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CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUNE 2026

Rohit Jain Appointed Deputy Governor of RBI

**DRDO and Indian Navy Successfully Conduct
Maiden Salvo Launch of NASM-SR**



Suvendu Adhikari: 9th CM of West Bengal

**Vijay 'Thalapathi': 9th CM of Tamil Nadu;
Promises New Era of Social Justice**

For SSC CGL, CHSL and other Competitive Exams

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India added Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary of Aligarh to Ramsar list, total hits 99



- Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary was designated as a Ramsar Site, becoming India's 99th wetland of international importance.
- It is located near Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) and is the 12th Ramsar site in the state.
- The recognition under the Ramsar Convention highlights its ecological importance, especially for migratory birds and biodiversity conservation.
- Wetlands like Shekha Jheel play a key role in carbon sequestration, flood control, and water security.
- The addition brings India closer to the milestone of 100 Ramsar sites, strengthening its global environmental commitment.

MoEFCC and NBA Launch 5-Year Project to Strengthen Biodiversity Governance



- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) launched a 5-year project (2025–2030) to strengthen biodiversity governance.
- The project has a funding support of over USD 4.88 million and aims to empower local communities and institutions.
- It focuses on integrating biodiversity conservation into Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) and promoting innovative financing mechanisms.
- The initiative is a joint effort involving the Government of India, Global Environment Facility (GEF), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- In Tamil Nadu, it will cover the Sathyamangalam landscape, including Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves.
- In Meghalaya, it will focus on the Garo Hills region, covering Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Balpakram National Park, and Siju Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The project targets ecologically significant landscapes to improve conservation outcomes and governance at the grassroots level.
- It aligns with India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, global 30×30 biodiversity target, and commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Static Points

- NBA – Established in 2003.
- GEF – Global environmental funding body.

India submitted Revised Climate Targets (NDCs) for 2031–35



- India submitted its updated climate targets to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) under its third Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- The country committed to reducing emission intensity of GDP by at least 47% by 2035 from the 2005 baseline.
- India also aims to achieve around 60% of installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2035, supported by global technology transfer and climate finance.
- It pledged to create an additional carbon sink of 3.5–4 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through increased forest and tree cover.
- The revised targets were approved by the Union Cabinet and aligned with commitments under the Paris Agreement.
- NDCs are voluntary, non-binding climate action plans that countries must periodically update.
- This is India's third NDC submission (after 2015 and 2022), reflecting enhanced climate ambition.

Static Points

- NDC – Climate targets under Paris Agreement.
- UNFCCC – Global climate framework.

Ladakh L-G Saxena approves creation of 5 new districts



- Ladakh now has 7 districts (earlier 2: Leh & Kargil) after the creation of five new districts.
- The announcement was made by Vinai Kumar Saxena.
- Newly created districts are Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass, fulfilling long-pending local demands.
- The move aims at strengthening decentralisation and grassroots governance, especially in remote and border areas.

- It is expected to ensure faster service delivery, better administration, and improved infrastructure reach.
- The proposal was approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs in August 2024.
- The step aligns with the development vision of Narendra Modi for regional growth.
- It holds strategic importance due to Ladakh's location near China and Pakistan borders, and is expected to boost employment and entrepreneurship.

Static Points

- Ladakh – UT formed in 2019.
- Capital – Leh.

India's New Online Gaming Rules (Effective from May 1, 2026)



- India will implement new online gaming rules under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act (PROGA) 2025 to ensure a safer, transparent, and more accountable gaming ecosystem.
- The government will establish the Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI), which will monitor compliance, handle grievances, and regulate the online gaming sector.
- Online gaming companies will introduce safeguards against excessive spending, psychological harm, privacy threats, and harmful or inappropriate content.
- The new rules will encourage responsible gaming practices by promoting transparency in gameplay, financial transactions, and informed user choice.
- Most online games will not require mandatory pre-registration, although games involving harmful or risky activities may still come under stricter regulation.
- E-sports platforms and certain gaming companies will require registration with OGAI based on factors such as user scale, financial transactions, and company origin.

Symbiosis University Launched Asia's First UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion



- Symbiosis Skills and Professional University launched Asia's first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development in collaboration with UNESCO.
- The initiative aimed to empower women by increasing their participation in high-growth sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, robotics, and advanced manufacturing.
- The programme was inaugurated by Skill Development Minister Jayant Chaudhary during the international conference themed "Women Leading the Future of Work".
- The UNESCO Chair focused on reducing the gender gap in future job sectors where women traditionally lower participation.
- The initiative targeted emerging industries such as AI, automation, semiconductor technology, defence technology, and advanced manufacturing.
- The programme was led by Dr. Swati Mujumdar, the Pro-Chancellor of Symbiosis Skills and Professional University.
- More than 10,000 underprivileged girls received training under the initiative and gained exposure to advanced technologies.
- Several trained candidates secured employment opportunities with competitive salary packages through the skill development programme.
- The international conference witnessed participation from organizations such as the International Labour Organization, UNESCO-UNEVOC, IBM, Capgemini, Barclays, and Larsen & Toubro.

Census 2027 was introduced as India's First Digital Enumeration Exercise



- Census 2027 was announced as India's first fully digital census with mobile-based data collection and self-enumeration facilities.
- The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs approved caste enumeration in Census 2027 on 30 April 2025.
- Census 2027 was identified as the 16th Census of India and the 8th Census after Independence.
- The Census exercise was backed by a financial outlay of ₹11,718.24 crore approved by the Union Cabinet.
- The Reference Date for Census 2027 was fixed as 00:00 hours of March 1, 2027.
- Phase I of Census 2027 was scheduled for Houselisting and Housing Census during April–September 2026.
- Phase II of Population Enumeration was scheduled for February 2027 with detailed demographic and socio-economic data collection.
- The Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) portal was developed for near real-time monitoring of the enumeration process.

Jammu Was Directly Linked with Kashmir by Passenger Train for the First Time



- Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off the extended Srinagar–Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express up to Jammu Tawi station.
- Jammu and Kashmir received direct passenger train connectivity for the first time through a seamless rail corridor.
- The Jammu–Srinagar Vande Bharat Express service was expanded from 8 coaches to 20 coaches due to high passenger demand.
- The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) ensured all-weather rail connectivity between Kashmir Valley and the rest of India.
- The Chenab Rail Bridge was highlighted as the world's highest railway bridge under the USBRL project.
- Jammu Tawi station redevelopment and Qazigund–Baramulla line doubling works were undertaken to improve rail capacity and tourism.

NHAI Successfully Launches India's First Multi-Lane Free Flow Tolling System in Gujarat



- National Highways Authority of India launched the Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system at Chorayasi Toll Plaza on NH-48 (Surat–Bharuch, Gujarat).
- MLFF enables barrier-less toll collection, allowing vehicles to pass without stopping, improving traffic flow.
- The system uses Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and FASTag for seamless, contactless tolling.
- Around 41,500 vehicles crossed the toll point on the first day, showing operational success.
- It reduces congestion, travel time, fuel consumption, and vehicular emissions, enhancing efficiency.
- Users must maintain sufficient FASTag balance; otherwise, E-Notices are issued for non-payment.
- If unpaid within 72 hours, double toll charges apply; continued default may lead to FASTag blacklisting via VAHAN.

- MLFF improves transparency, reduces operational costs, and strengthens the tolling ecosystem.

Union Cabinet approves ₹1,570 crore ship repair facility in Vadinar



- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved a ₹1,570 crore ship repair facility at Vadinar, Gujarat.
- The project will be jointly implemented by Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- It will be a brownfield project with a 650-metre jetty, floating dry docks, workshops, and marine infrastructure.
- The facility aims to address the gap in India's ability to repair large vessels (>230 m length) domestically.
- Vadinar's deep draft, strategic location, and proximity to ports like Mundra and Kandla make it ideal for ship repair operations.
- The project will reduce dependence on foreign shipyards, save foreign exchange, and improve port competitiveness.
- It is expected to boost maritime ancillary services, MSMEs, and employment in the region.
- The initiative aligns with Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

CJI announces 'One Case One Data' initiative, launches AI chatbot Su Sahay



- Chief Justice of India Surya Kant announced a major digital initiative for the judiciary.

- The judiciary launched the “One Case One Data” initiative to integrate information from High Courts, district courts, and taluka courts into a unified system.
- The initiative aims to improve case management, data integration, and judicial efficiency across India.
- The Supreme Court also launched “Su Sahay”, an AI-powered chatbot integrated with the Supreme Court website.
- The chatbot will help citizens access court-related services, guidelines, and information more easily.
- The National Informatics Centre developed the chatbot in collaboration with the Supreme Court Registry.
- The initiative is aimed at strengthening digital governance and access to justice.
- The CJI appreciated the contribution of Registry officials and Bar members in supporting the digital transformation.

Static Points

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) works under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Taluka courts function at the sub-district level in India.

India Added Record 44 GW Solar Capacity in 2025



- India added a record 44 GW of solar power capacity in 2025, taking the total installed solar capacity to around 150 GW.
- India's total solar capacity reached 150.2 GW AC by March 2026, making it the world's third-largest solar power producer.
- The rapid expansion has been driven by large-scale solar installations, placing India among the top global annual capacity adders.

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy led policy support for solar growth through key renewable energy programmes.
- Schemes such as PM Surya Ghar, PM-KUSUM, and the Production Linked Incentive scheme supported rooftop solar, solar pumps, and domestic manufacturing.
- India installed 14.4 GW of solar capacity in Q1 2026, nearly double the 7.7 GW added in Q1 2025.
- India's total renewable energy capacity reached 276.5 GW, with renewables contributing 51.7% of total installed power capacity by early 2026.
- Solar expansion placed India above the United States in annual additions and below China and the European Union in global comparison.

Maize Became India's Largest Ethanol Feedstock



- Maize emerged as India's largest ethanol feedstock as of 12 May 2026, surpassing sugarcane in grain-based ethanol contribution.
- Maize-based ethanol reached 182 crore litres in the first half of Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025-26.
- India's total ethanol supply crossed 515 crore litres, achieving about 49% of the contracted target of 1,059 crore litres.
- Grain-based distilleries contributed around 333 crore litres, with maize being the dominant grain feedstock.
- Maize has been preferred over sugarcane due to lower water requirement and shorter cultivation cycles suitable for multiple seasons.
- Uttar Pradesh planned to expand maize cultivation to 11.3 lakh hectares in 2026-27 to support ethanol demand.
- Ethanol Supply Year in India runs from November to October, and maize is a crop of the Poaceae family used widely in industrial alcohol production.

- In the global context, the United States maintained its Renewable Fuel Standard ethanol requirement at 15 billion gallons for 2026–27.

The ECI launched Phase III of Special Intensive Revision



- The Election Commission of India launched Phase III of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls on 14 May 2026 across 16 States and 3 Union Territories.
- The exercise covered about 36.73 crore electors through door-to-door verification of voter details.
- Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is a field-level process for updating electoral rolls through house-to-house enumeration and correction of voter data.
- The 16 States covered were Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura.
- The 3 Union Territories covered were Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- Electoral rolls were revised under the Representation of the People Act, 1950 for maintaining updated voter lists.
- The final updated electoral rolls were scheduled for publication on 6 September 2026.

Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee Was Constituted



- The Chief Justice of India constituted the Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee for preparing a nationwide roadmap on court infrastructure.
- The committee was headed by Supreme Court judge Justice Aravind Kumar and included judges from Calcutta, Punjab and Haryana, and Bombay High Courts along with CPWD officials.
- The committee was mandated to assess judicial infrastructure gaps and recommend improvements for courts, litigants, lawyers, and staff facilities across India.
- It was also tasked with examining computerisation of courts and strengthening citizen-centric e-Courts services.
- The committee proposed an estimated allocation of ₹40,000–₹50,000 crore for upgrading judicial infrastructure in the country.
- An interim report was scheduled for submission by 31 August 2026 to the Chief Justice of India for further consideration by governments.

Madhya Pradesh High Court Declared Bhojshala Complex a Temple



- The Madhya Pradesh High Court, Indore Bench, declared the Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Dhar district as a temple on 15 May 2026.
- The court held that the disputed structure was of a Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati (Vagdevi).
- The judgment quashed the 2003 order of the Archaeological Survey of India that allowed restricted worship arrangements for both communities.
- The Archaeological Survey of India earlier conducted a scientific survey of the site between March and June 2024, which indicated temple-origin structures.

- The case involved competing claims over worship rights, with petitions including those from the Hindu Front for Justice.
- The court relied on historical and archaeological records describing Bhojshala as a centre of Sanskrit learning and a Saraswati temple site.

Historical Background

- The site is traditionally associated with Raja Bhoja (Paramara dynasty, 11th century).
- Hindu tradition identifies it as a temple and centre of learning dedicated to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati).
- It is also linked with Sanskrit scholarship and ancient education traditions.
- The structure shows architectural and inscriptional evidence of medieval-period temple-style construction.

Parliament Approves Increase in Supreme Court Judge Strength to 37



- Parliament approved the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, increasing the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court from 34 to 37, excluding the Chief Justice of India.
- The move aims to reduce the growing pendency of cases and improve timely delivery of justice across the country.
- With the amendment, the total working strength of the Supreme Court will become 38, including the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- The proposal was introduced by the Union Law Ministry after consultations with the judiciary and legal experts regarding judicial efficiency and access to justice.
- The Supreme Court has witnessed a continuous rise in pending cases, crossing more than 80,000 matters in recent years, creating pressure on judicial administration.

Static GK

- The Supreme Court of India was established on 28 January 1950

- It is located in New Delhi
- Article 124 of the Constitution deals with the establishment and composition of the Supreme Court
- The first Chief Justice of India was Justice H.J. Kania.

11th-Century Chola Copper Plates Were Returned to India by the Netherlands



- The Netherlands formally returned the historic 11th-century Chola Copper Plates to India after a diplomatic effort of nearly 14 years.
- The return of the artefacts took place during the visit of Narendra Modi to the Netherlands.
- The returned artefacts were known as the Anaimangalam Copper Plates or Leiden Plates.
- The Chola Copper Plates remained in the Netherlands for nearly three centuries before being returned to India.
- The artefacts included 21 large copper plates and 3 smaller copper plates from the Chola period.
- The inscriptions on the plates dated back to the reigns of Rajaraja Chola I and Rajendra Chola I.
- The copper plates contained inscriptions in both Tamil and Sanskrit languages related to governance, land revenue, religious grants, and royal orders.
- Historical records suggested that the artefacts were taken to the Netherlands around 1712 during Dutch colonial presence in Nagapattinam.
- The copper plates were reportedly transported by Florentius Camper, who was associated with Christian missionary activities in the region.
- The artefacts were later donated to Leiden University in 1862 and preserved in its university library.
- India formally raised the issue before UNESCO in 2023 through the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin (ICPRCP).

India Launched Operation Ragepill Against an International Captagon Network



- The Narcotics Control Bureau launched Operation Ragepill on 16 May 2026 against an international Captagon trafficking syndicate.
- The operation led to India's first seizure of about 227.7 kg of Captagon tablets and powder valued at nearly ₹182 crore.
- Captagon was identified as a synthetic psychostimulant drug linked to fenetylline and amphetamine, widely abused in West Asia and the Middle East.
- Around 31.5 kg of Captagon tablets were seized from Neb Sarai in New Delhi after being concealed inside a chapati cutting machine meant for export to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- An additional 196.2 kg of Captagon powder was recovered from a shipping container at Mundra Port that arrived from Syria disguised as a wool consignment.
- The Narcotics Control Bureau functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs as India's federal anti-drug law enforcement agency.
- India regulates narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Department of Space Approved Space Facilities in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu



- The Department of Space approved Common Technical Facilities in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu on 22 May 2026 to strengthen India's private space manufacturing ecosystem.
- The facilities were developed with the support of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).
- Common Technical Facilities were designed as shared hubs for testing, validation, and integration of rockets and satellite hardware.
- A Space Manufacturing Park was approved at Khoraj near Ahmedabad in Gujarat for spacecraft and payload system manufacturing.
- A Space Vehicles Cluster was approved at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu near the upcoming launch complex at Kulasekharapatnam.
- The Tamil Nadu facility was planned for manufacturing, testing, and integration of full launch vehicle systems.
- The central government sanctioned ₹100 crore for the specialised facility at Thoothukudi.
- State governments were assigned to provide land, buildings, and civic infrastructure for both projects.
- IN-SPACe was tasked with procuring, installing, and initially operating the technical systems before transferring ownership to the states.

