; dollar-bypassing barter system

Sports Collaborations

- **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** sanctioned **₹1.45 crore** for the Indian badminton contingent
- **India** was selected for the **FIFA Women Development Program** (among **12 countries globally**)
- **FIDE** joined the **International World Games Association (IWGA)** as the **40th member**

Pharma & Healthcare Collaborations

- **Sun Pharmaceutical Industries** acquiring **Organon** (USA) in an **\$11.75 billion** cash deal

- **NIPER Mohali and Novartis Healthcare Private Limited (NHPL):** agreement for pharmaceutical innovation
- **NIPER Hajipur with IPC and Boehringer Ingelheim India:** drug safety and quality protocols

Space & Technology International Collaborations

- **NASA and European Space Agency (ESA):** announced that a **SpaceX Falcon Heavy** rocket will launch the '**Rosalind Franklin**' rover to **Mars** in **2028** to search for signs of life
- **Amazon** acquiring **Globalstar** for **\$11.57 billion** to support **Project Kuiper** satellite network
- **UAE** launched the world's first **Sovereign Financial Cloud** in partnership with **Core 42**

Textile & Fashion Collaborations

- **Ministry of Textiles, NIFT, and DC Handloom** collaborated to launch "**Vishwa Sutra**" initiative at **Femina Miss India 2026**
- **ISRO** announced a **G20 satellite mission for 2027** to study climate change, air pollution, and weather patterns (collaboration with G20 nations)

12. National

National Governance & Constitutional Matters

- **Union Cabinet** approved a **2% hike in Dearness Allowance (DA)** for government employees and **Dearness Relief (DR)** for pensioners:
 - Effective retrospectively from **January 1, 2026**
 - Total DA raised from **58% to 60%** of basic pay
- **131st Constitutional Amendment Bill of 2026** (also known as **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam / Women's Reservation Bill 2026**) defeated in the **Lok Sabha**:
 - Proposed **33% reservation** for women alongside seat delimitation
 - Required special **two-thirds majority (360 votes / 352 out of 528 present MPs); received only 298 votes** in favor and **230** against
- **Lok Sabha:** Lower House / Popular House; maximum constitutional strength **550 (530 states, 20 Union Territories)**; currently stands at **543**
- **Rajya Sabha** reconstituted; panel of **six MPs** from various political parties

- nominated by **Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan**
- **Harivansh Narayan Singh** re-elected **unopposed** as **Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** (third consecutive term)
- **Dr. K.S. Somasekhar** appointed as new **Rajya Sabha Secretary**
- **Supreme Court** delivered landmark judgment on **April 13, 2026:** declared "**Right to Safe Road Travel**" as a fundamental right under **Article 21** (Right to Life); banned commercial establishments/dhabas adjacent to highway rights-of-way (noting **30%** of road deaths come from **2%** of accidents)
- **Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Amendment Bill 2026** passed:
 - Individuals must undergo a medical examination and obtain certification from a **Medical Board** headed by a **Chief Medical Officer (CMO)**
 - Final transgender certificate issued by the **District Magistrate (DM)**
 - Constitutional articles discussed: **Article 14** (Equality before law), **Article 15** (No discrimination based on sex), **Article 21** (Right to life and dignity), **Article 19(1)(a)** (Freedom of speech and expression)
- **India's Digital Census 2027** announced:
 - **16th overall census** and **8th post-independence** (delayed from 2021)
 - First modern census conducted under **Lord Mayo (1865–72)**
 - First fully digital census using mobile apps in **16 languages**
 - Budget: **₹11,718.24 crore**
 - Timeline: House listing (April–Sept 2026); Population enumeration (Feb 2027); Reference release date: **March 1, 2027**
 - Includes **caste-based enumeration** and self-enumeration portal
 - Real-time tracking via **Center Monitoring and Management System (CMMS)**
 - Brand Ambassador: **Padma Shri** sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik**
 - Official mascots: **Pragati** (female) and **Vikas** (male)
 - Dedicated toll-free helpline: **1855**
 - **Mritunjay Kumar Narayan** serves as Registrar General and Census Commissioner
- India currently has **28 states** and **8 Union Territories**

- **Ladakh's new districts:** Ministry of Home Affairs approved expansion from 2 (Leh and Kargil) to 7 districts; new districts: Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang; confirmed by Lieutenant Governor **Vinai Kumar Saxena**
- **Supreme Court** in the **Paloi accident case** ruled safe road travel is part of "**Right to Life**" (Article 21)

National Infrastructure Projects

- **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor**:
 - **213 km, six-lane** corridor
 - Cost: **₹12,000 crore**
 - Travel time reduced from **6 hours to 2.5 hours**
 - Connects **Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand**
- **PM Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated the **594 km Ganga Expressway** on **April 19** in **Hardoi district, Uttar Pradesh**:
 - Connects **Bijauli village (Meerut) to Judapur Dandu village (Prayagraj)**
 - Six-lane road linking **12 districts**
- **Union Cabinet** cleared **Multi-tracking railway projects** worth **₹24,815 crore**:
 - **Ghaziabad-Sitapur line (UP): 403 km** at **₹14,926 crore**
 - **Rajahmundry-Visakhapatnam line (AP): 198 km** at **₹9,889 crore**
- **PMGSY Phase 3** extended from **March 2025 to March 2028** (and up to **March 2029** for hilly areas); budget increased from **₹80,000 crore / ₹8,250 crore to ₹83,977 crore** to upgrade **1.25 lakh km** of existing rural routes
- **PMGSY Phase 4 (FY25–FY29)**: allocated **₹70,125 crore**; aims to construct **62,500 km** of roads
- **World Bank (IBRD)** approved **\$225 million** loan for **800 km** highway corridor in **Rajasthan**; introduces first "**Step Up Loan Structure**" in India; **35-year** maturity
- **Kochi-Kanyakumari-Thoothukudi Natural Gas Pipeline:** **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board** authorized **IOCL** to build and operate this **425 km** pipeline
- **India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex** inaugurated in **Pachpadra, Rajasthan** by **PM Narendra Modi**:
 - Built jointly by **HPCL and Rajasthan Government**
 - Cost: **₹1,79,450 crore**

- **Kankariya Coaching Depot** in **Ahmedabad** became **India's first water-neutral railway depot**
- **Indian Railways** celebrated **173rd anniversary** on **April 16**:
 - Commemorated by **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**
 - First Indian passenger train ran on **April 16, 1853**; covered **34 km** from **Bori Bunder (Mumbai) to Thane**
- **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool** approved by Union Cabinet with sovereign guarantee of **₹12,980 crore**

National Schemes & Policy Decisions

- **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)** launched with operational guidelines:
 - Total outlay: **₹1 Lakh Crore** (2025-26 to 2030-31; extendable to 2033-34)
 - **₹90,000 crore** for projects; **₹5,000 crore** for capacity building; **₹5,000 crore** for Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub Scheme
 - Centre: **25%**; Market/Bank Loans: **50%**; States/UTs: **25%**
 - Aims to drive total urban infrastructure investment of **₹4 lakh crore**
 - Helps Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, particularly hilly and northeastern regions
- **MEITY** introduced new regulations under **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act 2025**:
 - New rules effective **May 1, 2026**
 - New **Online Gaming Authority of India** to be established
 - Headed by **Additional Secretary-level officer** from **MEITY**; includes members from **Ministry of Home Affairs** and **Ministry of Finance**
- **Draft Sugarcane Control Order 2026**:
 - Proposed increasing minimum distance between two sugar mills from **15 km to 25 km**
 - State governments can increase but cannot reduce below **25 km**
- **Aviation Turbine Fuel Blending** officially allowed (ethanol + synthetic hydrocarbons):
 - Targets: **1% by 2027, 2% by 2028, 5% by 2030**
- **Central Government** approved a **₹460 crore** loan support package for revival of **Alliance Air**:

- Alliance Air is the only airline entirely under central government control
- **Government of India** extended the **Minimum Export Price (MEP)** of **\$1,400 per metric ton** on natural honey until **December 31, 2026**
- **MEITY** constituted **AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG)**:
 - Headed by **Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**; Vice-Chairperson: **Jitin Prasada**
- **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** launched **VAANI 3.0 (Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages)**:
 - Annual allocation: **₹4 crore / ₹40 crore** (cited differently)
 - Supports **200 conferences, seminars, and workshops** each year
 - **₹2 lakh per event** to selected AICTE-approved institutions
 - Promotes knowledge in **22 Indian languages** including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Marathi, and Punjabi
- **India's first 3D Semiconductor Packaging Unit** approved in **Odisha**:
 - **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MEITY)** notified an **SEZ** covering **66.16 hectares** at **Dholera, Gujarat** for **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited)**
 - **3D Glass Solutions Ltd** set up India's first 3D semiconductor packaging unit in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**; investment **₹1,943 crore**; inaugurated by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** and **Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi**
- **Telecom Technology Development and Investment Promotion (TDIP) Scheme**:
 - Launched by **Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia**; outlay **₹203 crore** (2026–2031)
 - Targets securing **10% of global 6G patents** by **2030**
- **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0** notified:
 - **₹10,000 crore** corpus; **SIDBI** as implementing agency
 - Over **55,200** startups recognized in FY 2025-26; India's total: **2.23 lakh**
 - Maximum loan facility per borrower increased to **₹20 crore**
- **National Beekeeping and Honey Mission**: budget extended by **₹300 crore**; **95,380 tonnes** of honey exported worth **\$176.56 million**; top destinations: **US, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar**; top producing states: **UP (17%), West Bengal, Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan**
- **Samridh Gram Initiative** (DoT under BharatNet):
 - Establishes '**Samridhi Kendras**' offering healthcare, education, agriculture, e-commerce via FTTH broadband and public Wi-Fi
 - First center inaugurated in **Umri village, Guna, Madhya Pradesh** by **Jyotiraditya Scindia**
 - Nominated for **WSIS Prizes 2026**
- **PM VIKAS (Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan)**: Ministry of Minority Affairs partnered with **IIT Patna** to train **600** minority youths from **Bihar** in AI and Business Analytics
- **Vibrant Village Program (Phase 2)**: Six border villages in **Kathua, J&K** included; will expand to borders with **Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Bangladesh**
- **SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise)** scheme:
 - Originally launched **2022**; budget **₹390 crore** (2021–2026)
 - Linked to **PM DAKSH** scheme; targets transgender persons and individuals engaged in begging
 - New mobile app launched at **Chintan Shivir, Chandigarh (April 24–26, 2026)** to collect data on street beggars
 - **Indore** is India's first beggar-free city; **Surat** expected to become first slum-free city
- **PM SVANidhi Scheme** extended to **March 31, 2030** with **₹7,332 crore** allocation:
 - Launched: **June 1, 2020**; tiered loans: **₹15,000, ₹25,000, ₹50,000**; up to **₹1,600** digital cashback
- **PM Kisan: 22nd installment** released; provides **₹6,000 annually** in three installments to landholding farmers; launched **February 24, 2019**
- **Jal Jeevan Mission** extended to **December 2028** with **₹8.69 lakh crore** budget; originally launched **2019**
- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** crossed **9 crore** subscribers; record **1.35 crore** enrolments in FY 2025-26

- **Small Hydro Power Development Scheme:** ₹2,584.60 crore allocated to add 1,500 MW (2026-27 to 2030-31)
- **Water Metro System** approved: **10-year duration (FY 26/27 to 36/37); ₹90 crore** outlay
- **IBFRT Scheme** extended to **2031** with **₹1,800 crore** outlay
- **NSO (Periodic Labour Force Survey):** unemployment rate hit **5.1%** in March 2026 (5-month high)
- **Government** approved **National Technical Textile Mission** (5 years; **₹1,480 crore**)
- **PM Internship Scheme (PMIS):** expanded to include final-year graduates and post-graduates; age limit reduced from **21–24 to 18–24 years**; offers **₹9,000 stipend** and **₹56,000** financial assistance for one year
- **NITI Aayog** report "**Moving Towards Effective City Government**" released by **Minister Manohar Lal Khattar**
- **DPI 2.0 Roadmap** launched: targets **\$30 Trillion** economy and per capita income of **\$18,000 by 2047**; aims to elevate DPI's GDP contribution from **1% to 4% by 2030**
- **Namo Stall Scheme:** launched by **Union Minister of State for Defense Sanjay Seth** in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**; supports street fruit and vegetable vendors; first phase provided five vendors with free stalls worth **₹50,000** each
- **AICTE VAANI 3.0:** promotes technical education in **22 Indian languages**; fields including AI, Quantum Technology, Cyber Security, Space, Defense, Agrotech
- **Textile Sector:** grew **2.1%** in FY 2025-26; export value **₹3.16 lakh crore** across **120** destinations; Readymade garments: **₹1.39 lakh crore** (largest segment)
- **Agricultural Exports:** grew **2.8%** from **\$51.21 billion to \$52.55 billion**
- **Seafood Exports:** **₹72,325 crore**; volume **19.32 lakh metric tons**; frozen shrimp: **₹47,900 crore**; top ports: **Visakhapatnam, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Kochi, Kolkata, Chennai**

National Energy & Renewable Sector

- India added **45 GW** of solar capacity in FY26; **March 2026** saw single-month record of **6.65 GW** led by **Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra**
- India added record **6.05 GW** of wind power (**46% YoY increase**); cumulative wind capacity over **56 GW**

- India overtook **Brazil** to become **3rd ranked country globally** in installed renewable capacity (behind **China** and **USA**)
- India now **4th globally** in wind turbines (after **China, US, Germany**)
- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** allocated **₹500 crore capex** for **Wind Generation Based Incentive (GBI)** scheme
- **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** issued dividend cheque of **₹155 crore** to **MNRE**
- India's **2030 goal: 500 GW of non-fossil capacity (COP26)**
- **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** Chairman announced target to increase nuclear power capacity from **8.8 GW to 100 GW by 2047**

State Affairs – Andhra Pradesh

- **Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility** in **Amaravati** on **World Quantum Day (April 14)**
- **Amaravati Capital Region Development Authority** to raise **₹15,000 crore** from **World Bank** and **ADB**
- **World Bank** released **\$340 million** for **Phase 1 of Amaravati Capital Project**; co-financed by **ADB** and **World Bank** (each committing **\$800 million**)
- **Google AI Data Center** foundation stone laid by **CM N. Chandrababu Naidu** in **Visakhapatnam**:
 - **\$15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore)** investment; **1 GW AI Data Center**; among largest in **Asia**
 - To be completed by **AdaniConneX** and **Airtel Nxtra** by **September 2028**
- **Andhra Pradesh** government partnered with **NRSC** to deploy early warning system for lightning strikes
- **Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (Visakhapatnam):** a female black panther brought from **Assam** released after a gap of **40 years**
- **Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC)** won the **4th UNIDO Gender Equality Mobilization Award 2026**
- **Multi-tracking railway project:** **Rajahmundry-Visakhapatnam** line, **198 km, ₹9,889 crore**

