

# THE HINDU REVIEW

- **Monthly** capsule
- **Current** Affairs

**Economy | Appointment | Awards | Ranking  
Government Scheme | Summit | Partnership | GDP  
Banking & Financial | Defence | Sports |  
Book and Author | Science and technology**



# The Hindu Review (MAY 2026)

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<p><b>The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has appointed as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati</b></p> <p><b><i>About Prasar Bharati</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Formed</b>- 23 November 1997</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters</b>- New Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Ministry</b>- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting</li> </ul>	<p>Prasoon Joshi (Updated 5 May)</p>
<p><b>Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the appointment as full-time members of NITI Aayog</b></p> <p><b><i>NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Founded</b> - 1st January 2015</li> <li>• <b>Preceding</b> - Planning Commission (15th March 1950)</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters</b> - New Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Chairperson</b> - Narendra Modi</li> <li>• <b>Vice Chairperson</b> - Ashok Lahiri (replace Suman K Bery)</li> <li>• <b>CEO</b> - Nidhi Chhibber (replace B. V. R. Subrahmanyam)</li> </ul>	<p>R. Balasubramaniam and Joram Aniya (Updated 6 May)</p>
<p><b>Appointed as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification</b></p>	<p>Shashi Shekhar Vempati (Updated 6 May)</p>
<p><b>Appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff</b></p>	<p>Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan (Updated 9 May)</p>
<p><b>Appointed as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs by the Government of India</b></p>	<p>Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (Updated 10 May)</p>
<p><b>Droupadi Murmu appointed as the new Chief Minister of Puducherry</b></p>	<p>N Rangasamy (Updated 11 May)</p>

<p><b>Taken oath as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu after the victory of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)</b></p> <p><b>About Tamil Nadu</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formation – 26 January 1950</li> <li>• Capital – Chennai</li> <li>• Chief Minister – C. Joseph Vijay (Thalapathy)</li> <li>• Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar</li> </ul>	<p>C. Joseph Vijay (Updated 11 May)</p>
<p><b>Assumed charge as Chairman &amp; Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)</b></p>	<p>Ashok Kumar Panda (Updated 13 May)</p>
<p><b>Took oath as the Chief Minister of Assam for the second consecutive term</b></p> <p><b>About Assam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Formation - 26 January 1950</i></li> <li>• <i>Capital – Dispur</i></li> <li>• <i>Chief Minister – Himanta Biswa Sarma; 2<sup>nd</sup> time</i></li> <li>• <i>Governor – Lakshman Prasad Acharya</i></li> </ul>	<p>Himanta Biswa Sarma (Updated 13 May)</p>
<p><b>The Central Government has extended the tenure as Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation</b></p> <p><b>About Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Founded - 1963</i></li> <li>• <i>Headquarters - New Delhi</i></li> <li>• <i>Motto - Industry, Impartiality, Integrity</i></li> <li>• <i>Director General - Praveen Sood</i> <i>Under – Ministry of Department of Personnel and Training</i></li> </ul>	<p>Praveen Sood (Updated 14 May)</p>

<b>The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) elected as its President for 2026–27</b>	R Mukundan (Updated 15 May)
<b>Sworn in as the Chief Minister of Kerala</b>	V. D. Satheesan (Updated 19 May)
<b>Assumed charge as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)</b>	Saurabh Vijay (Updated 19 May)
<b>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed as Executive Director (ED)</b>  <b><i>About Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Founded - 1 April 1935</i></li> <li>• <i>RBI Nationalized - 1 January 1949</i></li> <li>• <i>Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra</i></li> <li>• <i>RBI set up - Hilton Young Commission</i></li> <li>• <i>1st Governor - Sir Osborne Smith (Australia)</i></li> <li>• <i>1st Indian Governor - CD Deshmukh</i></li> <li>• <i>26th Governor - Sanjay Malhotra; 26th</i></li> </ul>	Shri Gunveer Singh (Updated 20 May)
<b>ICICI Bank has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India to reappoint as its Chief Executive Officer</b>	Sandeep Bakhshi (Updated 25 May)
<b>Re-elected as Chairman of the Commonwealth Chess Association for the term 2026–2030</b>	Bharat Singh Chauhan (Updated 25 May)
<b>Become the first Indian test pilot to be elected as a Fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots</b>	K. K. Venugopal (Updated 26 May)