India Notified E30 Petrol Norms for Higher Ethanol Blending



- India notified new petrol standards for ethanol blends up to E30 through a Gazette notification issued on 18 May 2026.
- Bureau of Indian Standards notified specifications for E22, E25, E27, and E30 petrol blends.
- E20 and E30 referred to petrol blended with 20% and 30% ethanol respectively.
- The new norms became effective from 15 May 2026 and provided a technical framework for future higher-ethanol fuels.

- The standards covered anhydrous ethanol, which is ethanol with very low water content used in fuel blending.
 - The government also examined the feasibility of E85 fuel, which contains 85% ethanol, along with higher ethanol infrastructure readiness.
- The Automotive Research Association of India was assigned to study the impact of E25 fuel on E10 and E20 compliant vehicles.

Chapter 2

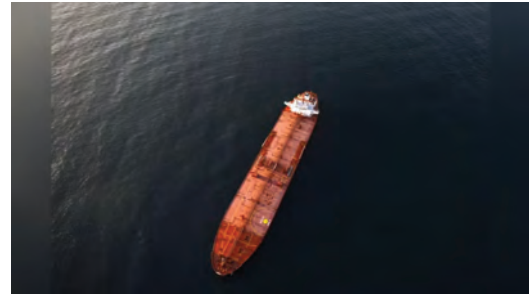
International Affairs

UAE Announced Exit from OPEC and OPEC+



- The United Arab Emirates announced that it would leave OPEC and OPEC+ from May 1, 2026, ending nearly six decades of membership.
- The UAE decided to exit the group to gain greater flexibility in increasing oil production without quota restrictions.
- The country invested heavily in expanding its oil production capacity and wanted to meet growing global energy demand.
- OPEC was established in 1960 to coordinate oil production and maintain stability in global oil prices among member nations.
- The UAE joined OPEC in 1967 and became one of the major oil-producing members of the organisation.
- Analysts believed that the UAE's departure could weaken OPEC's influence over global oil production and market stability.
- The move could also increase market volatility and create pressure on global oil prices because of higher supply levels.
- The announcement came at a time of rising geopolitical tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global oil transport.
- The UAE's low oil production cost allowed the country to remain profitable even during periods of falling crude oil prices.
- The decision was also expected to increase pressure on Saudi Arabia, which plays the leading role within OPEC.

US Launched 'Project Freedom' to Escort Ships Through Hormuz



- Donald Trump announced 'Project Freedom', under which the US Navy will escort stranded foreign ships through the Strait of Hormuz.
- The initiative aimed to assist vessels stuck due to tensions in West Asia, many of which are facing shortages of food, water, and essential supplies.
- The US warned Iran that any interference in the operation would be dealt with firmly.
- The move follows disruptions after conflict involving the US and Israel with Iran, leading to restricted maritime movement in the region.
- Despite tensions, the US indicated ongoing diplomatic talks with Iran for a possible positive resolution.
- The Strait of Hormuz is a critical global oil transit route, making the situation significant for energy security and trade.

MEIDP: India's ₹40,000 Crore Subsea Energy Corridor to Oman



- India is planning a ₹40,000-crore deep-sea natural gas pipeline project connecting Oman to Gujarat to strengthen long-term energy security and reduce dependence on vulnerable shipping routes.
- The proposed subsea pipeline will pass through the Arabian Sea and is expected to bypass the strategically sensitive Strait of Hormuz region.
- The project may take around 5–7 years for completion after government approvals and feasibility clearances.
- State-run companies including GAIL, Indian Oil Corporation, and Engineers India Limited are expected to prepare the detailed feasibility report.
- The pipeline is planned to stretch nearly 2,000 km and could become one of the world's deepest subsea pipelines, laid at depths of around 3,450 metres.
- The project aims to transport nearly 31 MMSCMD (Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres per Day) of natural gas.
- The proposal is linked to the Middle East-India Deepwater Pipeline (MEIDP) concept first discussed in the late 1990s.
- India imports nearly 85% of its crude oil requirements, with a major share passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

Other Information

- **Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister:** Hardeep Singh Puri
- **Capital of Oman:** Muscat

Kami Rita Sherpa Scales Mount Everest for Record 32nd Time



- Nepali mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa created history by climbing Mount Everest for the 32nd time, extending his own world record for the highest number of Everest summits.
- The 56-year-old climber reached the 8,848.86-metre summit at around 10:12 AM Nepal time during the 2026 spring climbing season.
- Kami Rita was leading an expedition organised by 14 Peaks Expedition and successfully guided international climbers to the summit.
- Popularly known as the “Everest Man”, he first climbed Everest in 1994 and has since scaled the peak almost every year.
- Fellow climber Lhakpa Sherpa also extended her women's record by summiting Everest for the 11th time.

Static GK

- Mount Everest is the world's highest peak at 8,848.86 metres
- It lies in the Himalayas on the Nepal-China border
- Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay first summited Everest in 1953.

WHO Declares Ebola Outbreak in Congo and Uganda a PHEIC



- The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) under the International Health Regulations (IHR).
- The outbreak is linked to the rare Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, for which there are currently no approved vaccines or specific treatments.
- WHO reported more than 246 suspected cases and over 80 deaths in DRC's Ituri province, while Uganda confirmed imported cases in Kampala.
- WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated that the outbreak poses a high regional risk due to cross-border movement and limited healthcare infrastructure.
- The emergency declaration aims to mobilize international funding, strengthen surveillance, improve border health checks, and accelerate deployment of medical experts and supplies.

Static GK

- Ebola virus was first identified in 1976 near the Ebola River in DRC

- WHO headquarters is in Geneva
- PHEIC is the highest alert level under International Health Regulations (2005).

Indonesia's Dukono Volcano Erupts, Ash Column Rises 5,000 Metres



- Indonesia's Mount Dukono volcano erupted violently on Halmahera Island in North Maluku province, sending volcanic ash nearly 5,000 metres into the sky and triggering fresh safety warnings for nearby residents.
- The eruption produced thick grey ash clouds and loud explosive sounds, while authorities advised people to avoid activities within a designated danger zone around the crater.
- Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG) maintained the volcano at Alert Level II and warned of possible respiratory risks due to volcanic ash dispersion.
- Mount Dukono is among Indonesia's most active volcanoes and has witnessed frequent eruptions for decades with continuous volcanic activity since 1933.
- Indonesia lies on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", making it highly vulnerable to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions due to intense tectonic activity.

Static GK

- Indonesia has more than 120 active volcanoes
- Jakarta is the capital of Indonesia; the Pacific Ring of Fire is a horseshoe-shaped seismic belt surrounding the Pacific Ocean known for frequent earthquakes and volcanoes.

Manoj Kumar Sharma takes charge as 33rd Chief Justice of Nepal

- Manoj Kumar Sharma took charge as the 33rd Chief Justice of Nepal.



- Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel appointed him after parliamentary approval of his nomination.
- Justice Sharma succeeded Acting Chief Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla and will serve a six-year term.
- He was appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nepal in April 2019.
- Manoj Kumar Sharma was recommended by Nepal's Constitutional Council earlier this month, becoming the first judge in Nepal's history to be elevated to Chief Justice from fourth position in seniority.
- He has earlier served in several judicial positions including Appellate Courts in Butwal and Patan.

Saudi Arabia Became New Member of India-Led International Big Cat Alliance



- Saudi Arabia officially joined the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), a global initiative launched by India for the conservation and protection of the world's seven major big cat species, including tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.
- The alliance aims to strengthen international cooperation in wildlife conservation, habitat protection, anti-poaching operations, research and sustainable ecosystem management across member countries.

- Saudi Arabia's entry is expected to enhance collaborative efforts in biodiversity conservation, particularly in desert ecosystems and endangered wildlife management through technology sharing and scientific cooperation.
- India welcomed Saudi Arabia's participation, highlighting the growing global support for collective wildlife protection and ecological sustainability initiatives.
- The International Big Cat Alliance was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2023 during the commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger.

Static GK Facts

- International Big Cat Alliance headquarters is located in India.
- Project Tiger was launched in 1973 to conserve India's tiger population.
- India hosts more than 70% of the world's wild tiger population.
- Saudi Arabia's capital is Riyadh and its currency is Saudi Riyal.

India and Cyprus Elevated Bilateral Relations to a Strategic Partnership

- India and Cyprus elevated their bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership on 22 May 2026 during the visit of Nikos Christodoulides to New Delhi.



- Narendra Modi and Nikos Christodoulides held talks on trade, investment, defence, migration, mobility, and social security cooperation.
- India and Cyprus established diplomatic relations in 1962 and maintained cooperation in trade, maritime affairs, and multilateral forums like the United Nations.
- Both countries endorsed a Five-Year Joint Action Plan for 2025–2029 covering trade, defence, innovation, maritime security, and investment cooperation.
- India and Cyprus agreed to establish a joint task force for infrastructure and shipping cooperation.
- An MoU on counter-terrorism cooperation was exchanged to strengthen security collaboration and joint working groups.
- Cyprus reiterated support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in an expanded United Nations Security Council.
- Cyprus was noted as a member of the European Union and uses the euro as its official currency.

Chapter 3

State Affairs

PM Modi inaugurates ₹36,000 crore Ganga Expressway linking 12 UP districts



- Narendra Modi inaugurated the 594-km Ganga Expressway, one of India's longest greenfield expressways.
- The expressway connects Meerut to Prayagraj, passing through 12 districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- Built at a cost of over ₹36,000 crore, it is a 6-lane highway (expandable to 8 lanes).
- The project was developed by Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).
- It includes an airstrip near Shahjahanpur for emergency landing of Indian Air Force aircraft.
- The expressway will boost connectivity, logistics efficiency, and faster movement of goods and farm produce.
- Plans include Integrated Manufacturing and Logistics Clusters (IMLCs) along the route to promote industrial growth.
- It is expected to generate employment, increase farmers' income, and drive socio-economic development in the state.
- Future expansion will link it to Haridwar (Uttarakhand), enhancing regional connectivity.
- The project reflects Uttar Pradesh's transformation into a major investment and industrial hub.

Static Points

- Length – 594 km.
- Uttar Pradesh – Capital: Lucknow.

Andhra Pradesh Launched ₹13,000 Crore Mushroom Mission



- The Andhra Pradesh government launched its first Mushroom Mission with an investment of nearly ₹13,000 crore to boost mushroom production in the state.
- Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced the initiative with the aim of making Andhra Pradesh the largest mushroom-producing state in India.
- The mission targeted an annual mushroom production of around 67,500 tonnes, which would surpass Bihar's current production level.
- The government planned to establish nearly 1.62 lakh mushroom production units across the state under the mission.
- The initiative focused mainly on small farmers, self-help groups, and rural entrepreneurs to promote sustainable income generation.
- Each mushroom production unit was designed to cover around 5,000 square feet and create self-employment opportunities in rural areas.
- The mission encouraged the participation of women and Self-Help Groups to strengthen rural economic development.
- The government announced subsidy support of ₹5,184 crore, covering nearly 40% of the total project cost through joint central and state funding.
- The Mushroom Mission was expected to generate large-scale rural employment and create a strong agri-based value chain in Andhra Pradesh.

Suvendu Adhikari Named Chief Minister of West Bengal



- Suvendu Adhikari was formally named the Chief Minister of West Bengal after the BJP's victory in the 2026 Assembly elections.
- Dilip Ghosh proposed Adhikari's name during the BJP legislature party meeting in Kolkata.
- Amit Shah attended the meeting as the BJP's central observer, while Mohan Charan Majhi served as co-observer.
- The BJP's victory ended the 15-year rule of the All India Trinamool Congress in West Bengal.
- The election result marked a major political setback for Mamata Banerjee and the Trinamool Congress.
- Suvendu Adhikari earlier served as a senior Trinamool Congress leader before joining the BJP.

Static Points

- West Bengal's capital is Kolkata.

Himanta Biswa Sarma Took Oath as Assam Chief Minister



- Himanta Biswa Sarma was scheduled to take oath as the Chief Minister of Assam on 12 May 2026 for a second consecutive term.
- He took oath after the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance secured a majority in the Assam Legislative Assembly.
- The NDA won 102 seats in the 126-member Assam Legislative Assembly, crossing the required majority mark of 64 seats.
- Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya appointed him as Chief Minister on 10 May 2026 after he staked claim with majority support.
- The Chief Minister of a state is appointed under Article 164 of the Indian Constitution by the Governor after the leader of the majority party or coalition proves majority in the Legislative Assembly.

Vijay takes oath as Tamil Nadu CM, promises new social justice era ahead



- C Joseph Vijay took oath as the 13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- He is the president of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK).
- Vijay became the first leader from a non-Draavidian party to become Tamil Nadu CM since 1969.
- The swearing-in ceremony was held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai.
- Vijay took oath without reading from notes or a teleprompter, drawing huge cheers from supporters.
- Large crowds gathered inside and outside the stadium, where big screens broadcast the ceremony live.
- His transition from cinema to politics marks a major shift in Tamil Nadu's political landscape.

Static Points

- Tamil Nadu's capital is Chennai.
- TVK was founded by Vijay in 2024.

N. Rangasamy Was Sworn in as Puducherry Chief Minister



- N. Rangasamy was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Puducherry for the fifth time on 13 May 2026.
- The oath of office and secrecy was administered by Lieutenant Governor K. Kailashnathan at Lok Nivas in Puducherry.
- He led a National Democratic Alliance government in the Union Territory beginning its second consecutive term in power.
- The NDA coalition in Puducherry included AINRC, BJP, AIADMK, and Latchiya Jananayaga Katchi.
- Puducherry is one of the eight Union Territories of India and has a legislative assembly under the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, where the Chief Minister is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

V.D. Satheesan Was Named Kerala Chief Minister



- V.D. Satheesan was named the Chief Minister of Kerala on 14 May 2026 after the United Democratic Front won the state assembly elections.
- The UDF secured 102 seats in the 140-member Kerala Legislative Assembly, crossing the majority mark of 71 seats.
- Satheesan became the 13th Chief Minister of Kerala and previously served as Leader of the Opposition from 2021 to 2026.

- He represented the Paravur Assembly constituency since 2001 and won a sixth consecutive term in 2026.
- The United Democratic Front was led by the Indian National Congress and remained one of the two major political alliances in Kerala.
- The Kerala Legislative Assembly functioned as a unicameral legislature with 140 elected members.
- Kerala was formed as a state on 1 November 1956 under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, and its assembly majority mark is 71 seats.

Uttar Pradesh govt approves thermal power project of ₹33,000 crore



- Uttar Pradesh government approved setting up of three thermal power units in Prayagraj district.
- Total power generation capacity of the project will be 2,400 MW.
- Meja Project Stage-II will include 3 units of 800 MW each.
- Total investment in the project is estimated at nearly ₹33,000 crore.
- The project implementation timeline is five years.
- The project is a 50:50 joint venture between:
 - ♦ NTPC Limited
 - ♦ Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (UPRVUN)

Etor Gidi Festival celebrated by the Adi community in Arunachal Pradesh



- The Etor Gidi Festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the Adi community in Arunachal Pradesh to mark prosperity, cultural identity, and agricultural traditions.
- The festival is mainly observed in the Upper Siang and East Siang regions and reflects the deep spiritual and social traditions of the Adi tribe.
- Community members performed traditional folk dances, rituals, and songs while offering prayers for good harvests, peace, and communal harmony.
- Elders used the occasion to pass on indigenous knowledge, customs, oral traditions, and cultural values to younger generations.
- The celebration also showcased traditional Adi attire, bamboo crafts, and local cuisine, promoting tribal heritage and tourism in the Northeast.
- The Adi tribe is one of the major indigenous communities of Arunachal Pradesh and belongs to the Tibeto-Burman ethnolinguistic group.