State Affairs – Bihar

- **Samrat Choudhary (BJP)** sworn in as **24th Chief Minister of Bihar**; oath by **Governor Syed Ata Hasnain** at **Raj Bhavan, Patna**;

succeeded **Nitish Kumar** (who resigned to join Rajya Sabha)

- **Bihar Government** launched rehabilitation scheme for **acid attack survivors**:
 - By **Women and Child Development Corporation** in collaboration with **Chhav Foundation**
 - Provides minimum compensation of **₹3 lakh** to victims

State Affairs – Gujarat

- **Kankariya Coaching Depot, Ahmedabad** became **India's first water-neutral railway depot**
- **Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC)** introduced QR-based passenger feedback system in buses
- **Gujarat Police** launched India's first AI tool for narcotic investigations: **NARIT AI (Narcotics Analysis RAG-based Investigation Tool)**
- **Dholera, Gujarat**: MEITY notified **SEZ** covering **66.16 hectares** for **Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing**
- **Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company (ADNIC)** received approval to establish reinsurance branch in **GIFT City, Gandhinagar**

State Affairs – Karnataka

- **Karnataka** government proposed strict social media ban for children under **16 years**
- **Bengaluru Water Board** became **first in India** to receive **ISO 50001** certification by **Bureau Veritas**
- **Bannerghatta Biological Park** received **four cheetahs** from **South Africa** – first time imported cheetahs housed outside **Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park**
- **Birkbeck, University of London, University of New South Wales, and University of Liverpool** setting up campuses in **Bengaluru**

State Affairs – Kerala

- **Munnar, Kerala** (officially renamed **Keralam**): venue for **7th India-Bhutan Customs Meeting**

State Affairs – Madhya Pradesh

- **Dhar district** chosen for **Safe City Project 2026** (allocated **₹100 crore** over five years by **Ministry of Women and Child Development**)
- **Adani Vikas Kendra** inaugurated in **Shivpuri** for women's garment training
- **Bhagwandas Raikwar** (Padma Shri awardee) passed away at **83** in **Bhopal**

State Affairs – Maharashtra

- **Maharashtra** signed mega pacts for clean energy and tech infrastructure:
 - **2 GW floating solar plant** on **Ujani Dam** (built on **Bhima River / Yashwant Sagar Dam**)
 - India's total data center market projected to reach **\$22 billion by 2030**
- **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** launched '**Center of Excellence for Heat Resilience and Sustainable Cooling**' at **IIM Nagpur**
- **PM Modi** inaugurated India's first greenfield integrated refinery in **Pachpadra, Rajasthan** (not Maharashtra)

State Affairs – Manipur

- **Manipur** developing the **227-hectare Kharungpat Bird Sanctuary** in **Kakching district**
- **Manipur** announced plans to establish a new bird sanctuary at the **Kharung Pat wetland** in **Kakching district** under the **Wildlife Protection Act**

State Affairs – Meghalaya

- **Meghalaya** granted full official language status to **Khasi and Garo** languages (Cabinet approved **Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026** on **April 16, 2026**)
- **Meghalaya** government canceled a proposed luxury island resort on **Lumpongden Island** in **Umiam Lake** (near **Shillong**)
- **Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma**; **Governor: Vijay Shankar**
- **CM INSPIRE Scheme** launched by **CM Conrad K Sangma**:
 - **₹5,000** for clearing **UPSC Prelims**; **₹1 lakh** for **Mains**

State Affairs – Odisha

- **Odisha** signed an **MoU** with **NCCR** under **Indo-Norway** initiative to implement **Marine Spatial Plan (MSP)** (first state in second phase)
- **India's first advanced 3D glass semiconductor packaging unit** launched at **Infovalley, Khurda district, Bhubaneswar** by **Heterogeneous Integration Packaging Solutions Pvt Ltd**
- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated infrastructure projects worth over **₹1,200 crore** in **Rourkela, Odisha** (planetarium, science center, **Nirmal Munda Parivesh Path**, tribal museum)
- **JSW Steel** and **POSCO** joint venture to build steel plant in **Odisha**
- **Femina Miss India 2026** held at **KIIT/IIT Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

State Affairs – Punjab

- **Punjab Legislative Assembly** unanimously passed the "**Jagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Amendment Bill 2026**":
 - Penalties: up to **10 years in jail**; fines **₹5 lakh to ₹25 lakh**
- **Punjab** state government notified the **Jagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Amendment Act 2026**:
 - Disrespecting **Guru Granth Sahib** carries penalty of **life imprisonment** and fine up to **₹25 lakh**
- **Punjab Government** formed partnership with **IIT Ropar** to build an AI-based system
- **Punjab** enacted new law "**Jagrit Jyot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar**"
- **Anti-Disrespect Bill 2026** passed by Punjab Assembly

State Affairs – Rajasthan

- **World Bank (IBRD)** approved **\$225 million** loan for **Rajasthan Highway Modernization Project** (800 km of state highways)
- **PM Modi** inaugurated India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex in **Pachpadra, Rajasthan**

State Affairs – Sikkim

- **PM Narendra Modi** participated in **Sikkim's Golden Jubilee (50th year of statehood)** closing ceremony in **Gangtok** on **April 28, 2026**
- Sikkim officially became the **22nd state of India** on **May 16, 1975**
- **PM** inaugurated **30 development projects** worth **₹4,000 crore** covering infrastructure, healthcare, education, connectivity, housing, and agriculture
- **PM Modi** inaugurated **6 state-of-the-art BCCI Cricket Academies** in Northeast India (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland)

State Affairs – Telangana

- **Project Sanjeevani** launched: India's first fully integrated highway trauma care and rescue system:
 - Implemented on **251 km** stretch of **National Highway-44 (NH-44)** between **Hyderabad** and **Adilabad**
- **Telangana** declared cancer a "**notifiable disease**": mandatory for all hospitals, labs, clinics to report positive cases within **one month**
- **Telangana** observed "**Arrive Alive Road Safety Week**" (April 13–17)
- **Telangana** introduced a **99-day** action plan titled "**Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika**"

- **IRFC** provided **₹13,615 crore** loan to **Telangana** government for **100% stake** in **Hyderabad Metro Rail** from **L&T**
- **Telangana CM: Revanth Reddy**; Deputy CM: **Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka**; Governor: **Shiv Pratap Shukla**
- **Skyroot Aerospace** (Telangana-based) flagged off **Vikram-1** rocket payload fairing from **Hyderabad** to **Sriharikota**

State Affairs – Uttar Pradesh

- **PM Modi** inaugurated **594 km Ganga Expressway** connecting **Meerut** to **Prayagraj**
- **PM Modi** launched **112 projects** worth **₹5,300 crore** and inaugurated **48 projects** worth **₹1,050 crore** in **Varanasi** and **Hardoi**:
 - **Varanasi-Azamgarh** road widening
 - **Amrit Bharat Express** trains (Banaras-Pune, Ayodhya-Mumbai)
 - **₹105 crore** bonus transfer to **Banas Dairy** farmers
- **Multi-tracking railway project: Ghaziabad-Sitapur** line, **403 km, ₹14,926 crore**
- **Environment Ministry** declared **400 sq. km** eco-sensitive and biodiversity protection zone around **Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary**
- **Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary (UP)** declared a new **Ramsar site** (India's **99th Ramsar site**) on **April 22, 2026** coinciding with **World Earth Day**
- **UP** now hosts **12 Ramsar sites** (second highest after Tamil Nadu with **20 sites**)
- **Rocklink India Pvt Ltd** opened India's first integrated lithium-ion battery and rare earth magnet recycling factory in **Sikandrabad, Bulandshahr** (98% metal recovery; capacity: **10,000 tonnes/year** Li-ion; **60 tonnes/month** magnets)
- **CM Yogi Adityanath** launched **10-year warranty accountability model** for rural water schemes under **Jal Jeevan Mission**
- **APEDA** investing **₹15 crore** to set up **Basmati and Organic Farming Training Center** in **Pilibhit**

State Affairs – West Bengal

- **Himadri Speciality Chemical** commissioned India's first **anode material plant** targeting lithium-ion battery market

State Affairs – Jammu & Kashmir / Ladakh

- **Eveready** commissioned India's first **alkaline battery manufacturing facility** in **Jammu / Samba**

- India's **first petroglyph conservation park** inaugurated at **Sindhu Ghat, Leh** on **World Heritage Day (April 18)**
- Ministry of Home Affairs approved **5 new districts** in Ladakh: **Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, Changthang**; total now **7** (including Leh and Kargil)
- **Vibrant Villages Program (Phase 2)**: Six border villages in **Kathua, J&K** included (Bobia, Kandhiyala, Ganjana, Karol Krishna, Rathua, Gujjar Chak)

State Affairs – Assam

- **114th Suwari Festival** celebrated in **Boko, Assam**

Environment & Conservation (National)

- India currently has **496** protected areas and **353** notified **Eco-Sensitive Zones**
- India now has **99 Ramsar sites** (highest in Asia; third-highest globally after UK and Mexico)
- **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** declared area around **Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary (UP)** as eco-sensitive zone (**408.7 sq km**)
- **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences** identified that the **Jamun** fruit originated in India around **55 million years ago**
- **Calamaria garonensis**: new species of burrowing reed snake found in **Meghalaya**
- **Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary** in **Aligarh, UP** declared India's **99th Ramsar site** on **April 22, 2026**
- Recent 2026 Ramsar additions: **Patna Bird Sanctuary (UP)** and **Chhari-Dhand Wetland Conservation Reserve (Gujarat)**
- India's top 3 largest zoos: 1) **Arignar Anna (Vandalur, Chennai)**, 2) **Nandankanan (Bhubaneswar)**, 3) **Indira Gandhi (Visakhapatnam)**

13. Persons in News

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- Visited **Uttarakhand** and **Uttar Pradesh** on **April 14** to inaugurate the **Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor (213 km, six-lane, ₹12,000 crore)**
- Inaugurated the **Guru Bhairavakya Temple** in **Adichunchanagiri, Mandya district, Karnataka**
- Jointly released the book **Saundarya Lahari and Shiva Mahimna Stotram** with former PM **H.D. Deve Gowda**
- Officially unveiled a bust of **Dr. Baba Ambedkar** at **UNESCO headquarters**

- Held bilateral talks with **Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker** at **Hyderabad House, New Delhi**
- To chair the **first-ever CAPF Leadership Conference** in **New Delhi** in **May 2026**
- Virtually inaugurated the **594 km Ganga Expressway** on **April 19** in **Hardoi district, UP**
- Inaugurated India's first greenfield integrated **refinery-cum-petrochemical complex** in **Pachpadra, Rajasthan** (cost **₹1,79,450 crore**)
- Participated in **Sikkim's Golden Jubilee** closing ceremony in **Gangtok** on **April 28, 2026**; inaugurated **30 projects** worth **₹4,000 crore**
- Launched **112 projects** worth **₹5,300 crore** and inaugurated **48 projects** worth **₹1,050 crore** in **Varanasi** and **Hardoi**
- Inaugurated **6 state-of-the-art BCCI Cricket Academies** in **Northeast India**
- Released commemorative postal stamp marking the **100-year milestone (1926–2026)** of **Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC)**
- Remains **Chairperson of NITI Aayog**; **Nidhi Chhibber** serves as **CEO**

President Droupadi Murmu

- Inaugurated infrastructure projects worth over **₹1,200 crore** in **Rourkela, Odisha** including a planetarium, science center, **Nirmal Munda Parivesh Path**, and a tribal museum

Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan

- Completed the **first bilateral visit by an Indian Vice President to Sri Lanka** (April 19–20)
- Signed MoUs for healthcare and regional development with **Sri Lanka**
- Announced completion of **Phase 3** of the **Indian Housing Project (4,000 houses)**
- Nominated **Dr. K.S. Somasekhar** as new **Rajya Sabha Secretary**
- Nominated panel of **six MPs** for reconstituted **Rajya Sabha**

Samrat Choudhary

- **BJP leader** sworn in as the **24th Chief Minister of Bihar**
- Oath administered by **Governor Syed Ata Hasnain** at **Raj Bhavan, Patna**
- Succeeded **Nitish Kumar** (who resigned to join **Rajya Sabha**)

Nitish Kumar

- Resigned as **Chief Minister of Bihar** to join the **Rajya Sabha**

- Succeeded by **Samrat Choudhary (BJP)** as the 24th CM of Bihar

Harivansh Narayan Singh

- Re-elected **unopposed** as **Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** for his **third consecutive term**

Sanjay Malhotra

- **26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
- RBI established **April 1, 1935**; nationalized **January 1, 1949**

Punya Salila Srivastava

- **Union Health Secretary**; chaired the **1st BRICS Health Working Group Meeting** in **New Delhi**
- Also serves as **Chairperson of FSSAI** (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India)
- **FSSAI**: established **2008**; HQ **New Delhi**; under **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**; CEO: **Rajit Punhani**

Nirmala Sitharaman

- **Finance Minister** who formed a high-level government panel to evaluate **AI cyber threats** to the banking sector (panel headed by **SBI Chairman C.S. Setty**)
- Launched "**Mission Jagrook**" at **SEBI's 38th Foundation Day** in **Mumbai**
- Attended **SEBI's 38th Foundation Day** as chief guest

Ashwini Vaishnaw

- **Railway Minister** who led the **173rd anniversary** commemoration of Indian Railways
- Heads the **AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG)** constituted by **MEITY**
- Union Minister who inaugurated **3D Semiconductor Packaging Unit** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha** (with **Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi**)
- Laid foundation for **Google Cloud India AI Hub** in **Visakhapatnam** (with **AP CM N. Chandrababu Naidu**)

Piyush Goyal

- **Commerce Minister** who released India's macroeconomic trade data for **FY26**
- Signed the **India-New Zealand FTA** with New Zealand's **Trade Minister Todd McClay** on **April 27, 2026**
- Unveiled the "**Bharat Taxi**" app in **Mumbai**
- Extended the **Minimum Export Price (MEP)** on natural honey

S. Jaishankar (External Affairs Minister)

- Officially launched the logo, theme, and website for the **4th India-Africa Forum Summit**

- Met **German diplomat Annalena Baerbock**
- Attended **UN General Assembly** meetings

Rajnath Singh

- **Defence Minister** to attend the **SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

