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1. G V Satish Sir- Best Picks

1. Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G Act) Launches

- The **Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G Act)** officially replaced the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** on July 1, 2026.
- The official national launch took place on July 2, 2026, at **Mukkavaripalle** village in **Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh**, in the presence of **N. Chandrababu Naidu** and **Pawan Kalyan**.
- The act legally guarantees **125 days** of rural employment per household per year (an increase from **MGNREGA's 100 days**) with wages credited directly to accounts within **15 days**.
- It establishes a guaranteed minimum floor wage of **₹300** per day (**₹9,000** monthly), with the average national wage set at **₹327.4** per day. **Haryana (₹409)**, **Goa (₹406)**, and **Kerala (₹401)** recorded the highest daily wages.
- The **Central Government** allocated **₹95,000 crore** as an interim budget, with the program administered by the **Ministry of Rural Development** under Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.

2. Launch of Kisan Sarathi Digital Platform for Farmers

- The **Kisan Sarathi Digital Platform** was launched to deliver vital, real-time updates on agricultural schemes, crop-related issues, and mandi prices in **13 different languages**.
- The platform integrates information on the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)**, which was established in **1965** and operates under the advisory of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** of the **Ministry of Agriculture**.

3. Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram Launched

- Union Health Minister **J. P. Nadda** launched the **Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram** under the motto "**Pehle teen saal संपूर्ण देखभाल**" (comprehensive care during the first three years).
- The initiative is a continuation of the **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)** child health program, guaranteeing continuous tracking from birth to **18 years**.
- The home visit protocol mandates **9 visits** in the first **42 days** for "at-risk" babies and a total of **17 visits** over **36 months** for health screenings. It also utilizes specialized child camps called **Shishu**

Shivirs under the **Ayushman Bharat Yojana** framework.

4. Anemia Mukat Bharat Abhiyan Upgraded to 7x7x7 Strategy

- To address India's high anemia burden, which affects **67.1%** of children and **57%** of women aged 15–49, the **Anemia Mukat Bharat Abhiyan** upgraded its operational guidelines to a **7x7x7 Strategy** (transitioning from 6x6x6).
- The **7th beneficiary** category includes **Low Birth Weight (LBW)** babies (0–6 months, born weighing less than **2,500 grams**); the **7th intervention** is the "Eat Right" approach; and the **7th mechanism** is strengthening the monitoring and evaluation framework.
- The program also upgraded its operational diagnostic method from the "Test, Treat, and Talk" (T3) framework to the "**Test, Treat, Talk, and Track**" (T4) approach.

5. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) Ten-Year Milestone & Outlay

- The **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)** completed **10 years** of implementation since its launch on July 1, 2015.
- The **Central Government** approved the continuation of the major irrigation scheme through **2026** with an overall outlay of **₹93,068.56 crore**.
- The scheme was allocated **₹6,587 crore** in the recent Union Budget to support its four pillars: Per Drop More Crop, Har Khet Ko Pani, Watershed Development, and the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP).

6. Digital India Program (DIP) Completes 11 Years

- The **Digital India Program (DIP)** completed **11 years** of operation on July 1, 2026, since its launch in **2015** by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- Administered by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, the program operates on a **9-Pillars Vision** including Broadband Highways, Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity, and Electronics Manufacturing.

7. PM SVANidhi Scheme Officially Extended to 2030

- The **Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** scheme has been officially extended until **March 31, 2030**.
- Since its launch on June 1, 2020, the scheme has approved over **1.12 crore** micro-working capital loans worth a total of **₹17,800 crore**.
- Under the upgraded guidelines, the loan limits stand at **₹15,000** for the 1st loan, **₹25,000** for the 2nd loan, and up to **₹50,000** for the 3rd loan.
- The government is also building **50 modern, hygienic Street Food Hubs** under the scheme,

selecting **Lakhanpur** in **Kathua** district, **Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)**, as the first town, backed by a **₹4 crore** central grant per hub.

8. PM SETU Scheme Expanded with Regional Cluster Allocations

- The centrally sponsored **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM SETU)** scheme, designed to upgrade 1,000 **Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** with an overall **₹60,000 crore** allocation, announced a new regional expansion.
- An allocation of **₹1,237 crore** was approved to upgrade **5 designated regional clusters** situated in **Odisha, Gujarat, and Telangana**.
- Additionally, **5 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs)** will be established at **Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Hyderabad (Andhra/Telangana), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), and Ludhiana (Punjab)**.

9. Prime Minister Launches "Viksit Udan" (Modified UDAN Scheme)

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the next phase of the regional connectivity scheme, officially named **Modified UDAN Scheme** (also called "**Viksit UDAN**" or **UDAN 2**), from the **Jodhpur Airport** terminal in **Rajasthan**.
- The program is backed by a financial outlay of **₹28,840 crore** over a **10-year period** (FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36).
- The budget allocates **₹12,159 crore** to construct **100 new airports/aerodromes** over 8 years, **₹3,661 crore** to build **200 new modern helipads** in remote/hilly regions, and **₹10,043 crore** for **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** for airlines.

10. India Ranks 94th in UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index 2026

- **India** secured the **94th** position out of 167 countries in the global **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index 2026** with a score of **68.3 out of 100**.
- **Finland** topped the global index.
- Separately, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **SDG Publications 2026**, showing India's current **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** stands at **87**, **Sex Ratio at Birth** is **918**, and the **Unemployment Rate** was **3.1%** in 2025.

11. RBI Revamps Reserve Bank Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** implemented the revamped **Reserve Bank Integrated Ombudsman Scheme** (effective July 1, 2026), removing any upper limit on the size of financial disputes that can be filed.
- The maximum compensation for direct financial loss has been raised to **₹30 lakh**, and

compensation for mental harassment and loss of time has been increased to **₹3 lakh**.

- The scheme covers Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Non-bank Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) (such as **PhonePe, Google Pay, and Amazon Pay**), and Credit Information Companies (CICs).

12. RBI Introduces New Money Market Guidelines & Scale-Based Regulations for NBFCs

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced a new framework for the Call, Notice, and Term Money markets. Under this, **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** and **Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)** can participate as both borrowers and lenders, borrowing up to **₹200 crore** of their **Net Owned Funds (NOF)**.
- Under updated **Scale-Based Regulations (SBR)**, any NBFC with an asset size of **₹1,00,000 crore** or above automatically enters the "Upper Layer" and must list on stock exchanges within 3 years.
- The **RBI** also confirmed current monetary rates: **Repo Rate** at **5.25%**, **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** at **5.00%**, and **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** at **3.00%**.

13. Retail Inflation Crosses Medium-Term Target & WPI-to-PPI Transition Announced

- India's retail inflation, measured by the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, reached **4.38%** in June 2026, crossing the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 4%** medium-term target for the first time since January 2025.
- The **Government of India** announced plans to completely phase out the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** (which rose to **9.87% - 9.9%** in June 2026) over the next 5 years, replacing it with the **Producer Price Index (PPI)**.
- The **CPI** base year was updated to **2024** (the **CPI 24** series), expanding the product basket to **358 items**; the **WPI** base year was updated to **2022-23**, expanding to **957 articles**.

14. MoSPI Finalizes Index of Services Production (ISP) Framework

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** finalized the framework to compile a monthly **Index of Services Production (ISP)** to track the service sector.
- The index will utilize the base year **2024-25 (FY25)** and will track **19 service sub-sectors** representing **60%** of India's services economy.
- The trial index will be released on the **29th of every month** with a 2-month lag.

15. SEBI Amends Share Buyback, Conflict of Interest, and FPI Fee Rules

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** announced that listed companies can execute open market share buybacks during normal exchange hours (**9:00 AM to 4:30 PM**) starting August 1, 2026. The entire buyback process must be completed within **66 working days** (down from 6 months) and is capped at less than **15%** of aggregate paid-up capital and free reserves.
- Under SEBI's updated Conflict of Interest Code, conflicted employees are permitted a maximum investment in a company of either **5% of their total portfolio** or **₹20 Lakh**, whichever is lower.
- SEBI also amended rules to transition **Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI)** registration fees from US Dollars (USD) to Indian Rupees (INR), replacing the \$1,000 fee with a **₹90,000** fee.

16. UNCTAD World Investment Report 2026: India's FDI Rank Rises to 11th

- According to the **World Investment Report 2026** by the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, India's global rank in attracting **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows rose to **11th place**.
- India attracted **\$38.89 billion** in inward FDI in 2025, while its outward FDI ranked **18th globally**, surging by 47% to **\$35.66 billion**.
- The **United States (US)** remains the top global FDI recipient at **\$277 billion**.

17. India's External Debt Climbs to \$762.8 Billion

- According to reports released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, India's total external debt climbed to **\$762.8 billion** at the end of March 2026, rising by **\$26.3 billion** from March 2025.
- The external **Debt-to-GDP Ratio** rose to **20.8%** (from 19.8% in the previous year).
- The **Debt Service Ratio** improved significantly, falling to **5.8%** from 6.6% the previous year, indicating improved sustainability.

18. GST Completes 9 Years with Record Collections and Slabs Revision

- The **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** completed **9 years** of implementation on July 1, 2026, since its historic launch in **2017** under the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act**.
- June 2026 gross collections reached **₹1.95 lakh crore**, representing a **14% year-on-year growth** compared to June 2025.
- Under the **GST 2.0** framework, tax brackets have been consolidated into three slabs: **5%, 18%, and 40%** (the 12% and 28% brackets were phased out).
- **Assam** was the first Indian state to pass the GST bill, and **France** was the first country in the world to implement it.

19. UPI Expansion: Greece Adopts UPI; NPCI Launches UPI FX

- **Greece** became the **10th country** globally and the **2nd European country** (after **France**) to adopt India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**. The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** signed a bilateral agreement with Greece's **Eurobank**.
- **Cambodia** was confirmed as the **9th country** to adopt the payment system.
- NPCI also launched "**UPI FX**" in partnership with **HSBC India** and **JP Morgan** to enable real-time foreign exchange settlements for cross-border transactions.

20. Indian Navy Participates in 30th Edition of RIMPAC Exercise

- The Indian Navy participated in the **30th edition** of the **Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)** maritime exercise, the world's largest naval exercise.
- Hosted biennially by the **US Navy** at **Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, USA**, from June 24th to July 31st, under the theme "**Partners: Integrated and Prepared**".
- India was represented by the stealth frigate **INS Shivalik** (manufactured by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**) and a **P-8I Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft**.

21. India and Vietnam Finalize \$629 Million BrahMos Missile Deal

- **India** finalized a landmark **\$629 million** deal to export the **BrahMos** supersonic missile to **Vietnam**.
- **Vietnam** is the second country to purchase the system after the **Philippines** signed a similar deal in 2022.
- The **BrahMos** is a supersonic cruise missile jointly developed by **India** and **Russia**.

22. Indian Army Chief General Dheeraj Seth Assumes Charge & Unveils "VIJAY"

- **General Dheeraj Seth** (known as the "Tank Man") officially assumed charge as the **31st Chief of Army Staff (COAS)**, succeeding **General Upendra Dwivedi**.
- He unveiled "**VIJAY**", a technology-focused strategic modernization roadmap for the Indian Army, standing for: **V — Vigilance, I — Innovation (and Transformation), J — Jointness (and Integration), A — Aatmanirbharata, Y — Yoddha First**.
- In associated appointments, **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh** took charge as **Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CIDS)**, and **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** assumed charge as the **51st Vice Chief of Air Staff**.

23. Commissioning of INS Mahendragiri Stealth Frigate

- The Indian Navy commissioned **INS Mahendragiri** at **Visakhapatnam**.
- It is the **6th** stealth frigate built under **Project 17A** (which includes a total of 7 ships, including Nilgiri, Himgiri, Udaygiri, Dunagiri, Taragiri, and Vindhyagiri).
- The warship was designed by the Navy's in-house **Warship Design Bureau** and manufactured by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** in **Mumbai**.

24. Indian Air Force Ranked 3rd Most Powerful in the World

- According to the **World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA)** 2026 rankings, the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** retained its position as the **3rd most powerful air force** in the world.
- Global rankings placed the **United States (US)** in 1st, **Russia** in 2nd, **India** in 3rd, and **China** (People's Liberation Army Air Force) in 4th place.

25. Chumur Developed as India's First "Model Border Village"

- Under the **Vibrant Village Program** administered by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, the village of **Chumur** in **Ladakh** was developed as India's very first "**Model Border Village**".
- The project was officially inaugurated on June 3, 2026, by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, **Vinai Kumar Saxena**.
- The main program was originally launched in 2023, with **Mana Village** in **Uttarakhand** developed as the first village under the framework.

26. Corporate Mitra Scheme Launched for MSME Support

- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** partnered with **IIT Madras**, **IIT Pravartak**, **Swayam Plus**, **ICAI**, **ICSI**, and **ICMAI** to launch the **Corporate Mitra Scheme**.
- The initiative will train "**Corporate Mitras**" to assist **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** with regulatory compliance, taxation, and financial governance.
- The program is a 12-month course consisting of **150 hours of online learning** via the **Swayam Plus** portal (SWAYAM: Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) followed by 6 months of on-the-job training.

27. Sagar Aankalan Awards for Port Performance 2026 Released

- The **Sagar Aankalan Awards** for national port performance were released across three distinct categories:
- **Container Cargo Category: Deendayal Port Authority (Kandla Port, Gujarat)** stood 1st.
- **Dry Bulk Cargo Category: Paradip Port** in **Odisha** stood 1st.

- **Liquid Bulk Cargo Category: Sikka Port Terminal** in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**, stood 1st.

28. Aviva Life Insurance Becomes First 100% Foreign-Owned Life Insurer

- British insurer **Aviva PLC** is acquiring the remaining **26%** stake in **Aviva Life Insurance India** from **Dabur Investment Corporation**, achieving **100% ownership**.
- This marks the first time a foreign insurer will hold 100% ownership of an Indian life insurance Joint Venture (JV), following India's regulatory hike to 100% **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the broader insurance sector.
- Note: FDI limits for the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** remain capped at 20%.

29. AU Small Finance Bank Receives Approval to Transition to Universal Bank

- **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB)**, headquartered in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**, became the first Small Finance Bank in India to receive in-principle approval from the **RBI** to transition into a **Universal Bank**.
- The RBI Universal Bank licensing criteria mandates a minimum net worth of **₹1,00,000 crore** (noted alternatively as **₹1,000 crore** net worth in text), **5 years of operating experience**, stock exchange listing, Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of **15%**, Gross NPA $\leq 3\%$, and Net NPA $\leq 1\%$.

30. World Bank Approves \$890 Million for PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

- The **World Bank** approved an **\$890 million** financial package to scale up India's **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**.
- The scheme provides rooftop solar panels to households, offering a maximum central subsidy of **₹78,000** (1 kW — **₹30,000**, 2 kW — **₹60,000**, 3 kW — **₹78,000**), enabling households to generate **300 units** of free electricity monthly.
- The scheme aims to reach **1 crore** (10 million) households by **March 2027**, supporting India's Net-zero carbon emissions target by 2070.

31. Turkey Hosts 36th NATO Summit in Ankara

- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** hosted its **36th Summit** in **Ankara, Turkey**, in 2026.
- This marks the second time Turkey has hosted the summit since its inception in **1949**.
- NATO, headquartered in **Brussels, Belgium**, currently has **32 members**, with **Finland** having joined as the 31st and **Sweden** as the 32nd member under the leadership of Secretary General **Mark Rutte**.

32. Global Dialogue on AI Governance Held in Geneva

- The **Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance (2026)** was held in **Geneva, Switzerland**, under the theme "**AI for All**".
- The **United Nations (UN)** released its first AI Governance Report, highlighting that **75%** of global AI computing capacity resides in the **US** and **15%** is located in **China**.
- **Geneva** will host the fifth Global AI Summit on **June 21, 2027**, alongside the **International Telecommunication Union's (ITU)** "AI for Good Global Summit".

33. Wimbledon Tennis Championships 2026 Winners

- **Men's Singles Title:** World No. 1 **Jannik Sinner (Italy)** won his second consecutive Wimbledon title (defeating **Alexander Zverev**), marking his 4th career Grand Slam. He became the first Italian to successfully defend a Wimbledon men's singles title.
- **Women's Singles Title:** **Linda Noskova (Czech Republic)** won her maiden Wimbledon and Grand Slam title, defeating fellow Czech player **Karolina Muchova**. She is the youngest women's singles champion since **Petra Kvitova** in 2011.

34. Australia Wins 7th ICC Women's T20 World Cup Title

- **Australia** clinched their **7th** T20 World Cup title (and 14th overall Women's World Cup trophy across formats) by defeating host nation **England** in the final, hosted by **England & Wales**.
- Player of the Series and the Final was awarded to **Beth Mooney (Australia)**, while **Shreyanka Patil** of **India** took the most wickets in the tournament.

35. Indian Women's Cricket Team Achieves Historic Test Win at Lord's

- The Indian Women's cricket team registered a historic victory, defeating **England** by **270 runs** in the first-ever women's Test match played at the iconic **Lord's Cricket Ground** in **London, England**.
- **Yastika Bhatia** became the first woman cricketer to score a Test century at **Lord's** (scoring 103 runs).
- **Kranthi Ghadi** became the first Indian woman to get her name on the **Lord's Honors Board** by taking **5 wickets for 37 runs**.

36. FIFA World Cup 2026 Record Prize Pool Announced

- **FIFA** announced a record-breaking total prize pool of **\$871 million** for the **2026 World Cup** — a **65% increase** from the \$529 million distributed in 2022.
- The champion will receive a **\$50 million** performance prize (totaling **\$63.5 million** with participation funding), while the runner-up will receive **\$33 million**.

- The tournament will be co-hosted by the **US, Canada, and Mexico**.

37. Sweden Tops Global Passport Index 2026; India Ranks 125th

- In the **Global Passport Index 2026** published by **Global Citizen Solutions**, **Sweden** topped the index with a composite score of **96.5**, followed by **Switzerland** (2nd) and **Finland** (3rd).
- **India** ranked **125th** globally, with Indian passport holders securing visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to **26 countries**.

38. Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Rating 2026

- The **University of Manchester (United Kingdom (UK))** topped the global **THE Sustainability Impact Rating 2026** for the second time, remaining the only university to stay in the top 10 for all 8 editions.
- **Lovely Professional University (LPU)** ranked **23rd overall globally** (India's highest rank) and topped globally in **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)**.
- **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)** ranked World No. 1 in **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**.

39. Assam CM Launches First AI Phygital Bank Branch and "AssamSat" Initiative

- **Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma** inaugurated India's first AI-powered phygital banking branch in **Guwahati**.
- **Assam** also announced plans to develop India's first state-owned satellite, named **AssamSat**.

40. India's First Off-Shore Airport Planned in Palghar, Maharashtra

- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis** directed officials to draft a **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** to build India's first off-shore airport, built on reclaimed land or an artificial island.
- The airport is planned to be constructed near **Kori beach** in the **Palghar district**.

41. Odisha Cabinet Approves ₹2,295 Crore Deep Sea Fishing Mission

- The **Odisha Cabinet** approved a **₹2,295 crore** Deep Sea Fishing Mission for a **10-year implementation span** (2026 to 2036) to transform the state into a premier marine export hub.
- The initiative was officially launched by Vice President **CP Radhakrishnan** in **Bhubaneswar**.
- Note: India is the world's second-largest fish producer, accounting for **8% of global production**, behind China.

42. Uttarakhand Declared India's 6th Fully Literate State under ULLAS

- Under the guidelines of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and the **Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS)**

Program, **Uttarakhand** was declared India's **6th** fully literate state.

- **ULLAS** is a central initiative (2022–2027) targeting basic literacy and numeracy for citizens aged 15 and above, aiming to reach **5 crore learners**.
- The other five fully literate states are **Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim**.

43. World's Oldest Accurately Dated Banyan Tree Discovered in Bihar

- A banyan tree located in the **Munger district** of **Bihar** was identified as the world's oldest accurately dated banyan tree, estimated by scientists to be **700 years old**.

44. India's First Point in Space (PinS) Helicopter Approach Approved

- India's first **Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach Procedure** was approved at the **Undavalli Heliport** in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- This marks India's first private heliport to receive this certification from the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.

45. National Statistics Day 2026 Celebrates P.C. Mahalanobis's 133rd Birth Anniversary

- **National Statistics Day** was observed on June 29, marking the **20th edition** and **133rd birth anniversary** of **Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (P.C. Mahalanobis)**, the "Father of Indian Statistics" associated with the Second Five-Year Plan.
- The theme designated for 2026 is "**Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data**".

46. Indian Conservationists Win Whitley Award (Green Oscar)

- Indian conservationists **Dr. Parveen Shaikh** and **Barkha Subba** were presented with the prestigious **Whitley Award (Green Oscar)** by **Princess Anne** in **London, UK**.
- They were among six global winners and received a **£50,000** prize to support endangered species conservation.

47. IBM Introduces World's First Sub-1 Nanometer Semiconductor Technology

- **IBM** introduced the world's first sub-1 nanometer semiconductor technology, measuring **0.7 nm**.
- Meanwhile, India's first greenfield **Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT)** facility is being built in **Sanand, Gujarat** by **CG Semi Private Limited** with an investment exceeding **₹7,500 crore**.

48. Union Minister Piyush Goyal and Sunil Bharti Mittal Receive Leadership Honors

- Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** was honored with a special award for exceptional leadership in elevating India-UK relations at the 10th

anniversary of the **India Global Forum (IGF)** awards in **London**.

- **Sunil Bharti Mittal**, Founder and Chairman of **Bharti Enterprises**, received the **US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) 2026 Leadership Award** in **Washington, D.C.**.

49. Purnia District Tops NITI Aayog's Delta Rankings

- **Purnia district** in **Bihar** secured the **1st rank** in the quarterly **NITI Aayog Delta Rankings** for March 2026 under the **Aspirational Districts Program**.

50. World's First Once-Weekly Insulin "Aweekly" Launched in India

- **Novo Nordisk India** launched "**Aweekly**" (insulin icodec), marking the world's first once-weekly insulin for patients with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

2. Amounts & Agreements

1. Union Cabinet Approves ₹30,000 Crore Expansion of NIIF

- The **Union Cabinet** approved an additional allocation of **₹30,000 crore** for the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)**, raising the government's total capital commitment to **₹60,000 crore**.
- NIIF was established in **2015** under the **Ministry of Finance** (led by Cabinet Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and Minister of State **Pankaj Chaudhary**).

2. SBI Raises \$300 Million via Floating Rate Notes

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** raised **\$300 million USD** through **Senior Unsecured Floating Rate Notes**.
- Maturity: **3 years**; coupon rate set at the **Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) + 1%** (100 basis points).

3. Four Public Sector Banks Hand Over ₹9,439 Crore in Dividends

- Four **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** handed over dividend checks totaling **₹9,439 crore** to Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**:
- **Bank of Baroda** — ₹2,811 crore; **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** — ₹2,416 crore; **Canara Bank** — ₹2,397 crore; **Indian Bank** — ₹1,815 crore.

4. CCI Clears Three Major Transactions (incl. ₹16,660 Crore RCB Buyout)

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved an **Aditya Birla Group-led consortium's ₹16,660 crore buyout** of the **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** IPL franchise.
- Also cleared: German financial giant **DWS Group's 40% equity acquisition** in **Nippon Life India AIF Management Limited**.

- Also cleared: consolidation of **51 Malabar group companies** into a single entity — **Malabar Gold & Diamonds Limited**.
- CCI: established **2009**; HQ — **New Delhi**; Chairperson — **Ravneet Kaur**.
- 5. Kotak Mahindra Bank Acquires Deutsche Bank's India Retail Business — ₹281.7 Crore**
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** acquired **Deutsche Bank's** Indian retail customer portfolio and wealth management operations in a deal valued at **₹281.7 crore**.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank**: HQ — **Mumbai, Maharashtra**; MD & CEO — **Ashok Vaswani**.
- 6. SBI Purchases 10% Stake in RDCL from NHB**
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** purchased a **10% equity stake** in **RMBS Development Company Limited (RDCL)** from the **National Housing Bank (NHB)**.
- 7. Aviva Becomes First Foreign Insurer with 100% Ownership of an Indian Life Insurance JV**
- British insurer **Aviva PLC** (founded **1696**; HQ — **London**; CEO — **Amanda Blanc**) is acquiring the remaining **26% stake** in **Aviva Life Insurance India** from **Dabur Investment Corporation (Dabur Invest Corp)**.
- Enabled by India raising the **FDI limit in insurance to 100%**; **FDI for Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** remains capped at **20%**.
- 8. India Finalizes \$629 Million BrahMos Missile Deal with Vietnam**
- India finalized a **\$629 million BrahMos missile deal** with **Vietnam** — the **second country** to buy BrahMos from India, after the **Philippines** (deal signed in **2022**).
- **BrahMos** is a **supersonic missile** jointly developed by **India and Russia**.
- 9. ADB Approves \$42.2 Million Bamboo Value Chain Project for North-East India**
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a **\$42.2 million Bamboo Value Chain Project** for **North-East India**.
- **ADB**: HQ — **Mandaluyong, Philippines**; established **1966**; **69 members** (**Israel** being the **69th/latest** to join); President named in the source as **Masato Kanda** (also referred to as **Masatsugu Asakawa** in another entry).
- 10. ADB Loan for Greater Chennai Water Infrastructure**
- **ADB** approved a loan to modernize water systems in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu** — stated as **\$230 million (approx. ₹1,920 crore)** in one entry and **\$320 million** in another entry of the source.
- 11. World Bank Approves \$890 Million Package for PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**
- The **World Bank** approved an **\$890 million package** for the **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana** (rooftop solar subsidy scheme).
- 12. Power Grid Corporation Secures ₹80 Billion Loan from JBIC**
- **Power Grid Corporation of India** secured an **80 billion Japanese Yen (~₹4,700 crore)** loan from the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**.
- 13. Government Hikes Onion Procurement Price by 13%**
- The government increased the onion procurement price by **13%** (specifically a **12.70%** increase over the season's starting rate) — from **₹1,875 per quintal** to **₹2,125 per quintal**.
- 14. Centre Approves Direct Procurement of Copra & Totapuri Mangoes in Tamil Nadu**
- **Copra (raw coconut)**: procurement of over **87,226 metric tons** at the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)**, backed by a budget of **₹1,049.16 crore** under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)**.
- Under the **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)**, up to **96,879 metric tonnes** of **Totapuri mangoes** may be procured at a support price of **₹1,545.41 per quintal**.
- 15. Union Cabinet Reviews ₹20,000 Crore CCUS Framework**
- The **Union Cabinet** is reviewing a **₹20,000 crore framework** to scale up **Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS)** over the next **5 years**.
- Helps India achieve its **Net-Zero carbon emissions target by 2070**.
- 16. Defence Acquisition Council Clears ₹52,000 Crore Capital Acquisitions**
- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** cleared **₹52,000 crore** in capital acquisitions.
- The **DAC** was established in **2001** after the **Kargil War**.
- 17. Indian Railways Approves ₹206 Crore for Kavach Deployment**
- **Indian Railways** approved **₹206 crore** to deploy the **Kavach** automatic train protection system.
- **Kavach**: an indigenous **Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system that prevents head-on collisions and **Signal Passed at Danger (SPAD)** incidents by automatically applying brakes in emergencies or heavy fog.
- 18. Telangana Sanctions ₹7,345 Crore for Musi River Rejuvenation (Phase 1)**
- The **Telangana Cabinet** sanctioned **₹7,345 crore** for **Musi River Rejuvenation (Phase 1)**.
- 19. West Bengal ₹313 Crore Package for Tea Garden Workers**
- The **West Bengal Government** approved a financial package for tea garden workers under the

Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana with a total budget of **₹313 crore (₹33.3 crore)** targeted for North Bengal/Darjeeling workers).

20. Delhi Approves ₹8,300 Crore "Clean Air Healthy Delhi" Project

- Approved budget: **₹8,300 crore**; greenlit by Delhi Chief Minister **Rekha Gupta**.
- Funding sources: **World Bank (65%)** and **Delhi Government (35%)**.
- Implementation timeline: **September 2026 to August 2033**.

21. Dhruva Space Receives ₹60 Crore — First Investment from AVCF

- Hyderabad-based space-tech startup **Dhruva Space** received **₹60 crore** in funding — the **first-ever investment** from the **Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF)**.
- AVCF: a dedicated space-tech venture capital fund with a total corpus of **₹1,600 crore**, facilitated by **IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center)** and managed by **SIDBI Venture Capital Limited**.

22. India–New Zealand Bilateral Trade Target

- India and **New Zealand** set a bilateral trade target in goods and services of **₹35,000 crore (approx. \$7 billion USD)** by **2030** under a Strategic Roadmap.
- PM **Narendra Modi's** official visit to New Zealand was the **first by an Indian PM in nearly 40 years**.
- New Zealand profile: Capital — **Wellington**; Currency — **Dollar**.

23. 1994 Yamuna Water Agreement Implemented (Haryana–Rajasthan)

- The **Yamuna River Water Sharing Agreement** between **Rajasthan** and **Haryana** implements the **1994 Upper Yamuna River Board Agreement**.
- Rajasthan: CM — **Bhajan Lal Sharma**; Governor — **Haribhau Bagade**; Capital — **Jaipur**.
- Haryana: CM — **Nayab Singh Saini**; Governor — **Asim Kumar Ghosh**; Capital — **Chandigarh**.

24. Bangladesh–China Agreement on Mongla Port

- Bangladesh's Foreign Minister **Khalilur Rahman** (also set to head the **81st session of the UN General Assembly** in New York) announced a joint agreement with **China** to develop Bangladesh's strategic **Mongla Port**.

3. Appointments

1. High-Level Defence, Military & Security Appointments

- **31st Chief of Army Staff (COAS)**: General **Dhiraj (Dheeraj) Seth** officially assumed charge,

succeeding **General Upendra Dwivedi**, who retired after **40 years** of service.

- Known as the "**Tank Man**", General Seth's career includes leading armored regiments, an armored brigade, the counter-insurgency force in **Jammu and Kashmir**, the **Sudarshan Chakra Corps**, the **Delhi Area**, and the **South Western Command**.
- Background: the first Indian COAS was **K. M. Cariappa** (appointed **1949**), who also held the **Field Marshal** rank; **Indian Army Day** is observed annually on **January 15**.
- **Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC)**: **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh** assumed charge on **July 1, 2026**, succeeding **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit**; he was commissioned into the fighter stream of the **Indian Air Force in 1987**.
- **Vice Chief of Army Staff**: **Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain** assumed charge; joined the **National Defence Academy (NDA)** in **1988**.
- **51st Vice Chief of Air Staff (VCAS)**: **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** assumed charge on **July 1, 2026**, replacing **Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor**.
- **Chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB)**: **Mahesh Dixit** replaced **Tapan Kumar Deka**.
- **Chief of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)**: **Parag Jain**.
- **Chief of Air Staff**: **Air Chief Marshal Amarpreet Singh**.
- **Chief of Naval Staff**: **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**, who recently replaced **Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**.

2. Diplomatic & Civil Services Appointments

- **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's** term was extended by one year to **July 2027**.
- Diplomat **Somnath Ghosh** (currently **Consul General of India in Chicago**) was appointed India's next **High Commissioner to Malaysia**.
- Malaysia profile: Capital — **Kuala Lumpur**; Currency — **Ringgit**; Prime Minister — **Anwar Ibrahim**; King — **Sultan Ibrahim**.
- **Ravi Agarwal's** tenure as Chairman of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** was extended by **six months**, continuing from **July 1 to December 31, 2026**.
- **Neelkanth Mishra** was appointed **India's Executive Director at the World Bank**, replacing **Parameswaran Iyer** (a retired **1981-batch IAS officer**).
- **Satish Kumar** is Chairperson of the **Railway Board**.

3. Banking & Financial Sector Appointments

- **J. Ravi Shankar** was appointed **Executive Director (ED) of the RBI** on **July 1, 2026**, overseeing the **Department of Statistics and Information Management**.

- **Rajiv Kumar** (former **Chief Election Commissioner of India**) was appointed to **HDFC Bank** — described in the source as **Independent Director** in one entry and **Chairman** in another.
- **N.S. Vishwanathan** was reappointed **Non-Executive (Part-time) Chairman of Axis Bank** for **3 years** (term until **October 26, 2029**); the RBI extended his tenure. **Amitabh Chaudhry** continues as **MD & CEO of Axis Bank**.
- **Axis Bank** profile: HQ — **Mumbai**; tagline — "**Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi**".
- **Brijesh Kumar Singh** took charge as **MD & CEO of Canara Bank**, replacing **K. Satyanarayana Raju**, who retired in **December 2025**.
- **Canara Bank** profile: founded **1906**; HQ — **Bengaluru, Karnataka**; tagline — "**Together We Can**".
- **Mahesh Muralidhar Pai** was appointed **MD & CEO of South Indian Bank**.
- **Baldev Prakash** (former MD & CEO of **Jammu & Kashmir Bank**) was appointed **MD & CEO of SBI Capital Securities** (a subsidiary of **SBI**).
- **Dilip Asbe**, MD & CEO of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, was inducted into the **Global Supervisory Board of SWIFT** (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication).
- **Giles Thomson** (United Kingdom) was appointed **President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** for a two-year term from **July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028**.
- India was appointed **Vice-President of FATF**, represented by **Vivek Aggarwal**, for the term **July 2026 to June 2027**. **FATF**: established **1989**; HQ — **Paris, France**.
- Former RBI Governor **Raghuram Rajan** was appointed to **co-lead the US Federal Reserve Task Force on Balance Sheet**; Fed Chairman **Kevin Warsh** announced a **5-member monetary policy task force** including three prominent Indian-origin economists: **Raghuram Rajan, Raj Chetty, and Asha Sharma**.

4. Corporate & PSU Appointments

- **Rear Admiral (Retd) Chandrasekaran (C.) Raghuram** assumed charge as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)**, replacing **Ganti Venkateswarulu**.
- **Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty** — current **Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Director of Finance** — was given additional charge as **CMD of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)** for three months, starting **July 1, 2026**.

- **OpenAI** appointed **Prabhjeet Singh** as its first **Managing Director for India**.
- **Jio Platforms Limited** appointed **Pankaj Pawar** as its new **CEO**.

5. Brand Ambassadors & Sports-Body Appointments

- Former Indian cricket captain **MS Dhoni** was appointed national **brand ambassador for Drive**, an automotive parts manufacturing company.
- **Sourav Ganguly** was appointed brand ambassador of insurance portal **InsuranceDekho**, launching the "**Khool Ke Khelo / Khoolkar Khelo**" (**खुलकर खेलो**) campaign to drive insurance penetration and consumer awareness.
- Indian tennis legend **Leander Paes** was appointed **Player Ambassador of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF)** to promote tennis across Asia.
- **Paes** honours: **Arjuna Award (1990)**, **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna (1996)**, **Padma Shri (2001)**, **Padma Bhushan (2014)**; inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2024**.

6. Political / Electoral Appointments

- **D.K. Shivakumar** was sworn in as the **25th Chief Minister of Karnataka**; the oath was administered by **Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot** under **Article 164** of the Indian Constitution.
- **Keiko Fujimori** was elected **President of Peru**.
- **Peru** profile: Capital — **Lima**; Currency — **Sol**; Prime Minister — **Luis Andrik**.

7. Committee / Institutional Chair Appointments

- The **Tamil Nadu government** reconstituted its school curriculum design committee and appointed **Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai** (popularly known as the "**Moon Man of India**") as Chairperson, replacing **Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail**.

4. Arts & Culture

1. High-Level Study Group on Hindi Cinema

- A **High-Level Study Group** was established under the chairmanship of **Prasoon Joshi** (**Chairman of Prasar Bharati**), mandated to submit a report within **3 months** to suggest pathways to revolutionize **Hindi cinema**.