Additional Information

- **Arunachal Pradesh capital:** Itanagar
- **Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh:** Pema Khandu
- Major festivals of Arunachal Pradesh include Solung, Losar, Mopin, Nyokum, and Dree.
- The Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh is known as the Brahmaputra after entering Assam.

Rajasthan Promoted Breast Milk Donation Through Yashoda Mothers



- Rajasthan promoted breast milk donation through the Yashoda programme under the Norway-India Partnership Initiative for neonatal care support.

- The Mother Milk Bank at Barmer District Hospital collected 29,882 units of human milk since its launch on 4 March 2018.
- The Barmer milk bank supported 3,165 newborn babies and registered 3,523 Yashoda Mothers by May 2026.
- The donated milk is stored at minus 19°C and can be preserved for up to six months after proper screening and processing.
- All donated breast milk undergo HIV and infection screening before storage and distribution in neonatal care units.
- Rajasthan's Jeevan Dhara milk bank at Jaipur was the first state-run human milk bank, inaugurated on 27 March 2015.
- The Aanchal Mother Milk Bank in Bhilwara recorded large-scale donations that supported more than 5,000 infant feeds.
- The Yashoda programme was launched in 2008 and promoted immediate and exclusive breastfeeding practices for maternal and child health.

West Bengal Announced Annapurna Bhandar Scheme



- West Bengal announced the proposed Annapurna Bhandar scheme on 11 May 2026 after the first cabinet meeting of the new state government.
- The scheme was designed as a women-centric welfare programme to provide direct financial assistance through bank transfer.
- Eligible women were proposed to receive ₹3,000 per month under the scheme as a Direct Benefit Transfer initiative.
- Annapurna Bhandar has been positioned as a major upgrade or replacement of the earlier Lakshmi Bhandar scheme in West Bengal.

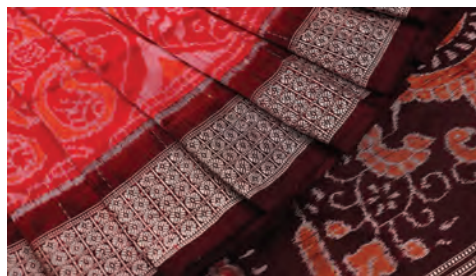
Karnataka Introduced Kartavya-KAAMS App for Attendance



- Karnataka introduced the Kartavya-KAAMS (Karnataka Advanced Attendance Management System) app for monitoring attendance of government school and office staff.
- The system has been developed for teachers, headmasters, officers, and non-teaching staff in government educational institutions across the state.
- The app used Artificial Intelligence, facial recognition, and geo-fencing for verifying attendance at the workplace.
- Employees are required to mark attendance twice daily as “In Time” and “Out Time” from their duty location.
- The system replaced the earlier biometric attendance mechanism from 1 May 2026 across government departments.
- KAAMS has been integrated with HRMS and the Students Achievement Tracking System for administrative data management.
- The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (e-Governance) developed and implemented the application in Karnataka.
- The system has been planned to cover more than 20 lakh government employees and contractual workers across departments.

Barpali Emerges as a Major Hub of Odisha's Sambalpuri Handloom Tradition

- Barpali in Odisha's Bargarh district is globally recognized for its traditional tie-and-dye handloom craft and the famous Sambalpuri sarees.
- The town is one of the most important weaving centres of western Odisha and supports thousands of artisan families dependent on textile production.



- Sambalpuri sarees are known for the traditional “Bandha” tie-and-dye technique in which yarns are dyed before weaving to create intricate patterns and motifs.
- Common motifs include shankha (conch), chakra (wheel), flowers, and traditional tribal-inspired designs reflecting Odisha's cultural heritage.
- The handloom products from Barpali received Geographical Indication (GI) recognition under “Sambalpuri Bandha Textile” for preserving authenticity and regional identity.
- The craft has gained national and international popularity because of its eco-friendly weaving methods, vibrant colours, and fine craftsmanship.

Static GK

- Odisha capital — Bhubaneswar
- Bargarh is known for the world-famous Dhanu Yatra festival
- Hirakud Dam is located in Sambalpur district on the Mahanadi River.

Odisha Mandates Electric Vehicles for Government Use from June 2026



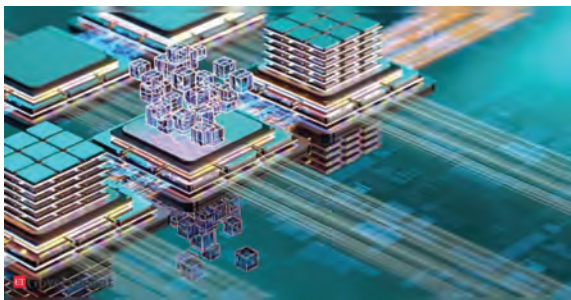
- The Odisha government has made the purchase of electric vehicles (EVs) compulsory for all new two-wheelers and four-wheelers procured for official state government use from 1 June 2026.

- The decision is aimed at accelerating green mobility, reducing carbon emissions, and promoting sustainable transportation across the state.
- Government departments will now prioritize electric mobility while replacing or expanding official vehicle fleets.
- The move aligns with Odisha's broader electric mobility roadmap under the Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy.
- Odisha has been actively promoting EV adoption through subsidies, charging infrastructure expansion, and incentives for public and private users.
- The state previously extended the validity of the Odisha EV Policy 2021 till 30 June 2026 to continue incentives and support mechanisms.
- Odisha is also working on a new EV Policy 2025 targeting nearly 50% EV adoption in new vehicle registrations by 2030–2036.

Static GK

- Odisha's capital is Bhubaneswar
- The current Chief Minister is Mohan Charan Majhi.

Rajasthan's First Semiconductor Manufacturing Cluster Was Inaugurated in Bhiwadi



- Rajasthan's first semiconductor and electronics manufacturing cluster was inaugurated in Bhiwadi by Bhajan Lal Sharma in May 2026.
- The Bhiwadi electronics manufacturing cluster attracted an investment of nearly ₹1,200 crore.
- The semiconductor cluster was expected to generate around 2,500 employment opportunities in the region.
- Rajasthan formally entered the semiconductor and advanced electronics manufacturing sector through this project.
- Semiconductors were highlighted as essential components for smartphones, computers, electric

vehicles, defence systems, AI hardware, telecom networks, and medical equipment.

- Bhiwadi was chosen due to its strong industrial infrastructure and proximity to the National Capital Region (NCR).
- The initiative supported the "Developed Rajasthan 2047" vision of the Rajasthan government.

Sikkim Implemented the Anand Marriage Act, 1909 from June 1, 2026



- Sikkim announced the implementation of the Anand Marriage Act, 1909 from 1 June 2026 for the Sikh community.
- Sikh couples in Sikkim were allowed to directly register marriages performed through the traditional Anand Karaj ceremony under a separate legal framework.
- Earlier, many Sikh couples registered their marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 due to the absence of separate registration rules in the state.
- The Union Law Ministry officially notified the implementation of the Anand Marriage Act in Sikkim.
- The implementation became possible after the framing of the Sikkim Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2026.
- The Supreme Court of India played an important role in accelerating the implementation process through judicial intervention in 2025.
- In the Amanjot Singh Chadha vs Union of India case, the Supreme Court highlighted administrative gaps in implementing the Anand Marriage Act across states.
- The 2012 amendment to the Anand Marriage Act enabled states to frame separate marriage registration systems for Sikh marriages.
- Anand Karaj, meaning the "ceremony of bliss", is the traditional Sikh marriage ceremony performed in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib in a Gurdwara.
- The Anand Karaj ceremony included Sikh prayers and four ceremonial rounds known as Laavan.

Nimapara Patha Utsav 2026 Was Inaugurated in Puri, Odisha



- Nimapara Patha Utsav 2026 was inaugurated on 17 May 2026 in the Nimapara area of Puri.
- The festival was inaugurated by Pravati Parida under the Utkarsha Nimapara 2.0 initiative.
- The event combined cultural heritage, youth engagement, sports activities, public awareness campaigns, and regional development programmes.
- The festival witnessed active participation from local residents, students, artists, and youth groups.
- Traditional Odia folk performances such as tribal dances, horse dances, Sankirtan, Pala, and Dasakathia were showcased during the festival.
- Street theatre and solo acting performances were organized to spread awareness on social and developmental issues.
- Patha Utsav was organized as a community street festival aimed at promoting culture, wellness, social interaction, and citizen participation.

Andhra Pradesh Announced Cash Incentives for Larger Families

- N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a new population policy to address declining population growth in Andhra Pradesh.



- The Andhra Pradesh government announced a cash incentive of ₹30,000 for the birth of a third child and ₹40,000 for a fourth child.
- The announcement was made by the Chief Minister during a public event in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.
- The state government was expected to release detailed implementation guidelines for the scheme within one month.
- Replacement-level fertility rate was explained as the average number of children required to maintain a stable population, generally considered to be 2.1 children per woman.
- Falling fertility rates over a long period were linked to population decline, ageing population, workforce reduction, and economic challenges.
- Countries such as Japan, South Korea, Italy, and China were cited as examples facing demographic challenges due to declining birth rates.
- Population decline was associated with labour shortages, higher healthcare costs, increased pension burden, and slower economic growth.

Chapter 4

Business and Economy



RBI Cancelled Paytm Payments Bank Licence Over Regulatory Non-Compliance



- Reserve Bank of India cancelled the licence of Paytm Payments Bank Limited due to persistent regulatory non-compliance
- RBI cited concerns over depositors' interest, governance issues, and public interest risks
- The bank was found to have repeated compliance and operational failures
- RBI noted that the decision followed gradual tightening of restrictions over several years
- **Earlier restrictions included:**
 - ♦ Ban on new customer onboarding (2022)
 - ♦ Prohibition on fresh deposits and credit transactions (2024)
 - ♦ Restrictions on services like FASTag and NCMC cards
- Post licence cancellation, the bank can only allow withdrawals of existing customer funds
- RBI will move to the High Court for winding-up proceedings
- Bank is reported to have sufficient liquidity to repay depositors

Static Points

- Payments banks in India are licensed under RBI guidelines (introduced in 2014)

Govt Issued Guidelines for ₹10,000 Cr Startup Fund (2nd Tranche)

- The government released guidelines for the second tranche of ₹10,000 crore Fund of Funds (FoF) scheme to support startups.



- The scheme aims to improve efficiency of capital flow into India's startup ecosystem through better governance, deployment, and monitoring mechanisms.
- It will invest via SEBI-registered Category I & II Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), which will further fund DPIIT-recognised startups.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will act as the initial implementation agency.
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will also onboard additional agencies to expand reach and expertise.
- The guidelines introduce segmentation of AIFs into deep-tech funds, micro VC funds (early-stage), manufacturing-focused funds, and sector-agnostic funds.
- A structured process involving screening, due diligence, and evaluation by a Venture Capital Investment Committee will be followed.
- The committee includes experts like Vallabh Bhansali, Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Renu Swarup, Chintan Vaishnav, and Rajesh Gopinathan.
- The scheme is expected to crowd-in private investment and support startups across sectors, stages, and regions.

Static Points

- SIDBI – Established in 1990.
- AIF – Regulated by SEBI.

MobiKwik Got RBI Approval for NBFC Licence

- One MobiKwik Systems received in-principle approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its NBFC licence.



- The licence will enable lending operations through its wholly owned subsidiary Mobikwik Financial Services Pvt Ltd (MFSPL).
- Operations will begin only after receiving the Certificate of Registration (CoR) and meeting regulatory conditions.
- With NBFC status, Mobikwik can originate and underwrite loans directly, instead of relying on third-party lenders.
- This move is expected to improve margins, enhance risk control, and speed up product launches.
- The company plans to offer secured and unsecured loans to consumers and MSMEs, especially in Tier II and Tier III markets.
- It will leverage its AI/ML capabilities and user base of 186+ million to provide personalised financial services.
- Mobikwik joins other fintech NBFCs like Lendingkart and Capital Float.
- Following the announcement, its shares rose over 15%, hitting a 52-week high.

Static Points

- NBFC – Non-Banking Financial Company.
- RBI – Regulates NBFCs in India.

RBI Revised Basel III Credit Risk Norms; Implementation from April 2027



- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued final norms on Basel III capital charge for credit risk (standardised approach), effective April 1, 2027.
- The threshold for applying 150% risk weight on unrated corporate/NBFC exposures has been raised to ₹500 crore (earlier proposed ₹200 crore).
- RBI removed penal provisions for exposures that were earlier rated but later became unrated.
- For bank exposures, RBI scrapped the SCRA-based grading framework and introduced uniform risk weights:
 - ♦ 100% for long-term exposures
 - ♦ 50% for short-term exposures
- For foreign bank branches in India, the parent bank's external credit rating can be used for risk weight calculation.
- The regulatory retail exposure framework is expanded to include small businesses (turnover up to ₹500 crore).
- Exposure limit under retail classification increased to ₹10 crore per counterparty (earlier ₹7.5 crore).
- In specialised lending, RBI removed the commodity finance category; project and object finance continue under existing norms.
- For real estate, existing risk weight norms are retained, with property valuation revision allowed after 5 years.
- Minimum borrower contribution for real estate projects fixed at 25% of total project cost.

Static Points

- Basel III – Global banking regulation framework.
- Risk weight – Used to calculate capital adequacy.

RBI launches Mission SAKSHAM for capacity building of Urban Co-operative Banking sector



- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched Mission SAKSHAM to strengthen the Urban Co-operative Banking (UCB) sector.

- It is a mission-mode, all-India capacity-building initiative aimed at improving managerial and operational capabilities.
- Focus areas include better compliance culture, risk management, and institutional resilience of UCBs.
- RBI will conduct large-scale training programmes through both offline sessions and e-learning platforms.
- The initiative targets around 1.4 crore participants, including board members, senior management, and risk heads.
- Training content will be delivered in regional languages to ensure wider accessibility.
- Aims to create a self-sustaining ecosystem for long-term stability and growth of the UCB sector.

Static Points

- UCB – Urban Cooperative Bank.
- RBI – Apex banking regulator in India.

EPFO to launch Aadhaar-based portal to unlock dormant PF accounts



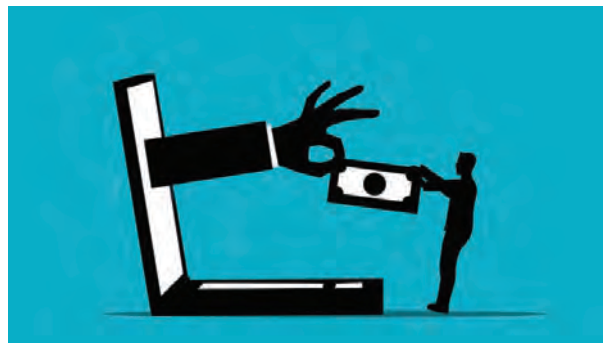
- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will launch E-PRAAPTI (EPF Aadhaar-Based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts).
- The portal aims to help users trace, access, and reactivate unclaimed or inactive EPF accounts.
- It is especially useful for members without a Universal Account Number (UAN) or those having old physical EPF accounts.
- The system will use Aadhaar-based authentication to ensure secure and seamless access.
- Users can identify legacy accounts, update profiles, and link them to UAN through the portal.
- The initiative addresses the issue of long-pending unclaimed provident fund deposits.

- Announced by Mansukh Mandaviya, it aims to improve accessibility and efficiency in EPF services.
- The move will enhance financial inclusion and transparency in retirement savings management.

Static Points

- EPFO – Under Ministry of Labour.
- UAN – Universal Account Number.

The RBI has updated auto-debit rules



- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) updated the E-mandate framework for recurring digital payments across cards, UPI, and PPIs.
- Recurring transactions up to ₹15,000 can now be processed without OTP, after a one-time e-mandate registration using AFA (Additional Factor Authentication).
- Covers payments like EMIs, SIPs, subscriptions, utility bills, insurance, and credit card payments.
- Higher limit up to ₹1 lakh allowed (without repeated OTP) for insurance premiums, mutual funds, and credit card bills, if registered under e-mandate.
- Customers can modify, pause, or revoke mandates anytime with AFA authentication.
- Banks must send pre-debit alerts at least 24 hours prior, including amount, date, and merchant details.
- No additional charges allowed for availing the e-mandate facility.
- Customers get the flexibility to choose alert mode (SMS, email, etc.).
- Zero liability protection extended to unauthorised e-mandate transactions (subject to timely reporting).
- Exceptions: Pre-debit alerts not mandatory for FASTag and NCMC auto-replenishment.
- RBI also proposed updated norms for digital wallets (PPIs), including categories like gift, transit, and NRI PPIs.