N. Chandrababu Naidu

- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister** launched the **Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility** on **World Quantum Day (April 14)**
- Laid foundation stone for the **Google Cloud India AI Hub** in **Visakhapatnam** (with **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**)

Revanth Reddy

- **Chief Minister of Telangana**; Deputy CM: **Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka**; Governor: **Shiv Pratap Shukla**

Mohan Charan Majhi

- **Chief Minister of Odisha**; co-inaugurated **3D Semiconductor Packaging Unit** in **Bhubaneswar**

Conrad Sangma

- **Chief Minister of Meghalaya**; Governor: **Vijay Shankar**
- Launched the **CM INSPIRE Scheme** offering financial assistance for **UPSC aspirants**

Devendra Fadnavis

- **Chief Minister of Maharashtra**
- Launched '**Center of Excellence for Heat Resilience and Sustainable Cooling**' at **IIM Nagpur**

Yogi Adityanath

- **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh**
- Launched **10-year warranty accountability model** for rural water schemes under **Jal Jeevan Mission**

Anil Chauhan

- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**
- Flagged off the **Surya Bhumi / Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0** in **Badrinath, Uttarakhand**
- Met with **UK defense leaders** to discuss global trade imbalances and cybersecurity

General Upendra Dwivedi

- **Indian Army Chief**
- Inducted into the **US Army War College International Hall of Fame** in **Pennsylvania**; 3rd Indian Chief to receive this distinction
- Hosted by Indian Ambassador **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**

Ajit Doval

- **National Security Advisor (NSA)**

- Hosted UK counterpart **Jonathan Powell** in **New Delhi** for annual **India-UK Strategic Dialogue**

Samir V Kamat

- DRDO Chairman**
- Unveiled advanced tracked and wheeled armored platforms at **VRDE, Ahmednagar**
- Handed over "**Prajna**" AI-enabled satellite imaging system to **MHA**

Sundar Pichai

- Google CEO**; featured in **TIME 100 Most Influential People 2026** (Titans category, AI leadership)

Jay Shah

- BCCI Secretary**
- Included in WEF's "**Young Global Leaders Class of 2026**"
- Recognized for getting **cricket included in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics**
- Ajit Agarkar's** contract as Chief Selector of **BCCI Senior Selection Committee** renewed for one year (targeting **2027 ODI World Cup** hosted by **South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe**)

Gautam Adani

- Surpassed **Mukesh Ambani** to become **Asia's richest person**
- Net worth: **\$92.6 billion** (ranked **19th globally**) on **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**
- Adani Group** stocks surged leading to this wealth milestone

Mukesh Ambani

- Dropped to **second spot in Asia** (ranked **20th globally**)
- Net worth: **\$90.8 billion**

Elon Musk

- Remains the **richest person globally** with **\$656 billion**; followed by **Larry Page** and **Jeff Bezos**

Vikas Khanna

- Chef** featured in **TIME 100 Most Influential People 2026** (Innovator category, global Indian cuisine)

Ranbir Kapoor

- Actor** featured in **TIME 100 Most Influential People 2026** (Artist category)

Sayani Gupta (also cited as Sani Gupta)

- Bollywood actress** named **Person of the Year 2026** by the **Harvard South Asian Association**
- Honored for representation and film storytelling excellence

Carlos Alcaraz

- World No. 1 tennis player** (Spain)
- Won **Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2026**

- Appointed as **global brand ambassador for Infosys** (promoting AI platform '**Topaz**')
- Won **Men's Singles title at Monte Carlo Masters 2026**

R Vaishali

- Indian grandmaster; won the **FIDE Women's Candidates 2026** in **Cyprus**
- Became the **first Indian woman** to win the FIDE tournament
- Scored **8.5/14 points**; defeated Russia's **Kateryna Lagno**
- Qualified for the **World Championship** to challenge China's **Ju Wenjun**

Viktor Axelsen

- Danish badminton player** (age 32)
- Announced retirement from international sports due to a back injury
- Held **world No. 1 spot for 183 weeks**
- Won Olympic golds in **Tokyo and Paris**; bronze in **Rio**

Deepti Sharma

- Named **Leading Women's Cricketer of the Year** (Wisden)

Abhishek Sharma

- Named **Leading T20 Cricketer of the Year** (Wisden)
- Appointed as brand ambassador for **DP World**

Shubman Gill

- Won the **Wisden Trophy** for scoring over **430 runs**

Sanju Samson

- Won **ICC Player of the Month (March 2026)** – Men's award

Virat Kohli

- Became the **first player in IPL history** to reach **800 boundaries**

Ajit Agarkar

- Chief Selector of BCCI Senior Selection Committee**; contract renewed for one year; targeting **2027 ODI World Cup**

N. Aleem Yusuf / Alim Yusuf

- Kerala Botanist**
- Won the **WWF National Award** at the **Eko Youth Innovation Summit 2026**
- Developed "**Neophyte ID**" – an AI-powered mobile app to detect invasive plant species in Kerala

Aronyak Ghosh

- From **Kolkata, West Bengal**
- Became India's **95th Chess Grandmaster**

Aaradhya Kapil

- 10 years and 7 months old**
- Became the **youngest Indian chess player** to secure an **International Master norm**

after drawing against Australia's **Samuel Asaka** in **Spain**

A.S. Sharvaanica

- Won the **FIDE World Rapid Under-12 Girls Championship** held in **Serbia**

Sebastian Sawe

- **Kenyan runner**
- Became the **first man** to officially finish a marathon in **under two hours**
- Recorded **1 hour, 59 minutes, and 30 seconds** at the **London Marathon 2026**

Tigst Assefa

- **Ethiopian runner**
- Set a **women-only world record** of **2:15:41** at the **London Marathon 2026**

Suraj Kumar Chand

- Indian player; won **Men's Singles title** at the **HCL Squash PSA Challenger Tour** in **Chennai**
- Defeated **South Korea's Jing Men Rio**

Sonam Maskar

- Indian shooter; finished **5th** in the women's **10m air rifle** event at **ISSF World Cup** in **Spain**
- **China's Wang Zifi** won gold

Palak Gulia & Mukesh Nelavalli

- Won gold in **10m Air Pistol mixed team** at **ISSF World Cup 2026** in **Granada, Spain**
- Set a **junior category world record**

P.V. Sindhu

- Indian shuttler
- Elected as a **voting member** and appointed **Chairperson of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athlete Commission**

Rubel Hossain

- **Bangladesh pacer**
- Officially announced **retirement from international sports**

Suzie Bates

- **New Zealand cricketer**
- Announced retirement post **T20 World Cup**
- Holds records for the most **Women's ODI** and **T20I** appearances across a **20-year career**

Susan Coyle

- Became the **first female Chief of Army** in Australia's **125-year history**
- Succeeded **Simon Stuart**

Mark Hammond

- Appointed **Chief of Defence Force** of Australia
- Replaced **David Johnston**

Ismail Omar Guelleh

- Re-elected as **President of Djibouti**

Nizar Amedi / Nazar Muhammad Sed Ahmedi

- Elected by the **Iraqi parliament** as the **9th President of Iraq**
- Succeeded **Abdul Latif Rashid**
- Nominated businessman **Ali Al-Zeidi** as next PM of Iraq

Christian Stocker

- **Austrian Chancellor**
- Visited India (first visit by Austrian Chancellor in **40 years**; also his first visit to Asia)
- Signed Letters of Intent with **PM Narendra Modi** on defense policy dialogue and fast-track business dispute resolution

Lee Jae-myung (also cited as Lee Jae-yong)

- **South Korean President**
- Visited India (**April 19–21**)
- Paid respects at **Rajghat** and visited the **Taj Mahal**
- **~25 MoUs** signed; bilateral trade target set at **\$50 billion by 2030**

Anura Kumara Dissanayake

- **President of Sri Lanka**
- Appointed **Anura Karunathilake** as new **Energy Minister**

Ashok Lahiri

- Former **Chief Economic Advisor** and **West Bengal MLA**; member of **15th Finance Commission**
- Appointed **Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog**, replacing **Suman K. Bery**

Suman K. Bery

- Outgoing **Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog**; launched "**Diva Bharat**" anthology and **DPI 2.0 Roadmap**
- Replaced by **Ashok Lahiri**

John Ternus

- Appointed as the **8th CEO of Apple Inc.**, effective **September 1, 2026**
- Succeeded **Tim Cook** (retiring but remaining as executive/chairperson)

Tim Cook

- Retiring as **Apple CEO** in **September 2026**; will remain as executive/chairperson
- Succeeded by **John Ternus**

Vibha Padalkar

- **MD & CEO of HDFC Life Insurance**; tenure extended for **5 years (till 2031)**

Srikanth Velamakanni

- Co-founder & **CEO of Fractal Analytics**
- Appointed **Chairperson of NASSCOM** for **2026-27** term, succeeding **Sindhu Gangadharan**

Dinesh Trivedi

- Former **Union Railway Minister** and **MP** from **Barrackpore**

- Appointed as India's new **High Commissioner to Bangladesh**, succeeding **Pranay Verma**

Ajit Agarkar

- Chief Selector of **BCCI Senior Selection Committee**; contract renewed for one year

CR Patil

- **Jal Shakti Minister**
- Launched the **9th edition of India International Water Week**

Jyotiraditya Scindia

- **Minister of Communications**
- Launched the **TDIP scheme (₹203 crore outlay, 2026–2031)**
- Inaugurated **Adani Vikas Kendra** in **Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh**
- Inaugurated **Samridh Gram Initiative** first center in **Umri village, Guna**

Jayant Chaudhary

- Union Minister who launched India and Asia's **first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development** at **Symbiosis Skill and Professional University, Pune**

Kiren Rijju

- **Minister of Minority Affairs**; partnered with **IIT Patna** under **PM VIKAS** scheme

Manohar Lal Khattar

- **Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs**
- Released **NITI Aayog** report "**Moving Towards Effective City Government**"

JP Nadda

- **Health Minister**
- Inaugurated the **10th National Summit on Public Health Innovation** in **Chandigarh**

Manoj Mukund Naravane

- Former **Army Chief (28th Army Chief)**
- Released new book "**The Curious and the Classified: Unearthing Military Myths and Mysteries**"
- Also authored "**Four Stars of Destiny**" and "**The Cantonment Conspiracy**"

Pashal Dunohhi

- Appointed **MD and Chief Knowledge Officer (CKO)** of **World Bank Group**

Ajay Banga

- **World Bank President**
- Announced "**Water Forward**" global initiative targeting water security for **1 billion people by 2030**

Kristalina Georgieva

- **Managing Director of IMF**
- **IMF HQ: Washington D.C.; 190 member countries**

Ursula von der Leyen

- **President of EU Commission**

Antonio Costa

- **President of EU Council**

Anthony Albanese

- **Prime Minister of Australia**

Todd McClay

- **New Zealand's Trade Minister**
- Co-signed the **India-New Zealand FTA** with **Piyush Goyal** on **April 27, 2026**

Vinay Mohan Kwatra

- **Indian Ambassador to USA**
- Hosted **General Upendra Dwivedi** during induction into **US Army War College International Hall of Fame**

Prof. Vaidya Rabinarayan Acharya

- **Director General of Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** based in **New Delhi**

Sudarsan Pattnaik

- **Padma Shri** sand artist; **Brand Ambassador** for India's **Digital Census 2027**

Raghu Rai

- Renowned **Indian photojournalist** and **Padma Shri** awardee
- Passed away at **83**
- Documented the **Bhopal Gas Tragedy** and the **Bangladesh Liberation War**
- Received "**Photographer of the Year**" award in the **USA**

Asha Bhosle

- Legendary **playback singer**; passed away at **92**
- Sang in over **20 languages**
- Recipient of **Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2000)** and **Padma Vibhushan (2008)**

Mohsina Kidwai

- Senior **Congress** leader and former **Union Minister** during **Indira and Rajiv Gandhi's** tenures
- Passed away

CD Gopinath

- Former **Indian cricketer**
- Last surviving member of the team that secured **India's first test victory against England in 1952**
- Passed away

Colonel Sonam Wangchuk

- Highly decorated **Indian Army** officer; termed the "**Land of Ladakh**"
- **Maha Vir Chakra** awardee for the **1999 Kargil War**
- Passed away

Jose Emilio Santamaria

- Legendary **Uruguayan football defender** for **Real Madrid**

- **Four-time European Cup winner** in the 1950s–60s
- Passed away

Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury (Dalu Babu)

- Veteran **Congress leader** and former MP from **Maldaha Dakshin**
- Former **Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare**
- Passed away in **Kolkata** at the age of **88**

Jim Whittaker

- **First American to summit Mount Everest** (achieved on **May 1, 1963**, alongside **Nawang Gombu**)
- Passed away

Oscar Schmidt

- **68-year-old Brazilian basketball legend**; five-time Olympian; known as the "**Holy Hand**"
- Passed away

Balbir Punj

- Former **BJP Rajya Sabha MP**; senior journalist
- Author of "**Tryst with Ayodhya**" and "**Narrative Ka Mayajaal**"
- Passed away at **76**

Bhagwandas Raikwar (Dao)

- Pioneer of **Bundeli martial arts (Akhada style)**
- Received **Padma Shri** in **April 2026**
- Passed away at **83** in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**

Shiv Ratan Agarwal

- **Founder and Chairman of Bikaji Foods International**
- Passed away

N. Ramachandran

- Highly respected official; passed away at **77** in **Chennai**

Nadendla Bhaskara Rao

- Former **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister**; passed away at **90**
- Had one of the **shortest tenures as CM** – serving just **31 days in 1984**

Gurbux Singh Grewal

- **1968 Olympic bronze medalist in hockey**
- Passed away at **84**

Guru Muni Narayana Prasad

- Prominent **spiritual leader**; passed away

Dean Tavoularis

- **Oscar-winning production designer**; passed away

Vijay Kumar (Golfer)

- Veteran **Indian Golfer**; passed away at **57**
- Won the **2002 Indian Open**; **four-time Order of Merit champion**

Sadio Camara

- **Mali's Defense Minister**; killed in a **terrorist suicide truck bombing**

Vasu Shroff

- Indian-origin "**Textile King**" of **Dubai**; passed away

Dr. Gopalrao Patil

- Renowned **pediatrician** and former **Rajya Sabha MP**; passed away

14. Ranks & Reports

Global Military Spending – SIPRI Report

- **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** report on global military spending (**2025**):
 - **India** became the **5th largest global military spender** spending **\$92.1 billion (3.2%** of global spending)
 - India's defense spending increased by **8.9%**, driven by "**Operation Sindoor**" and preparedness conflicts
 - India is the **2nd largest importer of arms globally**, behind **Ukraine**
 - Top 5 global military spenders (collectively **58%** of global military spending):
 1. **USA: \$954 billion**
 2. **China: \$336 billion**
 3. **Russia: \$190 billion**
 4. **Germany**
 5. **India: \$92.1 billion**

