

# May 2026

## 16-31

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## 1. G V Satish Sir- Best Picks

### 1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Approves Record Dividend Transfer

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved a record dividend surplus transfer of **₹2.87 lakh crore** (or **₹2,86,588 crore**) to the Central Government for **Financial Year (FY) 2025-26**.
- The **Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB)** was maintained at **6.5%** of the balance sheet size to manage economic risks.

### 2. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Relaxes Outward Remittances Framework

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** completely dispensed with the requirement for non-banking entities to obtain prior approval to tie up with **Authorized Dealer (AD) Category-1 Banks** for cross-border outward remittances.
- Eligible entities now include fintechs facilitating non-trade current account outward remittances.

### 3. Emirates NBD Bank Acquires Majority Stake in RBL Bank

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** based **Emirates NBD Bank** will invest **\$3 billion** (approx. **₹26,000 crore**) to acquire up to a **74%** stake in **RBL Bank**.
- This acquisition will convert the Indian private bank into a foreign subsidiary bank.

### 4. National Statistical Office (NSO) Revises GDP Data Release Schedule

- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** changed the annual release schedule for both **Provisional Annual GDP** and **Q4 Quarterly GDP Estimates**.
- The new release date is now permanently set to **June 7** annually, moving away from the previous end-of-May schedule.

### 5. Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rojgar & Aajeevika Act 2025 Replaces MGNREGA

- This new act officially replaces the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** with effect from **July 1, 2026**.
- It guarantees **125 days** of wage employment (increased from 100 days) and the Central Government will take over **100%** of the wage bill.
- The dedicated budget allocation is **₹95,692.31 crore**.

### 6. PM SVANidhi Scheme Extended to 2030

- The **Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** scheme has been extended to **March 31, 2030**.
- The scheme offers collateral-free loans in tiers: **₹15,000, ₹25,000, and ₹50,000**.
- A new outlay of **₹7,332 crores** was approved, targeting **1.15 crore** beneficiaries.

### 7. India Assumes Chairmanship of Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)

- **India** assumed the chairmanship of the **Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)** for cyber security for a term running from **April 2026** to **April 2028**.

- **India** is represented by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.

### 8. India Hosts 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue

- The **10th Indian Ocean Dialogue** was held in **New Delhi** under the theme "Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World".
- **India** officially assumed the Chairmanship of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** for the **2025–2027** term.

### 9. Henley Passport Index 2026 Rankings

- The **Indian passport** ranked **78th** globally, granting visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry to **56 destinations**.
- **Singapore** claimed the **1st** spot, granting access to 192 destinations, followed by **Japan** and **South Korea**.

### 10. SVAMITVA Scheme Presented to World Bank

- The **Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA)** scheme has been extended to **September 30, 2026**.
- The **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad** presented the scheme to the **World Bank**, highlighting it as a successful model of Rural Governance and property mapping.

### 11. PM Narendra Modi Conferred Highest International Honors

- **PM Narendra Modi** was awarded **Sweden's** highest civilian honor: "Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross".
- He was also conferred **Norway's** highest civilian honor: "Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit" in **Oslo**.
- In **Rome**, he was presented with the **Agricola Medal**, the highest honor of the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.

### 12. India's First AI Combat Aircraft 'Kala Bhairava'

- **Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace** announced "**Kala Bhairava**", **India's** first AI-powered **Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV)**.
- It has a range of **3000 km** and will be manufactured in **Portugal** under "Operation 777".

### 13. India's First AI-Powered Phygital Bank Branch

- **Slice Small Finance Bank** opened **India's** first AI-powered "phygital" (physical + digital) branch in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- The branch is aimed at serving underserved communities with advanced digital integration.

#### 14. Index of Industrial Production (IIP) Base Year Revised

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** and the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** revised the base year for the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.
- The base year was shifted from **2011-12** to **2022-23**.

#### 15. Cabinet Approves MSP Hike for 14 Kharif Crops (2026-27)

- The Cabinet approved a Minimum Support Price (MSP) hike for 14 crops with an estimated total payout of **₹2.6 lakh crore**.
- New MSP values include Paddy at **₹2441** (Grade A: **₹2461**), Moong at **₹8680**, and Urad at **₹9550**.

#### 16. India's First Solar-Powered Algae Tree

- **India's** first Solar-Powered Algae Tree was launched at Swami Vivekananda Park in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- The innovation uses microalgae to absorb **CO<sub>2</sub>** and release pure oxygen.

#### 17. Key RBI Appointments: Executive Director & Deputy Governor

- **Gunveer Singh** was appointed as Executive Director of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, heading the Department of Payment and Settlement Systems (DPSS).
- **Rohit Jain** was appointed as Deputy Governor of the **RBI** for 3 years, replacing **T. Rabi Sankar**.

#### 18. Supreme Court Judge Strength Increased

- President **Droupadi Murmu** approved an ordinance to increase the total strength of **Supreme Court (SC)** judges.
- The strength was raised from **34** to **38** (37 judges + 1 Chief Justice of India).

#### 19. India's First Digital Census (Census 2027) Phase 1 Launched

- Phase 1 of **India's** first fully digital census commenced in five States/UTs: **Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Delhi**.
- The official mascots to promote the census are **Pragati** (female) and **Vikas** (male).

#### 20. India's Defence Exports Hit All-Time High

- **India's** defence exports reached a record high of **₹38,424 Crore** in **FY2025-26**.
- This registers a massive **62.66%** Year-on-Year (YoY) growth in the defense manufacturing sector.

#### 21. Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) Sub-Committee Meeting

- The 33rd **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** Sub-Committee meeting was held at the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Headquarters in **Mumbai**.
- The meeting was chaired by **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra** and focused on inflation and job creation.

#### 22. Prudential PLC Acquires Stake in Bharti Life Insurance

- UK-based global insurer **Prudential PLC** signed an agreement to acquire a **75%** stake in **Bharti Life Insurance** for **₹3,500 crore**.
- This represents the first major deal since **India** allowed **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the insurance sector.

#### 23. NSE Launches Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)

- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** launched live trading of **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)**.
- This enables electronic gold trading directly via customer Demat accounts.

#### 24. Chandrayaan-3 Receives AIAA Goddard Astronautics Award

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** received the **2026 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Goddard Astronautics Award**.
- The award was presented in **Washington D.C.** for the world's first soft landing near the Moon's south pole.

#### 25. Vaibhav Suryavanshi Breaks T20 & IPL Records

- 15-year-old **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** became the youngest cricketer to hit 100 T20 sixes.
- He broke **Chris Gayle's** 2012 record by hitting 56 sixes in a single **Indian Premier League (IPL)** season.

#### 26. RBI Constitutes Q-SAFE Expert Committee

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** constituted an 8-member committee named **Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem (Q-SAFE)**.
- Headed by **Prof. Anil Prabhakar** of **IIT Madras**, it aims to evaluate the risks and benefits of quantum applications in finance.

#### 27. RCB Crowned Champions of IPL 2026

- **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** secured their second consecutive **Indian Premier League (IPL)** title by defeating **Gujarat Titans** by 5 wickets.
- The final was played at the **Narendra Modi Stadium** in **Ahmedabad**, and **Virat Kohli** was named Player of the Match.

#### 28. UN Global Forest Goals Report 2026

- The report, published by the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)**, highlighted a severe global forest cover decline.
- Forest cover declined from **4.18 billion hectares** in 2015 to **4.14 billion hectares** in 2025.

#### 29. India Develops World's First AI Genome Editing Platform for Plants

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and the **Central Rice Research Institute**

(CRRI) in Odisha developed **Plant OpenCRISPR-1 (POC1)**.

- This is the world's first AI-designed genome editing platform for plants, using rice as the model crop.

### 30. Italian Open 2026 Tennis Winners

- Men's Singles: **Jannik Sinner (Italy)** defeated Casper Ruud, becoming the first Italian winner in 50 years.
- Women's Singles: **Elina Svitolina (Ukraine)** defeated Coco Gauff, claiming her 3rd Italian Open title.

### 31. L'Oreal-UNESCO Awards for Women in Science 2026

- Five women scientists were announced as global laureates at a ceremony in **Paris**, receiving €100,000 each.
- Winners include **Prof. Felice Jacka (Asia Pacific)** and **Prof. Sarah A. Teichmann (Europe)**.

### 32. New CEO Appointed for UIDAI

- IAS Officer **Saurabh Vijay** assumed charge as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**.
- He replaces **Vivek Chandra Verma** in managing India's Aadhaar infrastructure.

### 33. DRDO Successfully Tests ULPGM V3 Missile

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully tested the **UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM V3)**.
- The drone-launched anti-tank weapon was tested near **Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh**, and boasts a range of **10 km**.

### 34. India's First Mega Greenfield Shipyard to Come Up in Tamil Nadu

- A tripartite MoU was signed between HD Korea Shipbuilding, NSHIP, and Sagarmala Finance Corporation.
- The new mega shipyard will be established in **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**.

### 35. Bhavya Scheme Launched for Industrial Parks

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** launched the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (Bhavya)**.
- With a **₹33,660 crore** outlay, it aims to develop 100 investment-ready, world-class industrial parks between **2026-27** and **2031-32**.

### 36. CSIR-NGRI Discovers Ancient Underground River

- Researchers from the **National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI)** in **Hyderabad** made a major geological discovery.
- They discovered a **200 km** ancient underground river channel buried 10–15 metres below the surface between **Prayagraj** and **Kanpur**.

### 37. Inaugural Exercise PRAGATI 26

- The Indian Army hosted **Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region (PRAGATI)**.
- The inaugural multinational military exercise was held at **Umroi Military Station, Meghalaya**, with 12 friendly partner nations.

### 38. Netherlands Returns Historic Chola Copper Plates

- During PM Modi's visit to **The Hague**, the **Netherlands** returned 11th-century **Chola Dynasty** copper plates (Leiden Plates) held since 1862.
- The historic artifacts were handed over to the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.

### 39. Record Breaking Mount Everest Summits

- 56-year-old **Kami Rita Sherpa (Nepal)** broke his own record by climbing Mount Everest for the **32nd** time.
- **Lhakpa Sherpa** ("Mountain Queen") completed her **11th** ascent, holding the record for the most summits by a woman.

### 40. Assam Passes Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026

- **Assam** became the third state in independent India to adopt the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**.
- The bill mandates marriage registration within 60 days, live-in relationship registration within 30 days, and sets minimum marriage ages (21 for men, 18 for women).

### 41. India Records Highest FDI Inflow

- **India** recorded an all-time high **Gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflow of **\$94.5 billion** in **FY2025-26**.
- This represents a massive **16.7%** year-on-year growth in foreign investments.

### 42. International Booker Prize 2026

- Taiwanese author **Yang Shuang-zi** and translator **Lin King** won the **International Booker Prize 2026**.
- They won for the novel *"Taiwan Travelog"*, which is the first Mandarin Chinese novel to win the prestigious award.

### 43. Launch of INS Sanghamitra

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** launched **INS Sanghamitra** in **Kolkata**.
- It is a Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) named after Emperor Ashoka's daughter.

### 44. Major Defense & Military Appointments

- **General NS Raja Subramani** was appointed as the new **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**.
- **Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** took over as the **27th Chief of Naval Staff**.

### 45. SARTHAK PDS Umbrella Scheme Approved

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the **Scheme for Assistance in Ration**

### Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in PDS (SARTHAK PDS).

- Backed by a ₹25,530 crore outlay, it aims to fully modernize India's Public Distribution System over 5 years.

### 46. India Wins Asian Athletics Hosting Rights

- India secured the rights to host major international athletics tournaments.
- Chandigarh will host the 2027 Asian Relays, while Bhubaneswar, Odisha, will host the 2028 Asian Indoor Athletics Championship.

### 47. Hong Kong Overtakes Switzerland in Offshore Wealth Hub Rankings

- Hong Kong officially bypassed Switzerland to become the world's largest cross-border offshore wealth hub.
- The region currently holds around \$2.9 trillion in offshore assets.

### 48. RBI Bans Mobile Phone Disabling for Loan Recovery

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) drafted new norms banning lenders from locking a borrower's smartphone or tablet as a loan recovery tactic.
- If wrongfully restricted, banks must unlock the device within an hour or face a penalty of ₹250 per hour payable to the borrower.

### 49. India's First Satellite-Tagged Ganges Soft Shell Turtle

- On Endangered Species Day, Assam released India's first satellite-tagged Ganges Soft Shell Turtle.
- The turtle was released into the Brahmaputra River at Kaziranga National Park to track ecosystem health.

### 50. World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) 2026

- In the World Press Freedom Index 2026, India ranked 157th out of 180 countries.
- The country was placed in the 'Very Serious' category for press freedom metrics.

## 2. Amounts & Agreements

### 1. Corporate Acquisitions and Stake Changes

- Emirates NBD Bank will invest approximately \$3 billion (₹26,850 – ₹26,853 crore) to acquire up to a 74% stake (increased from an earlier 49%) in RBL Bank. The acquisition has been cleared by the Government of India, Competition Commission of India (CCI), Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), and Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and will convert RBL Bank into a foreign bank subsidiary.
- UK-based global insurer Prudential PLC signed an agreement to acquire a 75% stake in Bharti Life Insurance Company from

Bharti Enterprises for ₹3,500 crore, with a conditional ₹700 crore additional payment. This marks the first major deal since India allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in insurance, with Bharti retaining 25% ownership.

- TVS Venu Group will acquire a 9.94% stake in Jana Small Finance Bank (SFB) for ₹193 crore via primary warrant and secondary share purchases. TVS Motor Company directly holds 4.9%.
- The Government of India sold an 8% stake in the Central Bank of India for roughly ₹2,456 crore, which was oversubscribed 2.3 times.
- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) boosted its stake in the Central Bank of India, nearly doubling it from 3.16% to 6.06%.
- SBI Mutual Fund acquired more than a 5% stake in Bandhan Bank.
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation fully exited Microsoft, selling its remaining 7.7 million shares for \$3.2 billion (approximately ₹26,500 crore), and announced intentions to completely close down and spend all assets by 2045.

### 2. International Financial Pacts & Loans

- The United States of America (USA) approved a potential \$428.2 million sale to India, which includes Apache Helicopter support and equipment worth \$198.2 million and M7A2 Sustainment Support worth \$230 million.
- A \$225 million highway loan was sanctioned by the World Bank for Rajasthan.
- India and Afghanistan signed a Custom Laboratory Agreement in a \$46 million pact.
- India committed \$236 million for the Shahtoot Dam in Afghanistan for the Kabul water supply.
- The United Kingdom's (UK) British International Investment and Danish firm Copenhagen Infrastructure Partner launched Northstar, a \$300 million clean energy platform in India.

### 3. Major Fund Allocations and Facilities

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) launched a \$10 billion Energy, Food Security, and Economic Resilience Facility.
- HSBC India launched a \$1 billion "Startup Support through Innovation Banking" fund.