GDP data release date was fixed to 7th of June every year



- The Government has revised the release date for Provisional Estimates of Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Quarterly Estimates of GDP for Fourth Quarter from the last working day of May to 7th June of every year.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said that the provisional estimates will be released on the previous working day if 7th June is a holiday.
- The revision in the release schedule has been made after due consultation with the Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics.
- The Ministry said that the revision is aimed at further strengthening the data quality. It added that the revision forms part of the continued efforts of the Ministry towards improving the quality, coverage and robustness of data used in national accounts compilation.

India Raised Gold and Silver Import Tariffs to 15%



- India increased the effective import tariffs on gold and silver to 15% on 13 May 2026 from the earlier 6% level.
- The revised structure included a 10% basic customs duty and a 5% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess on precious metal imports.

- The new tariff applied to gold, silver, jewellery findings, and related industrial imports under customs classification rules.
- India's gold imports rose by over 24% in 2025-26, reaching a record value of \$71.98 billion.
- Gold became India's second-largest import item after crude oil and accounted for nearly 9% of the total import bill.
- The United Arab Emirates remained part of India's quota-based import arrangement for certain gold shipments.
- The tariff hike has been linked to foreign exchange management concerns and efforts to regulate rising gold imports.
- Higher import duties have also been associated with recurring challenges of gold smuggling in India.

Union Cabinet Approved Higher MSP for 14 Kharif Crops



- The Union Cabinet approved higher Minimum Support Prices for 14 Kharif crops for the 2026–27 marketing season on 13 May 2026.
- The decision was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister.
- The revised MSP package has an estimated fiscal implication of about ₹2.60 lakh crore for farmer procurement support.
- MSP was announced for 22 mandated crops, including Kharif, Rabi, and commercial crops under the government procurement system.
- The highest MSP increase was recorded for sunflower seed, followed by cotton, nigerseed, and sesamum.
- Paddy MSP was revised with common paddy fixed at ₹2,441 per quintal and Grade A paddy at ₹2,461 per quintal for 2026–27.
- The MSP framework followed the 1.5 times cost of production formula recommended since the Union Budget 2018–19.

- The margin over production cost was highest for moong at 61%, followed by maize and bajra at 56%, and tur at 54%.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs remained the key decision-making body for major economic and agricultural price policies in India.

India-UAE Trade Partnership Crossed Historic \$100 Billion Milestone



- Bilateral trade between India and the United Arab Emirates has crossed the historic US\$100 billion mark, highlighting the rapid expansion of economic ties between the two nations.
- India-UAE bilateral trade has reached approximately US\$101.25 billion during FY 2025-26, compared to US\$100.03 billion in FY 2024-25.
- The growth has been driven largely by the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which came into force on 1 May 2022.
- Key sectors contributing to trade expansion include gems and jewellery, engineering goods, electronics, petroleum products, and agriculture.
- Both countries have set a target of increasing bilateral trade to US\$200 billion by 2032.
- The UAE currently ranks among India's top trading partners and remains a major supplier of crude oil, LNG, and LPG to India.
- The Local Currency Settlement system using INR and AED is helping reduce dependence on the US dollar in bilateral transactions.

Static GK

- CEPA stands for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, signed between India and UAE in February 2022.
- Capital of UAE – Abu Dhabi
- Currency – UAE Dirham
- President – Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

IN-SPACe Opened PSLV Technology Transfer to Boost India's Private Space Sector



- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has invited Indian industries to acquire complete technology transfer of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) to strengthen private participation in the country's space sector.
- The initiative aims to enable private companies to independently build, integrate, own, and commercially launch PSLV rockets in the future.
- IN-SPACe released an Expression of Interest (EoI) seeking participation from eligible Indian non-government entities and industry consortiums.
- The transfer includes design documents, manufacturing know-how, quality assurance systems, testing processes, and launch operations support.
- PSLV is regarded as one of the world's most reliable launch vehicles and has successfully launched hundreds of satellites for India and foreign countries.
- The move aligns with India's broader space reforms aimed at increasing private-sector participation and expanding the domestic space economy.
- IN-SPACe will facilitate industry handholding, technical guidance, and authorization support during the transition process.

Static GK

- IN-SPACe was established in 2020 as an autonomous agency under the Department of Space to promote and regulate private space activities in India.
- PSLV's first successful launch took place in 1994, and its famous missions include Mars Orbiter Mission and the launch of 104 satellites in a single mission in 2017.

RBI Approved Record ₹2.86 Lakh Crore Surplus Transfer to Government for FY26

- The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India approved a record surplus transfer of ₹2.86 lakh

crore to the Central Government for FY26, marking the highest-ever dividend payout by the central bank. The decision was taken during the 616th meeting of the RBI Central Board.



- The surplus transfer was finalized under the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF), which determines the level of risk provisions and excess capital that can be transferred to the government while maintaining financial stability.
- Higher foreign exchange earnings, increased interest income from government securities and effective liquidity operations significantly boosted RBI's income during the financial year.
- The transfer is expected to support the government's fiscal position, reduce borrowing pressure and provide additional resources for infrastructure development and welfare expenditure.



Telangana CM flagged off Skyroot's Vikram-1, India's first private rocket



- A. Revanth Reddy flagged off the flight hardware of Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 rocket.
- Vikram-1 is India's first privately developed orbital rocket.
- The rocket has been sent to Satish Dhawan Space Centre for launch.
- Skyroot aims to attempt its first orbital launch in the coming months.
- The rocket was fully designed and developed in Hyderabad.
- Skyroot earlier launched its first suborbital rocket in 2022.
- Telangana is emerging as a leading aerospace hub, with companies like Boeing, Airbus, and Safran present.
- Telangana recorded 117.9% growth in engineering exports (2023–24 to 2024–25).
- Government focus: skill development in the aerospace sector through global partnerships.

Static Points

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) operates the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.
- Hyderabad is a major aerospace and defence manufacturing hub in India.

NIT Rourkela Develops AI-Based Tech for Instant Spice Adulteration Detection



- National Institute of Technology Rourkela has developed and patented an AI-based technology to detect spice and food adulteration within seconds.
- The innovation enables rapid detection and quantification of adulterants, improving accuracy and efficiency in food safety checks.
- The technology is significant amid rising concerns over food adulteration and contamination in supply chains.
- It gained attention following a tragic incident in Mumbai, where suspected contaminated food led to multiple deaths, highlighting gaps in current monitoring systems.
- The system aims to provide a fast, reliable, and scalable solution compared to traditional time-consuming laboratory testing methods.
- It can strengthen food safety regulation, quality control, and consumer protection across India.
- The innovation supports the need for advanced screening technologies in ensuring safe food practices nationwide.

Static Points

- NIT Rourkela – Established in 1961.
- Food safety – Regulated by FSSAI.

WHO approves first malaria treatment for infants



- The World Health Organization (WHO) granted prequalification approval to *artemether-lumefantrine*, the first malaria treatment specifically designed for newborns and infants.
- The approval confirms that the drug meets global standards of quality, safety, and efficacy, enabling wider international use.
- Earlier, infants were treated with adult/child formulations, increasing risks of dosage errors, side effects, and toxicity.
- The new formulation helps close a major treatment gap for nearly 30 million babies born annually in malaria-endemic regions, especially in Africa.
- Malaria remains a major global health challenge, with 282 million cases and 610,000 deaths in 2024, mostly in Africa.
- Children under five account for about 75% of malaria deaths, highlighting the importance of infant-specific treatment.
- WHO noted progress through vaccines, diagnostics, mosquito nets, and medicines, but challenges like drug resistance and funding gaps persist.
- The prequalification will support public sector procurement and global distribution, improving access in low-income countries.

Static Points

- Malaria – Mosquito-borne disease.
- WHO – Established in 1948.

Indian space start-up GalaxEye launches Mission Drishti

- GalaxEye launched Mission Drishti, the world's first OptoSAR satellite, aboard Falcon 9 from the United States.



- The satellite weighs 190 kg and is the largest Earth observation satellite built by a private Indian company.
- OptoSAR technology combines optical imaging + Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) for all-weather, day-night Earth observation.
- The mission enhances capabilities in surveillance, disaster management, agriculture, and security.
- Narendra Modi and C. P. Radhakrishnan praised the launch as a major milestone in India's space innovation ecosystem.
- It reflects the growing role of private startups in India's space sector and youth-driven innovation.

Static Points

- SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) enables imaging even through clouds and at night.
- India's space sector is regulated by IN-SPaCe and promoted for private participation.

Sweden Joined India's Venus Orbiter Mission "Shukrayaan"



- Sweden joined India's Venus Orbiter Mission, also known as Shukrayaan, through a scientific collaboration agreement.
- India's Shukrayaan mission was planned as an interplanetary mission to study the planet Venus.

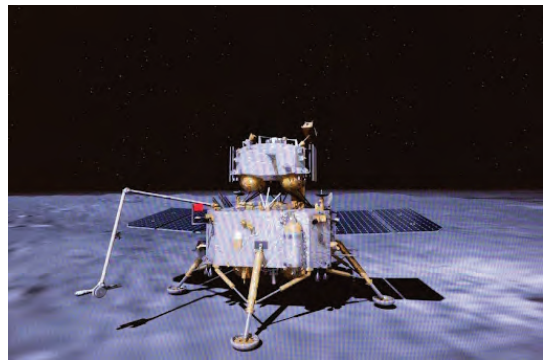
- The Swedish Institute of Space Physics agreed to develop the Venusian Neutrals Analyser (VNA) payload for the mission.
- The Venusian Neutrals Analyser was designed to study interactions between solar charged particles and the atmosphere and exosphere of Venus.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Venus Orbiter Mission in 2024 with an estimated outlay of ₹1,236 crore.
- The spacecraft was planned to be launched using LVM-3, India's heavy-lift launch vehicle.
- The orbiter was designed to study Venus's atmosphere, exosphere, volcanic surface, weather systems, and super-rotating clouds.

Static Point

- Indian Space Research Organisation was responsible for leading the Shukrayaan mission under the Department of Space, Government of India.
- Venus was described as Earth's twin because of its similar size and mass compared to Earth.
- Venus was noted for its dense carbon dioxide atmosphere and extremely high surface temperatures above 460°C.
- The spacecraft was expected to reach Venus by July 2028 after a journey of nearly 112 days.

China Plans the Chang'e-7 Lunar Mission for South Pole Research

- China plans to launch the Chang'e-7 lunar mission in the second half of 2026 to study the Moon's south pole.



- The mission is designed with an orbiter, lander, rover, and a small hopping spacecraft for lunar exploration.
- Chang'e-7 aims to search for water ice and other volatile substances in permanently shadowed regions near the lunar south pole.
- The rim of Shackleton Crater is identified as a preferred landing site for the mission.
- China plans the Chang'e-8 mission for 2028-29 to continue south pole exploration and test in-situ resource utilisation, including 3D printing with lunar soil.
- Chang'e-8 is expected to carry international payloads, including a lunar rover from Pakistan and exploration rovers from Türkiye.
- China's long-term lunar programme includes the International Lunar Research Station planned for the Moon's south pole from 2031.
- China also targets an initial crewed lunar landing mission by 2030.



India–Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise ‘Dustlik’ 7th Edition Concludes



- The 7th edition of Exercise ‘Dustlik’ between India and Uzbekistan concluded in Namangan, Uzbekistan.
- It is a joint military exercise focused on counter-terrorism operations and enhancing bilateral defence cooperation.
- A total of 120 personnel participated, with 60 troops from each country, reflecting balanced participation.
- The Indian contingent included 45 personnel from the Army and 15 from the Air Force, while Uzbekistan was represented by its Army and Air Force.
- The exercise aimed to improve coordination, tactical skills, and operational preparedness, especially in challenging terrains like semi-mountain regions.
- Key focus areas included joint counter-terrorism drills, semi-mountain warfare, and sharing best practices in tactics and procedures.
- It also emphasized enhancing command and control mechanisms and strengthening military interoperability.
- The exercise highlights the growing strategic and defence partnership between India and Uzbekistan.

Static Points

- Uzbekistan – Capital: Tashkent.
- Dustlik – India–Uzbekistan joint military exercise.

DRDO and Indian Navy Conducted Maiden Salvo Launch of NASM-SR



- DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden salvo launch of the Naval Anti-ship Missile-Short Range (NASM-SR) off the Odisha coast in the Bay of Bengal.
- Two NASM-SR missiles were launched in quick succession from the same naval helicopter platform during the trial.
- The missile successfully demonstrated waterline hit capability along with advanced salvo launch capability.
- NASM-SR was developed indigenously with advanced navigation, guidance, seeker, and fibre-optic gyroscope-based systems.
- The missile system was developed by Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat in collaboration with multiple DRDO laboratories.
- Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur tracked the missile trial using radar, telemetry, and electro-optical systems.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, the Indian Navy, and industry partners for the successful missile launch.

India's LR-AShM hypersonic missile nears trials, DRDO outlines capabilities



- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is advancing the Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile (LR-AShM) programme, with initial trials expected soon.
- Statement made by Samir V Kamat at the ANI National Security Summit 2.0.
- LR-AShM is a hypersonic glide missile (HGV) designed for Indian Navy coastal defence requirements.
- Capable of striking both static and moving targets with high precision using indigenous avionics and sensors.
- The missile can reach speeds up to Mach 10 (average ~Mach 5) and follows a quasi-ballistic trajectory with glide maneuvers.
- Features low-altitude flight, high manoeuvrability, and stealth, making it difficult to detect by enemy radar systems.
- Uses a two-stage solid propulsion system, followed by an unpowered glide phase before target impact.
- Demonstrates India's progress in next-generation hypersonic strike capabilities.
- DRDO is working on both hypersonic glide and hypersonic cruise missiles, with the glide variant currently ahead.

Defence-Tech Startup Armory Gets ₹100 Crore MoD Contracts (2026)



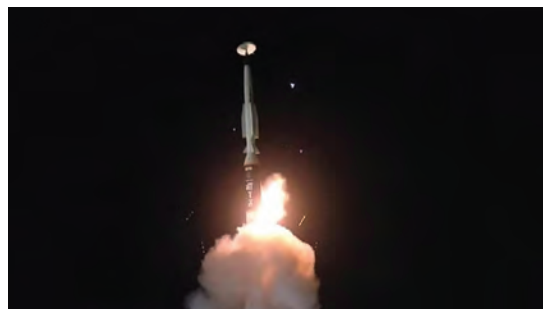
- Armory secured three contracts worth ₹100 crore from the Ministry of Defence.

- The contracts are for supplying AI-powered Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS) named *SURGE*.
- These systems are designed to detect, track, and neutralise enemy drones, strengthening India's defence capabilities.
- The deal reflects rising government focus on indigenous defence technology and startup participation.
- Founder Amardeep Singh highlighted that such orders boost innovation and domestic manufacturing.
- In Budget 2026, Nirmala Sitharaman allocated ₹7.85 trillion for defence (~2% of GDP), up from ₹6.81 trillion last year and ₹6.22 trillion in FY25.
- The increasing defence allocation supports modernisation and self-reliance (Aatmanirbhar Bharat).

Static Points

- C-UAS (Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems) are technologies used to detect and neutralise drones.
- India promotes defence innovation through initiatives like iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence).

India Tests Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile



- India successfully test-fired an indigenous long-range anti-ship hypersonic missile from the Odisha coast, boosting maritime strike capability.
- The missile, developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation, has a range of around 1,500 km.
- The test marked the Phase-II flight trial, conducted from APJ Abdul Kalam Island at the Integrated Test Range (ITR).
- The missile demonstrated successful launch, stage separation, and tracking across multiple systems.
- Designed to target enemy warships at very high speeds, it enhances India's naval deterrence amid global shipping tensions.