<p><b>The Centre has extended the tenure of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Director General</b></p> <p><i>About Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The agency is tasked with combating drug trafficking and the use of illegal substances.</li> <li>• It is under the Ministry of Home Affairs</li> <li>• Formed- 17 March 1986</li> <li>• Headquarters- New Delhi</li> </ul>	<p>Anurag Garg (Updated 26 May)</p>
<p><b>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment as the bank's part-time chairman of Federal Bank</b></p>	<p>Elias George (Updated 27 May)</p>
<p><b>Appointed as the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions in the Upper House after its reconstitution</b></p>	<p>Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha (Updated 28 May)</p>
<p><b>The Securities and Exchange Board of India approved the appointment as Executive Directors on the board of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL)</b></p>	<p>Amit Mahajan and Nayana Ovalekar (Updated 31 May)</p>
<p><b>Reserve Bank of India approved a three-month extension as interim CEO of Fino Payments Bank</b></p>	<p>Ketan Merchant (Updated 31 May)</p>
<p><b>Assumed charge as Chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)</b></p>	<p>Senior IAS officer P. Jawahar (Updated 31 May)</p>

### (International)

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
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<b>Bulgaria's parliament appointed as the country's new Prime Minister</b> <b>About Bulgaria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Capital- Sofia</i></li> <li>• <i>Currency - Euro</i></li> <li>• <i>Official language- Bulgarian</i></li> </ul>	<p>Rumen Radev (Updated 11 May)</p>
<b>Appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Oman</b>	<p>Prashant Pise (Updated 13 May)</p>
<b>Sworn in as President of Uganda</b> <b>About Uganda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Capital - Kampala</i></li> <li>• <i>Currency - Ugandan shilling</i></li> <li>• <i>Official languages- Swahili, English</i></li> <li>• <i>President - Yoweri Museveni</i></li> </ul>	<p>Yoweri Museveni (Updated 15 May)</p>
<b>Edgars Rinkevics has nominated MP as the next Prime Minister of Latvia</b>	<p>Andris Kulbergs (Updated 18 May)</p>
<b>Appointed as India's Chef de Mission for the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow</b>	<p>Rohit Rajpal (Updated 26 May)</p>
<b>Slovenia's parliament has voted to appoint as Prime Minister</b>	<p>Janez Janša (Updated 31 May)</p>

## Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

### (National)

<b><u>Award</u></b>	<b><u>Person/Organization</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose/ Field</u></b>
<b>The 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by AIIMS</b>	<p>Dr V S Mehta</p>	<p>Dr V S Mehta is <b>Delhi-NCR-based neurosurgeon and Padma Shri awardee</b></p>
<b>World No Tobacco Day Award 2026</b>	<p>Rajasthan</p>	<p>The honour reflects the <b>state government's strong commitment towards public health</b></p>

		<b>and its vision of creating a "Tobacco-Free Rajasthan"</b>
<b>Padma Vibhushan</b>	Dr. N. Rajam	For her exceptional contribution to <b>Indian classical music.</b>

**(International)**

<u><b>Award</b></u>	<u><b>Person/Organization</b></u>	<u><b>Purpose/ Field</b></u>
<b>Whitley Award 2026</b>	Parveen Shaikh	For her efforts to protect the <b>endangered Indian skimmer through a community-led conservation model</b>
<b>Pulitzer Prize</b>	Anand RK and Suparna Sharma, along with Natalie Obiko Pearson	For a <b>Bloomberg report exposing cybercrime</b> in India.
<b>Erth Dubai Award under the category of Best Private Sector Entity</b>	Deepak Bhatia	<b>Uncle's Shop Building Material Trading</b> was founded in 1922 by the late Uttamchand Bhatia and is regarded as one of the <b>oldest Indian-origin enterprises in the UAE, currently led by the fourth generation of the family.</b>
<b>Sweden's Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross</b>	Narendra Modi	This prestigious recognition marks the <b>31st international honour received by Narendra Modi, highlighting his global diplomatic recognition.</b>
<b>'Norway's highest civilian honour, the Grand Cross of the</b>	Narendra Modi	Marking his <b>32nd international honour</b> from a foreign nation.