Asia Power Index

- **India** ranked **3rd** in the **Asia Power Index**

World Skills Asia 2025

- **India** secured the **8th rank** in its debut at **World Skills Asia 2025**

IMF World Economic Outlook

- **USA** firmly secured the **top GDP position** globally
- India slipped from **4th to 6th spot** globally; falling behind **UK and Japan**
- Top four global economies: **USA, China, Germany, Japan**
- **IMF** raised India's **FY27 GDP forecast to 6.5%**; pegged global growth at **3.1%** for **CY26**
- **IMF** projected **6.9%** for **FY27** and **6.5%** for **FY28**
- **IMF** has **190 member countries** (Andorra the 190th); MD: **Kristalina Georgieva**; HQ: **Washington D.C.**

GDP Projections – Multi-Agency Summary

- **IMF: 6.5%** (FY27 & FY28); **7.6%** for **FY26**
- **World Bank: 6.6%** (revised up from **6.3%**); **7.2%** for **FY26**; **6.5%** for **FY27**

- **ADB: 6.9%** (FY27), **7.6%** (FY26), **7.3%** (FY28)
- **RBI: 6.9%** for FY27
- **SBI Research: 6.8%–7.1%** for FY27; **7.6%** for FY 2025-26
- **S&P and CRISIL: 7.1%** for FY27
- **Morgan Stanley: 6.2%** for FY27
- **OECD: 6.1%** for FY27
- **Moody's: 6.0%** for FY27 (downgraded from **6.8%**)
- **UN / UN ESCAP: 6.4%** for 2026; **6.6%** for 2027
- **Economic Survey 2025-26:** FY27 growth range **6.8%–7.2%**
- **WEF:** global economy to expand by **\$56 trillion** over next five years

India's Trade Data & Rankings

- **China** overtook **USA** to become India's **largest trading partner** in FY26; bilateral trade: **\$151.1 billion**
- **USA** ranks second; total trade volume: **\$140 billion**
- India's total exports: **\$860 billion** (FY 2025-26); **4.2% YoY growth**
- Total imports: **\$978.4 billion**; overall trade deficit: **\$119.30 billion**
- India's trade deficit with **China: \$112.16 billion**
- India's exports to **China** increased by **36.66%** to **\$19.47 billion**; imports increased by **16%**

FDI Rankings

- Total FDI equity inflows (April–December FY26): **\$47.87 billion**
- Top FDI source: **Singapore (\$17.6 billion, 37% share)**; **USA (\$7.8 billion)**; **Mauritius (\$4.8 billion)**
- Top FDI sectors: **Computer software/hardware (22%)** and **services (18%)**
- Top FDI states: **Maharashtra (\$15.38 billion / \$50.38 billion)**; **Karnataka (\$11.15 billion)**
- India is top destination for **greenfield FDI** in Asia-Pacific

India's Intellectual Property (Patent) Rankings

- Total patent filings increased by **30.2%** to **1.43 lakh (143,729)** in FY26; **69%** domestic
- Top states: **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra**
- India globally ranks **6th** in the **WIPO** index
- Top four nations: **USA, Japan, South Korea, China**

India's Renewable Energy Rankings

- India added **45 GW** solar capacity in FY26; single-month record **6.65 GW** in March 2026
- India added record **6.05 GW** wind power (**46% YoY increase**); cumulative wind capacity over **56 GW**
- India overtook **Brazil** to become **3rd globally** in installed renewable capacity (behind **China** and **USA**)
- India **4th globally** in wind turbines (after **China, US, Germany**)
- India's **2030 goal: 500 GW** of non-fossil capacity (**COP26**)

India's Economic Size & Wealth Rankings

- India recognized as world's **6th largest economy**
- India is world's **largest recipient of remittances** (estimated **\$137 billion in 2024**)
- **Knight Frank's Wealth Report 2026:** India ranks **6th globally** in wealth metrics
 - **USA** holds **1st position** globally
 - India has **19,877 Ultra-High Net Worth Individuals (UHNWI)** and **207 billionaires**
 - India's economy slipped from **4th to 6th** largest globally

Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- **Gautam Adani: \$92.6 billion** (ranked **19th globally**); Asia's richest
- **Mukesh Ambani: \$90.8 billion** (ranked **20th globally**)
- **Elon Musk: \$656 billion** (richest globally); followed by **Larry Page** and **Jeff Bezos**

Insurance Market Rankings

- **Swiss Re** report: India is the **10th largest** insurance market globally based on premium collections
- Rural health insurance coverage: **47.4%** (up from **14.1%** eight years prior) – **NSSO** data
- Urban health insurance coverage: **44.3%**

Banking Market Rankings

- **SBI** overtook **ICICI Bank** to become India's **second-largest lender by market value** (first time since **August 2019**)
- **HDFC Bank** remains the largest lender
- **IDBI Bank** recorded steepest market decline of **40.3%**
- **SBI** currently ranked **27th globally** (aims to enter global top 10 by 2030)
- **PhonePe:** first UPI app to cross **10 billion** monthly transactions; holds **46.4%** market share in volume and **49%** in value
- **Google Pay:** holds **33%** market share; followed by **Paytm**

- NSE: reported **7% decline** in active investors, dropping to **4.57 crore** in 2026

India's Digital Payments Report – Worldline

- **Worldline's India Digital Payment Report 2025:**
 - UPI processed **228.5 billion transactions** in 2025 (**33% YoY increase**)
 - Average ticket size declined by **10%**
 - UPI scaled from **1.78 crore to 21,900 crore** transactions over a decade
 - Total transaction value: from **₹6,952 crore to ₹308 lakh crore**

Macroeconomic Indicators

- **WPI inflation: 3.88% (3.9%)** in March 2026 (38-month high); up from **2.13%** in February
- **CPI inflation: 3.4%** in March 2026 (13-month high); up from **2.75%** in January and **3.21%** in February
- **Unemployment Rate (PLFS): 5.1%** in March 2026 (5-month high); up from **4.9%** in February
- **Worker Population Ratio (15–59 years): 52.6%**
- **Labour Force Participation Rate: 55.4%**
- **IIP growth: 4.1%** in March 2026 (5-month low); February 2026 revised from **5.2% to 5.1%**
- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):** projected to rise to **2%** of GDP
- India's **inflation target: 4% ± 2%** tolerance band
- **SBI projects inflation at 4.5%**; fiscal deficit between **4.5% to 4.6%**

CPI & WPI Base Year Details

- **CPI Base Year:** Updated to **2024**; basket items increased to **358**; food/beverage weight reduced to **36.75%**; travel weight increased to **17%**
- **WPI Base Year: 2011-2012**; measures goods using **697 articles**
- **GDP Base Year:** revised to **2022–23** from previous **2011–12** series

India's Exports & Trade Performance

- Total exports (goods + services): **\$860 billion** (FY 2025-26); **84.5%** growth over 12 years
- Textile exports: grew **2.1%** to **₹3.16 lakh crore**
- Seafood exports: **₹72,325 crore**; volume **19.32 lakh metric tons**
- Agricultural exports: grew **2.8%** from **\$51.21 billion to \$52.55 billion**
- Honey exports: **95,380 tonnes** worth **\$176.56 million**

UNESCO Heritage Site Rankings

- **1,248 UNESCO sites** worldwide; led by **Italy (59)** and **China (57)**
- India ranks **6th globally** with **44 sites** (36 Cultural, 7 Natural, 1 Mixed)
- India's first heritage sites designated in **1983**: Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, Taj Mahal

Ramsar Site Rankings

- India now has **99 Ramsar sites** (highest in Asia; **3rd highest globally** after UK and Mexico)
- **UP hosts 12 Ramsar sites** (2nd highest after Tamil Nadu with **20 sites**)

Global Telecom Rankings

- **UAE** launched world's first commercial upper **6 GHz** internet network on "**Golden Spectrum**"
- **Riyadh Metro:** world's **longest driverless metro network**
- **Jakarta:** declared world's **largest city** on **UN mega cities index**

IMO Council

- **India** secured re-election to **IMO council (2026–27)** with the highest **Category B** votes

World Heritage & Geoparks

- **UNESCO Global Geoparks Network: 241 sites** across **51 countries**; India has **zero** geoparks

NSE Listed Companies CSR Report

- CSR spending by NSE-listed companies increased by **23%** to **₹22,212 crore** in 2024-25
- Top spenders: **Reliance Industries (₹139 crore)**, **HDFC Bank (₹168 crore)**, **TCS (₹960 crore)**
- Top states receiving CSR funds: **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu**

NITI Aayog Trade Watch Quarterly

- India's trade with **FTA countries** reached **28.8%** of total trade in **2024**

WEF Young Global Leaders 2026

- **Jay Shah** (BCCI Secretary) included in **WEF Young Global Leaders Class of 2026**

TIME 100 Most Influential People 2026 (23rd Edition)

- Three Indians: **Sundar Pichai** (Titans), **Vikas Khanna** (Innovator), **Ranbir Kapoor** (Artist)
- Youngest: **19-year-old Alisa Liu**; Oldest: **96-year-old Dollar**

Department of Posts Revenue Report

- Achieved record revenue of **₹15,296 crore** for FY26 (**16% growth**)

Small Finance Bank Market Report

- SBI current: **22% market share in deposits, 20% in advances**, serving **53 crore customers**
- Balance sheet: **₹71.62 lakh crore** (deposits: **₹57 lakh crore**; advances: **₹46 lakh crore**)

Honey Export Data

- **95,380 tonnes** exported worth **\$176.56 million**
- Top destinations: **US, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar**
- Top producing states: **Uttar Pradesh (17%), West Bengal, Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan**

Mission Poshan 2.0 – Key Data

- Originally launched in **2018** as **Poshan Abhiyaan**
- Operates via **14 lakh Anganwadi centers**
- Covers **9 crore beneficiaries** nationwide

PM e-VIDYA Program – Coverage Data

- Covers **24.8 crore** school students and **4.33 crore** higher education learners

Startup India Data

- Over **55,200** startups recognized in FY 2025-26
- India's total startups: **2.23 lakh**

APY & NPS Data

- Combined APY and NPS AUM: crossed **₹16.46 lakh crore**
- APY pension corpus: **₹45,974.67 crore**
- APY female participation: **48%**

India's Nuclear Power Target

- **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)**: target to increase nuclear power capacity from **8.8 GW to 100 GW by 2047**

Small Hydro Power Potential

- India has national potential of **21,133.61 MW** across **7,133 identified sites**; only **24.5% (5,171 MW)** utilized so far

India's Data Center Market

- Projected to reach **\$22 billion by 2030**

Global Insurance Market

- India: **10th largest** insurance market globally (Swiss Re report)

OECD & Moody's Rankings

- **OECD**: projected India's FY27 growth at **6.1%**
- **Moody's**: projected India's FY27 growth at **6.0%** (downgraded from **6.8%**)

15. Schemes and Initiatives

Urban Development Schemes

Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

- Launched with operational guidelines by the **Government of India**

- Total outlay: **₹1 Lakh Crore** (2025-26 to 2030-31; extendable to 2033-34)
- Breakdown: **₹90,000 crore** for projects; **₹5,000 crore** for capacity building; **₹5,000 crore** for Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub Scheme
- Centre: **25%**; Market/Bank Loans: **50%**; States/UTs: **25%**
- Ultimate goal: drive total urban infrastructure investment of **₹4 lakh crore**
- Targets **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**, particularly hilly and northeastern regions
- Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme: **₹5,000 crore** guarantee fund; helps smaller cities with populations under **1 lakh** gain creditworthiness
- Funds released by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs by September 2026**

PM SVANidhi Scheme (PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi)

- Originally launched: **June 1, 2020**
- Extended to **March 31, 2030** with **₹7,332 crore** allocation
- Implemented by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** and **Department of Financial Services**
- Provides collateral-free working capital loans: **₹15,000** (1st tranche), **₹25,000** (2nd tranche), **₹50,000** (3rd tranche)
- Digital cashback: up to **₹1,600**
- Reviewed during **Namo Stall Scheme** launch event

Namo Stall Scheme

- Launched by **Union Minister of State for Defense Sanjay Seth in Ranchi, Jharkhand**
- Designed to support **street fruit and vegetable vendors**
- First phase: five vendors received free stalls worth **₹50,000** each with designated selling spaces

Rural Development Schemes

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- **Phase 3**:
 - Extended from **March 2025 to March 2028** (and up to **March 2029** for hilly areas and bridges)
 - Budget increased from **₹80,000 crore / ₹8,250 crore** to **₹83,977 crore**
 - Targets: upgrade **1.25 lakh km** of existing rural routes
- **Phase 4** (FY25–FY29):
 - Allocated **₹70,125 crore**
 - Aims to construct **62,500 km** of roads

Jal Jeevan Mission

- Originally launched: **2019**
- Extended to **December 2028** with **₹8.69 lakh crore** budget
- **Uttar Pradesh** became the first state to introduce a **10-year warranty accountability model** for rural water schemes under this mission

PM Kisan

- Launched: **February 24, 2019**
- Provides **₹6,000 annually** in **three installments** to landholding farmers
- **22nd installment** released

Vibrant Village Program

- Focuses on border area development; provides better infrastructure and halts out-migration
- **Ministry of Home Affairs** included border villages in **Jammu and Kashmir** (Phase 2):
 - Villages: **Bobia, Kandhiyala, Ganjana, Karol Krishna, Rathua, Gujjar Chak** (in Kathua, J&K)
 - Phase 2 will expand to borders with Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Bangladesh
 - Included border villages: **Bobby Kadiala, Gajnal, Karul, Krishna Ratua, Gujar Chak**

Social Welfare Schemes

SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise)

- Originally launched: **2022** by **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**
- Budget: **₹390 crore** (2021–2026)
- Linked to the broader **PM DAKSH** scheme
- Aims to uplift transgender persons and individuals engaged in begging
- Provides comprehensive support: housing, healthcare, education, skill development
- New mobile app launched at **Chintan Shivir, Chandigarh (April 24–26, 2026)** to collect data on street beggars
- Goal: "**Bhikshavrutti Mukta Bharat**" by **2026** via real-time data
- **Indore** is India's first beggar-free city; **Surat** expected to become first slum-free city
- **SMILE Beggary Survey**: launched by **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY)

- Launched: **2018**
- Provides up to **₹5 lakh** in health insurance
- **Ayushman Bharat Diwas** observed on **April 30**
- **18 PM-JAY awards** presented at '**Chintan Shivir 2026**', Pune, Maharashtra