- Further tests are planned before final induction into the armed forces.
- The development strengthens India's focus on indigenous defence technology and self-reliance.

Static Points

- Hypersonic missiles travel at speeds greater than Mach 5, making them difficult to detect and intercept.
- DRDO is India's premier defence R&D organisation under the Ministry of Defence.

DRDO successfully conducts long-duration scramjet combustor test in Hyderabad



- Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully conducted a long-duration test of its Actively Cooled Full-Scale Scramjet Combustor in Hyderabad.
- The test achieved a run-time of over 1,200 seconds, exceeding the earlier 700-second test conducted in January 2026.
- The achievement strengthens India's Hypersonic Cruise Missile Development Programme.
- The test validated both the combustor design and the advanced capabilities of the testing facility.
- The combustor was developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory with support from industry partners and academia.
- The system uses an indigenously developed liquid hydrocarbon fuel.
- It also incorporates advanced thermal barrier coating and modern manufacturing technologies.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised DRDO and called the achievement a strong foundation for India's hypersonic missile capabilities.
- The successful test enhances India's position in advanced aerospace and next-generation warfare technologies.

Static Points

- DRDO was established in 1958.
- Scramjet stands for Supersonic Combustion Ramjet.

First made-in-India C-295 aircraft rolled by TATA



- India achieved a major defence milestone with the rollout of the first privately manufactured military aircraft, the Airbus C-295, from the Tata-Airbus facility in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- The aircraft is being produced by Tata Advanced Systems
- in partnership with Airbus Defence and Space
- under the ₹21,935-crore C-295 programme for the Indian Air Force.
- India signed the deal in 2021 for 56 C-295 transport aircraft; 16 are supplied directly from Spain, while 40 are being manufactured in India.
- The Vadodara plant is India's first private-sector Final Assembly Line (FAL) for military aircraft manufacturing.
- The C-295 aircraft will replace the Indian Air Force's ageing Avro fleet and strengthen India's "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives.
- The aircraft is designed for troop transport, cargo movement, medical evacuation, and special operations.
- Around 85% of structural manufacturing for the Indian-made aircraft will occur domestically with support from Indian MSMEs and suppliers.

Additional Information

- **Gujarat Chief Minister:** Bhupendra Patel
- **Defence Minister of India:** Rajnath Singh
- **Airbus headquarters:** Airbus is based in Toulouse, France.

DRDO & Indian Air Force successfully conduct maiden flight-trial of indigenous TARA glide weapon

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) have

successfully conducted the maiden flight trial of the Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon off the coast of Odisha, on May 7, 2026.



- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, IAF, DcPP, and the industry for the maiden flight trial. He described it as a significant development in advancing India's indigenous defence capabilities.
- TARA is India's first indigenous glide weapon system that converts unguided warheads into precision-guided weapons. It has been designed and developed by the Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad, along with other DRDO laboratories.
- The indigenous glide weapon system is the first to utilise state-of-the-art low-cost systems aimed at enhancing the lethality and accuracy of a low-cost weapon to neutralise ground-based targets.
- The development of the kit has been undertaken with Development-cum-Production Partners and other Indian industries, which have already started production activity.

DRDO Successfully Tests Indigenous ULPGM-V3 Missile System



- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted trials of the indigenous ULPGM-V3 missile, further strengthening India's precision-strike and defence capabilities.

- ULPGM stands for "Ultra Light Precision Guided Missile", designed primarily for deployment from unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), helicopters, and lightweight airborne platforms.
- The missile has been developed to engage lightly armoured targets, bunkers, vehicles, and enemy positions with high accuracy and minimal collateral damage.
- The V3 variant reportedly features an advanced dual-channel seeker, improved targeting capability, and enhanced resistance against electronic countermeasures.

Static GK

- DRDO was established in 1958
- Headquarters — New Delhi
- Current DRDO Chairman — Samir V. Kamat
- India's integrated missile programme was led by A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

PRAGATI 2026 Multinational Military Exercise Began in Meghalaya



- PRAGATI 2026 began on 20 May 2026 at Umroi Military Station.
- India hosted armed forces personnel from 12 partner countries including Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Vietnam, and the Philippines.
- The exercise focused on joint counter-terrorism operations in jungle and semi-mountainous terrain conditions.
- PRAGATI 2026 aimed to improve interoperability, coordination, and professional cooperation among participating armed forces.
- The exercise included an exhibition of indigenous military equipment under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- Meghalaya was highlighted as one of the eight states of North-East India and an important region for jungle warfare training.

Chapter 7

Appointments

Ashok Lahiri to be NITI Aayog vice-chairman, Gobardhan Das member: Report



- Economist Ashok Lahiri is set to be appointed as Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog
- Scientist Gobardhan Das is expected to become a Member of NITI Aayog
- Lahiri is a former Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India
- He has also served as a member of the 15th Finance Commission
- Gobardhan Das is currently Director of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal
- He has earlier worked at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and chaired the Special Centre for Molecular Medicine

Static Points

- NITI Aayog was established in 2015, replacing the Planning Commission
- NITI Aayog's key roles include policy formulation, cooperative federalism, and long-term development planning

Vikram Doraiswami Appointed India's Ambassador to China After UK Tenure

- Vikram Doraiswami concluded his tenure as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and has been appointed as Ambassador to China.
- His role in the UK included strengthening India-UK strategic partnership over 3+ years.



- Key highlight of tenure was contributing to the conclusion of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- UK Minister for Indo-Pacific Seema Malhotra praised his role in advancing bilateral ties
- He also supported initiatives like the UK-India Infrastructure Financing Bridge to boost investment flows
- His diplomatic work is credited with deepening trade, investment, and economic cooperation between India and the UK

DMRC appoints Sanjay Jamuar as first CEO of Delhi Metro International



- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) appointed Sanjay Jamuar as the first CEO of Delhi Metro International Limited (DMIL).
- DMIL is a wholly owned subsidiary of DMRC, recently set up to bid for metro projects in foreign cities and expand global consultancy services.
- The initiative aims to take DMRC's expertise in metro planning, construction, and operations to international markets.

- Sanjay Jamuar has extensive experience across Indian Railways, DMRC, and global markets including the UK, US, France, and West Asia.
- He was DMRC's first Operations & Maintenance (O&M) employee in 1998, making his return a significant milestone.
- DMRC is already involved internationally, including consultancy for the Dhaka Metro project (Bangladesh).
- It also manages O&M contracts for metro systems in Chennai, Mumbai, and Patna, along with consultancy roles across major Indian metro projects.
- DMIL will focus on expanding DMRC's global presence through metro project bids and O&M assignments both in India and abroad.

Static Points

- DMRC – Established in 1995.
- IRTS – Indian Railway Traffic Service.

Rohit Jain appointed as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India



- Rohit Jain assumed charge as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for 3 years or until further orders.
- Prior to this, he served as Executive Director at RBI, and is a career central banker with 34+ years of experience (joined in 1991).
- He will oversee key departments including External Investments, Financial Markets Regulation, Internal Debt Management, Foreign Exchange, Fintech, Risk Monitoring, IT, Government & Bank Accounts, Corporate Strategy, and Rajbhasha.
- His wide-ranging responsibilities indicate a crucial role in managing financial markets, forex operations, and digital finance regulation.
- He holds MBA (Finance) from Gujarat University and M.Com from Delhi School of Economics, along with professional certifications like CAIIB and GARP.

Vishvajit Sahay assumes charge as Secretary (Defence Finance) in Ministry of Defence



- Vishvajit Sahay assumed charge as Secretary (Defence Finance) in the Ministry of Defence.
- He will play a key role in strengthening defence, financial governance and strategic decision-making.
- Earlier, he served as Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) in the same ministry.
- A 1990 batch IDAS officer, he brings 30+ years of experience in defence finance and public administration.
- He has held key roles such as Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser (DST), Joint Secretary (Heavy Industries), and positions in MoD and I&B Ministry.
- Within Defence Accounts, he served as PCDA (Pensions), Prayagraj, and as Joint/Special CGDA.
- Academically, he is an alumnus of St. Stephen's College and holds a law degree, reflecting strong administrative expertise.

Static Points

- Secretary (Defence Finance) is responsible for budgeting, expenditure, and financial advisory in defence matters.
- Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS) manages financial administration of the Armed Forces.

Kumar Mangalam Birla appointed as Non-Executive Chairman of Vodafone Idea Board



- Kumar Mangalam Birla was appointed **Non-Executive Chairman** of Vodafone Idea, effective May 5, 2026.
- He replaces Ravinder Takkar, who stepped down as Chairman but will continue as Non-Executive Director.
- Birla earlier served as Chairman from 2018 to 2021 and returned to the board in 2023.
- The leadership change comes after the government reduced AGR dues by 27% to ₹64,046 crore, easing financial pressure on the company.
- Vodafone Idea plans to raise ₹35,000 crore (₹25,000 crore debt + ₹10,000 crore non-funded) for a ₹45,000 crore capex plan over three years.
- The company aims to expand its network, improve profitability, and retain customers amid intense telecom competition.

SEBI approves Sanjay Shorey, Viral Mody as NSE executive directors



- Securities and Exchange Board of India approved the appointment of two Executive Directors (EDs) at the National Stock Exchange.
- The appointments follow SEBI's directive requiring market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) to appoint at least two EDs for key operational and regulatory functions.
- Viral Mody was appointed for critical operations, while Sanjay Shorey was appointed for regulatory, compliance, risk management, and investor grievances.
- Viral Mody earlier served as NSE's Chief Technology Officer, while Sanjay Shorey was Director General of Corporate Affairs.
- The appointments are for a five-year term and the EDs will report to the Managing Director of NSE.
- The move aims to strengthen governance, operational efficiency, compliance, and investor protection in market institutions.

Static Points

- SEBI is the regulator of India's securities and capital markets, established in 1992.

Ambati Rayudu appointed as Director of Cricket Operations by the HCA



- Ambati Rayudu was appointed as the Director of Cricket Operations of the Hyderabad Cricket Association.
- His three-year term began immediately, with responsibility for strengthening cricket administration and player development in Hyderabad.
- Rayudu brings extensive experience from international cricket, domestic cricket, and the IPL.
- He has represented India in 55 ODIs and 6 T20Is, along with playing 97 first-class matches.
- Rayudu won six IPL titles, playing for Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings.
- His appointment is notable as he earlier criticised HCA in 2019 over alleged corruption and politicised team selections.
- After leaving Hyderabad cricket, he played domestic cricket for Andhra and Baroda before retiring.
- Post-retirement, he also participated in leagues like the CPL and ILT20.

Govt appoints Lt Gen N S Raja Subramani as Chief of Defence Staff



- N S Raja Subramani has been appointed as India's new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- He will also serve as the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs under the Ministry of Defence.
- He succeeds Anil Chauhan, whose tenure ends on May 30, 2026.
- Lt Gen Subramani (Retd.) has been serving as the Military Adviser at the National Security Council Secretariat since September 2025.
- Earlier, he served as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff from July 2024 to July 2025.
- He also held the position of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Central Command from 2023 to 2024.

Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan appointed as Chief of the Naval Staff



- Krishna Swaminathan has been appointed as the new Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS).
- He will succeed Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who retires on May 31, 2026.
- Vice Admiral Swaminathan was serving as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command since July 2025.
- Commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1987, he is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare.
- He has commanded several major naval platforms including INS Vidyut, INS Vinash, INS Kulish, INS Mysore, and INS Vikramaditya.
- He earlier served as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff and held important positions related to personnel, training, and fleet operations.
- He played a key role in establishing the Indian Naval Safety Team for operational safety.
- He is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), and Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM).

Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan appointed as new Western Naval Command Chief



- Sanjay Vatsayan has been appointed as the next Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of the Western Naval Command.
- The Western Naval Command is headquartered in Mumbai.
- He is currently serving as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff.
- The Western Naval Command is responsible for safeguarding India's western maritime region and key sea lanes in the Arabian Sea.
- Vice Admiral Vatsayan was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1988.
- He is a specialist in Gunnery and Missile Systems.
- During his naval career, he has commanded missile boats, a missile corvette, and a guided missile frigate.
- He has also served in important operational, policy, and planning roles at Naval Headquarters and Integrated Defence Staff.
- He was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) in 2021 for distinguished service.

Static Points

- Western Naval Command is one of the three commands of the Indian Navy.
- The Arabian Sea lies to the west of India.

P. Kumaran Assumed Charge as India's High Commissioner in London



- P. Kumaran assumed charge as India's High Commissioner-designate to the United Kingdom on 14 May 2026 in London after taking over the post.
- He presented his credentials to the Vice-Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps, Scott Fursessedonn-Wood, and was to formally present them to King Charles III.
- He was a 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service officer and earlier served as Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- He previously served as India's Ambassador to Qatar (2016–2020) and High Commissioner to Singapore (2020–2023).

Squadron Leader Saanya Becomes IAF's 1st Woman Cat-A Flying Instructor



- Squadron Leader Saanya became the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to achieve the prestigious Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) qualification.
- The Indian Air Force described her achievement as a historic milestone and praised her dedication and pursuit of excellence.
- The achievement marks another example of women breaking barriers in the Indian armed forces.
- The IAF said her success will inspire aspiring aviators across the country.

IAS Officer Saurabh Vijay Assumed Charge as CEO of UIDAI



- Senior IAS officer Saurabh Vijay assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India on 18 May 2026.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India manages Aadhaar, which is regarded as the world's largest biometric identity programme.
- Saurabh Vijay belonged to the 1998 batch of the Maharashtra cadre of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).
- Before joining UIDAI, he served as Principal Secretary (Expenditure) in the Maharashtra Finance Department.

Static Point

- UIDAI was established as a statutory authority under the Aadhaar Act, 2016 by the Government of India.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The vision of UIDAI was aimed at empowering Indian residents with a unique digital identity and authentication platform.

India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Signed



- India signed a comprehensive FTA with New Zealand, marking a major milestone in bilateral economic relations.
- The agreement provides duty-free access to 100% of Indian exports, boosting sectors like textiles, leather, gems & jewellery, and engineering goods.
- It includes a USD 20 billion investment commitment over 15 years, strengthening long-term economic cooperation.
- Special focus is given to MSMEs, startups, and women-led enterprises, improving access to global markets and support systems.
- India has protected sensitive sectors like dairy and agriculture by keeping certain tariff lines excluded.
- The FTA enhances market access, reduces trade barriers, and integrates India into global value chains.
- It introduces student mobility provisions, including post-study work visas for STEM graduates and skilled professionals (approx. 5,000 occupations).
- New Zealand has opened avenues in health and traditional medicine services (including AYUSH) for the first time.

- The agreement also promotes cooperation in agriculture, technology, tourism, and people-to-people ties.
- Bilateral trade has shown strong growth, with India maintaining a positive trade balance with New Zealand.

Static Points

- FTA – Free Trade Agreement.
- New Zealand – Capital: Wellington.

Department of Posts and DTDC Signed MoU to Strengthen Logistics Network



- The Department of Posts and DTDC Express Limited signed an MoU in New Delhi to improve logistics and e-commerce delivery services across India.
- DTDC received access to the Department of Posts' network of over 1.64 lakh post offices across the country.
- The partnership focused on parcel delivery operations, including Cash on Delivery (COD) services in remote areas.
- The MoU aimed to promote joint logistics operations, capacity sharing, and synchronization of marketing strategies.
- Both organizations decided to hold quarterly review meetings to monitor progress and expand logistics cooperation.

India-Vietnam strengthen nuclear ties, to explore Cobalt-60 supply to Hanoi



- Narendra Modi and To Lam held wide-ranging talks to strengthen bilateral cooperation.
- Both countries upgraded relations to an 'Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.
- India and Vietnam agreed to deepen cooperation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, with Vietnam inviting India to participate in its nuclear power sector.
- Vietnam thanked India for supplying Cobalt-60, and both sides agreed to explore its continued supply.
- The countries decided to enhance collaboration in clean energy, renewable energy, climate resilience, and disaster-resilient technologies.
- Vietnam expressed interest in joining the Global Biofuels Alliance, welcomed by India.
- Both sides highlighted initiatives like International Solar Alliance, Mission LiFE, and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- India set a target of \$25 billion bilateral trade with Vietnam by 2030; trade already crossed \$16 billion in FY26.
- Cooperation will also expand in critical minerals, rare earths, supply chains, smart agriculture, and digital technologies.