<b>Royal Norwegian Order of Merit</b>		
<b>The prestigious Agricola Medal by the Food and Agriculture Organisation</b>	Narendra Modi	For exceptional contributions to <b>food security, sustainable agriculture, poverty reduction, and improved nutrition.</b>
<b>The 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics</b>	The Indian Space Research Organisation's Chandrayaan-3	<b>Chandrayaan-3</b> created history on <b>23 August 2023</b> by becoming the <b>first spacecraft to achieve a soft landing near the Moon's South Pole</b> , a region of high scientific and strategic importance.
<b>South Africa's highest civilian honour</b>	Salim Abdool Karim and Keertan Dheda	The award <b>recognises exceptional contributions in public health and global research that benefit both South Africa and the international community</b>
<b>Elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society, one of the world's most prestigious scientific honours</b>	Manindra Agrawal,	This recognition places him among an <b>elite group of scientists whose contributions have shaped modern science, including legendary figures like Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein.</b>
<b>The United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award 2025</b>	Indian Army officer Major Abhilasha Barak	She is currently posted with the <b>United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)</b> as <b>Commander of the Female Engagement</b>

		<b>Team</b> and is also India's first woman combat helicopter pilot.
<b>The Palme d'Or top prize at the Cannes Film Festival</b>	Cristian Mungiu	For the <b>Norwegian drama Fjord, marking his second Palme d'Or victory.</b>

### Awards 2026: Complete winners list

#### Droupadi Murmu Confers Padma Awards 2026 to 66 Eminent Personalities at Rashtrapati Bhavan Civil Investiture Ceremony

- **Droupadi Murmu** conferred **Padma Awards 2026 to 66 eminent personalities at the first Civil Investiture Ceremony** held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, including Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri awards.
- Out of 66 awardees, **2 were awarded Padma Vibhushan, 6 received Padma Bhushan, and 58 were conferred Padma Shri** for distinguished contributions across various fields.
- Film actor **Dharmendra Singh Deol was awarded Padma Vibhushan (posthumously)**, with the honour received by his wife and MP Hema Malini.
- Renowned violin maestro **Dr. N. Rajam was also honoured with Padma Vibhushan** for her exceptional contribution to Indian classical music.
- Padma Bhushan recipients included Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Shatavadhani Dr R Ganesh, industrialist Uday Kotak, and Dr. Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaiswamy for their contributions in public affairs, art, trade, and medicine.
- The remaining Padma Shri awardees include personalities like Harmanpreet Kaur Bhuller and Taga Ram Bheel, with the awards recognising excellence across fields such as sports, arts, science, and social service.
- For the year 2026, the President has approved conferment of 131 Padma awards including five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri awards. The remaining Padma awardees will be conferred in the second round of the ceremony to be held later.

### Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
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<p><b>A ₹37,500 crore incentive scheme</b></p>	<p>To promote <b>surface coal and lignite gasification projects in India</b>, aiming to boost domestic syngas production.</p>
<p><b>The “Annapurna Bhandar” scheme (West Bengal)</b></p>	<p>Eligible women will receive monthly financial assistance of ₹3,000 starting from <b>June 1</b> under this scheme.</p>
<p><b>‘Hauslon Ki Udaan 2026-27’ Talent Hunt Scheme (Delhi)</b></p>	<p>Delhi CM Rekha Gupta launched the <b>“Talent Hunt Scheme - Hauslon Ki Udaan 2026-27”</b> to identify and nurture young talent across Delhi</p>

## Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
<p><b>The 10th National Summit on Good and Replicable</b></p>	<p>Chandigarh</p>	<p><b>The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</b> will organise the <b>10th National Summit</b></p>

