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Prepared By
G. V. Satish Sir
SBI PO | Interview Panel Member
Director, NBCC

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SBI PO

Interview Panel Member



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Index

S.NO	Topic	Page No
1	G.V. Satish Sir (Best Picks)	3
2	Amounts & Agreements	13
3	Appointments	15
4	Arts and Culture	17
5	Awards	19
6	Banking and Finance	21
7	Defence	30
8	International	33
9	Meetings	37
10	Miscellaneous	40
11	MOUs	45
12	National	47
13	Persons in News	52
14	Ranks and Reports	55
15	Schemes & Initiatives	59
16	Science & Technology	64
17	Sports	67
18	Static News	69

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1. G V Satish Sir- Best Picks

1. April 2026 Records All-Time High GST Collection of ₹2.43 Lakh Crore

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) was implemented on July 1, 2017, based on the recommendation of the Vijay Kelkar Committee.
- April 2026 recorded an all-time high GST collection of ₹2.43 lakh crore.
- Year-on-Year (YoY) Growth: 8.7% compared to April 2025 (₹2.23 lakh crore).
- Top 5 Contributing States: Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.
- The Prime Minister is NOT a member of the GST Council.
- Direct Tax Net Collection FY 2025-26: ₹23.40 lakh crore (growth: 5.12%).
- Gross Direct Tax Collection: ₹28.11 lakh crore (growth: 4.03%).
- GST Appellate Tribunal renamed to NAAAR (National Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling) — effective April 1, 2026.

2. RBI Launches Mission SAKSHAM for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched Mission SAKSHAM — full form: Sahakari Bank Kshamata Nirman.
- Provides hybrid (physical and digital) training in regional languages.
- RBI also tightened unsecured lending rules for UCBs — effective October 1, 2026; max 20% of advances can be unsecured.
- Tier-wise unsecured loan caps: Tier 1 — ₹5 lakh | Tier 2 — ₹7.5 lakh | Tier 3 & 4 — ₹10 lakh.
- RBI also introduced a new 'Unregistered Type 1 NBFC' category for small entities with asset size under ₹1,000 crore — exempt from registration until July 1, 2026.
- RBI Calamity Loan Resolution Framework effective July 1, 2026 — banks can independently offer moratoriums and interest waivers to disaster victims.
- RBI mandated a 3-day grace period for credit card payments after due date — no late fees charged.

3. 100% FDI in Insurance Sector via Automatic Route; PSBs Record 4th Consecutive Profitable Year

- Finance Ministry amended FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) rules to allow 100% FDI in the insurance sector via the automatic route (raised from earlier 74% cap).
- Exception: Foreign investment in LIC (Life Insurance Corporation) remains capped at 20%.

- Companies must have at least one resident Indian citizen as Chairperson, MD, or CEO.
- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) recorded total net profit of ₹1.98 lakh crore in FY 2025-26 — 4th consecutive profitable year.
- Gross NPA: 1.93% (historic low) | Net NPA: 0.39% | CRAR: 16.6%.
- Top performer: SBI — ₹80,032 crore annual profit (13% growth).
- Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) launched with corpus of \$1.5 billion (Sovereign Guarantee: ₹12,980 crore) to protect Indian shipping through West Asia/Strait of Hormuz.
- FDI rules also relaxed — companies with up to 10% non-controlling stake from bordering nations (China) can now invest via automatic route.

4. SEBI Operationalizes PRRVA (PARVAAH) Framework; Launches 'Cyber-suraksha.ai' Task Force

- Past Risk Return Verification Agency (PRRVA) framework — also known as PARVAAH — operationalized on May 4, 2026.
- CARE Ratings Limited serves as the designated verifier under the framework.
- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) acts as the data center.
- Purpose: Combat influencer fraud by verifying performance claims of investment advisors and AMCs.
- SEBI also set up AI Task Force 'Cyber-suraksha.ai' for cybersecurity in financial markets.
- SEBI introduced GARUDA mechanism — Green-Channel AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement — reducing AIF approval from 30 days to 10 working days.
- NSE launched Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) segment — digital certificates for physical gold; no GST on trading; GST only levied on physical gold conversion.
- NSE crossed 13 crore unique registered investors; top 3 states: Maharashtra, UP, Gujarat.
- SEBI — Established: 1992 | HQ: Mumbai | Chairman: Tuhin Kanta Pandey.
- NSE IPF limit hiked to ₹35 lakh per investor (from ₹25 lakh).

5. EPFO Launches 'e-PRAAPT' Portal; RBI Launches MuleHunter.ai for Mule Account Detection

- Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced the launch of the 'e-PRAAPT' portal.
- Full form: e-PRAAPT = EPF Aadhaar Based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts.
- Helps users track and reactivate Provident Fund (PF) accounts inactive for three years.

- EPFO settled 8.31 crore claims in 2025-26.
- MuleHunter.ai — AI tool developed by RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH) — currently live across 26 banks to detect illegal 'mule accounts'.
- I4C (Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre) and RBIH signed an MoU to boost AI-based mule account detection.
- IPPB (India Post Payments Bank) launched zero-balance SHG Saving Account for rural women via 1.64 lakh post offices; maximum deposit: ₹2 lakh.
- Axis Bank launched India's first digital locker-focused branch in New Delhi.
- Federal Bank acquired 4.5 lakh credit cards from Standard Chartered India.

6. Rohit Jain Appointed RBI Deputy Governor; RBI & ECB Sign Fresh MoU in Basel

- Rohit Jain appointed as Deputy Governor of RBI for a 3-year term, effective May 2, 2026.
- Succeeded: T. Rabi Sankar.
- Portfolio: Fintech, Forex, and IT.
- Current 4 RBI Deputy Governors: Swaminathan Janakiraman, Poonam Gupta, S. Chandra Murmu, Rohit Jain.
- RBI Governor: Sanjay Malhotra.
- RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra and ECB (European Central Bank) Head Christine Lagarde signed a fresh MoU in Basel, Switzerland — replacing the 2015 agreement.
- ECB — Established: 1998 | HQ: Frankfurt, Germany.
- PFRDA granted Motilal Oswal AMC licence to launch and manage a pension fund under NPS.
- RBI Retail Direct Scheme reported 64% YoY growth in Gilt Accounts — growing from 2.2 lakh to 3.61 lakh accounts.

7. Lt. Gen. N.S. Raja Subramani Appointed India's 3rd CDS; Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan as 27th CNS

- Lt. Gen. N.S. Raja Subramani appointed as India's 3rd Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- Succeeds General Anil Chauhan whose tenure ends May 30, 2026.
- Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan appointed as the 27th Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) — assumes office May 31, 2026.
- Succeeds Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi.
- Kota Ravi (Ravi K) appointed CMD of HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited), replacing D.K. Sunil. HAL HQ: Bengaluru, Est: 1940.
- Anugraha Narayan Dass (1991 batch) appointed as CGDA (Controller General of Defence Accounts) from May 1, 2026.

- Prasoon Joshi appointed as Chairman of Prasar Bharati; Shashi Shekhar Vempati as new CBFC Chairperson.

8. NITI Aayog — New Members Appointed; Joram Aniya Makes History as First from Arunachal Pradesh

- PM Narendra Modi approved appointment of R. Balasubramaniam and Joram Aniya as full-time members of NITI Aayog — total members increased from 5 to 7.
- Joram Aniya's Historic Distinctions:
 - o First full-time member from Arunachal Pradesh
 - o Belongs to the Nyishi community
 - o First woman from Arunachal Pradesh to hold a Ph.D. in Hindi
- Vice-Chairperson: Ashok Kumar Lahiri appointed (4th Vice Chairman), replacing Suman Bery.
- Interim CEO: Nidhi Chhibber, replacing BVR Subrahmanyam.
- NITI Aayog replaced the Planning Commission in 2015; chaired by the Prime Minister.
- Bharat Khera appointed as new Secretary of Ministry of MSME.
- Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda assumed charge as CMD of SAIL.

9. India Conducts Maiden Test of Nuclear-Capable Agni ICBM & Agni-5 MIRV Under 'Mission Divyastra'

- An ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) has a range of more than 5,500 km.
- India conducted a maiden test of a nuclear-capable Agni series ICBM on May 8, 2026.
- Test site: APJ Abdul Kalam Island (formerly Wheeler Island), Odisha.
- Testing Agency: DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation).
- India also successfully tested Agni-5 missile with MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle) technology under 'Mission Divyastra'.
- MIRV: Allows a single missile to carry multiple warheads and hit different targets simultaneously.
- Agni-5 Range: 5,000 km | Launched from: Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- TARA (Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation) — India's first indigenous glide weapon system — tested by DRDO & IAF off the Odisha coast; developed by RCI (Research Centre Imarat), Hyderabad.
- LRSM (Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile) — 2nd test conducted; Range: 1,500 km; Test site: APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.

10. DRDO & Indian Navy Conduct Maiden Salvo Launch of NASM-SR; INS Mahendragiri Inducted

- DRDO and the Indian Navy conducted the maiden 'salvo launch' of the NASM-SR (Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range).
- Range: 55 km | Platform: Navy Helicopter | Location: Chandipur range / Bay of Bengal, Odisha coast.
- The 6th stealth frigate of the Project 17A Nilgiri-class — named 'INS Mahendragiri' — inducted into the Indian Navy on April 30, 2026.
- Built by: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.
- Key features: CODOG propulsion and 75% indigenous components.
- Project 17A — stealth frigate programme for 7 frigates at total cost of ₹45,000 crore, approved in 2015.
- BHEL signed a technology transfer agreement with DRDO's NSTL for manufacturing the LM2500 gas turbine infrared suppression system on naval vessels.
- Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS 'Aanchal/Achal' — 5th Adama-class Fast Patrol Vessel; built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL); deployed in Vadinar, Gujarat.

11. GalaxEye Launches 'Mission Drishti' — World's First Opto-SAR Earth Observation Satellite

- Startup GalaxEye (Galaxy Space Solutions Private Limited) launched India's largest private Earth Observation Satellite (weight: 190 kg).
- Mission Name: "Mission Drishti".
- Launch Vehicle: SpaceX Falcon 9 from Vandenberg, California, USA.
- Features world-first 'Opto-SAR' technology — enables clear image capture in darkness and bad weather.
- World's First: Opto-SAR Earth Observation Satellite.
- Pixxel and Sarvam AI partnered to build India's first Orbital Data Center Satellite — "Pathfinder" — processes raw satellite data directly in space.
- Skyroot Aerospace's 'Vikram-1' — India's first privately built orbital rocket; named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai; integration flagged off by Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy.
- ISRO completed high-resolution 1:10,000 scale mapping of India — advanced enough to distinguish between paddy fields and ponds.

12. Skyroot Aerospace Becomes India's First Space Tech Unicorn; India's 4th Unicorn of 2026

- Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited became India's first Space Tech Unicorn and the 4th Indian

unicorn in 2026 (following KreditBee, Neysa, Juspay).

- Valuation: \$1.1 billion | Total funding: \$160 million | Raised: \$60 million (~₹500 crore).
- Founded: 2018 by ex-ISRO scientists Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka.
- Based in: Hyderabad.
- A Unicorn = privately held startup with valuation of \$1 billion or more .
- India Semiconductor Mission: Now 12 approved projects worth ₹1.64 lakh crore total investment.
- Two new semiconductor units approved: Crystal Matrix Limited — Dholera, Gujarat | Suchi Semicon Pvt. Ltd. — Surat, Gujarat.
- Karnataka launched India's first State-Led CoE for Space Technology in Bengaluru.

13. Google Cloud AI Hub — Largest Single-Location FDI in India (\$15 Billion) at Visakhapatnam

- Google Cloud AI Hub broke ground in Tulluru, Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh.
- Investment: \$15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore) — the largest single-location FDI in India.
- Area: 600 acres | Capacity: 1 gigawatt data center.
- Coordinated by AdaniConneX and Airtel.
- Target: Create 2 lakh jobs by September 2028; aimed at becoming Asia's largest data center.
- Maharashtra AI Policy 2026 approved — target: ₹10,000 crore investment and 1.5 lakh jobs by 2031; ₹500 crore startup fund; 5 AI Cities.
- Global AI spending surpassed \$700 billion in 2026; Google Cloud: 63% revenue growth.
- India's first Green Methanol Plant set up at Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla, Gujarat.

14. UAE Officially Exits OPEC & OPEC+ (May 1, 2026) — Membership Reduces to 11

- OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) was founded in 1960; HQ: Vienna, Austria.
- Angola exited OPEC in January 2024; Congo had joined in 2018.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) officially exited OPEC and OPEC+ on May 1, 2026.
- After UAE's exit, OPEC membership reduces to 11 countries.
- OPEC Secretary General: Haitham Al Ghais.
- India-UAE trade target set at \$200 billion for 2032; UAE is India's 3rd largest trade partner.
- PM Modi visited UAE on May 15, 2026 — met UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.

15. India-New Zealand Historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Signed; \$20 Billion Investment

- A historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was signed between India and New Zealand in New Delhi.
- Signed by India's Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Todd McClay.
- Indian exports receive 100% duty-free access to New Zealand markets.
- Secures a \$20 billion USD investment commitment from New Zealand into India.
- India–Vietnam signed 13 agreements during President To Lam's visit; bilateral trade target: \$25 billion by 2030.
- India–Oman finalized a CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement).
- India–South Korea set a \$50 billion bilateral trade target by 2030.

16. India Tops Global Remittances at \$137.67 Billion — IOM World Migration Report 2026

- The IOM (International Organization for Migration) World Migration Report 2026 revealed India as the top global remittance recipient in 2024.
- India's remittances: \$137.67 billion in 2024.
- 2nd place: Mexico (\$67.6 billion) | 3rd: Philippines.
- Largest source of outward remittances: USA — sending over \$100 billion.
- IOM HQ: Geneva, Switzerland.
- ADB (Asian Development Bank) committed \$5 billion to India in 2025 (\$4.238 billion in sovereign lending).
- ADB 59th Annual Meeting held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan — announced \$70 billion infrastructure plan for Asia-Pacific.
- ADB HQ: Manila, Philippines | President: Masato Kanda.

17. BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting — New Delhi (May 14–15, 2026); India as BRICS Chair 2026

- India holds the BRICS Chairship for the 4th time in 2026.
- BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on May 14–15, 2026.
- Chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- BRICS Theme 2026: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".
- India assumed BRICS Presidency on January 1, 2026.
- 18th BRICS Summit scheduled in India in September 2026.
- BRICS has 10 members after 2024 expansion: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia.

- PM Modi's Five-Nation Tour (May 15–20, 2026): UAE, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Italy.
- USA returns 657 stolen antiquities to India worth approximately \$14 million.
- Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026 held in Mumbai; India's Chair: Suchindra Mishra; Theme: "Three Cs: Credibility, Compliance, Consumer Confidence".

18. SIPRI Military Expenditure Report 2025 — India Ranked 5th Globally at \$92.1 Billion

- India ranked 5th largest military spender globally in the SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) Military Expenditure Report 2025.
- India's military spending: \$92.1 billion — an 8.9% increase.
- Global military spending: \$2.89 trillion in 2025.
- Top 5 military spenders: 1. USA | 2. China | 3. Russia | 4. Germany | 5. India.
- These 5 nations comprised 58% of global military spending.
- India's Defence Production: ₹1.54 lakh crore (174% growth) | Defence Exports: ₹23,622 crore.
- India's defence export target: ₹50,000 crore by 2028-29.
- DRDO transferred 2,200 technologies to industry, waiving the 20% technology transfer fee; 25% of R&D budget allocated for academia and startups.

19. World Press Freedom Index 2026 — India Ranks 157th; Norway Tops for 10th Consecutive Year

- Published by: Reporters Without Borders (RSF), HQ: Paris, France.
- Evaluates 180 countries on 5 pillars: Political, Legal, Economic, Socio-cultural, Safety.
- India's Overall Rank: 157th (previously 151st) — placed in "Very Serious" category (score: 31.96).
- Top 5 Countries (Best Press Freedom): 1. Norway (10th consecutive year) | 2. Netherlands | 3. Estonia | 4. Denmark | 5. Sweden.
- Bottom Rank: Eritrea (180th) | North Korea (179th) | China (178th).
- Regional ranks: Nepal — 87th | Sri Lanka — 134th | Pakistan — 153rd | Afghanistan — 175th | USA — 57th.
- World Press Freedom Day: May 3 | 2026 Theme: "Shaping a Future of/for Peace".

20. THE Asia University Rankings 2026 — IISc Bengaluru 43rd; Tsinghua University Tops

- 14th edition of the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Rankings 2026 released; 929 institutions analyzed.

- Top ranked: Tsinghua University (China) — 1st; Peking University (China) — 2nd; NUS (Singapore) — 3rd.
- India represented by 128 universities; best Indian ranking: IISc Bengaluru — 43rd.
- Several IITs boycotted the rankings due to transparency issues.
- Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 released on National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24); assessed 2.59 lakh Gram Panchayats; Tripura ranked 1st.
- LEADS 2025 (Logistics Ease Across Different States) Report — 7th edition; released by Piyush Goyal; Top coastal state: Tamil Nadu; Landlocked: UP; NE: Mizoram.

21. MoSPI — 'Women and Men in India 2025' (27th Edition); NITI Aayog School Education Report 2026

- Released by MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) at the National Deliberative Summit on Data in Bhubaneswar.
- Sex Ratio at Birth improved from 904 (2017–19) to 917 (2021–23).
- LFPR (Labour Force Participation Rate) rose from 37.5% to 45.9% (highest jump in rural females).
- Women in managerial roles surged by 102.54%.
- India has the world's largest school system: 14.71 lakh schools, 24.69 crore students.
- 7,993 'Ghost Schools' (zero enrolment) — highest in West Bengal (3,812) and Telangana (2,245).
- Jharkhand achieved 0% primary school dropout rate in 2024-25.
- Anemia Mukht Bharat Index 2025-26: Madhya Pradesh topped with a score of 92.1.
- India's Medical Tourism Market: \$8.7 billion; projected \$16.2 billion by 2030; India ranks 10th globally in Medical Tourism Index.

22. South Coast Railway Zone — India's 18th Railway Zone (Headquarters: Visakhapatnam) from June 1, 2026

- Government officially notified the creation of the South Coast Railway Zone — India's 18th railway zone.
- Announced by: Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- Operations Begin: June 1, 2026.
- Headquarters: Mudasarlova, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Integrates Guntakal, Guntur, and Vijayawada divisions (from South Central Railway) and newly formed Visakhapatnam division.
- CCEA also approved a ₹23,437 crore railway multi-tracking project.

- India's first direct Vande Bharat service between Jammu and Srinagar flagged off by Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- Siemens delivered the first 9000 HP Electric Freight Locomotive to Indian Railways — part of a €3 billion contract (2023).
- Ahmedabad–Dholera Semi High-Speed Rail Corridor approved — 134 km; cost: ₹20,667 crore; speed: 160–200 km/h.

23. Supreme Court Judges Strength Increased from 34 to 38; Launches 'SuSahay' AI Chatbot

- Supreme Court sanctioned strength increased from 34 to 38 (including the Chief Justice of India).
- Constitutional Basis: Article 124(1) — empowers Parliament to increase SC judges by law.
- Legislative Action: Amended The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.
- Retirement age of Supreme Court judges: 65 years.
- CJI Surya Kant (53rd CJI) launched 'SuSahay' — AI chatbot developed by NIC (National Informatics Centre) for the Supreme Court website.
- Also launched 'One Case One Data' (OCOD) — assigns a unique ID to every case from taluka to Supreme Court.
- Sikkim became India's first fully paperless judiciary state.
- SC mandated Vice President post of SCBA (Supreme Court Bar Association) reserved exclusively for women from 2027-28.

24. West Bengal Assembly Elections 2026 — BJP Wins Historic Majority; Suwendu Adhikari Sworn as 9th CM

- West Bengal Assembly Elections 2026 recorded an all-time high voter turnout of 92.93% (Female: 92.28% | Male: 97.07%).
- BJP: 207 seats | AITC (TMC): 80 seats (Total seats: 294).
- Suwendu Adhikari became the 9th Chief Minister and first BJP CM of West Bengal — replacing Mamata Banerjee.
- Oath administered by Governor R.N. Ravi.
- New government launched Annapurna Bhandar Scheme — ₹3,000/month DBT to eligible women; free state bus travel from June 1, 2026.
- Tamil Nadu: C. Joseph Vijay (Vijay Thalpathy) — TVK party — sworn in as 13th CM by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.
- Assam: Himanta Biswa Sarma sworn in for second consecutive term as 15th CM — first non-Congress leader to achieve this; NDA won 102/126 seats.

- Kerala: V.D. Satheesan (Congress) becomes CM after UDF secures 102/140 seats.
- Puducherry: N. Rangasamy (AINRC) sworn in for a record fifth term as CM.

25. VB-GRAMG Act 2025 Replaces MGNREGA — Guaranteed Employment Increased to 125 Days (July 1, 2026)

- MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) was enacted in 2005; guaranteed 100 days of unskilled employment per year; 100% centrally funded.
- The VB-G RAM G (Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin) Act, 2025 replaces MGNREGA from July 1, 2026.
- Budget: ₹95,692.31 crore for FY 2026-27.
- Guaranteed employment increased from 100 days to 125 days per year.
- Funding: 60:40 (Centre:State) ratio (changed from 100% Central).
- Work must be provided within 15 days of application; wage payments via DBT within 3-15 days.
- Central Government released ₹17,744 crore as first wage installment under MGNREGA.
- New 4 Labour Codes replace 29 central labour laws; working hours capped at 48 hours/week; daily limit up to 12 hours (enabling 4-day workweek option).
- India became the first nation to include gig workers under the labour code.

26. Mission for Cotton Productivity — ₹5,659.22 Crore Approved; Kasturi Cotton Brand; 5F Vision

- Union Cabinet approved the Mission for Cotton Productivity with an outlay of ₹5,659.22 crore.
- Period: 2026-27 to 2030-31 (five years).
- Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) and Ministry of Textiles (MoT).
- Vision: "5F" framework — Farm → Fibre → Factory → Fashion → Foreign.
- Yield Target: Increase from 440 kg/hectare to 755 kg/hectare.
- Promotes premium Indian cotton under "Kasturi Cotton" brand.
- India — Largest cultivator of cotton (NOT largest producer) | China — Largest producer | Brazil — Largest exporter.
- Sugarcane FRP increased to ₹365/quintal for 2026-27 season (from ₹355); basic recovery rate: 10.25%; effective October 1, 2026.
- CCEA approved Kharif MSP hike for 14 crops for 2026-27; highest hike: Sunflower seed

(+₹622/quintal); Common Paddy: ₹2,441/quintal (+₹72).

27. Jan Suraksha Schemes Complete 11 Years — PMJJBY, PMSBY & APY Settle ₹25,160 Crore in Claims

- All three Jan Suraksha Schemes were launched by PM Narendra Modi on May 9, 2015 — completing 11 years in 2026.
- PMJJBY (Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana): Life insurance | Coverage: ₹2 lakh (any death) | Premium: ₹436/year | Age: 18–50 years | Subscribers: 27 crore+ | Claims: ₹21,500 crore.
- PMSBY (Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana): Accidental insurance | Coverage: ₹2 lakh (accidental death) | Premium: ₹20/year | Age: 18–70 years | Subscribers: 58 crore+ | Claims: ₹3,660 crore.
- APY (Atal Pension Yojana): Pension | Pension: ₹1,000–₹5,000/month | Age: 18–40 years | Subscribers: 9 crore+ | Managed by PFRDA.
- Combined claims settled: ₹25,160 crore.

28. PMGSY Phase 4 — Silver Jubilee Launch; 62,500 km Roads Target; ₹70,125 Crore Budget

- PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) Phase 4 formally launched in May 2026, marking the scheme's silver jubilee (25 years).
- Launched by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Two launch locations: Rayagada District, Odisha (₹1,698 crore for 827 road projects) and Bherunda, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh.
- National Target: 62,500 km of new roads for 25,000 unconnected habitations by 2028-29.
- Budget: ₹70,125 crore | Centre:State ratio: 60:40.
- PM MITRA (Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) — India's first functional PM MITRA Park inaugurated in Warangal, Telangana; Cost: ₹1,695.54 crore over 1,327 acres.
- SVAMITVA Scheme — evaluated by IIM Ahmedabad; unlocked ₹135 lakh crore worth of rural land assets; facilitated ₹1,679 crore in loans via property cards.

29. India Semiconductor Mission — 12 Projects Worth ₹1.64 Lakh Crore; Coal Gasification Scheme ₹37,500 Crore

- Two new semiconductor units approved: Crystal Matrix Limited — Dholera, Gujarat (Investment: ₹3,068 crore) | Suchi Semicon Pvt. Ltd. — Surat, Gujarat (Investment: ₹868 crore).
- National total: 12 approved semiconductor projects worth ₹1.64 lakh crore.
- Union Cabinet approved a ₹37,500 crore financial incentive scheme for surface coal and lignite gasification.

- Target: 75 MT (Million Tonnes) of coal gasification (out of 100 MT national target by 2030).
- Incentive caps: Max ₹5,000 crore/project | ₹9,000 crore/product | ₹12,000 crore/company.

30. India Becomes World's 3rd Largest Renewable Energy Producer; 250.52 GW Installed Capacity

- As per IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency) Renewable Energy Statistics 2026, India overtook Brazil to become the 3rd largest globally in installed renewable energy capacity.
- India's installed capacity: 250.52 GW (as of December 2025; 44 GW added in 2025).
- Rankings: 1st — China | 2nd — USA | 3rd — India.
- India's target: 500 GW renewable energy by 2030.
- Solar capacity: 150 GW by December 2025.
- Gujarat launched a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with 870 MW capacity across 5 locations including Modhera (India's first solar village).
- India's first Green Ammonia Project launched in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- ECLGS 5.0 (Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme) launched with ₹18,100 crore outlay to address West Asia crisis impact on MSMEs.

31. Customs Duty on Gold/Silver Hiked to 15%; Indian Rupee Hits Record Low of ₹95.80/USD

- Customs Duty on Gold and Silver raised from 6% to 15% (Basic: 10% + Tax: 5%); on Platinum from 6.4% to 15.4%; effective May 13, 2026.
- Gold is India's 2nd largest import after crude oil.
- India imported 721 tonnes of gold in FY26; import bill: ~\$71.98 billion.
- India is the 2nd largest gold consumer globally after China.
- Indian Rupee hit a record all-time low of ₹95.80 per USD on May 13, 2026.
- India's forex (foreign exchange) reserves: \$690–691 billion (as of May 1, 2026).
- RBI Gold Holdings: 880 metric tonnes (680 tonnes in India; 197 tonnes at Bank of England).
- RBI added 104.23 metric tonnes to domestic reserves; 77% of total gold now stored domestically.
- Gold supply to India: Switzerland (~40%), followed by UAE and South Africa.

32. NARCL ('Bad Bank') Recovery ₹6,345 Crore; UPI Processes 22.35 Billion Transactions in April 2026

- NARCL (National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited) — the "Bad Bank" — established in 2021.

- NARCL acquired 33 borrower entities with loans totaling ₹1.65 lakh crore by March 2026.
- Recovery in FY 2025-26: ₹4,364 crore (70% of total cumulative recovery).
- Total Cumulative Recovery: ₹6,345 crore.
- UPI (Unified Payments Interface) processed in April 2026: 22.35 billion transactions worth ₹29.03 lakh crore (YoY Growth: 25%).
- All-Time High (March 2026): 22.64 billion transactions worth ₹29.53 lakh crore.
- Global mobile money transactions crossed \$2 trillion in 2025 (per GSMA report); doubling over 4 years; 2.3 billion registered accounts.
- Bank gold loans reached ₹4.6 lakh crore by March 2026 — 123% YoY growth — fastest-growing loan sector.

33. India's First Multi-Lane Free-Flow (MLFF) Barrier-less Tolling System Launched — Gujarat & Delhi

- India's first Multi-Lane Free-Flow (MLFF) barrier-less tolling system launched.
- Launched by: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- Locations: Choryasi toll plaza, NH-48 (National Highway 48), Surat–Bharuch, Gujarat and Mundka-Bakkarwala toll plaza, New Delhi.
- Technology used: ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition), FASTag, and AI cameras — vehicles pay without stopping.
- SkyHopp Aviation launched India's first commercial seaplane service (DGCA-licensed) — connects 5 Lakshadweep islands using converted 19-seater DHC-6 Twin Otter aircraft.
- NEET-UG 2026 fully cancelled by NTA (National Testing Agency) after confirmed paper leak — its first-ever complete cancellation.

34. Operation Sindoor 1st Anniversary; India's First Mega Greenfield Shipyard — Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

- Operation Sindoor launched at midnight on May 7, 2025; ceasefire on May 10, 2025.
- Active duration: 88 hours (3.5 days).
- Targeted 9 terror sites across LeT, JeM, and HuM infrastructure.
- On May 10, 2025: BrahMos missiles struck 11 PAF airfields in 45 minutes.
- 1st Anniversary observed in May 2026.
- India's first mega greenfield shipyard established in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- Part of Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 — target to make India a Top 5 Shipbuilding Nation.

35. Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 Extended to December 2028 — ₹8.69 Lakh Crore; MoUs with 5 States

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 framework extended to December 2028.

- Revised Budget: ₹8.69 lakh crore | Annual allocation: ₹67,670 crore.
- MoUs signed with 5 states: Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Tripura, Mizoram, Ladakh.
- Union Minister of Jal Shakti: CR Patil (Chandrakant Raghunath Patil).
- Focus: Gram Panchayat-led rural water governance.
- JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care) digital platform launched by MoHFW (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) — features QR-enabled Digital MCH Card.
- RBSK 2.0 (Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram 2.0) guidelines released — covers children birth to 18 years; based on "4D Model": Defects, Disease, Deficiencies, Developmental delays.

36. Thomas Cup 2026 — China Wins; Uber Cup 2026 — South Korea Wins; India Gets Bronze

- Thomas Cup (Men's) and Uber Cup (Women's) are team badminton championships organized by BWF (Badminton World Federation).
- Host: Denmark | Duration: April 24 to May 3, 2026.
- Thomas Cup (34th edition): China won (12th/13th title), defeating France 3-1 in the final. Indonesia holds the record with 14 titles.
- Uber Cup (31st edition): South Korea won their 3rd title, defeating China in the final.
- India won the Bronze medal in the Thomas Cup.
- PV Sindhu joined the BWF Council with voting rights for 2026-2029; appointed Chair of BWF Athletes' Commission.
- Madrid Open 2026: Women's Singles — Marta Kostyuk (Ukraine) won | Men's Singles — Jannik Sinner won (first player since 1990 to win 5 consecutive ATP Masters 1000 titles).

37. FIFA World Cup 2026 — 48 Teams, 15% Financial Pool Increase; Vaishali Rameshbabu Wins FIDE Candidates

- FIFA increased the financial pool by 15% for the 48-team FIFA World Cup 2026.
- Host countries: Canada, USA, and Mexico.
- Preparation money: \$8.5 million per team | Qualification payouts: \$10 million per team.
- Vaishali Rameshbabu won the FIDE Women's Candidates 2026 — qualifying for the Women's World Chess Championship.
- Arion Goss became India's 95th Chess Grandmaster.
- Apaar Saxena (14, Karnataka) earned the FIDE International Master (IM) title in just 5 weeks; ELO rating: 2,450+.

- Faustino Oro (12, Argentina — "Messi of Chess") became the 2nd youngest Grandmaster in history.

38. IPL 2026 — Key Records; Rajasthan Royals Acquired at \$1.65 Billion Valuation

- Sunil Narine (KKR) became the 3rd bowler in IPL history to take 200 wickets (others: Yuzvendra Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar).
- Virat Kohli — became the 3rd batter (after Chris Gayle and Rohit Sharma) to hit 36 sixes in IPL.
- A 15-year-old Rajasthan Royals opener became the fastest to score 400 runs in a single IPL season.
- Rajasthan Royals acquired by Lakshmi Mittal family (75%) and Adar Poonawalla/Serum Institute (18%) — Valuation: \$1.65 billion.
- IPL 2026 Final hosted at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad on May 31, 2026 — world's largest cricket stadium by capacity (1.32 lakh).
- Rathika Sree / Kritika Shree from Salem, Tamil Nadu became India's first transgender cricket umpire.
- India U-17 Women's Football qualified for AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026 — first knockout appearance since 2004; Coach: Pamela Conti.
- India to host 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championship in Gandhinagar, Gujarat — after a 44-year gap.

39. Whitley Award ('Green Oscar') 2026 — Parveen Shaikh & Barkha Subba Win; Guntur GMC Gets UNIDO GEM Award

- Parveen Shaikh won the 2026 Whitley Award ('Green Oscar') worth £50,000 in London for her project 'Guardian of the Skimmer' — conserving the endangered Indian Skimmer bird along the Chambal River.
- Barkha Subba won the Whitley Award for protecting Himalayan salamanders and their wetlands.
- Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC), Andhra Pradesh won the UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) Gender Equality Mobilization (GEM) Award in Vienna — for training 200+ women as electric auto drivers for zero-emission waste collection.
- Pulitzer Prize 2026 (110th edition) — Indian journalists Anand R.K. and Suparna Sharma won for project "trAPPed" (Bloomberg) — exposing cybercrime networks. NYT's historical total: 142 awards.
- Vairamuthu received the Jnanpith Award 2025 — India's highest literary honor.
- National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 — 15 nursing professionals honored by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan; award instituted in 1973; includes ₹1 lakh cash prize.

40. NCRB 'Crime in India 2024' Report — 6% Decline in Crimes; State-wise Key Data

- NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) — established 1986 under MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs).
- India recorded 58.85 lakh cognizable crimes in 2024 — a 6% decline from 2023 (62.41 lakh).
- Delhi: Maximum cognizable offences (2,75,402 cases) among 19 metro cities; lowest charge-sheeting rate.
- Kerala: Highest charge-sheeting rate (94.5%).
- Bengaluru: Highest Suicide Rate (~20 per lakh population).
- Total suicides: 1,70,746 | Crimes against senior citizens: +16.9%.

41. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Inaugural Summit — New Delhi (June 1–2, 2026)

- The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was launched by PM Narendra Modi in 2023 with a budget of ₹150 crore for five years to protect the world's seven big cat species.
- Comprises 25 member countries.
- New Delhi will host the inaugural IBCA Summit on June 1-2, 2026.
- Theme: "Save Big Cat, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem".
- 7 Big Cats Protected: Tiger, Lion, Cheetah, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Jaguar, Puma.
- India is home to 6 of the 7 big cats (all except Jaguar).
- India's Tiger Population: 3,682 tigers across 58 tiger reserves; top state: Madhya Pradesh (785).
- Two female cheetahs from Botswana released into Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh by CM Mohan Yadav.
- ZSI (Zoological Survey of India) discovered two new spider species — Psechrus ntu and Psechrus phenshuny — in Nagaland.