Static Points

- Vietnam is an important partner for India under the Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific strategy.
- Cobalt-60 is used in medical treatment, sterilisation, and industrial applications.

India and UAE Signed Pacts on LPG and Strategic Oil Reserves

- India and the UAE signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 15 May 2026 for cooperation in

strategic petroleum reserves and increased LPG supply to India.



- The agreements were signed during the visit of the Indian Prime Minister to Abu Dhabi and bilateral talks with the UAE leadership.
- The UAE remained India's largest supplier of LPG, meeting about 40% of India's total LPG requirement.
- The UAE is also India's fourth-largest source of crude oil, contributing nearly 11% of India's crude oil imports.
- Strategic petroleum reserves are emergency crude oil stockpiles maintained for energy security.
- Additional agreements included defence partnership, a ship repair cluster in Gujarat, and UAE investments in Indian infrastructure and financial sectors.

India and Netherlands Sign Agreement for Kalpasar Multi-Purpose Project



- India and the Netherlands signed a cooperation agreement for the ambitious Kalpasar Project in Gujarat to enhance expertise in water management, coastal engineering, climate resilience, and sustainable infrastructure development.
- The partnership focuses on technical collaboration between Dutch experts and Gujarat authorities for planning and execution of the large-scale Gulf of Khambhat dam project.
- The Kalpasar Project aims to build a massive freshwater reservoir by constructing a dam across the Gulf of Khambhat, helping store surplus river water flowing into the Arabian Sea.

- The project is expected to support irrigation, drinking water supply, renewable energy generation, flood control, and regional economic development in Gujarat.
- The Netherlands, globally recognized for advanced water management systems and delta engineering, will provide technical knowledge in marine hydrology, sediment control, and coastal protection.

Static GK

- The Gulf of Khambhat lies along the Arabian Sea in Gujarat
- The Netherlands is known as the “Low Countries” due to low-lying land
- Amsterdam is the constitutional capital of the Netherlands, while The Hague hosts the government and International Court of Justice.

Maharashtra Signed MoUs for 25,400 MW Nuclear Energy Projects



- Maharashtra signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with four companies on 19 May 2026 for nuclear energy projects with a combined capacity of 25,400 MW.
- The agreements were announced at Mantralaya, the administrative headquarters of the Maharashtra government in Mumbai.
- The projects involved NTPC Limited, Adani Power Limited, Reliance Industries Limited, and Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited.
- The total estimated investment for the proposed nuclear projects was nearly ₹6.5 lakh crore.
- Adani Power Limited planned a 6,000 MW nuclear power plant at Barsu in Ratnagiri district with an investment of ₹1.5 lakh crore.
- Reliance Industries Limited proposed Bharat Small Reactors or Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) at Purnagadh in Ratnagiri with a capacity of 7,200 MW and an investment of ₹2 lakh crore.
- NTPC Limited planned a 7,200 MW nuclear energy project with an investment of around ₹1 lakh crore.
- Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited proposed a 5,000 MW project with an investment of ₹2 lakh crore.
- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) were described as compact nuclear reactors designed for modular construction and lower unit capacity.
- Nuclear power in India was generated mainly through uranium-based nuclear fission reactors under the supervision of the Department of Atomic Energy.



India Assumed BRICS Chairmanship in 2026



- India assumed the BRICS Chairmanship on 1 January 2026 and hosted the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi on 14 May 2026.
- The 2026 BRICS chairmanship was guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".
- India took the BRICS presidency for the fourth time and focused on multilateralism, sustainable development, and economic resilience.
- India emphasized reforms in global institutions such as the UN, IMF, World Bank, and WTO for better Global South representation.
- BRICS countries collectively represented over 40% of the global population and more than 32% of global GDP.
- The grouping also discussed alternative financial mechanisms and reducing dependence on the US dollar in global trade.
- BRICS is a grouping of major emerging economies formed to promote economic cooperation, and its expanded membership in 2026 includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, and Indonesia.

Kimberley Process Intersessional 2026 Concludes in Mumbai Under India's chairmanship

- The Kimberley Process (KP) Intersessional Meeting 2026 concluded in Mumbai under India's chairmanship after four days of discussions on the future of the global natural diamond sector.



- India's 2026 chairmanship theme focused on the "3Cs" — Credibility, Compliance and Consumer Confidence — aimed at strengthening trust in the natural diamond value chain.
- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted India's commitment to responsible sourcing, transparency and sustainable diamond trade practices.
- The meeting brought together KP participants, observers, industry bodies, civil society organisations and the World Diamond Council for discussions on governance, compliance and monitoring systems.
- Deliberations focused on artisanal diamond production, statistical systems, operational reforms and consumer trust in ethically sourced natural diamonds.
- KP Chair 2026 Suchindra Misra stated that the Kimberley Process remains essential for maintaining credibility and transparency in the changing global diamond market.
- India, the world's leading diamond cutting and polishing hub, reaffirmed support for strengthening international cooperation against conflict diamonds.
- The recommendations from the Mumbai meeting will continue at the KP Plenary scheduled in New Delhi later in 2026.

Additional Information

- Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) was launched in 2003 under UNGA Resolution 55/56 (2000).
- It aims to prevent "blood diamonds" from entering legal trade.

- KP currently has 60 participants representing 86 countries, with the European Union participating as a single bloc.

PM Modi Attended 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo, Norway



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo on 19 May 2026 during his five-nation Europe tour.
- The summit brought together leaders of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Iceland to strengthen

India-Nordic cooperation in green energy, innovation, digital technology, maritime security, Arctic research and trade.

- PM Modi held bilateral talks with Norwegian PM Jonas Gahr Støre and upgraded India-Norway ties to a “Green Strategic Partnership”.
- India and Norway signed agreements related to outer space, health, technology and triangular development cooperation for the Global South.
- Norway conferred its highest civilian honour, the “Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit”, on PM Modi for strengthening bilateral relations.
- This was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Norway in 43 years since Indira Gandhi’s 1983 visit.

Static GK

- Nordic countries are Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland
- Earlier India-Nordic Summits were held in Stockholm (2018) and Copenhagen (2022).

India was the 5th largest military spender at over \$92 bn in 2025, says Sipri



- India ranked as the 5th largest military spender globally in 2025, with expenditure of \$92.1 billion.
- Spending increased by 8.9% year-on-year, accounting for ~3.2% of global military expenditure.
- According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), only the US, China, Russia, and Germany spent more than India.
- **Key drivers of higher spending:**
 - ♦ Military modernisation (aircraft, drones, missile systems)
 - ♦ Border security & mountain warfare preparedness
 - ♦ Operational and emergency procurements (e.g., Operation Sindoor)
- In regional comparison, Pakistan spent \$11.9 billion (31st globally), while China spent \$336 billion (2nd globally).
- Global military expenditure reached a record \$2.89 trillion in 2025, marking the 11th consecutive year of increase.
- Reflects India's focus on defence capability enhancement and strategic preparedness.

Static Points

- SIPRI – Sweden-based think tank.
- Global rank – 5th (India).

NITI Aayog Launches DPI@2047 Roadmap



- NITI Aayog launched DPI@2047 Roadmap on 27 April 2026 for achieving *Viksit Bharat*.
- Aims to drive inclusive, non-linear, and productivity-led growth using Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).
- Launched by Suman Bery and Ajay Kumar Sood.
- Developed in collaboration with EkStep Foundation and Deloitte.
- **Two-phase strategy:**
 - ♦ **DPI 2.0 (2025-2035):** Focus on livelihood generation & productivity growth
 - ♦ **DPI 3.0 (2035-2047):** Aim for broad-based prosperity
- **Focus sectors:** MSMEs, agriculture, education, and healthcare.
- Key enablers include credit access, decentralised energy, AI integration, and efficient benefit delivery systems.
- Execution pillars: district-level demand, tech entrepreneurship, AI adoption, and better data utilisation.
- Expands DPI beyond identity & payments to livelihoods, market access, and economic transformation.
- Supports India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Static Points

- DPI – Digital Public Infrastructure.
- NITI Aayog – Established 2015.

India Expanded Insurance Coverage and Social Security: Swiss Re Report



- India became the world's 10th largest insurance market by premium volume according to the Swiss Re Report.
- Insurance penetration in India stood at 3.7% in FY 2024–25, with life insurance at 2.7% and non-life insurance at 1%.
- The share of insurance and pension funds in household financial assets increased to 29.6% in FY25.
- The FDI limit in the insurance sector was increased from 74% to 100% under the Sabka Bima, Sabki Raksha Act, 2025.
- GST exemption was granted on individual life and health insurance policies from 22 September 2025.
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana recorded 26.88 crore enrolments and over 10.45 lakh claims by February 2026.
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana recorded 57.11 crore enrolments with accident insurance coverage.
- Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY provided health insurance coverage of ₹5 lakh per family per year.
- The government expanded Ayushman Bharat coverage to all citizens aged 70 years and above in 2024.
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana received 93.98 crore applications and paid claims worth over ₹1.94 lakh crore.
- IRDAI adopted the vision of "Insurance for All by 2047" to expand insurance coverage across India.

NITI Aayog Released Report on Effective City Government



- NITI Aayog released the report titled "Moving Towards Effective City Government – A Framework for Million-Plus Cities" on 25 April 2026.
- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar released the report at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- The report focused on strengthening governance in India's million-plus cities to support the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.
- The report highlighted major urban challenges such as weak leadership, poor financial autonomy, and fragmented institutional structures.
- NITI Aayog recommended the introduction of directly elected Mayors with fixed tenure for better accountability and governance.
- The report suggested bringing services like water supply, sanitation, and public transport under city government control.
- It also recommended strengthening municipal finances through better revenue generation and municipal bonds.
- The report proposed reforms in State Municipal Acts and updates to the Model Municipal Law for effective implementation.

Tamil Nadu overtakes Gujarat as top marine fish producer in 2025: CMFRI data



- Tamil Nadu overtook Gujarat to become India's top marine fish-producing state in 2025.
- Gujarat slipped due to a ~15% decline in fish production, caused by adverse conditions.
- Key reasons: bad weather, extended fishing bans (60–75 days), and cyclonic disturbances (e.g., Cyclone Shakti).
- Mid-May fishing restrictions under Operation Sindoor also reduced fishing activity.
- India's total marine fish production increased ~3% YoY to 3.57 million tonnes.
- Kerala remained third with 0.62 million tonnes production.
- Karnataka recorded a 43% surge, while Maharashtra saw 16% growth.
- Data released by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- Highlights the impact of climate and regulatory factors on fisheries sector output.

Static Points

- ICAR – Apex agri research body.
- CMFRI – HQ: Kochi.

India tops global remittances with over \$137 billion inflows in 2024: UN



- India received over \$137 billion in remittances in 2024, making it the world's top recipient.
- According to the World Migration Report 2026 by International Organization for Migration, India is the only country to cross \$100 billion in remittances.
- Other top recipients include Mexico, Philippines, and France.
- India has remained the largest remittance recipient since 2010, with inflows steadily rising from ~\$53 billion (2010) to ~\$137 billion (2024).

- South Asia recorded the highest growth (11.8%) in remittances, driven by India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.
- The United States of America remained the top remittance-sending country (over \$100 billion), followed by Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, and Germany.

Static Points

- Remittances are money transfers by migrants to their home countries, supporting families and economies.

India's economy is projected to grow at 6.6% in Financial Year 2026-27: SBI Research Report



- State Bank of India Research Report projected India's GDP growth at 6.6% for FY2026-27.
- GDP growth for FY2025-26 is estimated at 7.5%.
- The report said India's economy remains resilient despite global uncertainties and regional conflicts.
- Credit growth is expected to stay robust during the first half of FY27.
- Strong domestic consumption is likely to support economic growth.
- Robust rabi crop output has improved near-term food supply prospects.
- Volatility in crude oil and commodity prices, along with possible El Niño conditions, may increase inflation risks.
- The report suggested a comprehensive policy package to manage Balance of Payments pressures caused by rupee depreciation and rising crude prices.
- It recommended calibrated use of Indian Diaspora Bonds with investor-friendly tax treatment.
- The report highlighted that AI contributed 0.1–0.5% annually to GDP growth in advanced economies during 2024-25.
- It urged India to focus on AI-driven productivity, competitiveness and global value chain integration through suitable policies.

LEADS 2025 Report Was Released in New Delhi



- The LEADS 2025 Report was released in New Delhi by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal.
- LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) has served as India's annual benchmarking framework for evaluating logistics performance across States and Union Territories.
- The report was published by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- LEADS 2025 was the seventh edition and assessed logistics systems based on infrastructure, services, policy framework, and operating environment.
- The 2025 edition introduced a four-tier classification system of Exemplars, High Performers, Accelerators, and Growth Seekers.
- Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, and Delhi were placed in the Exemplars category for top logistics performance.
- Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Telangana were ranked as High Performers in the logistics ecosystem.
- Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, and Karnataka were classified as Accelerators showing improvement momentum.
- West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Sikkim were placed in the Growth Seekers category at the foundational stage.
- The report was aligned with PM GatiShakti National Master Plan and the National Logistics Policy to strengthen India's logistics efficiency.



ISSF Junior World Cup: Shiva Narwal wins gold in 10m air pistol



- Shiva Narwal won gold medal in men's 10m air pistol at ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 held in Cairo.
- He scored 241.8 in the final and also topped the qualification round.
- Sodikjon Abdullaev won silver (240.0), while Chirag Sharma secured bronze (218.9).
- Panaah Bhugra won silver in women's 10m air rifle with a score of 250.6.
- India finished top on opening day medal tally with gold, silver, and bronze.
- The tournament features 284 athletes from 25 federations, with India sending the largest contingent (71 shooters).

Sabastian Sawe Created History with Sub-2 Hour Marathon



- Kenyan athlete Sabastian Sawe created history by completing the London Marathon 2026 in 1 hour 59 minutes 30 seconds.

- He became the first athlete to officially complete a marathon in under two hours and set a new world record.
- Sawe broke the previous marathon world record of 2:00:35 that was set by Kelvin Kiptum.
- The London Marathon 2026 became one of the fastest marathon events ever, with several athletes delivering exceptional performances.
- Yomif Kejelcha finished second only 11 seconds behind Sawe, while Jacob Kiplimo also ran faster than the previous world record time.
- In the women's category, Tigst Assefa successfully defended her title with another outstanding performance.

P. V. Sindhu Joined BWF Council as Voting Member



- Olympic medallist P. V. Sindhu became a voting member of the Badminton World Federation Council after being elected Chair of the Athletes' Commission.
- Her appointment marked a significant moment as an active international player received direct participation in global badminton governance.
- Sindhu officially joined the BWF Council after completing the formal vetting process in late 2025.
- She made her first appearance as a council member during the BWF Annual General Meeting held in Horsens.
- As a voting member, Sindhu gained the authority to participate in major decisions related to the future direction of global badminton.

- She also became responsible for representing the interests and concerns of badminton players at the international level.
- Sindhu's role included contributing to policy-making, athlete welfare, and development strategies within the Badminton World Federation.

India Won Four Gold Medals at Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships



- Indian weightlifters delivered an impressive performance at the Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships held in Apia, Samoa.
- India secured four gold medals across different youth, junior, and senior categories, highlighting the country's growing strength in weightlifting.
- Sunil Singh won the gold medal in the men's 65 kg category with a total lift of 271 kg.
- Aisangfa Gogoi secured gold in the women's 58 kg category with a combined lift of 185 kg.
- Abhinob Gogoi claimed the gold medal in the men's 71 kg category with an overall lift of 284 kg.
- Charu Pesi won gold in the Universal Cup senior event with a total lift of 289 kg, the highest among Indian participants.