- The **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)** and **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** will invest **\$1 billion** in infrastructure, including rail, roads, and airports.
- The **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** will borrow **₹5,000 crore** in short-term debt (3 months) from scheduled banks, with a green shoe option of **₹2,500 crore**.

### 3. Appointments

#### 1. Corporate & Banking Appointments

- **Deepak Gupta** assumed charge as **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of **GAIL (India) Limited**, succeeding **Sandeep Kumar Gupta**.
- **Sunil Bharti Mittal** was reappointed as **Chairman** of **Bharti Airtel** for a 5-year term.
- **Nisaba Godrej** was reappointed as **Independent Director** of **Bharti Airtel** for a 5-year term.
- **Akash Ambani** was appointed as the first **Managing Director (MD)** of **Reliance Jio Platforms** for a 5-year term starting April 9; he also serves as **Chairman** of **Reliance Jio Infocomm**.
- **Sandeep Bakhshi** was reappointed as **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** and **Managing Director (MD)** of **ICICI Bank** for two more years (from October 4, 2026, to October 3, 2028), as approved by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- **Elias George**, a retired IAS officer and previously an independent director, was appointed as **Part-Time Chairman** of **Federal Bank** for a 3-year term.
- **C.S. Rajan** was re-appointed as **Part-time Chairman** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank**.
- **Ashish Pandey** was appointed as **Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Union Bank of India**.
- **Kalyan Kumar** was appointed as **Managing Director (MD)** of **Central Bank of India**.
- **Ketan Merchant** received a 3-month extension from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to serve as the **Interim CEO** of **Fino Payments Bank**.
- **Nayana Ovalekar** and **Amit Mahajan** were approved by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** as **Executive Directors** of the **Central Depository Service Limited (CDSL)**.

#### 2. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) & Regulatory Appointments

- **Rohit Jain** was appointed as **Deputy Governor** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for 3 years, replacing **T. Rabi Sankar**.
- **Poonam Gupta** was appointed as the fourth female **Deputy Governor** in **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** history.
- **Gunveer Singh** (previously Chief General Manager of DPSS) was appointed as **Executive Director** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** starting May 18, heading the **Department of Payment and Settlement Systems (DPSS)**.
- **Dr. Ajit Ratnakar Joshi** was appointed as **Executive Director** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- **Saurabh Vijay (Saurav Vijay)**, an IAS Officer (1998 batch), assumed charge as the new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, succeeding **Babesh Kumar** (who was elevated to Secretary, Department of Tourism).
- **P. Jawahar** was appointed as the new **Chairman** of the **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)** for a 5-year tenure.
- **Narayan Ramachandran** was appointed to chair the **Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG)** committee formed by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.

#### 3. Government & Administrative Appointments

- **V.D. Satheesan** of the **United Democratic Front (UDF) / All India Congress Committee (AICC)** was sworn in as the **13th Chief Minister of Kerala**, succeeding **Pinarayi Vijayan**. The oath was administered by **Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**.
- **P.K. Kunhalikutty** was appointed as the Minister heading India's first cabinet-level **Artificial Intelligence (AI) portfolio** in Kerala.
- **Praveen Sood**, **Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**, received a one-year tenure extension to oversee cases including the 2024 and 2026 NEET paper leaks.
- **Anurag Garg**, an IPS officer, had his tenure extended as **Director General (DG)** of the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**.
- **Periyasamy Kumaran** replaced **Vikram Doraiswami** as **India's High Commissioner** to the **United Kingdom**.

- **Dr. Daggubati Purandeswari**, a Senior **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** leader and MP, was appointed as **Chairperson of the Committee on Empowerment of Women** by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- **Medha Vishram Kulkarni (Maida Kulkarni)** was nominated by Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan as **Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science, Technology, Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.**
- **Sudhir Gupta** was appointed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla as **Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Corporate Laws.**
- **Raghav Chadha, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab MP**, was appointed to chair a 10-member panel formed by Vice President CP Radhakrishnan to examine public grievances and infrastructure deficits.
- **CJ Chavda** was appointed as the **Estimates Committee Chairman** and **Ramanlal Vora** as the **Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Head** by the **Gujarat Assembly.**

#### 4. Defense & Sports Appointments

- **General NS Raja Subramani** was appointed as the new **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**, succeeding **General Anil Chauhan.**
- **Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** became the **27th Chief of Naval Staff**, succeeding **Dinesh Kumar Tripathi.**
- **Upendra Dwivedi** was appointed as the **Army Chief.**
- **Amar Preet Singh** took over as the **Air Force Chief.**
- **Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar** assumed charge as the **48th Vice Chief of Naval Staff**, succeeding **Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan.**
- **Bharat Singh Chauhan** was unanimously re-elected as **Chairman of the Commonwealth Chess Association (CCA)** for a four-year term (2026–2030).
- **Rohit Rajpal** (Davis Cup skipper) was appointed **Chef de Mission** for India for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, alongside **Ravi Begnani** who was appointed **Deputy Chef de Mission.**
- **Vijay Shankar** (age 35), former Indian cricketer, announced his retirement from domestic and **Indian Premier League (IPL)** cricket to pursue opportunities overseas.

#### 5. International Appointments

- **Yoweri Museveni** took charge as **President of Uganda** for a historic seventh consecutive term.

- **Ali Fali Kadhim Al-Zayadi (Ali Khadim Al-Zahri / Ali Fadhil Khadim Al-Zaidi)**, aged 40, became the youngest **Prime Minister of Iraq**, replacing **Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani.**
- **Janez Janša** was elected for a fourth term as the **Prime Minister of Slovenia**, succeeding **Robert Golob.**
- **Amadu Al Amino Lo** was appointed as the new **Prime Minister of Senegal**, succeeding **Osman Sonko.**
- **Andris Kulbergs** was nominated as **Prime Minister of Latvia** by **President Edgars Rinkēvičs.**

## 4. Arts & Culture

### 1. Heritage, Museums & Memorials

- **Chola Dynasty Copper Plates Returned:** The **Netherlands** returned the historic 11th-century **Chola Dynasty** copper plates (also known as the "**Leiden Plates**" or "**Anaimangalam Copper Plates**"), held in **Leiden University** vaults since 1862. The plates feature Sanskrit and Tamil inscriptions, weigh nearly 30 kg across 24 copper sheets, and were handed over to the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** by **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi.**
- **India's War Memorial in South Korea:** **India** inaugurated a **War Memorial** at **Imjingak Peace Park, Seoul, South Korea**, honoring India's contribution to the Korean War (1950–1953) via peacekeepers led by **KS Thimayya** and the **60 Para Field Ambulance** led by **AG Rangaraj.**
- **Kerala's First Private Medical Museum:** The "**Museum of Medical Archives**" was established in **Ulloor, Thiruvananthapuram**, by former medical educator **A. Sivaraman.**
- **Open-Air Naval Museum: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated an open-air naval museum named "**Nausena Shaurya Vatika**" located near the **Ekana Cricket Stadium** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.**
- **Bhojshala Complex:** The **Madhya Pradesh High Court** ruled that the disputed **Bhojshala Complex (Kamal Maula Mosque)** in **Dhar district** is officially a temple dedicated to **Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati).**

### 2. Cultural Festivals, Events & International Agreements

- **India-Italy Cultural Year:** India and Italy announced they will celebrate 2027 as the "Year of Culture and Tourism".
- **BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting:** The BRICS Culture Ministers met in Brasília, Brazil.
- **International Yoga Day 2026:** Kolkata, West Bengal, was selected to host the primary 2026 International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21, with the theme "Yoga for Healthy Aging", as announced by Acting Union Minister of State for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav.
- **Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2028:** Madhya Pradesh partnered with Google Cloud to develop an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered management framework using satellite imagery for crowd and traffic management at the 2028 Simhastha Kumbh Mela in Ujjain (scheduled from March 27 to May 28, 2028).
- **Nimapara Patha Utsav 2026:** Odisha's Deputy Chief Minister (CM) Pravati inaugurated 'Nimapara Patha Utsav 2026' and 'Utkarsh Nimapara 2.0' in Pune. The event's mascot is 'Utkarsh Ghoda', and it aims to connect youth with Pala art and horse dance.
- **Tripura Queen Pineapple Festival:** This cultural and agricultural festival is celebrated on June 27th.
- **World Day for Cultural Diversity:** Observed on May 21, emphasizing the themes "Culture Connects Us" and "Dialogue Builds Bridges, Diversity Built".

### 3. Cinema, Literature & Arts Recognition

- **Cannes Film Festival Winners:** At the 79th Cannes Film Festival, the jury was chaired by South Korean director Park Chan-wook. The highest honor, the **Palme d'Or**, was awarded to "Fjord" by Romanian director Cristian Mungiu (his second since 2007). The **Grand Prix** (second-highest honor) went to "Fatherland" by Pawel Pawlikowski and "Minato". Best Actress awards were given to Virginie Efira / Tao Okamoto, while a **Palme d'Or** honor was presented to Barbra Streisand. Director Cristian Mungiu also received an award for the movie "George", making history.
- **International Booker Prize 2026:** Taiwanese author Yang Shuang-zi and Taiwanese-American translator Lin King won the **International Booker Prize 2026** for the novel "Taiwan Travelog" (Taiwan

Travelogue). It is the first Mandarin Chinese novel to win the prize.

## 5. Awards

### 1. International Honours & Civilian Awards

- **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi** was awarded the **Agricola Medal**, the highest honor of the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, presented by **FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu** in Rome. He is the first Indian Head of Government to visit **FAO Headquarters** in 30 years (previously received by Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2008).
- **PM Narendra Modi** received the "**Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross**" in Gothenburg, Sweden, conferred by **HRH Crown Princess Victoria** and **Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson** (marking his 31st international honor).
- **PM Narendra Modi** was conferred Norway's highest civilian honor, the "**Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit**", by **King Harald V** in Oslo (his 32nd international honor), marking the first visit by a sitting Indian PM to Norway in 43 years.
- South African **President Cyril Ramaphosa** conferred the **Order of the Mapungubwe** (South Africa's highest civilian award) on Indian-origin scientists **Prof. Salim Abdool Karim, Prof. Quarraisha Abdool Karim, and Prof. Keertan Dheda** for their contributions to public health.
- **Dr. Lharkyal Lama, Vice President of the Lumbini Development Trust and President of the International Buddhist Confederation**, was awarded the "**Maha Saddhamma Jotika Daja**" title by the **Myanmar Government**.
- The **Indian Haj Mission** was awarded the prestigious "**Labbaytum**" award at the **Khitama Misk Ceremony** in **Saudi Arabia**.
- **Valluvan**, a farmer from **Tamil Nadu**, was honoured as a **Soil Farmer Hero** by the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.

### 2. National & State Level Awards

- **President Droupadi Murmu** presented 66 **Padma Awards** at a Rashtrapati Bhavan investiture. A total of 131 awards were announced for 2026 (**5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, 113 Padma Shri**), featuring **19 women, 6**

Foreigners/NRIs/PIOs/OCIs, and 16 posthumous awardees.

- The 5 Padma Vibhushan winners are **Dharmendra Singh Deol (Art)**, **V.S. Achuthanandan (Public Affairs - Posthumous)**, **K.T. Thomas (Public Affairs)**, **N. Rajam (Art)**, and **P. Narayanan (Literature & Education)**.
- Kantha stitch artist **Tripti Mukherjee** was selected to be honoured with the **Padma Shri** award by **President Droupadi Murmu**.
- The **Sansad Ratna Awards** honored 16 **Parliamentarians (10 Lok Sabha, 2 Rajya Sabha, 4 standing committee members)**.
- **Rajasthan's Department of Medical and Health** won the **World Health Organization (WHO) World No Tobacco Day Award 2026 (South-East Asia Region)** for outstanding tobacco control in 2025-26.
- The **Government of India** felicitated **Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Nagaland, and Rajasthan** for their successful integration of **DigiLocker** with citizen services.

### 3. Science, Technology & Environment Recognition

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) Chandrayaan-3 mission** received the **2026 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Goddard Astronautics Award** in Washington D.C., which was accepted by **Indian Ambassador Vinay Kwatra**.
- Five women scientists won the **2026 L'Oréal-UNESCO International Award for Women in Science**, each receiving **€100,000**: **Prof. Liesl Zühlke (Africa/Arab States)**, **Prof. Felice Jacka (Asia Pacific)**, **Prof. Sarah A. Teichmann (Europe)**, **Prof. Vania Liachan / Raquel Liechan (Latin America/Caribbean)**, and **Prof. Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic / Gordan Novak (North America)**.
- **Prof. Manindra Agrawal (Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur)** and **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan (Former Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO))** were elected as Fellows of the **Royal Society (UK)**.
- Retired **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Group Captain K.K. Venugopal** became the first Indian test pilot elected as a fellow of the US-based **Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP)**.

### 4. Corporate, Banking & Institutional Awards

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** was awarded "**World's Best Consumer Bank 2025**" by **Global Finance Magazine**.
- **Karnataka Gramin Bank (KGB)** received a **National Award** from the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** for outstanding performance in **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** digital enrollments, achieving **142%** of its target by opening **2,49,185 accounts**.
- The **Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)** was ranked among the top five global water utilities in three categories at the **Global Water Summit** in Madrid, Spain.
- **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** presented the **7th edition of the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS)** awards across 13 categories, organized by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- The **4th edition of the Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shield (LEAPS) Awards 2025** recognized private service providers: **FedEx (Air Freight)**, **Safexpress (Road)**, **DP World (Rail)**, and **IIM Mumbai (Education promoting logistics)**.

### 5. Defense & Peacekeeping Awards

- **UN Secretary-General António Guterres** posthumously conferred the **Dag Hammarskjöld Medal** on two Indian peacekeepers, **Havildar Harbhajan Singh** and **Sujit Kumar Pradhan**, on the **International Day of UN Peacekeepers**.
- Indian Army helicopter pilot **Major Abhilasha Barak** received the **United Nations (UN) Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award 2025** for her role as commander of the **Female Engagement Team** in the **UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)**.
- Actor **Ishaan Khatter** was honored with honorary membership by the **45 Cavalry Regiment of the Indian Armoured Corps** for his portrayal of **Captain Balram Singh Mehta** in the movie *Pippa*.