42. Sikkim — India's First Fully Paperless Judiciary State; Andaman & Nicobar Sets Guinness World Record

- Sikkim became India's first fully paperless judiciary state by adopting e-filing and digital case management.
- Announced by 53rd CJJ Surya Kant and Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang in Gangtok, Sikkim.
- Sikkim Governor: Om Prakash Mathur.
- Coincides with 50 years of Sikkim's statehood.
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands set a Guinness World Record — world's largest underwater national flag.
- Flag Dimensions: 60 × 40 meters | Location: Radhanagar Beach, Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island).

- Led by LG D.K. Joshi, supported by the Indian Navy.
- Sikkim is also the world's first 100% organic agriculture state.
- Census 2027 is India's first digitally conducted census; Phase One: April 1 to September 30, 2026 using tablets for live data transmission.
- Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 — replaced 2016 Rules; effective April 1, 2026.

43. Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (CART) Inaugurated at Visakhapatnam Under Mission Mausam

- Established under Mission Mausam — a ₹2,000 crore initiative launched in 2024.
- CART (Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed) inaugurated at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam.
- Cost: ₹180 crore | Built by: IITM (Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology).
- Inaugurated by: Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Function: Predict coastal weather, cyclones, and issue early warnings.
- IITM Pune also established India's first Urban Testbed & Aerosol Observatory in Chennai under Mission Mausam.

44. S&P Global Lowers India's FY27 GDP Forecast to 6.6%; Retail Inflation 3.48%; WPI at 8.3%

- S&P Global lowered India's FY27 GDP growth forecast from 7.1% to 6.6% due to West Asia conflict.
- Moody's projected India's GDP growth at 6% for both 2026 and 2027.
- SBI Ecowrap: FY26 GDP projected at 7.5% | FY27 at 6.6%.
- Retail Inflation (CPI): Rose to 3.48% in April 2026 — 4th consecutive month of rising inflation; within RBI's 2%–6% target band.
- WPI (Wholesale Price Index) inflation in April 2026: 8.3% — highest in 3.5 years (up from 3.8%).
- CRISIL expects retail inflation to hit 5.1% due to energy/crude oil prices.
- WPI base year: 2011-12 | Tracks 697 goods | Released on 14th of every month by DPIIT.
- CPI new base year: 2024 | Tracks 358 articles | Released by NSO/MoSPI.
- India's Total Exports FY26: \$860 billion (4.2% growth) | Trade Deficit: \$333.2 billion.

45. Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) Launched; ECLGS 5.0 Approved (₹18,100 Crore)

- Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) launched by Department of Financial Services.

- Pool size: \$1.5 billion | Sovereign Guarantee: \$1.4 billion (₹12,980 crore).
- Coverage: Hull/Machinery, Cargo, Protection & Indemnity (P&I), and War Risks.
- First policies issued to Hoggar Offshore and Vedanta Sterlite by NIACL (New India Assurance Company Limited).
- 60% of India's trade flows through the West Asia / Strait of Hormuz region.
- ECLGS 5.0 (Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme) approved with ₹18,100 crore outlay; guaranteed by NCGTC; 100% for MSMEs, 90% for non-MSMEs; valid until March 31, 2027.

46. India's First MLFF Tolling; First Green Ammonia Project (Kakinada); First Pearl Farming Cluster (Hazaribagh)

- India's first Multi-Lane Free-Flow (MLFF) tolling system — Choryasi toll plaza, NH-48, Surat–Bharuch, Gujarat.
- India's first Green Ammonia Project — Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- India's first Pearl Farming Cluster — Hazaribagh, Jharkhand.
- India's first Commercial Seaplane Service (SkyHopp Aviation) — connects 5 Lakshadweep islands.
- India's first Space Tech Unicorn — Skyroot Aerospace.
- India's first Orbital Data Center Satellite — "Pathfinder" (Pixxel + Sarvam AI).
- India's first Mega Greenfield Shipyard — Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- India's first Integrated CCUS Field Laboratory — IIT Bombay.
- India's first PM MITRA Park (functional) — Warangal, Telangana.
- India's first Digital Grievance Portal for Gig Workers — Karnataka.
- India's first Green Methanol Plant — Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, Gujarat.

47. PRASHAST 2.0 — Digital Disability Screening Tool; SEHAT Mission (ICMR + ICAR); RBSK 2.0

- PRASHAST 2.0 — Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool/Test — developed by NCERT under Department of School Education.
- Identifies 21 types of disabilities in schoolchildren; aligned with NEP 2020; testing in UP, Uttarakhand, Delhi.
- SEHAT (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation) — jointly driven by ICMR and ICAR.
- 203 varieties of ICAR biofortified crops will undergo clinical trial validation with ICMR.

- RBSK 2.0 (Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram 2.0) guidelines released — "4D Model" (Defects, Disease, Deficiencies, Developmental delays); covers birth to 18 years.
- JANANI = Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care — launched by MoHFW at 10th National Summit in Chandigarh.
- Swasth Bharat Portal launched by Health Minister JP Nadda — for ASHA workers and Medical Officers.

48. NITI Aayog 'DPI @ 2047 Roadmap'; Viability Plan 2.0 for 28 RRBs; RBI Capital Adequacy Update

- NITI Aayog — with EkStep Foundation and Deloitte — released the 'Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) @ 2047 Roadmap'.
- Vision: \$30 trillion economy and \$18,000 per capita income by 2047.
- DFS (Department of Financial Services) approved Viability Plan 2.0 for all 28 RRBs (Regional Rural Banks).
- Period: FY26–FY28 | 30 parameters across 4 pillars: Operational Excellence, Asset Quality, Profitability, Growth.
- RRBs ownership: Centre 50%, State 15%, Sponsor Bank 35%.
- RBI allowed banks to include quarterly profits directly into CET1 (Common Equity Tier 1) capital for computing CRAR (Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio).
- Minimum CRAR requirement: 9%.

49. Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 — Tripura 1st; Marine Fish Production — Tamil Nadu Tops

- PAI (Panchayat Advancement Index) 2.0 released on National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24) by Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- Assessed 2.59 lakh Gram Panchayats across 33 States/UTs for FY 2023-24.
- 3,635 GPs achieved 'Front Runner' status (90+ points).
- Top 5 States: 1. Tripura | 2. Kerala | 3. Odisha | 4. Andhra Pradesh | 5. Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
- As per CMFRI (Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute) data:
- Tamil Nadu overtook Gujarat as the top marine fish producer in 2025 — recording 0.68 million tonnes.
- India's total marine fish production: 3.57 million tonnes (3% rise).
- Top 5 states: Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra.

50. Key Appointments: Prasoon Joshi (Prasar Bharati), Ashutosh Gowariker (IFFI); Andhra Pradesh Capital Amaravati Declared

- Prasoon Joshi appointed as Chairman of Prasar Bharati (India's public broadcaster).
- Shashi Shekhar Vempati appointed as new CBFC (Central Board of Film Certification) Chairperson (Est: 1951, HQ: Mumbai); succeeds Prasoon Joshi.
- Ashutosh Gowariker appointed as Festival Director for the 57th IFFI (International Film Festival of India) in Goa, November 2026.
- IFFI — established in 1952; organized by NFDC and Entertainment Society of Goa.
- Amaravati declared the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh — located along the Krishna River in Guntur district.
- Navi Mumbai International Airport will be named after DB Patil.
- Andhra Pradesh approved the Daga Dharani Greenfield Airport in Nellore.
- Bamanas Kankar became Rajasthan's first fully organic certified Gram Panchayat.
- 7-year-old Ishang (Ishan) Singh from Ranchi, Jharkhand became the youngest swimmer to cross the Palk Strait — 29 km in 9 hours 50 minutes under 'Mission Samandar'.
- India's 2025 Electronics Exports surpassed \$47 billion.
- University of New South Wales (Australia) to open a Bengaluru campus in August 2026 — first Australian university campus in India.
- Ponduru Khadi (Andhra Pradesh) received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- India's first Green Ammonia Project launched in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.

2. Amounts & Agreements

1. India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

- Indian exports receive **100% duty-free access** to New Zealand markets.
- Secures a **\$20 billion USD** investment commitment from **New Zealand** into India.

2. India–Vietnam Bilateral Trade Target — \$25 Billion by 2030

- During Vietnamese President To Lam's State Visit to India (May 5–7, 2026), both nations signed 13 agreements.
- Bilateral trade target: Increase from current \$16 billion to \$25 billion by 2030.
- Agreement signed between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the State Bank of Vietnam on financial innovation and digital payments.

- Cooperation areas: Healthcare, Fintech, Indo-Pacific, and Rare Earth Minerals.
- Both nations conduct joint military exercise VINBAX.

3. India–South Korea Bilateral Trade Target — \$50 Billion by 2030

- India and South Korea set a \$50 billion bilateral trade target by 2030.
- South Korea Capital: Seoul | Currency: South Korean Won (KRW).

4. India–UAE Trade Target — \$200 Billion by 2032

- India–UAE trade target set at \$200 billion by 2032.
- UAE is India's 3rd largest trade partner.
- PM Modi visited UAE on May 15, 2026 and met UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.

5. India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

- India and Oman finalized a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- Oman Capital: Muscat | Currency: Omani Rial | Member of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) (HQ: Riyadh).

6. India–EU EV Battery Recycling Initiative — €15.2 Million

- India and the European Union (EU) jointly launched a €15.2 million (₹169 crore) initiative for Electric Vehicle (EV) battery recycling.

7. India–Tanzania Bilateral Trade — 5th Joint Trade Committee Meeting

- The 5th Joint Trade Committee meeting was held in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania's commercial capital).
- Bilateral trade reached \$9.02 billion in 2025–26.

8. Google Cloud AI Hub — \$15 Billion FDI in Visakhapatnam

- Google Cloud AI Hub broke ground in Tarluvada, Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh.
- Investment: \$15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore) — the largest single-location Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India.

9. ADB — \$70 Billion Regional Connectivity & Infrastructure Plan

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) held its 59th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- Announced a **\$70 billion infrastructure plan** for the **Asia-Pacific** region (digital and energy sectors), targeted for 2035.
- Goals: Integrate 20 GW of renewable energy and provide broadband to 200 million individuals.

10. MoD Signs ₹1,476 Crore Contract with BEL

- Ministry of Defence (MoD) finalized a ₹1,476 crore agreement with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Hyderabad.
- Procurement: Five ground-based mobile electronic systems for the Indian Army.

11. PM Modi Inaugurates Ganga Expressway & ₹6,350 Crore Projects (Uttar Pradesh)

- In Varanasi: PM Modi joined the Mahila Sammelan and inaugurated ₹6,350 crore worth of projects:
 A water treatment plant
 A 1-megawatt solar plant at Bhalupur
- In Hardoi: Inaugurated the Ganga Expressway — 594 km, 6-lane expressway connecting Meerut to Prayagraj, built at a cost of ₹36,230 crore.

12. APEDA Signs 70-Year Lease for Basmati Training Center in Pilibhit, UP

13. PMGSY Phase 4 — ₹1,698 Crore for 827 Road Projects (Odisha)

- Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched **827 Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** road projects covering **1,701.84 km** across **898 villages** in **8 districts** of **Rayagada District, Odisha**.
- **Cost: ₹1,698.04 crore.**
- **Centre–State cost-sharing ratio: 60:40.**

14. PMGSY Phase 4 — Silver Jubilee Launch (Madhya Pradesh)

- PMGSY Phase 4 launched by Shivraj Singh Chouhan from Bherunda, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh to mark 25 years of PMGSY.
- Target: 62,500 km of new roads for 25,000 unconnected habitations by 2028–29.
- Budget: ₹70,125 crore.

15. Adani Vikas Kendra — Inaugurated in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurated the Adani Vikas Kendra in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh.

16. Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (CART) — ₹180 Crore

- Built at a cost of ₹180 crore under Mission Mausam (a ₹2,000 crore initiative launched in 2024).
- Inaugurated by Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam.

17. NLC India–France EDF Agreement for Nuclear Power Technologies

- NLC India (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation) signed an agreement with France's EDF (Électricité de France).
- India's nuclear expansion target: 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047.

18. Telangana–L&T Agreement — Full State Ownership of Hyderabad Metro Phase 1

- Telangana Government signed an agreement with L&T for full state ownership of Hyderabad Metro Phase 1.

19. Oxford University & Serum Institute of India — R78C Malaria Vaccine Agreement

- Oxford University and Serum Institute of India signed an agreement for the R78C Malaria Vaccine — an important step towards global malaria prevention.

20. Bihar Cabinet — \$500 Million World Bank Loan

- **Bihar Cabinet** approved a **\$500 million (₹4,740 crore)** World Bank loan for **urban infrastructure development**.
- Also approved **₹1,900 crore** for **AI-based road monitoring** and **Bihar Artificial Intelligence Mission**.

21. Maharashtra AI Policy 2026 — ₹10,000 Crore Investment Target

- **Maharashtra Chief Minister** approved the **Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy 2026**.
- **Investment target: ₹10,000 crore by 2031.**
- **1.5 lakh jobs** to be created; **5 AI innovation cities** to be developed.
- Training for **2 lakh youth**; **₹500 crore startup fund**; **₹1.25 crore subsidies** for women-led startups.

22. Rajasthan Royals Acquired — \$1.65 Billion Valuation

- A consortium led by the **Lakshmi Mittal family (75% stake)** and **Adar Poonawalla / Serum Institute (18% stake)** acquired a majority stake in the **IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals**.
- **Franchise Valuation: \$1.65 billion.**

23. Ahmedabad–Dholera Semi High-Speed Rail Corridor Approved — ₹20,667 Crore

- **Union Cabinet** approved India's first indigenous **semi high-speed railway project**.
- **Route:** Ahmedabad (Sarkhej) to Dholera — **134 km corridor**.
- **Cost: ₹20,667 crore.**
- **Speed: 160–200 km/h; Target completion: 2030–31.**

24. India–IFAD Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) — 2026–2033

- **Ministry of Finance** and **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** launched **COSOP** — an **8-year programme (2026–2033)** to boost rural incomes.
- **Static GK:** IFAD is a **UN specialized agency** for agricultural development, **HQ: Rome, Italy**, established **1977**.

25. Mizoram Ginger Mission — ₹189.79 Crore

- Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** officially launched the **₹189.79 crore Mizoram Ginger Mission**.

26. BharatNet Expansion in Andhra Pradesh — ₹2,432 Crore Pact

- A **₹2,432 crore** pact signed between **Digital Bharat Nidhi, Andhra Pradesh Government, BSNL, and AP State Fibernet Limited**.
- **Objective:** Upgrade and expand BharatNet broadband connectivity across **13,426 Gram Panchayats** in Andhra Pradesh.

27. Finance Ministry — ₹3,000 Crore State Capital Investment Framework

- **Finance Ministry** launched a **performance-based framework** with a **₹3,000 crore fund** to reward states for good debt management.
- **Allocations:** Large states — up to **₹250 crore** | Medium states — up to **₹200 crore** | Small states — up to **₹150 crore**.

28. Coal Gasification Financial Incentive Scheme — ₹37,500 Crore

- **Union Cabinet** approved a **₹37,500 crore** financial incentive scheme to promote **surface coal and lignite gasification** projects.
- **Target:** 75 Million Tonnes (MT) of coal gasification by 2030.
- **Incentive caps:** Max **₹5,000 crore** per project; **₹9,000 crore** per product; **₹12,000 crore** per company/group.

29. India–Canada — CBU Signs 3 MoUs with Indian Institutions

- **Canada's Cape Breton University (CBU)** signed **3 MoUs** with:
 - **BML Munjal University**
 - **National Education Forum (NEF)**
 - **Lok Jagruti Kendra University of Gujarat**

- **Canada Capital:** **Ottawa** | **Currency:** **Canadian Dollar (CAD)**.

30. Federal Bank Acquires Standard Chartered Credit Card Portfolio — ₹1,500 Crore

- **Federal Bank** (private sector lender) acquired the **retail credit card portfolio** of **4,50,000 cards** from **Standard Chartered Bank** (UK-based foreign bank) valued at approximately **₹1,500 crore**.

31. SBI — \$500 Million Syndicated Social Term Loan

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** launched a **\$500 million syndicated social term loan** for **women's empowerment**.
- SBI also partnered with **Japan's MUFG Bank** for cross-border cooperation.

32. Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) — \$1.5 Billion

- **Department of Financial Services** unveiled the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)**.
- **Pool size:** **\$1.5 billion** (backed by a **Sovereign Guarantee of \$1.4 billion / ₹12,980 crore**).
- **Coverage:** **Hull/Machinery, Cargo, Protection & Indemnity (P&I), and War Risks**.
- **First policies** issued to **Hoggar Offshore** and **Vedanta Sterlite** by **New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL)**.

3. Appointments

1. Rohit Jain Appointed as RBI Deputy Governor

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has four Deputy Governors who oversee different departments.
- **T. Rabi Sankar** was the outgoing Deputy Governor.
- **Rohit Jain** appointed as **Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for a tenure of **three years, effective May 2, 2026**.
- **Succeeded:** **T. Rabi Sankar**.
- **Portfolio assigned:** **Fintech, Forex, and IT (Information Technology)**.
- **Current RBI Deputy Governors (all four):**
 - **Swaminathan Janakiraman** (Senior-most; oversees **11 departments** including **DICGC**)
 - **Poonam Gupta** (in charge of **Monetary Policy**)
 - **S. Chandra Murmu** (**Shirish Chandra Murmu**)
 - **Rohit Jain** (newly appointed)
- **RBI Governor:** **Sanjay Malhotra**.

2. Anupinder Singh Grewal Appointed President of NCLT

- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** is the **corporate disputes court** of India.
- **Justice (Retd.) Anupinder Singh Grewal** appointed as **President** of the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** for a **5-year term** or until age **67**.

3. Subrat Mohanty Reappointed as Executive Director of Axis Bank

4. Ashutosh Gowariker Appointed Festival Director — 57th IFFI

- Acclaimed filmmaker **Ashutosh Gowariker** appointed as **Festival Director** for the **57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**.
- **Venue:** **Goa** | **Month:** **November 2026**.
- IFFI is organized by the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** and the **Entertainment Society of Goa**.
- IFFI was established in **1952**.
- **Shashi Shekhar Vempati** was simultaneously appointed as the new **Chairperson of CBFC**

(replacing Praseon Joshi, who moved to Prasar Bharati).

5. Praseon Joshi Appointed Chairman of Prasar Bharati

6. Shashi Shekhar Vempati Appointed CBFC Chairperson

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

7. Ravi K (Kota Ravi) Appointed CMD of HAL

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** is headquartered in **Bengaluru** and was established in **1940**.
- **Kota Ravi (Ravi K)** appointed as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, replacing **D.K. Sunil**.

8. Dilip Kumar Appointed Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

9. Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda Appointed CMD of SAIL

- **Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda (A.K. Panda)** assumed charge as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**, replacing **Amarendu Prakash / K.K. Singh (Krishna Kumar Singh)**.

10. Anugraha Narayan Dass Appointed as CGDA

- **Anugraha Narayan Dass** (1991 batch **IDAS**) appointed as **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)** from **May 1, 2026**.
- **Role:** Oversees **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** audits.
- **Replaced: Biswajit Sahay**.

11. Vishwajit Sahai & Biswajit Sahay — Ministry of Defence Secretaries

- **Vishwajit Sahai** (1990 batch **IAS**) appointed as **Secretary of Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, replacing **Rasika Chop**.
- **Biswajit Sahay** assumed charge as **Secretary of Defence Finance** (under the **Ministry of Finance**).

12. Parminder Chopra Appointed CEO — Reliance Enterprises Intelligence

13. Lt. Gen. N.S. Raja Subramani Appointed India's 3rd Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

- **Lt. Gen. N.S. Raja Subramani** appointed as **India's 3rd Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**.
- Takes charge after **Gen. Anil Chauhan's** tenure ends on **May 30, 2026**.

14. Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan Appointed 27th Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)

- **Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi** was the retiring **Chief of Naval Staff**.
- **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** appointed as the **27th Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)**.

15. NITI Aayog — New Members & Vice-Chairperson Appointed

- **NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)** is India's premier policy think tank, chaired by the **Prime Minister**.
- Previously had **5 full-time members**.
- **PM Narendra Modi** approved appointment of **R. Balasubramaniam** and **Joram Aniya** as full-time members — total now increased from **5 to 7**.
 - Other full-time Members: **Rajiv Gauba, K.V. Raju, Gobardhan Das, M. Srinivas, Abhay Karandikar**.
- **Joram Aniya's Historic Appointment:**
 - **First full-time member from Arunachal Pradesh**
 - Belongs to the **Nyishi community**
 - **First woman from Arunachal Pradesh to hold a Ph.D. in Hindi**
- **Vice-Chairperson: Ashok Kumar Lahiri** appointed (4th Vice Chairman), replacing **Suman Bery**, effective **May 6, 2026**.
- **Temporary CEO: Nidhi Chhibber** appointed, replacing **BVR Subrahmanyam**.

16. Bharat Khara appointed as the new Secretary of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

17. Kumar Mangalam Birla Returns as Chairman of Vodafone Idea

18. R. Vijay Anand Appointed MD & CEO of City Union Bank

19. Rumen Radev Appointed New Prime Minister of Bulgaria

- **Bulgaria Capital: Sofia**.
- On **January 1, 2026**, Bulgaria officially adopted the **Euro**, becoming the **21st member of the Eurozone**, replacing the **Bulgarian Lev**.

20. Laura Virginia Fernandez Delgado Sworn In as President of Costa Rica

- **Costa Rica Capital: San José | Currency: Costa Rican Colón**.

21. John Ternus became the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Apple

22. Akash Ambani Reappointed MD of Jio Platforms

23. Sunil Bharti Mittal Appointed Chairman of Bharti Airtel

24. West Bengal — Suwendu Adhikari Sworn In as 9th Chief Minister

- West Bengal Assembly Elections recorded an all-time high voter turnout of 92.93% (Female: 92.28% | Male: 97.07%).
- BJP won 207 seats; AITC (TMC): 80 seats (Total seats: 294).
- Oath administered by Governor R.N. Ravi.
- 25. Tamil Nadu — C. Joseph Vijay (Vijay Thalapathy) Sworn In as 13th Chief Minister**
- C. Joseph Vijay (Vijay Thalapathy) (representing TVK party) sworn in as 9th unique (13th overall) Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- Oath ceremony conducted by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at Nehru Indoor Stadium.
- 26. Assam — Himanta Biswa Sarma Sworn In for Second Term as 15th CM**
- Himanta Biswa Sarma sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam for his second consecutive term — first non-Congress leader to achieve this.
- NDA secured 102 out of 126 assembly seats.
- Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath.
- Assam Capital: Dispur | National Parks: Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri.
- 27. Puducherry — N. Rangasamy Sworn In as CM for Record Fifth Term**
- Puducherry Lt. Governor: K. Kailashnathan.
- 28. Kerala — V.D. Satheesan Appointed Chief Minister**
- V.D. Satheesan (Congress) elected as Congress Legislative Party leader and designated Chief Minister of Kerala on May 14, 2026 after the United Democratic Front (UDF) secured 102 out of 140 assembly seats.
- 29. Ajit Agarkar Reappointed as Chairman of BCCI Selection Committee**
- 30. PV Sindhu Joins BWF Council (2026–2029)**
- PV Sindhu joined the World Badminton Federation (BWF) Council with voting rights for the period 2026–2029.
- Appointed Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission.
- 31. Saudi India Business Council (SIBC) — New Leadership**
- FICCI nominated Priyanka Mittal (Director, KRBL Ltd.) as Co-Chair of the Saudi India Business Council (SIBC) Indian side.
- Dr. Siddeek Ahmed (Chairman, Eram Holdings) nominated as Chair.
- 32. Anant Swarup appointed new Secretary General of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry).**
- 33. CII Leadership 2026–27**

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) leadership for 2026–27:
 - President: R. Mukundan
 - President Designate: Suchitra Ella
 - Vice President: Shashwat Goenka
- 34. Dr. Harvansh Chawla appointed Chairman of BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) (recognized by NITI Aayog).**
- 35. Kuljit Kaur Marhas — ISRO scientist — became the first Indian woman (and 3rd Indian scientist overall) elected to the Meteoritical Society for 2026.**
- 36. International Olympic Committee (IOC) — President: Kirsty Coventry (Zimbabwe) — first woman and first African to lead the IOC.**
 - IOC Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 37. Smriti Mandhana** (Indian women's cricket vice-captain) partnered with Agelita Sports.
- 38. Infosys named Carlos Alcaraz** (World No. 1 tennis player) as a global brand ambassador.
- 39. Prashant Pise & Dinesh Trivedi — Ambassador Appointments**
 - Prashant Pise appointed Ambassador to Oman (succeeding Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas).
 - Dinesh Trivedi appointed High Commissioner to Bangladesh (rare political appointment), succeeding Pranay Verma (who becomes Ambassador to Belgium and EU).
- 40. CBI Director Praveen Sood Gets 1-Year Extension**
- 41. Sadhi Satish Sail Crowned Femina Miss India World 2026**

4. Arts & Culture

- 1. India at Venice Art Exhibition — 61st International Art Exhibition**
 - India participated in the 61st International Art Exhibition in Venice, Italy.
 - India's Pavilion Theme: "Geographies of Distance: Remembering Home"
 - Five Indian artists featured:
 - A. Balasubramaniam
 - Ranjani Shettar
 - Simakshi Singh
 - Skarma Sonam Tashi
 - Asim Waqif
- 2. Madame Tussauds London — 'Icons of India' Exhibition**
 - Madame Tussauds Museum launched the "Icons of India" exhibition at its London, UK headquarters.
 - Features 13 wax figures of Indian celebrities including:
 - Sachin Tendulkar, Amitabh Bachchan, Virat Kohli, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan (among others).

3. Moatsu Festival (Nagaland) & Thrissur Pooram (Kerala) Celebrated

- **Moatsu Festival** celebrated in **Nagaland** — a traditional festival of the **Ao Naga tribe**, marking the sowing season.
- **Thrissur Pooram** celebrated in **Kerala** — one of India's grandest temple festivals, held at the **Vadakkunnathan Temple, Thrissur**.

4. Assam Celebrates 114th Sari Festival

- **Assam** celebrated its **114th Sari Festival**, commemorating the state's rich handloom heritage, particularly the traditional **Mekhela Chador** and **Muga silk** traditions.

5. 'Padma Doree' Initiative — Blending North-East Eri Silk with Chanderi Handloom

- "**Padma Doree**" Initiative launched by the **North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation**.
- **Unique Blend:** Combines the **Eri silk textile** of **North-East India** with the **Chanderi handloom craftsmanship** of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Objective:** To manufacture unique, **export-quality fabrics** that blend two heritage traditions.

6. Ponduru Khadi (Andhra Pradesh) Receives Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

7. New Books Released :

(i) 'From Guerrilla Fighter to Chief Minister'

- **Authored by: Zoramthanga** (former Chief Minister of **Mizoram**).
- Documents his journey from a **Mizo National Front (MNF) guerrilla fighter** to the Chief Minister's office.

(ii) 'A Road Well Travelled' (Autobiography)

- **Authored by: R.K. Raghavan** (Former Director, **Central Bureau of Investigation / CBI**).
- An autobiography tracing his distinguished career in law enforcement and public service.

(iii) 'Apnapan' — by Shivraj Singh Chouhan

- **Authored by: Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.
- Documents his **35-year association with PM Narendra Modi**.
- To be officially released by former **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** on **May 26, 2026**.

(iv) Books Released by Amit Shah — Tushar Mehta's Works

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** released two books authored by **Solicitor General Tushar Mehta**:
 - **Book 1: 'The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre'**
 - **Book 2: 'The Lawful and the Awful'**
- Both books focus on India's **judicial system** and **legal experiences**.

8. Vande Mataram to Get Legal Protection on 150th Anniversary

- **Vande Mataram** was written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in **1875**; **2025** marked its **150th anniversary**.
- It serves as India's **National Song**.
- The **Union Cabinet** proposed giving **Vande Mataram (National Song)** the same **legal protection** as the **National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana)**.
- **Static GK:**
 - **National Anthem:** *Jana Gana Mana* — written by **Rabindranath Tagore**.
 - **National Song:** *Vande Mataram* — from **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's** novel *Anandamath*.

9. Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti — 165th Birth Anniversary (May 7)

- **May 7, 2026** — Observed as **Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti** — his **165th birth anniversary**.
- **Nobel Laureate in Literature (1913)** — for his poetry collection *Gitanjali*.
- Authored **India's National Anthem: *Jana Gana Mana***.
- Authored **Bangladesh's National Anthem: *Amar Shonar Bangla***.
- Founded **Visva-Bharati University** in **Santiniketan, West Bengal**.

10. 'Shunya to Anant' Exhibition Inaugurated at UN Headquarters

- **External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar** inaugurated the '**Shunya to Anant (Zero to Infinity)**' exhibition at the **United Nations (UN) Headquarters**.

11. Somnath Temple — 75th Anniversary Maha Puja & Commemorative Coin

- The **Somnath Temple** (Gir Somnath, Gujarat) is regarded as the **first among the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva**.
- It was restored in **1951** after centuries of historical destruction.
- **PM Modi** performed **Maha Puja** at the '**Somnath Amrit Parv Celebration**' in **Gir Somnath, Gujarat** on **May 11, 2026**.
- Marks **75 years** since the temple's restoration in **1951**.
- **PM Modi** released a special **commemorative ₹75 coin** (composed of **40 grams of pure silver**) and a **commemorative postage stamp**.
- Reverse side of the coin features an image of the temple inscribed with "**1000 Years of India's Unwavering Faith and Devotion**".
- Also observed as **Somnath Swabhiman Parv** on **May 11, 2026**, connected to the **Vande Bharat**

Somnath Swabhimhan Parv Yatra from New Delhi to Gujarat.

12. Maharashtra — Official Logo for Nashik Simhastha Kumbh Mela Unveiled

- **Kumbh Mela** is one of the world's largest religious gatherings, held at four locations in India on a rotational basis.
- **Nashik (Trimbakeshwar)** is one of the four Kumbh locations, situated on the **Godavari River**.
- **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** unveiled the official **logo** for the upcoming **Nashik Trimbakeshwar Simhastha Kumbh Mela**.
- The logo features a **Trishul** alongside the **Godavari River** shaped like a **Shivling**.
- **Trimbakeshwar** is one of the **12 Jyotirlingas** of India.
- **Nashik** is situated on the **Godavari River**.

13. PM Modi Inaugurates Dhyam Mandir — Art of Living's 45th Anniversary, Bengaluru

- **Art of Living Foundation** was founded by **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar** in **1981** to promote a stress-free, violence-free society.
- **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated a grand **Dhyam Mandir** (meditation temple) in **Bengaluru, Karnataka** during the **Art of Living Foundation's 45th Anniversary** celebrations.

14. India Hosts World Yogasana Championship (June 4–8, 2026)

- **India** will host the **inaugural World Yogasana Championship** from **June 4 to 8, 2026** at **TransStadia, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
- Organized by **Yogasana Bharat**.

15. Amol Palekar Receives META Lifetime Achievement Award

16. UNESCO Adds 12 New Global Geoparks — Total Reaches 241

- **UNESCO** added **12 new Global Geoparks**, bringing the total to **241 sites** across **51 countries** covering **882,000 sq. km**.
- **India** received **no new sites** in this round.
- **Tunisia** gained its **first UNESCO Global Geopark** (Dahar).
- **New additions include sites in:** China (Changshan and Mt. Siguniang), France (Terres d'Hérault), Greece (Nisyros), Ireland (Joyce Country and Western Latkes), Malaysia, Portugal, Japan, Russia, Tunisia (Dahar), and Uruguay.

17. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026 — June to August

- **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** is a sacred Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain pilgrimage to **Mount Kailash** and **Mansarovar Lake** in **Tibet (China)**.

- **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026** scheduled from **June to August 2026**, conducted in coordination with **China**.
- **Organized by: Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.
- **Route 1: Lipulekh Pass, Uttarakhand** — physically demanding route (trekking).
- **Route 2: Nathu La Pass, Sikkim** — vehicle-friendly route.

18. Javed Akhtar Conferred 33rd PC Chandra Puraskar

- **Javed Akhtar** — legendary Indian lyricist and poet — conferred the **33rd PC Chandra Puraskar** — a **₹20 lakh tax-free cash prize** recognizing outstanding contribution to Indian arts and culture.

19. Vairamuthu Receives Jnanpith Award 2025

5. Awards

1. Parveen Shaikh & Barkha Subba Win Whitley Award 2026 ('Green Oscar')

(i) Parveen Shaikh

- Awarded for her conservation project '**Guardian of the Skimmer**' — protecting the **endangered Indian Skimmer bird** along the **Chambal River** and **Prayagraj**.
- Prize: **£50,000** in **London**.

(ii) Barkha Subba

- Awarded for protecting **Himalayan salamanders** and their **wetlands** in the Himalayan region.

2. Guntur Municipal Corporation Wins UNIDO (GEM Award)

- **Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC)**, **Andhra Pradesh**, won the **UNIDO Gender Equality Mobilization (GEM) Award** in **Vienna, Austria**.
- **Reason for Award:** Training **200+ women** as **electric auto drivers** for **zero-emission waste collection** — a landmark initiative combining gender empowerment with sustainable urban mobility.

3. Pulitzer Prize 2025/2026 (110th Edition) — Indian Journalists Win

- The **Pulitzer Prize** — often called the "**Nobel Prize of Journalism**" — is administered by **Columbia University** since **1917**.
- This is the **110th edition**.
- Indian journalists **Anand R.K.** and **Suparna Sharma**, along with Bloomberg's **Natalie Obiko Pearson (Japan)**, won the award.
- Collaborative investigative project: "**trAPPed**" (Bloomberg) — exposed massive cybercrime networks and digital surveillance.

- **Highlighted incident:** A Lucknow neurologist lost ₹2.8 crore under digital house arrest.
- **Indian Finalist: Devjyot Ghoshal** — named a finalist for reporting on Southeast Asian trafficking networks.
- **The New York Times:** Secured 3 awards (including investigative reporting); historical total now 142 awards.
- **Reuters:** Won 2 awards, featuring beat reporting by Jeff Horvitz and Enen Theman.
- **The Washington Post:** Won for public service.
- **Minnesota Star Tribune (Staff):** Won for breaking news reporting.

4. Sheetal Devi Wins Para Archer of the Year 2025 Award

5. Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority Wins Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

- The Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar is India's highest civilian honour in the field of disaster management.

6. National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 — 15 Nursing Professionals Honored

- President Droupadi Murmu presented National Florence Nightingale Awards to 15 nursing professionals at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- **Award includes:** A certificate, medal, and ₹1 lakh cash prize.

7. Andaman & Nicobar Islands Sets Guinness World Record — World's Largest Underwater National Flag

- Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration set a Guinness World Record by unfurling the world's largest underwater national flag.
- **Flag Dimensions:** 60 × 40 meters.
- **Location:** Radhanagar Beach, Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island).
- **Led by:** Lieutenant Governor D.K. Joshi, supported by the Indian Navy and professional divers.

8. Sahajanand Medical Technologies (SMT) (based in Surat and Hyderabad) became the first domestic cardiovascular manufacturing unit to receive ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management System certification.

9. Deepak Bhatia — Indian resident in the UAE; Managing Director of Uncle's Shop Building Material Trading (established 1922) — won the Erth Dubai Award in the 'Best Private Sector Entity' category.