Rithika Sri Became India's First Transgender Cricket Umpire



- Rithika Sri from Tamil Nadu created history by becoming India's first transgender cricket umpire.
- Her achievement followed the decision of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association to introduce an 'Other' category in the umpire examination process.
- The initiative marked an important step towards greater gender inclusion and equal opportunities in Indian cricket administration.
- Rithika Sri began her umpiring journey in 2021 and officiated matches in the Salem and Coimbatore cricket circuits.
- Despite facing social discrimination and barriers in accessing cricket venues, she continued her journey with determination and dedication.
- India officially recognised transgender persons as the third gender after the landmark Supreme Court judgment of 2014.

Indian boxers ensure 27 out of 30 medals at Asian Boxing Under-15 Championships in Tashkent



- India's young boxers have secured 27 medals in the Asian Boxing U-15 and U-17 Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- Indian boxers displayed both aggressive tactics and tactical brilliance to secure victories.

Marta Kostyuk Wins Madrid Open 2026



- Marta Kostyuk has captured the biggest title of her career after winning the Madrid Open 2026. The 23-year-old Ukrainian defeated world No. 8 Mirra Andreieva 6-3, 7-5 in the women's singles final.

- Kostyuk is also set to rise from world No. 23 to a career high of 15 in WTA rankings.
- The WTA 1000 title is a third for her, who now adds her name to the growing list of favourites for the French Open, which is due to start on 24th May in Paris.

Madhya Pradesh pole vaulter Kuldeep Kumar breaks national record at Bhubaneswar



- Kuldeep Kumar representing Madhya Pradesh set a national men's pole vault record of 5.41m to win gold on the opening day of the inaugural Indian Indoor Open Combined Events and Pole Vault Competition in Bhubaneswar.
- The 21-year-old cleared the height of 5.41m in his first attempt, surpassing the previous national record of 5.40m set by Dev Kumar Meena and also improving the indoor record of 5.30m set earlier in March by Reegan G of Tamil Nadu.

Seven-year-old Ishank Singh becomes youngest swimmer to cross Palk Strait



- A seven-year-old boy from Jharkhand has become the youngest swimmer to cross the Palk Strait, completing the 29-km stretch between Sri Lanka and India in a record time for his age category.

- Ishank Singh, a Class 3 student from Ranchi, finished the swim from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanushkodi in Tamil Nadu in 9 hours and 50 minutes. The feat was officially recognised by the Universal Records Forum.

Indian-Origin Golfer Aaron Rai Wins 2026 PGA Championship



- British golfer of Indian origin Aaron Rai won the 2026 PGA Championship, securing his maiden major golf title with a remarkable performance at Aronimink Golf Club in Pennsylvania, USA.
- Rai became the first English golfer in more than a century to win the PGA Championship since Jim Barnes achieved the feat in 1919.
- The low-profile golfer finished seven-under-par, defeating Jon Rahm and Alex Smalley by three strokes in the final standings.
- Aaron Rai is widely recognized for his calm temperament, disciplined game, and unique habit of wearing two gloves during play.
- Rai produced a brilliant final-round comeback featuring an eagle and multiple birdies under intense pressure against a world-class field.

Static GK

- The PGA Championship is one of golf's four major championships
- It is organized by the Professional Golfers' Association of America
- Tiger Woods has won the tournament four times
- Golf returned to the Olympics in 2016 after a 112-year gap.

Jannik Sinner Creates History with Italian Open 2026 Triumph

- World No. 1 Jannik Sinner won the 2026 Italian Open title after defeating Casper Ruud 6-4, 6-4 in the men's singles final in Rome.



- With this victory, Sinner became the first Italian man in 50 years to win the Italian Open, ending a wait since Adriano Panatta's triumph in 1976.
- The win helped Sinner complete the prestigious "Career Golden Masters", meaning he has now won all nine ATP Masters 1000 tournaments. He became only the second player after Novak Djokovic to achieve this milestone.
- At just 24 years of age, Sinner became the youngest player to complete the Career Golden Masters.
- The tournament was held at Foro Italico in Rome, Italy, one of the premier clay-court events before the French Open.
- Sinner extended his remarkable ATP Masters winning streak and entered the French Open as a strong favourite for the title.
- Italian pair Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori also won the men's doubles title.

Static GK

- The Italian Open is an ATP Masters 1000 event played on clay courts in Rome
- The French Open is held at Roland Garros in Paris
- ATP stands for Association of Tennis Professionals.

India Finishes with 10 Medals at Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026

- India concluded the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026 in Gandhinagar with an impressive haul of 10 medals, including one silver and nine bronze medals, marking a major improvement

from the previous edition in Jiangshan, China, where India failed to win a medal.



- The championship was held at the Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from 11 to 17 May 2026 with participation from 28 Asian nations.
- Gyaneshwari Yadav delivered India's best performance by winning a silver medal in the women's 53 kg snatch event and a bronze in overall total lifts.
- Komal Kohar opened India's medal tally with bronze medals in the women's 48 kg category after replacing injured Olympic medallist Saikhom Mirabai Chanu.
- Ajith Narayana secured two bronze medals in the men's 71 kg division, becoming the first Indian male weightlifter in 15 years to win multiple medals in a single Asian Championships edition.
- Sanjana added three bronze medals in the women's 77 kg category with a combined lift of 220 kg.
- Commonwealth Games medallist Lovepreet Singh finished fifth in the men's 110 kg+ category with a personal-best total lift of 386 kg.

Static GK

- The Asian Weightlifting Championships are organised by the Asian Weightlifting Federation (AWF)
- India previously hosted the event in New Delhi in 1982
- Medals are awarded separately for snatch, clean & jerk and overall totals.

Chapter 12

Awards and Honours



Arthur Law named 2026 Young Global Leader by World Economic Forum



- Arthur Law is the co-founder of Storefriendly Asia, a tech-enabled self-storage platform
- Recognised for innovation in urban space management & sustainable development
- Company serves 40,000+ households & businesses in dense cities
- Backed by firms like Blackstone and Partners Group
- Young Global Leaders 2026: 118 leaders from 55 countries selected
- Former experience with Goldman Sachs and HSBC
- Also involved in philanthropy via The KALE Foundation

Upendra Dwivedi Was Inducted into US Army War College Hall of Fame



- Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi was inducted into the prestigious US Army War College International Hall of Fame in Pennsylvania.
- He became the third Indian Army Chief to receive this honour after former Army Chiefs V. K. Singh and Bikram Singh.
- The induction ceremony was held at the Carlisle Barracks, which serves as the headquarters of the US Army War College.
- General Dwivedi was honoured for his distinguished military service, strategic leadership, and contribution to global defence cooperation.
- During his US visit, General Dwivedi held discussions on defence collaboration, strategic cooperation, and joint military training between the two countries.

Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards 2026 Honoured Classical Music Legends



- The Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards 2026 were held in New Delhi to honour excellence in Indian classical music.
- Renowned vocalists Sumitra Guha and Pandit Laxman Krishnarao Pandit were honoured for their lifelong contribution to preserving India's musical heritage.
- The awards recognised their decades of dedication to Hindustani classical music and traditional cultural values.
- The Sur Jyotsna Awards were instituted in memory of Jyotsna Darda to promote and preserve Indian musical traditions.
- The awards also aimed to encourage young and emerging artists in the field of Indian classical music.

- The ceremony was organised at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre in the presence of several distinguished guests and dignitaries.

Govt announces National Panchayat Awards 2025



- The Government announced winners of the National Panchayat Awards 2025, with 42 Panchayats selected across the country.
- The award ceremony will be held in New Delhi on 3 June 2026.
- Karnataka secured the highest number of awards with 6 Panchayats, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha with 5 awards each.
- Awards are given under two categories — Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar and Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar.
- The Deen Dayal Upadhyay awards recognise Gram Panchayats for performance linked to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as poverty reduction, sanitation, health, water sufficiency, women-friendly governance, and social justice.
- A total of 34 Gram Panchayats from 17 States/UTs were selected under this category.
- Under the Nanaji Deshmukh category, 8 Panchayats were selected, including district, block, and gram Panchayats.
- Winning Panchayats will receive financial incentives ranging from ₹50 lakh to ₹5 crore.
- The awards are given under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme.

Static Points

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is the nodal ministry for Panchayati Raj institutions.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

President Droupadi Murmu confers National Florence Nightingale Awards to fifteen Nursing professionals



- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 to 15 nursing professionals at Rashtrapati Bhavan for their outstanding contribution in the field of nursing.
- The awards are presented to Registered Nurses, Midwives, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, and Lady Health Visitors serving under Central and State Governments, Union Territories, and voluntary organisations.
- Each award carries a Certificate of Merit, a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, and a medal in recognition of exceptional service in healthcare.
- President Murmu said the occasion is a tribute to the dedication and compassion of nursing professionals who play a vital role in delivering quality healthcare, often in difficult circumstances. She praised the awardees for their devotion to duty and commitment to patient care.
- Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda and Minister of State for Health Prataprao Jadhav were present at the ceremony.
- The National Florence Nightingale Award was instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 1973 to recognise meritorious services rendered by nurses and nursing professionals to society.

Indian Army Officer Major Abhilasha Barak Receives Prestigious UN Recognition for Gender Advocacy

- Indian Army officer Major Abhilasha Barak was selected for the prestigious United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award 2025 for her outstanding contribution to gender-inclusive peacekeeping operations in Lebanon.



- She is currently serving with the Indian Battalion under the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) as Commander of the Female Engagement Team (FET).
- Major Barak was recognised for conducting outreach programmes for women and adolescent girls, promoting community engagement and providing gender sensitisation training to peacekeepers in conflict-affected regions.
- She is also known as the first woman combat helicopter pilot in the Indian Army, creating a historic milestone for women officers in India's defence forces.
- The award will be presented at the UN Headquarters in New York City during the observance of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers on 29 May 2026.
- Major Abhilasha Barak became the third Indian recipient of this honour after Major Suman Gawani and Major Radhika Sen, reflecting India's growing role in global peacekeeping and women-led military initiatives.

Static GK Facts

- The United Nations was established on 24 October 1945.
- Headquarters of the United Nations: New York City.
- UNIFIL was established in 1978 to maintain peace and security in southern Lebanon.
- India is one of the largest contributors to UN Peacekeeping Missions globally.

PM Narendra Modi Received the FAO Agricola Medal



- Narendra Modi received the FAO Agricola Medal on 20 May 2026 at the Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters in Rome, Italy.
- The medal was presented by Qu Dongyu in the FAO Plenary Hall.
- The Agricola Medal was recognized as one of the highest honours of FAO for contributions to agriculture, food security, and rural development.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization was established in 1945 as a specialised agency of the United Nations and is headquartered in Rome, Italy.
- FAO highlighted India's farmer financial inclusion programmes, direct income support for over 110 million farmers, and food security schemes covering nearly 800 million people.
- FAO also recognized India's role in promoting millets during the International Year of Millets 2023.
- During the Rome visit, Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with Giorgia Meloni and met Sergio Mattarella.
- The visit was noted as the first visit by an Indian Head of Government to FAO Headquarters in nearly 30 years.

Govt launches first-ever Structured Pulse Procurement in Bihar under Atmanirbhar Pulses Mission



- The government expanded procurement under the PM-AASHA Scheme.
- Key role played by National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. in Chhattisgarh.
- Bihar launched its first structured pulse procurement initiative under Atmanirbhar Pulses Mission.
- NCCF started first-ever organised masoor procurement in Bihar.
- Bihar target: 32,000 MT masoor; achieved 100.4 MT, with 59 farmers onboarded.
- In Chhattisgarh, procurement strengthened via E-Samyukti portal and awareness campaigns.
- Procurement data: NCCF procured 9,032 MT chana & 7.98 MT masoor; NAFED procured 3,850 MT chana & 109 MT masoor.

Static Points

- PM-AASHA Scheme launched in 2018.
- NAFED was established in 1958.

VB-G RAM G replacing MGNREGA to come into force across India from July 1

- The Central Government notified the implementation of the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood Mission (Rural) Act from 1 July 2026.



- The new Act will replace Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act across all states and UTs.
- Under the new law, rural households will receive 125 days of guaranteed wage employment, increased from 100 days under MGNREGA.
- Existing e-KYC verified MGNREGA job cards will remain valid until new Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards are issued.
- Ongoing MGNREGA works will continue seamlessly under the new framework.
- Workers will not be denied employment due to pending e-KYC verification.
- Wages will continue through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into bank or post office accounts.
- Payments must be made weekly or within 15 days, otherwise workers will receive delay compensation.
- The Centre allocated ₹95,692.31 crore for the programme in Budget 2026-27, the highest-ever allocation for a rural employment scheme.
- Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said states may get up to six months for operational preparedness.

Static Points

- MGNREGA was launched in 2005.
- The Ministry of Rural Development implements rural employment schemes in India.

Govt approves ₹37,500 crore plan to boost domestic coal gasification



- The Union Cabinet approved a ₹37,500 crore incentive scheme to promote domestic coal gasification projects.
- The scheme aims to support India's target of gasifying 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030.
- Initiative seeks to boost clean energy production and reduce import dependence.
- Focus areas include reducing imports of LNG, urea, ammonia and methanol.
- The government extended coal linkage tenure up to 30 years for coal gasification projects.
- Financial incentives of up to 20% of plant and machinery cost will be provided for new projects.
- The scheme targets gasification of around 75 million tonnes of coal and lignite.
- Policy aims to strengthen India's energy security and support cleaner coal utilisation.
- NITI Aayog highlighted coal gasification and CCUS as opportunities for cleaner coal use in its report on Viksit Bharat and Net Zero goals.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launches ₹189.79 Crore Mizoram Ginger Mission

- Union DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and Lalduhoma launched the Mizoram Ginger Mission.



- The mission has an outlay of ₹189.79 crore for ginger cultivation and value chain development in Mizoram.
- The initiative is anchored by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER).
- The mission involves convergence with schemes of the Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food Processing Industries.
- Institutions such as NABARD, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) are supporting the initiative.
- The mission focuses on processing, value addition, reducing post-harvest losses, and improving farmer income.
- The initiative aims to bridge price gaps and promote GI-certified pharma-grade ginger from Mizoram.
- Ginger farmers from Champhai district welcomed the mission for improving market access and farmer livelihoods.
- Private sector partners pledged support to promote Mizo ginger as a globally recognised premium brand.
- The Mizoram government committed to ensuring time-bound implementation of the mission.

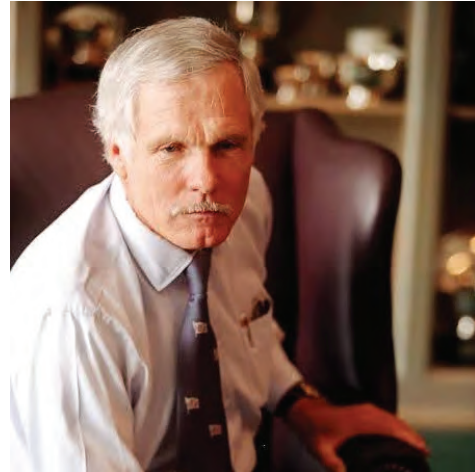
Former Andhra Pradesh CM Nadendla Bhaskar Rao Passed Away



- Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nadendla Bhaskar Rao passed away on April 22, 2026 at the age of 90 in Hyderabad after suffering from age-related illness.
- He remained one of the most controversial political figures in South India because of his role in the 1984 political crisis in Andhra Pradesh.
- Bhaskar Rao served as Finance Minister in the N. T. Rama Rao-led Telugu Desam Party government before the political upheaval of 1984.
- During NTR's medical visit to the United States, Bhaskar Rao claimed majority support and was sworn in as Chief Minister on August 16, 1984.
- His appointment triggered massive political unrest, after which NTR launched the 'Dharma Yuddham' campaign demanding restoration of democracy.
- N. T. Rama Rao was reinstated as Chief Minister within 31 days, making Bhaskar Rao's tenure one of the shortest in Andhra Pradesh's history.
- The 1984 political episode raised major debates regarding constitutional propriety, the Governor's role, and federal democratic norms in India.
- He became a founding member of the Telugu Desam Party in 1982 and later rejoined the Congress after the 1984 crisis.

Ted Turner, who created of the world's first 24-hour news channel dies

- Ted Turner, the renowned media entrepreneur who founded the world's first 24-hour news channel, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2026, at the age of 87.