PM Internship Scheme (PMIS)

- Expanded by **Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Department of Education**
- Now includes **final-year graduates** and **post-graduates**
- Age limit reduced from **21–24** to **18–24** years
- Offers **₹9,000 stipend** and **₹56,000 financial assistance** in two installments for one year

Bihar Acid Attack Rehabilitation Scheme

- Launched by **Women and Child Development Corporation, Bihar** in collaboration with **Chhav Foundation**
- Provides minimum compensation of **₹3 lakh** to acid attack victims

Safe City Project 2026

- **Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh** chosen for this project
- Allocated **₹100 crore** over five years by **Ministry of Women and Child Development**
- Focuses on women-friendly infrastructure

Pension & Insurance Schemes

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- Launched: **May 9, 2015** (operational **June 1, 2015**)
- Regulated by **PFRDA**; targets unorganized sector
- Eligible: Indian citizens aged **18–40**; must contribute for at least **20 years**
- Guaranteed monthly pension: **₹1,000 to ₹5,000** at age **60**
- Spouse receives **50%** upon death; nominees get principal
- Crossed **9 crore** total enrolments by **April 21, 2026**; record **1.35 crore** new subscribers in FY 2025-26
- Female participation: **48%**; extended to **2030-31**
- Since **October 1, 2022**: income taxpayers barred from joining
- Combined **APY and NPS AUM**: crossed **₹16.46 lakh crore**

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY)

- Launched: **January 22, 2015**; completed **11 years**
- Allows **₹250 to ₹1.5 lakh** yearly investment for girls up to **10 years**
- Deposits for **15 years**; matures at **21 years**
- Interest rate: **8.2%**

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)

- Offers **₹2 lakh** cover; annual premium **₹436**
- Eligible ages: **18–50 years**
- Currently has **26.88 crore** enrollments

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)

- Offers ₹2 lakh cover; annual premium ₹20
- Eligible ages: 18–70 years

SWAMIH Investment Fund (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing)

- Initially launched: 2019 by Finance Ministry; managed by SBI CAP (SBI subsidiary)
- Fund II announced for 2025-26 with ₹15,000 crore budget to complete 1 lakh stalled homes

Education Schemes & Initiatives

PM e-VIDYA Program

- Launched: May 17, 2020 during COVID-19 pandemic
- Initiated by Ministry of Education as core component of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan
- Aim: "One Nation, One Digital Education Infrastructure"
- Targets multi-mode digital education access (TV, radio, online) for students from classes 1 to 12
- Currently covers 24.8 crore school students and 4.33 crore higher education learners
- Six main pillars:
 - SWAYAM: Online courses for higher education
 - SWAYAM PRABHA: 24/7 educational DTH TV channels
 - DIKSHA: Online curriculum content and QR-coded textbooks
 - Radio/Community Radio: Educational podcasts
 - Special e-content for CWSN: Resources for Children With Special Needs
 - Online Coaching: Incorporating platforms like SATHEE
- SATHEE Platform: launched November 2023 by IIT Kanpur; offers online coaching for JEE and NEET

VAANI Scheme 3.0 (Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages)

- Launched by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE); 3rd edition
- Annual allocation: ₹4 crore (also cited as ₹40 crore annually)
- Supports 200 conferences, seminars, and workshops each year
- ₹2 lakh per event to selected AICTE-approved institutions; events last two to three days

- Promotes knowledge in 22 Indian languages: Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi, and others
- Fields covered: AI, Quantum Technology, Cyber Security, Space, Defense, Agrotech

PM VIKAS (Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan)

- Ministry of Minority Affairs (under Kiren Rijiju) partnered with IIT Patna
- To train 600 minority youths from Bihar in Artificial Intelligence and Business Analytics

CM INSPIRE Scheme (Meghalaya)

- Launched by CM Conrad K Sangma
- Chief Minister's Incentive for Success in Prelims and Innovative Rewards for Excellence
- ₹5,000 for clearing UPSC Prelims; ₹1 lakh for Mains

Technology & Digital Schemes

Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

- Notified by Ministry of Commerce and Industry and DPIIT
- Corpus: ₹10,000 crore; SIDBI designated as implementing agency
- Over 55,200 startups recognized in FY 2025-26; India's total: 2.23 lakh
- Maximum loan facility per borrower increased to ₹20 crore

Telecom Technology Development and Investment Promotion (TDIP) Scheme

- Launched by Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia
- Outlay: ₹203 crore (2026–2031)
- Targets securing 10% of global 6G patents by 2030

Samridh Gram Initiative

- Driven by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under BharatNet project
- Establishes 'Samridhi Kendras' offering healthcare, education, agriculture, e-commerce, governance services via FTTH broadband and public Wi-Fi
- First center inaugurated in Umri village, Guna, Madhya Pradesh by Jyotiraditya Scindia
- Nominated for WSIS Prizes 2026 in the "enabling environment" category
- "Phygital" (physical + digital) services to rural areas

AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG)

- Constituted via MEITY
- Headed by Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw; Vice-Chairperson: Jitin Prasada
- Technology and Policy Expert Committee constituted to support this group

NARIT AI (Narcotics Analysis RAG-based Investigation Tool)

- Launched by **Gujarat Police**
- India's **first AI tool** for narcotic investigations

India's First Digital Census 2027

- **16th overall census; 8th post-independence** (delayed from 2021)
- First fully digital census using mobile apps in **16 languages**; budget **₹11,718.24 crore**
- Includes **caste-based enumeration**; mascots: **Pragati** (female) and **Vikas** (male)
- Toll-free helpline: **1855**

DPI 2.0 Roadmap

- Launched by **NITI Aayog** (outgoing VC **Suman K. Bery** and Prof. **Ajay Kumar Sood**)
- Tagline: "**Roadmap to Prosperity**"
- Targets: **\$30 Trillion** economy and per capita income of **\$18,000 by 2047**
- Aims to elevate DPI's GDP contribution from **1% to 4% by 2030**

PRAGATI Platform (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)

- Launched: **2015**; digital governance platform to monitor government projects, schemes, and grievances in real-time
- Recognized by **Oxford's Saïd Business School** as a global best practice model for developing nations

Gram Charitra Portal

- **ISRO** partnered with **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**
- Completed **1:10,000 scale** high-resolution land and boundary mapping using satellite and drone technology

CBI Chatbot "Abhay"

- AI-powered chatbot launched by the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**
- Officially launched by **Supreme Court Justice Surya Kant**
- Empowers citizens to verify official legal notices; fights "**digital arrest**" scams and financial frauds

Mission Jagrook

- Launched by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** at **SEBI's 38th Foundation Day, Mumbai**
- Nationwide investor awareness and financial literacy initiative
- Protects investors from **fake apps/deepfakes**

RBI SAKSHAM Initiative (Mission Saksham / Sahakari Bank Kshamata Nirman)

- Launched by **RBI** for **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**

- Targets training **1,40,000** employees via physical and e-learning platforms
- Boosts operational efficiency of the **UCB** sector

RBI Harbinger Hackathon (4th Global Hackathon)

- Theme: "**Secure Banking Powered by Identity, Integrity, Inclusivity**"
- Three problem statements: tokenizing KYC, offline CBDC, enhancing trust in digital banking
- Winners: **EarthID** (tokenized KYC), **Team e-Sparsh** (offline CBDC), **Bank of Baroda's Team Nidaan** (trust for disabled customers)

Bharat Taxi App

- Launched by **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** in **Mumbai**
- Cooperative-led, **zero-commission** ride-hailing app
- Initially introduced in **Delhi**
- Operates under "**Saarathi hi Malik**" model; no subscription fees
- Provides drivers up to **₹5 lakh** in insurance

Agriculture & Food Schemes

National Beekeeping and Honey Mission

- Budget extended by **₹300 crore**
- MEP of **\$1,400 per metric ton** extended to **December 31, 2026**
- **95,380 tonnes** exported worth **\$176.56 million**

PM AASHA Expansion

- **Ministry of Consumer Affairs** enhanced operations
- Scaled up rice and grain procurement in **Chhattisgarh**; pulses and lentils in **Bihar**

Andhra Pradesh Mushroom Mission

- **₹1,000 crore** mission; annual production target: **67,000 tons**
- **₹518.4 crore** subsidy (**40%** of project cost)
- Aims to surpass **Bihar** as India's largest mushroom producer

Sugarcane Control Order 2026 (Draft)

- Proposed minimum distance between two sugar mills increased from **15 km to 25 km**
- States can increase but cannot reduce below **25 km**

Healthcare Schemes

Mission Poshan 2.0

- Originally launched: **2018** as **Poshan Abhiyaan**
- Operates via **14 lakh Anganwadi centers**
- Covers **9 crore beneficiaries** nationwide

Project Sanjeevani (Telangana)

- India's first fully integrated highway trauma care and rescue system

- Implemented on **251 km** stretch of **National Highway-44 (NH-44)** between **Hyderabad** and **Adilabad**

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- 5 Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** excellence awards presented at 'Chintan Shivir 2026', Pune

Skill Development & Employment Schemes

PM Internship Scheme (PMIS)

- Expanded by **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** and **Department of Education**
- Includes final-year graduates and post-graduates
- Age limit: **18–24 years**; stipend: **₹9,000**; financial assistance: **₹56,000** (two installments, one year)

SMILE Scheme (for Begging & Transgender)

- Budget: **₹390 crore** (2021–2026); launched **2022**
- Supports housing, healthcare, education, and skill development

MSME Schemes

- PM Employment Generation Program (2008)**
- Credit Guarantee Fund Trust**: collateral-free loans
- ZED Certification (2016)**
- SFURTI**: for traditional industries
- ASPIRE**: for rural entrepreneurship

GeM Womaniya Initiative

- Launched: **2019** to provide digital interface to boost women entrepreneurs' participation in public procurement on **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** (originally launched **2016**)

Infrastructure & Transport Schemes

PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana)

- Phase 3 extended (details above)
- Phase 4: **₹70,125 crore**; **62,500 km** of roads

UDAN Scheme

- Extended **10 years** to **FY 35/36** with **₹28,840 crore** outlay

Water Metro System

- Approved for **10-year duration (FY 26/27 to 36/37)**; outlay: **₹90 crore**

IBFRT Scheme

- Extended to **2031** with **₹1,800 crore** outlay

Kochi-Kanyakumari-Thoothukudi Natural Gas Pipeline

- IOCL** authorized to build and operate this **425 km** pipeline

Energy Schemes

Small Hydro Power Development Scheme

- ₹2,584.60 crore** allocated to add **1,500 MW** (2026-27 to 2030-31)
- Extended from **FY26/27** to **30/31**

- India's national potential: **21,133.61 MW** across **7,133 identified sites**; only **24.5%** (**5,171 MW**) utilized

Wind Generation Based Incentive (GBI) Scheme

- MNRE** allocated **₹500 crore capex** for this scheme

Aviation Turbine Fuel Blending

- Ethanol + synthetic hydrocarbons allowed in aviation fuel
- Targets: **1% by 2027**, **2% by 2028**, **5% by 2030**

Textile & Fashion Schemes

Vishwa Sutra (Weaves of India for the World)

- Developed by **DC Handloom** and **NIFT**; launched by **Ministry of Textiles** at **Femina Miss India 2026**
- Features **30** distinct weaves from **30** states
- Featured weaves: Odisha's **Ikata**, Tamil Nadu's **Kanjeevaram**, Gujarat's **Patola**, Assam's **Muga Silk**
- Operates on "**5F**" vision: Farm, Fibre, Factory, Fashion, and Foreign

National Technical Textile Mission

- 5-year** duration; outlay: **₹1,480 crore**

PM MITRA Parks

- Seven locations finalized: **Virudhunagar**, **Warangal**, **Navsari**, **Kalaburagi**, **Dhar**, **Lucknow**, **Amravati**
- ₹4,445 crore** for mega parks

SAMARTH Scheme

- ₹1,300 crore** for capacity building in textiles

ATUFS (Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme)

- ₹17,882 crore** for technology upgradation in textiles

Environment & Conservation Schemes

Arogya Van Initiative (NHAI)

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** launched initiative to plant **67,462 medicinal trees** across vacant lands

Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) – Odisha

- Under **Indo-Norway** initiative; **Odisha** signed MoU with **NCCR**
- Odisha** becomes the **first state** to adopt **MSP** in **second phase**
- First phase (2019): **Puducherry** and **Lakshadweep**

Biodiversity Conservation Project (2025–2030)

- Titled: "**Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitment**"
- Backed by **\$4.88 million** grant from **GEF** and **UNDP**
- Implemented in **Sathyamangalam Landscape (Tamil Nadu)** and **Garo Hills (Meghalaya)**

- Launched by MoEFCC and National Biodiversity Authority
- Targeted regions include Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Mudumalai, Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Balpakram National Park, Siju Wildlife Sanctuary

NMBA App 2.0 (Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan)

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment introduced updated centralized real-time monitoring portal
- Original launch: August 15, 2020

Gig Economy & Labour Schemes

Labor Ministry MoU with Porter & GigIndia

- Signed via National Career Service (NCS) portal for gig economy employment facilitation

VM Frames (Vande Mataram) Filmmaking Contest

- Launched by Ministry of Culture to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram
- Categories and prizes:
 - Instagram Reels: 1st prize ₹1.5 lakh
 - AI-based films: ₹5 lakh
 - Short Films: ₹15 lakh

15th Delhi International Film Festival

- Organized by Ministry of Culture; starting May 4
- Focus countries: China, Russia, and Africa

Para Udan Initiative

- Launched by Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) and the French Institute in India

India-Africa SPRINT Initiative

- Theme for 4th India-Africa Forum Summit: "India Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience and Inclusive Transformation"

SAARC Currency Swap Framework

- India provided ₹30 billion to Maldives under this framework

APEDA Facility

- APEDA investing ₹15 crore to set up Basmati and Organic Farming Training Center in Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh

Export Promotion Mission

- Cabinet approved ₹256 crore outlay
- Maximum interest subvention for one MSME: ₹3 lakh; RBI announced rate of 2.75%

Surya Bhumi / Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0

- Flagged off by CDS Anil Chauhan in Badrinath, Uttarakhand
- 113 km expedition across Char Dham corridor; promotes religious tourism