10. Soma Mandal, a teacher at GD Goenka Public School, Delhi, won the Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award — South Asia Regional Award.

11. O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) — holding UGC 'Institute of Eminence' (IoE) status

and located in Sonapat, Haryana — became the first university in India accredited by the Data Science Council of America (DASCA) for integrating AI and Data Science.

12. National Panchayat Awards 2026 — Karnataka Tops with 6 Awards

- 42 panchayats recognized across India under National Panchayat Awards 2026.
- **State Tally:**
 - Karnataka — 6 awards (1st)
 - Andhra Pradesh and Odisha — 5 awards each
- **Best Gram Panchayat:** Napam Gaon, Assam
- **Best District Panchayat:** Saphijala, Tripura
- **Best Block Panchayat:** Haripad/Alappuzha, Kerala

13. IUCAA–SAAO Collaboration — India Hands Over Astronomy Banner to South Africa

- Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) is based in Pune, India.
- South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) is based in Cape Town, South Africa.
- India's High Commissioner to South Africa, Prabhat Kumar, formally handed over the IUCAA banner to the SAAO in Cape Town — a symbolic transfer of astronomical collaboration leadership.

14. India Women's Recurve Team Wins Gold — 20th Hyundai Archery World Cup Stage 2, Shanghai

- At the 20th edition of the Shanghai Hyundai Archery World Cup Stage 2 in China, the India Women's Recurve team won Gold by defeating China.
- **Team members:** Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, Kumkum Mohod.
- Sahil Jadhav won Bronze in the men's individual compound event.
- **Overall Medal Tally:** Turkey — 1st (6 medals) | China — 2nd | South Korea — 3rd.

15. Apaar Saxena, a 14-year-old chess prodigy from Karnataka, earned the International Master (IM) title from FIDE

16. Vaishali Rameshbabu Wins FIDE Women's Candidates 2026

- Vaishali Rameshbabu won the FIDE Women's Candidates 2026 — qualifying for the Women's World Chess Championship.
- Arion Goss became India's 95th Chess Grandmaster.
- Faustino Oro (Argentina, 12 years old — nicknamed "Messi of Chess") became the second youngest grandmaster in history.

17. Odisha emerged as the best performing state in PMAY-U 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana —

Urban), completing 2,008 out of 24,600 sanctioned houses by May 2026 (ii) Key Developments

18. NRAI Celebrates 75th Anniversary — New Logo & 'myNRAI Athlete' App Launched

- The NRAI celebrated its **75th Anniversary** at the **Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi**.
- **Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** launched:
 - A new **75-year anniversary logo** for NRAI.
 - The **'myNRAI Athlete'** digital application — making NRAI India's **first digitized sports federation**.

19. Jharkhand Achieves Zero Primary Drop-Out Rate — Recognition

- **Jharkhand** achieved a "**zero primary drop-out rate**" (Classes 1–5) in **2024–25** — a landmark achievement in primary education.
- **Karnataka** recorded the highest higher secondary enrollment improvement — **Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)** jumped **29% to 61.4%**.
- **Tamil Nadu** topped higher secondary **GER at 84%**.
- **Punjab** performed best in language/math proficiency and smart classroom infrastructure.

20. PMEGP Exceeds 5-Year Targets

- **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)** exceeded targets for the **FY21–22 to FY25–26** cycle.
- Established **43,706 micro-enterprises** in the non-farm sector (target: 42,000).
- Generated **36.33 lakh jobs**; utilized a budget of **₹13,554 crore**.
- Implemented by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**.

21. ICC Players of the Month — March 2026

- **ICC Players of the Month for March 2026:**
 - **Men's Award: Sanju Samson**
 - **Women's Award: Amelia Kerr**

22. Skyroot Aerospace Becomes India's First Space Tech Unicorn

- A **Unicorn** is a privately held startup with a valuation of **\$1 billion or more**.
- **Skyroot Aerospace** is a **Hyderabad-based** private space-tech company, founded in **2018** by ex-ISRO scientists **Pawan Kumar Chandana** and **Naga Bharath Daka**.
- **Skyroot Aerospace** became **India's first Space Tech Unicorn** and the **4th Indian unicorn in 2026** (following KreditBee, Neysa, and Juspay).
- Raised **\$60 million (~₹500 crore)**; **Valuation: \$1.1 billion** (nearly double its 2023 valuation of ~\$550 million).
- Total funding: **\$160 million**; led by **Sherpalo Ventures** and **GIC (Singapore)**.

23. First ODOP Honey Export from Baksa (Assam) to USA Under APEDA

- **One District One Product (ODOP)** scheme promotes unique local products from each district.
- **Baksa** is an **aspirational district** in Assam.
- **APEDA** facilitated the **first export of 20 metric tonnes of honey** from **Baksa, Assam** to the **USA** under the **ODOP** scheme.

6. Banking and Finance

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Chairman & Managing Director, NBCC

1. RBI Launches Mission SAKSHAM for Urban Cooperative Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** launched **Mission SAKSHAM — Sahakari Bank Kshamata Nirman** — to strengthen **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** through capacity building.
- Provides **hybrid** (physical and digital) training in **regional languages**.
- **Training areas covered:** Management, compliance culture, digital education, risk management, and cybersecurity.
- **Full form:** Mission SAKSHAM = **Sahakari Bank Kshamata Nirman**.

2. RBI Introduces 'Unregistered Type 1 NBFC' Category for Small Entities

- The **RBI** introduced a new 'Unregistered Type 1 NBFC' category for small entities with:
 - Asset size under **₹1,000 crore**
 - **No public funds** raised
 - **No customer interface**
- These entities are **exempt from registration until July 1, 2026**.
- Can **deregister** using the **RBI's 'PRAVAAH' portal** during a one-time opt-out window open until **December 31, 2026**.
- Examples: **Core Investment Companies** such as **Tata Capital** and **Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Financial**.

3. RBI Calamity Loan Resolution Framework — Effective July 2026

- Effective **July 1, 2026**, **RBI** authorized **banks and NBFCs** to independently offer relief in disaster areas.
- **Relief types:** **Moratoriums** and **Interest Waivers**, based on **State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC)** recommendations.
- **Key timelines:**
 - Relief resolutions must be **invoked within 45 days**
 - Fully **implemented within 135 days**
 - Borrowers can **opt out within 135 days**

- Lenders must maintain a **5% additional provision** on outstanding restructured debt.

4. RBI Credit Card Guidelines — 3-Day Grace Period Mandated

- **RBI** mandated a **3-day grace period** for credit card payments after the due date, during which **no late fees** will be charged.
- However, the **90-day Non-Performing Asset (NPA)** classification is counted from the **original due date** (not the grace period end).

5. RBI Issues New FEMA 2026 Regulations for Authorized Persons

- Effective **April 30, 2026**, the **RBI** issued new **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 2026 Regulations** regarding '**Authorized Persons**' handling foreign exchange and dollar settlements.
- **Requirement:** **RBI** authorization is mandatory for all authorized persons.
- **Static GK:** **FEMA** replaced the earlier **Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA)**.

6. RBI — New Framework for Digital Outward Remittances

- **RBI** removed the prior approval requirement for **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I banks** to tie up with non-bank entities for processing **digital outward remittances**.

7. RBI Revises Capital Adequacy Norms — Quarterly Profits in CET1

- **RBI** allowed **commercial banks, small finance banks, and payment banks** to include **quarterly profits** directly into **Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital** for computing **Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)**.
- **Exclusions:** **Local Area Banks** and **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** not covered.
- **Minimum CRAR requirement: 9%.**
- **Previous condition** on **NPA provisioning deviation** was removed.

8. RBI Tightens Unsecured Lending Rules for UCBs — Effective October 1, 2026

- **RBI** tightened **unsecured lending rules** (loans without collateral) for **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**, effective **October 1, 2026**.
- **Maximum Unsecured Loan Portfolio:** **UCBs** can allocate up to **20% of total advances** to unsecured loans.
- **Caps on Individual Unsecured Loans (based on deposit size/tier):**
 - **Tier 1 Banks:** Max **₹5 lakh**
 - **Tier 2 Banks:** Max **₹7.5 lakh**
 - **Tier 3 & 4 Banks:** Max **₹10 lakh**
- **Home Loan Tenure Cap:** Home loans by **UCBs** capped at a maximum tenure of **20 years**.
- **Nominal Members:** Loans for consumer durables capped at **₹2.5 lakh** per borrower; max tenure **3 years**.

9. RBI Reports Bank Credit & Deposit Growth — Mid-April 2026

- **RBI** reported **mid-April year-on-year bank loan growth at 14.88%**, slightly down from **15%** the previous year.
- **Total bank credit** dipped **2.06%** in April compared to March.
- **Deposit growth** stood at **12.12%**.

10. RBI — Gold Holdings & Half-Yearly Report (46th Report)

- **RBI's 46th Half-Yearly Report** (as of **March 2026**) revealed:
 - India's **foreign currency reserves declined to \$691 billion** (from **\$700 billion** in October 2025).
 - **Reason:** **RBI** sold dollars to stabilize the Indian Rupee (approximately **₹95 to \$1**).
 - **RBI's gold holdings: 880 metric tonnes:**
 - **680 tonnes** stored in **India**
 - **197 tonnes** stored at the **Bank of England**

11. RBI Adds 104.23 Metric Tonnes of Gold to Domestic Reserves

- **RBI** strategically added **104.23 metric tonnes of gold** to its **domestic reserves** over six months.
- **Total Reserves:** Marginal overall increase (from **880.18 to 880.52 metric tonnes**) as **RBI**

simultaneously sold gold stored abroad to shift storage back to India.

- **Current Domestic Storage:** Approximately 77% of RBI's total gold now held domestically.

12. RBI Retail Direct Scheme — 64% YoY Growth in Gilt Accounts

- **RBI Retail Direct Scheme** was introduced in November 2021, allowing retail investors to buy government securities directly without brokers.
- Reported a **64% year-on-year increase** in Retail Direct Gilt Accounts — growing from 2.2 lakh to 3.61 lakh accounts as of April 27, 2026.
- Investments range from ₹10,000 to ₹2 crore per security.

13. RBI Master Direction — Currency Distribution, Note Categories & Penalties

- **Note Categories:**
 - **Soiled Notes:** Dirty/minor damage but single piece — **100% exchange value**
 - **Mutilated Notes:** Part missing — return value depends on missing area
 - **Imperfect Notes:** Washed, burnt, or heavily written on
- **Incentives for Currency Chests** (North East / J&K / Ladakh / Hilly Regions):
 - **100%** capital expenditure reimbursement up to ₹50 lakh
 - **50%** reimbursement on monthly revenue expenditure for first 5 years
- **Operational:** ₹2/packet for exchanging soiled notes (₹50 or below); ₹2/piece for mutilated notes; ₹65/coin bag distributed
- **Penalties:**
 - Refusing to exchange coins/notes: ₹10,000; escalates to ₹5 lakh for repeated violations
 - Dispensing fake notes from ATM or failing to impound at branch: ₹10,000
 - ATM out of cash for more than 10 hours in a month: ₹10,000
 - Insufficient change (up to ₹50 denomination): ₹50 per note
- **Operational Rules:** Minimum chest transaction ₹50,000 (in multiples of ₹10,000); transactions reported to Currency Management Portal by 7:00 PM daily; failure attracts Bank Rate + 2% penalty.
- ₹1 note is printed by the Ministry of Finance and bears the Finance Secretary's signature.
- All other notes are printed by the RBI and carry the RBI Governor's signature.
- Coins of 25 paise and below ceased to be legal tender from June 30, 2011.

14. RBI Subsidiaries — Key Facts (Static Booster)

- **DICGC (Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation):** Insures deposits up to ₹5 lakh.
- **BRBNMPL (Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited):** Operates printing presses at Mysuru and Salboni.
- **ReBIT (RBI's Bank for Information Technology and Security):** Handles cybersecurity.
- **IFTAS (Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services):** Manages IT functions.
- **RBIH (Reserve Bank Innovation Hub):** Drives innovation in financial services.

15. RBI Amalgamates Two Cooperative Banks in Kerala

- RBI amalgamated Mattancherry Mahajanik Cooperative Urban Bank with Peoples Urban Cooperative Bank in Kerala.

16. RBI Cancels Licences of Sarvodaya Cooperative Bank & Sarvodaya Small Finance Bank

- Effective May 12, 2026, the RBI cancelled licences of:
 - Sarvodaya Cooperative Bank (Mumbai-based)
 - Sarvodaya Small Finance Bank (Mumbai-based)
- **Reason:** Inadequate capital and insufficient earning capacity.
- **DICGC** will provide up to ₹5 lakh insurance per depositor.

17. RBI Penalties Imposed on Banks & NBFCs

- **Yes Bank:** Fined ₹31.80 lakh for KYC non-compliance (failing to use the 14-digit KYC Identifier from CKYC registry managed by CERSAI).
- **Hinduja Housing Finance:** Fined ₹1.8 lakh for governance rules non-compliance (replaced over 30% of directors without prior RBI permission).
- **Himachal Pradesh Gramin Bank:** Fined ₹5 lakh — (a) failed to transfer unclaimed deposits (older than 10 years) to the DEA (Depositor Education and Awareness) Fund, and (b) failed to pay post-maturity interest on fixed deposits.

18. ₹2000 Notes Withdrawal — Status Update (as of April 30, 2026)

- The RBI announced the withdrawal of ₹2,000 denomination notes on May 19, 2023, when ₹3.56 lakh crore worth of notes were in circulation.
- As of April 30, 2026, 98.47% of the withdrawn ₹2,000 notes have been returned.
- Remaining ₹2,000 notes still in circulation: ₹5,451 crore.

- ₹2,000 notes remain **legal tender** and can be deposited at **19 RBI offices** or through **India Post**.

19. RBI-ECB Sign Fresh MoU in Basel, Switzerland

- **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra** and **European Central Bank (ECB) Head Christine Lagarde** signed a fresh **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in **Basel, Switzerland**, replacing their **2015 agreement**.
- Focuses on cooperation in central banking operations.
- **Static GK:** ECB was established in **1998** and is headquartered in **Frankfurt, Germany**.

20. SEBI Operationalizes PaRRVA Framework

- The **Past Risk Return Verification Agency (PRRVA)** framework —was **operationalized on May 4, 2026**.
- **CARE Ratings Limited** serves as the **designated agency/verifier**.
- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** acts as the **data center**.
- **Full form:** PaRRVA = **Past Risk Return Verification Agency**.

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

- **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)** are privately pooled investment funds investing in startups, real estate, and non-traditional assets with a **minimum investment of ₹1 crore**.
- Previously, AMCs had to wait **60–90 days** after filing the **Private Placement Memorandum (PPM)**.
- **SEBI** introduced a **fast-track approval system** for AIFs reducing the waiting period to **30 days** (from 60–90 days).
- **GARUDA Mechanism** further proposed: Reduces AIF scheme launch time from **30 days to 10 working days** after PPM filing via a Merchant Banker.
- **Full form:** GARUDA = **Green-Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement**.

22. SEBI Removes IRRA Platform; Proposes Modifications to Buyback Framework

- **SEBI** launched the **Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA)** platform in **October 2023** for stock brokers during technical glitches.
- On **May 7, 2026**, SEBI completely **removed the IRRA platform** due to near-zero usage.
- SEBI proposed modifications to its **buyback framework**:
 - Maximum completion time set at **66 working days**
 - Removal of the **separate trading window** for transactions.

23. SEBI Chairman Issues Cyber Security Advisory on 'Mythos' AI

- **SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey** issued a severe **cybersecurity advisory** regarding "**Mythos**", an AI model.
- **Threat:** Mythos detects and exploits software vulnerabilities, threatening **financial market security systems**.
- SEBI also set up AI Task Force '**Cyber-suraksha.ai**' for cybersecurity in financial markets.
- **SEBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra** | Established: **1992** (Statutory body).

24. SEBI — Proposals on OBPP & Delayed Stock Market Data for Educational Institutions

- **OBPP (Online Bond Platform Providers)** proposals (feedback due May 26, 2026):
 - Allow foreign debt securities via **IFSCA**
 - Distribute tax-saving infrastructure bonds under **Section 54EC** of the Income Tax Act
 - Exempt government-backed bonds from exclusive listing on **Retail Direct**
- SEBI allows **educational institutions** to use stock market data with a **30-day delay** from **July 1, 2026**.
- **Exception:** **NISM (National Institute of Securities Markets)** allows a **1-day lag** for training labs.

25. SEBI — IPF Limits by Exchange (Investor Protection Fund)

- **National Stock Exchange (NSE):** ₹35 lakh per investor per claim (hiked from earlier ₹25 lakh).
- **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE):** ₹15 lakh per client.
- **Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX):** ₹25 lakh per client.

26. NSE Launches Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) Segment

- **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs):** Previously issued by the **RBI** on behalf of the government — now **discontinued**.
- **Gold Monetization Scheme:** Allowed depositing idle gold with banks — now **closed**.
- **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** launched the **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) segment** with approval from **SEBI**.
- **EGRs** are dematerialized digital certificates representing ownership of physical gold stored in **SEBI-accredited vaults**.
- Investors can hold, buy, and sell EGRs in their **Demat accounts** at prevailing market rates — without holding physical gold.
- **GST Rule:** **No GST** applies to digital trading of EGRs; **GST is only levied when converting EGRs into physical gold**.

27. NSE Crosses 13 Crore Unique Registered Investors

- NSE crossed 13 crore unique registered investors.
- Top 3 states: Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat.

28. NSE Launches National Coal Exchange

- A National Coal Exchange launched by the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to facilitate bidding and trading of coal supplies.

29. April 2026 — All-Time High GST Collection of ₹2.43 Lakh Crore

- GST (Goods and Services Tax) was implemented on July 1, 2017, based on the recommendation of the Vijay Kelkar Committee.
- April historically records the highest GST collections due to advance GST payments by businesses.
- The Prime Minister is NOT a member of the GST Council.
- April 2026 recorded an all-time high GST collection of ₹2.43 lakh crore.
- Year-on-Year (YoY) Growth: 8.7% compared to April 2025 (₹2.23/₹2.37 lakh crore).
- Top 5 Contributing States: Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.

30. GST Appellate Tribunal Renamed as NAAAR — Effective April 1, 2026

- Finance Ministry renamed the GST Tribunal (Principal Bench, New Delhi) to National Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling (NAAAR).
- Operational from: April 1, 2026.
- Jurisdiction thresholds:
 - Disputes up to ₹20 lakh — handled by NAAAR
 - Cases up to ₹1 crore — handled by NAAAR / High Court
 - Cases above ₹1 crore — directly to High Court
 - Cases above ₹2 crore — directly to Supreme Court
- Members serve for 4 years or up to age 70.

31. Direct Tax Collection FY 2025-26 — Net Collection ₹23.40 Lakh Crore

- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released FY 2025-26 data:
 - Net Direct Tax Collection: ₹23.40 lakh crore — growth of 5.12% over previous year
 - Gross Direct Tax Collection: ₹28.11 lakh crore — growth of 4.03% over previous year

32. UPI Transactions — April 2026

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processed in April 2026:
 - Volume: 22.35 billion transactions
 - Value: ₹29.03 lakh crore
 - YoY Growth: 25%

- All-Time High Record (March 2026): 22.64 billion transactions worth ₹29.53 lakh crore.

33. Counterfeit Indian Currency Notes (CICN) — Seizure Data

- Total fake currency seized since 2017: ₹638 crore.
- Peak year: 2022 (₹382.6 crore seized).
- Gujarat accounted for >50% of total seizures from 2017–2024 (₹355.72 crore).
- Total Currency in Circulation (CiC) in May 2026: ₹42.12 lakh crore.

34. NARCL (National Bad Bank) Recovery — ₹6,345 Crore Cumulative

- National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), commonly known as the "Bad Bank", was established in 2021 to acquire stressed assets from banks.
- NARCL acquired 33 borrower entities with loans totaling ₹1.65 lakh crore by March 2026.
- Recovery in FY 2025-26: ₹4,364 crore — representing 70% of total cumulative recovery.
- Total Cumulative Recovery: ₹6,345 crore.
- Target: NARCL is on track to achieve its ₹2 lakh crore acquisition target.

35. RBI Data — Bank Gold Loans Skyrocket 5-Fold in 2 Years

- Bank loans against gold jewelry reached ₹4.6 lakh crore by March 2026.
- YoY Growth: 123% — the fastest-growing loan sector in banking.
- 5-fold increase over the past two years.
- Priority Sector Housing Loans grew to 39.8%.
- Consumer Durable Loans declined by 5.3%.
- Rule: Banks cannot issue gold loans for the purpose of purchasing gold (except to jewelry manufacturers as working capital).

36. Customs Duty Hiked on Gold, Silver & Platinum — Effective May 13, 2026

- Gold is India's 2nd largest import after crude oil, causing significant forex outflow.
- India imported 721 tonnes of gold in FY26; import bill rose ~25% to ₹71.97 billion / ~\$71.98 billion.
- India is the 2nd largest gold consumer globally after China.
- Gold supply sources: Switzerland (~40%), followed by UAE and South Africa.
- Customs Duty on Gold and Silver raised from 6% to 15% (Basic: 10% + Tax: 5%).

- **Platinum import duty** revised from **6.4%** to **15.4%**.
- **Gold/silver findings** attract a **5% duty**.
- Effective: **May 13, 2026**.

37. Indian Rupee at Record All-Time Low — May 2026

- Due to **West Asia conflicts**, the **USD/INR exchange rate** crossed **95** on **May 4–5, 2026**.
- Hit a **record all-time high** of **₹95.80 per USD** on **May 13, 2026**.
- India's **forex (foreign exchange) reserves**: **\$690–691 billion** (as on **May 1, 2026**).

38. Public Sector Banks (PSBs) — Record 4th Consecutive Profitable Year (FY 2025-26)

- PSBs recorded **total net profit** of **₹1.98 lakh crore** in **FY 2025-26** — **4th consecutive profitable year**.
- **Aggregate total profit**: **₹3.21 lakh crore**.
- **Total Business**: **₹283.3 lakh crore** (12.8% growth).
- **Gross Advances**: **₹127 lakh crore** (15.7% growth).
- **Gross NPA ratio**: Historic low of **1.93%**.
- **Net NPA ratio**: **0.39%**.
- **Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR)**: **16.6%** (above 12% requirement).
- **Cost-to-income ratio**: Improved to **49.67%**.
- **Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR)**: **>90%**.
- **Top Performers**: **SBI — ₹78,000–80,032 crore** (~40% of total); **Bank of Baroda — ₹20,000 crore**; **PNB — ₹16,900 crore**.

39. PSBs Plan 50,000+ Recruitments (Current Year)

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Finance Ministry** noted a continuous workforce increase across **12 Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** via **IBPS (Institute of Banking Personnel Selection)** recruitment.
- After sending **50,552 offer letters** in **2025-26**, the Ministry plans over **50,000 recruitments** in the current year.

40. State Bank of India (SBI) — Strategic Updates & Financial Performance

- **Profit Growth**: Q4 (Jan–March) **FY25-26 profit** — **₹19,684 crore** (6% YoY growth); **Total annual profit** **FY25-26** — **₹80,032 crore** (13% growth).
- **Global Trade Finance Center**: Launched in **Kolkata**.
- **Chakra Center of Excellence**: Started to finance emerging 'sunrise' sectors.
- **First Global Capability Center**: Opened in **Bengaluru**.
- **MUFG Bank Partnership**: Partnered with **Japan's MUFG Bank** for cross-border cooperation.

- **PhonePe Partnership**: Launched **zero-joining-fee credit cards**.
- **Tier-2 Bonds**: Raised over **₹6,000 crore** via **Basel III compliant Tier-2 bonds**.
- **Balance Sheet Target**: Set target to reach **25%** of **India's GDP** by **2030**.
- Enabled direct **India–Israel trade settlements** in **INR**.
- **Market Milestone**: **SBI** became the **6th Indian firm** to cross a market capitalization of **₹10 lakh crore**.

41. SBI Card Sells ₹1,800 Crore NPAs to Integrow FinServ

- **SBI Card** — India's **second-largest credit card issuer** — sold **₹1,800 crore** of stressed credit card receivables (NPAs) to **Integrow FinServ** (a **Mumbai-based NBFC**).

42. SBI Ecowrap Report — India's GDP Projections

- **SBI Ecowrap projects**:
 - India's **Q4 (Jan–Mar 2026) FY26 GDP growth** at **7.2%** (below the advanced estimate of 7.3%)
 - **Full FY26 GDP growth** projected at **7.5%**
 - **FY27 GDP growth** projected to dip to **6.6%**

43. S&P Global Lowers India's FY27 GDP Forecast to 6.6%

- **S&P Global** is one of the three major global credit rating agencies (along with **Moody's** and **Fitch**).
- **CRISIL** — a leading **Indian credit rating and research agency** — is a subsidiary of **S&P Global**.
- **S&P Global** lowered India's **FY27 GDP growth forecast** from **7.1% to 6.6%** due to the ongoing **West Asia conflict**.
- Released a joint report with **CRISIL** titled '**India Forward: Emerging Perspectives**'.
- India's **GDP** for **FY26** was recorded at **7.6%**; average for **FY23–FY26** at **7.3%**.
- **Retail Inflation**: Projected to rise to **5.1%** in **FY27** (up from 2% in **FY26**).
- **Current Account Deficit (CAD)**: Expected to expand from **0.8% of GDP** in **FY26** to **2.2%** in **FY27**.
- **Debt-to-GDP Ratio**: **57.5%** in **FY27** (vs 56.1% in **FY26**); government target is **49–51% by FY31**.
- **Services Sector**: Expected to expand to approximately **55% of India's GDP** by **2030**.

44. Moody's GDP Projections — India 2026 & 2027

- **Moody's** projected India's **GDP growth** at **6%** for both **2026** and **2027**.

45. Key Economic Data — Exports,

Unemployment, Banking Credit & FDI

- India achieved **\$860 billion** in total exports for **FY26** — a **4.2% increase** over the previous year.
- **Unemployment rate: 5.1%** in March 2026; Urban Unemployment Rate (15+): **6.6%** in Q4 FY26.
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR): 55.5%** (Q4 FY26).
- Scheduled commercial banks recorded **15.9% YoY non-food credit growth** in FY27.
 - Agriculture: 15.7% | Industry: 15% | Services: 19% (highest) | Personal Loans: 16.2%
- **DPIIT** established a **60-day expedited clearance** mechanism for **FDI proposals** in **40 sub-sectors** (rare earth magnets, printed circuit boards, etc.) applicable to **China, Pakistan, Bangladesh**.
- India's **Trade Deficit FY 2025-26: \$333.2 billion**.
- India's **Current Account Deficit (CAD): \$13.2 billion (1.3% of GDP)** in Q3 FY26.
- India's private capex grew by **67%** to **₹7.7 lakh crore** in FY25 (per CII report).

46. Retail Inflation (CPI) — April 2026 Data

- **Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation** rose to **3.48%** in **April 2026** — fourth consecutive month of rising inflation.
- Remains within RBI's target band of **2%–6%**.
- **New CPI base year: 2024**.
- **CPI basket:** 358 items (308 goods + 50 services).
- **RBI inflation target:** $4\% \pm 2\%$, extended until **March 2031**.

47. WPI Inflation Surges to 8.3% — Highest in 3.5 Years (April 2026)

- **WPI (Wholesale Price Index) inflation** in April 2026: **8.3%** — highest level in **3.5 years**, up from **3.8%** previously.
- **Static GK — WPI:** Base year **2011-12**; tracks **697 goods** (117 Primary + 16 Fuel & Power + 564 Manufactured Products); released on the **14th of every month** by **DPIIT** under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

48. GSMA Report — Global Mobile Money Transactions Cross \$2 Trillion (2025)

- **Source:** GSMA (Global System for Mobile Communications Association) Report.
- Global mobile money transactions crossed **\$2 trillion** in 2025, doubling over a four-year period.
- **Registered Accounts: 2.3 billion** globally.
- **Merchant Payments: \$155 billion**.
- **Bank-to-Mobile Transfers: \$167 billion**.

49. 100% FDI in Insurance Sector via Automatic Route

- Earlier, **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the insurance sector was capped at **74%**.
- **Finance Ministry** amended **FEMA** rules to allow **100% FDI** in the **insurance sector and intermediaries** under the **automatic route**.
- **Exception:** Foreign investment in **LIC (Life Insurance Corporation)** remains capped at **20%**.
- Companies must have at least **one resident Indian citizen** as **Chairperson, MD, or CEO**.

50. FDI Rules Relaxed — Up to 10% Stake from Bordering Nations via Automatic Route

- **In 2020**, India imposed strict rules mandating government approval for even a **1% stake** from bordering countries (such as **China**).
- **Indian Government** relaxed **FDI rules** under **FEMA**.
- **New Rule:** Overseas companies with up to a **10% non-controlling stake** from bordering nations (such as **China**) can now invest in India via the **automatic route** — without prior government approval.

51. Tata AIA Launches 'Shubh Health Kriti' — ULIP

- **Tata AIA** launched **'Shubh Health Kriti'** — a **Unit-Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) Health Fund Plan**.
- Offers **market-linked growth** and coverage for **60+ critical illnesses**.
- **Target age group:** 18–65 years.
- **30-year lock-in period;** builds a **market-linked, tax-free health fund**.
- **Premium waivers** on death or disability; invests in **equities and debt**.

52. Biometric Authentication Replaces OTPs for Digital Card Payments

- **Flipkart, PayU, Axis Bank, and Wibmo** partnered to replace OTP verification with **facial and fingerprint biometric authentication** for digital card payments.

53. EPFO Launches 'e-PRAAPTI' Portal

- **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** manages provident fund accounts for India's organized sector workforce.
- **EPFO** settled **8.31 crore claims** in 2025–26.
- Union Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** announced the launch of the **'e-Prapti'** portal, also called **'e-PRAAPTI'**.
- **Full form:** e-PRAAPTI= **EPF Aadhaar Based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts**.
- The portal helps users track and reactivate **PF accounts** that have been **inactive for three years**.

- **Features:** Tracks and links old EPF accounts with a single **Universal Account Number (UAN)**.

54. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) — Zero-Balance SHG Saving Account

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** launched a zero-balance 'SHG Saving Account' (also **BSBD — Basic Savings Bank Deposit** account) to empower **women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.
- Utilizes IPPB's **1.64–1.65 lakh post office network** across India.
- **Key features:**
 - **No minimum balance** requirement
 - **No maintenance or transaction fees**
 - Fully digital onboarding
 - **Maximum deposit limit: ₹2 lakh**
- **Static GK:** Payment Banks can accept a maximum deposit of **₹2 lakh** and **cannot issue loans or credit cards**.

55. Axis Bank — India's First Digital Locker-Focused Branch

- **Axis Bank** launched **India's first digital locker-focused branch** in New Delhi.

56. Axis Bank Raises \$500 Million Offshore Loan from MUFG

- **Axis Bank** raised a **\$500 million offshore loan** from **MUFG (Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group)**.

57. Kotak Mahindra Bank Gets RBI Approval to Acquire Stakes in 3 Banks

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)** (MD & CEO: **Ashok Vaswani**, HQ: **Mumbai**) received **RBI approval** on **May 6, 2026** to acquire up to **9.99% aggregate holding** each in:
 - **AU Small Finance Bank** (HQ: **Jaipur**)
 - **Federal Bank** (HQ: **Aluva**)
 - **Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Bank** (HQ: **Srinagar**)

58. AU Small Finance Bank Launches Four New Credit Cards

- **AU Small Finance Bank** launched **4 new credit cards** named: **Ananta, Lakshya, Tejas, and Prathma**.

59. NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) & Juspay Partnership — Unified Banking Switch

- **NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL)** partnered with **Juspay Technologies** for a **unified switch and Software Development Kit (SDK)** to simplify banking integrations.

60. Jio Payments Bank Partners with EasyPay

- **Jio Payments Bank** partnered with fintech platform **EasyPay** to expand **last-mile digital banking** in rural and semi-urban India.

- **Static GK:** Payments Banks can accept deposits (up to **₹2 lakh**) but **cannot lend**.

61. PFRDA Grants Pension Fund Licence to Motilal Oswal AMC

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

62. MuleHunter.ai — RBI AI Tool to Detect Mule Accounts

- The **Ministry of Finance** directed banks to adopt **MuleHunter.ai** — an **AI tool** developed by the **RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH)**.
- **Purpose:** To detect illegal money transfer '**mule accounts**' used in financial fraud.
- Currently **live across 26 banks**.

63. India's Pension System Framework — Complete Overview

- **Before 2003:** Government employees had a **Defined Benefit Pension Model** — fixed monthly pension after retirement.
- **National Pension System (NPS)** (Post-2003): Deducts **10% of salary**; invests partially in share market; payout post-age 60.
 - Current stats: **2.17 crore subscribers**; **AUM: ₹15.95 lakh crore**.
- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY):** Targets **lower-income groups**; **8.96 crore subscribers**; **AUM: ₹51,400 crore**.
- **Unified Pension System (UPS):** Effective **April 1, 2025**; ensures assured monthly pension (e.g., **₹10,000/month** after 10+ years of qualifying service), including **Dearness Relief (DA)**.
- **NPS Vatsalya:** Allows **parents to deposit money for minors**; handed over at **age 18**.

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

- India currently has **28 RRBs**.
- **RRBs** are jointly owned by: **Central Government (50%), State Government (15%), and Sponsor Bank (35%)**.
- Phase 1 (Viability Plan 1.0) ran from **FY22–FY25**.
- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** approved **Viability Plan 2.0** for all **28 RRBs**.
- **Period:** **FY 2025-26 (FY26)** to **FY 2027-28 (FY28)**.

- **Evaluation Framework:** 30 parameters across four pillars:
 - Operational Excellence
 - Asset Quality
 - Profitability
 - Growth

65. NaBFID Long-Term Bonds — ₹4,000 Crore Raised

- **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)** raised ₹4,000 crore via 10-year long-term bonds at an interest rate of 7.74%.
- **Static GK:** NaBFID is an All India Financial Institution established in 2021, headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, dedicated to funding long-term infrastructure projects.

66. EXIM Bank Plans to Raise ₹9,500 Crore in FY 2026-27

- **Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)** plans to raise ₹9,500 crore in FY 2026-27 through domestic and overseas borrowing.

67. IRDAI Forms Health Insurance Sub-Committee — 'Insurance Advisory Committee'

- **IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)** formed a sub-committee titled 'Insurance Advisory Committee'.
- **Chaired by:** Ajay Seth.
- **Purpose:** Address private sector health insurance complaints.

68. Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) Conference — Focus on NPAs Above ₹20 Lakh

- **Department of Financial Services (Ministry of Finance)** hosted a conference for DRT officials, banks, and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- **Focus:** Expediting resolution of pending individual NPA cases where disputed loans exceed ₹20 lakh.
- India currently operates 39 DRTs (Debt Recovery Tribunals) and 5 DRATs (Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals).

69. ADB Commits \$5 Billion to India in 2025

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** committed \$5 billion to India in 2025 (\$4.238 billion in sovereign lending).
- **ADB Headquarters:** Manila, Philippines.