- According to Turner Enterprises, his death signifies the end of an era in modern broadcasting, and he was widely credited with revolutionising television news and leaving a global media legacy. Known for his bold personality and ambitious vision, he built the empire that has reshaped cable television, sports broadcasting, and international journalism. Turner Enterprises reports that he died quietly on May 6, 2026.
- He was largely regarded with redefining television news and leaving a global media legacy. His passing signifies the end of an era in contemporary broadcasting. He created the empire that changed cable television, sports broadcasting, and worldwide journalism. He is renowned for his audacious attitude and ambitious ambition.

Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri Passes Away



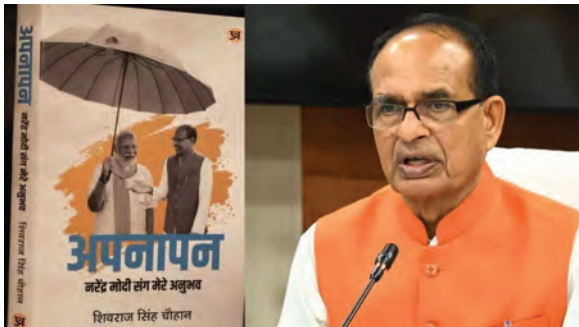
- Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri passed away at the age of 91 after prolonged age-related health complications.
- Born in 1935 in Pauri Garhwal, he was a retired Lieutenant General of the Indian Army before entering active politics.
- Khanduri served as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand twice — from 2007 to 2009 and again from 2011 to 2012.
- He was widely known for promoting transparent governance, anti-corruption measures, and infrastructure development in the hill state.
- As a Union Minister, he handled important portfolios including Road Transport and Highways in the Government of India.
- Khanduri was also elected multiple times as Member of Parliament from the Garhwal constituency in Uttarakhand.

Static GK

- Uttarakhand was formed on 9 November 2000
- Capital — Dehradun (winter) and Gairsain (summer)
- First Chief Minister of Uttarakhand — Nityanand Swami
- State animal — Alpine Musk Deer.



Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to Launch 'Apnapan'



- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the launch of his new book “Apnapan”, based on his 35-year association with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The book was formally released on 26 May 2026 at the NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi, in the presence of former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu and former Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda.
- “Apnapan” highlights PM Modi’s leadership style, work ethic, discipline, organisational skills, and dedication toward nation-building.
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that his association with Modi began during the 1991 Ekta Yatra led by Murli Manohar Joshi.
- The book also discusses governance experiences, policy implementation, and cabinet-level coordination across states.

Other Information

- Shivraj Singh Chouhan currently serves as Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare and Rural Development.
- He is the longest-serving Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.
- Narendra Modi became India’s Prime Minister in May 2014.

- The Ekta Yatra of 1991 travelled from Kanyakumari to Srinagar to promote national unity.

Vice President Releases Book on P.N. Panicker



- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar released a book dedicated to P.N. Panicker and emphasized the urgent need to revive India’s reading culture among youth and society.
- During the event, he described reading as a powerful tool for intellectual growth, informed citizenship and national development in the digital age.
- The Vice President praised P.N. Panicker’s contribution to literacy and library movements in Kerala, calling him a pioneer of mass reading campaigns in India.
- P.N. Panicker is widely remembered as the “Father of the Library Movement” in Kerala for promoting public libraries and literacy awareness across rural communities.

Static GK Facts

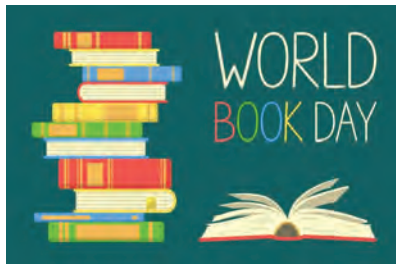
- P.N. Panicker’s birth anniversary, 19 June, is observed as Reading Day in Kerala.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar is the 14th Vice President of India.
- The Vice President of India is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Chapter 16

Important Days



World Book and Copyright Day 2026



- World Book and Copyright Day is observed on 23 April every year worldwide
- The day celebrates books, authors, reading culture, and creative expression
- It is observed under the guidance of UNESCO
- Focus areas include promotion of reading, publishing, education, and protection of copyright laws
- 23 April is symbolically important due to death anniversaries of major literary figures:
 - ♦ William Shakespeare
 - ♦ Miguel de Cervantes
- The day highlights how books connect cultures and preserve knowledge across generations

Static Points

- UNESCO declared this day in 1995
- Origin traces back to Spain (1920s)

National Panchayati Raj Day Was Celebrated on 24 April 2026



National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated on 24 April 2026 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- The day commemorated the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, which gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- The year 2026 marked 33 years of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.
- Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel attended the programme.
- The Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)-2.0 report was released during the event.
- Gram Sabha meetings were organised across the country to strengthen grassroots democracy.

International Dance Day 2026



- International Dance Day is celebrated globally on 29 April 2026 to promote dance as a form of expression, culture, and communication.
- The day is also known as World Dance Day and encourages people of all ages to connect through movement and rhythm.
- It is organized by the International Theatre Institute with support from UNESCO.
- The date marks the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre, a pioneer of modern dance theatre.
- Theme focus: promoting creativity, unity, cultural exchange, and emotional well-being through dance.
- The day highlights dance as a medium of self-expression, education, and cultural identity, beyond just performance art.
- It aims to increase global participation, encourage young talent, and integrate dance into education systems.
- Established in 1982, the observance has helped bring global recognition and visibility to dance and artists.

Static Points

- Date – 29 April.
- ITI – Established in 1948.

International Jazz Day 2026



- Observed on April 30 every year; 2026 marks the 15th anniversary of International Jazz Day.
- Global host city for 2026 is Chicago, highlighting its historic role in jazz development.
- Established in 2011 by UNESCO on the initiative of Herbie Hancock.
- Celebrates jazz as a universal language that promotes unity, peace, and intercultural dialogue.
- Aims to break cultural and political barriers and promote freedom, dignity, and creativity.
- Activities include global concerts, community jam sessions, masterclasses, and cultural festivals.
- Guided globally by UNESCO and the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz, with participation from artists, institutions, and governments.
- Serves as the culmination of Jazz Appreciation Month, promoting awareness of jazz heritage and evolution.

International Labour Day 2026



- International Labour Day is observed on 1 May every year to honour workers and their contributions.
- Also known as May Day, it highlights issues like fair wages, safe working conditions, and worker dignity.
- In India, it is called Antar Rashtriya Shramik Diwas.

- Celebrated in 80+ countries, often as a public holiday with rallies and awareness programmes.
- The day bridges historical labour movements with the modern economy and workforce challenges.
- Origin traces back to the Haymarket Affair, where workers demanded an 8-hour workday.
- In 1889, international labour organisations declared May 1 as Labour Day.
- The International Labour Organization theme for May Day 2026 is “Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment”
- Focuses on challenges like heatwaves, extreme weather, and workplace safety due to climate change.
- Promotes social justice, equality, and protection against worker exploitation.

World Asthma Day 2026 Observed on May 5



- The World Asthma Day 2026 was observed on May 5, raising awareness about asthma care and treatment access worldwide.
- World Asthma Day is observed annually on the first Tuesday of May.
- The theme, announced by Global Initiative for Asthma, is “Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma – still an urgent need”.
- The focus is on improving access to inhaled corticosteroids, essential for controlling airway inflammation.
- Experts stressed that relying only on reliever inhalers is insufficient; long-term control requires proper medication.
- Inhaled corticosteroids help reduce inflammation, prevent attacks, and lower risk of hospitalization and death.
- Doctors recommend combination (2-in-1) inhalers for both symptom relief and long-term control.
- Asthma affects ~260 million people globally, causing about 450,000 deaths annually, most of which are preventable.

- Countries like India face higher burden due to pollution, low awareness, and limited healthcare access.
- Asthma is a chronic respiratory disease causing inflammation and narrowing of airways.

World Athletics Day 2026 Observed on May 7



- World Athletics Day 2026 was observed on May 7 to promote athletics and encourage youth participation in sports.
- The day is organised by World Athletics to spread awareness about fitness, discipline, and healthy competition.
- The official theme for the World Athletics Day 2026 has not yet been announced by the World Athletics.
- The 2025 theme was 'Relay Around the World Challenge' and highlighted teamwork, unity and the spirit of passing on athletic values to future generations.
- The initiative encourages participation in events like running, jumping, throwing, and track & field competitions.
- The programme is part of the global campaign "Athletics for a Better World" aimed at building a healthier generation.
- In India, Athletics Federation of India promotes the event through school, district, and national-level activities.
- The day also helps identify young sporting talent and revive sports participation after the COVID period.

Static Points

- World Athletics was founded in 1912 as the IAAF and is headquartered in Monaco.

Pakistan Declared May 10 as "Marka-e-Haq Day"

- Pakistan declared May 10 as an annual observance called "Marka-e-Haq Day" to commemorate the 2025 India-Pakistan conflict.



- The term "Marka-e-Haq" meant "Battle of Truth" and referred to the conflict period from April 22 to May 10, 2025.
- The observance was announced in Islamabad and marked the first anniversary of the 2025 military confrontation.
- Pakistan stated that the day would be observed annually but would not be a public holiday.
- The 2025 conflict followed the Pahalgam incident and led to military escalation between India and Pakistan.
- Pakistan referred to its response as "Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos", involving Air Force, Shaheens, and Fatah missiles.
- India referred to its counter-action as "Operation Sindoor", conducted on May 7, 2025.

National Technology Day – 11 May



- National Technology Day was observed on 11 May in India to commemorate the successful Pokhran-II nuclear tests conducted in 1998 at Pokhran Test Range, Rajasthan.
- Pokhran-II was also known as Operation Shakti and involved a series of five nuclear detonations conducted in two phases on 11 May and 13 May 1998.
- India conducted three underground nuclear tests on 11 May 1998, which included a thermonuclear device, a fission device, and a sub-kiloton device.

- India conducted two additional nuclear fission tests on 13 May 1998 as part of the complete Pokhran-II operation.
- India became the sixth nation in the world to join the group of nuclear-armed states after the successful tests, strengthening its strategic position.
- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam played a key scientific role in the operation as one of the leading scientists associated with the nuclear programme.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister of India when the tests were conducted and later declared 11 May as National Technology Day in 1999.
- India also achieved technological milestones on the same day, including the first test flight of the indigenous Hansa-3 aircraft in Bengaluru.
- DRDO also tested the Trishul surface-to-air missile on 11 May 1998, marking multiple defence technology achievements on the same day.
- National Technology Day 2026 was associated with the theme “Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth”, focusing on ethical and inclusive technological development.

International Nurses Day 2026



- International Nurses Day is observed annually on 12 May.
- The day highlights the role of nurses in healthcare systems, patient advocacy, and global health security.
- International Nurses Day 2026 Theme: “Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives”.
- The theme was announced by the International Council of Nurses (ICN).
- The theme emphasises investment in the nursing workforce, protection of nurses’ rights, and empowering nurses with adequate resources and autonomy.
- The International Council of Nurses has observed the day since 1965.

- In 1974, 12 May was officially designated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.
- Florence Nightingale revolutionised patient care and clinical sanitation during the Crimean War.
- The observance now recognises nurses as the backbone of modern healthcare systems and community wellness.
- The 2026 observance focuses on health equity, safe working conditions, workforce investment, and stronger clinical systems.
- The day also highlights the role of nurses in handling global health crises, chronic diseases, and disaster response.
- The observance aims to address global nursing workforce shortages and occupational burnout.
- International Nurses Day is led globally by ICN, national nursing associations, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

National Endangered Species Day 2026



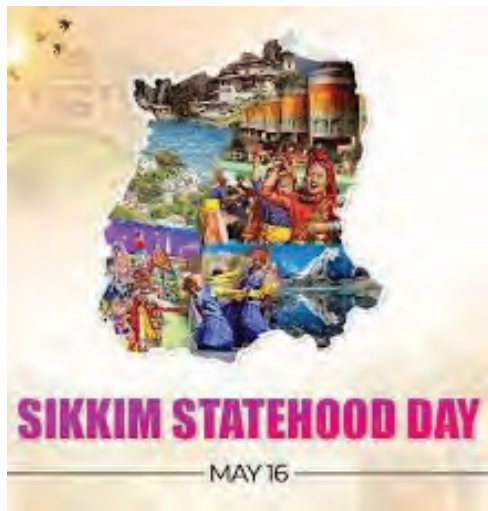
- National Endangered Species Day 2026 was observed on 15 May 2026, the third Friday of May, to raise awareness about endangered animals, birds, marine species, and plants facing extinction globally.
- The observance was started in 2006 by the Endangered Species Coalition to promote wildlife conservation and habitat protection.
- The 2026 theme focused on “Celebrating America’s Wildlife Comeback Stories. Championing the Endangered Species Act”, highlighting successful conservation efforts and species recovery.
- Governments, schools, wildlife organisations, and environmental groups organised awareness drives, plantation campaigns, wildlife quizzes, clean-up activities, and biodiversity programmes.

- Major causes behind endangered species include habitat destruction, climate change, illegal wildlife trade, pollution, overfishing, and deforestation.
- India highlighted conservation challenges involving species such as the Royal Bengal Tiger, Asiatic Lion, Snow Leopard, and Ganges River Dolphin.

Additional Information

- India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 is the primary law for wildlife conservation.
- Project Tiger was launched in 1973, while Project Elephant began in 1992.
- The IUCN Red List is the world's most important database for threatened species assessment.
- World Wildlife Day is observed annually on 3 March under the United Nations system.

Sikkim Statehood Day 2026 Was Celebrated on 16 May



- Sikkim celebrated its 51st Statehood Day on 16 May 2026, marking 51 years of becoming a part of India.
- Sikkim officially became a full-fledged state of India on 16 May 1975 after major political developments and a public referendum.
- Before joining India, Sikkim functioned as an independent Himalayan kingdom ruled by the Namgyal dynasty under the Chogyal monarchy.
- Political demands related to democratic governance, electoral fairness, and political representation increased in Sikkim during the early 1970s.
- A historic referendum held in 1975 resulted in the majority of people voting in favour of joining the Indian Union.

- The monarchy in Sikkim was abolished after the referendum and the 36th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1975 was passed.
- Sikkim officially became the 22nd state of India after its integration into the Indian Union.

Static Point

- Important festivals celebrated in Sikkim include Losar, Saga Dawa, Pang Lhabso, Dasain, and Tihar.
- Famous Buddhist monasteries of Sikkim include Rumtek Monastery and Pemayangtse Monastery.
- Sikkim is recognized as India's first fully organic state and is home to Mount Kangchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain.
- Prem Singh Tamang is serving as the Chief Minister of Sikkim in 2026.

World Bee Day 2026 Highlighted Global Bee Decline Risks



- World Bee Day was observed on 20 May 2026 to raise awareness about the importance of bees and pollinators.
- Nearly 90% of wild flowering plants and about 75% of global food crops depend on pollinators.
- Habitat loss, pesticides, climate change, diseases, light pollution, and microplastics were identified as major causes of bee decline.
- Commercial beekeepers in the United States reported a 62% honeybee colony loss between June 2024 and March 2025.
- Thiamethoxam, a neonicotinoid pesticide harmful to bees, has remained restricted in the European Union since 2018.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization promoted pollinator-friendly farming and biodiversity conservation measures.
- Greenpeace Africa reported that nearly 40% of insect pollinators in Africa were at risk due to toxic pesticides.

International Day for Biological Diversity 2026 Was Observed on 22 May



- International Day for Biological Diversity was observed on 22 May 2026 under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- The 2026 theme of the observance was “Acting locally for global impact”.
- The Convention on Biological Diversity was opened for signature at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- Odisha’s tribal communities were highlighted for preserving indigenous seeds, millet diversity, and climate-resilient farming practices.
- Community seed banks in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha helped conserve traditional millet, pulse, and paddy varieties.
- Kondh and Paraja tribal women played an important role in protecting crop genetic diversity through seed conservation.
- The DIVERSIFARM-India project was led by the Fridtjof Nansen Institute and M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation for strengthening community seed systems.