16. Science and Technology

Space Technology – ISRO & Indian Missions

- ISRO's Space Applications Centre (SAC) partnered with the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE):
 - To establish standardized protocols for critical ecosystem monitoring and sustainable land management
 - Formulated to support climate action and biodiversity conservation
- ISRO partnered with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (Gram Charitra Portal):
 - Completed 1:10,000 scale high-resolution land and boundary mapping using satellite and drone technology
- ISRO announced a G20 satellite mission for 2027 to study climate change, air pollution, and weather patterns
- Skyroot Aerospace (Telangana-based private rocket firm) flagged off the payload fairing of the "Vikram-1" rocket:
 - Named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai
 - Flagged off from Hyderabad to Sriharikota
 - Scheduled launch: June 2026; payload capacity: 350 kg to low Earth orbit (LEO)
 - Flagged off by Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy
- 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):
 - IIA established: 1971; campus in Koramangala, Bengaluru

Space Technology – NASA & International Missions

- NASA's four-person Artemis II crew safely splashed down in the Pacific Ocean off San Diego in the Orion capsule:
 - Crew: Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen
- USA unveiled the National Initiative for American Space Nuclear Power Policy:
 - Targeting deployment of low-to-mid power nuclear reactors in space orbit by 2028
 - On the Moon and Mars by 2030
- NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) announced that a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket will launch the 'Rosalind

Franklin' rover to **Mars** in **2028** to search for past and present signs of life

- **NASA** unveiled the "**Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope**":
 - A **\$4 billion** telescope deployed to map exoplanets and study dark matter/dark energy
- **Amazon** is acquiring **Globalstar** in an **\$11.57 billion** deal to bolster "**Project Kuiper**":
 - A **low Earth orbit (LEO)** satellite network designed to rival **SpaceX's Starlink**
- **Blue Origin** experienced a rocket failure during a mission that involved the **AST SpaceMobile** satellite

AI & Emerging Technologies

- **Meta** replaced its **LLaMA 4** AI model with a new model named "**Muse Spark**":
 - Designed for reasoning in math, science, and health
- **Google** introduced **Google Gemini** for **NEET**:
 - Providing an English-language **NEET UG** mock test
- **MEITY** constituted the **AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG)**:
 - Headed by **Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**; Vice-Chairperson: **Jitin Prasada**
 - **Technology and Policy Expert Committee** constituted to support this group
- **Bharat Generation Technology Foundation (Bharat Gen)** signed a **5-year MoU** with **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** to develop an indigenous **Large Language Model (LLM)**
- **Finance Ministry** and **Government of India** formed a panel to evaluate **AI cyber threats** to the banking sector:
 - Created in response to threats from advanced AI platform "**Anthropic Mythos**" (which can autonomously detect and exploit OS and website vulnerabilities)
 - Panel headed by **SBI Chairman C.S. Setty**
- **IIT Ropar (Punjab)** launched India's first fully integrated advanced **agriculture intelligence ecosystem** for smart farming
- **CBI** launched AI-powered chatbot "**Abhay**":
 - Officially launched by **Supreme Court Justice Surya Kant**

- Empowers citizens to verify official legal notices; fights "**digital arrest**" scams
- **MHA** received "**Prajna**" (**PRAZNA**):
 - AI-enabled satellite imaging system developed by **DRDO's Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) lab**
 - Handed over by **DRDO Chief Samir V Kamat**
- **NARIT AI (Narcotics Analysis RAG-based Investigation Tool)**:
 - Launched by **Gujarat Police**
 - India's **first AI tool** for narcotic investigations
- **N. Aleem Yusuf** (Kerala Botanist) developed "**Neophyte ID**":
 - AI-powered mobile app to detect invasive plant species in **Kerala**
 - Won **WWF National Award**
- **C-SAC (Cyber Security Audit Compliance)**:
 - **SEBI** rolled out as an **AI-driven** tool for analyzing cybersecurity audits and compliance gaps
- **IIT Madras** introduced "**Omega Ball**" – a fast-paced three-team football format:
 - Hosted India's first inter-college **OmegaBall** tournament
 - Popular in US and Europe; inspired by Denmark

Semiconductor & Advanced Manufacturing

- India's first advanced **3D glass chip packaging unit** established in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**:
 - By **Heterogeneous Integration Packaging Solutions Pvt Ltd / 3D Glass Solutions Ltd**
 - Investment: **₹1,943 crore**; inaugurated by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** and **Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi**
- **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MEITY)** notified a **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** covering **66.16 hectares** at **Dholera, Gujarat** for **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited)**
- Government pledged investment of **₹4,500 crore** to upgrade the **Mojali semiconductor laboratory**
- **Rocklink India Pvt Ltd** opened India's first integrated lithium-ion battery and rare earth magnet recycling factory in **Sikandrabad, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh**:

- Uses **98% metal recovery "R2" process**
- Capacity: **10,000 tonnes/year** for Li-ion; **60 tonnes/month** for magnets
- Bringing "**Maxal**" reverse logistics model from Europe
- **Himadri Speciality Chemical** commissioned India's first **anode material plant** targeting the lithium-ion battery market (West Bengal)
- **Eveready** commissioned India's first **alkaline battery manufacturing facility** in **Jammu/Samba**:
 - India's very first alkaline battery unit
- **Eveready Industries** opened India's only operating **alkaline battery manufacturing plant** in **Samba, Jammu & Kashmir**

Quantum Technology

- **Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility** in **Amaravati** on **World Quantum Day (April 14)**
- **World Quantum Day Theme: "Shaping the quantum workforce"**
- **UAE** launched the world's first commercial upper **6 GHz** internet network on the "**Golden Spectrum**" (**6425–7125 MHz band**) during the **SAMENA Council Leaders' Summit**

Meteorology & Weather Technology

- **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune** successfully inaugurated a **Mission Mausam Radar**:
 - **X-band dual-polarization Doppler weather radar (9.45 GHz)**
 - Situated at a high-altitude laboratory in **Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra (1,400m elevation)**
 - Designed to detect **Konkan rainfall patterns**

Defence Technology

- **DRDO** unveiled advanced **tracked and wheeled armored platforms** at the **Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (VRDE)** in **Ahmednagar/Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra**
- **Indian Navy and DRDO** successfully tested the **Air Dropable Container (ADC-150)**:
 - Dropped via parachutes from US-origin **P-8I Boeing** aircraft
 - Tested off the **Goa coast**
- **Indian Air Force (IAF) and GE Aerospace (USA)** announced a contract to establish **in-country Depot facilities** for **F404-IN20 engines**

- **Ministry of Defense** signed a **₹975 crore** contract with **BEML** and **EHP** for **TRAWL assembly line** developed by **DRDO** for **T-72** and **T-90** tanks
- **Pakistan** successfully test-fired the indigenous **Taimur** air-launched **anti-ship cruise missile**
- **Leonardo** (defence firm) unveiled an **AI-powered air defense system** for **Europe** named the **Michelangelo Dome**

Digital Payments & Fintech Technology

- **UPI** originally launched on **April 11, 2016** by **NPCI**; scaled from **1.78 crore** to **21,900 crore** transactions over a decade
- **PhonePe** became the first UPI app to cross **10 billion** monthly transactions (**10.5 billion** in March 2026)
- **Paytm** implemented **Face ID** and fingerprints for transactions without needing a **UPI PIN**:
 - Enabled **cardless ATM QR** withdrawals up to **₹10,000 per transaction**
 - Maximum PIN-less UPI limit: **₹5,000 per transaction** (NPCI rules); biometric data processed locally
- **PayPoint India** became the first **NBFC/fintech** to join the **RBI's Centralised Payment System (NEFT and RTGS)**
- **CheQ** and **AU Small Finance Bank** launched India's **first co-branded LED-powered credit card**:
 - Glows via **NFC energy** from POS terminals; contains no internal battery; battery-free
- **Razorpay** partnered with **Sam Altman's OpenAI** to enable instant **embedded payments** in AI applications
- **NPCI** partnered with **TransUnion CIBIL** to allow users to check credit scores directly on **BHIM**
- **FedEx** partnered with **IIT Madras' SMART Centre** for India's **first intra-city drone delivery**:
 - From **Electronic City** to **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru**
- **Karnataka Bank** partnered with **Pine Labs** for advanced **Point of Sale (POS)** solutions
- **Bank of Baroda** introduced **Indian Sign Language (ISL)** support via video calls

Telecom Technology

- **UAE** launched world's first commercial upper **6 GHz** internet network ("**Golden Spectrum**", **6425–7125 MHz band**) during **SAMENA Council Leaders' Summit**

- **TDIP (Telecom Technology Development and Investment Promotion) Scheme:**
 - Outlay: ₹203 crore (2026–2031)
 - Targets: **10% of global 6G patents by 2030**
 - Launched by **Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia**
- **Samridh Gram Initiative:** delivers integrated "**phygital**" services to rural areas via **FTTH broadband** and public Wi-Fi; established '**Samridhi Kendras**'

Medical & Biotechnology

- **Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI)** in **Bengaluru** received **ISO 15189 accreditation** for its clinical laboratory (biochemistry and hematology)
- **CARI** is overseen by **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)**; HQ **New Delhi**; Director General: **Prof. Vaidya Rabinarayan Acharya**
- **Herbalife India** and **IIT Madras** signed an MoU to establish India's **first Center of Excellence on plant cell fermentation technology** at the **IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai**
- **Telangana** declared cancer a "**notifiable disease**": mandatory reporting within **one month**
- **FSSAI** banned the use of **Ashwagandha leaves** in supplements (mandating only roots be used):
 - **FSSAI:** established **2008**; HQ **New Delhi**; under **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**; Chairperson: **Punya Salila Srivastava**; CEO: **Rajit Punhani**
- **WHO** approved the first drug (artemether + lumefantrine) for infants under **5 kg** for malaria treatment
- **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences** identified that the **Jamun** fruit originated in India around **55 million years ago**

Conservation Technology

- **Calamaria garonensis:** new species of burrowing reed snake scientifically found in **Meghalaya**
- A **female melanistic leopard (Black Panther)** translocated from **Assam** to **Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh)** – first such translocation after **40 years**
- **Bannerghatta Biological Park, Karnataka** received **four cheetahs** from **South Africa** – first time imported cheetahs housed outside **Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park**

Data Center & Cloud Technology

- **Google AI Data Center** foundation stone laid in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh:**
 - **\$15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore)** investment; **1 GW AI Data Center**; among largest in Asia
 - To be completed by **AdaniConneX** and **Airtel Nxtra** by **September 2028**
- **UAE** launched the world's first **Sovereign Financial Cloud** in partnership with **Core 42**
- India's total **data center market** projected to reach **\$22 billion by 2030**

Heritage & Archaeological Technology

- **ASI** and **IIT Madras** collaboration: safely removing sand from the **Konark Sun Temple's Jagamohan** (assembly hall) – sand filled by British engineers between **1901 and 1903**

Energy Technology

- **Maharashtra** signed pact for a **2 GW floating solar plant** on **Ujani Dam** (built on **Bhima River / Yashwant Sagar Dam**)
- India's **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** target: increase nuclear power capacity from **8.8 GW to 100 GW by 2047**
- **Aviation Turbine Fuel Blending** officially allowed (ethanol + synthetic hydrocarbons):
 - Targets: **1% by 2027, 2% by 2028, 5% by 2030**

Transport & Infrastructure Technology

- **Riyadh Metro** recognized as the **world's longest driverless metro network**
- **Gujarat Police** launched **NARIT AI** – India's first AI tool for narcotic investigations
- **GSRTC** introduced **QR-based passenger feedback system** inside buses
- **IIT Ropar (Punjab)** launched India's first fully integrated advanced agriculture intelligence ecosystem

Key Technology Firsts in India

- India's **first border village community radio station: Radio Sikkim Sunduri (88.4 FM)** by Indian Army's Trishakti Corps in **East Sikkim**
- India's **first water-neutral railway depot: Kankariya Coaching Depot, Ahmedabad**
- India's **first intra-city drone delivery: FedEx** and **IIT Madras** from **Electronic City to Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru**
- India's **first alkaline battery manufacturing facility: Eveready** in **Jammu/Samba**

- India's first co-branded LED-powered credit card: CheQ and AU Small Finance Bank
- India's first AI tool for narcotic investigations: NARIT AI by Gujarat Police
- India's first integrated lithium-ion battery and rare earth magnet recycling factory: Rocklink India in Sikandrabad, Bulandshahr, UP
- India's first anode material plant for lithium-ion batteries: Himadri Speciality Chemical (West Bengal)
- India's first petroglyph conservation park: inaugurated at Sindhu Ghat, Leh on World Heritage Day (April 18)
- India's first 3D glass semiconductor packaging unit: 3D Glass Solutions Ltd in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- India's first Center of Excellence on plant cell fermentation technology: Herbalife India and IIT Madras at IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai
- India's first fully integrated advanced agriculture intelligence ecosystem: IIT Ropar (Punjab)
- World's first Sovereign Financial Cloud: UAE in partnership with Core 42
- World's first commercial upper 6 GHz internet network: UAE on "Golden Spectrum"

17. Sports

Chess

FIDE Women's Candidates 2026

- **R Vaishali** (India) won the **FIDE Women's Candidates 2026** tournament held in Cyprus
- Became the **first Indian woman** to win the FIDE tournament
- Scored **8.5/14 points**; defeated Russia's **Kateryna Lagno**
- Successfully qualified for the **World Championship** to challenge China's **Ju Wenjun**
- **Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov** won the open section of the same tournament

FIDE World Rapid Under-12 Girls Championship

- **A.S. Sharvaanica** (India) won the **FIDE World Rapid Under-12 Girls Championship** held in Serbia

India's 95th Chess Grandmaster

- **Aranyak Ghosh** (from **Kolkata, West Bengal**) became India's **95th Chess Grandmaster**

Youngest Indian International Master

- **Aaradhya Kapil** (age: **10 years and 7 months**) became the **youngest Indian chess player** to secure an **International Master norm**
- Achieved after drawing against Australia's **Samuel Asaka** in **Spain**

Chess Joins World Games

- **International Chess Federation (FIDE)** officially joined the **International World Games Association (IWGA)**
- Inducted as the **40th member** during an annual meeting held in **Lausanne, Switzerland**

Cricket

Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2025 (163rd Edition)

- Indians dominated, securing **7 of 9** honors:
 - **Deepti Sharma** – **Leading Women's Cricketer of the Year**
 - **Abhishek Sharma** – **Leading T20 Cricketer of the Year**
 - **Shubman Gill** – **Wisden Trophy** (for scoring over **430 runs**)
 - **Mitchell Starc** (Australia) – **Leading Men's Cricketer**
 - Others recognized: **Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, Mohammed Siraj, England's Haseeb Hameed**

ICC Player of the Month (March 2026)

- **Men's Award: Sanju Samson**
- **Women's Award: Amelia Kerr** (New Zealand)