70. MSCI India Index Changes — Effective May 29, 2026

- **Four companies added to MSCI India Index:** Federal Bank, Indian Bank, Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), and NALCO.
- **Four companies removed:** Hyundai Motor India, Jubilant FoodWorks, Kalyan Jewellers, and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL).

71. CTBC Bank — First Taiwanese Bank at GIFT City

- **CTBC Bank** became the first Taiwanese bank to open a branch at GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, focusing on cross-border financing and trade operations.

72. IEPFA-Prasar Bharati Agreement

- **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** signed an agreement with Prasar Bharati to strengthen investor education and prevent financial fraud.
- **Static GK:** IEPFA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, established in 2016.

73. Finance Ministry Launches ₹3,000 Crore State Capital Investment Framework

- **Finance Ministry** launched a performance-based framework with a ₹3,000 crore fund to reward states for good debt management.
- **Criteria:** Debt management (50%), Borrowing discipline (30%), Fiscal transparency (20%).

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

- **IOM (International Organization for Migration)** is an intergovernmental organization — HQ: Geneva, Switzerland.
- **India** is the top global remittance recipient — receiving over \$137.67 billion in 2024.
- **2nd place:** Mexico with \$67.6 billion; **3rd:** Philippines.
- **Largest source of outward remittances:** The USA — sending over \$100 billion.

75. NCRB 'Crime in India 2024' Report — Economic Offenses

- Economic offenses increased by +4.6% as per NCRB Crime in India 2024 report.
- India recorded 58.85–58.86 lakh cognizable crimes in 2024 — a 6% decline from 62.41 lakh cases in 2023.

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

- **ECLGS** was originally launched during COVID-19 to support MSMEs.
- **ECLGS 5.0** addresses liquidity stress caused by the West Asia Crisis (Iran-Israel-US conflict).
- **Total Outlay:** ₹18,100 crore.
- **Guarantee Provider:** National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC).
- **Guarantee Coverage:** 100% for MSMEs | 90% for non-MSMEs and the airline sector.
- **Borrowing Limits:**
 - MSMEs/non-MSMEs — up to ₹100 crore (5-year tenure with 2-year moratorium)
 - Airlines — up to ₹1,500 crore (7-year tenure)

- **Eligibility:** Valid until **March 31, 2027**. Only **standard loan accounts (non-NPA)** as of **March 31, 2026** eligible.

77. Global AI Spending Surpasses \$700 Billion

- Global AI spending surpassed \$700 billion in 2026.
- **Cloud revenue growth comparison:**
 - Google Cloud: 63% revenue growth
 - Microsoft Azure: 40% growth
 - Amazon (AWS): 28% growth

7. Defence

1. DRDO & Indian Navy Conduct Maiden Salvo Launch of NASM-SR Missile

- The **Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range (NASM-SR)** is an indigenously developed precision-guided anti-ship weapon system.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Navy** conducted the **first-ever / maiden 'salvo launch'** (two missiles fired in rapid succession) of the **NASM-SR**.
- **Missile range: 55 km.**
- **Launch platform:** Helicopter (Navy helicopter platform).
- **Test location:** Chandipur range / off the Odisha coast / Bay of Bengal.

2. India Conducts Maiden Test of Nuclear-Capable Agni ICBM

- An **Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** has a range of more than **5,500 km**, capable of striking targets across continents.
- India's **Agni missile series** is developed by the **DRDO**.
- India conducted a **maiden test** of a **nuclear-capable Agni series ICBM** off the **Odisha coast**.
- **Testing Agency:** DRDO.
- **Testing Site:** Integrated Test Range (ITR) at APJ Abdul Kalam Island (formerly Wheeler Island), Odisha.
- **Date:** May 8, 2026.
- A **Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)** was issued for the **Bay of Bengal** from **May 6 to May 9, 2026**.

3. Agni-5 MIRV Missile Test — 'Mission Divyastra'

- **Agni-5** is India's long-range ballistic missile with a range of **5,000 km**.
- **MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle)** technology allows a single missile to carry **multiple warheads** that can hit **different targets simultaneously**.

- India successfully tested an advanced **Agni-5 missile** equipped with **MIRV technology** under '**Mission Divyastra**'.
- **Developed by:** DRDO.
- **Launch site:** Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- **Range:** 5,000 km.

4. TARA Weapon System — India's First Indigenous Glide Weapon System

- **DRDO** and **IAF (Indian Air Force)** successfully flight-tested **TARA** off the **Odisha coast** using an **IAF Jaguar fighter**.
- **Full form:** TARA = **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation**.
- India's **first indigenous, cost-effective glide weapon system** that converts conventional unguided warheads into precision-guided weapons.
- **Developed by:** RCI (Research Centre Imarat), Hyderabad.

5. India Successfully Conducts 2nd Test of LRSM — Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile

- The **LRSM (Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile)** is a next-generation anti-ship weapon system under development for the **Indian Navy**.
- India successfully conducted the **second test** of the **LRSM**.
- **Designed for:** Indian Navy.
- **Test Location:** APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- **Range:** 1,500 km.

6. BHEL–DRDO Sign Technology Transfer Agreement for Naval Gas Turbine IR Suppression

- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** signed a **technology transfer licensing agreement** with **DRDO's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)**.

7. INS Mahendragiri — 6th Project 17A Stealth Frigate Inducted into Indian Navy

- **Project 17A** is a stealth frigate programme approved in **2015** for a total cost of **₹45,000 crore**, comprising **7 frigates**.
- The programme aims to build advanced stealth warships with a **high degree of indigenous content**.
- The **6th stealth frigate** of the **Project 17A Nilgiri-class**, named '**INS Mahendragiri**', was delivered to and inducted into the **Indian Navy** on **April 30, 2026**.
- **Built by:** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.
- **Designed by:** Warship Design Bureau.
- **Key features:**

- CODOG (Combined Diesel or Gas) propulsion
- 75% indigenous components

8. Indian Coast Guard Commissions ICGS

'Achal' — 5th Adama-Class Fast Patrol Vessel

- The Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS 'Achal' — the 5th of eight new-generation Adama-class Fast Patrol Vessels.
- **Built by:** Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- **Deployment:** Vadinar, Gujarat — for coastal surveillance, anti-smuggling, and search & rescue operations.

9. Indian Army Inducts Indigenous Drones — ULGPM and Agnika VTOL-1

- Indian Army inducted two indigenous drones (emergency procurement) manufactured by DRDO and Adani Defence and Aerospace, Hyderabad:
 - **ULGPM (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Munition / UPGM):** Smart loitering munition capable of bypassing jammed environments.
 - **Agnika VTOL-1 / Agnika-V: Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) First-Person View (FPV) Kamikaze/Suicide drone** built for precision urban warfare strikes.

10. DRDO Inaugurates CBRN Field Training & Demonstration Centre — Burari Plains, Delhi

- CBRN stands for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear threats — one of the most dangerous categories of warfare threats.
- DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat inaugurated a CBRN Field Training and Demonstration Centre at Burari Plains, New Delhi.
- Operates under INMAS (Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences).
- Provides radiological, nuclear test bed, and heavy research facilities to train MoD, MHA, and NDMA responders.
- DRDO is under the Ministry of Defence with HQ in New Delhi.

11. DRDO Transfers 2,200 Technologies to Industry — Waives 20% Transfer Fee

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced that DRDO transferred 2,200 technologies to private and government industries.
- **Fee Waiver:** DRDO waived its former 20% technology transfer fee, granting free access.
- **R&D Budget Allocation:** 25% of the defence R&D budget is designated for academia and startups.

- **India's Defence Production:** Currently at ₹1.54 lakh crore.
- **India's Defence Exports:** ₹38,424 crore (also reported as ₹23,622 crore at North Tech Symposium).

12. Record Defence Production — ₹1.54 Lakh Crore; Exports ₹23,622 Crore

- India's defence export target is ₹50,000 crore by 2028–29 set by the Ministry of Defence.
- **Announced by:** Dr. Jitendra Singh at the North Tech Symposium in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Symposium Theme:** "Raksha Triveni Sangam".
- **Defence Production:** Reached ₹1.54 lakh crore — a 174% growth.
- **Defence Exports:** Reached ₹23,622 crore.
- **Private Sector Contribution:** Approximately ₹1,000 crore to defence exports.

13. North Tech Symposium 2026 Inaugurated by Rajnath Singh — Prayagraj

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the North Tech Symposium 2026 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Theme:** "Raksha Triveni Sangam" — promoting jointness, indigenization, and innovation in India's defence sector.

14. Kalam & Kavach 3.0 — Defence Innovation Initiative

- Kalam & Kavach 3.0 inaugurated by Raksha Rajya Mantri (Minister of State for Defence) Sanjay Seth at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- **Theme:** "Taking JAI Forward with I-Square" — Jointness, Aatmanirbharta, Innovation + Indigenization and International Collaboration.

15. Brain Computer Interface (BCI) Conference — Inaugurated by CDS General Anil Chauhan

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan inaugurated a Brain Computer Interface (BCI) Conference in New Delhi.
- **Theme:** "Brain Computer Interface: Expanding Neural Frontiers and Strategic Implications".

16. 2nd Joint Commanders Conference — Jaipur

- The 2nd edition of the Joint Commanders Conference (Army, Navy & Air Force) was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- Promotes jointness and integrated planning among India's three armed services.

17. Operation Netra 1.0 — Indian Army's High-Altitude Eye Camp in Leh, Ladakh

- The Indian Army conducted Operation Netra 1.0 — a high-altitude mega eye camp in Leh, Ladakh — providing essential

ophthalmological care to residents of remote Himalayan regions.

18. Operation Sindoor — 1st Anniversary (May 7–10, 2025)

- **Operation Sindoor** was India's military strike operation against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.
- **Operation Sindoor** launched at midnight on **May 7, 2025**; ceasefire on **May 10, 2025**.
- **Active duration: 88 hours (3.5 days)**.
- **Targets: 9 terror sites** across **LeT (Lashkar-e-Taiba)**, **JeM (Jaish-e-Mohammed)**, and **HuM (Hizb-ul-Mujahideen)** infrastructure.
- On **May 10, 2025: BrahMos missiles** struck **11 PAF airfields in 45 minutes**.

19. CINBAX-II 2026 — India–Cambodia Joint Military Exercise (2nd Edition)

- **2nd edition** of the **India–Cambodia bilateral joint military exercise** held in **Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia**.
- **Indian Contingent: 120 personnel** from the **Maratha Light Infantry Regiment**.
- **Duration: 13 days** — **May 4 to May 17, 2026**.

20. IN-SLN DIVEX 2026 — India–Sri Lanka Diving Exercise (4th Edition)

- **4th edition** of the **India–Sri Lanka Navy (IN-SLN) Diving Exercise (DIVEX)** held in **Colombo (April 21–28, 2026)**.
- India deployed **submarine rescue vessel INS Nireekshak**.
- India also gifted **two 'Bhishma Cubes'** under the **Arogya Maitri** humanitarian initiative.

21. 10th India–Australia Defence Policy Talks — New Delhi

- Held in **New Delhi**; delegations led by **Amitabh Prasad (India)** and **Bernard Philip (Australia)**.
- **Topics: Maritime security; establishing India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue** starting 2025.
- Both nations participate in **AUSINDEX** and **Malabar** naval exercises.

22. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Tripathi Visits Myanmar

- **Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Tripathi** made a **4-day visit (May 2–5, 2026)** to **Myanmar**.
- **Myanmar's Capital: Naypyidaw | Currency: Kyat**.
- Aimed at strengthening **bilateral maritime ties** between India and Myanmar.

23. INS Sunayna — Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar Mission 2nd Edition

- **INS Sunayna** arrived at **Bangladesh (Chattogram Port)** as part of the **Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar Mission 2nd Edition**.
- **INS Sunayna** also reached **Yangon, Myanmar**.

24. Naval Movements — HNLMS De Ruyter & INS Sudarshini

- **Dutch (Netherlands) naval ship HNLMS De Ruyter (F804)** arrived at **Kochi** for a **PASSEX (Passing Exercise)**.
- **INS Sudarshini** reached **Mindelo, Cape Verde** under the mission '**Lokayan 26**'.
- **INS Sagar Dhvani** visited **Cam Ranh port, Vietnam**.
- **HNLMS** stands for **Her Netherlands Majesty's Ship** — prefix for Dutch naval vessels.
- **PASSEX: A short naval exercise** conducted when ships of friendly navies are in proximity.

25. India–Algeria Inaugural Joint Commission Meeting on Defence

- **India and Algeria** held their **Inaugural Joint Commission Meeting on Defence**.
- **Algeria Capital: Algiers | Located in North Africa**.

26. SIPRI 2025 — India Ranked 5th Largest Military Spender at \$92.1 Billion

- The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** releases its annual **Military Expenditure Report** tracking global defence spending.
- **India ranked 5th largest military spender** globally in the **SIPRI Military Expenditure Report 2025**.
- **India's military spending: \$92.1 billion** — an **8.9% increase**.
- **Global military spending: \$2.89 trillion** in 2025.
- **Top 5 military spenders (in order):**
 1. **USA**
 2. **China**
 3. **Russia**
 4. **Germany**
 5. **India**
- Together these five nations comprised **58%** of global military spending.

27. Military Exercises Summary — 2026

- **Exercise Lamitiye: India–Seychelles** bilateral exercise.
- **Exercise Dweep Shakti: Indian Tri-Services** exercise held in **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
- **IMT TRILAT: Indian Navy** with partner navies, held at **Kochi**.
- **Exercise Amogh Jwala: Indian Army** exercise at **Babina**.

- **VINBAX:** India–Vietnam joint military exercise.
- **AUSINDEX:** India–Australia naval exercise.
- **Malabar:** India–USA–Japan trilateral naval exercise.

28. China Launches Pakistan's EO3 Earth Observation Satellite

- **China** launched **Pakistan's Earth Observation satellite EO3** (also known as **PRSC-E03**) from the **Taiyuan Launch Center** using a **Long March-6 rocket**.

29. USA Launches 'Project Freedom' in Strait of Hormuz

- **USA** launched "**Project Freedom**" — a naval operation to safely escort commercial vessels through the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- **Deployment:** Warships, aircraft, and **15,000 personnel**.
- **In Retaliation:** **Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** published a new map defining a **strict naval control zone** over the Strait.
- **Iran's Declaration:** No foreign vessels — including US-escorted ones — can pass without **Iranian permission**.
- The **Strait of Hormuz** lies between **Iran** and **Oman**.

30. India Deploys Aarogya Maitri BHISHM Cubes to Jamaica for Disaster Healthcare

- **Aarogya Maitri** (also known as **Project BHISHM / Bhisma Cube**) is a **portable modular hospital** designed for rapid deployment during disasters under the **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** framework.
- **Full form:** BHISHM = **Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri**.
- India deployed **mobile hospital units (BHISHM Cubes)** to **Kingston, Jamaica** for disaster healthcare support.
- **World's first portable modular hospital** designed for rapid disaster deployment.
- **Structure:** Contains **72 mini-cubes**; capable of treating up to **200 patients**.

31. India–Japan Sign Agreement on Quantum Technology and Health Research

- **India** and **Japan** signed an agreement on **Quantum Technology and Health Research**.
- **Japan Capital:** **Tokyo** | **Currency:** **Japanese Yen (JPY)**.

8. International

1. UAE Officially Exits OPEC and OPEC+ (May 1, 2026)

- The **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** was founded in **1960** and is headquartered in **Vienna, Austria**.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** officially exited **OPEC** and **OPEC+** on **May 1, 2026**.
- After the UAE's exit, **OPEC membership reduces to 11 countries**.
- **OPEC current Secretary General:** **Haitham Al Ghais**.
- **OPEC Headquarters:** **Vienna, Austria** | **Founded:** **1960**.

2. Vietnam President To Lam's State Visit to India (May 5–7, 2026)

- India and Vietnam share a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** since 2016.
- Both nations conduct the joint military exercise **VINBAX**.
- **Vietnamese President To Lam** visited India at the invitation of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to mark the 10th anniversary of the **India–Vietnam strategic partnership**.
- **13 agreements** signed, including:
 - **Bilateral trade target:** **\$25 billion by 2030** (from current \$16 billion)
 - Agreement between **RBI** and the **State Bank of Vietnam** on financial innovation and digital payments
 - Cooperation in **Healthcare, Fintech, Indo-Pacific, and Rare Earth Minerals**
- **Vietnam Capital:** **Hanoi** | **Currency:** **Vietnamese Dong (VND)**.

3. UNGA President Annalena Baerbock Visits India

- **Annalena Baerbock** — German diplomat and **President of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** — visited India at the invitation of **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar**.
- **UN Established:** **October 24, 1945**
- **UN Headquarters:** **New York**
- **Member Nations:** **193**
- **Secretary-General:** **Antonio Guterres**
- **Official Languages:** **6** — Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
- **Principal Organs:** **6** — UNGA, UNSC, ECOSOC, ICJ, etc.

4. USA Returns 657 Stolen Antiquities to India

- The **United States** returned **657 stolen antiquities** to India worth approximately **\$14 million**.

- Notable items returned include an **Avalokiteshwara bronze statue** and a **dancing Ganesha sandstone figure**.

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

- This was the **first-ever bilateral visit** by an **Indian External Affairs Minister (EAM)** to **Jamaica**.
- **MOUs Signed:** Healthcare, Solar Energy, and Broadcasting.
- **Humanitarian Gift:** India gifted **BHISHM Cubes** — easily transportable, rapid-response health cubes.
- **Jamaica:** Capital — **Kingston** | Currency — **Jamaican Dollar (JMD)**.

6. EAM Jaishankar in Trinidad & Tobago — SEEDS Initiative

- **EAM S. Jaishankar** inaugurated India-supported projects in **Trinidad and Tobago** under the **SEEDS (Supply of Equipment for Efficient Development of SMEs)** initiative.
- **Trinidad & Tobago Capital:** Port of Spain | Currency: **TTD (Trinidad & Tobago Dollar)**.

7. India at 4th India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV) — New Delhi

- India will host the **4th India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV)** in **New Delhi** from **May 28–31, 2026**.
- **African Union (AU) HQ:** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | Comprises **55 member states**.

8. India Chairs BRICS–MENA Meeting on West Asia Conflict

- **BRICS** expanded in 2024 to include **UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and Saudi Arabia** — now **10 members**.
- India, represented by **Dr. Neena Malhotra** (Secretary, **Ministry of External Affairs / MEA**), chaired a meeting with **BRICS** founding members and **MENA (Middle East and North Africa)** nations.
- **Key discussion topics:** West Asia conflict (Iran, Palestine, Gaza), **UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency)**, terrorism, and regional stability.
- **Next meeting:** To be hosted by **China in 2027**.

9. India–Tanzania Trade — 5th Joint Trade Committee Meeting

- The **5th Joint Trade Committee** meeting was held in **Dar es Salaam** (Tanzania's commercial capital).
- **Bilateral trade** reached **\$9.02 billion** in **2025–26**.

10. India and Algeria — Inaugural Joint Commission Meeting on Defence

- **India and Algeria** held their **Inaugural Joint Commission Meeting on Defence**.
- **Algeria Capital:** Algiers | Located in **North Africa**.

11. India–Japan — 3rd Joint Committee Meeting on Healthcare

- **Venue:** **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- **Co-chaired by:** **JP Nadda (India)** and **Kimie Onoda (Japan)**.
- **Discussion topics:** **AI-enabled health systems, resilient medical infrastructure, and healthcare innovation**.
- **Edition:** **3rd India-Japan Joint Committee Meeting on Healthcare**.

12. Maldives President Muizzu Visits Sri Lanka — 7 Agreements Signed

- **Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu** visited **Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake**.
- **Milestone:** Visit marks **60 years of diplomatic relations** between Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- **Agreements Signed:** **7 agreements** covering tourism, defence, education, and youth development.

13. Scotland Becomes First UK Country to Legalize Water Cremation (Alkaline Hydrolysis)

14. Brazil Enacts Law to Restrict Social Media Access for Minors Under 16 Years (2026)

15. ASI Collaborates with Indonesia to Restore Prambanan Temple

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** is collaborating with **Indonesia** to restore the **Prambanan Temple** — a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of **Southeast Asia's largest Hindu temple complexes**.

16. Bangladesh Begins Fuel Loading at Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

- **Bangladesh** is set to become the **33rd country globally** to generate electricity via **nuclear energy** with the **Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant** beginning fuel loading.

17. Mount Dukono Erupts in Albay Province, Philippines

18. IOC Lifts Ban on Belarus Athletes; Russia Ban Continues

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** lifted restrictions on **Belarus athletes** for the **2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics**.
- **Russian athletes** remain suspended due to **past doping violations** and must compete individually as **neutral athletes**.
- **Upcoming Olympic Schedule:**
 - **2026 Winter Olympics:** Italy
 - **2028 Summer Olympics:** USA
 - **2030 Winter Olympics:** France
 - **2032 Summer Olympics:** Australia

- **IOC Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland
- **IOC President:** Kirsty Coventry (Zimbabwe) — first woman and first African to lead the IOC.
- **Olympic motto:** '*Citius, Altius, Fortius*' (Faster, Higher, Stronger).

19. India Assumes Chairmanship of Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) 2026–2028

20. India Bids to Host ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-2030)

- At the **ITU Council 2026** meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland (April 28 – May 8, 2026), India formally presented a proposal to host the **ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-2030)**.
- **Static GK:** International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is a UN specialized agency for ICT, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, established in 1865.

21. India Hosts 35th ISO Technical Committee on Space Systems — New Delhi

- India hosted the **35th plenary and working group meetings** of the ISO Technical Committee on Space Systems and Operations (TC 20/SC 14) in New Delhi.
- Organized by **BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards)**; 131 delegates from 13 countries discussed space safety, debris mitigation, and standards.

22. India Hosts 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue — New Delhi

- **10th Indian Ocean Dialogue** hosted in New Delhi on May 7–8, 2026.
- **Theme:** "Indian Ocean region in a transforming world".
- India chairs the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** for 2025–2027.

23. India Hosts Inaugural BRICS Health Working Group Meeting — New Delhi

- The **first-ever BRICS Health Working Group Meeting** was hosted in New Delhi.
- **BRICS** currently has 10 members after the 2024 expansion: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia.

24. BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting — New Delhi (May 14–15, 2026)

- India holds the **BRICS Chairship** for the 4th time in 2026.
- **18th BRICS Summit** will be held in India in September 2026.
- **Venue:** Bharat Mandapam and Seva Teerth, New Delhi.
- **Dates:** May 14–15, 2026.

- **Chaired by:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

- **Theme:** "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

- India launched the **BRICS 2026** presidency theme, logo, and website.

- **BRICS Agriculture Meeting 2026** — India to host in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

25. BRICS MENA Meeting — New Delhi (1–2 May 2026)

- **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** Secretary Dr. Nina Malhotra chaired the **2026 BRICS MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Meeting** in New Delhi.
- **Focus:** West Asian conflict and regional stability.

26. Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026 — Mumbai

- The **Kimberley Process (KP)** is an international initiative to prevent trade in conflict/blood diamonds.
- India took the **KP Chair** from UAE on January 1, 2026.
- **Meeting held:** May 11–14, 2026 at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai.
- **Chaired by:** India's Suchindra Mishra.
- **Theme:** "Three Cs: Credibility, Compliance, and Consumer Confidence".

27. PM Modi's Five-Nation Visit — May 15–20, 2026

- **PM Modi** visited 5 countries from May 15–20, 2026:
 - **UAE (May 15):** Met UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi (Capital: Abu Dhabi | Currency: UAE Dirham / AED). UAE is India's 3rd largest trade partner.
 - **Netherlands:** Meeting with PM Rob Jetten — PM Modi's second visit (first was in 2017).
 - **Sweden:** Meeting with PM Ulf Kristersson.
 - **Norway:** Meeting with PM Jonas Gahr Støre.
 - **Italy:** Meeting with PM Giorgia Meloni and President Sergio Mattarella.
- **FIEO President** during this period: S.C. Ralhan.

28. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) — Inaugural Summit in New Delhi

- The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** was launched by PM Narendra Modi in 2023 with a budget of ₹150 crore for five years to protect the world's seven big cat species.
- It comprises 25 member countries.
- **New Delhi** will host the **inaugural IBCA Summit** on June 1–2, 2026.

- **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav** launched the IBCA logo and theme.
- **Theme:** "Save Big Cat, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem".
- **Seven Big Cats Protected:** Tiger, Lion, Cheetah, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Jaguar, Puma.
- India is home to **6 of the 7 big cats** (all except **Jaguar**, which is native to the Americas).
- **India's Tiger Population:** **3,682 tigers** across **58 tiger reserves**.

29. US House Extends FISA Section 702 for 3 Years

- **Section 702** of the **Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)** permits **warrantless foreign intelligence monitoring**.
- The **US House** voted **235–191** to extend **Section 702 of FISA** for **3 years**.

30. Elon Musk Files Lawsuit Against OpenAI

- **Elon Musk** filed a **lawsuit against OpenAI** for shifting from its **open-access mission** to a **paid commercial platform**, alleging breach of its founding principles.

31. SpaceX Falcon 9 Launches South Korea's CAS5002 Earth Observation Satellite

32. India–South Korea — \$50 Billion Bilateral Trade Target by 2030

- **India and South Korea** set a **\$50 billion bilateral trade target by 2030**.
- **South Korea Capital:** Seoul | **Currency:** South Korean Won (KRW).

33. India Hosts BRICS Agriculture Meeting 2026 — Indore

- India will host the **2026 BRICS Agriculture Meeting** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.

34. SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting — Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** attended the **23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.
- **Focus:** Regional security discussions among SCO member states.

35. India–Italy Defence Meeting — New Delhi

- **Rajnath Singh** and Italian counterpart **Guido Crosetto** met in **New Delhi** to discuss:
 - **India–Italy defence cooperation**
 - **2026-27 military engagements**
 - **The Iran–Israel conflict**

36. Mayon Volcano Erupts in Philippines

- **Mayon Volcano** erupted in **Albay Province, Philippines** — one of the world's most active volcanoes.

37. The Bahamas — PM Philip Davis Re-elected

- **Prime Minister Philip Davis** was re-elected for a **second consecutive term** in **The Bahamas**.

- **Bahamas Capital:** Nassau | **Currency:** Dollar.

38. Uganda — Museveni Sworn In for Seventh Term

- **Yoweri Museveni** was sworn in for a **seventh term** as **President** in **Kampala, Uganda**, marking approximately **40 years** in power.

39. Special 301 Report 2026 — India on 'Priority Watch List'

- **38th annual edition** of the **Special 301 Report 2026**.
- **India retained** on the **"Priority Watch List"** (along with **Chile, China, Indonesia, Russia, Venezuela**).
- **Vietnam** elevated to **"Priority Foreign Country"** status (triggering a **Section 301 investigation**).
- **Watch List countries:** Pakistan, Turkey, European Union (EU), Brazil, Argentina.
- **Bulgaria** removed from the list; **Ukraine** suspended.

40. World Press Freedom Index 2026 — India Ranks 157th

- **Published by:** **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**, headquartered in **Paris, France**.
- Evaluates **180 countries** on five pillars: Political, Legal, Economic, Socio-cultural, and Safety.
- **India's Overall Rank:** **157th** out of 180 countries (previously **151st**).
- **India's Pillar-wise Rankings:**
 - **Political:** **145th** | **Legal:** **159th** | **Economic:** **121st** | **Socio-cultural:** **152nd** | **Safety:** **142nd**
- **Top 5 Countries (Best Press Freedom):**
 - 1. Norway** (1st — **10th consecutive year**)
 - 2. Netherlands** | **3. Estonia** | **4. Denmark** | **5. Sweden**

Sweden

- **Bottom 5 Countries:**
 - **180. Eritrea** | 179. North Korea | 178. China | 177. Iran | 176. Saudi Arabia
- **Regional Comparisons:** **Nepal — 87th** | **Sri Lanka — 134th** | **Pakistan — 153rd** | **Afghanistan — 175th** | **USA — 57th**
- **India placed in the "Very Serious" category** with a score of **31.96**.

41. World Migration Report 2026 — India Tops Global Remittances

- Released by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**.
- **India:** Top global remittance recipient — receiving **\$137.67 billion** in **2024**.
- **Countries ranked after India:** **Mexico** (\$67.6 billion) and **Philippines**.
- **Largest source of outward remittances:** **USA** — sending over **\$100 billion**.
- **IOM Headquarters:** **Geneva, Switzerland**.

42. ADB 59th Annual Meeting — Samarkand, Uzbekistan

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) held its 59th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- Announced \$70 billion infrastructure plan for Asia-Pacific.
- Launched "Critical Minerals to Manufacturing Financing Partnership Facility" and a critical mineral database.
- **Critical Minerals covered:** Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel, Graphite, Rare Earth Metals.
- **New windows announced:** Research Grant Window and Catalytic Finance Window.
- **ADB Headquarters:** Manila, Philippines | **ADB President:** Masato Kanda.
- India is a **founding member** and major shareholder of ADB.

43. India Partners with IFAD — 8-Year COSOP Programme (2026–2033)

- **Government of India** and **IFAD** launched an 8-year **Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP)** from 2026 to 2033 to boost rural incomes.
- **Static GK:** IFAD is a UN specialized agency for agricultural development, HQ: **Rome, Italy**, established 1977.

44. Meghalaya Signs Pact with Starlink for Satellite Internet

- **Meghalaya** signed a pact with **Starlink** for **satellite internet** in remote areas.
- **Starlink** is a satellite internet constellation operated by **SpaceX** (owned by **Elon Musk**).
- **Meghalaya Capital:** **Shillong** | **Chief Minister:** **Conrad Sangma**.

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

- **India** and the **European Union (EU)** jointly launched a €15.2 million (₹169 crore) initiative for **Electric Vehicle (EV) battery recycling** under the **Trade and Technology Council (TTC)**.
- **EU Funding Source:** **Horizon Europe** programme | **Indian Partner:** **Ministry of Heavy Industries**.
- **Static GK:** The EU is a **political and economic union of 27 nations**.

9. Meetings

1. 23rd SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting — Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- India has been a full member of the SCO since 2017.

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** attended the 23rd SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- **Focus:** Regional security discussions among SCO member states.

2. BRICS MENA Meeting — New Delhi (May 2026)

- **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** Secretary **Dr. Nina Malhotra** chaired the 2026 **BRICS MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Meeting** in **New Delhi**.
- **Focus:** West Asian conflict (Iran, Palestine, Gaza), UNRWA, terrorism, and regional stability.
- **Next BRICS MENA Meeting:** To be hosted by **China in 2027**.

3. BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting — New Delhi (May 14–15, 2026)

- India holds the **BRICS Chairship** for the 4th time in 2026.
- **18th BRICS Summit** scheduled in India in **September 2026**.
- India assumed **BRICS Presidency** on **January 1, 2026**.
- **Theme:** "BRICS — Building, Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, Sustainability".
- **Venue:** **Bharat Mandapam** and **Seva Teerth**, **New Delhi**.
- **Dates:** **May 14–15, 2026**.
- **Chaired by:** **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar**.

4. Inaugural BRICS Health Working Group Meeting — New Delhi

- The **first-ever BRICS Health Working Group Meeting** was hosted in **New Delhi**.
- **BRICS** currently has **10 members** after the 2024 expansion: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia**.
- **Focus:** Expanding BRICS cooperation from economics into health and medical research.

5. ADB 59th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors — Samarkand, Uzbekistan

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** holds its annual meeting to address major economic and developmental challenges in Asia.
- **ADB Headquarters:** **Manila, Philippines** | **ADB President:** **Masato Kanda**.
- **Venue:** **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.
- **Announcements:**
 - **\$70 billion infrastructure investment plan** for the Asia-Pacific region (digital and energy sectors).
 - **Goals by 2035:** Integrate **20 GW of renewable energy** and offer first-time

broadband access to **200 million individuals**.

- Launched "**Critical Minerals to Manufacturing Financing Partnership Facility**".
- Launched **critical mineral database** for Asia's supply chain.
- **New windows announced:** Research Grant Window and Catalytic Finance Window.

6. 10th National Summit on Public Health Innovations — Chandigarh

- **Health Minister J.P. Nadda** inaugurated the **10th National Summit on Public Health Innovations in Chandigarh**.
- Key launches at the summit:
 - **Swasth Bharat Portal** (swasthbharat.mohfw.gov.in)
 - **JANANI** (Journey of Antenatal, Natal, and Neonatal Integrated Care) digital platform
 - **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram 2.0 (RBSK 2.0)** guidelines
 - **ESIC Annual Health Checkup** for workers aged 40 and above

7. 3rd India–Japan Joint Committee Meeting on Healthcare — Bharat Mandapam

- **Venue:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- **Co-chaired by:** JP Nadda (India) and **Kimie Onoda** (Japan).
- **Discussion topics:** AI-enabled health systems, resilient medical infrastructure, and healthcare innovation.

8. National Deliberative Summit on Data — Bhubaneswar

- The **National Deliberative Summit on Data** was held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- At the summit, **MoSPI** released the **27th edition of 'Women and Men in India 2025'** report.

9. 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue — New Delhi (May 7–8, 2026)

- **10th Indian Ocean Dialogue** hosted in **New Delhi** on **May 7–8, 2026**.
- **Theme:** "**Indian Ocean region in a transforming world**".
- India chairs the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** for **2025–2027**.

10. Inaugural IBCA (International Big Cat Alliance) Summit — New Delhi (June 1–2, 2026)

- The **IBCA** was launched by **PM Narendra Modi** in **2023** with a budget of **₹150 crore** for five years to protect the world's **seven big cat species**.
- It comprises **25 member countries**.
- **New Delhi** will host the **inaugural IBCA Summit** on **June 1–2, 2026**.

- **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav** launched the **IBCA logo and theme**.
- **Theme:** "**Save Big Cat, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem**".
- **Seven Big Cats Protected:** Tiger, Lion, Cheetah, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Jaguar, Puma.

11. 2nd Joint Commanders Conference — Jaipur, Rajasthan

- The **2nd edition** of the **Joint Commanders Conference** (Army, Navy & Air Force jointly) was held in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.

12. North Tech Symposium 2026 — Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

- **Inaugurated by:** **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** and **Dr. Jitendra Singh** in **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Theme:** "**Raksha Triveni Sangam**".
- Key announcements:
 - **India's Defence Production:** **₹1.54 lakh crore** (174% growth)
 - **Defence Exports:** **₹23,622 crore**

13. Brain Computer Interface (BCI) Conference — New Delhi

- **Inaugurated by:** **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan** in **New Delhi**.
- **Theme:** "**Brain Computer Interface: Expanding Neural Frontiers and Strategic Implications**".

14. Kalam & Kavach 3.0 — Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi

- **Inaugurated by:** **Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth** at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.
- **Theme:** "**Taking JAI Forward with I-Square**" — Jointness, Aatmanirbharta, Innovation + Indigenization and International Collaboration.

15. 1st International Ophthalmology Research Conference — Manekshaw Centre, Delhi

- The **1st International Ophthalmology Research Conference** titled '**AIOS Armed Forces Ophthalmology Update**' was held at **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.
- **Inaugurated by:** **Sanjay Seth, Minister of State for Defence**.