2. India-Italy Year of Culture and Tourism 2027

- **2027** will be celebrated as the **India-Italy Year of Culture and Tourism**.
- **PM Narendra Modi** gifted Italian PM **Giorgia Meloni** with **Assam Muga Silk** and **Manipuri Shirui Lily** stoles.

3. Chola Copper Plates Received from Leiden University

- PM Narendra Modi received historic 11th-century Chola copper plates from Leiden University during his Netherlands visit.
- 4. **23rd Stuttgart Indian Film Festival Held in Germany**
 - The 23rd Stuttgart Indian Film Festival was held in Germany.
 - Opening film: "Echoes from the Infinite: Chronicles of Kuriachan", directed by Dinjith Ayyathan.
- 5. **Akashvani (All India Radio) Celebrates 90 Years**
 - Akashvani (All India Radio) was formed on June 8, 1936, under parent organization Prasar Bharati; it celebrated 90 years.
- 6. **Tribex — India's First Digital Learning Platform for Tribal Arts and Culture**
 - Tribex was launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs — Minister Jual Oram (with MoS Durgadas Uikey) — in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
 - Purpose: an online portal hosting over 20 free certificate courses to promote, preserve, and teach Indian tribal arts, culture, and traditional knowledge.
- 7. **CSIR Civilizational Studies Centre in Kyrgyzstan**
 - The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) established the International Centre for Civilizational Studies — "Manas and Mahabharata" (named "Manus and Mahabharat") in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- 8. **"Saushrutam 2026" Launched on Sushruta Jayanti**
 - "Saushrutam 2026" was launched by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, on Sushruta Jayanti (15 July) to honor Acharya Sushruta, the "Father of Surgery".
- 9. **Hool Diwas Celebrated in Jharkhand**
 - Hool Diwas was celebrated in Jharkhand.
- 10. **Book Launches & Releases**
 - "Stamps, Coins and Bank Notes": a 200-page coffee table book released by Mintage World under the leadership of Sushil Kumar Agarwal, Founder & CEO of Mintage World.
 - "Sanskriti Ratna Bhandar Bhovyar Itivritto": co-authored by Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy and Sangeeta Roy, released by Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan.
 - "Politics, Policy and Predictions: Views from the Front Row of Parliament": co-authored by Derek O'Brien (as noted in the transcript).
 - "Second Orbit Memoir": written by Group Captain Subhanshu Shukla.
 - "Better Never Stops: Leadership Insights from Life's Unscripted Moments": authored by

Shyam Srinivasan (former head of Federal Bank).

5. Awards

1. **PM Modi Honored with "Guardian of the Blue Horizon" (Seychelles)**
 - During his three-day visit to Seychelles, PM Narendra Modi was honored with the newly-instituted civilian honor "The Guardian of Blue Horizon" — his 34th international award (described as an environmental award).
2. **PM Modi Decorated with Indonesia's Highest Honor**
 - PM Modi was decorated with Indonesia's highest civilian and military honor, the Bintang Adipurna, during his Indonesia visit.
3. **Piyush Goyal Receives Leadership Award in the UK**
 - Union Minister Piyush Goyal was honored with a special award for exceptional leadership in elevating India-UK relations at the 10th anniversary of the India Global Forum (IGF) UK-India Awards in London.
4. **Seven Indian Schools Nominated for World's Best School Prizes (T4 Education)**
 - India's world record: for the first time in history, seven Indian schools were nominated in a single year.
 - The Anand Ram Jaipuria School in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, was nominated under the Supporting Healthy Lives category.
 - Mahendra Singh Dhoni served as brand ambassador during the school's opening.
5. **Indian Conservationists Win Whitley Award (Green Oscar)**
 - Indian conservationists Dr. Parveen Shaikh and Barkha Subba were presented the prestigious Whitley Award (Green Oscar) by Princess Anne in London, UK.
 - They were among six global winners and received a £50,000 prize to support endangered species conservation work.
6. **Dr. Florence Rabier Wins IMO Prize**
 - Dr. Florence Rabier won the International Meteorological Organization (IMO) Prize — regarded as equivalent to a "Nobel Prize in Meteorology".
 - Presented by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) — HQ: Geneva, Switzerland; Secretary-General: Celeste Saulo; President: Dr. Abdulla Al Mandous.
7. **Sunil Bharti Mittal Receives USISPF 2026 Leadership Award**
 - Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, was presented the 2026 Leadership Award at the US-India Strategic

Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., for exceptional contributions to the development of telecommunications in India.

8. Nita Ambani & Idris Elba Honors

- Nita Ambani was honored with the **AAPI Humanitarian Award** and presented the **Key to the City of Tampa**.
- Actor Idris Elba was honored with the **Knighthood** award presented by **King Charles III** at **Windsor Castle**, carrying the title "**Sir**" Idris Elba (females are styled "**Dame**").

9. International Booker Prize Renamed "Bukhman International Booker Prize"; Prize Money Doubled

- The award has been renamed the "**Bukhman International Booker Prize**".
- The winner's prize is **doubled from £50,000 to £100,000** (Pound Sterling), split equally between the **author and the translator**.
- Shortlisted books will receive **£5,000** (also shared equally).
- Noted Indian winners: **Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Kiran Desai, and Aravind Adiga** (Booker Prize); **Geetanjali Shree** (International Booker Prize).

10. Lionel Messi Wins Princess of Asturias Sports Award

- Legendary Argentine footballer **Lionel Messi** won the **Princess of Asturias Sports Award**, presented by **Spain**.
- Messi has won the **Ballon d'Or** a record **8 times** and captained **Argentina** to victory in the **2022 FIFA World Cup in Doha**.

11. Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2025

- Awarded by the **Sangeet Natak Akademi** for FY25 to **Acharya Shri Ranchhod Lalji Goswami** of **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, for preserving and promoting **Pushtimarg Haveli Sangeet**.

12. Nepal's Jyestha Varna Mahavihara Wins UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award 2025

- Nepal's **Jyestha (Jestha) Varna Mahavihara** won the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award**.
- **UNESCO** profile: founded **1945**; HQ — **Paris, France**; **Khaled Al-Anani** is the **12th Director-General**; membership — **194 members and 12 associate members**.

13. Sagar Aankalan Awards for Port Performance

- **Container Cargo Category**: **Deendayal Port Authority (Kandla Port, Gujarat)** — top container cargo performance in India.
- **Dry Bulk Cargo Category**: **Paradip Port (Odisha)** — top performer.

- **Liquid Bulk Cargo Category**: **Sikka Port Terminal (Jamnagar, Gujarat)** — stood 1st.

14. ICMR's "MIND / MINDS" Wins Gold at 29th National e-Governance Conference

- ICMR's "**MIND**" (**MINDS**) won the **Gold Medal/Award** (Category II: **AI used for Citizen-Centric Services**), presented by **DARPG** at the **29th National Conference on e-Governance**.
- **ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)** profile: founded **1911**; HQ — **New Delhi**; Director General — **Dr. Rajiv Bahl**.

15. DoT Wins WSIS Prize 2026

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** received the prestigious **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prize 2026** for its flagship "**Samridh Gram**" initiative.

16. FIU-IND Runner-up at Best Egmont Case Award 2026

- The **Financial Intelligence Unit of India (FIU-IND)** won **runner-up** at the **Best Egmont Case Award 2026**.
- **FIU-IND**: established **2004** under the **Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)**; the national agency fighting **money laundering and terror financing**; HQ — **New Delhi**; current Head — **Mr. Amit Mohan Govil**.

17. ICC Hall of Fame Inductions — Ganguly, Anjum Chopra, Kevin Pietersen

- Former India men's captain **Sourav Ganguly ("Dada")** — inducted as the **12th Indian cricketer** or the **10th Indian male player**
- Former Indian women's captain **Anjum Chopra** — inducted as the **3rd Indian female player** (following **Diana Edulji** and **Neetu David**).
- Former England captain **Kevin Pietersen** was also inducted.
- **ICC profile**: established **1909** (referred to as "**199**" in Guidely's transcript); HQ — **Dubai, UAE**; current Chairperson — **Mr. Jay Shah**.

6. Banking and Finance

1. RBI Introduces New Money Market Guidelines (Call, Notice & Term Money)

- **Money Market**: where financial institutions borrow/lend to manage short-term liquidity, such as maintaining **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** and **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)** requirements to avoid heavy RBI penalties.
- **Call Money**: overnight borrowing/lending (**1-day maturity**); **Notice Money**: **2 to 14 days**; **Term Money**: **more than 14 days up to 1 year**.
- **Call Rate**: the interest rate of the money market — variable and mutually negotiated between banks.

- **All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)** (NABARD, NHB, EXIM Bank) are permitted to participate.
- **NBFCs and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)** (e.g., LIC HFL) may participate as both borrowers and lenders in the Term Money Market; they can borrow up to **₹200 crore** of their **Net Owned Funds (NOF)**.
- **PSUs** (HPCL, IOCL, NTPC, HAL) and **private companies** (Reliance, Adani Group) may participate **only as lenders**.
- **Standalone Primary Dealers** (SBI, PNB, BOB, HDFC) may borrow up to **400% of Net Owned Funds**.
- Market timings: daily **9:00 AM to 7:00 PM**.

2. RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (IOS) 2026

- An **Ombudsman ("Lokpal")** is an officer/committee appointed by the **RBI** to resolve customer complaints regarding banks, **NBFCs**, and digital payments; the revamped scheme **replaces the 2021 framework** and came into force on **July 1, 2026**.
- Complaint process: customer first complains to the bank/regulated entity → bank gets **30 days** to resolve → if unresolved/unsatisfactory, customer has **90 days** to appeal to the Integrated Ombudsman.
- **No upper limit** on the dispute amount (even cases exceeding **₹1 crore** accepted).
- Compensation for financial loss raised from **₹20 lakh to ₹30 lakh**; compensation for mental agony/harassment/loss of time raised from **₹1 lakh to ₹3 lakh**.
- Coverage: banks, NBFCs, **non-bank Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)** like PhonePe, Google Pay, Amazon Pay, and **Credit Information Companies (CICs)**.
- Four CICs operate in India — **CIBIL, Equifax, Experian, and CRIF** (one entry lists the 4 registered CICs as **CIBIL, Equifax, Experian, and High Mark**) — regulated by the RBI under the **CIC Act, 2005**; they track accounts and loan history to issue credit scores.

3. RBI Penalties on Bank of Baroda & GIC Housing Finance

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)**: fined **₹63.6 lakh** for violating **Know Your Customer (KYC)** guidelines and the **"Fair Practices Code for Lenders"**.
- **GIC Housing Finance Limited**: fined **₹3.1 lakh** for **KYC risk-categorization** compliance oversights, following a **National Housing Bank (NHB)** inspection.
- Reason also cited: failure to regularly update customer data on **Centralized KYC (CKYC)** —

CKYC is managed by **CERSAI** (Central Registry of Securitisation Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest of India).

- BoB profile: HQ — **Vadodara, Gujarat**; MD & CEO — **Debadatta Chand**; tagline — **"India's International Bank"**.

- GIC Housing Finance profile: HQ — **Mumbai**; MD & CEO — **Sachin Salvi**; established **1989**.

4. RBI Scale-Based Regulations (SBR) for NBFCs Revised

- Any NBFC with an asset size of **₹1,00,000 crore or above** automatically joins the **Upper Layer**.
- Upper Layer norms: subject to **near-bank regulations** (e.g., **REC, Power Finance Corporation (PFC), HUDCO**); private Upper Layer NBFCs must **list on stock exchanges within 3 years** of identification; government-owned (REC, PFC) and bank-owned NBFCs are **exempt** from mandatory listing.
- As of **March 2025**, **15 NBFCs** are classified in the Upper Layer.

5. RBI — Other Regulatory Actions

- RBI issued a circular instructing banks to **stop charging customers for SMS alerts** related to compliance, awareness, and promotional purposes.
- RBI launched the **Framework for Responsible and Ethical Governance of AI (Free AI)** for banks; advisory committee headed by **Pushpak Bhattacharyya**.
- **New Governance Framework for Bank Boards** (effective **1st October**): boards must define who is authorized for approvals/reviews; management must give periodic updates; boards can solicit external reports. Initially applies to all **PSBs**, later to private banks.
- **RBI Financial Stability Report (FSR): Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA)** projected to remain **below 2% through 2028** — GNPA ratio was **1.8% in March 2026**, projected at **1.9% by 2028** (baseline); credit growth reached **14.5%** in 2026; household debt is **45.5% of GDP**; **gold loans** grew **42.4%** since March 2024 to **₹5,142 billion**.
- **Gold Loan LTV thresholds**: loans up to ₹2.5 lakh — up to **85%** of gold value; ₹2.5–5 lakh — **80%**; above ₹5 lakh — **75%**.
- **TReDS (Trade Receivable Discounting System)**: online marketplace launched **2016** where **MSMEs** auction invoices to banks/NBFCs for early payment, resolving 60–90-day corporate payment delays; minimum net worth for TReDS operators raised to **₹25 crore**.
- **Kakinada Co-operative Bank** upgraded to **Tier-3** status by RBI. Co-operative bank tiers by deposit size: **Tier-1** — up to ₹100 crore; **Tier-2** — ₹100–

1,000 crore; **Tier-3** — ₹1,000–10,000 crore; **Tier-4** — above ₹10,000 crore.

- **Current monetary policy rates:** CRR 3.00%, SLR 18.00%, Repo Rate 5.25%, MSF & Bank Rate 5.50%, SDF 5.00%.

6. UPI Global Expansion — Greece 10th Country; UPI FX Launch

- **UPI** is now live in **Greece** — the **10th country** to adopt it (**Cambodia** was 9th); Greece is the **2nd European country** — **France** was the 1st European nation (launched at the **Eiffel Tower, Paris**; **Nice** is the second French city).
- **UPI** was launched in **2016**, regulated by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** — incorporated **December 2008** under the **Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007**, overseen by the **RBI**.
- Other nations using **UPI**: **Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, UAE, Saudi Arabia**; **Seychelles** is expected to join soon (Seychelles agreed to adopt **UPI** during **PM Modi's** visit); **UPI** is active in **10 countries** (excluding **Indonesia**, in deployment phase).
- **NPCI-Eurobank** bilateral agreement lets Indian travelers pay in Greece by scanning standard Greek QR codes.
- **UPI FX**: **NPCI** partnered with **HSBC India** and **JP Morgan** for real-time foreign exchange settlements for cross-border **UPI** transactions.
- **BHIM** recorded a **301% surge** in transactions during **FY26**.
- Greece profile: Capital — **Athens**; Currency — **Euro**.

7. Digital Payments Regulation & Limits (PSS Act)

- Digital payments are regulated under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSSA)** — **RBI** is regulator, **NPCI** is manager.
- Penalty update: **RBI** can impose penalties up to **₹10 lakh** or **twice the amount involved**, whichever is higher.
- **Biometric UPI & NFC/contactless payments**: capped at **₹5,000 per transaction** without a **PIN**.
- **New UPI app registrations**: transfers limited to **₹5,000** within the first **24 hours** of linking a new bank account.
- **NPCI** caps "**QR Share & Pay**" domestic transactions at **₹2,000** for non-verified offline merchants.

8. Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) — Digital Rupee (e-Rupi)

- **e-Rupi wallet**: no minimum balance; maximum holding balance **₹1 lakh**.
- Per-transaction cap: **₹10,000**; daily outward cap: cumulative **₹50,000** or **₹1,00,000** in 24 hours, depending on the bank's risk policy.

9. GST 2.0, 9th Anniversary & Record Collections

- **GST** is an indirect tax that replaced **17 different indirect taxes**, introduced on the recommendation of the **Kelkar Committee**; "**Father of GST**" in **India** — former PM **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- First introduced as **Bill 122 in 2016**; became the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act** (of 2017); **Assam** — first state to pass/ratify the **GST bill**; **Jammu & Kashmir** — last to implement; **France** — first country in the world to implement **GST**.
- Divisions: **CGST, SGST, IGST**.
- **GST 2.0** (launched **2025**): three slabs — **5%, 18%, and 40%** (the **12%** and **28%** brackets phased out); the **40% slab** applies to luxury/sin goods like tobacco.
- **June 2026 gross collection**: **₹1.95 lakh crore** (also stated as **₹1.94 lakh crore**) — **14% year-on-year growth** vs June 2025.

10. India's Inflation Data (June 2026) & WPI-to-PPI Transition

- **Retail inflation (CPI)** rose to **4.38%** in June 2026 (up from **3.93%** in May) — crossing the **RBI's 4% medium-term target** for the first time since **January 2025**.
- In **2016**, the Government legally mandated the **RBI** to keep retail inflation at **4% ± 2%** (2%–6% tolerance band); breaching it is an alarming situation.
- **Wholesale inflation (WPI)** rose to **9.87%–9.9%** (up from **9.68%–9.7%** in May); **WPI** measures only **goods**, **CPI** tracks **goods and services**.
- The Government plans to **phase out WPI over 5 years** and replace it with the **Producer Price Index (PPI)**; **Output PPI (June 2026)**: **109.9** (up from **109.6** in May).
- **WPI base year** updated to **2022-23** (from 2011-12); tracked articles expanded to **957** (from 697); **WPI** is released by **DPIIT** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **CPI**: released monthly by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under **MoSPI**; next release **August 12, 2026**.
- **CPI base year** updated from **2012 to 2024** (new series "**CPI 24**"): basket expanded from **299** to **358 items** (adding smartphones, ACs, electric kettles, food processors, packaged foods), assessed across **1,465 rural markets, 1,395 urban markets, and 12 online marketplaces**, with weights from the **FY24 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey**.

11. IIP, ISP & Growth Forecasts

- India's **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** grew **5.1% in May 2026** (up from **4.9%** in April 2026); released by **MoSPI**; base year updated to **2022-23** (from 2011-12), updating the product basket and weightages.