## 6. Banking and Finance

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### 1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Policies & Guidelines

- **RBI Record Surplus Transfer:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved a record surplus dividend transfer of **₹2.87 lakh crore (₹2,86,588.46 crore)** to the Central Government for Financial Year (FY) 2025-26 (an increase from **₹2.69 lakh crore** in FY25). The RBI's balance sheet grew by **20%** to **₹91.97 lakh crore**, and it maintained its **Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB)** at **6.5%** (approximately **₹1 lakh crore / ₹5.97 lakh crore** total buffer).
- **60th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Meeting:** Chaired by **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**, the 6-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the **Repo Rate** unchanged at **5.25%** with a "Neutral" stance. Other rates: **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** at **5.50%**, **Bank Rate** at **5.50%**, **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** at **5.00%**, **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** at **3%**, and **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)** at **18%**. **Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth for **FY 2026-27** is projected at **6.9%** with **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** inflation at **4.6%**.
- **Loan Recovery Guidelines:** Effective October 1, 2026, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** mandated that recovery agents can only contact borrowers between **8:00 AM and 7:00 PM**. Agents must be certified by the **Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF)**.
- **Technology Device Lockup Rules:** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** banned lenders from locking financed devices (smartphones/tablets) for defaults on unrelated loans. Devices can only be locked if the loan was explicitly for that device, post a **90-day overdue (Non-Performing Asset / NPA)** threshold, and with mandatory prior notices. Upon repayment, unlocking must occur within one hour, or the bank faces a **₹250 per hour** penalty.
- **Q-SAFE Committee:** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** formed an 8-member expert committee named the **Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem (Q-SAFE)**, chaired by **Prof. Anil Prabhakar** of **IIT Madras**, to evaluate quantum technology in the financial sector.
- **Capital Buffers & Basel Norms:** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** decided NOT to activate the **Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB)** due to volatility. Current **Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)** remains **9%** for private and **12%** for public banks. The **Investment Fluctuation Reserve (IFR)** rule was discontinued for commercial banks. **Basel III** norms are slated for full implementation by **2027**. **Expected Credit Loss (ECL)** rules will replace the incurred loss provisioning method.
- **Universal Bank & Sector Rules:** The **₹10,000 crore** lending cap on individual corporate borrowers was removed. **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** limits for renewable energy increased from **₹30 crore** to **₹35 crore**. Minors aged **10+** can now operate savings accounts independently, and all banks must migrate to **.bank.in** domains by **October 31, 2025**.
- **Remittances & LRS:** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** completely dispensed with the requirement for prior approval for non-banking entities (fintechs/digital platforms) to tie up with **Authorized Dealer (AD) Category-1 Banks** for cross-border outward remittances. Outward remittances under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**

(annual limit \$2.5 lakh) dropped by 2% to \$28.98 billion.

- **Bank Director Tenures:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) instituted a mandatory 3-year cooling-off period for directors of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) and Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs) after a continuous 10-year tenure (increased from the previous 8-year limit under the Banking Law Amendment Act 2025).
- **₹2000 Banknotes & Swap Auctions:** By April 30, 2026, 98.47% of ₹2000 banknotes had returned, leaving ₹5,451 crore in circulation. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also announced a \$5 billion US Dollar (USD) / Indian Rupee (INR) Buy/Sell Swap Auction.
- **International Tie-Ups:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) partnered with the European Central Bank (ECB) for central banking cooperation, aligned with the 'Utkarsh' Strategy 2026-29. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also permitted rupee-denominated loans to overseas borrowers in Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

## 2. Banking Licensing, Approvals & Penalties

- **Universal Bank Licenses:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) accepted the in-principle application for AU Small Finance Bank, rejected Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, and returned the application for Jana Small Finance Bank. Criteria require a net worth of ₹1,000 crore, CRAR of 15%, and Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) below 3%.
- **License Cancellations:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licenses of Yashwant Cooperative Bank and Ajanta Urban Cooperative Bank (Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Maharashtra).
- **Payment Aggregators & PPI Approvals:** Zaggle Prepaid Ocean Services Ltd and ZikZuk Technologies received Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) authorization. MobiKwik received in-principle approval as a physical offline Payment Aggregator (requiring a minimum ₹25 crore capital), while Getepay was also approved. Skydo received Payment Service Provider (PSP) approval in GIFT City.
- **Major Monetary Penalties:**
  - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) fined Suzlon Energy Ltd. ₹15.95 crore for accounting fraud.

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fined Yes Bank (₹31.80 lakh), IIFL Finance (₹3.10 lakh for gold loan KYC issues), Apnit Technology (₹5.80 lakh), City Union Bank (₹1.10 lakh and ₹10.10 lakh for priority sector charging violations), Mintifi Finserv (₹3.10 lakh), Nuwva Investment (₹2.70 lakh), Hinduja Housing Finance (₹1.8 lakh), and AKG Finvest (₹1 lakh). Operational restrictions were placed on Nagar Sakhari Bank.

## 3. New Banking Products, Digital Finance & Technologies

- **Digital Currency & UPI:** The Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC / e-Rupee) pilot expanded to 35 cities. The BHIM App saw a massive 301% transaction volume growth in FY 2025-26. Paytm now permits Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from 12 countries to use UPI without Indian SIMs. NPCI developed a reverse sound box supporting multiple UPI apps and partnered with Japan's NTT DATA.
- **Bank Branches & Initiatives:** Slice Small Finance Bank opened India's first AI-powered "phygital" branch in Guwahati, Assam. Taiwan's CTBC Bank became the first Taiwanese bank to open a branch in GIFT City, while Central Bank of India received approval for an IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) there. Eurobank became the first Greek bank to open a representative office in Mumbai.
- **Credit/Debit Cards & SME Products:** ICICI Bank launched India's first USD Debit Card at GIFT City. IDFC First Bank launched a fixed-deposit-backed "Business Multiplier Metal Credit Card". State Bank of India (SBI) launched "Smart Crop" using AI in Telangana/Karnataka, and HDFC Bank launched "My Business QR".
- **SIDBI Initiatives:** The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) launched the MacFin Mart marketplace, an RRB Co-Lending Portal, the MORE Program for rural enterprises, a ₹5 lakh limit Micro Credit Card, and an Angel Fund for deep-tech startups alongside the Andhra Pradesh government.

## 4. Economic Indicators, GDP Projections & Trade Data

- **GDP Projections:** Morgan Stanley upgraded India's Gross Domestic Product

(GDP) growth projection for FY27 to 6.7% and 7% for FY28. The **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)** projected 6.4% for FY27. **ICRA** lowered its FY27 forecast to 6.2%. The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** lowered its FY26 estimate to 7.5% and shifted the annual/Q4 GDP data release date to **June 7th**.

- **State GDP Contributions:** According to the "State of Indian States 2026" report, **Maharashtra** contributes the highest share (13.3%) to India's GDP, with the top 5 states (Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, UP, Karnataka, Gujarat) contributing 48%.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** FY2024-25 FDI reached **\$81.04 billion**. For FY2025-26, India recorded a record gross FDI inflow of **\$94.5 billion (16.7% growth)**, though net retained FDI stood at only **\$7.6 billion**.
- **Inflation & Core Sectors:** **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** inflation hit a 14-month high of 3.48% in April 2026, while **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** surged to a 42-month high of 8.3%. The **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** recorded 1.7% growth in April. The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** revised the base year for the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** from 2011-12 to 2022-23.
- **Employment & Savings:** The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** reported an overall unemployment rate of 5.2% in April 2026. The gross savings-to-GDP ratio rose to 34.94% (₹6.91 lakh crore).
- **Trade:** India's trade deficit narrowed to **\$7.81 billion**. India surpassed the USA to become **Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner** and surpassed the UK to become **Sri Lanka's second-largest export destination**.

### 5. Capital Markets, Investments & Financial Institutions

- **SEBI Benchmarks:** The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** recognized top benchmarks like the **Nifty 50** and **BSE Sensex** as 'Significant Indices' (requiring **Asset Under Management (AUM)** over ₹20,000 crore).
- **Exchange-Traded Products:** The **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)** launched "Rain Mumbai", India's first SEBI-approved weather derivative contract. The **National Stock**

**Exchange (NSE)** launched live trading for **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)**.

- **Global Market Rankings: Taiwan** surpassed India as the 5th largest stock market globally. Following an overtake by **South Korea**, India moved to the 7th spot.
- **Unclaimed Deposits / Assets:** The **Ministry of Finance** launched a unified portal to trace forgotten financial assets under the "Your Money Your Right" campaign. Over **₹45,000 crore** was transferred to the **Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund**, and 30 banks were integrated with the **UDGAM Portal**.
- **Insolvency & Corporate Financing:** The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** celebrated its 10th anniversary. The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** authorized corporations to allocate up to 10% of their annual **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** expenditure into **Zero Coupon Zero Principal** instruments on the **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)**.
- **Central Bank Gold Reserves:** Central banks globally became net sellers for the first time in 10 months, led by **Turkey** and **Russia**. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** maintained its reserves at **880 metric tons**.

### 6. Insurance, Pension (PFRDA) & Financial Security

- **National Pension System (NPS) & APY:** The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** reduced the mandatory annuity requirement from 40% to 20% for private subscribers, allowing an 80% lump sum withdrawal. The maximum subscription age was extended from 75 to 85 years, and a new **Retirement Income Scheme (RIS)** was introduced for gradual payouts. The **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** crossed 9 crore enrollments with a ₹54,000 crore corpus.
- **Insurance Approvals & Mergers:** **Prudential PLC** acquired a 75% stake in **Bharti Life Insurance** for ₹3,500 crore. **Liberty Mutual Insurance** increased its stake in **Liberty General Insurance** to 74%. Fintech firm **Jump / jUMPP** received **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** approval to distribute insurance policies via AI.
- **Insurance Data:** The **Insurance Ombudsman** successfully resolved 41,055 grievances in FY2025-26. **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** launched joint

couple insurance products like "New Jeevan Sathi".

## 7. Defence

### 1. Missile, Rocket & Bomb Tests

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully tested the **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM V3 / UALPGM)** near Kurnool, **Andhra Pradesh**,. This drone-launched anti-tank weapon features a 10 km range with Air-to-Ground and Air-to-Air modes, was developed by the **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)**, with the **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** developed by **NewSpace Research and Technologies**, and is manufactured by **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** and **Adani Defence**.
- **India** successfully tested the **Agni-1**, a short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a 700–1200 km range and a 1000 kg nuclear payload, fired by the **Strategic Forces Command** at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**,,.
- **India** tested the **Agni-5** missile (5000 km range) equipped with **Multiple Independently targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV)** technology at **Chandipur**.
- The **K-4 Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM)**, with a range of 3500–4000 km, was successfully launched from **INS Arighat**.
- The **Pralay** quasi-ballistic missile was tested from **APJ Abdul Kalam Island**.
- The **Suryast Rocket System**, **India's** first indigenous universal multi-caliber 300 km rocket launcher developed by **Nibe Limited** and **Israel's Elbit Systems**, was tested from **Chandipur, Odisha**,.
- "**Saurashtra**" **Rockets** with a 300 km range were successfully tested at **ITR, Odisha**.
- **India** completed the maiden technical trial of the **Vayu Astra-1** (or **VU Astra-1**) loitering munition (suicide drone) system in **Pokhran, Rajasthan**,.
- The **DRDO** successfully tested a high-caliber bomb at the **Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL)** in **Ramgarh, Haryana**.
- **Russia** tested the **RS-28 Sarmat** (also known as "Satan-2") intercontinental ballistic missile, which has an impressive 35,000 km range,.

### 2. Naval Assets, Missions & Infrastructure

- **Pakistan** test-fired its indigenous **Fatah-4** surface-to-surface, ground-launched cruise missile, featuring a 750 km range and a low radar signature.
- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** launched **INS Sanghamitra**, a Next-Generation **Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)** (113m long, 3000 tons) named after Emperor Ashoka's daughter, in **Kolkata**,.
- **INS Ikshak** (Survey Vessel) was officially commissioned at **Kochi**.
- **INS Sudarshini** successfully crossed the Atlantic Ocean under the **Lokayan-26** expedition, arriving safely in **Antigua**,.
- **INS Sunayna** concluded the **Indian Navy's "Ocean Sagar Mission"** (part of the larger 17-nation Sagar Mission), returning to **Kochi** after visiting 7 international locations including the **Maldives, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, and Sri Lanka**,,.
- **INS Sagar Dhvani** visited **Port Klang, Malaysia**, during a strategic South East Asian deployment mission.
- **INS Anvesh** was deployed as **India's** first floating missile test range.
- **INS Sahyadri** continues to operate as a Shivalik-class frigate under **Project 17**.
- Bengaluru-based startup **Tonbo Imaging** partnered with the **Indian Navy** under the **ADITI 3.0** initiative to develop a high-power microwave/electromagnetic energy system designed to combat drone swarms,.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated an open-air naval museum named "**Nausena Shaurya Vatika**" located near the **Ekana Cricket Stadium** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**,.

### 3. Military Exercises

- **Exercise PRAGATI 26** (Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region), **India's** inaugural multinational military exercise in the region, was hosted by the **Indian Army** at **Umroi Military Station, Meghalaya**. It featured participation from 12 friendly nations including **Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Maldives, Indonesia, and Malaysia**,,.
- **Malabar**: A naval exercise among the **Quad** nations (**India, USA, Japan, Australia**) held in **Guam**.
- **Mitra Shakti**: A joint military exercise between **India** and **Sri Lanka** featuring the **Rajput & Gajaba Regiments**.

- **VINBAX:** A joint **Vietnam-India** Army Exercise.
- **Bold Kurukshetra:** A joint military exercise between **India** and **Singapore** held in **Jodhpur**.
- **Talisman Sabre:** Recognized as **Australia's** largest military exercise.
- **Trishul:** **India's** Tri-service exercise held across **Gujarat** and **Rajasthan**.
- **Maitree:** A joint exercise between **India** and **Thailand** involving the Madras Regiment.
- **Yudh Abhyas:** A joint military exercise between **India** and the **United States of America (USA)**.
- Military exercises "**Vayu Shakti 2026**" and "**Vajra Prahar**" (Vajra Ghat) were successfully conducted in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**.

#### 4. Defence Exports, Acquisitions & Manufacturing

- **India's** defence exports hit an all-time high of **₹38,424 Crore** in **Financial Year (FY) 2025-26**, registering a massive **62.66% Year-on-Year (YoY)** growth.
- **India** is set to export **BrahMos** supersonic cruise missiles to **Vietnam**, following a recent similar export agreement with the **Philippines**.
- The **USA** approved a potential **\$428.2 million** sale to **India**, comprising **Apache Helicopter** support and equipment (**\$198.2 million**) and **M7A2 Sustainment Support** (**\$230 million**).
- **India** will receive its 4th tranche of the **S-400 Air Defense System** from **Russia**, which was previously delayed due to the Russia-Ukraine War.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** laid the foundation stone for the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** project in **Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh**. This is **India's** 5th-generation stealth fighter aircraft developed by the **DRDO**. The manufacturing centre costs **₹15,000 crore** (or **₹15,803 crore**), with an additional **DRDO Core Integration and Flight Testing Centre** costing **₹2,000 crore**,.
- "**Kala Bhairava**" (also known as **Kaal Bhairav**), **India's** first **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV)**, developed by **Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace** under "**Operation 777**", will be manufactured in **Portugal**. It features a **3,000 km** range, **30+** hours endurance, and possesses both **Air-to-Air** and **Air-to-Ground** strike capabilities.,

- **Bharat Forge Limited** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Andhra Pradesh** government to set up **India's** first private sector **Marine Gas Turbine Repair, Overhaul, and Indigenous Development Complex** in **Visakhapatnam**.