<b>Practices and Innovations in Public Health Systems</b>		
<b>The first International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit</b>	New Delhi	Theme - <b>Save Big Cats, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem.</b>
<b>First international ophthalmology research conference</b>	New Delhi	The conference, titled <b>AIOS-Armed Forces Ophthalmology Update (AIOS-AFOU 2026)</b> , will be inaugurated by <b>Sanjay Seth</b> .
<b>First-ever Regional Cooperative Reform Conference under the vision of "Sahkar se Samridhhi", organised by the Ministry of Cooperation</b>	Aizawl	Representatives from all <b>North-Eastern states along with major organisations</b> such as <b>NABARD, NAFED, NCDC and NDDB</b> participated in the conference to discuss cooperative reforms and regional development initiatives.
<b>The 35th Plenary and Working Groups meetings of ISO TC 20/SC 14 on "Space Systems and Operations"</b>	New Delhi	ISO TC 20/SC 14 develops <b>global standards covering the complete lifecycle of space systems, including design, production,</b> launch, operations, and space-based services to ensure safety, interoperability, and sustainability.
<b>The Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026</b>	Mumbai	India assumed the <b>Chairship of the Kimberley Process on 1 January 2026</b> , focusing on the <b>3Cs — credibility, compliance, and consumer confidence</b> in the natural diamond sector.
<b>The BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 14–15 May 2026</b>	India	Key discussions will focus on global and regional issues, <b>BRICS@20 theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,"</b> and reforms in <b>global governance</b> and multilateral institutions to enhance representation of emerging economies.
<b>The 68th Governing Body Meeting of the Asian Productivity Organisation</b>	New Delhi	Focusing on <b>regional cooperation, productivity, and strategic collaboration among member economies</b>
<b>The 79th World Health Assembly</b>	Geneva	The assembly, held under the theme <b>"Reshaping global health: a shared responsibility,"</b> focused on key areas such as tuberculosis, antimicrobial resistance, stroke, emergency care, and precision medicine.

<p><b>The 51st meeting of PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)</b></p>	<p>Seva Teerth</p>	<p>During the meeting, the Prime Minister reviewed seven major infrastructure projects in the <b>Railways, Power, and Road sectors across nine states, involving a cumulative investment of nearly ₹30,000 crore.</b></p>
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## Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
<p><b>Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited signed a licensing agreement (LATO) with Naval Science &amp; Technological Laboratory, a lab under the Defence Research and Development Organisation</b></p>	<p>The agreement covers the <b>Gas Turbine–Infrared Suppression System (GT-IRSS)</b> for naval vessels, with <b>BHEL</b> responsible for fabrication, installation, and commissioning of the <b>LM2500-based system developed by NSTL-DRDO.</b></p>
<p><b>Jio Payments Bank has partnered with Ezeepay</b></p>	<p>To expand essential <b>banking services across more than 12,000 semi-urban and underserved PIN codes in India</b></p>
<p><b>The Government of India, in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, launched the 8-year Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) for 2026–2033</b></p>	<p>To improve <b>rural incomes, resilience, and sustainable livelihoods</b></p>
<p><b>Uber will set up its first data centre in India in partnership with the Adani Group</b></p>	<p>Strengthening its <b>digital infrastructure presence in the country</b></p>
<p><b>The IndiaAI Mission (MeitY) has signed an agreement with Karya (a nonprofit organisation)</b></p>	<p>To strengthen <b>India’s inclusive artificial intelligence ecosystem</b> by enhancing collaboration in <b>data, technology, and capacity building.</b></p>
<p><b>India and the UAE signed multiple key agreements in Abu Dhabi after talks between Narendra Modi and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan amid the ongoing West Asia conflict</b></p>	<p>A strategic collaboration agreement was signed between <b>Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company</b> to strengthen India’s energy security through petroleum reserves and possible LNG and LPG storage cooperation.</p>
<p><b>Tata Electronics and Dutch semiconductor equipment giant</b></p>	<p>To boost <b>semiconductor manufacturing in India.</b></p>