- **MoSPI** launched/finalized the **Index of Services Production (ISP)** — a monthly trial index tracking service-sector performance; base year **2024–25 (FY25)**; tracks **19 service sub-sectors** representing **60%** of India's services economy; released on the **29th of every month with a 2-month lag**.
- **GDP growth forecasts for India:** UN cut 2026 forecast to **6.4%**; ICRA lowered FY26 to **6.2%**; OECD revised upward to **6.3%**; IMF revised FY27 down to **6.4%** (from 6.5% April estimate) and projects FY28 at **6.7%**; ADB projects current fiscal at **6.6%** (aligned with RBI and World Bank), **7.3% for FY 2026–27** and 6.6% for FY 2027–28 — while also downgrading FY27 from **6.9% to 6.6%** and upgrading inflation from **4.5% to 5.2%**; **HDFC Bank** — 6.7%; **RBI/ADB/S&P Global** — 6.6%.
- **IMF profile:** established **1944**; HQ — **Washington, D.C.**; Managing Director — **Kristalina Georgieva** (Bulgaria); **191 member countries**.

12. India's External Debt (End-March 2026)

- Total external debt: **\$762.8 billion** (also stated as \$762 billion) — up **\$26.3 billion** in one year.
- **Debt-to-GDP ratio:** **20.8%** (up from 19.8%) — comfortable range (critical threshold **40%+**).
- **Debt Service Ratio:** **5.8%** (down from 6.6%) — improved sustainability (principal + interest as ratio of current receipts like exports and remittances).

13. Fiscal & Trade Data

- Combined **fiscal deficit of all Indian states** rose to **3.3% of GSDP in FY25** (from 2.9% in FY24); the **Finance Commission** set an individual state ceiling of **3% of GSDP by FY31**.
- The **16th Finance Commission (2026–27 to 2030–31)** is headed by Chairman **Arvind Panagariya**.
- **Q1 FY27 exports:** merchandise exports grew **15.92%**; service exports grew **6.16%**; total combined exports up **11.37%** to **\$232.73 billion** (from \$208.98 billion).
- Top trading partners: **China, USA, UAE**; top export destinations: **USA, UAE, Netherlands**; top import sources: **China, Russia, UAE**.
- **FDI:** **USA overtook Mauritius** as India's **2nd-largest FDI source** for FY 2025–26 (\$11 billion equity inflow); top three sources — **Singapore (1st), USA (2nd), Mauritius (3rd)**.
- **FDI limits in banking:** **20% for PSBs**, up to **74% for private banks**.
- **Moody's:** India's private credit market **doubled to \$25 billion** in the last 5 years.

14. SEBI Regulatory Updates

- **Expert Working Group on Debenture Trustees** formed to review/modernize the **1993 regulations:** Chairperson — **Ananta Barua** (former Whole-Time Member of SEBI); Co-Chairperson — **Rajnish Kumar** (former Chairman of SBI).
- **Investor Protection Fund (IPF) rules:** demat depositories can use up to **5%** of annual IPF interest/income for administrative/operational expenses (salaries, taxes, audits, charity); effective **September 1, 2026**; at least **95%** of annual income must be ploughed back into the core corpus.
- **MITRA:** SEBI's program for assets stuck in **Mutual Funds**; the **7-Year Rule** — unclaimed dividends transfer to the **IEPF (Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority)** after 7 consecutive years.
- **Share buyback rules** (effective **August 1, 2026**): open-market buybacks during **9:00 AM–4:30 PM**; buyback must be **less than 15%** of aggregate paid-up capital and free reserves; offer must launch within **4 working days** of announcement; entire process within **66 working days** (down from 6 months).
- **FPI fees shifted from USD to INR** (Regulation 43B(2)): **\$1,000 fee replaced by ₹90,000**; Category I FPI/FVCI registration fee revised from **\$2,500 to ₹2.3 lakh**; DDPs must remit fees to SEBI within **5 working days**; custodian fee — **₹1 lakh annually** with a monthly fee of **₹55,000**.
- **Conflict of Interest Code:** employees with a conflict may invest a maximum of **5% of their portfolio or ₹20 lakh** (at acquisition cost), whichever is lower, in that listed entity — otherwise they must exit the firm.
- **Basic Services Demat Account (BSDA):** holdings up to **₹10 lakh** carry an annual maintenance fee capped at **₹100**.

15. Banking Sector — NPAs & Write-Offs

- Domestic banks (public, private, and foreign) **wrote off ₹1.28 lakh crore** in bad loans during FY26 (private sector banks wrote off **49.7%** of gross NPAs).
- As a result, the **Gross NPA ratio** for scheduled commercial banks reduced to **1.8%**.

16. EPFO Updates

- **EPF members** must maintain a **minimum 25% balance** (employee + employer shares); partial withdrawals for **medical treatment, education, or marriage** allowed up to **10%** of eligible balance (after preserving the 25% minimum) upon completing **1 year of service**.
- **EPF interest rate:** set/maintained at **8.25%**.
- **Auto-settlement limit** raised to **₹5 lakh**.

- EPFO profile: established **1952**; HQ — **New Delhi**; under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**; Central PF Commissioner — **Mr. Ramesh Krishnamurthy**; issues a permanent **12-digit Universal Account Number (UAN)**.

17. NPS / PFRDA

- **National Pension System (NPS)**: voluntary long-term retirement savings scheme launched **2004** for citizens aged **18 to 70**; upgrades announced for **Central Autonomous Body (CAB)** employees.
- **PFRDA** (regulator of NPS) expanded NPS investment options for CABs; entry age **18–70**, investments allowed up to age **85**.

18. Small Savings Scheme Rates Unchanged (Q1 FY 2026-27)

- Rates reviewed quarterly using the **Shyamla Gopinath Committee Formula (2011)** — linked to average G-Sec yields of comparable maturity plus **0–100 basis points** markup; the **Department of Economic Affairs** kept rates unchanged — the **9th consecutive quarter** without revision.
- **SCSS**: **8.2%**; **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)**: **8.2%** (girl children under 10, under **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**); **NSC**: **7.7%**; **KVP**: **7.5%** (matures in **115 months**); **5-Year Post Office Time Deposit**: **7.5%**; **POMIS**: **7.4%**; **PPF**: **7.1%** (15-year lock-in, Section 80C benefits, **EEE** status); **Post Office Savings Account**: **4.0%**.

19. ECLGS 5.0

- **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**: central scheme giving a **100% guarantee** to banks so credit flows to **MSMEs** and small businesses in crisis without default fear.
- **ECLGS 5.0** launched in response to the **West Asia crisis** (Iran–Israel conflict and closure of the **Strait of Hormuz**), which caused high shipping costs, expensive crude, and import-export logistics challenges.

20. Insurance Sector Updates

- **IRDAI** granted a **Standalone Health Insurance license** to **Prudential HCL Health Insurance** — a JV between UK's **Prudential Group (70%)** and HCL Group's promoter company **Vamsundri Instruments (30%)**; IRDAI's **third registration of 2026**, taking total **Standalone Health Insurers (SAHIs)** to **eight**.
- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** to be renamed **ICICI Life Insurance Limited** — a JV of **ICICI Bank** and **Prudential Corporation**; **first Indian insurance company to list on NSE and BSE (2016)**.
- **D-SIB framework** (introduced by RBI in **2014**): **ICICI Bank, SBI, and HDFC Bank** are the three **Domestic Systemically Important Banks** required to maintain higher safety capital.

- **IRDAI** mandated **external validation of Ind AS preparedness** — insurers must adopt **Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)** from **1st April 2026**; IRDAI: established **1999**; HQ — **Hyderabad**; Chairperson — **Ajay Seth**.

- Sector highlights: **Jio Allianz** received its reinsurance license; **HCL PDL** approved as India's **8th SAHI**; three **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (DSIIs)** — **LIC, NIACL, GIC**; FDI — **20% for LIC, 100%** for the broader sector.

- **IRDAI mission**: "Insurance for All by 2047" (aligned with India's 100th year of Independence).

21. Bank Product Launches & Milestones

- India's **first AI-powered phygital banking branch** inaugurated by Assam CM **Himanta Biswa Sarma** in **Guwahati**.
- **Paisabazaar & SBM Bank India** launched the "**Paisa Plus**" secured credit card.
- **HDFC Bank** launched "**Neev**" — an **AI-powered real-time fraud monitoring and detection platform**.
- **Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)** launched four premium credit cards on the **Visa** platform: **Aura (Visa Platinum)**, **Samara (Visa Signature)**, **Altura (Visa Infinite)**, **Eternus (Visa Infinite)**; KVB profile: founded **1916**; HQ — **Karur, Tamil Nadu**; MD & CEO — **B. Ramesh Babu**; tagline — "**Smart Way to Bank**".
- **Central Bank of India** opened its **first IFSC (International Financial Services Centre) branch** at **GIFT City**; profile: founded **1911**; HQ — **Mumbai**; MD & CEO — **Kalyan Kumar**.
- **Punjab & Sind Bank** marked its **119th Foundation Day** with new launches and secured a license from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**; HQ — **New Delhi**; MD & CEO — **Swarup Kumar Saha**.
- **AU Small Finance Bank** became the **first SFB** to receive **in-principle RBI approval to become a Universal Bank**; HQ — **Jaipur, Rajasthan**; partnered with fintech **Zaggle** for co-branded retail credit cards on **Visa and RuPay**.
- **Universal Bank licensing criteria**: **5 years'** operating experience, stock-exchange listing, minimum net worth **₹1,000 crore**, **CRAR 15%**, **Gross NPA ≤ 3%**, **Net NPA ≤ 1%**.
- **PSB Alliance** (association of **12 PSBs**; the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** is the direct owner/controller of PSBs): **M. Nagaraju**, DFS Secretary, led the annual strategic meeting in **New Delhi** and launched **BAANKNET (Bank Assets Auction Network)** — a nationwide digital mobile-app platform.

- **Bank of Maharashtra** launched "**FinSpark 26**" — a national cyber-security hackathon; theme: "**Securing the Future of Banking**"; profile: HQ — **Pune**; MD & CEO — **Nidhu Saxena**; tagline — "**One Family, One Bank**".
- **RBI "Harbinger"** hackathon: 5th edition scheduled for 2026; theme — "**Secure Banking powered by Identity, Integrity, and Inclusivity**".
- **Visa** launched the **Visa Payment Passkey** in India, with **IDFC First Bank** as its first banking partner.
- **NSE** launched India's first animal-friendly stock index — **Nifty 500 Ahimsa**; base date **1st April 2016**; base value **\$10** (as stated in source).
- **Bloomberg** launched an electronic online trading platform allowing **FPIs** to directly bid on and purchase **Indian Government Securities (G-Secs)**.
- **Paytm** became the **first Indian company** to receive an **EU financial services license**.
- **PayGlocal**: cross-border remittance/payment platform founded **2021**, HQ — **Bengaluru**; holds the RBI's **Payment Aggregator Cross-Border (PA-CB)** license; integrated **Google Pay** card payments onto its international gateway (**Apple Pay** was already live).

22. **NABARD — "Gramodyan" & 45th Foundation Day**

- **NABARD** launched the "**Gramodyan**" program on its **45th Foundation Day (12th July)**.
- **NABARD facts**: established **12th July 1982**; HQ — **Mumbai, Maharashtra**; Chairman — **Shaji KV**; operates under the **Ministry of Finance**.
- **NABARD** facilitated **GI registration of 28 new products**, taking **NABARD-supported GI products to 176**.

7. Defence

1. **Indian Navy Participates in RIMPAC 2026 — World's Largest Naval Exercise (30th Edition)**

- **RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific)** is the world's largest naval/international maritime exercise, hosted **biennially** (once every two years, even-numbered years) by the **USA / US Indo-Pacific Command**; it first began in **1971**.
- The **30th edition** was hosted by the **US Navy** at **Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam**, in and around the **Hawaii Islands, USA** (famous for active volcanoes), from **June 24 to July 30–31, 2026**.
- Theme: "**Partners: Integrated and Prepared**".
- Participation: a total of **30 countries (or 31 nations)** are participating.
- India's presence: represented by the **stealth frigate INS Shivalik**, built at the **Mazagon Dockyard,**

Mumbai; India also deployed its **P-8I Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft**.

- The largest naval exercise **hosted by India** is **Milan**, also held once every two years.
- Other India–US exercises: **Red Flag**, **Vajra Prahar**, **Yudh Abhyas**, and **Tiger Triumph**.

2. **Indian Army Launches Strategic Modernization Roadmap "VIJAY"**

- Launched/unveiled by the newly appointed **31st Chief of Army Staff (COAS)**, **General Dheeraj (Dhiraj) Seth**.
- "**VIJAY**" is a technology-focused strategic roadmap to modernize the Indian Army into a **future-ready force**.
- Acronym meaning: **V — Vigilance**; **I — Innovation (and Transformation)**; **J — Jointness (and Integration)**; **A — Aatmanirbharata (Atmanirbharta)**; **Y — Yoddha (Yodha) First**.

3. **BRO's Project Brahmark Celebrates 16th Raising Day**

- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** operates under the **Ministry of Defence** to build international border road networks; established on **May 7, 1960**; currently headed by **Harpal Singh**.
- **Project Brahmark** was incepted in **2011** — raised on **June 29, 2011, at Ranaghat** and became fully functional on **December 3, 2011**.
- Its **16th Raising Day** was celebrated on **June 29, 2026**, at **Ranaghat, East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh**, marking **15 completed years** of operational service.
- Successfully laid over **811 kilometers** of robust road infrastructure in the **Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Another prominent BRO project is **Project Himank**, which operates in the **Ladakh** region.

4. **Indian Coast Guard Fast Patrol Vessel "ICGS Akshay" Commissioned**

- Commissioned at the **Goa Shipyard** in **Goa**.
- It is the **4th of 8 planned vessels** built by **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** under the **Adamyra Class**.

5. **INS Mahendragiri — 6th Project 17A Stealth Frigate Commissioned**

- **INS Mahendragiri**, a **stealth frigate** built under **Project 17A**, was commissioned by the Indian Navy at **Visakhapatnam** (described as India's **6th Project 17A stealth frigate**).
- Project 17A includes a total of **7 ships**: **Nilgiri, Himgiri, Udaygiri, Dunagiri, Taragiri, Vindhyagiri, and Mahendragiri**.
- Designed by the Indian Navy's in-house **Warship Design Bureau**; manufactured by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**, **Mumbai**.

6. INS Sudarshini Concludes Port Call at New York Under Lokayan 2026

- INS Sudarshini concluded a port call at New York under Lokayan 2026.
- It was built by the Goa Shipyard as a specialized sail training ship (STS).

7. DRDO Flight Tests Pinaka Long-Range Guided Rocket

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the Pinaka Long-Range Guided Rocket on July 8 from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- Capabilities: precision-guided rocket tested at a user-defined minimum range of 60 km, with a maximum potential range of 120 km.
- Design: developed by the Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE) in association with HEMRL, supported by DRDL and RCI.
- DRDO details: HQ — New Delhi; established 1958; Chairman/Chief — Rajesh Kumar Singh (holding additional charge).

8. Indian Air Force Ranked 3rd Most Powerful in the World (WDMMA 2026)

- Per the World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA) 2026 Global Air Power Rankings, the Indian Air Force (IAF) retained its position as the 3rd most powerful air force in the world.
- Global standings: 1. United States; 2. Russia; 3. India; 4. China (People's Liberation Army Air Force) — China has remained behind India since 2022.

9. 23rd Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise "Khan Quest"

- The exercise began as a bilateral event between the US and Mongolia in 2003, before turning multilateral in 2006.
- The 23rd edition took place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 20th June to 30th July.

10. India-Japan "UNICORN" Project — First-Ever Defence Co-development Agreement

- Signed during the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit: joint development of the UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna) for Indian Naval ships — the first-ever India-Japan defence co-development agreement.

11. Bureau of Port Security Established

- Established under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways to strengthen the physical and digital security of Indian sea ports, ships, and port infrastructure.

12. India's "Necklace of Diamonds" Strategy

- Designed to counter China's encirclement by developing critical strategic maritime footholds.

- Key nodes: Duqm Port — Oman; Chabahar Port — Iran; Sabang Port — Indonesia.

13. Proposed Defence Security and Resilience Bank (DSRB)

- Proposed HQ in Canada with a European Hub in Luxembourg.

8. International

1. PM Modi's Visit to Seychelles — 19 Bilateral Agreements Signed

- PM Narendra Modi traveled on a three-day visit to Seychelles (island country in the Indian Ocean); 19 bilateral agreements were signed.
- Seychelles officially agreed to adopt India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment system.
- Temple visit: Arul Mihu Navasakti Vinayagar Temple (transcribed as Arul Mehu Temple) on Mahe Island in Victoria.
- Seychelles profile: Capital — Victoria; President — Dr. Patrick Herminie; Currency — Seychelles Rupee.
- (His "Guardian of the Blue Horizon" award is covered under Awards.)

2. India Launches Operation Amistad for Venezuela Disaster Relief

- Launched to provide urgent disaster relief to Venezuela after a major earthquake; "Amistad" means "Friendship" in Spanish.
- India sent two IAF C-17 Globemaster aircraft with 41 crew members, medical rescue teams and search personnel.
- Aid package: 30 tons of relief material, 6 tons of medicines, and two BHISHM Cubes (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri) — fully-equipped mobile hospital units.
- Venezuela profile: Capital — Caracas; Currency — Bolivar.

3. Piyush Goyal's UK Visit — CTA Manual

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal visited the UK from June 25th to 27th for bilateral meetings and launched the UK-India CTA Business Utilization Manual.

4. Nirmala Sitharaman's France Visit

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman went on a four-day official visit to France to lead the India-France Economic and Financial Dialogue.

5. PM Modi's Visit to Indonesia — 20 Outcomes; Prambanan Temple

- PM Modi's discussions in Indonesia resulted in 20 outcomes (14 MoUs and 6 major announcements) spanning defence, space, health, and critical mineral supplies.