16. Kimberley Process (KP) Intersessional Meeting 2026 — Mumbai

- The **Kimberley Process (KP)** is an international initiative to prevent trade in **conflict/blood diamonds**.
- India took the **KP Chair** from **UAE** on **January 1, 2026**.
- **Meeting held:** **May 11–14, 2026** at **Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai**.
- **Chaired by:** **Suchindra Mishra**.

- Theme: "Three Cs: Credibility, Compliance, and Consumer Confidence".

17. India–Australia 10th Defence Policy Talks — New Delhi

- Held in **New Delhi**; delegations led by **Amitabh Prasad** (India) and **Bernard Philip** (Australia).
- **Topics:** Maritime security; establishing **India–Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue** starting 2025.
- Both nations participate in **AUSINDEX** and **Malabar** naval exercises.

18. India–Italy Defence Meeting — New Delhi

- **Rajnath Singh** and Italian counterpart **Guido Crosetto** met in **New Delhi** to discuss:
 - **India–Italy defence cooperation**
 - **2026-27 military engagements**
 - **The Iran–Israel conflict**

19. 35th ISO Technical Committee Plenary on Space Systems — New Delhi

- India hosted the **35th plenary and working group meetings** of the **ISO Technical Committee on Space Systems and Operations (TC 20/SC 14)** in **New Delhi**.
- Organized by **BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards)**; **131 delegates from 13 countries** discussed space safety, debris mitigation, and international standards.

20. ITU Council 2026 Meeting — Geneva, Switzerland (April 28 – May 8, 2026)

- The **ITU Council 2026 meeting** was held in **Geneva, Switzerland** from **April 28 – May 8, 2026**.
- **India** formally presented a proposal to host the **ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-2030)**.
- **Static GK:** **ITU (International Telecommunication Union)** is a **UN specialized agency for ICT**, **HQ: Geneva, Switzerland**, established **1865**.

21. DAHD National Conference on Laboratory Animal Welfare — New Delhi

- **DAHD (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)** organised the **National Conference on Laboratory Animal Welfare** in **New Delhi**.

22. India Pharma 2026 — New Delhi (April 13–14, 2026)

- **India Pharma 2026** was held in **New Delhi** on **April 13 and 14, 2026**.
- The mascot for the '**Naiu AI**' chatbot launched at the event is named **Dishika**.

23. Indian Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0 — GIFT City, Gandhinagar

- **Inaugurated by:** **Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel** at **GIFT City, Gandhinagar**.

- Organized by **Ministry of Civil Aviation, IFSCA, and FICCI**.
- Presided over by **Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu**.
- **India's goal:** Become the **3rd largest civil aviation market by 2035**.
- **Airlines — Air India, IndiGo, Akasa Air, and Star Air** — announced plans to aggressively expand leased aircraft portfolios.

24. Nationwide Fire Safety Week — May 4–10, 2026

- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** observed a nationwide **Fire Safety Week** from **May 4 to May 10, 2026** across hospitals and healthcare facilities.
- **Inaugurated by:** **Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava**.
- **Theme:** "**Safe School, Safe Hospital, Fire Safety Aware Society, Together for Fire Prevention**".

25. DRT (Debt Recovery Tribunal) Conference — Ministry of Finance

- **Department of Financial Services (Ministry of Finance)** hosted a conference for **DRT officials, banks, and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA)**.
- **Focus:** Expediting resolution of pending individual **NPA cases** where disputed loans exceed **₹20 lakh**.
- **India operates 39 DRTs and 5 DRATs (Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals)**.

26. FICCI & Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) Office Sign Agreement to Boost R&D

- The **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)**, led by **Ajay Kumar Sood**, signed an agreement with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)**.
- **Objective:** Boost **India's research and innovation ecosystem**.
- **India** currently spends only **0.6%–0.7% of GDP on Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD)**.
- **Comparative Data:**
 - **South Korea:** **4.91%** of GDP on GERD
 - **USA:** **3.48%** of GDP on GERD

27. Public Health Summit & Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 Agreements — Chandigarh

- Under **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0**, three states signed agreements for **safe drinking water and water tax collection:**
 - **Uttarakhand**
 - **Karnataka**
 - **Tripura**
- **Key Officials Present:** **CR Patil (Chandrakant Raghunath Patil)** (Union

Minister of Jal Shakti) and V. Somanna (Minister of State).

28. First Regional Cooperative Reform Conference — Aizawl, Mizoram

- The **First Regional Cooperative Reform Conference** was held in Aizawl, Mizoram.
- **Theme: 'Sahakar Se Samridhi'** — vision to boost North East organics, agriculture, and handicrafts.
- Proposed a **'Bharat Organics'** brand for North East products.

29. 4th India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV) — New Delhi (May 28–31, 2026)

- India will host the **4th India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV)** in New Delhi from May 28–31, 2026.
- **African Union (AU) HQ: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** | Comprises **55 member states**.

30. West Bengal Assembly Election 2026 — Results & New Government

- **West Bengal** holds **294** assembly seats.
- **BJP** won **207** seats; **AITC (TMC): 80** seats.
- **Voter turnout: 92.93%** — the highest ever in West Bengal history.
- **Suvendu Adhikari** became the **9th Chief Minister** — first **BJP CM** — replacing **Mamata Banerjee**.
- **Oath administered by Governor R.N. Ravi**.

31. 2nd Indian Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit — GIFT City

- At the **2nd Indian Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit** held in **GIFT City**:
 - Airlines announced plans to aggressively expand leased aircraft portfolios.
 - **Seaplane operations** to start soon in **Lakshadweep**.

32. BRICS Agriculture Meeting 2026 — India to Host in Indore

- India will host the **2026 BRICS Agriculture Meeting** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.

33. 26th Joint Commanders Conference — Jaipur (2nd Edition)

- The **2nd edition** of the **Joint Commanders Conference** brought together the **Army, Navy, and Air Force** in **Jaipur, Rajasthan** to discuss integrated defence strategy and **jointness in operations**.

10. Miscellaneous

1. World Tuna Day — May 2, 2026

- **World Tuna Day** was established by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in **2016**.
- The first internationally recognized **World Tuna Day** was observed on **May 2, 2017**.

- **2026 Theme: "Sustaining Tuna, Sustaining Nations"**

2. World Immunization Week — April 24–30, 2026

- Organized annually by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- **2026 Theme: "For Every Generation, Vaccines One"**

3. UN International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day — April 26

- **April 26, 2026** marked the **40th anniversary** of the **Chernobyl nuclear disaster (1986)**.
- The disaster occurred at the **Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant** in **Soviet Ukraine (now Ukraine)**.

4. World Intellectual Property Day — April 26

- **2026 Theme: "IP & Sports: Ready, Set, and Innovate"**

5. UN International Jazz Day — April 30

- **United Nations (UN) International Jazz Day** observed on **April 30**.

6. Ayushman Bharat Diwas — April 30

- **Ayushman Bharat Diwas** observed on **April 30** for raising awareness about **universal health coverage**.
- **Ayushman Bharat** is India's flagship health insurance scheme providing coverage of up to **₹5 lakh** per family per year.

7. World Laughter Day — May 3, 2026

- **Founded by: Dr. Madan Kataria** in **1998**.
- Celebrated on the **first Sunday of May**.
- **2026 Theme: "World Peace through Laughter"**

8. World Press Freedom Day — May 3, 2026

- **2026 Theme: "Shaping a Future of/for Peace: Promoting Press Freedom for Human Rights, Development and Security"**

9. International Firefighters Day — May 4

10. Coal Miners Day — May 4

11. World Portuguese Language Day — May 5

- Officially proclaimed during the **40th UNESCO session** in **2019**.
- Marked its **30th anniversary** in **2026**.

12. World Asthma Day — May 5 (First Tuesday of May)

- **2026 Theme: "Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma is still an urgent need"**

13. African World Heritage Day — May 5

- **May 5** observed as **African World Heritage Day** — celebrating Africa's rich cultural and natural heritage sites recognized by **UNESCO**.

14. International Day of the Midwife — May 5

- **2026 Theme: "1 Million More Midwives"** — highlighting the global shortage of midwives.

15. World Hand Hygiene Day — May 5

- 2026 Theme: "Action Saves Lives — Safe Care Starts with Clean Hands"
- 16. World Cartoonist Day — May 5**
- 17. International No Diet Day — May 6**
 - Originally established: 1992 by Mary Evans Young (British feminist and eating disorder survivor).
 - 2026 Theme: "Embracing Every Body: Health, Healing, and Liberation"
- 18. World Athletics Day — May 7**
 - 2026 Theme: "Using Sports to Build Bridges and Break Barriers" / "Athletics for a better world"
- 19. World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day — May 8**
 - 2026 Theme: "United in Humanity"
 - Honours Henry Dunant's birth anniversary — founder of the ICRC and first Nobel Peace Prize recipient.
- 20. World Thalassaemia Day — May 8**
 - 2026 Theme: "Hidden no more: finding the undiagnosed, supporting the unseen"
- 21. World Ovarian Cancer Day — May 8**
 - 2026 Theme: "No Woman Left Behind"
- 22. 81st Anniversary of Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation — May 8 & 9**
 - May 8 and 9 mark the 81st anniversary of the Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for those who lost their lives during World War II.
- 23. Mother's Day — May 10 (2nd Sunday of May)**
 - 2026 Theme: "The Great Unburdening"
 - Observed on the second Sunday of May every year.
- 24. International Day of Argania — May 10 (6th Edition)**
 - 6th International Day of Argania in 2026.
 - Highlights the Argania tree ecosystem — native to Morocco — crucial for sustainable development.
- 25. Mental Health Awareness Week — May 11–17, 2026**
 - (ii) Key Developments
 - 2026 Theme: "Action"
- 26. World Lupus Day — May 10**
 - 2026 Theme: "Make Lupus Visible"
- 17. International Day of Plant Health — May 12**
 - 2026 Theme: "Plant Biosecurity for Food Security and Nutrition"
- 18. International Day of Families — May 15**
 - 2026 Theme: "Families, Inequalities and Child Well-being"
- 19. World Penguin Day — April 25**
- 20. World Veterinary Day — April 25 (Last Saturday of April)**

- 2026 Theme: "Veterinarians: Guardians of Food and Health"
- 20. Nationwide Fire Safety Week — May 4–10, 2026**
 - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare observed a nationwide Fire Safety Week from May 4 to May 10, 2026 across hospitals and healthcare facilities.
 - Inaugurated by: Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava.
 - Theme: "Safe School, Safe Hospital, Fire Safety Aware Society, Together for Fire Prevention"
- 21. India Pharma 2026 — New Delhi (April 13–14, 2026)**
 - India Pharma 2026 held in New Delhi on April 13 and 14, 2026.
 - The mascot for the 'Naiu AI' chatbot launched at the event is named Dishika.
- 22. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026 — Scheduled June to August**
 - Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026 scheduled from June to August 2026, conducted in coordination with China.
 - Organized by: Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
 - Route 1: Lipulekh Pass, Uttarakhand — physically demanding route (trekking).
 - Route 2: Nathu La Pass, Sikkim — vehicle-friendly route.
- 23. Mizoram Ginger Mission — ₹189.79 Crore**
 - Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the ₹189.79 crore Mizoram Ginger Mission.
 - Objective: Promote ginger cultivation and value chain development in Mizoram.
- 24. First Regional Cooperative Reform Conference — Aizawl, Mizoram**
 - Theme: 'Sahakar Se Samridhhi' — to boost North East organics, agriculture, and handicrafts.
 - Proposed a 'Bharat Organics' brand for North East products.
- 25. DAHD National Conference on Laboratory Animal Welfare — New Delhi**
 - DAHD (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying) organised the National Conference on Laboratory Animal Welfare in New Delhi.
- 26. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand — India's First Pearl Farming Cluster**
 - Hazaribagh, Jharkhand identified as India's first Pearl Farming Cluster.
- 27. A Female Black Panther Introduced at Visakhapatnam Zoo**
 - A female black panther was introduced at the Visakhapatnam Zoo — a notable wildlife

conservation and zoo management development in Andhra Pradesh.

28. Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Discovers Two New Spider Species in Nagaland

- ZSI discovered two new spider species — *Psechrus ntu* and *Psechrus phenshunyu* — in Nagaland.

29. Two Female Cheetahs Released into Kuno National Park from Botswana

- Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav released two female cheetahs brought from Botswana into Kuno National Park.
- Cheetahs went extinct in India in 1952.
- India has been reintroducing cheetahs from Namibia, South Africa, and now Botswana.

30. Nationwide Big Cat Conservation Initiative — Ahead of IBCA Summit

- India has 3,167–3,682 tigers across 58 tiger reserves.
- Madhya Pradesh (MP) has the highest number of tigers in India.
- Big cats showcased by state:
 - Asiatic Lion — Gir, Gujarat
 - Cheetah — Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
 - Snow Leopard — Gangtok, Sikkim
 - Tiger — Chandrapur, Maharashtra

31. India's Medical & Wellness Tourism — Key Facts

- **Global Medical Value Travel Market:** Grew from \$115 billion (2022) to \$286 billion (current).
- **India's Market Size:** \$8.7 billion, projected to reach \$16.2 billion by 2030.
- **"Heal in India" Initiative** promotes modern surgeries and traditional AYUSH therapies.
- India has 69,000 hospitals, 1.2 million doctors, over 1,299 NABH-accredited hospitals, and e-medical visas for 172 countries.
- **Top Source Countries:** Bangladesh, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Somalia.

32. Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) — Status Update

- Launched by PM Narendra Modi on October 1, 2021.
- Runs for a five-year period until 2026.
- **Budget Allocation:** Approximately ₹1.41 lakh crore.
- **Core Vision:** To create garbage-free cities.

33. Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 — Notified

- Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Replaced the 2016 Rules and came into force on April 1, 2026.

34. 1st International Ophthalmology Research Conference — Manekshaw Centre, Delhi

- The 1st International Ophthalmology Research Conference titled 'AIOS Armed Forces Ophthalmology Update' held at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- **Inaugurated by:** Sanjay Seth, Minister of State for Defence.

35. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) — Overview

- NMSA launched in 2014-15 under NAPCC (National Action Plan on Climate Change, 2008).
- From 2022-23, integrated into Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) (launched 2007).
- **Key components:**
 - Rainfed Area Development
 - **Per Drop More Crop** (micro-irrigation covering 109 lakh hectares, budget ₹26,325 crore)
 - **Soil Health Management** — Soil Health Cards introduced in 2015; 25.79 crore cards issued

36. BHIM Bhoi Eco-Heritage Site — Sambalpur, Odisha

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the Bhima Bhoi eco-heritage site in Sambalpur, Odisha (funding: ₹8.3 crore).
- Also launched Panchayati Raj Samiksha portal for transparency.

37. Odisha — Bhima Mandali Caves and Bhimagudi (Nakdool Forest, Salpur)

- Odisha highlighted the Bhima Mandali caves and Bhimagudi located in the Nakdool forest, Salpur — promoting archaeological and nature-based tourism in the region.

38. Moatsu Festival (Nagaland) — Celebrated

- Moatsu Festival celebrated in Nagaland — a traditional festival of the Ao Naga tribe, marking the sowing season.

39. Thrissur Pooram (Kerala) — Celebrated

- Thrissur Pooram celebrated in Kerala — one of India's grandest temple festivals, held at the Vadakkunnathan Temple, Thrissur.

40. 'Soul Threads' Exhibition — Central Cottage Industries

- 'Soul Threads' heritage designer collection exhibition held by Central Cottage Industries at Jawahar Vyapar Bhavan from April 24 to May 10, 2026.

41. India's First Green Methanol Plant — Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, Gujarat

42. FICCI & Principal Scientific Adviser — R&D Investment Data

- India currently spends only **0.6%–0.7%** of GDP on GERD (Gross Expenditure on Research and Development).
- **Comparative Data:**
 - **South Korea: 4.91%** of GDP on GERD
 - **USA: 3.48%** of GDP on GERD
- 43. Narendra Modi Stadium — Key Static Facts**
 - **Narendra Modi Stadium** is the world's largest cricket stadium by capacity (over **1.32 lakh**).
 - Previously known as **Sardar Patel Stadium** — renamed in **2020**.
 - Located in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
 - **IPL 2026 Final** hosted here on **May 31, 2026**.
- 44. Rajasthan Royals — New Ownership**
 - **Rajasthan Royals** IPL franchise acquired by:
 - **Lakshmi Mittal family: 75%** stake
 - **Adar Poonawalla (Serum Institute): 18%** stake
 - **Franchise Valuation: \$1.65 billion**
- 45. Uber Launches First Indian Data Center — Adani Group Partnership**
- 46. Reliance Industries — Largest AI Data Center in Visakhapatnam**
- 47. India Assumes Chairmanship of Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) 2026–2028**
 - India assumed the **Chairmanship of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)** for the period **2026–2028**, demonstrating India's growing role in international cybersecurity standards governance.
- 48. Ministry of Power — Revises Make in India Norms for HVDC Substations**
 - **Ministry of Power** revised **Make in India** norms for **HVDC (High Voltage Direct Current) Substations** — targeting **60%** localization by **FY35**.
- 49. IFSCA — Indian Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0**
 - **IFSCA (International Financial Services Centres Authority)** co-organized the **Indian Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0** in **GIFT City, Gandhinagar**.
 - India's goal: Become the **3rd largest civil aviation market by 2035**.
 - **Seaplane operations** to start soon in **Lakshadweep**.
- 50. Vande Bharat — First Direct Service Jammu to Srinagar**
 - **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** flagged off the **first direct Vande Bharat service** between **Jammu and Srinagar**.
- 51. Somnath Swabhiman Parv Yatra**

- **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** flagged off the '**Somnath Swabhiman Parv Yatra**' from **New Delhi to Gujarat** — marking the **1000th anniversary of Mahmud Ghazni's attack** on the **Somnath Temple**.
- 52. New Train Services — Ahmedabad–Dholera Semi High-Speed Rail Corridor Approved**
 - **Union Cabinet** approved India's first semi high-speed double-line rail project.
 - **Route:** Ahmedabad (Sarkhej) to Dholera — **134 km**.
 - **Cost: ₹20,667 crore | Speed: 160–200 km/h | Target: 2030-31.**
- 53. Saudi India Business Council (SIBC) — New Leadership**
 - **FICCI** nominated **Priyanka Mittal** (Director, **KRBL Ltd.**) as **Co-Chair** of the **Saudi India Business Council (SIBC)** Indian side.
 - **Dr. Siddeek Ahmed** (Chairman, **Eram Holdings**) nominated as **Chair**.
- 54. India Post Records ₹15,296 Crore Revenue — 11,000 New Post Offices**
- 55. India's First Road Using Non-Recyclable Plastic Waste — Recognized**
 - **India and Asia Book of Records** recognized **CSIR-CRRI (Central Road Research Institute)** and **BPCL (Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited)** for constructing **India's first road using non-recyclable 'end-of-life' plastic waste formed into geo-cells**.
- 56. Operation Sindoor — 1st Anniversary (May 7–10, 2025) Commemorated**
 - The **1st Anniversary of Operation Sindoor** (India's counter-terror military strike, launched **May 7, 2025**) was commemorated in **May 2026**.
 - **Key facts:** Active for **88 hours (3.5 days)**; targeted **9 terror sites**; **BrahMos missiles** struck **11 PAF airfields in 45 minutes** on **May 10, 2025**.
- 57. West Bengal Election Results — Key Data**
 - **West Bengal Assembly Elections 2026** — all-time high voter turnout of **92.93%**.
 - **Female turnout: 92.28%** | **Male turnout: 97.07%**
 - **Suvendu Adhikari** sworn in as the **9th Chief Minister**.
 - **Annapurna Bhandar Scheme** announced — **₹3,000/month DBT** for eligible women.
- 58. Pulitzer Prize 2025/2026 — Complete Winners' List**
 - **110th edition** of the Pulitzer Prize.
 - **Indian journalists — Anand R.K. and Suparna Sharma** — won for the "**trAPPed**" project (Bloomberg).

- **The New York Times: 3 awards** | Historical total: **142 awards**.
 - **Reuters: 2 awards** | **Washington Post: Public service award**.
 - **Minnesota Star Tribune: Breaking news reporting**.
- 59. UNESCO — 12 New Global Geoparks Added**
- **UNESCO added 12 new Global Geoparks** — total now **241 sites** across **51 countries** covering **882,000 sq. km**.
 - **India received no new sites** in this round.
 - **Tunisia gained its first UNESCO Global Geopark (Dahar)**.
- 60. Madame Tussauds London — 'Icons of India' Exhibition**
- **Madame Tussauds Museum** launched the "**Icons of India**" exhibition at its **London, UK** headquarters.
 - Features **13 wax figures** of Indian celebrities including **Sachin Tendulkar, Amitabh Bachchan, Virat Kohli, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan** (among others).
- 61. Assam — 114th Sari Festival**
- **Assam** celebrated its **114th Sari Festival**, celebrating the state's rich handloom heritage including the **Mekhela Chador** and **Muga silk** traditions.
- 62. Karnataka Launches India's First Digital Grievance Portal for Gig Workers**
- 63. India to Host World Yogasana Championship — June 4–8, 2026 (Ahmedabad)**
- (ii) Key Developments**
- India will host the **inaugural World Yogasana Championship** from **June 4 to 8, 2026** at **TransStadia, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
 - Organized by **Yogasana Bharat**.
- 64. 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship — New Delhi**
- 65. IIT Madras — First US-Based Centre of Excellence — Menlo Park, California**
- **IIT Madras** launched its **first US-Based Centre of Excellence** in **Menlo Park, California** — strengthening **India–USA** academic and research collaboration.
- 66. OP Jindal Global University — First Indian IoE Accredited by DASC**
- **OP Jindal Global University (JGU)** — located in **Sonepat, Haryana** — became the **first Indian Institute of Eminence (IoE)** to receive global accreditation from **DASCA (Data Science Council of America)**.
- 67. Amol Palekar Receives META Lifetime Achievement Award**
- 68. Javed Akhtar — 33rd PC Chandra Puraskar**
- **Javed Akhtar** conferred the **33rd PC Chandra Puraskar** — a **₹20 lakh tax-free cash prize**

- recognizing outstanding contribution to Indian arts and culture.
- 69. Vairamuthu — Jnanpith Award 2025**
- **Vairamuthu** — celebrated **Tamil poet and lyricist** — received the **Jnanpith Award 2025** — **India's highest literary honour**.
- 70. DigiHaat — Swadeshi Marketplace Platform**
- **ONDC-owned, government-backed e-commerce platform DigiHaat** launched a '**Swadeshi**' marketplace to promote authentic '**Made in Bharat**' products.
- 71. India AI Mission — MoU with Karya (Bengaluru Non-Profit)**
- **India AI Mission** signed an **MoU with Karya** — a **Bengaluru-based non-profit** — promoting **AI-enabled social development solutions**.
- 72. 35th ISO Technical Committee Plenary — Space Systems (New Delhi)**
- India hosted the **35th plenary of the ISO Technical Committee on Space Systems and Operations (TC 20/SC 14)** in **New Delhi**.
 - **131 delegates from 13 countries** discussed space safety, debris mitigation, and global standards.
- 73. Sardar Dham Initiatives — Vadodara, Gujarat (PM Modi)**
- **PM Modi** inaugurated the **₹150 crore Sardar Dham hostel** in **Vadodara**.
 - Launched **Sardar Dham Education Support Yojana**.
 - Conferred the **first Sardar Gaurav Ratna Award**.
- 74. Shivraj Singh Chouhan — New Book 'Apnapan'**
- **Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** authored a new book titled "**Apnapan**".
 - Documents his **35-year association with PM Narendra Modi**.
 - To be officially released by former **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** on **May 26, 2026**.
- 75. India Hosts Kimberley Process — KP Intersessional Meeting 2026 (Mumbai)**
- **India** hosted the **KP Intersessional Meeting 2026** at **Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai (May 11–14, 2026)**.
 - **Chair: Suchindra Mishra** | **Theme: "Three Cs: Credibility, Compliance, Consumer Confidence"**.
- 76. FICCI Nominations — Saudi India Business Council**
- **FICCI** nominated **Priyanka Mittal** (Director, **KRBL Ltd.**) as **Co-Chair of the Saudi India Business Council (SIBC)**.

- **Dr. Siddeek Ahmed** (Chairman, Eram Holdings) nominated as **Chair**.

77. First ODOP Honey Export from Baksa (Assam) to USA

- **APEDA** facilitated the **first export of 20 metric tonnes of honey** from Baksa, Assam (an aspirational district) to the USA under the **One District One Product (ODOP)** scheme.

78. India's First Semi-High-Speed Rail — Ahmedabad to Dholera

- **Cabinet-approved** India's first semi-high-speed double-line rail project.
- **Route:** Ahmedabad (Sarkhej) to Dholera — **134 km** | **Speed:** 160–200 km/h | **Cost:** ₹20,667 crore.

79. Deepak Bhatia Wins Dubai Erth Award

- **Deepak Bhatia** (Indian resident in UAE; MD of Uncle's Shop Building Material Trading, established 1922) won the **Dubai Erth Award** in 'Best Private Sector Entity' category.

80. Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award — South Asia Regional Winner

- **Soma Mandal** (teacher at GD Goenka Public School, Delhi) won the **Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award — South Asia Regional Award**.

81. India — BRICS Presidency 2026 — Launch of Theme, Logo & Website

- India launched the **BRICS 2026** presidency theme, logo, and website.
- **Theme:** "Building, Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, Sustainability"
- India assumed **BRICS Presidency** on **January 1, 2026**.

11. MoUs

1. Department of Posts (DoP) & DTDC Express — Logistics Partnership

- The **Department of Posts (DoP)** operates India's largest postal network with **1.64 lakh post offices** across the country.
- **DTDC Express** is one of India's leading private logistics companies.
- **Department of Posts (DoP)** and **DTDC Express** signed a partnership to leverage **1.64 lakh post offices** for nationwide **logistics and rural e-commerce parcel delivery**.

2. Delhi University & CMEC — Maritime Education MoU

- **Delhi University** and **CMEC (Centre for Maritime Education and Culture)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance **maritime education and skill development**.

- **Target:** Increase India's maritime workforce share from **12% to 20% by 2030**.

3. DPIIT & Chamber India MoU — Startup Incubation Centers

- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Chamber India**.
- **Objective:** Establish **5 incubation and startup centers** with funding and marketing support.

4. RBI & European Central Bank (ECB) — Fresh MoU in Basel, Switzerland

- **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra** and **European Central Bank (ECB) Head Christine Lagarde** signed a fresh **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in **Basel, Switzerland**, replacing their **2015 agreement**.
- **Focus:** Cooperation in central banking operations, financial stability, and monetary policy research.
- **Static GK:** ECB was established in **1998** and is headquartered in **Frankfurt, Germany**.

5. RBI & State Bank of Vietnam — MoU on Financial Innovation & Digital Payments

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **State Bank of Vietnam** signed an **MoU** focusing on **financial innovation and digital payments**.
- Part of agreements signed during **Vietnamese President To Lam's State Visit** to India.

6. IndiaAI & ICMR — MoU for Responsible AI in Healthcare

- **IndiaAI Mission** and **ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)** signed an **MoU** to scale **responsible AI applications in healthcare and biomedical research**.
- **ICMR HQ:** New Delhi.

7. Ministry of Ayush & Digital India BHASHINI Division — MoU

- The **Ministry of Ayush** signed an **MoU** with the **Digital India BHASHINI Division** (under MeitY).
- **BHASHINI — Bhasha Interface for India** — is India's national language translation platform.
- **Objective:** Promote Ayush healthcare content in **multiple Indian languages** through AI-based translation.

8. UIDAI & NFSU — 5-Year Cybersecurity Pact for Aadhaar Infrastructure

- **UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India)** and **NFSU (National Forensic Sciences University)** signed a **5-year pact**.
- **Purpose:** Enhance **cybersecurity and digital forensics capabilities** for India's **Aadhaar infrastructure**.

9. IEPFA & Prasar Bharati — Agreement for Investor Education

- **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** signed an agreement with **Prasar Bharati** to strengthen investor education and prevent financial fraud.
- **Static GK:** IEPFA is a statutory body under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, established in 2016.

10. NLC India & France's EDF — Agreement for Nuclear Power Technologies

- **NLC India** (formerly **Neyveli Lignite Corporation**) signed an agreement with **France's EDF (Électricité de France)**.
- **Focus:** Exploring **European Pressurized Reactor (EPR)** and **Small Modular Reactor (SMR)** technologies.
- Aligns with India's target of **100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047**.

11. ASI & Indonesia — Collaboration to Restore Prambanan Temple

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** collaborated with **Indonesia** to restore the **Prambanan Temple** — a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and Southeast Asia's largest Hindu temple complex.

12. Oxford University & Serum Institute of India — R78C Malaria Vaccine Agreement

- **Oxford University** and the **Serum Institute of India** signed an agreement for the development of the **R78C Malaria Vaccine**.

13. Pixxel & Sarvam AI — Partnership for India's First Orbital Data Center Satellite 'Pathfinder'

- Two Indian startups, **Pixxel** and **Sarvam AI**, partnered to build **India's first Orbital Data Center Satellite**.
- **Satellite Name:** "Pathfinder".
- **Function:** Processes raw satellite data **directly in space** for real-time intelligence on pollution, disaster management, and defence.
- **Pixxel** also secured a **US NRO (National Reconnaissance Office)** contract.

14. SBI & MUFG Bank (Japan) — Cross-Border Cooperation Partnership

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** partnered with **Japan's MUFG Bank (Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group)** for **cross-border cooperation** in trade finance and banking services.

15. NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) & Juspay Technologies — Unified Banking Switch

- **NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL)** partnered with **Juspay Technologies** for a **unified switch and Software Development Kit**

(**SDK**) to simplify banking integrations across India.

16. Jio Payments Bank & EasyPay — Rural Banking Partnership

- **Jio Payments Bank** partnered with fintech platform **EasyPay** to expand **last-mile digital banking in rural and semi-urban India**.

17. DMRC & Airtel Payments Bank — RuPay 'On-The-Go' NCMC Card

- **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** partnered with **Airtel Payments Bank (HQ: Gurugram; MD/CEO: Anubrata Biswas)**.
- Launched **EVM-chip based 'RuPay on-the-go' National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)** — an open-loop card for metro, buses, and transit in multiple cities.

18. Kotak Mahindra Bank — RBI-Approved Stake Acquisitions

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** received **RBI approval** to acquire up to **9.99% aggregate holding** each in:
 - **AU Small Finance Bank (HQ: Jaipur)**
 - **Federal Bank (HQ: Aluva)**
 - **Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Bank (HQ: Srinagar)**

19. Axis Bank & MUFG — \$500 Million Offshore Loan

- **Axis Bank** raised a **\$500 million offshore loan** from **MUFG (Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group)**, Japan's largest bank, for cross-border expansion and trade finance.

20. I4C & RBIH — MoU for AI-Based Detection of Mule Accounts

- **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)** and the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** signed an **MoU**.
- **Objective:** Boost **AI-based detection of 'mule accounts'** involved in money laundering and cyber fraud.

21. Samsung & IIT Delhi — 'Solve for Tomorrow' Initiative (5th Edition)

22. Infosys & Carlos Alcaraz — Global Brand Ambassador Partnership

- **Infosys** named **Carlos Alcaraz** (World No. 1 tennis player) as a **global brand ambassador** — combining India's IT sector with global sports marketing.

23. Smriti Mandhana & Agelita Sports — Brand Partnership

- **Smriti Mandhana** (Indian women's cricket vice-captain) partnered with **Agelita Sports** as a brand ambassador.

24. Deendayal Port Authority & Cochin Shipyard Limited — Brownfield Ship Repair Facility (Vadinar, Gujarat)

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

25. Reliance & Meta — Joint Venture: Reliance Enterprises Intelligence

- **Reliance** and **Meta** formed a **Joint Venture (JV)** called **Reliance Enterprises Intelligence** focused on **Indian Artificial Intelligence (AI)** development.
- **CEO Appointed:** **Parminder Chopra** (with 30+ years of technology experience).

26. Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 — MoUs with Mizoram and Ladakh

- **Mizoram** and **Ladakh** signed **reform-linked Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** under **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 (JJM 2.0)**.
- **Focus:** Deliver sustainable, community-led drinking water services via **Gram Panchayats**.
- Overall mission target extended to **2028**;
Budget: ₹67,670 crore.

27. Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 — MoUs with Uttarakhand, Karnataka & Tripura

- **Ministry of Jal Shakti** signed a **reform-linked MoU** with three states:
 - **Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Tripura**
- **Objective:** Achieve **100% functional tap connection coverage** under **JJM 2.0**.
- **Extended Timeline:** Mission framework extended to **December 2028**.
- **Revised Budget:** ₹8.69 lakh crore.

28. APEDA — 70-Year Lease for Basmati Training Center in Pilibhit, UP

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** signed a **70-year lease** for a **7-acre training center** in **Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Objectives:** Train farmers of **UP** and **Uttarakhand**, strengthen **basmati exports**, and launch an **AI paddy survey**.

29. MoD Signs ₹1,476 Crore Contract with BEL for Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems

- **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** finalized a **₹1,476 crore agreement** with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, **Hyderabad**.
- **Procurement:** Five ground-based mobile electronic systems for the **Indian Army**.
- **Category:** "**Buy Indian — IDDM**" (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured).

30. Karnataka launched India's first State-Led Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Space Technology in Bengaluru

31. State Bank of India (SBI) partnered with **PhonePe** to launch **zero-joining-fee credit cards**, expanding digital payments access.

32. India Post Records ₹15,296 Crore Revenue — 11,000 New Post Offices in Four Years

- **India Post** recorded **₹15,296 crore revenue** with **11,000 new post offices** opened in the past four years.

12. National

1. Ladakh Gets 5 New Districts; Total Reaches 7

- **Ladakh** is a **Union Territory (UT)** without a legislature, administered directly by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- Previously, Ladakh had only **2 districts** — **Leh** and **Kargil**.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** approved **5 new districts** in **Ladakh**:
 - **Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass**
- **Total districts in Ladakh** now: **7** (including **Leh** and **Kargil**).
- Home Minister **Amit Shah** also inaugurated **cooperative dairy projects** in **Kargil**, including:
 - A **10 Tonnes Per Day (TPD)** dairy plant
 - **Curd and paneer unit**
 - **Bulk coolers** and **mobile labs**
 - An **Android-based milk collection system**

2. South Coast Railway Zone — India's 18th Railway Zone (Effective June 1, 2026)

- India currently has **17 railway zones**, with the addition of the **South Coast Railway Zone** making it the **18th**.
- Government officially notified the creation of the **South Coast Railway Zone** — **India's 18th railway zone**.
- **Announced by:** Union Minister of Railways **Ashwini Vaishnaw**.
- **Operations Begin:** **June 1, 2026**.
- **Headquarters:** **Mudasarlova, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Divisions Included:** Integrates **Guntakal, Guntur, and Vijayawada** divisions (formerly of **South Central Railway**) and a newly formed **Visakhapatnam division** (from the truncated **Waltair division**).
- **CCEA** also approved a **₹23,437 crore railway multi-tracking project**.