#### 5. Army, Air Force & Strategic Innovations

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** signed three contracts with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** to indigenously build **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered** predictive maintenance software and a digital diagnostic health index specifically for the **Sukhoi-30 MKI** fighter fleet.
- The **Indian Army** launched "**Q-Force**", an integrated application designed to streamline logistics, military operations, and sustainment management.
- **Germany** and the **Netherlands** are establishing the "**1st German-Netherlands Corps**" (**1GNC**), which will serve as a joint **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** tactical command center.
- **India** and the **USA** established a **Critical Minerals Framework** aimed at securing the supply chain, mining, processing, and recycling of critical minerals and rare earth metals essential for strategic defense and technology.

## 8. International

### 1. Prime Minister & Ministerial Foreign Tours

- **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi** embarked on a **5-Nation Tour** starting **May 15, 2026**, covering the **Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Italy, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
  - **Norway:** The **3rd India-Nordic Summit** was held in **Oslo, Norway** on **May 19, 2026**, hosted by **Norwegian Prime Minister (PM) Jonas Gahr Store**. This marked the first visit by a sitting Indian PM to **Norway** in **43 years** (since **Indira Gandhi**).
  - **Sweden:** **PM Narendra Modi** visited at the invitation of **Swedish Prime Minister (PM) Ulf Kristersson** (**May 17-18, 2026**). They exchanged gifts to commemorate the **100th Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore's** historic visit to **Sweden** in **1926**.

- **Netherlands: PM Narendra Modi met Dutch Prime Minister (PM) Rob Jetten in The Hague (May 16-17, 2026), agreeing to boost cooperation in defense, technology, clean energy, healthcare, and investment. A Strategic Partnership Roadmap (2026–2030) and 17 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed. Bilateral trade stands at \$27.8 billion USD (2024–25), and the Netherlands is India's 4th largest foreign investor with a cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of \$55.6 billion USD.**
- **Italy: PM Narendra Modi met Italian Prime Minister (PM) Giorgia Meloni (their relationship is popularly referred to as "Melodi"). They outlined a "Special Strategic Partnership" between India and Italy, discussed the India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with a €20 billion bilateral trade target by 2029, and reviewed connectivity via the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC).**
- **United Arab Emirates (UAE): The UAE was recognized as India's 3rd largest trading partner.**
- **External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago to strengthen India's bilateral ties with the Caribbean region.**
- **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal visited Canada to advance negotiations for the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Both nations reaffirmed their target to achieve \$50 billion in bilateral trade by 2030.**

## 2. Foreign Dignitaries Visiting India

- **United States of America (USA) Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited New Delhi, India (May 23–26) and met PM Narendra Modi to discuss defense trade, energy security, and Indo-Pacific cooperation.**
- **Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides visited India, during which six agreements were signed. Cyprus announced it will adopt India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), integrating it with the European Central Bank's TIPS system.**
- **Myanmar's President U Min Aung Hlaing arrived in India for a 5-day visit.**

## 3. Bilateral & Multilateral Relations

- **India halted/suspended the 1960 Indus Water Treaty (signed between India and Pakistan, mediated by the World Bank) and rejected a Court of Arbitration ruling as 'Null and Void'. Consequently, India approved a ₹2,600 crore project to transfer Chenab basin water to the Beas river.**
- **India signed a World Trade Organization (WTO) bilateral accession protocol with Ethiopia in Geneva, Switzerland, to support Ethiopia's WTO membership bid.**
- **India suspended rare earth exports to Japan.**
- **The European Union (EU) (India's 3rd-largest seafood export market) released a list making India eligible to export aquaculture products, successfully avoiding a ban due after September 26th. India ensured its exported seafood is free of antimicrobial medicines.**
- **Zambia, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, adopted India's Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) platform for real-time vaccine supply chain and cold-chain temperature monitoring.**
- **India assumed the 2026 chairmanship of the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA), a 22-nation Asia-Pacific organization that shares scientific technology under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).**
- **Saudi Arabia joined the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) as its 26th member nation.**

## 4. Global Developments

- **Hong Kong officially bypassed Switzerland to become the world's largest cross-border offshore wealth hub, holding around \$2.9 trillion in offshore assets.**
- **France became the first European Union (EU) member state to authorize reimbursements and subsidize the anti-obesity drugs Mounjaro and Wegovy, effective mid-June.**
- **The World Health Organization (WHO), headed by Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, declared the Ebola outbreak (Bundibugyo strain; no approved vaccine) in Congo and Uganda a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).**

## 9. Meetings

### 1. Global & Multilateral Summits

- **79th World Health Assembly (WHA):** Held in **Geneva, Switzerland**, under the theme "**Reshaping Global Health, a Shared Responsibility**". The assembly was chaired by **Victor Atallah Lajam** of the **Dominican Republic**. The Indian delegation was led by **Health Minister J.P. Nadda**, who addressed the assembly championing the cause of "**Health for All**".
- **G20 Summit 2026:** Hosted by the **United States of America (USA)**. The **Foreign Ministers' Meeting** will take place in **Atlanta, Georgia** in October, while the **Leaders' Summit** is scheduled for **Miami, Florida** in December, as announced by **US Secretary of State Marco Rubio**.
- **Quad Meetings:** **India** hosted the **11th Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting** in **New Delhi**, chaired by **External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar**. Member nations include the **USA, Australia, India, and Japan**, with the **USA** being represented by **Marco Rubio**. Discussions focused on maritime security and a **\$20 Billion Critical Mineral Initiative**. **India** is also slated to host the **2026 Quad Summit**.
- **Conference of Parties (COP) Schedule:** Upcoming climate summits include **COP30** in **Belem, Brazil**; **COP31** in **Turkey (2026)**; and **COP33** to be hosted by **India (2028)**.
- **United Nations (UN) High-Level Meeting on Road Safety:** Held in **New York** with a primary goal to halve road traffic deaths and injuries globally by **2030**.
- **World Urban Forum 2026:** Held in **Baku, Azerbaijan**, where the **United Nations (UN) Human Settlement Program** released the **Global Housing Crisis Report**.
- **Global Water Summit 2026:** Held in **Madrid, Spain**, where the **Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)** was recognized among the top five global water utilities across three categories.
- **World Bank Land Conference 2025:** The **Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) Scheme** was showcased as a successful model of rural property mapping and governance.
- **Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) Meeting:** Held in **Tokyo**, where **India** was nominated to serve

as the **Chairman of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)** for the **2026-2028** term.

- **Space Meetings Veneto 2026:** Held in **Venice, Italy**, featuring a delegation from **India's National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)**.

### 2. Regional & Bilateral Summits

- **3rd India-Nordic Summit:** Held in **Oslo, Norway** on **May 19, 2026**. The event was hosted by **Norwegian Prime Minister (PM) Jonas Gahr Store** and attended by **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi**.
- **10th Indian Ocean Dialogue:** Held in **New Delhi** under the theme "**Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World**".
- **Kimberley Process 2026:** **India** hosted this international meeting in **Mumbai** (**May 11–14**), led by **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal**. Focus areas included responsible diamond trade, preventing conflict diamonds, and certification schemes, under the theme "**3 Cs: Credibility, Compliance, and Customer Confidence**".
- **BRICS Meetings:** The **BRICS Culture Ministers** met in **Brasilia, Brazil**. Separately, the **BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting** was held in **India**.
- **68th Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Governing Body Meeting:** Hosted in **New Delhi** by the **National Productivity Council** (under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade / DPIIT**). **India** currently chairs the **APO** for the **2025-2026** term.
- **Postponed Events:** The **4th India-Africa Forum** and the **1st International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit**, both scheduled to be held in **New Delhi**, were postponed.

### 3. National Conferences & Meetings

- **51st PRAGATI Meeting:** **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi** chaired the **51st Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)** meeting in **New Delhi** to review state and central government projects.
- **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) Sub-Committee Meeting:** The **33rd** meeting was held at the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Headquarters** in **Mumbai** and was chaired by **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**. Key focus areas included inflation, job creation, production rates, and agriculture.

- **Eastern Regional Agriculture Conference:** Held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, where **Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan** officially announced the nationwide "**Khet Bachao Abhiyan**" (Save the Land / Save Farms Campaign).
- **MERU National Workshop:** A national workshop for the **Multidisciplinary Education and Research University**

(MERU) initiative was held at the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** in **New Delhi** (April 30 – May 1, 2025).

- **Digital Bharat Samvad Summit:** The first edition of this digital governance summit was hosted in **New Delhi**.

Place	Name of the Meeting / Summit	Extra Information
Baku, Azerbaijan	World Urban Forum 2026	UN Human Settlement Program released the Global Housing Crisis Report
Belem, Brazil / Turkey / India	COP30 / COP31 / COP33	COP30 in Belem; COP31 in Turkey (2026); COP33 to be hosted by India (2028)
Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Eastern Regional Agriculture Conference	Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the nationwide "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" (Save Farms Campaign)
Brasília, Brazil / India	BRICS Meetings	BRICS Culture Ministers met in Brasília; BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting held in India
Geneva, Switzerland	79th World Health Assembly (WHA)	Theme: "Reshaping Global Health, a Shared Responsibility"; chaired by Victor Atallah Lajam (Dominican Republic); Indian delegation led by Health Minister J.P. Nadda, championing "Health for All"
Madrid, Spain	Global Water Summit 2026	Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) recognized among top five global water utilities across three categories
Mumbai, India	Kimberley Process 2026	Held May 11–14; led by Union Minister Piyush Goyal; theme "3 Cs: Credibility, Compliance, and Customer Confidence"; focus on responsible diamond trade & conflict diamonds
Mumbai, India	33rd FSDC Sub-Committee Meeting	Held at RBI Headquarters; chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra; focus on inflation, job creation, production, agriculture
New Delhi, India	11th Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting	Chaired by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar; members: USA, Australia, India, Japan; focused on maritime security & \$20 Billion Critical Mineral Initiative; India to host 2026 Quad Summit
New Delhi, India	10th Indian Ocean Dialogue	Theme: "Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World"
New Delhi, India	68th Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Governing Body Meeting	Hosted by National Productivity Council (under DPIIT); India chairs APO for 2025–2026 term
New Delhi, India	4th India-Africa Forum & 1st IBCA Summit	Both postponed
New Delhi, India	51st PRAGATI Meeting	Chaired by PM Narendra Modi; reviewed state and central government projects
New Delhi, India	MERU National Workshop	For Multidisciplinary Education and Research University initiative; held at ICAR (April 30 – May 1, 2025)
New Delhi, India	Digital Bharat Samvad Summit	First edition of this digital governance summit

Place	Name of the Meeting / Summit	Extra Information
New York, USA	UN High-Level Meeting on Road Safety	Goal: halve road traffic deaths and injuries globally by 2030
Oslo, Norway	3rd India-Nordic Summit	Held May 19, 2026; hosted by Norwegian PM Jonas Gahr Store; attended by PM Narendra Modi
Tokyo, Japan	Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) Meeting	India nominated as Chairman of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) for 2026–2028 term
USA (Atlanta, Georgia & Miami, Florida)	G20 Summit 2026	Hosted by USA; Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta (October); Leaders' Summit in Miami (December); announced by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio
Venice, Italy	Space Meetings Veneto 2026	Featured a delegation from India's National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)

## 10. Miscellaneous

### Oman–Gujarat Undersea Gas Pipeline

- India plans a ₹40,000 crore Oman–Gujarat undersea gas pipeline (Oman: Capital Muscat; Currency Omani Rial).

### India's Textile Sector

- India is the 6th-largest textile exporter and 2nd-largest silk producer globally.
- Goals: \$100 billion in textile exports and \$250 billion in production by 2030.

### Ethanol Blending — New Fuel Specifications (E22–E30)

- India's **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme** launched in 2003 (Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas).
- Achieved 10% blending in 2022; implemented the **E20** target on **April 1, 2026** — five years ahead of the 2030 deadline.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** notified **IS 19850:2026** specifications for **E22, E25, E27, and E30** petrol (22%–30% ethanol blends).

### Consumer Affairs — Petrol Pump Nozzle Verification

- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** mandated **Government Approved Test Centers (GATCs)** to validate dispensing units at petrol pumps.
- Verification fee: ₹5,000 per nozzle (petrol/diesel) and ₹10,000 per nozzle (CNG, LPG, LNG, hydrogen).

### Government Health Expenditure

- Total government health expenditure rose from ₹1.3 lakh crore (2013-14) to ₹3.85 lakh crore (2022-23).

### India's Auto Industry

- India's auto industry is ranked **3rd globally** (market size ₹22 lakh crore; contributes **7.1% to GDP**).

### India's Net-Zero Target

- India's goal of **net-zero carbon emissions by 2070**.

## 11. MoUs

### 1. Corporate & Technology Partnerships

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** became the first global system integrator to partner with **Mistral AI**, a French **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** startup.
- The **Gujarat** government and **Meta** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in **Gandhinagar** to launch a **WhatsApp** chatbot under the "**Sugum**" digital initiative.
- Madhya Pradesh (MP)** collaborated with **Google** and **Google Cloud** to develop an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-powered management framework utilizing satellite imagery for crowd and traffic management at the upcoming **2028 Simhastha Kumbh Mela** in **Ujjain**.
- The **Ministry of Ayush** partnered with **Bhashini** for multilingual digital healthcare, offering services across 22 different languages leveraging **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-powered language technology.

### 2. Banking, Finance & Insurance Collaborations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** partnered with the **European Central Bank (ECB)** for central banking cooperation. The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed by **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra** and **European**

**Central Bank (ECB) Head Christine Lagarde.**

- The **Delhi e-Governance Society (DeGS)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to adopt an integrated e-payment solution, launching the "**ePay**" platform for the state's electronic procurement portal.
- **Mahindra & Mahindra** and **DBS Bank India** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to launch **India's** first sustainability-linked dealer financing program in the automotive sector.
- **Reliance Jio** partnered with **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** to launch the "**bob World Lite**" app.
- **ICICI Bank** partnered with **Visa** to launch **India's** first **US Dollar (USD)**-denominated debit card at the **IFSC Banking Unit** in **GIFT City**.
- **Axis Bank** partnered with **Google** to launch its first credit card.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** partnered with Japan's **NTT DATA** to process **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** transactions via the **CAFIS** card network.
- **West Bengal Gramin Bank** partnered with **Canara HSBC Life Insurance** to expand life insurance coverage.
- Fintech firm **jUMPP** partnered with **Yes Bank** to operate as a **Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP)** for **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** services, and received **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** approval to distribute insurance via **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- The **Andhra Pradesh Government** partnered with the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to launch an **Angel Fund** for very early-stage deep tech startups, operating through the **Ratan Tata Innovation Hub**.