- IIM Bangalore will set up its **first overseas campus** in the **Singhasari Special Economic Zone, Indonesia**.
- 2026-27 was declared the **Tagore-Dewantara Year**.
- PM Modi, alongside Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto**, visited the **Prambanan Temple Complex** in **Yogyakarta**: built in the **9th century** during the **Sanjay Dynasty**, dedicated to the Hindu **Trimurti** (**Shiva, Vishnu, Brahma**); a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** originally consisting of **240 temples**; tallest structure — a **47-metre-high central Shiva temple tower**.
- Official gift: Assam's "**Manohari Gold Tea**" presented to President **Prabowo Subianto** (referred to as "**Prabhu Subiyanto**" in the transcript).
- Indonesia profile: Capital — **Jakarta**; President — **Prabowo Subianto**; Currency — **Indonesian Rupiah**.
- 6. 3rd India–Australia Annual Bilateral Leaders' Summit**
 - Held in **Melbourne, Australia**, attended by PM **Narendra Modi** and Australian PM **Anthony Albanese**.
- 7. India–New Zealand Strategic Roadmap**
 - PM Modi's official visit to **New Zealand** — the **first by an Indian Prime Minister in nearly 40 years** — produced a **Strategic Roadmap** (trade target details under **Amounts & Agreements**).
- 8. India Launches UNSC Non-Permanent Seat Campaign (2028-29) — "SHANTI" Vision**
 - India officially launched its campaign for a **non-permanent UNSC seat for the 2028–29 term (FY29)**, unveiled by External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** at the **UN Headquarters**.
 - Campaign vision — "**SHANTI**": **Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust, and Integrity**.
 - India has served as a non-permanent UNSC member **8 times**, most recently ending in **FY22**.
 - Current newly added five non-permanent members: **Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad & Tobago, Zimbabwe (A-K-P-T-T-Z)**; **Kyrgyzstan** entered the council for the **first time**.
- 9. Ireland Assumes EU Council Presidency**
 - **Ireland** assumed the **EU Council Presidency from July 1, 2026**; the presidency rotates every **6 months**.
 - EU profile: HQ — **Brussels**; **27 member states** (post-Brexit) representing **450 million people**; EU Council headed by **Antonio Costa**; EU Commission led by **Ursula von der Leyen**.
- 10. European Commission Steel Import Quota & Tariff Framework**
- The duty-free steel import quota was **reduced by 47% to 18.3 million tons**; a **50% tariff** will be imposed on imports exceeding this quota.
- 11. US-Russia 'New START' Treaty Set to Expire**
 - The **New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty)** is the **last remaining nuclear arms control pact** between the **US and Russia**; first signed in **2010**, renewed once in **2021**.
 - Caps deployed nuclear warheads at a maximum of **1,550 on each side**.
- 12. World Bank Upgrades Sri Lanka to Upper-Middle Income**
 - The **World Bank** upgraded **Sri Lanka** from **Lower-Middle Income** to an **Upper-Middle Income** economy.
 - Income tiers: **Low Income** — \$1,135 or less; **Lower-Middle Income** (includes India) — \$1,136–\$4,495; **Upper-Middle Income** (Sri Lanka's new tier) — \$4,496–\$13,935; **High Income** — above \$13,935.
- 13. 14th India–Russia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism**
 - Held in **New Delhi**; the **13th session** was held in **Moscow** in **November 2024**.
- 14. India Chairs 9th UNCTAD Consumer Protection Meeting**
 - India chaired the meeting in **Geneva, Switzerland**, represented by **Nidhi Khare** (Secretary, **Department of Consumer Affairs**).
 - UNCTAD profile: founded **1964** in **Geneva**; current Secretary-General — **Rebeca Grynspan**.
- 15. UNCTAD World Investment Report — India's FDI Performance**
 - **Inward FDI**: India climbed to **11th rank globally** (up from 13th in 2024, and from 16th earlier); total inward FDI reached **\$38.89 billion** — a **44% year-on-year increase**.
 - **Outward FDI**: India ranked **18th globally**, investing **\$35.66 billion** overseas (a **47% surge** from \$24.26 billion).
 - Top FDI recipients globally: **1. United States (\$277B)**; **2. Singapore (\$151B)**; **3. Hong Kong**; **China is 4th (\$104.66 billion)**.
 - (The report is dated **2025** in one entry and **2026** in another in the source.)
- 16. FIFA-Style Note — Bangladesh UNGA Presidency**
 - Bangladesh's Foreign Minister **Khalilur Rahman** is set to head the **81st session of the UN General Assembly** in **New York** (his **Mongla Port** agreement is under **Amounts & Agreements**).
- 17. Japan's Deep-Sea Rare Earth Recovery**
 - **Japan** became the **first nation** to successfully recover **rare earth metals** from **deep-sea sediments** at a **depth of 6,000 meters**, using a

specialized small deep-sea vessel/submarine named "Chikyu".

18. UN's First AI Governance Report

- The **United Nations** released its **first AI Governance Report**: 75% of global AI computing capacity resides in the US, and 15% in China.
- The **first AI Governance Dialogue** took place in **Geneva**; the second edition will be hosted in **New York** next year.

19. Keiko Fujimori Elected President of Peru

- **Keiko Fujimori** won the presidential election in **Peru** (profile under Appointments: Capital — Lima; Currency — Sol; PM — Luis Andrik).

20. Rwanda Country Profile

- President — **Paul Kagame**; Capital — **Kigali**; Currency — **Rwandan Franc**.

21. India-Kyrgyzstan Epics Cooperation

- India and **Kyrgyzstan** signed an MoU for joint academic, cultural, and comparative research on their national epics: **Mahabharat (India)** and **Manas (Kyrgyzstan)**.
- Kyrgyzstan profile: Capital — **Bishkek**; Currency — **Kyrgyzstan Som**.

22. India-Australia PACTS Agreement

- India and Australia signed the **PACTS** agreement — **Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains**.

23. India-Saudi Arabia Water Cooperation Agreement

- Executed during **Saudi Water Week** held in **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**.

24. IIM Bangalore Overseas Campus

- **IIM Bangalore** to open its **first overseas campus** in **Indonesia** (Singhasari SEZ).

9. Meetings

1. 16th India-Japan Annual Summit Held in New Delhi

- Japanese Prime Minister **Sanae Takaichi** completed a **3-day official visit to India** for the **16th India-Japan Annual Summit** in **New Delhi**.
- 2027 has been designated as the **India-Japan Year of Shared Horizons** to celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations.
- (The **UNICORN** defence co-development agreement signed at the summit is covered under Defence Affairs.)

2. 36th NATO Summit Hosted in Ankara, Turkey

- The **36th NATO Summit (2026)** was hosted in **Ankara, Turkey** — the **second time** Turkey has hosted, the first being the **2004 Istanbul Summit**.
- NATO profile: established in **1949** under the **North Atlantic Treaty (Washington Treaty)**; HQ — **Brussels, Belgium**; currently 32 members

— **Finland** was the 31st and **Sweden** the 32nd member; the **14th Secretary General** is **Mark Rutte** (former PM of the Netherlands).

3. 16th Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) Conference

- Convened at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**, under the chairmanship of Union Health Minister **J. P. Nadda**.

4. BRICS Meetings Hosted in India (Energy Meeting & MSME Forum)

- **11th BRICS Energy Meeting**: held in **Gurugram, Haryana**.
- **1st BRICS MSME Forum** and **3rd SME Working Group Meeting**: hosted in **Agra**.
- Both events held under the identical theme: "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**".

5. 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum in New Delhi

- India hosted the **13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum** in **New Delhi**.
- Theme: "**Cities for the People: BRICS Cooperation for Inclusive Resilient Urban Futures**".
- **BRICS membership** currently counts **11 members**: founding members **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa**, alongside newly active members **Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE**.

6. BRICS Anti-Drug Agencies Meeting

- Held in **Guwahati, Assam**.

7. 29th National e-Governance Conference in Jaipur

- The **29th National e-Governance Conference** was held in **Jaipur**.
- The **first** National e-Governance Conference took place in **1997 in Hyderabad**.
- (ICMR MIND/MINDS Gold Award presented at this conference is covered under Awards.)

8. Inaugural India-Mali Joint Trade Forum in Bamako

- The inaugural **India-Mali Joint Trade Forum** (also described as the **India-Mali Forum for Promotion of Exports**) was held in **Bamako, Mali**.
- Theme: "**Reinforcing Trade and Strategic Partnership**".

9. 13th ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee Meeting

- India hosted the meeting from **6 to 10 July 2026** at **Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi**.

10. Global Dialogue on AI Governance 2026 & Global AI Summit 2027

- The **Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance (2026)** was held **6th–7th July 2026** in **Geneva, Switzerland**, under the theme "**AI for All**".

- **Global AI Summit 2027:** Geneva will host the fifth Global AI Summit on June 21, 2027, alongside the ITU's "AI for Good Global Summit".
- **Global AI Summit chronology:** 1st — Bletchley Park, UK; 2nd — South Korea; 3rd — Paris, France; 4th — Delhi, India (2026); 5th — Geneva, Switzerland (upcoming, June 2027).
- **ITU static GK:** established 1865; HQ — Geneva; led by Secretary-General **Doreen Bogdan-Martin**.

11. Second Pax Silica Summit

- The **Second Pax Silica Summit** was held in Washington.

12. ZSI 3rd Animal Taxonomy Summit in Kolkata

- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** inaugurated the **3rd three-day Animal Taxonomy Summit** in Kolkata, West Bengal (the **4th edition** of the National Scientific Summit), running from **30th June to 2nd July**, inaugurated by Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change **Bhupender Yadav**.
- **Kerala** led the nation with **98 new animal species discovered**, followed by **West Bengal**, **Karnataka**, and **Arunachal Pradesh**.

13. Bharat Tex — India's Largest Global Textile Event (3rd Edition)

- The **3rd edition** of **Bharat Tex**, India's largest global textile event, was hosted in **Delhi**.
- Structurally aligned around the **5F model: Farm to Fiber → Fiber to Factory → Factory to Fashion → Fashion to Foreign**.

14. MPEDA National Skill Olympiad & Seafood Expo Bharat 2026

- The **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)** organized the **second edition of the National Skill Olympiad on Seafood Value Addition** alongside the **Seafood Expo Bharat 2026** event in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- Olympiad winners: **P. Surya Bhaskar**, **Muthu Kumaran**, **Sagarika Sardar**, and **Barasarani Jena**.

15. PSB Alliance Annual Strategic Meeting

- Led by **M. Nagaraju**, Secretary of the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, in **New Delhi** (BAANKNET launch details under Banking & Finance).

16. US Federal Reserve Monetary Policy Task Force

- US Federal Reserve Chairman **Kevin Warsh** announced a **5-member monetary policy task force** to analyze central banking approaches (Indian-origin economist membership covered under Appointments).

10. Miscellaneous

1. Major Book Publications

1. "Stamps, Coins and Bank Notes"

- **Author/Creator:** Released by **Mintage World** under the leadership of **Sushil Kumar Agarwal**, Founder & CEO of Mintage World.
- **Structure:** A detailed **200-page coffee table book**.

2. "Sanskriti Ratna Bhandar Bhovyar Itivritto"

- **Authors:** Co-authored by **Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy** and **Sangeeta Roy**.
- **Released By:** Vice President **C.P. Radhakrishnan**.

3. "Politics, Policy and Predictions: Views from the Front Row of Parliament"

- **Author:** Co-authored by **Derek O'Brien**.

4. "Second Orbit Memoir"

- **Author:** Written by Group Captain **Subhanshu Shukla**.

5. "Better Never Stops: Leadership Insights from Life's Unscripted Moments"

- **Author:** Authored by **Shyam Srinivasan** (former head of Federal Bank).

2. Unique Discoveries and Miscellaneous Facts

1. World's Oldest Accurately Dated Banyan Tree

- **Location Found:** **Munger district, Bihar**.
- **Estimated Age:** Certified as **700 years old**, making it one of the oldest scientifically/accurately dated banyan trees globally.

2. "Omega Block" Atmospheric Phenomenon

- **Definition & Mechanism:** An atmospheric phenomenon (also referred to as the "**Omega Dome**") responsible for extreme and dangerous heat waves in **Western Europe**.
- **How it works:** Hot air and rising gases from the earth's surface are trapped inside a massive dome-shaped boundary that resembles the Greek letter **Ω (Omega)**. This trapped air completely prevents cloud formation, leaving an unshielded clear sky that drastically intensifies the direct impact of solar radiation.

3. Banknote Press Mnemonic ("MSD-N")

- **The Mnemonic:** Remembering the letters "**MSD**" (with an added '**N**' at the end) serves as an official study mnemonic for India's banknote printing presses: **Mysore**, **Salboni**, **Dewas**, and **Nasik**.
- **Ownership Breakdown:**
 - **Mysore and Salboni:** RBI presses managed directly by **BRBNMPL** (Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited).

- **Dewas and Nasik:** Government of India presses managed directly by **SPMCIL** (Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited).
 - **Coin Mints:** India's four official coin mints (for coining currency) are located in **Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Noida.**
- 4. Bupivacaine Injections Ban in Rajasthan**
- **Key Action:** The Government of **Rajasthan** officially banned the use of **Bupivacaine** injections in all **Cesarean (C-section) deliveries.**
 - **What is Bupivacaine?:** A common spinal anesthetic utilized during major surgeries, especially C-section child deliveries.
- 5. Historic 79th Anniversary of the "3rd June Plan" (Mountbatten Plan)**
- **Key Date:** **June 3rd** marked the **79th anniversary** of the historic **3rd June Plan of 1947.**
 - **Details:** Also formally known as the **Mountbatten Plan**, which was introduced by **Lord Louis Mountbatten**, the last Viceroy of India, laying down the partition and independence roadmap.

11. MoUs

- 1. Tourism Ministry Signs Digital Promotion Agreement with Google India**
 - The **Ministry of Tourism** signed a digital promotion agreement with **Google India.**
- 2. Corporate Mitra Scheme MoU (Ministry of Corporate Affairs)**
 - A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed by the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** in partnership with: **IIT Madras, IIT Pravartak** (IIT Madras' Deep Tech innovation hub), **Swayam Plus, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), and Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI).**
 - (Full scheme details are under Schemes & Initiatives.)
- 3. GIFT City–Da Nang International Financial Center MoU**
 - India's **GIFT City (Gandhinagar, Gujarat)** signed an MoU with the **Da Nang International Financial Center (Vietnam)** for **financial knowledge-sharing** and **cross-border investment cooperation.**
- 4. Sharnbasva University–Ho Chi Minh City MoU**

- **Sharnbasva University** signed a **5-year MoU** with the **Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.**
- 5. Bank of Baroda–Mizuho Bank Pact**
- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** and **Mizuho Bank** signed a pact/MoU to collectively facilitate and fund **Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) financing** for cross-border deals involving Indian businesses.
 - **Mizuho Bank** represents the banking wing of Japan's **Mizuho Financial Group.**
 - BoB profile: HQ — **Vadodara**; MD & CEO — **Debadatta Chand**; tagline — **"India's International Bank".**
- 6. Central Bank of India–HSBC Asset Management Partnership**
- The **Central Bank of India** partnered with **HSBC Asset Management** to **cross-sell mutual fund products** to its customer base, earning commissions on these sales.
 - Central Bank of India profile: founded **1911**; HQ — **Mumbai, Maharashtra**; MD & CEO — **Kalyan Kumar.**
- 7. SBI Life–IIT Bombay AI & Cyber Innovation Hub**
- **SBI Life** and **IIT Bombay** are setting up the **"Bharat AI & Cyber Innovation Hub for Insurance".**
 - **SBI Life Insurance** is a joint venture between **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **BNP Paribas.**
- 8. AU Small Finance Bank–Zaggle Partnership**
- **AU SFB** partnered with fintech firm **Zaggle** to launch **co-branded retail credit cards** on both **Visa and RuPay** networks.
- 9. IRDAI–IPAI Collaboration Against Dark Patterns**
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** collaborated with the **Institute of Public Auditors of India (IPAI)** to fight **dark patterns** on digital insurance platforms.
- 10. TVS Motor–Indian Oil Corporation Partnership**
- **TVS Motor Company** partnered with **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** to deploy its eco-friendly **TVS King Cargo HD** transport vehicles for **door-to-door LPG cylinder delivery.**
- 11. Arunachal Pradesh–Tidal Sails AS (Norway) MoU**
- **Arunachal Pradesh** signed an MoU with Norway's **Tidal Sails AS** to set up **India's first River Kinetic Energy Demonstration Project** with a capacity of **500 kW.**
- 12. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 Agreements with States/UTs**
- **JJM 2.0 agreements** were signed with **States/UTs.**

- The original **Jal Jeevan Mission** was launched on **August 15, 2019**; JJM 2.0 was approved by the Union Cabinet on **March 10, 2026**.
- Updated budget allocation: **₹8.69 lakh crore**; objective — piped water connection to **every Indian household by December 2028**.

13. MeitY–Drone Federation of India Collaboration (NIDAR 2.0)

- MeitY launched **NIDAR 2.0** in collaboration with the **Drone Federation of India** (full details under Science & Technology).

14. NPCI Cross-Border Partnerships

- NPCI–Eurobank (Greece) bilateral agreement and UPI FX partnership with **HSBC India** and **JP Morgan** (details under Banking & Finance).

15. India–Kyrgyzstan Epics MoU

- MoU for joint academic, cultural, and comparative research on the **Mahabharat (India)** and **Manas (Kyrgyzstan)** epics (also noted under International Affairs).