3. Supreme Court Judges Strength Increased from 34 to 38

- **Constitutional Basis:**
 - **Article 124(1):** Empowers Parliament to increase the number of judges by law.

- **Article 125:** Relates to salaries and expenditure of judges — met from the **Consolidated Fund of India**.

- **Legislative Action:** Change implemented by amending **The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**.
- **New sanctioned strength** increased from **34 to 38** (including the **Chief Justice of India**).
 - Previous: **33 judges + 1 CJI = 34 total**
 - New: **37 judges + 1 CJI = 38 total**
- **Retirement age** for Supreme Court judges: **65 years**.

4. Supreme Court Launches 'One Case One Data' (OCOD) & 'SuSahay' AI Chatbot

- **Chief Justice of India (CJI):** **Surya Kant** (53rd CJI).
- **CJI Surya Kant** launched two digital initiatives:
 - **'One Case One Data' (OCOD):** Assigns a unique ID to every case, integrating multi-level information from all courts (**taluka to apex court**) into a single system.
 - **'SuSahay' / 'Su-Sahayak':** An AI-powered assistant chatbot developed by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, integrated into the **Supreme Court website** to help litigants access court services.

5. Supreme Court Mandates Women-Reserved Vice President Post in SCBA from 2027–28

- The **Supreme Court** mandated that the **Vice President** position of the **Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** will be reserved **exclusively for women** starting from the **2027–28 election cycle**.

6. Supreme Court Warns Against Misuse of Section 498A (Dowry Harassment Law)

- **Section 498A** of the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** deals with **cruelty by husband or his relatives** towards a wife.
- The **Supreme Court** warned against the increasing misuse of **Section 498A** — cases of women filing false implications against a husband's extended family.

7. Sikkim Becomes India's First Fully Paperless Judiciary State

- **Sikkim** became **India's first fully paperless judiciary state** by adopting **e-filing** and **digital case management**.
- **Announced by:** **53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant** and **Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang** in **Gangtok, Sikkim**.
- **Sikkim Governor:** **Om Prakash Mathur**.
- **Sikkim** is also the world's **first 100% organic agriculture state**.
- **BRO** recently built the **400-ft Taramchu suspension bridge** in **Sikkim**.

8. West Bengal Assembly Elections 2026 — BJP Historic Win

- **West Bengal** holds **294** assembly seats.
- **BJP: 207 seats** | **AITC (TMC): 80 seats**.
- **Voter turnout: 92.93%** — the **highest ever** in West Bengal history.
 - **Female turnout: 92.28%** | **Male turnout: 97.07%**
- **Suvendu Adhikari** became the **9th Chief Minister** — **first BJP CM** of West Bengal — replacing **Mamata Banerjee**.
- **Oath administered by Governor R.N. Ravi**.
- **Tiger Reserves:** **Sunderbans, Buxa**
- **National Parks:** **Gorumara, Neora Valley, Singalila**

9. Annapurna Bhandar Scheme — West Bengal

- **CM Suvendu Adhikari** launched **Annapurna Bhandar Scheme** — replacing **TMC's Lakshmir Bhandar** (₹1,500/month General; ₹1,700/month SC/ST).
- **Benefit:** **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of ₹3,000 per month** to eligible women.
- **Additional benefit:** **Free travel on state-run buses** starting **June 1, 2026**.

10. West Bengal Cabinet Decisions — May 11, 2026

- **India–Bangladesh border** (total length: **4,096.7 km**) currently **79% fenced** (3,240–3,243 km).
- **Five states** bordering Bangladesh: **West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam**.
- Cabinet approved transfer of **600 acres of land** to the **Border Security Force (BSF)** to complete **India–Bangladesh border fencing** within **45 days**.
- State to implement: **Ayushman Bharat scheme, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, and a **5-year age relaxation** for candidates who missed earlier recruitments.

11. Tamil Nadu — C. Joseph Vijay Becomes Chief Minister

- **C. Joseph Vijay (Vijay Thalapathy)** (representing **TVK party**) sworn in as **9th unique (13th overall) Chief Minister** of **Tamil Nadu**.
- Oath conducted by **Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar** at **Nehru Indoor Stadium**.
- **National Parks:** **Annamalai, Mudumalai, Mukurthi, Gulf of Mannar, Guindy**.

12. Assam — Himanta Biswa Sarma Sworn In for Second Term

- **Himanta Biswa Sarma** sworn in as the **15th Chief Minister of Assam** for his **second consecutive term** — **first non-Congress leader** to achieve this.

- NDA secured **102 out of 126** assembly seats.
- **Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya** administered the oath.
- **Capital:** Dispur | **National Parks:** Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri
- **Festivals:** Rongali Bihu, 114th Suwari Festival (Boko)

13. Kerala — V.D. Satheesan Appointed Chief Minister

- **V.D. Satheesan** (Congress) elected as **Chief Minister of Kerala** on **May 14, 2026** after the **United Democratic Front (UDF)** secured **102 out of 140** assembly seats.

14. Puducherry — N. Rangasamy Sworn In for Record Fifth Term

- **N. Rangasamy** (AINRC — All India N.R. Congress) took oath as **Chief Minister of Puducherry** for a **record fifth term**.
- Administered by **Lt. Governor K. Kailashnathan** (Kuniyil Kailashnathan).

15. Bihar Cabinet Decisions — CM Samrat Choudhary

- Approved **\$500 million (₹4,740 crore)** **World Bank loan** for urban infrastructure development.
- Approved **₹1,900 crore** for **AI-based road monitoring**.
- Approved **AI training** for state assembly members, officials, and staff; announced **Bihar Artificial Intelligence Mission**.
- Approved purchase of **400 electronic AC buses** under **PM-eBus Sewa Yojana** for 12 years:
 - 150 buses for **Patna**; 50 each for **Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Darbhanga, and Purnia**.

16. Maharashtra Compressed Biogas Policy 2026

- Maharashtra approved the **Compressed Biogas Policy 2026** with a **₹500 crore support fund** for waste-to-energy plants.
- **Target:** Net-zero carbon emissions by **2070**.

17. Andhra Pradesh — Daga Dharani Greenfield Airport Approved in Nellore

18. Andhra Pradesh — Deep Tech Skilling Initiative

- **CM N. Chandrababu Naidu** announced a state-wide **Deep Tech Skilling Initiative** partnering with **IBM SkillBuild** and **Amaravati Quantum Valley**.
- **Target:** Train **2 lakh people** by **2026–27** and **10 lakh over five years** in AI, data analytics, and quantum computing.

19. Amaravati Declared Sole Capital of Andhra Pradesh

- **Amaravati** — located along the **Krishna River** in **Guntur district** — officially declared the **sole capital of Andhra Pradesh**.

20. Navi Mumbai International Airport Named after DB Patil

21. India's First Green Ammonia Project — Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

22. Meghalaya — 'CM Inspire' Scheme for UPSC Aspirants

- '**CM Inspire**' scheme launched by **Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma** and **Governor Vijay Shankar** of Meghalaya.
- Provides **financial assistance** to youth preparing for the **UPSC Civil Services Exam**.

23. Meghalaya — Khasi and Garo Languages Receive Official Status

- Meghalaya's **Khasi and Garo languages** received **official status** under state legislation.

24. Mizoram Launches 'Khuarel' — Real-Time Disaster Response App

- **Mizoram** launched '**Khuarel**' — a **real-time disaster response application** in **Mizo and English**.
- **Function:** Helps citizens locate **medical and food facilities** during emergencies such as earthquakes.

25. Gujarat — NAARIT AI Tool for Narcotics Investigation

- **Gujarat** launched the '**NAARIT**' **Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool** for **narcotics case investigations**.

26. Gujarat Launches 870 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

- **Gujarat** launched a **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** with **870 MW total capacity** across five locations: **Modhera, Mehsana, Lakhpat, and Chharal**.
- Supports India's target of **500 GW renewable energy** by **2030**.
- **Modhera** is India's **first solar village**.

27. Punjab — 250 'Pendul Khed Maidan' Rural Sports Grounds

- **Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann** inaugurated **250 rural sports grounds** named "**Pendul Khed Maidan**".
- **Objective:** Foster a healthy sporting culture and protect youth from drug abuse.

28. Punjab — CM Meri Rasoi Yojana

- **CM Bhagwant Singh Mann** launched **CM Meri Rasoi Yojana** from **Bhalwan village, Sangrur**.
- **Beneficiaries:** **40 lakh families** holding **Blue Ration Cards / NFSA cards**.
- **Kit contents (quarterly):** **2 kg moong chana dal, 2 kg sugar, 1 kg iodized salt, 200g turmeric, 1 kg mustard oil**.
- **Kits assembled by MARKFED**.

29. Rajasthan — Bamanas Kankar Becomes First Fully Organic Certified Gram Panchayat

- **Bamanas Kankar** became **Rajasthan's first fully organic certified Gram Panchayat.**
- 30. Karnataka — India's First Digital Grievance Portal for Gig Workers**
- **Karnataka** launched **India's first Digital Grievance Portal for Gig Workers** — a landmark step in protecting the rights of platform-based workers.
- 31. Karnataka — India's First State-Led CoE for Space Technology — Bengaluru**
- **Karnataka** launched **India's first State-Led Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Space Technology in Bengaluru** to promote space-tech startups and innovation.
- 32. Jharkhand Achieves Zero Primary Drop-Out Rate**
- **Jharkhand** achieved a "**zero primary drop-out rate**" (Classes 1–5) in **2024–25** — a historic achievement in primary education.
- 33. Namo Stall Scheme — Jharkhand**
- Union Minister **Sanjay Seth** launched the **Namo Stall Scheme** in **Ranchi, Jharkhand.**
 - Offers **free stalls worth ₹50,000** to **fruit and vegetable vendors.**
- 34. Nagaland — 100-Day Ayushman Student Coverage Mission**
- **Nagaland** launched a **100-day Ayushman student coverage mission** to extend health insurance coverage to students.
- 35. Odisha — 4th Phase of PMGSY Launched**
- **Odisha** launched the **4th Phase of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** for **rural road connectivity.**
 - **CM Mohan Charan Majhi** participated in the launch in **Rayagada District.**
- 36. Odisha — Best Performing State in PMAY-U 2.0**
- **Odisha** emerged as the **best performing state in PMAY-U 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana — Urban),** completing **2,008 out of 24,600** sanctioned houses by **May 2026.**
- 37. Odisha Inaugurates Advanced Power System Simulation Lab — Bhubaneswar**
- **Odisha** inaugurated an **Advanced Power System Simulation Lab** in **Bhubaneswar** to support power sector research and grid stability.
- 38. Bhima Bhoi Eco-Heritage Site — Sambalpur, Odisha**
- **Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated the **Bhima Bhoi eco-heritage site** in **Sambalpur, Odisha** (funding: **₹8.3 crore**).
 - Also launched **Panchayati Raj Samiksha portal** for transparency.
- 39. Uttar Pradesh — 'One District One Dish' Scheme**

- Inspired by the Central Government's "**One District One Product**" (ODOP) initiative.
 - **Launch Date: January 24, 2026** by the **Uttar Pradesh** government.
 - **Objective:** Highlight and brand **traditional regional dishes** from each district to boost local economy and **tourism.**
 - **Examples:** **Agra's Petha, Mathura's Peda, Jaunpur's Imarti.**
 - **Budget: ₹150 crore | Assistance: Up to ₹20 lakh** to associated individuals/businesses.
 - **Application Deadline: May 31, 2026.**
- 40. Election Commission Introduces QR-Based Photo Identity Card System**
- The **Election Commission of India** introduced a **QR-Based Photo Identity Card System** for voters — enhancing security and authentication of voter identity cards.
- 41. Census 2027 — QR Code System for Enumerator Identity Cards**
- **Census 2027** is **India's first digitally conducted census.**
 - **Indian government** introduced a **QR code system** for **enumerator identity cards** to build public trust.
 - **Phase One:** Runs from **April 1 to September 30, 2026,** using tablets for live data transmission.
- 42. 100th Next Generation Post Office Inaugurated — NEHU, Shillong**
- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** virtually inaugurated the **100th Next Generation Post Office.**
 - **Location: North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya.**
- 43. Delhi — First Anti-Narcotic Task Force Approved**
- Approved by **Delhi LG T.S. Sadhu (Taranjit Singh Sandhu).**
 - **Goal: Drug-free Delhi by 2027.**
 - **Operation Vishwas** recently destroyed **1,700 kg** of narcotics worth **₹72 crore.**
- 44. NEET-UG 2026 Fully Cancelled by NTA After Paper Leak**
- **National Testing Agency (NTA),** under the **Ministry of Education,** fully cancelled **NEET-UG 2026** after a **confirmed paper leak** — marking its **first-ever complete cancellation.**
 - **NTA also conducts: JEE Main, UGC-NET, CUET, and CMAT.**
- 45. India's First Multi-Lane Free-Flow (MLFF) Barrier-less Tolling System — Gujarat**
- **India's first Multi-Lane Free-Flow (MLFF) barrier-less tolling system** was introduced to eliminate vehicle halting at toll plazas.
 - **Launched by: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.**

• **Locations:**

- Choryasi toll plaza, NH-48, Surat–Bharuch, Gujarat (first launch)
- Mundka-Bakkarwala toll plaza, New Delhi (second launch)

- **Technology used:** ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) and FASTag — vehicles pay without stopping.

46. India's First Green Methanol Plant — Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla, Gujarat

47. Citizenship Amendment Rules 2026 & OCI Rules Update

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** updated rules governing Indian citizenship and **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** cardholders.
- **Minor children under 18 years and OCI cardholders** are prohibited from simultaneously holding both **Indian and foreign passports**.
- Introduction of **electronic Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI)** card.

48. Assam — Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Approved by Cabinet

- The **Assam Cabinet** approved the implementation of the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** to standardize personal laws on marriage and inheritance.
- **Tribal communities** are exempted from UCC provisions.
- **Static GK:** Goa remains the **only Indian state** that has **always had the UCC** in effect.

49. India Bans Sugar Exports Until September 30, 2026

- To control rising domestic inflation, **India** banned sugar exports until **September 30, 2026**.

50. India's First Mega Greenfield Shipyard — Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

- Part of the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**, targeting making India a **Top 5 Shipbuilding Nation** globally.
- **India's first mega greenfield shipyard** — a landmark in the country's maritime sector — established in **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**.

51. Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 Come Into Force

- **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026** notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- **Replaced** the 2016 Rules and came into force on **April 1, 2026**.

52. Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) — Progress Update

- **Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0** was launched by **PM Narendra Modi** on **October 1, 2021** for a five-year period until **2026**.

- **Budget Allocation:** Approximately **₹1.41 lakh crore**.

- **Core Vision:** To create **garbage-free cities**.

53. India's First Integrated CCUS Field Laboratory — IIT Bombay

- **Carbon Capture Utilization & Storage (CCUS)** field laboratory launched at **IIT Bombay**.
- **Inaugurated by:** Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**.

54. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand Identified as India's First Pearl Farming Cluster

55. Bengaluru Police Integrates AI Multilingual Translation into 'Namma 112' Helpline

- **Bengaluru Police** integrated an **AI translation feature** into the **'Namma 112'** emergency response helpline.
- Supports **real-time voice translation** between **Kannada** and **10+ languages** including French, Spanish, and Bengali.
- This development sparked discussion around the **Constitution's 8th Schedule (Articles 343–351)**, covering **22 official languages**.
- **3 newest additions** to the 8th Schedule: **Maithili, Bodo, and Santhali**.

56. 'Sachet' Mobile Disaster Alert System — Government Launch

- The Government of India will launch **'Sachet'** — a **mobile disaster alert system** using the **Common Alerting Protocol**.
- **Developed by:** Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**.

57. Cell Broadcast System Launched for Disaster Warning — C-DOT

- Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** launched the **Cell Broadcast System** in **New Delhi**.
- **Purpose:** Warn citizens of emergencies and natural disasters through **mobile-based cell broadcast alerts**.
- **Developed by:** C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics).
- Delivers real-time **geo-targeted siren alerts** to mobile phones nationwide.

58. NCRB 'Crime in India 2024' Report — Key Findings

- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** was established in **1986** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- India recorded **58.85–58.86 lakh** cognizable crimes in **2024** — a **6% decline** from **62.41 lakh** in 2023.
- **Overall Crime Rate** (per lakh population): Declined from **448.3** in 2023 to **418.9** in 2024.

- **Delhi:** Topped the list with **2,75,402** cases among 19 metropolitan cities; also had the **lowest charge-sheeting rate**.
- **Crimes against women:** Declined **1.5%** (4.41 lakh cases).
- **Crimes against SCs:** -3.6% | **STs:** -23.1%.
- **Crimes against senior citizens:** +16.9% | **Juveniles:** +11.2% | **Economic offenses:** +4.6%.
- **Telangana:** Highest rise in cognizable crimes and highest crime rate per lakh.
- **Uttar Pradesh:** Highest per capita crime rate (**7.54%**).
- **Kerala:** Highest charge-sheeting rate (**94.5%**).
- **Bengaluru:** Highest **Suicide Rate** (~20 per lakh population).
- **Total suicides registered:** **1,70,746**.

59. State GDP Base Year Revision (2011-12 to 2022-23)

- **MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation)** issued uniform guidelines changing the **base year for GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) and National Accounts to 2022-23**.
- **Reason:** Adjust for inflation and align with global standards.
- Previously, **34 states and UTs used 2011-12** as the base year.
- New base year comprehensively includes **Lakshadweep and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (DNH&DD)**.
- **Subcommittee** for this revision chaired by **Ravindra H. Dholakia**.

60. LEADS 2025 Logistics Report Released — Tamil Nadu Tops Coastal States

- **LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States)** report — **7th edition** — released by **Union Minister Piyush Goyal**.
- **Top performers in "Exemplar" tier:**
 - **Coastal State:** **Tamil Nadu**
 - **Landlocked State:** **Uttar Pradesh**
 - **North-Eastern State:** **Mizoram**
 - **Union Territory:** **Delhi**

61. India's 2025 Electronics Exports Surpass \$47 Billion

62. University of New South Wales — Bengaluru Campus to Open in August 2026

63. India's GCC Ecosystem Crosses 2,100 Centres — Nasscom-Zinnov Report

- India's **GCC (Global Capability Centre) ecosystem** crossed **2,100 centres** in **FY 2025-26** according to a **Nasscom-Zinnov Report**.

64. PM Modi's Economic Appeal — 7 Guiding Principles for Self-Reliance

- **PM Modi** appealed to citizens with **7 guiding principles for economic self-reliance:**
 1. Use **public transport** or metros instead of individual vehicles.
 2. Avoid **foreign travel** for a year; promote domestic tourism.
 3. Halt **non-essential gold purchases** for a year to protect forex reserves.
 4. Reduce consumption of **edible oil**.
 5. Transition to **natural farming** by reducing imported chemical fertilizers.
 6. Embrace '**Vocal for Local**' — buy Made-in-India products.
 7. Adopt **work-from-home** in offices to reduce petrol usage.
- **Rupee hit an all-time low of ₹95.50 per USD** in May 2026.
- **Crude oil prices** rose to **~\$120/barrel** due to West Asia conflict.
- **Gold imports in FY 2025-26:** **~\$71.98 billion**.
- **India's Trade Deficit FY 2025-26:** **\$333.2 billion**.
- **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) limit:** **\$250,000 per person per year; 20% TCS** on foreign remittances above ₹7 lakh.

13. Persons in News

S.No	Name of the Person	Reason for Being in News
A. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS		
S.No	Name of the Person	Reason for Being in News
1	PM Narendra Modi	Inaugurated Rs.6,350 crore projects in Varanasi (water treatment plant, 1-MW solar plant at Bhalupur); inaugurated 594 km Ganga Expressway (Rs.36,230 crore) in Hardoi; inaugurated India's first functional PM MITRA Park in Warangal, Telangana; attended Art of Living Foundation's 45th celebration in Bengaluru; participated in Somnath Amrit Mahotsav in Gujarat — released Rs.75 commemorative silver coin and postage stamp; inaugurated Rs.150 crore Sardar Dham hostel in Vadodara; issued 7 Guiding Principles for Economic Self-Reliance at Hyderabad rally; undertook Five-Nation Tour (UAE, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Italy); steering India's 18th BRICS Summit preparations.
2	Rajnath Singh	Attended the 23rd SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; met Italian counterpart Guido Crosetto in New Delhi — discussed India-Italy defence cooperation; inaugurated North Tech Symposium 2026 in Prayagraj (Theme: 'Raksha Triveni

		Sangam'); announced DRDO transferred 2,200 technologies to industry, waiving the 20% technology transfer fee.
3	S. Jaishankar (EAM)	Hosted UNGA President Annalena Baerbock during her India visit; chaired BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi (May 14-15, 2026); made the first-ever bilateral visit by an Indian EAM to Jamaica (signed MoUs on Healthcare, Solar Energy, Broadcasting); visited Trinidad & Tobago under SEEDS initiative; inaugurated 'Shunya to Anant' exhibition at UN Headquarters; hosted the 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue in New Delhi.
4	Amit Shah	Approved 5 new districts in Ladakh (total now 7 — Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, Drass added); inaugurated cooperative dairy projects in Kargil; released two books authored by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on the judicial system.
5	Piyush Goyal	Signed the India-New Zealand FTA (with NZ's Todd McClay) — 100% duty-free access for Indian exports + \$20 billion investment commitment; released the 7th edition of LEADS 2025 Logistics Report.
6	Nitin Gadkari	Launched India's first Multi-Lane Free-Flow (MLFF) barrier-less tolling system at Choryasi toll plaza, NH-48, Surat-Bharuch, Gujarat; also inaugurated barrier-less tolling at Mundka-Bakkarwala toll plaza, New Delhi (uses ANPR + FASTag + AI cameras).
7	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Launched 827 PMGSY road projects in Odisha (Phase 4) worth Rs.1,698 crore covering 1,701 km; launched PMGSY Phase 4 silver jubilee (25 years) from Bherunda, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh — national target: 62,500 km, budget Rs.70,125 crore; authored book 'Apnapan' documenting 35-year association with PM Narendra Modi.
8	Jyotiraditya Scindia	Inaugurated Adani Vikas Kendra in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh; launched Cell Broadcast System for disaster warning in New Delhi (developed by C-DOT); virtually inaugurated the 100th Next Generation Post Office at NEHU, Shillong; launched Rs.189.79 crore Mizoram Ginger Mission.
9	Ashwini Vaishnav	Flagged off the first direct Vande Bharat service between Jammu and Srinagar; flagged off the 'Somnath Swabhiman Parv Yatra' from New Delhi to Gujarat; announced India's 18th Railway Zone — South Coast Railway Zone (HQ: Mudasarlova, Visakhapatnam, effective June 1, 2026).

10	JP Nadda	Inaugurated the 10th National Summit on Public Health Innovations in Chandigarh; launched Swasth Bharat Portal for ASHA workers and Medical Officers; co-chaired the 3rd India-Japan Joint Committee Meeting on Healthcare at Bharat Mandapam.
11	Mansukh Mandaviya	Attended NRAI's 75th Anniversary at Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi; launched new NRAI logo and 'myNRAI Athlete' digital app (India's first digitized sports federation); announced launch of e-PRAAPT portal for inoperative PF accounts; launched ESIC Annual Health Checkup for workers aged 40+.
12	Bhupender Yadav	Launched the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) logo and theme ahead of the inaugural IBCA Summit in New Delhi (June 1-2, 2026). Theme: 'Save Big Cat, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem'.
B. CHIEF MINISTERS & STATE LEADERS		
S.No	Name of the Person	Reason for Being in News
13	Suvendu Adhikari	Sworn in as the 9th CM and first BJP Chief Minister of West Bengal
14	C. Joseph Vijay (Vijay Thalopathy)	Celebrated actor (TVK party) sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
15	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Sworn in for his second consecutive term as 15th CM of Assam
16	V.D. Satheesan	Designated as Chief Minister of Kerala (Congress party)
17	N. Rangasamy	Sworn in for a record fifth term as Chief Minister of Puducherry
C. REGULATORY, BANKING & INSTITUTIONAL		
S.No	Name of the Person	Reason for Being in News
18	Sanjay Malhotra (RBI Governor)	Signed fresh MoU with ECB Head Christine Lagarde in Basel, Switzerland; under his governance — launched Mission SAKSHAM for UCBs; introduced 'Unregistered Type 1 NBFC' category; mandated 3-day grace period for credit card payments; tightened unsecured lending rules for UCBs (effective Oct 1, 2026).
19	Rohit Jain	Appointed as Deputy Governor of RBI for a 3-year term (effective May 2, 2026), succeeding T. Rabi Sankar; portfolio: Fintech, Forex, and IT. Current 4 DGs: Swaminathan J, Poonam Gupta, S.C. Murmu, Rohit Jain.
20	Ashok Kumar Lahiri	Assumed office as the 4th Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog on May 6, 2026, succeeding Suman Bery.
21	Joram Aniya	Appointed as full-time member of NITI Aayog — first full-time member from Arunachal Pradesh; belongs to the Nyishi community; first woman from Arunachal Pradesh to hold a Ph.D. in Hindi. Total NITI Aayog full-time members now 7.
22	Surya Kant (53rd CJ)	As Chief Justice of India — announced Sikkim as India's first fully paperless judiciary state;

		launched 'One Case One Data' (OCOD) system; launched 'SuSahay' AI chatbot (by NIC) for SC website; mandated women-reserved VP post in SCBA from 2027-28; Supreme Court strength increased from 34 to 38 judges.
23	Anugraha Narayan Dass	Appointed as Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) from May 1, 2026 (1991 batch IDAS), replacing Biswajit Sahay; role: oversees Ministry of Defence audits.

D. DEFENCE & ARMED FORCES

S.No	Name of the Person	Reason for Being in News
24	Lt. Gen. N.S. Raja Subramani	Appointed as India's 3rd Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), succeeding General Anil Chauhan whose tenure ends May 30, 2026.
25	Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan	Appointed as the 27th Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), assuming office on May 31, 2026; succeeding Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi.
26	Kota Ravi (Ravi K)	Appointed as CMD of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), replacing D.K. Sunil; brings 30 years of aerospace and Tejas (LCA) experience. HAL HQ: Bengaluru, Est: 1940.

E. CORPORATE, INDUSTRY & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Name of the Person	Reason for Being in News
27	Parminder Chopra	Appointed as CEO of Reliance Enterprises Intelligence — a Joint Venture (JV) between Reliance and Meta
28	Kumar Mangalam Birla	Returned as Chairman of Vodafone Idea, replacing Ravinder Takkar (who became Non-Executive Vice Chairman).
29	Akash Ambani	Reappointed as Managing Director of Jio Platforms for another 5-year term.
30	Sunil Bharti Mittal	Officially appointed as Chairman of Bharti Airtel for a 5-year term, effective October 1, 2026.
31	John Ternus	Became the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Apple.
32	Gautam Adani	Became the richest person in Asia as per latest wealth assessments.
33	GalaxEye (Galaxy Space Solutions Pvt. Ltd.)	Launched India's largest private Earth Observation Satellite (190 kg) via SpaceX Falcon 9 from Vandenberg, California under Mission Drishti; features world-first 'Opto-SAR' technology — enables clear image capture in darkness and bad weather.
34	Kuljit Kaur Marhas	ISRO scientist — became the first Indian woman (and 3rd Indian scientist overall) elected to the Meteoritical Society for 2026.

F. MEDIA, ARTS, CULTURE & LITERATURE

S.No	Name of the Person	Reason for Being in News
35	Prasoon Joshi	Appointed Chairman of Prasar Bharati (India's public broadcaster); previously served as CBFC Chairperson.
36	Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Appointed as new Chairperson of CBFC (Central Board of Film Certification, Est: 1951, HQ: Mumbai), succeeding Prasoon Joshi.

37	Ashutosh Gowariker	Appointed as Festival Director of the 57th IFFI (International Film Festival of India) to be held in Goa in November 2026. IFFI established in 1952.
38	Zoramthanga	Former CM of Mizoram — authored book 'From Guerrilla Fighter to Chief Minister' documenting his journey from the MNF guerrilla movement to the Chief Minister's office.
39	R.K. Raghavan	Former Director of CBI — authored autobiography 'A Road Well Travelled' tracing his distinguished career in law enforcement and public service.
40	Tushar Mehta	Solicitor General of India — authored two books released by Home Minister Amit Shah: (1) 'The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre' and (2) 'The Lawful and the Awful', both focused on India's judicial system.

G. INTERNATIONAL PERSONALITIES

S.No	Name of the Person	Reason for Being in News
41	Annalena Baerbock	German diplomat and President of the 80th Session of the UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) — visited India at the invitation of EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar.
42	To Lam	President of Vietnam — visited India (May 5-7, 2026) marking the 10th anniversary of India-Vietnam strategic partnership; 13 agreements signed; bilateral trade target: \$25 billion by 2030.
43	Kirsty Coventry	President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) — first woman and first African to lead the IOC. IOC HQ: Lausanne, Switzerland.
44	Haitham Al Ghais	Secretary General of OPEC — in news as UAE officially exited OPEC and OPEC+ on May 1, 2026, reducing membership to 11 countries. OPEC HQ: Vienna, Austria; Founded: 1960.

H. CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT

S.No	Name of the Person	Reason for Being in News
45	Parveen Shaikh	Won the 2026 Whitley Award ('Green Oscar') worth 50,000 pounds in London for conservation project 'Guardian of the Skimmer' — protecting endangered Indian Skimmer birds along the Chambal River and Prayagraj.
46	Barkha Subba	Won the Whitley Award 2026 ('Green Oscar') for protecting Himalayan salamanders and their wetlands in the Himalayan region.

I. SPORTS & GAMES

S.No	Name of the Person	Reason for Being in News
47	PV Sindhu	Joined the World Badminton Federation (BWF) Council with voting rights for 2026-2029; appointed Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission.
48	Ajit Agarkar	Reappointed as Chairman of the BCCI Selection Committee.
49	Apaar Saxena	14-year-old chess prodigy from Karnataka — earned the FIDE

		International Master (IM) title in just 5 weeks in Europe, achieving an ELO rating exceeding 2,450 and securing all three mandatory norms.
50	Vaishali Rameshbabu	Won the FIDE Women's Candidates 2026 — qualifying for the Women's World Chess Championship.
51	Faustino Oro	12-year-old Argentine chess prodigy (nicknamed 'Messi of Chess') — became the 2nd youngest Grandmaster in chess history.
52	Rathika Sree / Kritika Shree	From Salem, Tamil Nadu — became Tamil Nadu's (and India's) first transgender registered cricket umpire; a landmark step for LGBTQ+ inclusion in Indian sports administration.
53	Ishang (Ishan) Singh	7-year-old from Ranchi, Jharkhand — became the youngest swimmer to cross the Palk Strait; swam 29 km from Talaimannar (Sri Lanka) to Dhanushkodi (Tamil Nadu) in 9 hours 50 minutes under 'Mission Samandar'.
54	Marta Kostyuk	Ukrainian tennis player — won the 2026 Women's Singles title at the Madrid Open (biggest title of her career), defeating Mirra Andreeva (Russia) in the final.
55	Jannik Sinner	Won the 2026 Men's Singles at the Madrid Open — became the first player since 1990 to win 5 consecutive ATP Masters 1000 titles.
56	Shreyas Iyer	Appointed as Brand Ambassador for the F1 Sim Racing India Open 2026.
57	Sunil Narine (KKR)	Became the 3rd bowler in IPL history to take 200 wickets (others: Yuzvendra Chahal and Bhuvneshwar Kumar).
58	Virat Kohli	IPL 2026 records — first batter to hit 84 runs in a knockout match; reached 87 boundaries in 274 IPL matches; became the 3rd batter (after Chris Gayle and Rohit Sharma) to hit 36 sixes in IPL.
59	Rajasthan Royals — 15-year-old opener	Became the fastest player to score 400 runs in a single IPL season.
60	Soma Mandal	Teacher at GD Goenka Public School, Delhi — won the Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award — South Asia Regional Award.

J. NOTABLE OBITUARIES

S.No	Name of the Person	Reason for Being in News
61	Ted Turner (Robert Edward Turner III)	Passed away at age 87 — Founder of CNN (Cable News Network), the world's first 24-hour television news channel, founded in 1980.
62	Alex Zanardi	Passed away at age 59 — Italian former Formula 1 (F1) driver and 4-time Paralympic para-cycling gold medalist.
63	Gurbux Singh Grewal	Passed away — renowned Indian hockey player.
64	Muni Narayana Prasad	Passed away at age 87 — spiritual leader of Narayana Gurukulam in Kerala; former civil engineer;

		author of 100+ books; received Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award twice and Padma Shri in 2024.
65	Vijay Kumar	Passed away at age 57 in Lucknow — veteran Indian golfer.
66	Sri Ratan Agarwal	Passed away — Founder of Bikaji Foods International.
67	Gopalrao Patil	Passed away — Pediatrician and former BJP Rajya Sabha MP (1994-2000).
68	Mohan Singh	Passed away at age 78 in Kolkata — former Indian football midfielder; debuted for India against Burma in 1972; played key role for Bengal in the 1972 Santosh Trophy.
69	Sudesh Kumar	Passed away — veteran Indian actor; best known for his role in the National Film Award-winning Hindi movie 'Dosti'.
70	D. Sudhakar	Passed away — Planning and Statistics Minister of Karnataka.
71	Mal Anderson	Passed away at age 91 — Australian tennis legend and former world number two; made history in 1957 as the first unseeded player to win the US Open Men's Singles title.
72	Amanpreet Singh Gill	Passed away at age 36 — former Punjab fast bowler; played for India Under-19 team and Kings XI Punjab in the IPL.
73	R.B. Choudary	Passed away — veteran Indian film producer.
74	Tutu Bose	Passed away — former President of Mohun Bagan football club.

14. Ranks & Reports

1. SIPRI Military Expenditure Report 2025 — India Ranks 5th Globally

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) releases its annual **Military Expenditure Report** tracking global defence spending.
- **India ranked 5th largest military spender globally.**
- **India's military spending: \$92.1 billion** — an **8.9% increase** over previous year.
- **Global military spending: \$2.89 trillion** in 2025.
- **Top 5 military spenders (in order):**
 1. **USA**
 2. **China**
 3. **Russia**
 4. **Germany**
 5. **India**
- These five nations comprised **58%** of global military spending.

2. World Press Freedom Index 2026 — India Ranks 157th; Norway Tops

- **Published by: Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**, headquartered in Paris, France.