### 3. Government, Defence & Institutional MoUs

- The **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Prasar Bharati** to broadcast nationwide investor awareness campaigns via scroll messages on **Doordarshan**.
- The **Department of Posts (India Post)** signed an agreement/MoU with **Flipkart India** to strengthen logistics and last-mile parcel delivery efficiency across all regions.

- The **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to combat cyber fraud utilizing suspect registries and AI tools.
- A tripartite **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between **HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering**, the **National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park (NSHIP) Tamil Nadu**, and the **Sagarmala Finance Corporation** to set up **India's** first mega greenfield shipyard in **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**.
- **Bharat Forge Limited's** aerospace division signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Andhra Pradesh Government** to establish **India's** first private sector **Marine Gas Turbine Repair, Overhaul, and Indigenous Development Complex** in **Visakhapatnam**.
- Bengaluru-based startup **Tonbo Imaging** partnered with the **Indian Navy** under the **ADITI 3.0** initiative to develop a high-power microwave/electromagnetic energy system against drone swarms.
- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** and **Vertis Foundation** partnered to launch **Project Saksham**, empowering rural women and underserved youth through vocational training and entrepreneurship.
- The **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)** collaborated with the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** and **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** to launch **India's** first exchange-traded weather derivative contract named the "**Rain Mumbai Rainfall Futures Contract**".
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** signed three contracts with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** to indigenously build **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-powered predictive maintenance software and a digital diagnostic health index specifically for the **Sukhoi-30 MKI** fighter fleet.

### 4. International & Bilateral Agreements

- **Tata Power** and **Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** / pact to develop **5,000 MW** of clean/hydro energy capacity in **Bhutan**. **Tata Power** will provide training support through its **Skill Development Institute**.

- **India** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** signed multiple **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** covering petroleum reserves, **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** supply, and defense cooperation.
- **India** and the **Netherlands** signed a **Strategic Partnership Roadmap (2026–2030)** along with **17 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)**. A **Letter of Intent on Water Management Cooperation** was also signed for **Gujarat**, involving **India's Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and the **Swedish National Space Agency** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for interplanetary missions, including the **Shukrayaan (Venus)** mission.
- **Zambia**, in collaboration with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** **India**, adopted **India's Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)** platform for real-time vaccine supply chain and cold-chain temperature monitoring.
- **Kerala** launched the **Eco Rangers** program in partnership with the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- Six agreements were signed between **India** and **Cyprus** during **President Nikos Christodoulides'** visit, including a pact for **Cyprus** to adopt **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** and integrate it with the **European Central Bank's TIPS system**.
- **India** and **Afghanistan** signed a **\$46 Million Custom Laboratory Agreement**.
- The **European Space Agency (ESA)** and the **Chinese Academy of Sciences** partnered for a joint mission to launch the **Solar wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE)** spacecraft to study Earth's magnetosphere.

## 12. National

### 1. National Affairs

- **Supreme Court Judges Strength:** **President Droupadi Murmu** approved an ordinance to increase the total strength of **Supreme Court (SC)** judges from **34 to 38** (37 judges + 1 Chief Justice of India), noting that the court initially had only 8 judges in 1950.
- **Census 2027:** Phase 1 (house listing and housing census) of **India's** first fully digital census commenced in 5 States/UTs:

- **Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Delhi.** The official mascots are **Pragati** (female) and **Vikas** (male), promoting the goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047.
- **Committee on Demographic Changes:** The central government formed a high-level committee headed by former **Supreme Court Judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar** to investigate abnormal demographic changes and illegal border infiltration.
- **Women's Empowerment Committee:** **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** formed the **Parliamentary Committee on Economic Empowerment for Women** for the 2026-27 term, chaired by **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Dr. Daggubati Purandeswari**.
- **India Post Milestones:** The **Department of Posts (India Post)** recorded its strongest financial performance in 170 years with a revenue of **₹15,373 crore** (a ₹2,100 crore increase in 2025-26).
- **Railway Expansions:** **India's 18th railway zone, the South Coast Railway (SCoR),** became fully operational in **Andhra Pradesh** with its headquarters in **Visakhapatnam** and four divisions: **Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntakal, and Guntur**. Additionally, the **Railway Ministry** will run a 10-car **Hydrogen fuel cell-based DEMU (Diesel Electric Multiple Unit)** train along the **Jind–Sonipat** route under the **Northern Railway network**.
- **GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT):** **GSTAT Benches** were constituted under the **Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act 2017**, featuring a two-tier structure with the **Principal Bench in New Delhi** and **State Benches in Vijayawada, Raipur, Patna, and Ahmedabad**.
- **NITI Aayog Panel:** **NITI Aayog** convened a high-powered panel on “Education to Employment and Enterprise,” chaired by **CEO Nidhi Chhibber**, aiming to boost **India's** share in the global service market to **10%**.
- **Unincorporated Enterprises:** According to **National Statistical Office (NSO)** data, unregistered/unincorporated enterprises crossed **9.16 crore**, reflecting a **16.69%** year-on-year growth.
- **BCCI RTI Status:** The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** ruled that the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** is a private entity and is NOT

covered under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act**.

## 2. Cabinet Decisions — Agriculture & Energy

- **MSP hike for 14 Kharif crops (2026-27):** est. payout **₹2.6 lakh crore** (procurement 824 lakh MT). Highest increases — **Sunflower +₹622, Cotton +₹557, Niger +₹515, Sesamum +₹500 /quintal**. New MSP: Paddy ₹2441 (Grade A ₹2461), Maize ₹2410, Bajra ₹2900, Ragi ₹5205, Tur ₹8195, Moong ₹8680, Urad ₹9550.
- **Coal & Lignite Gasification:** Cabinet approved a **₹37,500 crore** outlay; national target to gasify **100 million tonnes by 2030**.

## 3. State-Specific Affairs

### Andhra Pradesh

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** dropped to **1.5**, prompting **Chief Minister (CM) N. Chandrababu Naidu** to announce cash incentives under the '**Children are Wealth**' Scheme: **₹30,000** for a 3rd child and **₹40,000** for a 4th child.
- The state launched the **Digi Lakshmi** — "**One Family, One Entrepreneur**" scheme.
- **BITS Pilani** will open **India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) campus** in **Amaravati**.

### Arunachal Pradesh

- The state produces over **50%** of **India's kiwis**, its unique selling proposition in horticulture. **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** launched a **₹167 crore Kiwi Mission**.

### Assam

- **Assam** became the third state in independent **India** to adopt the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026** (following **Uttarakhand** and **Gujarat**). Marriages require registration within 60 days, and live-in relationships within 30 days (non-compliance carries a **₹10,000** fine), with minimum marriage ages set at 21 for men and 18 for women.
- The state released its first satellite-tagged endangered **Ganges Soft Shell Turtle** in the **Brahmaputra River** at **Kaziranga National Park**.
- Launched the **Nijut Moina 2.0** scheme for financial aid for girls' education.
- Launched the **Gajamitra Scheme** utilizing bamboo/Napier grass to prevent human-elephant conflict.

### Bihar

- The state reserved **35%** of government jobs for domiciled women.

- It became the first state to implement mobile-based e-voting for local elections.
- **Param Rudra, Bihar's first supercomputer**, was installed at **IIT Patna**.

### Chhattisgarh

- **RackBank** is building **India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** in **Naya Raipur** with an 80 MW capacity.

### Delhi

- **Chief Minister (CM) Rekha Gupta** launched a collateral-free loan scheme offering up to **₹10 Crore** for **Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** and **Startups**.
- The state raised the **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** yellow ration card annual income limit from **₹1.2 lakh** to **₹2.5 lakh**, and cancelled **7.72 lakh** fake ration cards.
- Launched the "**Hauslon ki Udaan**" talent hunt for youth aged 16–35, covering 70 constituencies.
- Launched the **Saheli Smart Card** to provide free bus travel for women.

### Goa

- **Santa Cruz** village was categorized as a '**No Development Zone**'.

### Gujarat

- The **Gujarat Assembly** constituted financial committees for 2026-27, appointing **CJ Chavda** as **Estimates Committee Chairman** and **Ramanlal Vora** as **Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Head**.
- **Gujarat** became the first state to launch a **Carbon Credit Marketplace** for farmers and industries.
- **Dhordo** became its 4th fully solar-powered village.
- It became the 24th State/UT to achieve **100% rail electrification**.

### Haryana

- Launched the **Shram Mitra App** for unorganized workers and the **Green Panchayat Award**.

### Himachal Pradesh

- It became the first state to use face authentication for ration distribution.

### Kerala

- **Kerala** became the first Indian state to establish a cabinet-level **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** portfolio, assigned to **Minister P.K. Kunhalikutty**.
- The state aims to be the first extreme poverty-free state by December 2025.
- Launched the **Eco Rangers** program in partnership with the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.

- India's first Gen Z Post Office opened at CMS College, Kottayam.

### Ladakh

- Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena inaugurated the Mahe Tokpo Reldho irrigation canal.
- The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will build India's first geothermal energy project in Ladakh.

### Madhya Pradesh

- The Madhya Pradesh High Court ruled that the disputed Bhojshala Complex (Kamal Maula Mosque) in Dhar district is officially a temple dedicated to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati).
- The state has the most vultures in India and established Wildlife Rescue Centers near all tiger reserves.

### Maharashtra

- Maharashtra topped central infrastructure project implementation with ₹5.5 lakh crore.
- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the 'Griha Pravesh' ceremony for 5 lakh PMAY-G houses in Satara.

### Mizoram

- The Mizoram Ginger Mission was launched with a ₹189.79 Crore central outlay, highlighting that Mizo ginger has a 6–8% oleoresin content compared to the 3% global average.

### Nagaland

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched a ₹175 crore Nagaland Coffee Mission in New Delhi. The initiative introduced the brand "North East Coffees of Nagaland" to position the state as a premium single-origin coffee economy, targeting 50,000 hectares of cultivation by 2047.

### Odisha

- Odisha is the top contributor (14%) to India's mining economy according to ASSOCHAM and ICRA.
- The Odisha Cabinet approved the Odisha Marine Fishing Regulation Act 2026 to enhance the blue economy, targeting ₹25,000 crore in seafood exports by 2036.

### Punjab

- Launched the Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana, offering a ₹10 lakh health top-up.

### Rajasthan

- A \$225 million World Bank highway loan was sanctioned for Rajasthan.

- Launched the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Poverty Free Village Scheme and Green Gram Corridor.
- The Alwar district achieved 100% insurance coverage.
- Rajasthan's first Semiconductor Plant was inaugurated in Bhiwadi with a ₹150 crore investment.

### Sikkim

- Sikkim celebrated its 51st Statehood Day on May 16. During the event, 'Mission Sikkim Organics' was launched with a ₹360 crore outlay for 66,000 farmer families.
- The state was declared India's 5th fully literate state under the ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) scheme.
- It became the first state to offer a Sabbatical Leave Scheme (365–1080 days at 50% pay).
- It hosts India's first Organic Fisheries Cluster.
- President Droupadi Murmu awarded the prestigious President's Police Colour to the Sikkim Police in Gangtok.

### Tamil Nadu

- Controversy arose over the Prime Minister Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) Scheme, as the state follows a strict two-language policy (Tamil and English) and refuses to implement the scheme's mandated three-language formula.
- A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to set up India's first Mega Greenfield Shipyard in Thoothukudi.

### Tripura

- Tripura became the first state to complete all 51 priority areas under Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the National Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Initiative.
- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the ₹236 crore Mission Queen Pineapple to develop a premium export chain for the GI-tagged fruit.

### Uttar Pradesh

- Formed its 76th district, Kalyan Singh Nagar (carved from Aligarh/Bulandshahr).
- Launched Mission Rozgar 2.0 aiming for 1 crore jobs by 2026.
- Hosted India's first Vistadome Jungle Safari.
- Opened India's first Vulture Conservation Centre.

### West Bengal

- The state cabinet approved the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission

to increase state employee and pensioner salaries, settling long-pending arrears.

- The cabinet approved the '**Annapurna Bhandar Scheme**', providing **₹3,000** monthly financial assistance to eligible women starting June 1st (transitioning from the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme).

## 13. Persons in News

### 1. Obituaries

- **Major General Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri** (aged 91), the former **Chief Minister (CM)** of **Uttarakhand**, passed away in **Dehradun**, and a 3-day state mourning was observed.
- **Bashir Badr**, an eminent modern Urdu ghazal poet and academic, passed away in **Bhopal** after a prolonged illness and dementia. He was awarded the **Padma Shri (1999)** and the **1999 Urdu Sahitya Akademi Award** for his ghazal collection "**Aas**" (part of a larger collection of 69 ghazals), with his famous anthologies including "**Ikai**" and "**Aahat**".
- **Raja Randhir Singh** (aged 79), a five-time Olympian shooter and veteran sports administrator, passed away in **New Delhi**. He was an **Asian Games Gold Medalist** and **Arjuna Awardee**, having served in key roles within the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**, the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)**, and the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**.
- **Shyamlal Meena (Sham Lalmina)** (aged 61), an Indian archery pioneer and member of India's first Olympic archery team (**1988 Seoul Olympian**), passed away in **Rajasthan** after a prolonged illness. He was a recipient of the **Arjuna Award (1989)** and mentored young archers in the state.
- **Sudhanshu Sil (also known as Sudhanshu Singh)** (aged 81), a veteran leader of the **Communist Party of India (Marxist) / CPI(M)** and former **Member of Parliament (MP)**, passed away in **Kolkata**.
- **Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi**, the former **President of Yemen** who served from 2012 to 2022, passed away.
- **Dhanendra Kumar**, a former bureaucrat and the first chairman of the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, passed away.

- **Marcia Lucas**, a renowned Oscar-winning film editor best known for her work on the 1977 classic film **Star Wars**, passed away.
- **Mike Smith**, the former **England Test cricket captain**, passed away.
- **Santosh K. Nair**, a prominent Malayalam actor, passed away recently.
- **R.B. Choudhary**, a prominent film producer and the founder of **Super Good Films**, passed away recently.

### 2. Rich Lists & Financial Milestones

- **Sanjay and Dheeraj Hinduja and family (Hinduja Group)** claimed the #1 spot on the **Sunday Times UK Rich List 2026** for the 5th consecutive year, with a total estimated wealth of **£38 billion** (also cited as **Euro 38 billion**).
- **David and Simon Reuben** ranked 2nd on the **Sunday Times UK Rich List 2026**.
- **Lionel Messi** officially became the second footballer (after **Cristiano Ronaldo**) to cross a **\$1 billion** net worth, according to the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**.

### 3. Records, Achievements & Other Notable Personalities

- **Kami Rita Sherpa** (aged 56), a Nepali mountaineer famously known as the "**Everest Man**", broke his own world record by scaling **Mount Everest (8,848.86 m)** for the 32nd time.
- **Lhakpa Sherpa**, famously known as the "**Mountain Queen**", completed her 11th ascent of **Mount Everest**, establishing a record for women.
- **Shrey Parikh**, a 14-year-old Indian-American student, won the **Scripps National Spelling Bee**, earning a **\$52,500** reward.