12. National

1. Judiciary, Governance & Regulation

- **Supreme Court judges' strength** raised from **33 to 37 (excluding the CJI)**.
- **Navi Mumbai International Airport (Maharashtra)** was notified by the Central Government as an **authorized port for importing drugs** under the **Drugs Rules 1945** — bringing total designated drug import entry points in India (airports, seaports, road, rail) to **42**.
- The **Health Ministry** proposed amendments to the **Drug Rules 1945**; in FY26, India's **pharmaceutical exports reached ₹2.75 lakh crore**, making India the **third-largest exporter of pharmaceuticals globally**.
- The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** established a high-level expert committee headed by former Delhi High Court judge **Asha Menon** to review the legal framework governing **In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) clinics, Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) centers, and gamete banks**.
- **TRAI directives on Truecaller spam classifications** — two designated call series: **140 Series** (strictly telemarketing, sales, promotional calls) and **1600 Series** (service/transactional calls, introduced in phases for regulated entities and government bodies).
- **Manohar Lal** unveiled the "**SANKALP**" framework for the **Central Public Works Department (CPWD)** on its **172nd Annual Day / Foundation Day (12th July)**; CPWD was

established in **1854** and is currently headed by **Satinder Pal Singh**.

- **SANKALP** principles: **S — Speed; A — Accuracy/Accessibility; N — Nek Niyat (Good Intent); K — Kartavya Nishtha (Dedication to Duty); A — Adoption of Technology; L — Lokhit (Public Welfare); P — Pardarshita (Transparency)**.
- **5th Foundation Day of the Ministry of Cooperation** — set up in **2021** under Union Minister **Amit Shah**; core theme: "**Sahkar se Samriddhi**".
- An **ICAR panel** was formed for **Andhra Pradesh's Totapuri mango growers**, headed by **T. Damodaran** (Director, **ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture**).

2. Infrastructure, Industry & PSU Affairs

- **India's first off-shore airport** (built on reclaimed land or an artificial island in the sea) is planned near **Kori beach, Palghar district, Maharashtra**; CM **Devendra Fadnavis** directed officials to draft a **Detailed Project Report (DPR)**.
- A **circuit manufacturing plant** is being developed by **Amber and Ascent** in **Jewar, Uttar Pradesh**.
- PM Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the **HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL)** — India's **24th oil refinery and first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex** — at **Pachpadra, Balotra District, Rajasthan**.
- **Lal Bahadur Shastri National Airport, Varanasi (UP)** will construct **India's first active runway underpass**.
- The Government approved the **Fotu La Tunnel in Ladakh** for all-weather connectivity; Ladakh is known as the "**Land of Passes**" ("La" means Pass).
- **Chumur (Ladakh)** became **India's first "Model Border Village"** — an extension of the **Vibrant Village Program** (launched **2023** by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to develop villages along international borders with China, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, etc.); the first village under the main program was **Mana Village, Uttarakhand**; Chumur was officially inaugurated on **June 3, 2026**, in the presence of Ladakh LG **Vinai Kumar Saxena**.
- **Kamarajar Port** (North Chennai, Tamil Nadu) completed **Capital Dredging Phase VI**, becoming **India's second major port** (after **Visakhapatnam**) to offer an **18-meter operational draft**.
- **Mini Ratna status: Yantra India Limited (YIL)** — a Nagpur-based **Defence PSU** — and **MECON**

Limited (a Schedule 'A' CPSE under the **Ministry of Steel**) granted **Mini Ratna Category-I** status.

- Mini Ratna criteria: 3 years of continuous profit, positive net worth, pre-tax profit above **₹30 crore** (in at least one year), turnover exceeding **₹120 crore**.
- Ratna tally: **Maharatna** — 14 companies (14th: **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited — HAL**; can invest up to **₹5,000 crore** without approval); **Navratna** — 27 companies (27th: **Numaligarh Refinery Limited — NRL**; up to **₹1,000 crore**); **Mini Ratna** — 64 companies (**YIL** is the 64th, and the **54th in Category-I**).
- **Goa Eco-Zone** declared a "No Development Zone".
- **UIDAI's** first directly operated **Aadhaar Seva Kendra** established in **Dimapur, Nagaland**; **UIDAI** profile: established **2009**; Chairman — **Neelkanth Mishra**; CEO — **Saurabh Vijay**.

3. Environment & Wildlife

- The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** notified the **Borjuli site in Sonitpur, Assam** as a **Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)** under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.
- Assam's officially notified BHSs: (i) **Majuli BHS**, (ii) **Bourjuli Wild Rice BHS**, (iii) **Hajong Tortoise Lake BHS (Dima Hasao)** — including regions protecting the endangered **Black Softshell Turtle**.
- Assam state details: Capital — **Dispur**; CM — **Himanta Biswa Sarma**; Governor — **Lakshman Prasad Acharya**.
- Out of India's **58 Tiger Reserves**, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** (led by **Bhupender Yadav**) has prioritized 25 reserves to actively boost tiger populations — declared at **Sariska Tiger Reserve (Alwar, Rajasthan)** to mark **18 years** since tigers were reintroduced there; the **58th reserve** is **Madhav Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh)**.
- Related facts: **Project Tiger** announced **1st April 1973**; **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** — **Bangladesh** recently joined; covers **7 big cats**; **All India Tiger Report** conducted every **4 years** — current tiger population **3,682+**; **Project Cheetah** launched **2022** from **Kuno National Park (MP)** with cheetahs imported from Africa (cheetahs declared extinct in India in **1952**).
- The **Natural History Museum (NHM)** of **Mizoram University** (established **2022**) declared **India's 21st Designated Repository** under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.
- A **Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Human-Wildlife Conflict Management** and the **National Human-Wildlife Conflict Portal** were inaugurated by **Bhupender Yadav** at

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, at the **Wildlife Institute of India's Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)**.

- A **700-year-old banyan tree** in **Munger district, Bihar**, was identified as the **world's oldest accurately/scientifically dated banyan tree**.
- **Inflatable air-filled rubber dams in Gujarat** — two dams to improve irrigation and recharge groundwater: **Rajvasna Rubber Dam** on the **Hiran River, Chhota Udepur district** (75% complete) and **Pathakwadi Rubber Dam** on the **Ambika River, Tapi district**; **Kerala** remains India's largest rubber producer.

4. Geographical Indication (GI) Tags

- **Eight Himachal Pradesh products** received **GI** tags, taking the state total to **17**: **Spiti Seabuckthorn (Chharma)**, **Salooni Safed Makka**, **Chamba Metal Art**, **Sirmauri Loiya**, **Kinnauri Topi**, **Sepuvadi of Mandi**, **Kinnauri Apple**, and **Kinnauri Jewellery**.
- **West Bengal** added **23 new GI tags**, ranking **3rd nationally** with a total of **59 GI-tagged products**, and leads in **food-related GI registrations**. Notable products: **Jal Bhara sweet (Jal Bhara Sandesh, Chandannagar, Hooghly)**, **Monohara (Janai)**, **Bangla (from Nolen Gur)**, **Kanakchur Popped Rice**, **Santiniketan Batik**, **Santiniketan Ektara (Birbhum)**, **Mecha Sandesh**, **Beliatore (Bankura)**, **Krishnanagar Clay Doll**, **Shitalpati (Cooch Behar)**, **Bengal Singing Bowl**, **Balagarh Boat (Hooghly)**, **Kolkati Jewelers**, **Khagra Brass and Bell Metal Utensils**, **Ashapur Brinjal**, **Malda Silk**, **Wooden Dolls**, **Poch Shell Craft**, and **Cotton Saree**.
- **Rankings: Uttar Pradesh — 1st with 83 registrations; Tamil Nadu — 2nd with 76**; highest new GI tags in **FY25-26: Madhya Pradesh topped with 26**, followed by **West Bengal with 24**.
- **India** registered **125 new GI tags in FY25-26**; total registered GI products stand at **822**; national target — **10,000 GI tags by 2030**.
- **Madhya Pradesh's Rewa Sundarja Mangoes** received a GI tag.
- **Sirsa Kinnow (Keenu)** became **Haryana's first fruit GI** (and first exclusive GI product) — application filed in **2023**.
- **Basholi Painting (Jammu & Kashmir)** secured a GI tag.
- **Unjha Jeera (Cumin)** and **Unjha Saunf (Fennel)** — from **Mahesana District, North Gujarat** — granted GI tags.
- **Jodhpur Mojari** — the traditional **200-year-old footwear style from Jodhpur, Rajasthan** — received a GI tag.

- **NABARD-facilitated new GI products:** Bihar — Nalanda Bawan Buti Saree (and Fabrics); **Jharkhand** — Kuchai Silk Saree and Fabrics; **Assam** — Ba Shilp/Bash Shilp (Bamboo Craft); **Himachal Pradesh** — Himachal Wood Carving Craft; **Madhya Pradesh** — Khajuraho Metal Craft.

5. Education Affairs

- **Academic Bank of Credit (ABC):** launched in 2021 under the **National Education Policy (NEP)**; **APAAR ID (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry)** functions as an "**Aadhaar for Education**" containing complete academic records, entrance scores, certificates and scholarships.
- **CBSE three-language study** made **compulsory from Class 9th onwards** under **NEP 2020** guidelines; NEP 2020 was drafted under the chairmanship of **Dr. K. Kasturirangan**.
- **Uttarakhand declared India's sixth fully literate state** under **NEP 2020** and the **ULLAS Program**; **ULLAS ("Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society")** — also called the **New India Literacy Program** — is a central initiative spanning **2022 to 2027**, targeting basic literacy and numeracy for citizens aged **15+**, with a national goal of **5 crore learners by 2027**; the first five fully literate states: **Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim**.
- **Tripura** made the **National Song and National Anthem compulsory** in all schools.
- **Karnataka** announced **India's first government-driven AI University**.
- **Chandigarh University** inaugurated **India's first private-university "India AI Data Lab"**; Chandigarh University has topped the **Khelo India University Games** twice.

6. State News & Actions

- **Odisha "Go East" initiative:** CM **Mohan Charan Majhi** launched **Go East (Government of Odisha Eastern Investment Accelerator & Special Task Force)** to attract industrial investment.
- **Odisha profile:** **Odisha Day (Utkal Diwas)** — 1st April (state formed **1936**); CM — **Mohan Charan Majhi**; Governor — **Kambhampati Hari Babu**; National/Zoological Parks — **Bhitarkanika, Simlipal, Nandan Kanan**; Tiger Reserves — **Satkosia and Simlipal**; key cultural festivals — **Raja Parba and Nuakhai**.
- **Jalalabad** (Shahjahanpur district, Uttar Pradesh) officially renamed **Parshuram Puri**.
- **Rajasthan banned Bupivacaine injections** in C-section deliveries; Bupivacaine is a common **spinal anesthetic** used during surgeries such as Cesarean deliveries.

- **Gujarat Police** launched "**Operation Surakshit Cyber Space**" to safeguard **women and children** online from cyber crimes such as cyber stalking, financial fraud, and identity theft.
- **Uttar Pradesh** launched the "**DigiRover**" special land-measuring campaign.
- **Delhi** launched **Mission Kayakalp** to modernize, renovate, and secure government schools.
- **Pink Saheli Smart Card:** from **1st August 2026**, mandatory for women to avail **free travel** in **Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC)** and Cluster buses.
- **Delhi EV Policy 2026 / EV Policy 2.0:** effective **July 1, 2026 to March 31, 2030**. Registration of petrol/diesel two- and three-wheelers closed from **January 1, 2027** (only electric three-wheelers and N1 goods carriers allowed); petrol two-wheelers banned entirely by 2028 — new petrol/CNG two-wheeler registration discontinued from **April 1, 2028**; **100% road tax and registration fee exemption** for EVs (passenger cars priced up to **₹30 lakh** ex-showroom); subsidy of **₹30,000** for EVs costing under **₹2.25 lakh**.
- **Tamil Nadu** is the **fastest-growing merchandise exporting state** by percentage — **13.7% YoY growth** in **FY25-26**

13. Persons in News

1. National Figures

- **PM Narendra Modi** — visits to Seychelles, Indonesia, New Zealand, Australia, and the Netherlands; announced the Revamped UDAN Scheme during an address at the inauguration of the new terminal building of **Jodhpur Airport, Rajasthan**; scheduled to inaugurate **HRRL** and an **OSAT facility in Sanand, Gujarat**.
- **Amit Shah** (Union Home Minister) — launched the **PM Family Care Tracker** pilot in Gandhinagar; launched the cooperative "**Bharat Taxi**" platform in Gujarat; launched "**Mission 5 Million Trees**" in Ahmedabad & Gandhinagar.
- **Nirmala Sitharaman** (Union Finance Minister) — led the India-France Economic and Financial Dialogue; received **₹9,439 crore** in PSB dividends.
- **J. P. Nadda** (Union Health Minister) — chaired the 16th CCHFW Conference; launched the **Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram**.
- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** (Union Minister of Rural Development & Agriculture; parliamentary constituency — **Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh**) — nodal minister for **VB-G RAM G Act**; launched the **Rural Internal Audit Portal** and **PRAGATI** initiative.

- **Piyush Goyal** — UK visit, IGF award, CTA Manual launch.
- **Dr. S. Jaishankar** (External Affairs Minister) — unveiled India's UNSC "**SHANTI**" campaign at UN Headquarters.
- **Bhupender Yadav** (Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) — tiger reserve prioritization, CoE on Human-Wildlife Conflict, ZSI Animal Taxonomy Summit.
- **Jual Oram** (Tribal Affairs Minister, with MoS **Durgadas Uikey**) — launched **Tribex** in Bhubaneswar.
- **Jitendra Singh** (Minister) — announced Lakhanpur street food hub selection.
- **Manohar Lal** — unveiled the CPWD "**SANKALP**" framework.
- **Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan** (former Governor of Maharashtra) — launched Odisha's Deep Sea Fishing Mission in Bhubaneswar; released "Sanskriti Ratna Bhandar Bhovyar Itivritto".
- **N. Chandrababu Naidu** and **Pawan Kalyan** — present at the national launch of the **VB-G RAM G Act** at Mukkavaripalle village, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh; Naidu launched the "**Pillale Sampada**" initiative.
- **Union Ministers:** Textiles — **Giriraj Singh**; Youth Affairs and Sports — **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**.
- **Prasoon Joshi** (Chairman, Prasar Bharati) — heads the High-Level Study Group on Hindi cinema.
- **Arvind Panagariya** — Chairman of the **16th Finance Commission (2026–27 to 2030–31)**.
- **Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai** — the "**Moon Man of India**", new Chairperson of Tamil Nadu's school curriculum committee.
- **Nidhi Khare** (Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs) — represented India at the 9th UNCTAD Consumer Protection Meeting.
- **Vivek Chaturvedi** — current Chairperson of the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**.
- **Nita Ambani** — topped **Fortune India's Most Powerful Women 2026** list; received the **AAPI Humanitarian Award** and **Key to the City of Tampa**.
- **Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal, Lakshmi N. Mittal** — Indian founding members of the ITU-backed **AI for Good Global Commission** (Geneva).
- **Sushil Kumar Agarwal** — Founder & CEO, Mintage World.
- **P. T. Usha** — President of the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**, to participate in the Commonwealth Games 2026 opening ceremony.

- **MS Dhoni** — Drive brand ambassador; associated with Anand Ram Jaipuria School opening (details under other categories).
- **Tshering Choden of Sikkim** — successfully scaled **Mount Elbrus** (Caucasus range, southern Russia near the Georgian border) — **Europe's highest peak**.
- **Group Captain Subhanshu Shukla** — author of "Second Orbit Memoir".
- **Shyam Srinivasan** (former head of Federal Bank) — author of "Better Never Stops".
- **Raghuram Rajan** (former RBI Governor) — co-lead of the US Federal Reserve Task Force on Balance Sheet.

2. Key Officials & Regulators (Referenced in News)

- **RBI Governor: Sanjay Malhotra**; four Deputy Governors — **Rohit Jain, Swaminathan Janakiraman** (term recently extended), **Shreesh Chandra Murmu, Poonam Gupta** (also an MPC member); RBI's five subsidiaries — **DICGC, BRBNMPL, ReBIT** (cybersecurity), **IFTAS, RBIH**.
- **ICAI President: CA Prasanna Kumar D** (ICAI HQ — New Delhi).
- **ZSI head: Dhriti Banerjee** (ZSI under Ministry of Environment, HQ Kolkata).
- **ISRO Chairman: V. Narayanan**.
- **DRDO Chief: Rajesh Kumar Singh**.
- **AAI Chairman: Vipin Kumar; DGCA Director General: Vir Vikram Yadav**.
- **NABARD Chairman: Shaji KV**.
- **FIU-IND Head: Amit Mohan Govil**.
- **CCI Chairperson: Ravneet Kaur**.
- **IRDAI Chairperson: Ajay Seth**.
- **EPFO Central PF Commissioner: Ramesh Krishnamurthy**.
- **ICMR Director General: Dr. Rajiv Bahl**.
- **UIDAI: Chairman — Neelkanth Mishra; CEO — Saurabh Vijay**.
- **CPWD head: Satinder Pal Singh**.
- **BRO head: Harpal Singh**.

3. Obituaries

- **Vijaya Mehta** (age 92) — renowned **Marathi theatre pioneer**, actress, director, and filmmaker, passed away.
- **Lt. Gen. Amolak Rattan Kohli / M.M. Lakhera** — former **Governor of Mizoram** and **Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry** (also held additional charge of the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**), passed away.
- **Puviarasu (Puviyarasu)** — eminent/iconic **Tamil poet**, translator, and **Sahitya Akademi Award** winner (honored in **2007 and 2010**), passed away.

- **Teejan Bai (Tijan Bai)** — legendary **Pandwani** exponent, passed away; **Pandwani** is a traditional musical and folk story-telling art describing the life events of the **Pandavas**.
- **S. Janaki (Janaki Amma)** — legendary playback singer, the "**Nightingale of South India**" and Karnataka's "**Gana Kogile**"; holds the record for singing the highest number of songs in **Kannada**, passed away.
- **Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani** (age 74) — former **Emir of Qatar** (served **1995 to 2013**), passed away.
- **Lindsey Graham** (age 71) — senior **US Republican Senator from South Carolina**, passed away.
- **Sam Neill** — veteran actor who famously played **Dr. Alan Grant** in the **Jurassic Park** movies, passed away in **Sydney, Australia**.
- **Shapoor Zadran** — former **Afghanistan national team pace bowler**, passed away.
- **Girish Bharadwaj** — the "**Bridge Man of India**", legendary social worker and **Padma Shri** awardee (2017), passed away.
- **Antonio Rattin (Antonio Retin)** — **Argentinian football legend** who represented his nation in the **1962 and 1966 FIFA World Cups**, passed away.
- **K. Bhagyaraj** — the "**King of Screenplay**", veteran **Tamil filmmaker and actor**; won a **Filmfare Award for Mundhanai Mudichu** and the **SIIMA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014**, passed away.
- **R. Chezhiyan** — **National Award-winning cinematographer**, passed away.