- Evaluates **180 countries** on **5 pillars**: Political, Legal, Economic, Socio-cultural, and Safety.
- **India's Overall Rank: 157th** out of 180 countries (previously **151st**).
- India placed in the "**Very Serious**" category with a score of **31.96**.
- **India's Pillar-wise Rankings**:
 - Political: **145th** | Legal: **159th** | Economic: **121st** | Socio-cultural: **152nd** | Safety: **142nd**
- **Top 5 Countries (Best Press Freedom)**:
 1. Norway (1st — **10th consecutive year**)
 2. Netherlands | 3. Estonia | 4. Denmark | 5. Sweden
- **Bottom 5 Countries**:
 - 180. Eritrea | 179. North Korea | 178. China | 177. Iran | 176. Saudi Arabia
- **Regional Comparisons**:
 - Nepal — **87th** | Sri Lanka — **134th** | Pakistan — **153rd** | Afghanistan — **175th** | USA — **57th**

3. Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2026 — India's Position

- The **14th** edition of the **Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Rankings 2026** was released.
- **929 institutions** analyzed across Asia.
- **Top 5 Universities (Asia)**:
 1. Tsinghua University (China)
 2. Peking University (China)
 3. National University of Singapore (NUS)
 4. Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
 5. University of Tokyo
- **India represented by 128 universities.**
- **Indian University Rankings**:
 - **43rd**: Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru — India's highest-ranked institution
 - **128th**: Saveetha Institute
 - **141st**: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore
 - **158th**: Shoolini University
 - **160th**: Jamia Millia Islamia
- **Note**: Several **IITs boycotted** the rankings due to **transparency issues**.

4. Special 301 Report 2026 — India on 'Priority Watch List'

- Released annually by the **United States Trade Representative (USTR)**.
- Evaluates countries on **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** protection.
- This is the **38th annual edition**.

- **India retained** on the "**Priority Watch List**" (along with Chile, China, Indonesia, Russia, Venezuela).
- **Vietnam** elevated to "**Priority Foreign Country**" status (triggering a **Section 301 investigation**).
- **Watch List countries**: Pakistan, Turkey, EU, Brazil, Argentina.
- **Bulgaria** removed from the list; **Ukraine** suspended.

5. Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 — Released for FY 2023-24

- **PAI** is a comprehensive assessment tool for measuring the holistic development of **Gram Panchayats** across India.
- Released by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** on **National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24)**.
- **PAI 2.0** is the updated second version, assessing performance for **Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24)**.
- Assessed **2.59 lakh Gram Panchayats** across **33 States/Union Territories (UTs)**.
- **3,635 Gram Panchayats** achieved '**Front Runner**' status (scoring **90+ points**).
- **1.18 lakh Gram Panchayats** graded as '**Performer**'.
- **Top 5 Performing States**:
 1. Tripura (1st)
 2. Kerala (2nd)
 3. Odisha (3rd)
 4. Andhra Pradesh (4th)
 5. Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (5th)

6. MoSPI — 'Women and Men in India 2025' Report (27th Edition)

- Released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** at the **National Deliberative Summit on Data in Bhubaneswar**.
- Covers **50 metadata indicators**.
- **Sex Ratio at Birth** improved from **904 (2017–19)** to **917 (2021–23)** per 1,000 males.
- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR) 2023**: **1.5** (Urban), **2.1** (Rural).
- **Higher Education Gross Enrolment** (2021–22 to 2022–23): Females **28.5** → **30**; Males **28.3** → **28.9**.
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)**: Rose from **37.5%** to **45.9%** (highest jump in rural females).
- **Women in managerial roles** surged by **102.54%**.
- **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)**: Decreased.

7. 8th Household Consumption Health Survey — Released by NSO

- Released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- Key findings:**
 - Health-seeking behaviour improved by **12.2% (rural)** and **14.9% (urban)**.
 - Government insurance coverage** rose to **45.5% (rural)** and **31.8% (urban)**.
 - Median Out-of-Pocket (OOP) medical expense** during hospitalisation: **₹1,285**.
 - Zero cost** for non-hospitalised patients in public facilities.

8. Index of Service Production (ISP) — Introduced by MoSPI

- Issued by **MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation)**.
- Base year: 2024–25**.
- Covers **70%** of service sector **Gross Value Added (GVA)** using **GST data**.
- Will **NOT** replace the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.

9. India's IIP Growth Slows — Index of Industrial Production

- India's **eight core industries** comprise **40.27%** of the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.
- India's **IIP growth** slowed to a **5-month low** of **4.1%** in **March 2026** (revised February rate: **5.1%**).

10. Marine Fish Production Rankings 2025 — Tamil Nadu Tops

- Data released by the **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)**.
- Tamil Nadu** overtook **Gujarat** to rank **1st** in marine fish production in **2025**.
- Tamil Nadu's production: 0.68 million tonnes**.
- Total India marine fish production: 3.57 million tonnes (35.7 lakh tonnes)** — a **3% rise** over previous year.
- Top 5 states:** Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra.

11. Phase 2 Flying Training Organization (FTO) Rankings — DGCA

- Rankings released by **Union Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu**, compiled by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.
- Aviana Aviation Pvt Ltd** received the top '**A**' category ranking.
- Training flying hours rose by **32–50%**.
- Commercial Pilot Licences (CPLs)** issued grew **2.5 times** over **8 years**.
- Government aims to build **50 new airports** and add **500 aircraft** in **5 years**.

12. NITI Aayog Releases 'DPI @ 2047 Roadmap' for \$30 Trillion Economy

- NITI Aayog** — in partnership with **EkStep Foundation** and **Deloitte** — released the '**Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) @ 2047 Roadmap**'.
- Vision:** A **\$30 trillion economy** and **\$18,000 per capita income** by **2047**.
- Phases:**
 - DPI 2.0 (2025–2035):** Livelihood-led growth
 - DPI 3.0 (2035–2047):** Broad-based prosperity

13. NITI Aayog — Other Key Reports Released

- '**Moving Towards Effective City Government**' — on urban governance reforms.
- '**Fiscal Health Index**' — topped by **Odisha**.
- '**Revitalizing Apprenticeship Ecosystem**' — on strengthening India's apprenticeship framework.
- '**Viksit Bharat and Net Zero**' — on India's sustainability and development goals.
- '**School Education System in India Policy Report 2026**' — released on **May 6, 2026** by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman **Suman Bery** and CEO **Nidhi Chhibber**.

14. NITI Aayog School Education Report 2026 — Key Data

- Coverage: **2014-15 to 2024-25** (temporal analysis spanning a decade).
- India has the world's largest school system: 14.71 lakh schools, 1.01 crore teachers, 24.69 crore students.**
- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** at higher secondary stage: **58.4%**.
- Government school enrolment declined from **71% (2005)** to **49.24% (2024-25)**.
- Dropout rates surged from **0.3%** in primary to **11.5%** in secondary education.
- Zero-Enrolment ('Ghost') Schools: 7,993 schools** — highest in **West Bengal (3,812)** and **Telangana (2,245)**.
- Karnataka:** Highest higher secondary GER improvement — jumped **29% to 61.4%**.
- Tamil Nadu:** Topped higher secondary GER at **84%**.
- Punjab:** Best in language/math proficiency and smart classroom infrastructure.
- Jharkhand:** Achieved **0% primary school dropout rate** in 2024-25.

15. NCRB 'Crime in India 2024' Report

- India recorded **58.85–58.86 lakh** cognizable crimes in **2024** — a **6% decline** from 2023.
- Overall Crime Rate:** Declined from **448.3 in 2023** to **418.9 in 2024** per lakh population.
- Delhi:** Maximum cognizable offences (**2,75,402 cases**) among 19 metro cities; **lowest charge-sheeting rate**.

- **Crimes against women:** Declined **1.5%** (4.41 lakh cases).
- **Crimes against SCs:** -3.6% | **STs:** -23.1%.
- **Crimes against senior citizens:** +16.9% | **Juveniles:** +11.2%.
- **Telangana:** Highest crime rate per lakh population.
- **Uttar Pradesh:** Highest per capita crime rate (7.54%).
- **Kerala:** Highest charge-sheeting rate (**94.5%**).
- **Bengaluru:** Highest **Suicide Rate** (~20 per lakh population).
- **Total suicides:** **1,70,746** | Delhi highest absolute suicides: **2,905**.

16. Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) — DFS Tops

- **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** reported its **Insurance Division** topped the **GRAI for Group A categories** — resolving the highest number of consumer complaints.
- Complaints monitored via **CPGRAMS (Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System)** online portal.
- **Banking Division** ranked **fifth** on the index.

17. FAO Reports Global Food Prices Hit 3-Year High — April 2026

- **FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)** reported **April 2026 global food prices** hit a **3-year high**, rising to **130.7 points** against the **2014-16 base year**.

18. World Migration Report 2026 — IOM

- Released by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**.
- **IOM Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **India is the top global remittance recipient** — **\$137.67 billion** in 2024.
- **2nd:** Mexico (\$67.6 billion) | **3rd:** Philippines.
- **Largest source of outward remittances:** **USA** — over **\$100 billion**.

19. GSMA Report — Global Mobile Money Transactions

- **Source:** **GSMA (Global System for Mobile Communications Association)** Report.
- Global mobile money transactions crossed **\$2 trillion** in 2025, doubling over four years.
- **Registered Accounts:** **2.3 billion** globally.
- **Merchant Payments:** **\$155 billion** | **Bank-to-Mobile Transfers:** **\$167 billion**.

20. Economic Survey 2025-26 — Employment Highlights

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** **55.9%**.

21. S&P Global / CRISIL Report — 'India Forward: Emerging Perspectives'

- **S&P Global** lowered India's **FY27 GDP growth forecast** from **7.1%** to **6.6%**.

- **India's GDP for FY26:** **7.6%** | Average **FY23–FY26:** **7.3%**.
- **Retail Inflation:** Projected to rise to **5.1%** in **FY27**.
- **CAD:** Expected to expand from **0.8% of GDP** in **FY26** to **2.2%** in **FY27**.
- **Services Sector:** Expected to expand to **~55% of GDP** by 2030.

22. India's Medical & Wellness Tourism — Market Rankings

- **Global Medical Value Travel Market:** Grew from **\$115 billion (2022)** to **\$286 billion (current)**.
- **India's Market Size:** **\$8.7 billion**, projected to reach **\$16.2 billion** by 2030.
- **India's Global Rankings:**
 - **10th** globally in **Medical Tourism Index**
 - **12th** globally in **Wellness Tourism**
 - **5th** in **Asia-Pacific** region
- **Economic Impact:** Tourism contributes **5.22% of India's GDP**; provides **8.46 crore jobs**.
- **Foreign Tourists (last year):** **9.15 million** | **57,000** sought medical treatment.
- **Top Source Countries:** Bangladesh, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Somalia.
- **Top Treatments:** Cardiac care, cancer, organ transplants, AYUSH therapies.
- **India has** **69,000 hospitals**, **1.2 million doctors**, over **1,299 NABH-accredited hospitals**, and **e-medical visas for 172 countries**.

23. Anemia Mukta Bharat Index 2025-26 — Madhya Pradesh Tops

- **Madhya Pradesh** topped the **Anemia Mukta Bharat Index 2025-26** with a score of **92.1**.

24. IRENA Renewable Energy Statistics 2026 — India 3rd Largest Producer

- As per **IRENA's Renewable Energy Statistics 2026**, **India** overtook **Brazil** to become the **3rd largest globally** in installed renewable energy capacity.
- **India's installed capacity:** **250.52 GW** (as of December 2025).
- **Rankings:** 1st — China | 2nd — USA | 3rd — India.
- **India's target:** **500 GW** by 2030.

25. FICCI-KPMG Report — Real Estate Market Projection

- **FICCI-KPMG Report** projected India's **Real Estate Market** to reach **\$5.8 trillion** by **2047**.

26. Nasscom-Zinnov Report — India's GCC Ecosystem

- **India's GCC (Global Capability Centre) ecosystem** crossed **2,100 centres** in **FY 2025-26** according to a **Nasscom-Zinnov Report**.

27. CII Report — India's Private Capex Growth

- **CII (Confederation of Indian Industry)** reported India's **private capex grew by 67%** to **₹7.7 lakh crore** in FY25, up from **₹4.6 lakh crore** in FY24.

28. Unincorporated Sector Survey — Haryana Tops Employment Growth

- **Haryana** was the top-performing state for the fastest growth in both **employment and establishments** in the unincorporated sector.
- **Gujarat** recorded the weakest performance.
- **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** remained the **largest informal employer**.

29. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) — Jan–Mar 2026

- Released by **NSO (National Statistical Office) / MoSPI**.
- **Urban Unemployment Rate (15+): 6.6%** in Q4 FY26 (down from 6.7% in Q3 FY26).
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** Dropped to **55.5%** (from 55.8%).

30. India's GCC Ecosystem Crosses 2,100 Centres

- India's **GCC ecosystem** crossed **2,100 centres** in **FY 2025-26** — reinforcing India's position as the world's leading hub for global capability centres.

31. LEADS 2025 Logistics Ease Report — 7th Edition

- Released by **Union Minister Piyush Goyal**.
- **"Exemplar" tier top performers:**
 - **Coastal State: Tamil Nadu**
 - **Landlocked State: Uttar Pradesh**
 - **North-Eastern State: Mizoram**
 - **Union Territory: Delhi**

15. Schemes and Initiatives

1. Jan Suraksha Schemes Complete 11 Years — PMJJBY, PMSBY & APY

- **Jan Suraksha Schemes** were launched by **PM Narendra Modi** on **May 9, 2015** — completing **11 years in 2026**.
- Collectively settled insurance claims worth **₹25,160 crore** across all three schemes.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)

- **Type:** 1-year **life insurance** scheme
- **Coverage:** **₹2 lakh** on death due to any cause
- **Managed by:** LIC and other life insurers
- **Eligibility:** **18–50 years**
- **Premium:** **₹436/year** (approx. **₹2/day**)
- **Subscribers:** Over **27 crore**
- **Claims settled:** **₹21,500 crore**

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)

- **Type:** **Accidental insurance**

- **Coverage:** **₹2 lakh** for accidental death or total disability; **₹1 lakh** for partial disability
- **Administered by:** Non-life insurers
- **Eligibility:** **18–70 years**
- **Premium:** **₹20/year** (less than **₹2/month**)
- **Subscribers:** Over **58 crore**
- **Claims settled:** **₹3,660 crore**

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- **Type:** **Pension / Retirement Savings**
- **Managed by:** **PFRDA / NPS Trust**
- **Eligibility:** **18–40 years** (primarily unorganised sector workers)
- **Guaranteed pension:** **₹1,000 to ₹5,000/month** after age 60
- **Subscribers:** Over **9 crore**

2. VB-GRAMG Act 2025 Replaces MGNREGA — Effective July 1, 2026

- **MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act)** was enacted in **2005**, guaranteeing **100 days** of unskilled wage employment per year — **100% centrally funded**.
- The **Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025** replaces **MGNREGA** from **July 1, 2026**.
- **Budget:** **₹95,692.31 crore** allocated for **FY 2026-27**.
- **Funding Ratio:** Changed from 100% Central to **60:40 (Centre:State)** (90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan states).
- **Key Changes:**
 - Guaranteed employment increased from **100 days to 125 days** per financial year
 - Work must be provided within **15 days** of application
 - **Wage Payments:** Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) within **3 to 15 days**; delay attracts **0.05% penalty/compensation**
 - **Unemployment Allowance:** If employment not provided — **1/4th of wage rate** for first 30 days; **half wage rate** thereafter
 - Minimum **60% of spending** must go to wages; contractors and machines discouraged
 - Seasonal pause: Work halted for **60 days** during peak agricultural seasons
 - States may declare a **60-day blackout period**
 - Existing **MGNREGA cards** remain valid until new **Gramin Rojgar Cards** are issued

3. PM-AASHA Scheme — First Pulse Procurement in Bihar; e-Samyukt in Chhattisgarh

- **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)** is a Central

Government scheme for ensuring fair prices to farmers for their produce.

- **Bihar** executed its **first structured pulse procurement** through NCCF (National Cooperative Exports Limited) and NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India).
- **Chhattisgarh** boosted procurements through the **e-Samyukti portal**, enabling **direct farmer participation**.

4. SVAMITVA Scheme — Evaluation by IIM Ahmedabad

- SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) is a **drone-based** land mapping scheme launched in **2020** to provide property rights to rural households.
- An evaluation conducted by **IIM Ahmedabad** highlighted the scheme's impact:
 - **₹135 lakh crore** worth of rural land assets unlocked through the scheme
 - **₹1,679 crore** in institutional loans facilitated via property cards
 - **Gram Panchayat** tax revenues increased by **4.71%**

5. Mission SAKSHAM — RBI for Urban Cooperative Banks

- **RBI** launched **Mission SAKSHAM — Sahakari Bank Kshamata Nirman** — to strengthen **UCBs** through capacity building.
- **Training areas:** Management, compliance culture, digital education, risk management, cybersecurity.
- Provides **hybrid** (physical and digital) training in **regional languages**.

6. Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 (JJM 2.0) — Extended to December 2028

- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** aims to provide **100% functional tap water connections** to all rural households in India.
- **Extended Timeline:** Mission framework extended to **December 2028**.
- **Revised Budget:** **₹8.69 lakh crore**.
- **Annual Budget Allocation:** **₹67,670 crore** to achieve universal household tap connections.
- **MoUs signed with:** **Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Tripura, Mizoram, and Ladakh**.
- **Focus:** Gram Panchayat-led rural water governance.
- **Key Officials:** **CR Patil** (Union Minister of Jal Shakti) and **V. Somanna** (Minister of State).

7. National Critical Mineral Mission — 58 Companies Approved for Recycling

- The **National Critical Mineral Mission** was launched in **2025** with a budget of **₹16,300 crore**.

- **Total scheme outlay:** **₹1,500 crore** (for recycling component).
- **Aim:** Reduce India's reliance on critical mineral imports, especially from **China** (which controls **80–90%** of global processing).
- The **Ministry of Mines** approved **58 companies** to extract **lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements** from **e-waste**.
- Approved companies will invest **₹5,000 crore** to build a recycling capacity of **850 kilotons per annum**.
- **Implementation period:** **FY2025–FY2031**.

8. Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy 2026

- **Maharashtra Chief Minister** approved the **Maharashtra AI Policy 2026** to make the state a **National AI Hub**.
- **Target:** **1.5 lakh jobs** and **₹10,000 crore investment** by **2031**.
- **Key initiatives:**
 - **Maharashtra AI Mission**
 - **5 AI Cities** to be established
 - **6 Sectoral Centers of Excellence (CoEs):** Healthcare, Agriculture, Education, Urban Development, Marathi Language/Culture, Finance
 - **2,000-GPU computing backbone**
 - **₹500 crore startup fund**
 - **20% MSME subsidies**
 - **Training 2 lakh youth** in AI skills
 - **₹1.25 crore subsidies** for **women-led startups**

9. India Semiconductor Mission — 12 Projects Worth ₹1.64 Lakh Crore

- India launched the **India Semiconductor Mission** to build a domestic semiconductor ecosystem.
- **Union Cabinet** approved **two new semiconductor manufacturing units** with combined investment of **₹3,936 crore:**
 - **Crystal Matrix Limited — Compound Semiconductor Fabrication Facility** in **Dholera, Gujarat** — focused on India's first commercial Mini/Micro-LED display facility using **Gallium Nitride (GaN)** technology (**Investment: ₹3,068 crore**)
 - **Suchi Semicon Private Limited (SSPL) — Semiconductor Assembly Test Facility** in **Surat, Gujarat** (**Investment: ₹868 crore**)
- **National Total:** Now **12 approved semiconductor projects** worth total investment of **₹1.64 lakh crore**.

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

- India is the **largest global cultivator of cotton** (not the largest producer); **Brazil** is the **largest exporter**.
- Current cotton yield in India: **440 kg/hectare** — below global standards.
- **Union Cabinet** approved the **Mission for Cotton Productivity** with an outlay of **₹5,659.22 crore**.
- **Period: 2026-27 to 2030-31** (five years).
- **Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) and Ministry of Textiles (MoT)**.
- **Vision:** Follows the **"5F" framework** — **Farm → Fibre → Factory → Fashion → Foreign**.
- **Yield Target:** Increase yield from **440 kg/hectare to 755 kg/hectare**.
- **Production Target:** Increase national cotton production to **498 lakh bales by 2031**.
- **Brand:** Promotes premium Indian cotton under **"Kasturi Cotton"** brand.
- **Rankings:** China — Largest producer | India — 2nd largest producer | Brazil — Largest exporter.

11. PMGSY Phase 4 — Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (Silver Jubilee)

- **PMGSY** is a central government scheme focused on improving **rural road connectivity** across India.
- Phase 4 was formally launched in **May 2026**, marking **25 years (silver jubilee)** of the scheme.
- **Launched by:** Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.
- **Two launch locations:**
 - **Rayagada District, Odisha** — **₹1,698.04 crore** for **827 road projects** covering **1,701.84 km** across **898 villages** in **8 districts**.
 - **Bherunda, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh** — marking silver jubilee.
- **Phase 4 National Target:** **62,500 km** of new roads for **25,000 unconnected habitations** by **2028–29**.
- **Budget:** **₹70,125 crore**.
- **Centre–State cost-sharing ratio:** **60:40**.
- **Phase 4 Performance Awards:**
 - **Madhya Pradesh:** **1st** for highest road length (**90,766 km**)
 - **Bihar:** **1st** in habitations connected
 - **Gujarat:** **1st** in green technology
 - **Assam:** Winner for North-Eastern / Hilly States category

12. Namo Stall Scheme — Jharkhand

- Launched in **Ranchi** by **Union Minister Sanjay Seth**.

- Provides **modern mobile stalls** (each costing approx. **₹50,000**) at **no initial cost** to street vendors.
- Target beneficiaries: **Street fruit and vegetable vendors**.

13. Swasth Bharat Portal — Launched by JP Nadda

- **Health Minister JP Nadda** launched the **Swasth Bharat Portal** (swasthbharat.mohfw.gov.in).
- **Launch Location:** **Chandigarh** (10th National Summit on Innovation & Inclusivity).
- **Designed for:** Frontline health workers — **ASHA workers and Medical Officers**.
- **Linked scheme:** **Ayushman Bharat** (India's flagship health insurance scheme — coverage up to **₹5 lakh** per family per year).
- **Purpose:** Collect and integrate health databases for improved service delivery.

14. JANANI Digital Platform — Maternal & Neonatal Healthcare

- **JANANI** is an upgraded version of the older **RCH (Reproductive and Child Health) portal**.
- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** launched **JANANI — Journey of Antenatal, Natal, and Neonatal Integrated Care**.
- Unveiled at the **10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity in Chandigarh**.
- **Functions:**
 - Provides end-to-end tracking for **maternal, newborn, and post-natal healthcare**
 - Provides pregnant women with regular **digital updates**
 - Features a **QR-enabled Digital MCH (Mother and Child Health) Card** for unified access to health records across hospitals

15. Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram 2.0 (RBSK 2.0) — Guidelines Released

- The **Ministry of Health** released updated guidelines for **RBSK 2.0** — India's national child health screening programme.
- Unveiled at a summit in **Chandigarh**.
- Centered on the **"4D Model"**:
 - **Defects at birth**
 - **Disease**
 - **Deficiencies**
 - **Development delays**
- **Coverage:** Children from **birth to 18 years** of age.

16. PRASHAST 2.0 — Digital Disability Screening Tool for Students

- **PRASHAST** stands for **Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool/Test**.

- The Department of School Education (via NCERT) developed PRASHAST 2.0 — an upgraded mobile and web-based screening tool.
- Aligned with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **Purpose:** Early identification of 21 types of disabilities in young schoolchildren.
- Currently under testing in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Delhi.

17. SEHAT Mission — ICMR & ICAR Link Agriculture with Health

- Jointly driven by ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) and ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research).
- **Full form:** SEHAT = Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation.
- A national mission-mode programme linking agricultural research with health outcomes.
- 203 varieties of ICAR biofortified crops will undergo clinical trial validation with ICMR.
- Promotes chemical-free, high-quality farming through nutrient-rich and biofortified crops.

18. Anemia Mukht Bharat Programme — MP Tops Index 2025-26

- Madhya Pradesh topped the Anemia Mukht Bharat Index 2025-26 with a score of 92.1.
- Programme aims to reduce anaemia in India through targeted nutrition interventions.

19. PM MITRA — India's First Mega Integrated Textile Park (Warangal, Telangana)

- Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme launched with a 5F vision: Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
- **Scheme duration:** 2021–2028 | **Total budget:** ₹4,445 crore | Aims to build 7 mega textile parks nationally.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first functional PM MITRA Park in Warangal, Telangana.
- **Cost:** ₹1,695.54 crore over 1,327 acres.

20. Unified Bharat eCharge (UBC) — UPI for EV Charging

- Part of the PM E-Drive Scheme (budget: ₹10,900 crore, launched 2024) to boost Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure.
- **Platform:** Unified Bharat eCharge (UBC) — described as 'UPI for EV charging'.
- **Launched by:** Heavy Industries Minister HD Kumaraswamy.
- **National target:** 4,874 EV chargers with a budget of ₹503.86 crore.
- **Karnataka allocation:** 1,243 EV chargers with a financial outlay of ₹123.26 crore.

21. DigiHaat — Swadeshi Marketplace and 'Made in India' Brand Scheme

- ONDC-owned, government-backed e-commerce platform DigiHaat launched a 'Swadeshi' marketplace to promote authentic 'Made in Bharat' products.

22. ESIC Annual Health Checkup & Maternity Leave Extended to 26 Weeks

- Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched an annual health checkup for workers aged 40 and above at ESIC hospitals.
- Maternity leave for women increased from 12 to 26 weeks.

23. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0

- ECLGS was originally launched during COVID-19 to support MSMEs.
- ECLGS 5.0 addresses liquidity stress caused by the West Asia Crisis.
- **Total Outlay:** ₹18,100 crore.
- **Guarantee Provider:** National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC).
- **Guarantee Coverage:** 100% for MSMEs | 90% for non-MSMEs and the airline sector.
- **Borrowing Limits:**
 - MSMEs/non-MSMEs — up to ₹100 crore (5-year tenure with 2-year moratorium)
 - Airlines — up to ₹1,500 crore (7-year tenure)
- **Eligibility:** Valid until March 31, 2027.

24. Coal Gasification Financial Incentive Scheme — ₹37,500 Crore

- India's National Coal Gasification Mission was originally structured under 2021 with a national target of 100 Million Tonnes (MT) of coal gasification by 2030.
- Union Cabinet approved a ₹37,500 crore financial incentive scheme to promote surface coal and lignite gasification projects.
- **Target:** 75 MT of coal gasification (out of overall 100 MT national target).
- **Incentive caps:**
 - Maximum ₹5,000 crore per single project
 - ₹9,000 crore per product (for Synthetic Methane Gas / urea)
 - ₹12,000 crore per company/group

25. Mission for Cotton Productivity — Sugarcane FRP Hike for 2026-27

- FRP (Fair and Remunerative Price) is the minimum price that sugar mills must pay to farmers for sugarcane.
- Governed by the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966 under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955.

- Determined by the CCEA based on CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices) recommendations.
- CCEA (chaired by PM Narendra Modi) approved an increase in FRP for sugarcane to ₹365 per quintal for the 2026-27 season.
- **Effective date: October 1, 2026.**
- **Growth: 2.81% increase** over the previous FRP of ₹355 per quintal for the 2025-26 season.
- **Basic recovery rate: 10.25%.**

26. Kharif Crops MSP Hike for 2026-27 — 14 Crops Approved by CCEA

- **MSP (Minimum Support Price)** is the price at which the government procures crops from farmers to ensure a minimum income.
- Approved by the CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) chaired by PM Narendra Modi.
- CCEA approved MSP increases for **14 Kharif crops** for the 2026-27 marketing season.
- **Estimated farmer payout: ~₹2.60 lakh crore.**
- **Highest absolute MSP increases:**
 - **Sunflower seed: +₹622/quintal** (highest)
 - **Cotton (Medium Staple): +₹557/quintal**
 - **Nigerseed: +₹515/quintal**
 - **Sesamum: +₹500/quintal**
 - **Soybean: +₹380/quintal**
- **MSP for Common Paddy: ₹2,441 per quintal (+₹72).**

27. Heal in India Initiative — Medical Tourism Promotion

- "Heal in India" Initiative promotes **modern surgeries** and **traditional preventive care** (AYUSH).
- Targets **9.15 million foreign tourists** (of whom **57,000** seek medical treatment).

28. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) — Static Overview

- NMSA launched in **2014-15**, operating under NAPCC (National Action Plan on Climate Change, 2008) to reduce greenhouse gases.
- From **2022-23**, integrated into **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** (launched 2007).
- **Key components:**
 - **Rainfed Area Development**
 - **Per Drop More Crop** (micro-irrigation covering **109 lakh hectares**, budget **₹26,325 crore**)
 - **Soil Health Management** — introduced **Soil Health Cards** in 2015; **25.79 crore** cards issued

29. MGNREGA — ₹17,744 Crore Released for Wages

- **Central Government** released **₹17,744 crore** as the **first wage installment** under MGNREGA.
- Additional **₹3,478 crore** released for **administrative components** of MGNREGA.

30. Finance Ministry — ₹3,000 Crore State Capital Investment Framework

- **Finance Ministry** launched a **performance-based framework** with a **₹3,000 crore fund** to reward states for good debt management.
- **Allocations:** Large states — up to **₹250 crore** | Medium states — up to **₹200 crore** | Small states — up to **₹150 crore.**
- **Criteria:** Debt management (50%), Borrowing discipline (30%), Fiscal transparency (20%).

31. PM Modi's Sardar Dham Initiatives — Vadodara, Gujarat

- **PM Modi** inaugurated the **₹150 crore Sardar Dham hostel** in **Vadodara.**
- Launched **Sardar Dham Education Support Yojana.**
- Laid foundation for a **girls' hostel.**
- Conferred the **first Sardar Gaurav Ratna Award.**

32. Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (CART) — Mission Mausam

- Established under **Mission Mausam** — a **₹2,000 crore** initiative launched in **2024** to strengthen India's meteorological capabilities.
- **CART** inaugurated at **Andhra University, Visakhapatnam.**
- **Cost: ₹180 crore** | **Built by: IITM (Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology).**
- **Function:** Open-field observatory to predict coastal weather, cyclones, and issue **early warnings.**

33. Mission Mausam — India's First Urban Testbed & Aerosol Observatory — Chennai

- **IITM Pune** established **India's first Urban Testbed & Aerosol Observatory** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu** under **Mission Mausam.**
- **Purpose:** Better weather forecasting, monitoring urban air quality.

34. ISRO Completes High-Resolution Land Use Mapping of India

- **ISRO** completed **high-resolution 1:10,000 scale mapping** of India (1 cm on map = 100 meters on ground).
- Advanced enough to distinguish between **paddy fields and ponds.**
- Data integrated into the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj's Gram Manchitra** portal for disaster and agricultural planning.
- India has **6,49,481 villages** as per the **2011 Census.**

35. New Labour Codes — 4 Codes Replace 29 Central Labour Laws

- India consolidated **29 Central labour laws** into **4 Labour Codes**.
- **Four codes:**
 1. **Code on Wages 2019**
 2. **Industrial Relations Code 2020**
 3. **Code on Social Security 2020**
 4. **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code 2020**
- **Working hours:** Capped at **48 hours/week**; daily limit up to **12 hours** (enabling 4-day workweek option); overtime at **twice the normal rate**.
- **Women night shifts:** Allowed **7 PM – 6 AM**, strictly with their consent.
- Establishments with **20+ workers** must constitute a **Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC)** with equal employer-worker representation.
- **India became the first nation** to include **gig workers** under the labour code.
- **Aadhaar-linked registration** mandatory for unorganized workers aged **16+**.
- **Electronic single licences** for contractors working across multiple states (**45-day** approval window).
- A **National Social Security Board** will be constituted for gig and platform workers.

36. DigiLocker Integration — Five States Felicitated by NeGD

- **DigiLocker** was launched on **July 1, 2015** (Static Fact).
- The **National eGovernance Division (NeGD)** promotes digital governance across India.
- **Five states felicitated** for integrating state services with **DigiLocker: Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Nagaland, and Rajasthan**.

37. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) — New Standards for Assistive Medical Devices

- **BIS** (functioning under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**) launched **six new Indian standards** for priority assistive technologies.
- **Certified assistive devices include:**
 - **Elbow crutches**
 - **Regular and multi-leg walking sticks**
 - **Portable ramps**
 - **Tactile guide maps** (for navigation by visually impaired persons)
 - **Braille on signage**

38. PMEGP — Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme

- **Central scheme** under **Ministry of MSME**; Nodal implementing agency: **KVIC**.

- Aims to create **self-employment** for unemployed youth and traditional artisans.
- **Maximum project cost: ₹50 lakh** (manufacturing) | **₹20 lakh** (service/business sector).
- **Margin money subsidy:** 15% to 35%.
- **Eligibility:** Age >18 years, minimum 8th-grade pass, no income ceiling.
- **Achievement (FY21-22 to FY25-26):** Established **43,706 micro-enterprises** (target: 42,000); generated **36.33 lakh jobs**; budget utilized: **₹13,554 crore**.

39. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- Launched by **PM Narendra Modi** in **2023** with budget of **₹150 crore** for five years.
- Comprises **25 member countries**.
- **Seven Big Cat Species:** Lion, Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, Puma.
- **India's Tiger Population: 3,682 tigers** across **58 tiger reserves**.
- **Madhya Pradesh:** Highest tigers (**785**) | **Karnataka:** 2nd highest (**563**).

40. National Panchayat Awards 2026 — Karnataka Tops

- **42 panchayats** recognized under **National Panchayat Awards 2026**.
- **Karnataka: 6 awards (1st)** | Andhra Pradesh and Odisha: **5 awards each**.
- **Best Gram Panchayat:** Napam Gaon, Assam.

41. Census 2027 — First Digital Census

- **Census 2027** is India's **first digitally conducted census**.
- **Phase One:** April 1 to September 30, 2026 — using tablets for **live data transmission**.
- **QR code system** introduced for enumerator identity cards.

42. Solid Waste Management Rules 2026

- **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026** notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- **Replaced** the 2016 Rules and came into force on **April 1, 2026**.

43. NITI Aayog — Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal

- **Launched by:** NITI Aayog's Interim CEO.
- **Purpose:** Enables **real-time governance, field monitoring, and last-mile service delivery** across aspirational districts.

16. Science and Technology

1. **GalaxEye (Galaxy Space Solutions Private Limited) Launches 'Mission Drishti' — World's First Opto-SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) Earth Observation Satellite**

2. Pixxel & Sarvam AI — 'Pathfinder' Orbital Data Center Satellite

- Pixxel is a Bengaluru-based space-tech startup; Sarvam AI is an Indian AI startup.
- Pixxel and Sarvam AI partnered to build India's first Orbital Data Center Satellite.
- **Satellite Name:** "Pathfinder".
- **Function:** Processes raw satellite data **directly in space** for real-time intelligence on pollution, disaster management, and defence.

3. Skyroot Aerospace — 'Vikram-1' India's First Privately Built Orbital Rocket

- Skyroot Aerospace is a Hyderabad-based private space-tech company founded in 2018 by ex-ISRO scientists Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka.
- **Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy** flagged off the **integration phase of Vikram-1** — India's first privately built orbital rocket.
- **Developed by:** Skyroot Aerospace.
- **Named after:** Dr. Vikram Sarabhai — father of the Indian Space Programme.
- **Propellants named:** Kalam, Raman, and Dhawan (after Indian scientists).
- Skyroot Aerospace became **India's first Space Tech Unicorn** — 4th Indian unicorn in 2026.
- **Valuation:** \$1.1 billion | Total funding: \$160 million.