BCCI Appointments & Contracts

- **Ajit Agarkar's** contract as **Chief Selector of BCCI Senior Selection Committee** renewed for another year
- Targeting the **2027 ODI World Cup** hosted by **South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe**
- **Jay Shah** (BCCI Secretary) included in **WEF's "Young Global Leaders Class of 2026"**
- Recognized for getting **cricket included in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics**

Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)

- Became the **first state association** to launch an annual **player contract system** for domestic cricket players (not representing India internationally or playing in IPL)
- Grades:
 - **Grade A: ₹12–15 lakh**
 - **Grade B: ₹8–12 lakh**
 - **Grade C: ₹8 lakh**

IPL Milestone

- **Virat Kohli** became the **first player in IPL history** to reach **800 boundaries**

BCCI Cricket Academies in Northeast India

- **PM Modi** inaugurated **6 state-of-the-art BCCI Cricket Academies** in:
 - **Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland**

Suzie Bates Retirement

- **New Zealand cricketer Suzie Bates** announced retirement post **T20 World Cup**
- Holds records for the most **Women's ODI** and **T20I** appearances across a **20-year career**

CD Gopinath – Obituary

- Former **Indian cricketer**; last surviving member of the team that secured **India's first test victory against England in 1952**; passed away

Tennis

Monte Carlo Masters 2026

- **Jannik Sinner** (Italy) secured the **Men's Singles title** at the **Monte Carlo Masters 2026**

Carlos Alcaraz – Recognition

- **World No. 1 tennis player** (Spain)
- Won **Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2026** (held in **Madrid, Spain**)
- Secured the **Monte Carlo Masters 2026** (also cited, though **Sinner** won; **Alcaraz** recognition was for **Laureus**)
- Appointed as **global brand ambassador for Infosys** (promoting AI platform '**Topaz**')

French Open (Roland Garros) 2026

- Total prize pool being increased by **9.5%** to reach **61.7 million Euros**

Viktor Axelsen Retirement

- **Danish badminton player** (age **32**)
- Announced retirement from international sports due to a **back injury**
- Held world **No. 1 spot** for **183 weeks**
- Won **Olympic golds** in **Tokyo** and **Paris**; **bronze** in **Rio**

Badminton

43rd Badminton Asia Championship

- Held in **Ningbo, China**
- **South Korea** won the championship
- **India** finished **5th**; highlighted by **Ayush Shetty** winning **silver**

Viktor Axelsen Retirement

- **Danish badminton player** officially retired (details above under **Tennis**)

Rubel Hossain Retirement

- **Bangladesh pacer Rubel Hossain** officially announced retirement from international sports

PV Sindhu – BWF Appointment

- **P.V. Sindhu** elected as a **voting member** and appointed **Chairperson of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athlete Commission**

Sports Authority of India (SAI)

- Sanctioned **₹1.45 crore** for the **Indian badminton contingent**

Shooting

ISSF World Cup 2026 – Granada, Spain

- **Palak Gulia** and **Mukesh Nelavalli** (India) won gold in the **10m Air Pistol mixed team** event
- Set a **junior category world record**
- **China's Wang Zifi** won gold in the women's **10m air rifle** event
- India's **Sonam Maskar** finished **5th** in the women's **10m air rifle** event

ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 – Cairo, Egypt

- India topped the medal tally with **16 medals (5 Gold, 6 Silver, 5 Bronze)**
- **Neutral athletes** won **11**; **France** won **3**
- **Oleg Noskov** set a record winning gold in the men's **50m rifle 3 positions** event
- Hosted by the **Germany-headquartered ISSF**

Para Sports – Governance Transfer

- **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** transferred governance of **shooting para sports** to the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)**
- **PCI** and the **French Institute in India** launched the "**Para Udan Initiative**"

Hockey

16th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women National Championship 2026

- **Hockey Jharkhand** won the championship for the **third consecutive year (2024, 2025, 2026)**
- Held in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**

Football

FIFA Women's Development Program

- **India** was named as one of **12 countries globally selected by FIFA** for a special development program running from **May to October**
- India is set to host the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship 2026** in **Margao, Goa** (at **PJN Stadium / Fatorda**)
- Government announced a **3-year Intellectual Property (IP)** registration fee waiver for the sports sector (covering trademark, copyright, patent registrations for sports logos, jerseys, game footage)

- **IIT Madras** introduced "**Omega Ball**" – a fast-paced **three-team, three-goal** sport:
 - Hosted India's first inter-college **OmegaBall** tournament
 - Popular in US and Europe; inspired by **Denmark**

ISSF Junior World Cup

- Started in **Cairo, Egypt**
- Hosted by **Germany-headquartered ISSF**
- India topped medal tally (**16 medals**)

World Para Athletics Championship 2027

- **13th edition** will be hosted in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan** in **June 2027**

Marathon

London Marathon 2026 – Historic Record

- **Sebastian Sawe** (Kenya) became the **first man in history** to officially finish a marathon in **under two hours**:
 - Time: **1 hour, 59 minutes, and 30 seconds**
- **Tigst Assefa** (Ethiopia) set a **women-only world record** of **2:15:41** at the same event

Squash

HCL Squash PSA Challenger Tour – Chennai

- **Men's Singles: Suraj Kumar Chand** (India) won by defeating **South Korea's Jing Men Rio**
- **Women's Singles: Egypt's Rukaiya Othman** won against **Malaysia's Harleen Tan**
- **Squash** will make its official **Olympic debut** at **Los Angeles 2028**

Olympics & Multi-Sport Events

- **Cricket** included in the **2028 Los Angeles Olympics**
- **FIDE** joined the **International World Games Association (IWGA)** as the **40th member** (meeting in **Lausanne, Switzerland**)
- **Squash** will make its **Olympic debut** at **LA 2028**
- India ranked **8th** in its debut at **World Skills Asia 2025**
- **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** and **ISSF** signed agreement to shift governance of shooting para sports

Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 – Madrid, Spain

- **Sportsman of the Year: Carlos Alcaraz** (Spain, Tennis)
- **Sportswoman of the Year: Aryna Sabalenka** (Belarus, Tennis)
- **Team of the Year: Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)** (Indian Women's Cricket team nominated but did not win)
- **Breakthrough: Lando Norris** (F1)

- **Comeback: Rory McIlroy** (Golf)
- **Disability: Gabriel Araujo** (Swimming)
- **Action Sport: Chloe Kim** (Snowboarding)
- **Young Sportsperson: Lamine Yamal** (Football)
- **Inspiration: Toni Kroos** (Football)
- **Lifetime Achievement: Nadia Comăneci** (Gymnastics)
- **Sport for Good: Fútbol Más** (Chile NGO)

Sports Governance & Administration

- **International Chess Federation (FIDE)** joined the **IWGA** as **40th member**
- **IPC** transferred governance of **shooting para sports** to **ISSF**
- **P.V. Sindhu** appointed **Chairperson of BWF Athlete Commission**
- **Ajit Agarkar** reappointed as **BCCI Chief Selector** for one year
- **SAI** sanctioned **₹1.45 crore** for Indian badminton contingent
- Government announced **3-year IP registration fee waiver** for sports sector

Sports IP & Governance Policy

- Indian government announced a **3-year Intellectual Property (IP) registration fee waiver** for the sports sector:
 - Covers trademark, copyright, or patent registrations for sports logos, jerseys, game footage, and unique footwear

Obituaries – Sports Personalities

- **CD Gopinath**: Former Indian cricketer; last surviving member of India's first test win against England (**1952**); passed away
- **Colonel Sonam Wangchuk**: Decorated Indian Army officer; **Maha Vir Chakra** awardee (**1999 Kargil War**); termed "**Land of Ladakh**"; passed away
- **Jose Emilio Santamaria**: Legendary Uruguayan football defender for **Real Madrid**; **four-time European Cup winner** in the **1950s–60s**; passed away
- **Gurbux Singh Grewal**: **1968 Olympic bronze medalist in hockey**; passed away at **84**
- **Oscar Schmidt**: **68-year-old Brazilian basketball legend**; five-time Olympian; known as "**Holy Hand**"; passed away
- **N. Ramachandran**: Highly respected official; passed away at **77** in **Chennai**
- **Vijay Kumar** (Golfer): Veteran Indian golfer; passed away at **57**; won the **2002 Indian Open**; four-time Order of Merit champion
- **Dean Tavoularis**: Oscar-winning production designer; passed away

18. Static News

India – Constitutional & Administrative Facts

- India currently has **28 states** and **8 Union Territories**
- **Lok Sabha:** Lower House / Popular House; maximum constitutional strength **550** (530 states, 20 Union Territories); currently stands at **543**
- **Rajya Sabha:** Upper House; **Deputy Chairman: Harivansh Narayan Singh** (third consecutive term)
- **131st Constitutional Amendment Bill:** requires special **two-thirds majority** (360 votes / 352 out of 528 present MPs)
- **Article 14:** Equality before law
- **Article 15:** No discrimination based on sex
- **Article 19(1)(a):** Freedom of speech and expression
- **Article 21:** Right to life and dignity (includes **Right to Safe Road Travel** per Supreme Court ruling)
- **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992:** became effective on **April 24, 1993** (National Panchayati Raj Day)
- **National Panchayati Raj Day:** observed on **April 24**; first celebrated in **2006**
- India's first modern census conducted under **Lord Mayo (1865–72)**
- **Champaran Satyagraha: 108th anniversary** on **April 10 (1917)**
- **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre: 107th anniversary** on **April 13 (1919)**; British troops fired on peaceful crowd protesting the **Rowlatt Act**; nearly **379 people** killed
- **Operation Meghdoot (1984):** Indian Army's presence at **Siachen Glacier**; **42nd anniversary** marked on **April 13** (Siachen Day)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – Static Facts

- **Established:** **April 1, 1935** (Hilton Young Commission)
- **Nationalized:** **January 1, 1949**
- **26th Governor:** **Sanjay Malhotra**
- **Four Deputy Governors:** **T. Rabi Sankar, Swaminathan Janakiraman, Punam Gupta, and Srijish Chandra Murmu**
- **Terms:** **3–5 years** or up to age **62**
- **Payment Banks:** require minimum capital of **₹100 crore**; can accept demand deposits up to **₹2 lakh**; cannot issue loans or accept term/fixed deposits; must maintain **CRR**; invest **75%** in government securities; FDI capped at **74%**
- **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs):** **8-year** maturity; premature withdrawal after **5**

years; redemption prices fixed by **RBI** based on **IBJA** gold price data

- **CIBIL scores:** range from **300 to 900**; Above **750** (Excellent), **700–749** (Good), **650–699** (Fair), **600–649** (Doubtful), below **600** (Poor)
- **Four major credit information companies:** **TransUnion CIBIL, CRIF High Mark, Experian, Equifax**
- **DICGC:** Deposit Insurance protection up to **₹5 lakh** per depositor
- **Basel III:** Unrated corporate exposures up to **₹500 crore: 150% risk weight**; short-term: **50%**; long-term: **100%**

Banking – Static Facts

State Bank of India (SBI)

- Current market share: **22%** in deposits; **20%** in advances; serving **53 crore customers**
- Balance sheet: **₹71.62 lakh crore** (deposits: **₹57 lakh crore**; advances: **₹46 lakh crore**) as of **Dec 2025**
- Currently ranked **27th globally**; aims to enter global **top 10** by **2030**
- Strategy: "**ABCD**" – Acquire, Build, Convert, and Deepen

Bank of Baroda (BoB)

- Formed: **1908**; HQ: **Vadodara**
- Merged with **Dena Bank & Vijaya Bank** on **April 1, 2019**
- MD & CEO: **Devadatta Chand** (extended till **July 2029**)

Karnataka Bank

- Founded: **1924**; HQ: **Bengaluru**
- MD: **Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma**
- Tagline: "**Your Family Bank Across India**"

Catholic Syrian Bank (CSB Bank)

- Founded: **1920**; HQ: **Thrissur, Kerala**

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)

- Founded: **September 1, 1956**; HQ: **Mumbai**
- CEO & MD: **R. Doraiswamy**

Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)

- MD & CEO: **B. Ramesh Babu** (reappointed third term till **July 2028**)

SEBI – Static Facts

- **SEBI's 38th Foundation Day:** observed on **April 25**
- **Social Stock Exchange (SSE):** NPO registration validity extended from **2 years** to **3 years**

IRDAI – Static Facts

- Insurance sector FDI limit raised to **100%**
- National target: "**Insurance for All by 2047**"
- India: **10th largest** insurance market globally (Swiss Re report)

IMF – Static Facts

- **190 member countries** (Andorra the **190th**)
- **Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva**
- **HQ: Washington D.C., USA**
- Also: **World Bank HQ: Washington D.C., USA**

World Economic Forum (WEF) – Static Facts

- **HQ: Switzerland**

International Organizations – Static Facts

United Nations (UN)

- **Six official languages:** Arabic, Chinese (added **1945**), English, French, Russian, Spanish
- **Two working languages:** English and French
- **UN ECOSOC:** India elected to multiple bodies (Commission on Science and Tech 2027–30; Committee on NGOs 2027–30; Program and Coordination 2027–29)

European Union (EU)

- **27 member states**
- **Cyprus holds the EU Council Presidency** (current)
- **Ursula von der Leyen:** President of the **EU Commission**
- **Antonio Costa:** President of the **EU Council**

African Union (AU)

- **55 countries;** HQ: **Addis Ababa**

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- **Belarus** became the **10th member** in **2024**
- **2026 SCO Heads of State Summit:** **Kyrgyzstan**
- **2027 SCO Summit:** **Islamabad, Pakistan**

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

- India secured re-election to **IMO council (2026–27)** with highest **Category B** votes

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- **190 member countries;** MD: **Kristalina Georgieva**

OPEC

- **UAE** withdrew from **OPEC** and **OPEC+** effective **May 1** (after six decades)

FIDE (International Chess Federation)

- Joined the **International World Games Association (IWGA)** as **40th member**
- Meeting held in **Lausanne, Switzerland**

FATF

- **Kuwait** and **Papua New Guinea** added to **FATF Grey List**

India's Railway History – Static Facts

- **First Indian passenger train:** ran on **April 16, 1853**
- Covered **34 km** from **Bori Bunder (Mumbai)** to **Thane**

- **173rd anniversary** celebrated on **April 16;** commemorated by **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**

India's Renewable Energy – Static Facts

- India's **2030 goal:** **500 GW** of non-fossil capacity (**COP26**)
- India **3rd globally** in installed renewable capacity (behind **China** and **USA**)
- India **4th globally** in wind turbines (after **China, US, Germany**)
- **Nuclear power capacity:** currently **8.8 GW;** target **100 GW by 2047**