14. Ranks & Reports

1. MoSPI SDG Publications 2026

- **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)**: current MMR stands at **87**.
- **Sex Ratio at Birth**: currently **918**.
- **Unemployment Rate**: documented at **3.1% in 2025**.

2. UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index 2026

- India ranked **94th out of 167 countries** with a score of **68.3 out of 100**; **Finland** secured **1st rank**.

3. Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Rating 2026

- **Global Rank 1: University of Manchester, UK** — topped for the **second time**; the only university in the top 10 for all **8 editions**; topped **3 individual SDG tables** including **SDG 9 and SDG 14**.
- **Global Rank 2: Griffith University, Australia**.
- **Indian highlights: Lovely Professional University (LPU)** — **23rd overall globally**

(India's top rank), topped globally in **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)**; **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham** — **37th**; **JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research** — **74th**; **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)** — **World No. 1 in SDG 5 (Gender Equality)** (leap from 11th), retaining its **101–200** overall band.

4. Global Hydropower & Energy Storage Report (IHA) — India 5th

- Released by the **International Hydropower Association (IHA)**; **China** ranks **1st**, producing **40%** of the world's water-based electricity (also stated as **40%** of global hydropower capacity additions in 2025).
- **India moved up to 5th place**, displacing **Russia to 6th**; India's capacity — **56.33 GW**, future storage target — **100 GW**.
- Globally, India ranks **3rd in overall renewable energy**; India's largest hydropower storage is via the **Siang Project, Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh**.

5. Global Urbanization Study

- **38% of the world population** will live in large cities by **2100**; the share was **11% in 1975** and **24% in 2025**.

6. World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA) 2026

- **IAF** ranked **3rd most powerful air force** globally (details under Defence Affairs).

7. Global Citizen Solutions' Global Passport Index 2026 (5th Edition)

- **India ranked 125th** (down from **124th in 2025**) with a composite score of **~45.1**; Indian passport holders have **visa-free/visa-on-arrival access to 26 countries**.
- **Top: Sweden** — **1st (96.5/96 out of 100; Capital: Stockholm)**; **Switzerland** — **2nd (Bern)**; **Finland** — **3rd (Helsinki)**; **Germany** — **4th**.
- **Bottom 3: Somalia (195th), Syria (196th), Afghanistan (197th)**.
- India's sub-indices: **Quality of Life** improved **11 spots to 118th** (from 129th); **Investment** improved **3 spots to 94th**.

8. US News and World Report 2026 (Global Influence Rankings)

- **India's rank: 16th** — noted for growth driven by digital transformation and economy.
- Most influential country: **United States**; Top 5 — **US, UK, Germany, France, Japan**.

9. Key International Indices — India's Position

- **World Happiness Report 2026** (March): **Finland** tops; India — **116th**.
- **Global Terrorism Index 2026** (March): **Pakistan** most affected (1st); India — **13th**.

- **World Press Freedom Index 2026** (May): Norway tops; India — 157th.
- **Global Gender Gap Report 2025** (WEF): Iceland tops; India — 131st.
- **Environmental Performance Index 2026** (July): Estonia tops; India — 176th.
- **AI Index Report (Stanford)**: led by USA; India is in the **Top 10**.
- **QS World University Rankings**: Top — MIT (USA); India's top — IIT Delhi (Global Top 130).

10. Happy City Index / World's Happiest Cities 2026

- Published by **Time Out** (the source notes the Happy City Index and Time Out survey together): **London** ranked the happiest city globally, followed by contenders like NYC, Paris, Tokyo, Madrid, Rome, Dubai, Berlin, Barcelona.
- Alternate rankings listed in the source: **Bath (UK)** 1st, **Panama City** 2nd, **Guadalajara** 3rd, **Medellin** 4th, **Krakow** 5th.
- **Jaipur ("Pink City")** — India's happiest city and the **only Indian city in the global Top 10**, ranked 6th.
- **Jaipur and Ahmedabad** are the only two recognized **UNESCO World Heritage Cities** in India.

11. Fortune India's Most Powerful Women (MPW) 2026

- **Rank 1**: **Nita Mukesh Ambani** — Founder and Chairperson, **Reliance Foundation**.
- **Top 7**: 1. **Nita Ambani**; 2. **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** (Chairperson, **HCLTech**); 3. **Reddy Sisters** (**Shobana Kamineni**, **Sangita Reddy**, **Preetha Reddy**, **Suneeta Reddy** — **Apollo Hospitals**); 4. **Savitri Jindal** (Chairperson **Emerita**, **OP Jindal Group**); 5. **Dr. Priti Adani** (**Adani Foundation**); 6. **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** (**Biocon**); 7. **Isha Ambani**.

12. Ministry of Education — PGI 2.0 (States/UTs) and PGI-District Rankings

- The **Performance Grading Index (PGI)** is issued by the **Ministry of Education** to track educational outcomes.
- Recognised PGI 2.0 grades: **Daksh** (highest), **Utkarsh**, **Atti-Uttam**, **Uttam**, **Prachesta-1/2/3**, **Akanshi-1/2/3**.
- **PGI-S 2.0 (State/UT level)**: **Chandigarh** was the top-performing territory for the **4th consecutive year**, standing alone in the "**Uttam 3**" category; no state reached "**Utkarsh**", "**Uttam 1**", or "**Uttam 2**"; **Punjab**, **Kerala**, **Delhi**, and **Dadra & Nagar Haveli/Daman & Diu** finished second; **Meghalaya** registered the sharpest improvement, climbing to "**Aakankshi 1**".

- **PGI-D (District level)**: 19 districts (7 from **Punjab**) reached "**Uttam 2**"; 97 districts reached "**Uttam 3**".

13. AISHE FY24 — Tamil Nadu Tops Higher Education Enrolment

- Based on the **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)** FY24, **Tamil Nadu** registered the highest **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in higher education at 52.3%.
- **GER** measures the percentage of young adults (aged 18–23) enrolled in higher education vs. the eligible population; India's national GER target was 30% in 2023-24.

14. NITI Aayog Delta Rankings (March 2026)

- **Purnia district, Bihar**, secured **first rank** in NITI Aayog's quarterly **Delta Rankings** under the **Aspirational Districts Program**.

15. Hyderabad Airport — Family-Friendly Ranking

- **Hyderabad Airport** ranked the **world's 4th most family-friendly airport** by UK-based travel experience provider **AttractionTickets.com**.

16. Anemia Burden Data (India)

- India carries the **world's highest anemia burden**, affecting 67.1% of children and 57% of women (ages 15–49) (scheme response under Schemes & Initiatives).

17. Fish Production

- India is the **world's second-largest fish producer**, accounting for 8% of global production (**China** ranks first).

15. Schemes and Initiatives

1. VB-G RAM G Act Replaces MGNREGA

- The **VB-G RAM G Act** (**Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin**) officially replaced **MGNREGA** on **July 1, 2026**; **MGNREGA** was launched under a 2005 Act.
- Official national launch: **July 2, 2026**, at **Mukkavaripalle village, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh**, in the presence of **N. Chandrababu Naidu** and **Pawan Kalyan**.
- **Guaranteed work days**: **125 days** of rural employment per household per year (up from **MGNREGA's 100 days**).
- **Guaranteed minimum floor wage**: **₹300 per day** (₹9,000 monthly); average national wage — **₹327.4 per day** (up from ₹298.8) across **34 states and UTs**.
- **Payment timeline**: wages credited directly to the beneficiary's account within **15 days** of work completion.

- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Rural Development** (Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**); interim budget — **₹95,000 crore**.
- Funding ratio (Centre:State): Plain areas (e.g., UP, Bihar) — **60:40**; Himalayan/special category areas — **100% Central**; underprivileged/neediest areas — **90:10**.
- Highest percentage wage increase: **Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland** — **24.5%**; highest daily wages: **Haryana (₹409)**, **Goa (₹406)**, **Kerala (₹401)**; high-altitude Gram Panchayats in **Sikkim** offer up to **₹450**.

2. Kisan Sarathi Digital Platform for Farmers

- Delivers vital, real-time updates on agricultural schemes, crop issues and market/mandi prices, including the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)**, in **13 different languages**.
- Background: **MSP** established in **1965**, operates under the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, Ministry of Agriculture.
- Historical farmer schemes: **e-NAM** — launched 14 April 2016; **PM Fasal Bima Yojana** — 2016; **PM-KISAN** — operational from 1 December 2018, launched 24 February 2019; **Soil Health Card** — February 19, 2015.

3. Child & Family Health Programs

- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram**: guarantees continuous health tracking and clinical care from birth–36 months to 0–18 years; implementation via systematic home visits, direct medical treatments, parent training, and **Shishu Shivirs** (child camps organized under the **Ayushman Bharat Yojana** framework, originally launched **2018 from Ranchi, Jharkhand**).
- **Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram** (launched by **JP Nadda**): motto — "**Pehle teen saal संपूर्ण देखभाल**"; "at risk" babies receive **9 home visits in their first 42 days**; total **17 visits (9+8) over 36 months**.
- **PM Family Care Tracker**: pilot launched by **Amit Shah** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat** — tracks health/development of mothers and children from pregnancy until the child turns **18**.
- **Gujarat "Health Passport"**: for children from birth up to **18 years**; physical passport kept by parents plus digital portal updates.

4. Anemia Mukh Bharat Abhiyan — 7x7x7 Strategy

- Transition from **6x6x6** to **7x7x7**: **7th beneficiary** — Low Birth Weight (LBW) babies (0–6 months, under **2,500 grams**); **7th intervention** — "Eat Right" approach; **7th mechanism** — strengthened Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E).
- Approach upgraded from **T3 (Test, Treat, Talk)** to **T4 (Test, Treat, Talk, and Track)**.

5. Corporate Mitra Scheme (Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

- Trains "**Corporate Mitras**" to support **MSMEs** with regulatory compliance, taxation, accounting, financial governance and marketing.
- Course fee: **₹3,000 + GST**; **50% concession** for women and candidates from the Northeast, Himalayan regions, Andaman & Nicobar, and Lakshadweep.
- Eligibility: Indian nationals **up to age 30**, graduates or final-year students.
- Structure: **12-month program** — 150 hours of online expert-led learning via **Swayam Plus**, followed by **6 months** on-the-job training; successful candidates receive a "**Corporate Mitra**" certificate.
- **SWAYAM** = "Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds" — Ministry of Education online platform.

6. PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) Completes 11 Years

- Approved and launched **July 1, 2015**, under PM Modi's chairmanship, originally for 5 years with **₹50,000 crore** outlay (actual budget operations from 2016–17); extended multiple times — continuation approved through 2026 with an overall outlay of **₹93,068.56 crore**; recent Union Budget allocation — **₹6,587 crore**.
- Focus: water conservation ("**Jal Sanchay**"), rainwater harvesting, irrigation.
- Four pillars: (1) **Per Drop More Crop**, (2) **Har Khet Ko Pani**, (3) **Watershed development**, (4) **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)**.
- Funding split: **60:40** for standard states (noted in text as 60:80), **90:10** for North-Eastern states, **100% Central** for Himalayan regions.

7. Digital India Program Completes 11 Years

- Launched **July 1, 2015**, by PM **Narendra Modi**; nodal ministry — **MeitY**.
- **9-Pillars Vision**: Broadband Highways; Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity; Public Internet Access Programme; E-Governance; E-Kranti; Information for All; Electronics Manufacturing; IT for Jobs; Early Harvest Programmes.

8. Viksit UDAN (Modified UDAN Scheme)

- PM Modi launched the next phase of **Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)** — officially the **Modified UDAN Scheme** or "**Viksit UDAN**" — approved by the Union Cabinet with an outlay of **₹28,840 crore over 10 years (FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36)**.
- Outlay breakdown: **Airport development** — **₹12,159 crore** for **100 new airports/aerodromes** over 8 years; **O&M support** — **₹2,577 crore** for **441 aerodromes** for 3 years (~₹3.06 crore per airport, ₹90 lakh per heliport annually); **Heliports**

— ₹3,661 crore for **200 new helipads** in hilly/remote/island regions (~₹15 crore per site); **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** — ₹10,043 crore over 10 years for airlines on remote routes.

9. PM SVANidhi Scheme — 6 Years; Extended to 2030; Street Food Hubs

- **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** launched **June 1, 2020**, for micro-working-capital loans to street vendors post-pandemic; completed **6 years on June 1, 2026**; extended until **March 31, 2030**.
- Milestones: over **1.12 crore loans** approved, worth **₹17,800 crore**; overseen jointly by **MoHUA** and the **Department of Financial Services**.
- Upgraded loans: 1st — **₹15,000** (from ₹10,000); 2nd — **₹25,000** (from ₹20,000); 3rd — up to **₹50,000**; **PM SVANidhi 2.0** is a **₹7,332 crore** scheme with the same three tranches.
- **50 Modern Street Food Hubs: Lakhanpur (Kathua district, J&K)** selected among the first batch of 50 towns (announced by Minister **Jitendra Singh**); each hub receives **₹4 crore** from the Centre in three installments (30%–50%–20%); ULBs notifying street vending plans get a **₹25 lakh incentive**.

10. PM SETU Scheme

- **PM SETU** = Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs — centrally sponsored vocational education scheme; originally approved/launched on **4th October 2025** with a **₹60,000 crore** 5-year budget; targets upgrading **1,000 ITIs**.
- Funding structure: Centre — **₹30,000 crore**; States — **₹20,000 crore**; industry — **₹10,000 crore** (another entry lists ₹60 crore Centre, ₹300 crore States, ₹10,000 crore industries, alternatively ₹600 crore sanctioned for 5 years).
- Expansion: **₹1,237 crore** for **5 designated regional clusters** in Odisha, Gujarat, and Telangana; **5 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs)** at **Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Ludhiana**.

11. PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

- Provides **rooftop solar panels** with central subsidies: 1 kW — **₹30,000**; 2 kW — additional ₹30,000; 3 kW+ — additional ₹18,000; maximum subsidy — **₹78,000**.
- Households can generate up to **300 units of free electricity monthly**; target — **1 crore households by March 2027** (World Bank \$890M package under Amounts & Agreements); supports India's **Net-Zero by 2070 target**.

12. Rural Development & Livelihood Schemes

- **Rural Internal Audit Portal** (launched by **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**): unified digital platform

for end-to-end internal audits (risk-based and compliance) of rural development programs; developed by the **Office of the Chief Controller of Accounts (MoRD)** with the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.

- **LOKOS Portal** (LOK = People, OS = Operating System): web/mobile platform under **DAY-NRLM** replacing manual bookkeeping — SHGs digitally manage records, member profiles, savings, loan histories, transactions, and scheme utilization.
- **"She Leaps" Portal** (Self-Help Entrepreneurs – Livelihood and Enterprise Application for Prosperity and Sustainability): launched **29th June 2026**.
- **SEED Scheme** (Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs): implemented by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** for De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Communities; launched **2022** with **₹200 crore**; 4 components — free coaching for competitive exams; health insurance (**₹5 lakh/family under PM-JAY**); livelihood support; housing under **PM Awas Yojana**.
- **PRAGATI Initiative**: "Promoting Regenerative Agriculture through Agri Entrepreneurship Initiative", launched by **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**; designed to benefit **26,000 agricultural entrepreneurs** and **20 lakh farmers**.
- **PMFME**: PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises scheme — launched **2020** with a **₹10,000 crore** budget, monitored by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**, allows **100% FDI**; reached **2 lakh credit-linked beneficiaries**.

13. Health & Digital Missions

- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**: launched **2021** for a citizen-centric digital health ecosystem; over **104 crore health records** linked; over **93 crore ABHA accounts** created; **ABHA** — a **14-digit** unique digital health ID sharing records only with **explicit patient consent**.
- **Nasha Mukht Bharat Saptah** (Drug-Free India Week) concluded — commemorates the **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (June 26, UN-recognized since 1989)**; the **Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan** was launched **August 15, 2020**, targeting **272 highly vulnerable districts**; theme — **"Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, Viksit Bharat ki Pehchaan"**.

14. State Schemes & Initiatives

- **Odisha "Gyanodaya – Shiksharu Samruddhi"**: KG-to-PG free education scheme for students in government and government-aided institutions from **2026–27**; estimated outlay **₹5,467.55 crore over five years**.

- **Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission: ₹2,295 crore**, 10-year mission (2026 to 2036) launched by Vice President **CP Radhakrishnan** in Bhubaneswar to make Odisha a premier marine export hub.
- **UP "Mukhyamantri Shikshak Cashless Chikitsa Suvidha Yojana" / "Guru Dakshina"**: free cashless medical treatment and health insurance for government school teachers; UP profile — **CM Yogi Adityanath**; Governor **Anandiben Patel**; Capital **Lucknow**; major national park — **Dudhwa**.
- **AP "Pillale Sampada"** (Children are Wealth): launched by **CM Chandrababu Naidu** on **World Population Day (11th July)**.
- **Andhra Pradesh Pilloo AI**: AI-powered voice-based billing and accounting mobile app for small businesses.
- **Bharat Taxi**: cooperative platform launched by **Amit Shah** in Gujarat; model — **"Sarathi (Driver) is the Owner"**.
- **"Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam"** tree-plantation campaign flagged off in **Indore (MP)**.
- **"Mission 5 Million Trees"**: launched by **Amit Shah** in **Ahmedabad & Gandhinagar**; Ahmedabad set a record planting **3.61 lakh saplings in 1 hour** using the Japanese **Miyawaki method**.
- **Odisha "Namaste Day"** (14th July 2026): observed across all urban local bodies honoring sanitation workers and waste pickers; **NAMASTE** = National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem — joint initiative of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Ministry of Housing**.
- **Delhi "Clean Air Healthy Delhi"** project (₹8,300 crore — details under Amounts & Agreements).