### 4. Book Releases & Authors

- "**Better Never Stops: Leadership Insights from Life's Unscripted Moments**" — debut book by **Shyam Srinivasan**, former MD & CEO of **Federal Bank**; published by **Wiser Content Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru**.
- "**Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman**" — authored by **Vijay Goel**.
- "**Apnapan: Narendra Modi Sang Mere Anubhav**" — authored by Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**; released by former VP **M. Venkaiah Naidu** and former PM **H.D. Deve Gowda**.
- "**A Man for All Seasons: The Life of K.M. Panikkar**" — authored by **Narayani Basu** (published by **The Hindu**).

- **Dogri-Punjabi Dictionary** — authored by the late **Chandan Negi**; released by HP Governor **Kavinder Gupta**.
- **"India's First Olympic Gold"** — by hockey historian **K. Arumugam**; launched by IOA President **PT Usha** and **Dilip Tirkey**; commemorates the Indian men's hockey team's **1928 Amsterdam Olympics** gold (beating the Netherlands).
- **"Bazaar"** (2nd edition) — novel by **Niranjan Dev Sharma**; released by HP CM **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**; covers 1971–1992.

## 14. Ranks & Reports

### 1. Global Indices & Rankings

- **Henley Passport Index 2026**: India's rank dropped to **78th** (from 75th), granting visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to **56 destinations**. **Singapore** ranked **1st** (access to 192 destinations), followed by **Japan** (2nd), and **South Korea** (3rd).
- **Arton Capital Passport Index**: The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** ranked **1st** globally.
- **World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) 2026**: **India** ranked **157th** out of **180 countries**, falling in the 'Very Serious' category.
- **Global Peace Index (GPI)**: Released by the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** covering 163 countries. **Iceland** ranked **1st** as the safest country.
- **Lowy Institute Asia Power Index**: The **United States of America (USA)** ranked **1st**, followed by **China** (2nd) and **India** (3rd).
- **Global Innovation Index**: **India** ranked **38th** globally.
- **Energy Transition Index**: **India** dropped to the **71st** position. **Sweden** ranked **1st**, while **Congo** ranked **118th**.
- **Global Investment Risk Index**: **Switzerland** ranked **1st** (released by **Henley & Alpha Geo**).

### 2. National Economic & Logistics Reports

- **State of Indian States 2026 Economic Report**: Released by **Blind Associates**. The top 5 states (**Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Gujarat**) contribute **48%** of India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, while the bottom 10 states contribute only **3%**. **Maharashtra** is the top contributor (**13.3%**), while **Tamil Nadu** showed the highest Year-on-Year (YoY) growth.

- **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Report (7th Edition)**: Organized by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** and presented by **Union Minister Piyush Goyal**. State categorizations include:

- **Exemplars**: **Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, Delhi**.
- **High Performers**: **Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, J&K, Puducherry, Haryana, Telangana, Bihar, Tripura, Meghalaya**.
- **Accelerators**: **Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, Karnataka, Punjab, Jharkhand, MP, Uttarakhand, HP, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam, DNH & DD, Chandigarh, Ladakh, Lakshadweep**.
- **Growth Seekers**: **West Bengal, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar**.

- **Logistic Port Performance Index (LPPI) FY 24-25**: Released by **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal** under the **Sagar Aklan** framework. Top performing ports by cargo type:

- **Dry Bulk Cargo**: **Paradip Port**.
- **Liquid Bulk Cargo**: **Sikka Port Terminal**.
- **Container Cargo**: **Mundra Port** (1st rank) and **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** (2nd rank).

- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) – April 2026**: Released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**. The overall unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 and above stood at **5.2%**. The rural unemployment rate was **4.6%**, and the urban unemployment rate was **6.6%**.

- **RBI Payment System Report (December 2025)**: India processed **77.6 crore** digital payments daily. The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** accounted for **85.5%** of transaction volume, while **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** handled **68.8%** of transaction value. Credit card spending rose to **₹23.2 lakh crores**. **Telangana** topped the RBI study on UPI transaction intensity.

### 3. Environment, Health & Social Surveys

- **Global Housing Crisis Report**: Released by the **United Nations (UN) Human Settlement Program** at the **World Urban Forum 2026** in **Baku, Azerbaijan**. It reported that **40%** of the global population

faces housing problems, and **44%** of households spend over **30%** of their income on housing. Homelessness per 10,000 people stood at **13 in India, 20 in the US, and 21 in China.**

- **UN Global Forest Goals Report 2026:** Published by the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)** covering 2015–2025. Global forest cover severely declined from approximately **4.18 billion hectares** in 2015 to **4.14 billion hectares** in 2025, marking an annual net loss of approximately **4.12 million hectares.**
- **India Heat Wave Atlas 2025:** Released by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, mapping **200 vulnerable districts.**
- **Clean Air Survey: Indore** topped the national Clean Air Survey.
- **India Mortality Data:** India's **Under-5 Mortality** dropped by **78%** (compared to the 61% global average), and **Neonatal Mortality** dropped by **70%** (compared to the 54% global average).
- **Tiger Density Global Rankings:** **Bandipur (Karnataka)** ranked **1st**, followed by **Corbett (Uttarakhand)** at **2nd**, and **Kaziranga (Assam)** at **3rd.**

#### 4. Wealth & Rich Lists

- **Sunday Times UK Rich List 2026:** Indian-origin businessmen **Sanjay and Dheeraj Hinduja and family (Hinduja Group)** claimed the #1 spot for the 5th consecutive year with a total estimated wealth of **£38 billion** (also cited as **Euro 38 billion**). **David and Simon Reuben** ranked **2nd.**

## 15. Schemes and Initiatives

### 1. Central Employment, Rural & Governance Schemes

- **Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rojgar & Aajeevika Act 2025:** This act officially replaces the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** starting July 1, 2026. It guarantees **125 days** of wage employment (up from 100 days). The central government will fund **100%** of the wage bill. Funding ratios for implementation: **60:40** (Center:State) for general states, **90:10** for North-Eastern/Himalayan states, and **100%** for Union Territories. It has a dedicated budget allocation of **₹95,692.31 crore.**
- **Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi):**

Originally launched on June 1, 2020, the scheme was extended from December 31, 2024, to March 31, 2030, with a new **₹7,332 crore** outlay targeting **1.15 crore** beneficiaries. It provides collateral-free progressive working capital loans of **₹15,000, ₹25,000, and ₹50,000.** Vendors receive a **7%** interest subsidy via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**, up to **₹1,600** cashback for digital transactions, and a UPI-linked **RuPay** credit card upon timely repayment of the second loan. It is managed by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** and the **Department of Financial Services.**

- **Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA):** Launched by **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi** on April 24, 2020, the scheme was extended to September 30, 2026, with a **₹472 crore** budget. So far, **1.89 lakh** villages have been mapped using drones, and over **3.14 crore** property cards have been issued. The **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad** successfully presented it to the **World Bank** as a model for rural property mapping and governance.
- **Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in PDS (SARTHAK PDS):** The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved the continuation of this umbrella scheme to modernize the Public Distribution System (PDS). It has a central outlay of **₹25,530 crore** to be spent over the next 5 years (up to March 31, 2031).
- **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyudaya Yojana (PM AJAY):** A centrally sponsored scheme launched in FY 2022 that merged the *Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, Special Central Assistance to SC Sub Plan, and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana.* **Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar** launched the **PM AJAY portal** and mobile app to seamlessly digitize and implement it.
- **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (Bhavya Scheme):** The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** released guidelines for this India Industrialization Development Scheme. It aims to develop **100** investment-ready, world-class industrial parks (**50** in Phase 1) between FY 2026-27 and 2031-32 with a

₹33,660 crore central budget. Parks require a minimum of 100 acres (25 acres for hilly states) and will be monitored by the **National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC)**.

- **Khet Bachao Abhiyan (Save the Land / Save Farms Campaign)**: Officially announced by **Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, this nationwide fortnight campaign runs from June 1, 2026, and successfully engaged **2.71 crore** citizens.
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana**: Launched in 2019 and implemented from April 2020 to promote decentralized groundwater management. It covers **29 blocks across 7 states** (Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, UP) with a **₹6,000 crore** budget supported equally by the **Government of India** and the **World Bank**.
- **National Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Initiative**: Tripura became the first state in **India** to complete all **51 priority areas** under Phase 1 (23 areas) and Phase 2 (28 areas) of this initiative.

## 2. Education, Tribal & Social Empowerment Schemes

- **Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA)**: Launched on October 2, 2024 (also referred to as *Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan*), with a total budget of **₹79,156 crore**. It targets **5 crore** tribal people across **63,000** villages.
- **Tribal Aptitude Life Skill and Self Esteem Hub (TALASH) & Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan**: The **TALASH** platform was launched by the **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** and **UNICEF** using **NCERT's Tamanna test** for tribal student assessment. The **Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan** aims to train **2 million (20 lakh)** grassroots tribal changemakers across 1 lakh villages to improve decentralized governance.
- **PM Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM USHA)**: An upgraded version of the **Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** launched in June 2023. It operates on a **₹12,926 crore** budget (2023-26), targeting accessible, quality higher education. Funding is split **90:10** for NE/Himalayan states, **60:40** for other states, and **100%** centrally funded for Union Territories.

- **Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MERU)**: A national workshop for this initiative was held at **ICAR**, New Delhi. **35 universities** received **₹100 crore** each to upgrade into world-class multidisciplinary institutions.
- **Prime Minister Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)**: A centrally sponsored scheme targeting over **14,500** government schools to implement **NEP 2020**. It sparked controversy in **Tamil Nadu** as the scheme mandates a three-language formula, which the state refuses to adopt over its strict two-language policy (Tamil and English).
- **"To Reach the Unreached" Initiative**: Launched by the **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** to bring **2 crore** out-of-school children back into the formal education system.
- **Vanchit Ikai Samooch aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayata Yojana (VISHWAS)**: Operating under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, it provides marginalized groups (SC, OBC, SHGs) direct financial benefits via a **5% interest subvention**. Loan limits are **₹4 lakh** for SHGs and **₹2 lakh** for individuals.
- **Project Saksham**: Launched by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** and **Vertis Foundation** to empower rural women and underserved youth living near highway corridors through vocational training (tailoring, nursing). Expected monthly salaries range from **₹13,000 to ₹16,000**.

## 3. Health, Senior Citizens & Genetic Programs

- **Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)**: Launched in 2021 with a budget of **₹64,180 crore** up to 2026. Under the broader **Ayushman Bharat** umbrella (which provides **₹5 lakh** health insurance per year to **12 crore** families), the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** successfully crossed **100 crore** 14-digit **Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)** records. **Uttar Pradesh** (15.03 crore) and **Andhra Pradesh** (11.95 crore) were the top-performing states.
- **Unique Methods of Management and Treatment of Inherited Disorders (UMMID)**: Phase 2 of this program/portal was launched by **Dr. Jitendra Singh** to focus on genomic testing, research, and development for managing rare genetic disorders.

- **Senior Citizen Platforms (JEEVAN, SHATAYU & AVYAY):** Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the **Joint Elderly Empowerment and Virtual Assistance Network (JEEVAN)** App and the **Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility (SHATAYU)** Dashboard. The **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)** continues to provide shelter, food, healthcare, and financial security for senior citizens (60+).

#### 4. Pension, Banking & Digital Finance Schemes

- **National Pension System (NPS) & Atal Pension Yojana (APY):** The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** extended the maximum subscription age for NPS from **75 to 85 years**. It also reduced the mandatory annuity requirement for private subscribers from **40% to 20%**, allowing an **80% lump sum withdrawal**, and introduced the **Retirement Income Scheme (RIS)** for gradual monthly/quarterly payouts. **APY** crossed **9 crore enrollments** and was extended to **2030-31**.
- **Unclaimed Deposit Gateway to Access inforMation (UDGAM):** Created by **Reserve Bank Information Technology (ReBIT)** and the **Institute for Financial and Technology Services (IFTAS)**. **30 banks** covering 90% of unclaimed values are integrated with this portal.
- **Sahakari Bank Shamta Nirman (SAKSHAM) Mission:** Launched by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** specifically for capacity building in **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**.

#### 5. Agriculture, Environment & Energy Missions

- **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0:** Originally launched in 2019, the mission was extended to continue providing **55 litres** of safe tap drinking water per head daily to rural households. The **Sujalam Bharat App** tracks the mission's assets.
- **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme:** Achieved its **E20** target on April 1, 2026, five years ahead of its 2030 deadline. The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** formally notified the IS 19850:2026 fuel specifications for **E22, E25, E27, and E30** petrol.
- **Coal & Lignite Gasification Scheme:** The Cabinet approved a **₹37,500 crore** outlay with a national target to gasify **100 million tonnes** by 2030.

- **Mission Mausam:** Launched on January 14, 2025, with a budget of **₹2,000 crore**. Under this mission, the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** in Pune launched a **Climate Innovation Startup Hub** to invite AI-driven climate startups.
- **Ayush Anudan Portal:** Launched by **Minister of State Prataprao Jadhav** under the **Ayush Grid** initiative at Kartavya Path, New Delhi. It brings 100% transparency to grant management, budget allocations, and CSR funding for Ayush colleges.
- **State-Specific Agricultural Missions:**
  - **Nagaland Coffee Mission:** Launched with a **₹175 crore** outlay by **Jyotiraditya Scindia** to cultivate 50,000 hectares by 2047, branding it as "North East Coffees of Nagaland".
  - **Arunachal Pradesh Kiwi Mission:** Launched with a **₹167 crore** outlay by **Jyotiraditya Scindia**.
  - **Tripura Mission Queen Pineapple:** Launched with a **₹236 crore** outlay to develop a premium export chain for the GI-tagged fruit.
  - **Mission Sikkim Organics:** Launched with a **₹360 crore** outlay to certify Sikkim as a global premium organic producer, benefiting 66,000 farmer families.
  - **Mizoram Ginger Mission:** Launched with a **₹189.79 crore** central outlay to capitalize on Mizo ginger's high 6–8% oleoresin content.

#### 6. Miscellaneous State-Specific Schemes

- **Andhra Pradesh:** Launched the "**Children are Wealth**" scheme, offering cash incentives of **₹30,000** for a 3rd child and **₹40,000** for a 4th child due to declining TFR. Also launched the **Digi Lakshmi — "One Family, One Entrepreneur"** scheme.
- **Assam:** Launched the **Nijut Moina 2.0** scheme (financial aid for girls' education) and the **Gajamitra Scheme** (utilizing bamboo/Napier grass to prevent human-elephant conflict).
- **Delhi:** Launched the **Ayushman Vaya Vandana Yojana** (₹5 lakh health coverage for citizens aged 70+), the **Saheli Smart Card** (free bus travel for women), a collateral-free loan scheme up to **₹10 Crore** for women SHGs, and the "**Hauslon ki Udaan**" talent hunt for youth.
- **Haryana:** Launched the **Shram Mitra App** for unorganized workers and the **Green Panchayat Award**.