4. ISRO Completes High-Resolution Land Use Mapping of India (1:10,000 Scale)

- **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)** has been developing comprehensive satellite-based mapping solutions.
- **ISRO completed high-resolution 1:10,000 scale mapping** of India (1 cm on map = 100 meters on ground).
- Advanced enough to distinguish between **paddy fields and ponds**.
- Data integrated into the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj's Gram Manchitra portal** for disaster and agricultural planning.
- India has **6,49,481 villages** as per the **2011 Census**.

5. Bengaluru Police 'Namma 112' — AI Multilingual Translation

- Bengaluru Police integrated an **AI translation feature** into the 'Namma 112' emergency response helpline.
- Supports **real-time voice translation** between **Kannada** and **10+ languages** including French, Spanish, and Bengali.

6. MuleHunter.ai — RBI Innovation Hub AI Tool

- MuleHunter.ai developed by the **RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH)**.

- **Purpose:** Detect illegal money transfer 'mule accounts' used in financial fraud.
- Currently **live across 26 banks**.

7. CBI Launches AI Chatbot 'ABH' — Combat Digital Scams

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** launched an **AI chatbot** named "ABH".
- **Purpose:** Help citizens **verify CBI notices** and **combat digital scams**.
- CBI operates under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.

8. Supreme Court — 'SuSahay' AI Chatbot & 'One Case One Data' (OCOD)

- **CJI Surya Kant** launched two digital judicial initiatives:
 - **'One Case One Data' (OCOD):** Assigns a unique ID to every case, integrating multi-level information from all courts (taluka to Supreme Court).
 - **'SuSahay':** AI-powered chatbot developed by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** — integrated into the **Supreme Court website** for litigants.

9. Gujarat — 'NAARIT' AI Tool for Narcotics Investigation

- **Gujarat** launched the 'NAARIT' AI tool for **narcotics case investigations**.

10. SkyHopp Aviation — India's First Commercial Seaplane Operator

- **SkyHopp Aviation** (formerly Sky Hops Aviation) received a **DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation)** licence and launched India's **first commercial seaplane service**.
- Uses **converted 19-seater DHC-6 Twin Otter aircraft**.
- Connects **5 Lakshadweep islands** to the mainland.

11. India Conducts Maiden Test of Nuclear-Capable Agni ICBM

- India conducted a **maiden test** of a **nuclear-capable Agni series ICBM** (range: 5,500+ km) on **May 8, 2026**.
- **Test site:** APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- **ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile):** Range > **5,500 km** — can strike targets across continents.

12. Agni-5 MIRV Test — 'Mission Divyastra'

- India tested **Agni-5** with **MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle)** technology.
- **Range: 5,000 km**.
- Developed by **DRDO** under 'Mission Divyastra'.

- Launch site: Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- 13. TARA — India's First Indigenous Glide Weapon System**
- DRDO and IAF successfully tested TARA (Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation).
 - India's first indigenous, cost-effective glide weapon system converting conventional unguided warheads into precision-guided weapons.
 - Developed by: RCI (Research Centre Imarat), Hyderabad.
- 14. LRSM — Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile (Range: 1,500 km) — 2nd Test**
- India successfully conducted the second test of the LRSM (Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile).
 - Range: 1,500 km | Test site: APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- 15. Mission Mausam — India's First Urban Testbed & Aerosol Observatory — Chennai**
- IITM Pune established India's first Urban Testbed & Aerosol Observatory in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
 - Falls under Mission Mausam — budget: ₹2,000 crore for Phase 1 (2024–2026).
- 16. UIDAI & NFSU — 5-Year Cybersecurity Pact for Aadhaar Infrastructure**
- UIDAI and NFSU (National Forensic Sciences University) signed a 5-year pact to enhance cybersecurity and digital forensics for India's Aadhaar infrastructure.
- 17. China Launches Pakistan's EO3 Earth Observation Satellite**
- China launched Pakistan's Earth Observation satellite EO3 (PRSC-E03) from the Taiyuan Launch Center using a Long March-6 rocket.
- 18. Uber — First Indian Data Center (Partnership with Adani Group)**
- Uber partnered with Adani Group to build a data center in India, expected to be operational by 2026.
- 19. Reliance Industries — Largest AI Data Center in Visakhapatnam**
- Reliance Industries announced plans to set up India's largest AI Data Center in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- 20. SEBI — 'Cyber-suraksha.ai' AI Task Force for Cybersecurity**
- SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) set up AI Task Force 'Cyber-suraksha.ai' for cybersecurity in financial markets.
 - SEBI HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra | Established: 1992.

- 21. SEBI Cybersecurity Advisory — 'Mythos' AI Threat**
- SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey issued a severe cybersecurity advisory regarding "Mythos" — an AI model that detects and exploits software vulnerabilities, threatening financial market security.
- 22. Brain Computer Interface (BCI) Conference — CDS General Anil Chauhan**
- CDS General Anil Chauhan inaugurated a Brain Computer Interface (BCI) Conference in New Delhi.
 - Theme: "Brain Computer Interface: Expanding Neural Frontiers and Strategic Implications".
 - BCI technology: Enables direct communication between the human brain and external devices.
- 23. India's First Green Methanol Plant — Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, Gujarat**
- India's first Green Methanol Plant set up at Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla, Gujarat — using renewable energy to produce sustainable maritime fuel.
- 24. Gujarat — Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) — 870 MW**
- Gujarat launched a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with 870 MW total capacity across five locations: Modhera, Mehsana, Lakhpat, and Chharal.
 - Supports India's 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030.
- 25. India Becomes World's 3rd Largest Renewable Energy Producer**
- India overtook Brazil to become the 3rd largest globally in installed renewable energy capacity (per IRENA's Renewable Energy Statistics 2026).
 - India's installed capacity: 250.52 GW (as of December 2025; 44 GW added in 2025).
 - Rankings: 1st — China | 2nd — USA | 3rd — India.
 - India's target: 500 GW by 2030.
- 26. India's First Green Ammonia Project — Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh**
- India's first green ammonia project launched in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh — marks a major step towards green energy and reducing dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilizer production.
- 27. SEHAT Mission — ICMR & ICAR (Agriculture & Health Link)**
- SEHAT = Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation.
 - 203 varieties of ICAR biofortified crops will undergo clinical trial validation with ICMR.

- Links agricultural research with public health outcomes using science and technology.

28. MeitY — 'IP Catalyst' Digital Platform

- **MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan** launched the "IP Catalyst" digital platform in New Delhi.
- **Objective:** Transform unique patents into physical products for **commercialization and international export**.

29. Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow' — 5th Edition (IIT Delhi)

- **Samsung** launched the **5th edition** of 'Solve for Tomorrow' in India, supported by **IIT Delhi** — promoting innovation and tech problem-solving among India's youth.

30. Ahmedabad–Dholera Semi High-Speed Rail Corridor — 160-200 km/h

- **Union Cabinet** approved India's **first completely indigenous semi high-speed railway project**.
- **Route:** Ahmedabad (Sarkhej) to Dholera — **134 km corridor**.
- **Design speed:** 220 km/h | **Operational speed:** 200 km/h.
- **Cost:** ₹20,667 crore | **Target completion:** 2030-31.

31. Karnataka Launches India's First Space Tech Centre of Excellence in Bangalore

32. India AI Mission — MoU with Karya (Bengaluru)

- **India AI Mission** signed an MoU with **Karya** — a **Bengaluru-based non-profit organization**.
- **Focus:** Promoting AI-enabled solutions for social development.

33. Ministry of Ayush & BHASHINI — Language AI Integration

- **Ministry of Ayush** signed an MoU with **Digital India BHASHINI Division (under MeitY)**.
- **BHASHINI = Bhasha Interface for India** — India's national language translation platform.
- Promotes Ayush healthcare content in **multiple Indian languages** through AI-based translation.

34. Karnataka — Digital Grievance Portal for Gig Workers (First in India)

- **Karnataka** launched **India's first Digital Grievance Portal for Gig Workers** — a landmark step in using technology to protect platform-based worker rights.

35. Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Discovers Two New Spider Species in Nagaland

- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** discovered **two new spider species** — *Psechrus ntu* and *Psechrus phenshunyu* — in **Nagaland**.

36. Two Female Cheetahs Released into Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh

- **Cheetahs went extinct in India in 1952**.
- **Kuno National Park** declared a National Park in **2018**, located in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- India has been reintroducing cheetahs from **Namibia and South Africa**.
- **Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav** released **two female cheetahs** brought from **Botswana** into **Kuno National Park**.

37. Census 2027 — QR Code System for Enumerator Identity Cards

- **Census 2027** is India's **first digitally conducted census**.
- QR code system introduced for **enumerator identity cards**.
- **Phase One:** April 1 to September 30, 2026 — using tablets for **live data transmission**.

17. Sports

1. Thomas Cup & Uber Cup 2026 — Badminton Results

- The **Thomas Cup** (Men's Badminton Team Championship) and **Uber Cup** (Women's Badminton Team Championship) are premier international badminton team championships organized by the **Badminton World Federation (BWF)**.

- **Host:** Denmark.

- **Duration:** April 24 to May 3, 2026.

Thomas Cup (34th Edition — Men's)

- **Winner: China** — their **12th/13th overall title** (defeating **France 3–1** in the final).
- **Indonesia** still holds the record for the most Thomas Cup titles with **14 victories**.
- **India** won the **Bronze medal**.

Uber Cup (31st Edition — Women's)

- **Winner: South Korea** (Republic of Korea) — their **3rd title** (defeating **China** in the final).
- **Overall Standings:** 1st: China | 2nd: South Korea | 3rd: France | 4th: Denmark.

2. Madrid Open 2026 — Tennis Results

- The **Madrid Open** is a prestigious ATP Masters 1000 and WTA 1000 tennis tournament held in **Madrid, Spain**.

Women's Singles

- **Winner: Marta Kostyuk (Ukraine)** — won the biggest title of her career.
- **Defeated: Mirra Andreeva (Russia)** in the final.

Men's Singles

- **Winner: Jannik Sinner** — became the **first player since 1990** to win **5 consecutive ATP Masters 1000 titles**.

3. IPL 2026 — Key Records & Milestones

- The **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026** featured landmark individual and team performances.
- **IPL 2026 Final** to be hosted at **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad** on **May 31, 2026**.
- **Narendra Modi Stadium** is the world's **largest cricket stadium** by capacity (over **1.32 lakh**); previously known as **Sardar Patel Stadium**, renamed in **2020**.

Virat Kohli — IPL 2026 Records

- First batter to hit **84 runs in a knockout match**.
- Reached **87 boundaries** in **274 IPL matches**.
- Became the **3rd batter** (after **Chris Gayle** and **Rohit Sharma**) to hit **36 sixes** in IPL.

Sunil Narine — 200 IPL Wickets

- **Sunil Narine (KKR / Kolkata Knight Riders)** became the **3rd bowler in IPL history** to take **200 wickets**.
- The other two: **Yuzvendra Chahal** and **Bhuvneshwar Kumar**.

15-Year-Old Rajasthan Royals Opener

- A **15-year-old Rajasthan Royals opener** became the **fastest to score 400 runs in a single IPL season**.

Rajasthan Royals — Ownership Change

- A consortium led by the **Lakshmi Mittal family (75%)** and **Adar Poonawalla / Serum Institute (18%)** acquired a majority stake in the IPL franchise **Rajasthan Royals**.
- **Franchise Valuation: \$1.65 billion**.

4. FIFA World Cup 2026 — Financial Pool & Teams

- The **FIFA World Cup 2026** is expanding to a **48-team format** for the first time.
- **Host countries: Canada, USA, and Mexico**.
- FIFA increased the **financial pool by 15%** for the **48-team FIFA World Cup 2026**.
- **Preparation money: \$8.5 million** per team.
- **Qualification payouts: \$10 million** per team.

5. PV Sindhu Joins BWF Council (2026–2029)

- **PV Sindhu** is India's most decorated badminton player — a **2-time Olympic medallist**.
- **PV Sindhu** joined the **World Badminton Federation (BWF) Council** with **voting rights** for the period **2026–2029**.
- Appointed **Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission**.

6. Rithika Sri— Tamil Nadu's First Transgender Cricket Umpire

- **Rithika Sri** from **Salem, Tamil Nadu** became **Tamil Nadu's (and India's) first transgender registered cricket umpire**.

7. Afghanistan Women's Football Team Gets FIFA Clearance to Return

- **Afghanistan Women's Football Team** received **FIFA clearance** to return to

international competition — a significant development for women's football rights in Afghanistan.

8. Shooting Parasport Governance — From IPC to ISSF

- Governance of **Shooting Parasport** transitioned from the **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** to the **International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF)**.

9. 75th Anniversary of NRAI — 'myNRAI Athlete' App Launched

- The **National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)** celebrated its **75th Anniversary** at the **Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi**.
- **Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** launched:
 - A new **75-year anniversary logo** for NRAI.
 - The **'myNRAI Athlete'** digital application — making **NRAI India's first digitized sports federation**.

10. IOC Lifts Ban on Belarus — Russia Ban Continues

- **IOC** lifted restrictions on **Belarus athletes** for the **2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics**.
- **Russian athletes** remain suspended — must compete individually as **neutral athletes**.
- **Upcoming Olympic Schedule:**
 - **2026 Winter Olympics:** Italy
 - **2028 Summer Olympics:** USA
 - **2030 Winter Olympics:** France
 - **2032 Summer Olympics:** Australia

11. Ishank Singh — Youngest Swimmer to Cross Palk Strait

- **7-year-old Ishank Singh** from **Ranchi, Jharkhand** became the **youngest swimmer** to cross the **Palk Strait**.
- Swam **29 km** from **Talaimannar (Sri Lanka)** to **Dhanushkodi (Tamil Nadu)** in **9 hours 50 minutes**.
- Feat accomplished under **'Mission Samandar'**.

12. 14-Year-Old Apaar Saxena from Karnataka — FIDE International Master Title

- **Apaar Saxena** (14, Karnataka) earned the **FIDE International Master (IM) title** in just **5 weeks** in Europe — achieving an **ELO rating exceeding 2,450** and securing all **three mandatory norms**.

13. Vaishali Rameshbabu Wins FIDE Women's Candidates 2026

- **Vaishali Rameshbabu** won the **FIDE Women's Candidates 2026** — qualifying for the **Women's World Chess Championship**.

14. Arion Goss — India's 95th Chess Grandmaster

15. Faustino Oro — 2nd Youngest Grandmaster in History

- **Faustino Oro** (12 years old, Argentina — nicknamed "Messi of Chess") became the **2nd youngest Grandmaster in history.**

15. **Shreyas Iyer — Brand Ambassador for F1 Sim Racing India Open 2026**

16. **Sheetal Devi — Para Archer of the Year 2025**

17. **SAFF Women's Championship 2026 — India Hosts**

- **India** hosts the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship** from **May 24 to June 7, 2026.**
- **Venue: Fatorda Stadium, Goa.**
- **6 teams** will compete.
- **India** has previously won the championship **5 times.**

18. **India U-17 Women's Football — Qualifies for AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026**

- **India** qualified for the **AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026** by defeating **Lebanon 4-0.**
- **First victory/goal** in this tournament in over **20 years.**
- **First knockout stage appearance** since **2004.**
- **Coach: Pamela Conti.**

19. **Uber Cup & Thomas Cup 2026 — India's Contribution**

- **India** won the **Bronze medal** in the **Thomas Cup 2026.**
- **Jharkhand's women's hockey team** won their **third consecutive sub-junior women's national title.**

20. **ICC Players of the Month — March 2026**

- **Men's Award: Sanju Samson**
- **Women's Award: Amelia Kerr**

21. **Ajit Agarkar Reappointed BCCI Selection Committee Chairman**

- **Ajit Agarkar** reappointed as **Chairman of the BCCI Selection Committee.**

22. **Manchester City Women's FC Wins Women's Super League (WSL)**

- **Manchester City Women's FC** secured the **Women's Super League (WSL) title — their first in a decade.**

23. **La Liga 2025-26 — FC Barcelona Wins Title**

- **FC Barcelona** secured the **2025-26 La Liga title** after defeating **Real Madrid.**

24. **India Hosts 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championship — Gandhinagar (After 44 Years)**

- **India** is hosting the **2026 Asian Weightlifting Championship** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
- **Ends a 44-year gap** since India last hosted in **New Delhi in 1982.**

25. **India Women's Recurve Archery Team Wins Gold — Shanghai Hyundai World Cup Stage 2**

- **India Women's Recurve team** won **Gold** by defeating **China** at the **20th edition** of the

Shanghai Hyundai Archery World Cup Stage 2.

- **Team members: Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, Kumkum Mohod.**
- **Sahil Jadhav** won **Bronze** in men's individual compound.
- **Overall Medal Tally:** Turkey — 1st (6 medals) | China — 2nd | South Korea — 3rd.

26. **New Delhi to Host 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship**

- **New Delhi** to host the **22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship — strengthening India's role as a global sports host.**

27. **India to Host Inaugural World Yogasana Championship (June 4–8, 2026)**

- **India** will host the **inaugural World Yogasana Championship** from **June 4 to 8, 2026** at **TransStadia, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.**
- Organized by **Yogasana Bharat.**

28. **IPL 2026 Final — Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad (May 31)**

- **IPL 2026 Final** to be hosted at **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad** on **May 31, 2026.**
- **Narendra Modi Stadium** is the **world's largest cricket stadium** by capacity (over **1.32 lakh**) — previously known as **Sardar Patel Stadium, renamed in 2020.**

29. **Smriti Mandhana & Infosys Brand Partnerships**

- **Smriti Mandhana** (Indian women's cricket vice-captain) partnered with **Agelita Sports.**
- **Infosys** named **Carlos Alcaraz** (World No. 1 tennis player) as a **global brand ambassador.**

30. **Sadhi Satish Sail — Femina Miss India World 2026**

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

18. Static News

1. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) — Complete Static Profile**

- **Established:** April 1, 1935 | **Nationalised:** 1949
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Governor:** Sanjay Malhotra
- **Current Deputy Governors (4):**
 - **Swaminathan Janakiraman** (Senior-most; oversees 11 departments including DICGC)
 - **Poonam Gupta** (Monetary Policy)
 - **S. Chandra Murmu** (Shirish Chandra Murmu)
 - **Rohit Jain** (Fintech, Forex, IT — newly appointed)

RBI Subsidiaries

- **DICGC (Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation):** Insures deposits up to ₹5 lakh.
- **BRBNMPL (Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited):** Operates printing presses at Mysuru and Salboni.
- **ReBIT (RBI's Bank for Information Technology and Security):** Handles cybersecurity.
- **IFTAS (Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services):** Manages IT functions.
- **RBIH (Reserve Bank Innovation Hub):** Drives innovation in financial services.

Currency & Notes

- **₹1 note:** Printed by the Ministry of Finance; bears the Finance Secretary's signature.
- **All other notes:** Printed by the RBI; carry the RBI Governor's signature.
- **Coins of 25 paisa and below:** Ceased to be legal tender from June 30, 2011.
- **Note Categories:**
 - **Soiled Notes:** Dirty/minor damage but single piece — 100% exchange value
 - **Mutilated Notes:** Part missing — value depends on missing area
 - **Imperfect Notes:** Washed, burnt, or heavily written on

RBI Key Rates (Reference)

- **Minimum CRAR requirement: 9%**
- **RBI inflation target: 4% ± 2%** (extended until March 2031)

2. SEBI — Complete Static Profile

- **Established: 1992** (Statutory body)
- **Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- **Chairman: Tuhin Kanta Pandey**
- **Full form:** Securities and Exchange Board of India
- **AIF minimum investment: ₹1 crore**
- **NSE Investor Protection Fund (IPF) Limit: ₹35 lakh** per investor (hiked from ₹25 lakh)
- **BSE IPF Limit: ₹15 lakh** per client
- **MCX IPF Limit: ₹25 lakh** per client

3. OPEC — Static Profile

- **Full form:** Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
- **Founded: 1960**
- **Headquarters: Vienna, Austria**
- **Secretary General: Haitham Al Ghais**
- **Current membership (after UAE exit): 11 countries**
- **Angola** exited OPEC in January 2024
- **Congo** joined in 2018

4. UNESCO Global Geoparks — Static Data

- **Total: 241 sites** across 51 countries covering 882,000 sq. km

- **12 new sites** added in the latest round
- **India:** Received no new sites in this round
- **Tunisia's first UNESCO Global Geopark:** Dahar

5. United Nations (UN) — Key Static Facts

- **Established: October 24, 1945**
- **Headquarters: New York, USA**
- **Member Nations: 193**
- **Secretary-General: Antonio Guterres**
- **Official Languages: 6** — Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
- **Principal Organs: 6** — UNGA, UNSC, ECOSOC, ICJ, Trusteeship Council, Secretariat
- **80th UNGA Session President: Annalena Baerbock** (Germany)

6. Asian Development Bank (ADB) — Static Profile

- **Headquarters: Manila, Philippines**
- **President: Masato Kanda**
- **India:** Founding member and major shareholder
- **ADB committed \$5 billion** to India in 2025

7. International Labour Organization (ILO) — Static Facts

- **Formed: 1919**
- **Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland** (part of UN system)
- **Director-General: Gilbert Houngbo**
- **International Labour Day: May 1**
- **India** first observed International Labour Day in Chennai in 1923
- Commemorates the **1886 US strike** demanding an 8-hour workday
- **2026 Theme: "Ensuring a healthy and psychosocial working environment"**

8. National Pension System (NPS) & Related Schemes — Static Overview

Scheme	Type	Age	Premium/Contribution	Coverage/Benefit	Subscribers
PMJJBY	Life Insurance	18–50 yrs	₹436/year	₹2 lakh (death)	27 crore +
PMSBY	Accidental Insurance	18–70 yrs	₹20/year	₹2 lakh (accidental death)	58 crore +
APY	Pension	18–40 yrs	Varies	₹1,000–₹5,000/month	9 crore +
NPS	Pension	18–70 yrs	10% of salary	Market-linked	2.17 crore
UPS	Assured Pension	Govt. employees	—	₹10,000/month (10+ yrs service)	—
NPS Vatsalya	Pension for minors	Parents deposit	—	Handed over at 18	—

9. India's Railway System — Static Facts

- India currently has **18 Railway Zones** (after South Coast Railway Zone, effective June 1, 2026)
- **South Coast Railway Zone HQ:** Mudasarlova, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- **Indian Train Day: April 16** — first train ran 34 km from Mumbai to Thane on April 16, 1853
- **Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Raising Day: May 7** — established in 1960 (66th/67th Raising Day in 2026)
- **National Train Day (US):** Second Saturday of May — established by Amtrak in 2008; marks May 10, 1869 transcontinental railroad completion

10. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) — Static Profile

- Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Heavy Industries
- Partnered with DRDO's NSTL for LM2500 gas turbine IR suppression system

11. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) — Static Profile

- Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Defence
- **Headquarters: Hyderabad**
- Signed ₹1,476 crore contract with MoD for ground-based mobile electronic systems

12. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) — Static Profile

- **Headquarters: Bengaluru**
- **Established: 1940**
- **New CMD: Kota Ravi (Ravi K)** — replacing D.K. Sunil

13. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) — Static Profile

- Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Steel
- **New CMD: Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda (A.K. Panda)**
- **New CVO: Dilip Kumar** (appointed April 27, 2026)

14. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) — Static Profile

- **Headquarters: Mumbai**
- Built INS Mahendragiri (6th Project 17A stealth frigate)
- **Warship Design Bureau** designed the frigate

15. ISRO — Key Static Facts

- **Full form:** Indian Space Research Organisation
- **Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka**
- **Chairman:** (Current as per training data)
- **India has 6,49,481 villages** as per 2011 Census

16. India's Constitution — Key Articles (Static)

- **Article 124(1):** Empowers Parliament to increase the number of Supreme Court judges by law
- **Article 125:** Relates to salaries and expenditure of judges — met from the **Consolidated Fund of India**
- **Articles 343–351:** Cover **8th Schedule** — India's **22 official languages**
- **3 newest additions to 8th Schedule: Maithili, Bodo, and Santhali**
- **Retirement age of Supreme Court judges: 65 years**
- **Retirement age of High Court judges: 62 years**
- **Supreme Court judges strength:** Increased from **34 to 38** (including CJI)

17. GST — Key Static Facts

- **Implemented: July 1, 2017**
- **Based on recommendation of: Vijay Kelkar Committee**
- **PM is NOT a member** of the GST Council
- **WPI Base year: 2011-12** | Tracks **697 goods** | Released on **14th** of every month by DPIIT
- **CPI New base year: 2024** | Tracks **358 articles** (308 goods + 50 services) | Released by NSO / MoSPI
- **CPI target: 4% ± 2%** (extended until **March 2031**)
- **NAAAR** (National Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling) — handles GST disputes up to **₹20 lakh**; Members serve for **4 years** or up to age **70**

18. Banking — Key Static Facts

Payment Banks

- Can accept deposits up to **₹2 lakh**
- **Cannot issue loans or credit cards**

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

- India has **28 RRBs**
- **Ownership: Centre (50%), State (15%), Sponsor Bank (35%)**

Debt Recovery Tribunals

- India operates **39 DRTs** and **5 DRATs (Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals)**

NARCL (Bad Bank)

- Established in **2021** to acquire stressed assets from banks

RBI Retail Direct Scheme

- Introduced in **November 2021**
- **Investments: ₹10,000 to ₹2 crore** per security

EPFO

- **e-PRAAPT = EPF Aadhaar Based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts**
- EPFO settled **8.31 crore claims** in 2025-26

DICGC

- Insures deposits up to **₹5 lakh**

NaBFID

- **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development**
- Established: **2021** | HQ: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**

19. NITI Aayog — Static Profile

- **Full form:** National Institution for Transforming India
- **Replaced:** Planning Commission (in **2015**)
- **Chaired by:** Prime Minister
- **Vice-Chairman:** **Ashok Kumar Lahiri** (4th Vice Chairman)
- **CEO (Interim):** **Nidhi Chhibber**
- **Full-time members (7):** Rajiv Gauba, K.V. Raju, Gobardhan Das, M. Srinivas, Abhay Karandikar, R. Balasubramaniam, Joram Aniya

20. States — Static GK Capsule

West Bengal

- **Tiger Reserves:** Sunderbans, Buxa
- **National Parks:** Gorumara, Neora Valley, Singalila

Tamil Nadu

- **National Parks:** Annamalai, Mudumalai, Mukurthi, Gulf of Mannar, Guindy

Uttarakhand

- **National Parks:** Jim Corbett National Park

Madhya Pradesh

- **Key Reserves:** Kanha Tiger Reserve, Fossil National Park

Assam

- **Capital:** Dispur
- **National Parks:** Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri
- **Festivals:** Rongali Bihu, 114th Suwari Festival (Boko)

Sikkim

- **Governor:** **Om Prakash Mathur**
- World's **first 100% organic agriculture state**
- India's **first fully paperless judiciary state** (2026)
- **BRO** recently built the **400-ft Taramchu suspension bridge** in Sikkim

Meghalaya

- **Capital:** Shillong
- **Chief Minister:** Conrad Sangma

Goa

- Only Indian state that has **always had the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** in effect

Karnataka

- **Tiger population:** **563 tigers** (2nd highest in India)

Madhya Pradesh

- **Tiger population:** **785 tigers** (highest in India)
- India's **total tiger population:** **3,682 tigers** across **58 tiger reserves**

21. India — Key Agriculture Static Facts

- **MGNREGA:** Enacted **2005**; guaranteed **100 days** of employment — now replaced by **VB-GRAMG** from July 1, 2026
- **GST implemented:** **July 1, 2017** (Vijay Kelkar Committee recommendation)
- **Sugarcane FRP** governed by **Sugarcane Control Order, 1966** under **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**
- **CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices):** Recommends FRP and MSP
- **India:** Largest cultivator of cotton (not largest producer)
- **China:** Largest cotton producer | **Brazil:** Largest cotton exporter
- **India:** 2nd largest cotton producer globally
- **Brazil:** Largest exporter of cotton

22. India's Tiger & Big Cat Conservation — Static Facts

- **Project Tiger:** Launched **1973** — India's flagship tiger conservation programme
- **India's Tiger Population:** **3,682 tigers** (as per latest data)
- **State-wise (Top 2):** Madhya Pradesh — **785** | Karnataka — **563**
- **Cheetahs extinct in India:** **1952**
- **Kuno National Park:** Declared National Park in **2018**, Madhya Pradesh
- **Asiatic Lion:** Found in **Gir, Gujarat**
- **Snow Leopard:** Found in **Gangtok, Sikkim** region
- **Tiger:** Found in **Chandrapur, Maharashtra**
- **Cheetah:** Found in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh** (post-reintroduction)

23. Pulitzer Prize — Static Facts

- Often called the "**Nobel Prize of Journalism**"
- Administered by **Columbia University** since **1917**
- **110th edition** in 2025/2026
- **The New York Times:** Historical total now **142 awards**

24. Durand Cup — Static Fact

- **Durand Cup** (started **1888**) is the **oldest football tournament** in India

25. IOC — Static Profile

- **Headquarters:** **Lausanne, Switzerland**
- **President:** **Kirsty Coventry** (Zimbabwe) — first woman and first African to lead IOC
- **Olympic motto:** '*Citius, Altius, Fortius*' (Faster, Higher, Stronger)

26. Thomas Cup & Uber Cup — Static Records

- **Most Thomas Cup titles:** **Indonesia** — **14 victories**
- **Thomas Cup 2026:** **China** — 12th/13th title
- **Uber Cup 2026:** **South Korea** — 3rd title

27. ITU — Static Facts

- **Full form:** International Telecommunication Union
 - **Type:** UN specialized agency for ICT
 - **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
 - **Established:** 1865
 - India bids to host **ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-2030)**
- 28. IFAD — Static Facts**
- **Full form:** International Fund for Agricultural Development
 - **Type:** UN specialized agency for agricultural development
 - **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy
 - **Established:** 1977
- 29. IOM — Static Facts**
- **Full form:** International Organization for Migration
 - **Type:** Intergovernmental organization, part of UN system
 - **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
 - India is the **top global remittance recipient** — **\$137.67 billion** in 2024
- 30. KVIC — Static Facts**
- **Full form:** Khadi and Village Industries Commission
 - **Nodal implementing agency** for PMEGP
 - Promotes self-employment for unemployed youth and traditional artisans
- 31. Kimberley Process (KP) — Static Facts**
- International initiative to prevent trade in **conflict/blood diamonds**
 - India took **KP Chair** from UAE on **January 1, 2026**
 - **2026 KP Chair:** Suchindra Mishra
 - **2026 Theme:** "Three Cs: Credibility, Compliance, and Consumer Confidence"
- 32. Somnath Temple — Static Facts**
- Regarded as the **first among the 12 Jyotirlingas** of Lord Shiva
 - Located in **Gir Somnath, Gujarat**
 - Restored in **1951** (75 years completed in 2026)
 - **Trimbakeshwar** is also one of the **12 Jyotirlingas** (Nashik, Maharashtra)
- 33. BRICS — Static Facts**
- **10 current members** (after 2024 expansion): Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia
 - India holds **BRICS Chairship** for the **4th time** in 2026
 - **18th BRICS Summit** scheduled in India in **September 2026**
 - India assumed **BRICS Presidency** on **January 1, 2026**
 - **BRICS Theme 2026:** "Building, Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, Sustainability"

- 34. Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) — Static Facts**
- **Type:** Statutory body
 - **Established:** 1951
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai
 - **Under:** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
 - **New Chairperson:** Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- 35. IFFI — Static Facts**
- **Full form:** International Film Festival of India
 - **Established:** 1952
 - **Organized by:** NFDC and Entertainment Society of Goa
 - **57th IFFI:** November 2026 | Venue: Goa | Director: Ashutosh Gowariker
- 36. Prasar Bharati — Static Facts**
- India's public broadcaster
 - **New Chairman:** Prasoon Joshi
- 37. National Technology Day — May 11 (Static)**
- Commemorates the **1998 Pokhran nuclear tests** — **Operation Shakti**
 - Led by APJ Abdul Kalam and PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee
 - Also marks test-firing of **Trishul missile** and indigenous **Hansa-3 aircraft**
- 38. National Florence Nightingale Award — Static Facts**
- **Instituted:** 1973
 - **Award:** Certificate, medal, and **₹1 lakh cash prize**
 - **Presented by:** President of India at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**
- 39. Florence Nightingale — Static Bio**
- Foundational philosopher of modern nursing
 - Famous for her role in the **Crimean War**
 - **International Nurses Day:** May 12 — observed on her birth anniversary
 - First Nobel Peace Prize connection: **Henry Dunant** (not Florence Nightingale) — **World Red Cross Day** (May 8)
- 40. Henry Dunant — Static Facts**
- **Founder** of the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**
 - **First Nobel Peace Prize recipient**
 - **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day:** **May 8** — his birth anniversary
- 41. DigiLocker — Static Fact**
- **Launched:** **July 1, 2015**
- 42. APEDA — Static Facts**
- **Full form:** Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority
 - Signed **70-year lease** for Basmati Training Center in **Pilibhit, UP**
- 43. NPS Vatsalya — Static Facts**
- Allows parents to **deposit money for minors**
 - Handed over to the child at age **18**

- 44. Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) — Static Facts**
- Built ICGS 'Achal' — the 5th Adamy-class Fast Patrol Vessel for Indian Coast Guard
- 45. Vijay Kelkar Committee — Static Fact**
- Recommended the implementation of GST in India
- 46. ECB (European Central Bank) — Static Facts**
- Established: 1998
 - Headquarters: Frankfurt, Germany
 - Head: Christine Lagarde
- 47. Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) — Static Context**
- 60% of India's trade flows through the West Asia / Strait of Hormuz region
- 48. Myanmar — Static Facts**
- Capital: Naypyidaw
 - Currency: Kyat
- 49. Jamaica — Static Facts**
- Capital: Kingston
 - Currency: Jamaican Dollar (JMD)
- 50. Costa Rica — Static Facts**
- Capital: San José
 - Currency: Costa Rican Colón
- 51. Bulgaria — Static Facts**
- Capital: Sofia
 - Joined Eurozone on January 1, 2026 — 21st Eurozone member
 - Replaced the Bulgarian Lev with the Euro
- 52. Vietnam — Static Facts**
- Capital: Hanoi
 - Currency: Vietnamese Dong (VND)
 - Joint military exercise with India: VINBAX
- 53. Algeria — Static Facts**
- Capital: Algiers
 - Located in North Africa
- 54. Oman — Static Facts**
- Capital: Muscat
 - Currency: Omani Rial
 - Member of GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) — HQ: Riyadh
- 55. Japan — Static Facts**
- Capital: Tokyo
 - Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)
- 56. South Korea — Static Facts**
- Capital: Seoul
 - Currency: South Korean Won (KRW)
- 57. Trinidad & Tobago — Static Facts**
- Capital: Port of Spain
 - Currency: TTD (Trinidad & Tobago Dollar)
- 58. IUCAA — Static Facts**
- Full form: Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics
 - Headquarters: Pune, India
- 59. SAAO — Static Facts**

- Full form: South African Astronomical Observatory
- Headquarters: Cape Town, South Africa

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