UPI – Static Facts

- Originally launched: **April 11, 2016** by **NPCI**
- Transactions scaled from **1.78 crore** to **21,900 crore** over a decade
- Total transaction value: from **₹6,952 crore** to **₹308 lakh crore**
- **Worldline Report 2025:** UPI handled **228.5 billion transactions** in **2025** (**33% YoY increase**)

NITI Aayog – Static Facts

- Formed: **January 1, 2015;** HQ: **New Delhi**
- **Chairperson:** **PM Narendra Modi**
- **Vice Chairman:** **Dr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri** (newly appointed, replacing **Suman K. Bery**)
- **CEO:** **Nidhi Chhibber** (interim)

FICCI – Static Facts

- Established: **1927;** HQ: **New Delhi**
- **Secretary-General:** **Anant Swarup** (newly appointed)

NASSCOM – Static Facts

- **Chairperson:** **Srikanth Velamakanni** (for 2026-27 term)
- **Vice Chairperson:** **Kishore Patil**

FSSAI – Static Facts

- Established: **2008;** HQ: **New Delhi**
- Under: **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- **Chairperson:** **Punya Salila Srivastava**
- **CEO:** **Rajit Punhani**
- Banned use of **Ashwagandha** leaves in supplements (only roots permitted)

Small Saving Schemes – Interest Rates (Static)

- **Senior Citizen Savings Scheme & Sukanya Samridhi Yojana:** **8.2%**
- **National Savings Certificate:** **7.7%**
- **Kisan Vikas Patra:** **7.5%** (doubles in **115 months**)
- **Public Provident Fund (PPF):** **7.1%**

MSME Classification – Static Facts

- **Micro:** Investment up to **₹2.5 crore;** Turnover **₹10 crore**

- **Small:** Investment ₹25 crore; Turnover ₹100 crore
- **Medium:** Investment ₹125 crore; Turnover ₹500 crore

Exim Bank – Static Facts

- Established: **Mumbai, 1982**
- **CMD: Harsha Bangari**

Australia – Static Facts

- **Capital:** Canberra; **Prime Minister:** Anthony Albanese
- Defence groups: **AUKUS / QUAD**
- Joint exercises with India: **AUSINDEX** and **AUSTRA HIND**
- Female participation in **ADF: 21%**; target **25% by 2030**

Austria – Static Facts

- **Capital: Vienna**; not a **NATO** member; central European nation
- First visit by an Austrian Chancellor in India in **40 years (Christian Stocker)**

South Asian Countries Memory Trick

- **"BAN BIM":** Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Bhutan – Static Facts

- **Punatsangchu-I Hydro Power Project:** 1,200 MW project located in **Bhutan**
- India accounts for **~80%** of **Bhutan's** total trade
- Trade via **10 notified land custom stations (6 in West Bengal, 4 in Assam)**
- **Project Dantak:** established **1961**; focuses on road infrastructure in **Bhutan**

Important Days – April (Static Reference)

- **April 10:** 108th anniversary of the **Champaran Satyagraha (1917)**
- **April 12:** **International Day of Human Space Flight** (marking the dawn of the space age); **International Day for Street Children** (Theme: "Protect Not Punish")
- **April 13:** **Siachen Day** (42nd anniversary of **Operation Meghdoot, 1984**); **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Anniversary** (107th anniversary, **1919**)
- **April 14:** **Solar New Year (Mesh Sankranti)** – sun's entry into **Aries**; **National Fire Service Day** (honors firefighters from **1944 Bombay Dock explosion**); **World Quantum Day** (Theme: "Shaping the quantum workforce"); **World Chagas Disease Day** (caused by **T. cruzi** parasite; Theme: "Women at the heart protecting the next generation from Chagas disease")
- **April 14–20:** **Fire Service Week** (Theme: "Safe School, Safe Hospital, Fire Safety

Aware Society – Together for Fire Prevention")

- **April 15:** **International Wellness Day; World Art Day** (Theme: "A garden of expression: cultivating community through art")
- **April 16:** **World Voice Day** (Theme: "Caring for our vision"); **173rd Anniversary of Indian Railways**
- **April 17:** **World Hemophilia Day (2026)** Theme: "**Diagnosis: First Step to Care**"; established **1989** by **World Federation of Hemophilia** honoring founder **Frank Schnabel**
- **April 18:** **World Heritage Day** (International Day for Monuments and Sites); initiated by **ICOMOS** in **1982**; 2026 Theme: "**Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Context of Conflicts and Disasters**"
- **April 19:** **World Liver Day** (Theme: "Solid Habit, Strong Liver")
- **April 20:** **UN Chinese Language Day** (honors **Cangjie**; 2026 Theme: "**Chinese Language: Shining Civilizations and Fluent Futures Forum**")
- **April 21:** **World Creativity and Innovation Day** (Theme: "Harnessing Creativity for Global Progress"); **National Civil Service Day** (Theme: "**Viksit Bharat – Citizen Centric Governance and Development at the Last Mile**"); first celebrated in **2006**; **International Day of Women in Industry** (first-ever observance; Theme: "Celebrating women's leadership in industrial development")
- **April 22:** **World Earth Day / International Mother Earth Day** (Theme: "**Our Planet, Our Power**" / "**One Power, Our Planet**"); **Administrative Professionals Day** (part of **Administrative Professionals Week, April 19–25**)
- **April 23:** **World Book and Copyright Day** (established by **UNESCO** in **1995**; commemorates **1616** death anniversaries of **William Shakespeare** and **Miguel de Cervantes**; **World Book Capital 2026: Rabat, Morocco**); **UN English Language Day**; **UN Spanish Language Day**; **International Girls in ICT Day** (Theme: "**AI for Development: Girls Shaping the Digital Future**")
- **April 24:** **National Panchayati Raj Day** (73rd Constitutional Amendment Act; effective **April 24, 1993**; Theme: "**Empowered Panchayats, Comprehensive**

Development"); World Day for Laboratory Animals (Lab Animal Week: April 20–26); International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace; BRO Project Dantak 66th Raising Day

- **April 25: World Malaria Day** (established 2007 by WHO; malaria caused by female Anopheles mosquito transferring Plasmodium parasite; 2026 Theme: "Driven to end malaria now, we can, now we must"; India's national goal: zero indigenous cases by 2027; complete elimination by 2030); **World Immunization Week** (April 24–30; WHO; Theme: "For Every Generation, Vaccine Works"); **World Penguin Day** (Theme: "Save the Penguins"); **International Delegate Day**; **SEBI's 38th Foundation Day**
- **April 26: World Intellectual Property Day** (established by WIPO in 2000; 2026 Theme: "IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate"); **International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day** (40th anniversary of 1986 disaster)
- **April 27: World Design Day / International Design Day** (2026 Theme: "The spaces in between"; originally World Graphics Day in 1995); **World Tapir Day**
- **April 28: World Day for Safety and Health at Work** (promoted by ILO; Theme: "Let's ensure a healthy psychosocial working environment"); **International Day in Memory of Victims of Earthquakes** (April 29 also cited)
- **April 29: International Dance Day** (marks birthday of modern ballet creator Jean-Georges Noverre)
- **April 30: International Jazz Day** (initiated by UNESCO in 2011; 2026 marks 15th anniversary; global host: Chicago); **Ayushman Bharat Diwas**
- **Fourth Thursday of April: International Girls in ICT Day**

UNESCO Heritage Sites – Static Facts

- 1,248 UNESCO heritage sites worldwide
- Led by Italy (59) and China (57)
- India ranks 6th globally with 44 sites (36 Cultural, 7 Natural, 1 Mixed)
- India's first heritage sites designated in 1983: Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, Taj Mahal
- World Heritage Day initiated by ICOMOS in 1982

India's Ramsar Sites – Static Facts

- India has 99 Ramsar sites (highest in Asia; 3rd highest globally after UK and Mexico)

- UP hosts 12 Ramsar sites (2nd highest); Tamil Nadu has 20 sites (highest)
- Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in Aligarh, UP: India's 99th Ramsar site (April 22, 2026)
- Recent 2026 additions: Patna Bird Sanctuary (UP) and Chhari-Dhand Wetland Conservation Reserve (Gujarat)

India's Protected Areas & Eco-Sensitive Zones

- India currently has 496 protected areas
- 353 notified Eco-Sensitive Zones

India's Top 3 Largest Zoos

1. Arignar Anna (Vandalur, Chennai)
2. Nandankanan (Bhubaneswar)
3. Indira Gandhi (Visakhapatnam)

India – Key Economic Indicators (Static Reference)

- **WPI Base Year: 2011-2012**; measures goods using 697 articles
- **CPI Base Year: 2024** (updated); 358 basket items; food/beverage weight: 36.75%; travel weight: 17%
- **GDP Base Year: revised to 2022–23 from 2011–12**
- **India's inflation target: 4% ± 2% tolerance band**
- India is the largest recipient of remittances globally (estimated \$137 billion in 2024)
- India is 6th largest economy globally
- India is top destination for greenfield FDI in Asia-Pacific
- **WIPO: India ranks 6th globally in patent filings; top four: USA, Japan, South Korea, China**

India's Insurance Sector – Static Facts

- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY): ₹2 lakh cover; premium ₹436; ages 18–50; 26.88 crore enrollments**
- **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY): ₹2 lakh cover; premium ₹20; ages 18–70**
- India: 10th largest insurance market globally

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) – Static Facts

- Launched: May 9, 2015 (operational June 1, 2015)
- Regulated by PFRDA
- Eligible: Indian citizens aged 18–40
- Monthly pension at 60: ₹1,000–₹5,000
- Income taxpayers barred since October 1, 2022
- Female participation: 48%

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana – Static Facts

- Launched: January 22, 2015
- Deposits for 15 years; matures at 21 years

- Interest rate: **8.2%**

MSME Schemes – Static Reference

- **PM Employment Generation Program: 2008**
- **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust:** collateral-free loans
- **ZED Certification: 2016**
- **SFURTI:** traditional industries
- **ASPIRE:** rural entrepreneurship

Goldman Environmental Prize – Static Facts

- Established: **1989**; prize: **\$200,000**
- First Indian recipient: **Medha Patkar (1992)** for saving the **Narmada River**
- Often referred to as the "**Green Nobel Prize**"

World Book and Copyright Day – Static Facts

- Established by **UNESCO** in **1995**
- Commemorates **1616** death anniversaries of **William Shakespeare** and **Miguel de Cervantes**
- **World Book Capital 2026: Rabat, Morocco**

World Malaria Day – Static Facts

- Established: **2007** by **World Health Assembly**
- Malaria caused by female **Anopheles** mosquito transferring **Plasmodium** parasite
- India's national goal: zero indigenous cases by **2027**; complete elimination by **2030**

World Hemophilia Day – Static Facts

- Established: **1989** by **World Federation of Hemophilia**
- Honors founder **Frank Schnabel**
- Observed: **April 17**

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Promotes **World Day for Safety and Health at Work** (April 28)

ICOMOS

- Initiated **World Heritage Day** in **1982**

India's Space Missions – Static Reference

- **ISRO** established **1969**; **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA):** established **1971**, campus in **Koramangala, Bengaluru**
- **Skyroot Aerospace:** India's private rocket firm; **Vikram-1** named after **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai**

Jallianwala Bagh – Static Facts

- Massacre occurred in **1919**; **107th anniversary** in 2026
- British troops fired on peaceful crowd protesting the **Rowlatt Act**
- Nearly **379 people** killed

National Fire Service Day – Static Facts

- Observed: **April 14**
- Honors firefighters who lost lives in the **1944 Bombay Dock explosion**

- **Fire Service Week: April 14–20**

World Quantum Day – Static Facts

- Observed: **April 14**
- Theme 2026: "**Shaping the quantum workforce**"

International Jazz Day – Static Facts

- Initiated by **UNESCO** in **2011**
- **2026: 15th anniversary**; global host: **Chicago**

National Civil Services Day – Static Facts

- Observed: **April 21**
- First celebrated in **2006**

Key Defence Static Facts

Project Dantak

- Established: **1961**
- Focuses on road infrastructure in **Bhutan**
- **BRO** celebrated **66th Raising Day** on **April 24**

Operation Meghdoot (1984)

- Indian Army's entry into **Siachen Glacier**
- **42nd anniversary** marked on **April 13** (Siachen Day)

Australian Defence Forces (ADF)

- Female participation: **21%**; target: **25% by 2030**
- Joint exercises with India: **AUSINDEX** and **AUSTRA HIND**
- Defence groups: **AUKUS / QUAD**

GeM (Government e-Marketplace) – Static Facts

- Originally launched: **2016**
- **GeM "Womaniya" Initiative:** launched **2019** to boost women entrepreneurs' participation

SWAMIH Fund – Static Facts

- Initially launched: **2019** by **Finance Ministry**
- Managed by **SBI CAP** (SBI subsidiary)
- **Fund II: ₹15,000 crore** budget for FY 2025-26

PM SVANidhi – Static Facts

- Launched: **June 1, 2020**
- Tiered loans: **₹15,000, ₹25,000, ₹50,000**

PM Kisan – Static Facts

- Launched: **February 24, 2019**
- Provides **₹6,000 annually** in **three installments**

Jal Jeevan Mission – Static Facts

- Launched: **2019**
- Extended to **December 2028**

Mission Poshan 2.0 – Static Facts

- Originally launched: **2018** as **Poshan Abhiyaan**
- Operates via **14 lakh Anganwadi centers**
- Covers **9 crore beneficiaries**

PM e-VIDYA – Static Facts

- Launched: **May 17, 2020**

- Initiated by **Ministry of Education** as part of **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**
- **SATHEE Platform**: launched **November 2023** by **IIT Kanpur**

SMILE Scheme – Static Facts

- Launched: **2022** by **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**
- Budget: **₹390 crore** (2021–2026)
- Linked to **PM DAKSH** scheme

UDAN Scheme – Static Facts

- Extended **10 years to FY 35/36**
- Outlay: **₹28,840 crore**

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan – Static Facts

- Originally launched: **August 15, 2020**
- **NMBA App 2.0** introduced for real-time monitoring

PRAGATI Platform – Static Facts

- Launched: **2015**
- Digital governance platform for real-time monitoring
- Recognized by **Oxford's Saïd Business School** as global best practice

Bharat Taxi App – Static Facts

- Operates under "**Saarthi hi Malik**" model
- No subscription fees; zero commission
- Provides drivers up to **₹5 lakh** in insurance

India-Bhutan – Static Facts

- **Punatsangchhu-I Hydro Power Project**: **1,200 MW** in **Bhutan**
- **Project Dantak**: established **1961**; **BRO** celebrates **66th Raising Day**

Silk Route & Heritage

- India's first heritage sites designated in **1983**: **Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, Taj Mahal**