16. Science and Technology

- 1. GAGAN Satellite-Based Landing Trial at Udaipur Airport**
 - An **IndiGo Airbus A320** jet successfully performed **India's first satellite-based precision landing trial on a mainline commercial jet at Maharana Pratap Airport, Udaipur, Rajasthan**, using the **GAGAN** navigation system, supervised by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.
 - **GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation)**: developed jointly by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**.
- 2. Skyroot Aerospace — Mission "Aagaman"**
 - **Skyroot Aerospace** announced Mission **"Aagaman"** with its **Vikram-1 rocket**.

- **Skyroot** is a private space-sector firm, headquartered in **Hyderabad**, founded in 2022.
- 3. Cosmoserve Space — Mission Embrace**
 - Indian space-tech startup **Cosmoserve Space** will test its **active space debris removal technology** in space through **"Mission Embrace"**.
 - 4. NASA Terminates MAVEN Mars Mission After 11 Years**
 - **MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution)**: launched in 2013, reached **Mars orbit in 2014**; terminated after 11 years.
 - 5. NASA Astronaut Anil Menon's ISS Mission**
 - Indian-origin NASA astronaut **Anil Menon** was selected for / embarked on an **8-month International Space Station (ISS) mission (Expedition 75)**.
 - 6. AssamSat — India's First State-Owned Satellite**
 - **Assam** is to develop **India's first state-owned satellite — AssamSat**.
 - 7. ISRO Static GK**
 - Established on **15th August 1969**; headquartered in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**; current Chairman — **V. Narayanan**.
 - 8. IBM's Sub-1 Nanometer Semiconductor**
 - **IBM** introduced the **world's first sub-1 nanometer semiconductor technology**, measuring **0.7 nm**.
 - 9. Project SAMARTH — Semiconductor Training Hub at IIT Gandhinagar**
 - The **Silicon and Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research and Training Hub (SAMARTH)** is being established at **IIT Gandhinagar** with an investment of **₹190 crore**.
 - 10. OSAT Facility in Sanand, Gujarat**
 - **PM Modi** to inaugurate a state-of-the-art **OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test)** facility in **Sanand, Gujarat**, built with an investment exceeding **₹7,500 crore** by **CG Semi Private Limited**.
 - 11. NIDAR 2.0 Drone Innovation Challenge**
 - **NIDAR 2.0 (National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research)** launched by **MeitY** under the **Swayaan Initiative**, in collaboration with the **Drone Federation of India**, to construct domestic **AI-enabled drones powered by Made-in-India chips**.
 - Prize pool: **₹65 lakh** to incentivize students and startups.
 - The **Swayaan Initiative** was originally established in 2022 with a **₹90 crore** budget.
 - 12. India's First River Kinetic Energy Demonstration Project**
 - **Arunachal Pradesh + Norway's Tidal Sails AS**: setting up **India's first River Kinetic Energy Demonstration Project**, capacity **500 kW** (MoU under MoUs & Partnerships).

13. India's First Point-in-Space (PinS) Helicopter Approach

- Approved at **Undavalli Heliport, Andhra Pradesh** — India's **first private heliport** to receive this certification for a **Point-in-Space Instrument Approach Procedure**.
- AAI: HQ — New Delhi; Chairman — **Vipin Kumar**. DGCA: HQ — New Delhi; Director General — **Vir Vikram Yadav**.

14. Novo Nordisk's "Aweekly" — World's First Once-Weekly Insulin

- Novo Nordisk India** launched "**Aweekly**" (insulin icodec) — the world's first **once-weekly insulin** for **Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes**.

15. NTPC Floating Solar Plant in Mauritius

- NTPC Mauritius Energy Limited** (wholly-owned NTPC subsidiary) is setting up a **Floating Solar Power Plant in Mauritius**.

16. Extreme Heat Waves in Western Europe — "Omega Block"

- Caused by an atmospheric phenomenon called the "**Omega Block**" (**Omega Dome**) — heat and gases rising from the earth are trapped inside a dome-shaped boundary resembling the Greek letter Ω ; the trapped air prevents cloud formation, leaving a clear sky that increases the intensity and direct impact of solar radiation.

17. Adani's Kutch Copper Limited (KCL) — LME Certification

- Kutch Copper Limited** received **London Metal Exchange (LME)** certification; the LME is the world's largest base metal exchange market.

18. Kavach Train Protection System

- Indigenous **Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system (₹206 crore Railways approval under Amounts & Agreements).

17. Sports

1. Rowing — India's First-Ever Gold at World Rowing Cup

- Held in **Lucerne, Switzerland**; Indian rowers **Ujjwal Kumar and Lakshya** secured India's **first-ever gold medal in rowing**.

2. Athletics — Ancy Sojan's National Long Jump Record

- Kerala's athlete **Ancy (NC) Sojan** broke **Anju Bobby George's 22-year-old national long jump record (6.83 m)** by jumping **6.88 meters**.
- Achieved at the **National Inter-State Athletics Championship 2026** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

3. Volleyball — India's First-Ever Bronze at AVC Men's Volleyball Cup 2026 (Men's Nations Cup)

- Held **June 20–26** at the **Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**; India secured its **first-ever Bronze** by defeating **Bahrain**.
- Leadership: Captain — **Jerome Vinith (Jiram Vineeth) Charles**; Head Coach — **Dragan Mihailovic**.

- Final standings: **1. Indonesia (Gold/Champion); 2. South Korea (Silver); 3. India (Bronze); 4. Bahrain**.

- Individual honors: **Best Libero** — Indian player **Anand Kotharthil (Anand K)**; India's global volleyball ranking improved to **42nd**.

4. Badminton — US Open 2026 (California, USA)

- Su Li-yang (Chinese Taipei)** won the **Men's Singles** title; India's **Kidambi Srikanth** finished **runner-up (Silver)** at the **Yonex US Open 2026**.
- Line Christophersen (Denmark)** won the **Women's Singles** title.

5. Formula 1

- Austrian Grand Prix 2026**: **George Russell (Mercedes, UK)** — 1st; **Max Verstappen (Red Bull)** — 2nd; **Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes, Italy)** — 3rd.
- British Grand Prix 2026**: won by **Monaco's Charles Leclerc** (driving for **Ferrari**).

6. Cricket

- Indian Women's team qualified directly for the LA 2028 Olympics** — cricket returns to the Olympics after **128 years** in a **T20 format** with **6 teams** in men's and women's events. (Summer Olympics: **2028 LA, 2032 Australia**; Winter Olympics: **2026 Italy, 2030 France, 2034 USA**.)
- Australia won the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026** — their **7th T20 World Cup title (14th overall Women's World Cup trophy** across formats) — defeating host **England** in the final (hosted by **England & Wales**).

- Player of the Series & Final: **Beth Mooney (Australia)**; Most Runs: **Danni Wyatt-Hodge (302 runs)**; Most Wickets: **Shreyanka Patil** (referred to as "**Sri Charani**" in translation — India).

- Historic Indian Women's Test victory at Lord's**: India defeated **England** by **270 runs** in the **first-ever women's Test at Lord's Cricket Ground, London**; Player of the Match — **Kranthi Ghad**, the **first Indian woman on the Lord's Honours Board** (5 wickets for 37 runs); **Yastika Bhatia** scored **103 off 145 balls (14 boundaries)** — the **first woman ever to score a Test century at Lord's**.

- Vaibhav Suryavanshi** became **India's youngest international debutant at 15 years and 99 days** (senior T20I debut vs **England** in **Manchester**), breaking **Sachin Tendulkar's 30-year-old record**

(16 years, 205 days) and **Shafali Verma's** overall record (15 years, 239 days).

- **Abhishek Sharma** became the **fastest player to hit 100 sixes**, taking **785 balls**.
- **Ben Stokes** (England Test Captain) announced his international cricket retirement following the upcoming **Trent Bridge Test**.
- **Tammy Beaumont (England)** announced retirement from international cricket.
- **Sourav Ganguly** — ICC Hall of Fame induction (under Awards) and InsuranceDekho ambassadorship (under Appointments).

7. Chess

- **Harsha Vardhan (Harshavardhan G B)**, Chennai-based, aged **22**, became **India's 97th Chess Grandmaster**.
- **Aswath S** became **India's 98th Chess Grandmaster**.
- Indian GM **Iniyam P** won the **6th La Plagne Open Chess Tournament** in **La Plagne, France**; FIDE HQ — **Lausanne, Switzerland**.
- **FIDE imposed a 2-year ban** on Russian GM **Vladimir Kramnik**.

8. Football

- **135th Durand Cup schedule announced** — venues across five cities: **Kolkata, Ranchi, Imphal, Shillong, Guwahati**.
- **FIFA suspended the All Nepal Football Association (ANFA)**; FIFA HQ — **Zurich, Switzerland** (President **Gianni Infantino**); AFC HQ — **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** (Portugal, jersey #7) became the **2nd oldest player to score in a FIFA match** — at **41 years and 147 days** — second only to **Roger Milla** (scored at age 42).
- **FIFA World Cup 2026 record prize pool: \$871 million** — a **65% increase** from **\$529 million in 2022**; co-hosted by **USA, Canada, Mexico** with **48 teams playing 104 matches**; Champion — **\$50 million** performance prize (**\$63.5 million** with participation funding); Runner-up — **\$33 million**; Third place — **\$29 million**; static fact — **Brazil** has won the most FIFA Men's World Cup titles.
- Upcoming FIFA World Cups: **2026 — Canada, USA, Mexico**; **2030 — Morocco, Spain, Portugal**; **2034 — Saudi Arabia**.

9. Tennis

- **Wimbledon** commenced in London — started in **1877**, the **oldest tennis tournament**.
- **Wimbledon 2026 Women's Singles**: **Linda Noskova (Czech Republic)** won her maiden Wimbledon and Grand Slam title, defeating **Karolina Muchova**; youngest women's champion since **Petra Kvitova** in **2011**.
- **Wimbledon 2026 Men's Singles**: World No. 1 **Jannik Sinner (Italy)** defeated **Alexander**

Zverev (Germany) — his **second consecutive Wimbledon title** and **5th career Grand Slam** (also stated as 4th in one entry); first Italian to defend a Wimbledon men's title, and first Italian to win Wimbledon, the US Open, and reach World No. 1.

- **Grand Slam 2026 reference**: Australian Open (Hard) — **Carlos Alcaraz & Elena Rybakina**; French Open/Roland Garros (Clay) — **Alexander Zverev & Mirra Andreeva**; Wimbledon (Grass) — **Jannik Sinner & Linda Noskova**; US Open (Hard) — yet to be played.
- **Stan Wawrinka** (Swiss legend) announced retirement from the **ATP Tour**.

10. Wrestling

- **Haryana Thunders** won the **Pro Wrestling League 2026**, defeating **Delhi Dangal Warriors** in the final.
- **Asian Wrestling Championships 2026 (Pattaya, Thailand)**: India won **41 medals** — **Under-15: 21 medals**; **Under-20: 20 medals** (4 Gold, 7 Silver, 9 Bronze).
- U-20 individual gold medals: Women — **Parveen, Muskan, Kajal**; Men — **Sumit Kumar** and **Laxman Bhaskar** (70 kg freestyle).

11. Boxing

- **Asian Boxing Under-15**: India won **27 medals** (9 gold).

12. Other Sports & Events

- **India won 5 medals** at the **Global Skills Challenge Australia 2026** (48th WorldSkills Competition).
- **India swept gold** at the **56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO)** in **Bucaramanga, Colombia** — only the **second time India won 5 golds** (first was **2018**).
- **IOC provisionally lifted the suspension** on the **Russian Olympic Committee**.
- **Chris Froome** (Great Britain), legendary cyclist and Olympic medalist, announced retirement from professional road cycling.
- **Telangana** to host the **8th Khelo India Youth Games 2026**.
- **Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7** in **Goa** — first time Goa hosts a UTT season.
- **22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship**: Delhi hosts from **27th July to 2nd August 2026** at **Tyagaraj Stadium**, featuring **25 Commonwealth countries**; mascot — a peacock named "**Mayur**" ("**Meet Mayur**"), unveiled by Delhi CM **Rekha Gupta**; jointly organized by the **Table Tennis Federation of India** and the **Delhi Government**.
- **Commonwealth Games 2026** (Glasgow, Scotland): **23rd July to 2nd August 2026**; for the first time in an international multi-sports event, the

Indian contingent will wear **Jute-Viscose** apparel at the opening and closing ceremonies; **IOA President P. T. Usha** to participate in the opening ceremony.

- The inaugural district-level **Bishnupur District Olympic Games** were launched in **Manipur**.

18. Static News

1. Foundation Days & Anniversaries

- **State Bank of India (SBI) Foundation Day — 71st Anniversary (July 1):** SBI evolved from the merger of the **Bank of Bengal (1806)**, **Bank of Bombay (1840)** and **Bank of Madras (1843)** in 1921, forming the **Imperial Bank of India**, which was **nationalized on July 1, 1955** and renamed SBI; corporate taglines — "**The Bank to Every Indian**", "**Digital First Customer First**", "**Nation Always, Bank First**".
- **Chartered Accountant (CA) Day — 77th CA Day on July 1, 2026;** ICAI HQ — **New Delhi**; ICAI President — **CA Prasanna Kumar D.**
- **GST Day (July 1) — 9th Anniversary,** commemorating the GST launch on **July 1, 2017**; GST recommended by the **Vijay Kelkar Committee**; enacted via the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act**; inaugural brand ambassador of the GST launch — **Amitabh Bachchan**.
- **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) — established July 1, 1916;** the 2026 celebration marks its **111th Foundation Day**; HQ — **Kolkata** with **16 regional centers**, under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**; current head — **Dhriti Banerjee**.
- **Punjab & Sind Bank 119th Foundation Day** (also under Banking).
- **NABARD 45th Foundation Day (12th July)** (details under Banking).
- **CPWD Foundation Day (12th July) — CPWD established 1854** (SANKALP details under National & State Affairs).
- **79th Anniversary of the "3rd June Plan" (Mountbatten Plan):** June 3 marked the 79th anniversary of the historic **3rd June Plan of 1947**, introduced by **Lord Louis Mountbatten** (the last **Viceroy of India**).
- **Bastille Day — France's National Day (14 July):** the **Bastille** was a Paris prison symbolizing the cruel, unfair rule of the French monarchy; its capture by citizens protesting high taxes and expensive food marked the birth of **French democracy and equal rights**.

2. Important Days & Themes

- **National Doctors' Day (July 1) — Theme 2026: "Behind the mask, who heals the healers"** (or "who heals the healer"); designated by the government in **1991** to commemorate the birth and death anniversary of **Dr. B. C. Roy**.
- **World Sports Journalists Day (July 2).**
- **World UFO Day (July 2).**
- **International Plastic Bag Free Day (July 3) —** themes noted: "**Breaking free from single-use plastics towards a sustainable future**" and "**Reduce plastic waste, protect our planet**".
- **International Day of Cooperatives (July 4) — 2026 Theme: "Cooperatives for a Peaceful World".**
- **World Zoonoses Day (July 6) — 2026 Theme: "One World One Health".**
- **World Rural Development Day (July 6) — 2026 Theme: "Financing the First Mile of Food Systems".**
- **SCUD Day (July 8) —** stands for "**Savor the Comic, Unplug the Drama**".
- **National Fish Farmers Day (July 10).**
- **Global Energy Independence Day (July 10) —** associated with the birthday of inventor **Nikola Tesla**; Theme: "**Accelerating a Just and Equitable Clean Energy Transition**".
- **World Population Day (July 11) — 2026 Theme: "Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people today and for the future".**
- **World Horse Day (July 11).**
- **Malala Day (July 12) —** observed globally to celebrate activist **Malala Yousafzai's** birthday.
- **Kashmir Martyrs' Day / Kashmir Shaheed Diwas (July 13).**
- **World Youth Skills Day (July 15) — 2026 Theme: "Skills for a Shared Future".**
- **National Statistics Day (June 29) — Theme 2026: "Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data";** first established in **2007**; marks the birth anniversary of **Prasanta Chandra (P.C.) Mahalanobis** — the "**Father of Indian Statistics**", associated with India's **Second Five-Year Plan**; this is the **20th edition**, marking his **133rd birth anniversary**.
- **World Allergy Week (June 21–27) — Theme 2026: "Allergy Care is Essential Care".**
- **World Environment Day (June 5) —** first held in **1973** with the theme "**Only One Earth**"; 2026 Theme: "**Inspired by Nature for Climate for Our Future**"; 2026 Host: **Baku, Azerbaijan**.
- **World Accreditation Day (June 9) — Theme: "Innovation, Trust and Sustainability: The Power of Accreditation".**

3. Static GK Facts

- **India's four mints** (for coining) are located in **Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Noida**.

- **Banknote printing presses mnemonic "MSD(N)": Mysore, Salboni, Dewas and Nasik** — Mysore and Salboni are **RBI presses managed by BRBNMPL**; Dewas and Nasik are **Government of India presses managed by SPMCIL**.
- **The Five All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) regulated by RBI:** 1. **SIDBI** (MSME financing); 2. **NABARD** (rural development); 3. **EXIM Bank** (foreign trade); 4. **National Housing Bank (NHB)** (housing finance); 5. **NaFID / Infrastructure Development Bank** (infrastructure financing).
- **CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs):** established under the **Central Boards of Revenue Act, 1963**, formally split into an independent board in **1964**; HQ — **New Delhi**; current chairperson — **Vivek Chaturvedi**.
- **Asiatic Lions** are naturally found in **Gir National Park, Gujarat**.