- **Punjab:** Launched the **Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana** offering a ₹10 lakh health top-up.
- **Rajasthan:** Launched the **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Poverty Free Village Scheme** and the **Green Gram Corridor**.
- **Uttar Pradesh:** Launched **Mission Rozgar 2.0**, aiming to generate 1 crore jobs by 2026.
- **West Bengal:** The state cabinet approved the '**Annapurna Bhandar Scheme**', transitioning from the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme, to provide ₹3,000 monthly financial assistance to eligible women.
- **Sikkim:** Became the first state to offer a **Sabbatical Leave Scheme** (365–1080 days at 50% pay).

## 16. Science and Technology

### 1. Space & Astronomy

- **Chandrayaan-2 Lunar Discovery:** Scientists at the **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)** in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, reported that the **Chandrayaan-2** radar successfully detected subsurface ice trapped within a lunar south pole crater.
- **Space Manufacturing & Clusters:** With support from the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)**, the **Department of Space** approved the establishment of **Common Technical Facilities** across two states. A **Space Manufacturing Park** will be set up in **Koraj, Gujarat** focusing on advanced spacecraft payload systems, while a **Space Vehicle Cluster** will be established in **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**.
- **Vista Super Pressure Balloon: Red Balloon Aerospace**, an indigenous space startup, successfully launched "**Vista**", which is **India's** first indigenous **Super Pressure Balloon (SPB)**.
- **SMILE Spacecraft:** The **Solar wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE)** spacecraft was launched as a joint mission by the **European Space Agency (ESA)** and the **Chinese Academy of Sciences** to study Earth's magnetosphere.
- **NASA Moon Base: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** administrator **Jared Rook Isaacman** unveiled a **\$20 billion**, three-phase plan to create a permanent moon base.

### 2. Artificial Intelligence & Supercomputing

- **Supercomputers:** "**Param Rudra**", **Bihar's** first supercomputer, was installed at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna**. Additionally, the **Bharat Forecasting System (BFS)** now utilizes the "**Arka**" supercomputer to achieve a high-resolution 6x6 km weather forecasting capability.
- **AI Infrastructure:** **RackBank** is building **India's** first **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** in **Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh**, featuring an 80 MW capacity. Furthermore, **BITS Pilani** announced it will open **India's** first **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** campus in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Crime & Postal Technology:** The **Mahacrime OS**, developed by **Cyber Eye** and **Microsoft**, was introduced to modernize crime investigations. The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad** developed **DigiPin**, an advanced postal index system.

### 3. Biological Discoveries, Genomics & Medical Tech

- **Plant OpenCRISPR-1 (POC1):** Developed by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and its **Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI)** in **Cuttack, Odisha**, led by **Dr. Kutubuddin Ali Molla**. This stands as the world's first **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-designed genome editing platform for plants, utilizing rice as the model crop.
- **Animal Stem Cell Biobank:** **India's** first animal stem cell biobank was opened in **Hyderabad**.
- **Biomedical Innovation Platform:** The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** launched "**Medical Innovations Patent Mitra**", **India's** largest biomedical innovation platform, at the **Manha centre** in **New Delhi**.
- **New Species Discoveries:**
  - **Spiders:** Two brand new species of spiders — *Cheiracanthium intio* and *Cheiracanthium pensive* — were discovered in **Nagaland**.
  - **Frogs:** A new frog species named the "**Kali Night Frog**" was discovered in **Karnataka**.
  - **Snakes:** New snake species, including a worm-eating snake and the *Trimeresurus uetzi*, were discovered in **Mizoram** and **Myanmar**.

#### 4. Environmental, Geo-Technology & Semiconductors

- **Underground River Discovery:** Researchers from the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI)** in **Hyderabad** discovered an ancient **200 km underground river channel** buried 10–15 metres below the surface flowing between **Prayagraj** and **Kanpur**.
- **Algae-Based Environmental Tech: India's** first solar-powered algae tree, which uses microalgae to absorb **Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** and release oxygen, was launched at **Swami Vivekananda Park in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**. Similarly, the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati** developed an **Algae-Based Air Purifier** that absorbs CO<sub>2</sub>.
- **Semiconductor Manufacturing: India's Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** launched a digital investor support portal for handling grievances and signaling state-specific interests, while the **ISM 2.0** framework was instituted for **2026-27** with annual funding of **₹1,000 crore**. **Sahasra Semiconductor Pvt Ltd, India's** first SME semiconductor facility, was inaugurated in **Bhiwadi, Rajasthan** by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** with an investment of **₹150 crores**.
- **Aviation Weather Monitoring: Union Minister Jitendra Singh** inaugurated **India's** first "**SkyCaste System**" designed specifically for aviation weather monitoring at the **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi**.
- **Green Materials & Upcycling: Japan** created a unique seawater-dissolving plastic that simultaneously releases fertilizer. **Bio-Bitumen** technology was introduced, utilizing agricultural waste for road building. The **SUNRISE Initiative** was launched to focus exclusively on upcycling old solar panels.
- **Satellite-Tagged Turtle:** To track its ecosystem in the **Brahmaputra** basin, **Assam** released **India's** first satellite-tagged endangered **Ganges Soft Shell Turtle** in the **Brahmaputra River** at **Kaziranga National Park** on **Endangered Species Day**.

## 17. Sports

### 1. Cricket

- **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** secured their second consecutive **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026** title by defeating the **Gujarat Titans** by 5 wickets in the final played at the **Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad**.
- **Virat Kohli** was named **Player of the Match** in the IPL final. He also became the 1st Indian and 6th player globally to score **14,000 T20 runs**, breaking **Chris Gayle's** record for the fastest milestone.
- 15-year-old **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** won the **IPL Orange Cap, MVP, and Super Striker** awards, scoring 776 runs in 16 matches, making him the youngest-ever recipient. He also became the youngest cricketer to hit **100 T20 sixes** and broke the record for most sixes in a single IPL season by hitting **72 sixes**.
- **Kagiso Rabada** won the **IPL Purple Cap** with 29 wickets.
- According to the **Fnatic Sports & Hurun Report**, the highest IPL earners are **Virat Kohli (₹230 crores)**, **Rohit Sharma (₹227.2 crores)**, and **MS Dhoni (₹200 crores)**. The total IPL franchise valuation is **₹1.63 lakh crores**, with **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** being the most valuable franchise, followed by **MI, CSK, SRH, and RCB**.
- **Smriti Mandhana** is the highest **Women's Premier League (WPL)** earner at **₹13.7 crores**.
- **Saudi Arabia** will launch its first professional T20 cricket league in October 2026. The league will have 6 teams, and **Yuvraj Singh** has been appointed as the Ambassador of the league.

### 2. Football

- **Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)** won the French professional football **Ligue 1 Title** for their 5th consecutive time.
- **Aston Villa** defeated **Freiburg** to win the **Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Europa League**.
- The 23rd edition of the **FIFA World Cup 2026** will run from June 11 to July 19 across 16 cities, jointly hosted by the **USA, Mexico, and Canada**. It will feature **48 teams** and **104 matches**.

### 3. Tennis & Badminton

- **Italian Open 2026 Tennis (83rd edition, Rome):**

- **Men's Singles: Jannik Sinner** (Italy) won the title by defeating **Casper Ruud**, becoming the first Italian winner in 50 years.
- **Women's Singles: Elina Svitolina** (Ukraine) won her 3rd Italian Open title by defeating **Coco Gauff**.
- **Men's Doubles: Simone Bolelli** and **Andrea Vavassori** became the first all-Italian duo to win the title.
- **Women's Doubles: Mirra Andreeva** and **Diana Shnaider** won the title.
- The Indian badminton duo **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** won the **Singapore Open**, ending a two-year title drought by defeating the Indonesian pair **Muhammad Shohibul Fikri** and **Fajar Alfian**.
- Indian shuttler **Shreesiyasi Valli Shethi** won Silver at the **Baoji China Masters**, losing to China's **An Qiu Yuan**.

#### 4. Athletics, Weightlifting & Boxing

- **Gurindervir Singh** became the fastest Indian sprinter by setting a national record of **10.09 seconds** in the 100-meter event at the **Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium / Fed Cup** in **Ranchi**. **Animesh Kujur** placed second with **10.20 seconds**.
- **Vishal** broke the 45-second 400m barrier by clocking **44.98 seconds** at the **Fed Cup** in **Ranchi**.
- Two-time Paralympic champion **Sumit Antil** from Haryana broke his own world record in the **Men's Javelin Throw (F64 category)** with a **74.82 meters** throw.
- At the **IAU 24-Hour Asia & Oceania Championship** in **Japan**, India won five medals and achieved a complete individual clean sweep: **Amar Singh Devanda** took Gold (running 282.881 km), **Geeno Antony** won Silver, and **Saurav Kumar Ranjan** won Bronze.
- **Asian Weightlifting Championship 2026:** Hosted at the **Mahatma Mandir Convention Center** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat** (India's second time hosting). **China** topped both the men's and women's overall tallies. **India** ranked **11th overall** (3rd in women's team, 5th in men's team), securing **10 medals** (1 Silver, 9 Bronze). **Gyaneshwari Yadav** won India's only silver medal, and **Komal Kohar** secured India's first medal of the championship.

- **Asian U15 Boxing Championship:** India won **27 medals** (9 Gold, 6 Silver, 12 Bronze).

#### 5. Motorsports, Shooting & Chess

- **Canadian Grand Prix 2026:** Mercedes AMG driver **Kimi Antonelli** won the 64th **F1 Lenovo Grand Prix du Canada**, marking his fourth consecutive victory following wins in Miami, Japan, and China.
- **Monaco Grand Prix: Lando Norris** (McLaren) won the F1 race.
- **Shooting:** Indian shooter **Esha Singh** broke the world record in the **Women's 25m Pistol** event at the **ISSF World Cup** held in **Munich, Germany** (the ISSF Headquarters).
- **Chess: Ilamparthi A.R.** became India's **90th Grandmaster** (the GM title requires 2500 Elo points). 19-year-old **Swarna Lakshmi (Sara Lakshmi Nay)** became the second female chess player from **Karnataka** and the first from **Bengaluru** to achieve the **Women International Master (WIM)** status awarded by **FIDE**.
- The **First Commonwealth School Chess Championship** is scheduled to be held in **Malaysia** in October 2026.

#### 6. Multi-Sport Events, Hosting Rights & Governance

- **Asian Athletics Hosting Rights:** India won the rights to host major events; **Chandigarh** will host the **3rd Asian Relay Championship** in 2027, and **Bhubaneswar, Odisha** (at the Kalinga Stadium) will host both the **Asian Indoor Athletics Championship** in 2028 and the **World Indoor Championship** in 2028.
- **Commonwealth Games 2026:** Will be hosted in **Glasgow, Scotland** (the fourth time Scotland is hosting). Davis Cup skipper **Rohit Rajpal** was appointed **Chef de Mission** for India, alongside **Ravi Begnani** who was appointed **Deputy Chef de Mission**.
- **National Games 2027:** Meghalaya will host the 39th edition.
- **First World Yogasana Championship 2026:** Hosted by **Yogasana Bharat** in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat** from June 4–8, 2026. **Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** launched the championship film, official jersey, and mascot named "**Veer**".
- **National Sports Governance Rules 2026:** Established the **National Sport Board (NSB)**, consisting of a chairperson and two members, to act as the central regulatory authority granting recognition to national

sports bodies. Additionally, the **National Sports Tribunal (NST)** chairperson will serve a term of five years or until reaching the age of 70.

- **Anti-Doping Bans:** The **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** imposed 3-year bans on athletes **Ankit** and **Jayesh Patil** for the use of the prohibited substance "**Meldonium**".

## 18. Static News

### 1. Constitutional Articles

- **Article 124(1):** Governs the appointment of **Supreme Court (SC)** judges.
- **Article 163:** Defines that the **Council of Ministers** advises the **Governor**.
- **Article 164:** Details the appointment of the **Chief Minister (CM)** by the **Governor**.
- **Article 166:** States that executive actions of a state government are taken in the **Governor's** name.
- **Article 167:** Outlines the **Chief Minister's** duty to inform the **Governor**.
- **Article 174:** Empowers the **Governor** to summon the state legislature.
- **Article 356:** Details the provisions for the imposition of **President's Rule** in a state.

### 2. Banking & Financial Institutions (Static GK)

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**  
**Infrastructure:** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **34 office locations** and **5 training establishments**.
- **Payment Banks Framework:** Require a minimum capital of **₹100 crore**. They can accept only demand deposits up to **₹2 lakh** and cannot issue loans. The **Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)** is mandated at **15%**, and **75%** of deposits must be invested in **Government Securities (G-Secs)** with a 1-year maturity. Conversion to a **Small Finance Bank (SFB)** requires **5 years** of experience and **₹300 crore** in capital.
- **Basel III Norms:** Require **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** to maintain a **12%** Risk-Weighted Asset Ratio, while other commercial banks must maintain **9%**.
- **Positive Pay System:** Serves as an additional verification mechanism for issued cheques. It is optional for amounts between **₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh**, but mandatory for amounts above **₹5 lakh**.

- **Microfinance Loans:** Exclusively designated for families with an annual income below **₹3 lakh**.
- **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs):** Recognized as "Too Big to Fail" banks. The list currently comprises the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, **HDFC Bank**, and **ICICI Bank** (the D-SIB framework was initiated in 2014).
- **National Stock Exchange (NSE):** Established in **1992** based on the recommendations of the **Pherwani Committee**. It ranks as the **5th largest stock exchange globally** and is currently headed by **Ashishkumar Chauhan**.
- **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City):** Officially established in **April 2015**.
- **Major Bank Headquarters & Taglines:**
  - **Punjab National Bank (PNB):** Headquartered in **Delhi**. Tagline: "**The Name You Can Bank Upon**". Founded in **1894** in **Lahore** by **Lala Lajpat Rai**, it is recognized as the first Swadeshi bank. It merged with the **New Bank of India** in 1993.
  - **Bank of Baroda (BoB):** Headquartered in **Vadodara**. Tagline: "**India's International Bank**".
  - **Indian Bank:** Headquartered in **Chennai**. Tagline: "**Your Own Bank**".
  - **Bank of Maharashtra:** Headquartered in **Pune**. Tagline: "**One Family One Bank**".
  - **Union Bank of India:** Headquartered in **Mumbai**. Tagline: "**Good People to Bank With**".
  - **HDFC Bank:** Headquartered in **Mumbai**. Tagline: "**We understand your World**".
  - **ICICI Bank:** Headquartered in **Mumbai**. Taglines: "**Hum Hain Na!**", "**Khayal Apka**".
  - **IndusInd Bank:** Headquartered in **Mumbai**. Tagline: "**We Make You Feel Richer**".
  - **Bank of India (BOI):** Headquartered in **Mumbai**. Tagline: "**Relationship Beyond Banking**".
  - **State Bank of India (SBI):** Headquartered in **Mumbai**. Chairman is **C.S. Setty**, supported by **4 Managing Directors (MDs)**.

### 3. National & International Organizations (Static GK)

- **National Statistical Office (NSO):** Headquartered in **New Delhi**; Chaired by **Prof. Rajeev Lakshman Karatkar**.
- **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA):** Founded in **September 2016**; current CEO is **Anita Shah Akella**.
- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI):** Headquartered in **New Delhi**; Chairman is **Santosh Kumar Yadav**.
- **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):** Headquartered in **New Delhi**; Director is **Praveen Sood**.
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):** Headquartered in **New Delhi**; headed by **Ravi Mittal**.
- **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe):** Established in **2020**; Headquartered in **Ahmedabad**.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):** Chairman is **V. Narayanan**. The official tagline is "**Space is Open for All**".
- **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL):** A Maharatna company headquartered in **New Delhi**, founded on **December 24, 1973**, and chaired by **Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda**.
- **GAIL (India) Limited:** Headquartered in **New Delhi**; Founded in **1984**; holds **Maharatna CPSE** status.
- **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Status Criteria:**
  - **Miniratna Category I:** Allows for **₹500 crore** in autonomous investment.
  - **Maharatna:** Requires **₹5,000 crore** in net profit or **₹25,000 crore** in annual turnover over 3 consecutive years.
  - **New Navratnas:** Recently designated companies include **Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL)**, **Cochin Shipyard**, **Goa Shipyard**, and **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)**.
- **Mission Mausam:** Launched on **January 14, 2025**, with a budget allocation of **₹2,000 crore**.
- **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC):** Established in **1989** in **Singapore**. It consists of **21 members** (Note: **India** is NOT a member).
- **Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT):** Acts as an **11,500 bank cooperative**.

- **Interpol:** Headquartered in **Lyon, France**.
- **New Development Bank (NDB):** Headquartered in **Shanghai, China**. **Algeria** recently became the 9th member.
- **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):** Headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):** Headquartered in **New York, USA**.
- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF):** Headquartered in **Paris, France**.
- **Asian Productivity Organization (APO):** Established in **1961**; Headquartered in **Tokyo, Japan**.
- **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):** Headquartered in **Ebene, Mauritius**.
- **Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA):** Established in **1904** in **Paris** (the first World Cup tournament was held in **1930** in **Uruguay**). It is currently chaired by **Gianni Infantino**.

### 4. States & Geography (Static GK)

- **Assam:** Chief Minister is **Himanta Biswa Sarma** (15th CM, serving his 2nd term); Governor is **Lakshman Prasad Acharya**. The state has 21 turtle species. National Parks include **Kaziranga, Manas, Orang, Nameri, Dehing Patkai**, and **Dibru-Saikhowa**. Tiger Reserves include **Manas, Nameri**, and **Kaziranga**. Wildlife Sanctuaries include **Garampani, Pobitora, Nambor, Sonai Rupai, Borail, Karbi Anglong, Nambor Doigrung, Amchang**, and **Deepor Beel** (which is Assam's only Ramsar site).
- **Sikkim:** Became the **22nd state** in **1975** via the **36th Amendment Act**. It is India's first fully paperless judiciary state and its first fully organic state. Capital is **Gangtok**; Chief Minister is **Prem Singh Tamang**; major festivals are **Losar** and **Saga Dawa**.
- **West Bengal:** Chief Minister is **Suvendu Adhikari**; Governor is **R.N. Ravi**. National Parks/Tiger Reserves include **Gorumara, Jaldapara, Neora Valley, Singalila, Sundarbans**, and **Buxa**.
- **Kerala:** National Parks include **Mathikettan Shola, Periyar, Silent Valley, Anamudi Shola**, and **Pampadum Shola**. Traditional dances include **Kathakali, Ottan Thullal, Mohiniyattam**, and **Kaikottikali**.
- **Tripura:** Capital is **Agartala**; Chief Minister is **Manik Saha**; Governor is **Indrasena Reddy Nallu**.

- **Mizoram:** Capital is **Aizawl**; Chief Minister is **Lalduhoma**; Governor is **General V.K. Singh**.
- **Puducherry:** Lieutenant Governor is **Kuniyil Kailashnathan**.
- **Madhya Pradesh:** **Miyana Railway Station** is located in **Guna**.

### 5. Countries (Static GK)

- **Sweden:** Capital: **Stockholm** | Currency: **Swedish Krona (SEK)** | Prime Minister: **Ulf Kristersson**.
- **Netherlands:** Capital: **Amsterdam** | Currency: **Euro**.
- **Italy:** Capital: **Rome** | Currency: **Euro (EUR)** | President: **Sergio Mattarella** | Prime Minister: **Giorgia Meloni**.
- **Norway:** Capital: **Oslo** | Currency: **Norwegian Krone (NOK)**.
- **Oman:** Capital: **Muscat** | Currency: **Omani Rial**.
- **Uganda:** Capital: **Kampala** | Currency: **Ugandan Shilling** | Prime Minister: **Robinah Nabbanja**.
- **Slovenia:** Capital: **Ljubljana** | Currency: **Euro**.
- **Yemen:** Capital: **Sana'a** | Currency: **Yemeni Rial**.
- **Myanmar:** Capital: **Naypyidaw** | Currency: **Kyat**.

### 7. Environment, Borders & National Heritage (Static GK)

- **India's International Border Lengths:** **Bangladesh** (4096 km), **China** (3488 km), **Pakistan** (3323 km), **Nepal** (1751 km), **Myanmar** (1643 km), **Bhutan** (699 km), and **Afghanistan** (106 km).
- **Ramsar Wetlands:** India has a total of **99 Ramsar wetlands**, with **Tamil Nadu** holding the highest number (**20 sites**). Recent additions include the **Patna Bird Sanctuary** (Uttar Pradesh), **Chhari-Dhand** (Gujarat), and **Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary** (Uttar Pradesh).
- **World Heritage Sites (WHS):** India has **44 World Heritage Sites**. **Mount Kanchenjunga** (Sikkim) is India's first Mixed WHS. **Majuli** (Assam) is recognized as the world's largest river island.
- **Wildlife Reserves & Corridors:** **Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary** (Jharkhand) is the only Indian Grey Wolf reserve. **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve** is the largest Tiger Reserve in **Madhya Pradesh**. **Murlen National Park** is located in **Mizoram**. The **Kumram Bheem Reserve** (Telangana) acts as a vital link connecting

the **Kawal and Tadoba Andhari tiger corridors**.

- **Green Innovations:** **Cochin International Airport** hosts India's first airport green hydrogen plant. **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport** is India's first "water positive" airport. **Surat** is the first city in India to officially implement the **Green Building Code 2025**.

### 8. Sports (Static GK)

- **Grand Slam Tennis Order:** The chronological order of the tennis majors is the **Australian Open**, followed by the **French Open**, **Wimbledon**, and finally the **US Open**.
- **Top Ranked Tennis Players:** High-ranking global players include **Jannik Sinner** (Italy), **Carlos Alcaraz** (Spain), **Aryna Sabalenka** (Belarus), and **Iga Swiatek** (Poland).
- **Cricket History:** **India** has secured a total of **14 International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophies** (starting with their first victory in 1983), which includes **7 major senior ICC trophies**. The lowest Test innings score in history is **26**, recorded by **New Zealand** in 1955.
- **Hockey:** The **Sultan Azlan Shah Cup** is an annual international men's field hockey tournament held in **Ipoh, Malaysia**.

### 9. Books & Authors (Static GK)

- **"The One: Cricket My Life and More"** — The official autobiography of Indian cricketer **Shikhar Dhawan**.
- **"The Library Man of India: The Story of P.N. Panicker"** — Authored by **P.P. Sathyaj / PP Satayan**.
- **Amish Tripathi's Bibliography:** Notable books include **Legend of Suheldev**, **The Immortals of Meluha**, **Scion of Ikshvaku**, and **The Chola Tigers**.
- **"Indira Gandhi and the Years that Transformed India"** — Authored by **TCA Srinivasa Raghavan**.
- **"The Last Day"** — A Lithuanian novel authored by **Jaroslavas Melnikas**, published in India by the **Sahitya Akademi**.
- **"The God of Small Things"** — Authored by **Arundhati Roy**, which won the **Booker Prize** in 1997.

### 10. Important Days & Themes (May & June 2026)

- **May 4:** **Coal Miners Day**.
- **May 15:**
  - **Endangered Species Day** (21st Edition) — Theme: **"Celebrating America's Wildlife Comeback"**

**Stories: Championing the Endangered Species Act".**

- **International Day of Families** — Theme: "**Families, Inequalities and Child Well-being**".
- **May 16:**
  - **Sikkim Statehood Day** (51st Anniversary).
  - **International Day of Light** (9th Edition) — Theme: "**Light for a Sustainable Future**" (Commemorates Theodore Maiman's first successful laser operation in 1960).
  - **International Day of Living Together in Peace** — Theme: "**Building Trust through Dialogue, Inclusion and Reconciliation**".
  - **National Dengue Day** — Theme: "**Community Participation for Dengue Control: Check, Clean, and Cover**".
- **May 17:**
  - **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day** (Established in 1865) — Theme: "**Digital Life Line — Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World**".
  - **World Hypertension Day** — Theme: "**Controlling Hypertension Together, Check Your Blood Pressure Regularly, Defeat the Silent Killer**".
  - **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia** — Theme: "**At the heart of democracy**".
  - **US Armed Forces Day** (Observed every 3rd Saturday of May).
- **May 18:**
  - **International Museum Day** (Established in 1977) — Theme: "**Museums Uniting a Divided World**".
  - **World AIDS Vaccine Day** — Theme: "**Rethink, Rebuild, Rise**" (also documented as "Rethink, Rebel and Rise").
  - **52nd Anniversary of India's First Nuclear Test** ('Smiling Buddha' / Operation Pokhran-I in 1974).
  - **International Day for Women in Maritime** — Theme: "**From Policy to Practice: Advancing Gender Equality for Maritime Excellence**".
- **May 19:**

- **World Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Day** (Observed since 2010) — Theme: "**IBD has no borders, access to IBD care**".
- **World Fair Play Day** (2nd observance).
- **May 20:**
  - **World Bee Day** (Marks the birth anniversary of Anton Janša) — Theme: "**Bee Together for People and Planet: A partnership that sustains us all**".
  - **World Metrology Day** (Tradition started in 1961) — Theme: "**Metrology Building Trust in Policy Making**".
  - **International HR Day** (Established in 2019) — Theme: "**Empower people to lead change**".
- **May 21:**
  - **National Anti-Terrorism Day** (Commemorates the 1991 assassination of PM Rajiv Gandhi).
  - **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** — Theme: "**Culture Connects Us**" (also listed as "**Dialogue Builds Bridges, Diversity Built**").
  - **International Tea Day** — Theme: "**Sustaining Tea, Supporting Communities**".
- **May 22: International Day for Biological Diversity** — Theme: "**Acting Locally, Global Impact**".
- **May 23:**
  - **World Turtle Day** (26th Edition, Established in 2000) — Theme: "**Turtle Protector Pledge**" (also listed as "**Dancing Turtles Rock**").
  - **International Day to End Obstetric Fistula** — Theme: "**Her health is right – invest to end fistula and childbirth injuries**".
- **May 24:**
  - **Commonwealth Day** in India (Commemorating Queen Victoria's 1819 birth; globally observed on the second Monday of March).
  - **International Day of Markhor** (3rd Edition).
  - **World Schizophrenia Awareness Day**.
- **May 25:**
  - **World Thyroid Day**.
  - **World Football Day** (100th anniversary of the 1924 tournament).

- International Missing Children's Day.
- **May 25–31:**
  - World Thyroid Awareness Week — Theme: "Thyroid and Nutrition".
  - International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.
- **May 26: Swiss Science Day** (Honoring Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's 2005 visit to Geneva) — Theme: "Empowering Youth through Technological Innovation".
- **May 28:**
  - World Hunger Day — Theme: "The end of hunger is in our hands".
  - International Day of Action for Women's Health.
  - World Menstrual Hygiene Day — Theme: "Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld".
- **May 29:**
  - International Day of UN Peacekeepers (78th Anniversary) — Theme: "Invest in peace" (also listed as "The Future of Peacekeeping").
  - World Digestive Health Day — Theme: "Chronic Diarrhea don't flush the signs away".
  - International Everest Day (Commemorates the 1953 summit by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay).
- **May 30:**
  - International Day of Potato — Themes: "Harvesting Hope: Potatoes for a Sustainable Future" / "Where potatoes grow, livelihoods flourish".
  - World Vape Day — Theme: "One switch everyone wins".
  - World Multiple Sclerosis Day — Theme: "My MS diagnosis" (Tagline: "Navigating MS together").
- **May 31: World No Tobacco Day.**
- **June 1: Global Day of Parents.**



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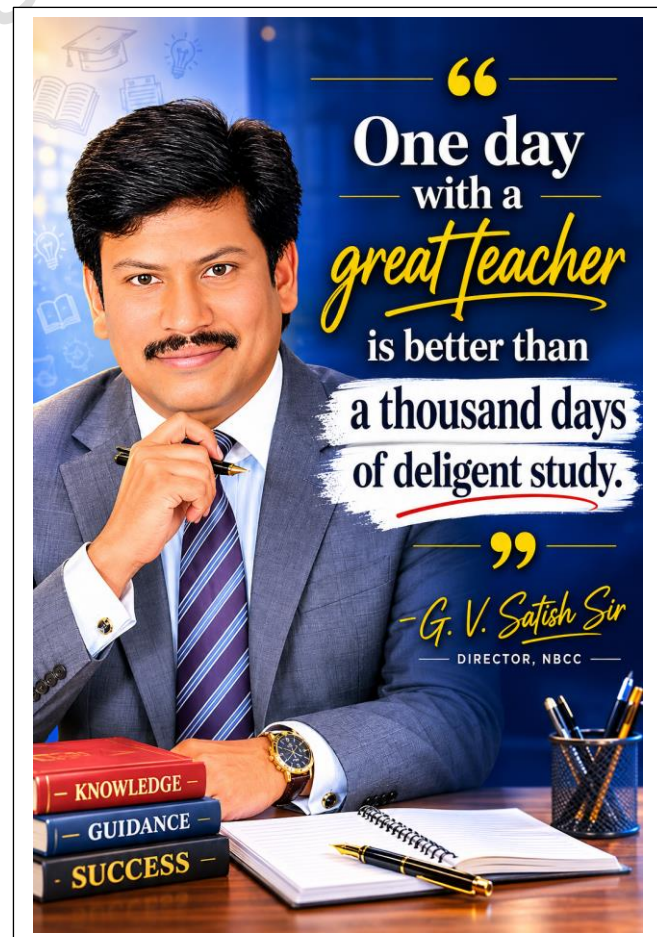
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