<b>ASML have entered into a strategic partnership</b>	
<b>India and Norway have signed a triangular development cooperation agreement</b>	Aimed at supporting <b>human development initiatives across the Global South.</b>
<b>ICICI Bank, in partnership with Visa</b>	Launched <b>India's first USD-denominated debit card for NRI customers from its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City, Gujarat</b>
<b>The United Nations Development Programme and Zambia have launched a joint initiative in Lusaka</b>	To adapt <b>India's Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)</b> for an Essential Medicines <b>"Track and Trace" system.</b>
<b>India and Ethiopia signed a bilateral accession protocol in Geneva</b>	To support <b>Ethiopia's accession to the World Trade Organisation.</b>
<b>The Department of Posts and Flipkart signed an agreement</b>	For <b>last-mile parcel delivery services across India</b>
<b>The Madhya Pradesh government has partnered with Google Cloud</b>	To use <b>AI-based solutions for the management of Simhashta Kumbh 2028 to be held in Ujjain.</b>
<b>LuLu Hypermarket, in partnership with APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)</b>	Launched the <b>23rd edition of the "Mango Mania" festival across GCC countries.</b>

## Chapter 6: Ranking Index

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1st Rank
<b>2026 World Press Freedom Index</b>	Reporters Without Borders	157th	<b>Norway</b>
<b>The Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2026</b>	-	<b>IISc Bengaluru Ranks</b> 43 <sup>rd</sup> (Score- 65.1)	<b>Tsinghua University</b>  <b>China</b> (Score-93.6)

<b>Global Remittance Inflows in 2024</b>	World Migration Report 2026, released by the International Organisation for Migration.	-	<b>India</b> (137.67 billion US dollars)
<b>The "Renewable Energy Statistics 2026"</b>	The International Renewable Energy Agency.	3 <sup>rd</sup> 250.52 GW	<b>China</b> 2258.02 GW
<b>UK's Richest Spot in 2026 'Sunday Times Rich List' for the fifth consecutive year</b>	Sunday Times Rich List	-	<b>Hinduja family</b> (An estimated wealth of £38 billion)

## Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

Merger Company	About
<b>The TVS Venu Group has acquired a 9.9% stake in Jana Small Finance Bank for ₹193.3 crore, marking a significant strategic investment in the banking sector.</b>	The stake acquisition will be completed through a mix of <b>primary warrant subscription and secondary share purchase, including a 4.9% direct holding by TVS Motor Company</b>
<b>Bharti Enterprises announced that Prudential plc will acquire a 75% stake in Bharti Life Insurance Company Ltd for an initial ₹3,500 crore</b>	The deal also includes a potential additional payment of up to <b>₹700 crore based on the fulfilment of certain conditions, highlighting a significant cross-border investment in India's insurance sector.</b>

## Chapter 8: Loan

Organization/Bank	Loan Amount	To which country	Purpose
The <b>World Bank</b>	USD 225 million loan	Bihar	To develop <b>integrated urban economic regions across the state</b>
Axis Bank	Aa \$500 million	Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG)	The three-year loan facility will be priced based on the <b>Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR), a global benchmark interest rate used in international financial markets.</b>

## Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

App/ Website/Portal	Company / Department	Purpose
<b>E-PRAAPTI (EPF Aadhaar-Based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts)</b>	The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)	To help users <b>manage old and inactive PF accounts</b> .
<b>The Central Prabhari Officer Portal</b>	NITI Aayog	To strengthen <b>real-time governance and improve coordination under the Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme (ADP/ABP)</b>
<b>The "JEEVAN" mobile application and "SHATAYU" dashboard</b>	The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	To strengthen <b>safety, care, dignity, and empowerment of senior citizens through technology-based support services</b>
<b>The PM-AJAY Portal and AJAY Mobile App</b>	Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar	To improve the implementation and <b>monitoring of Scheduled Caste welfare schemes</b> .
<b>The "Investors Support" portal</b>	India Semiconductor Mission under the <b>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</b>	To strengthen <b>investor confidence in India's semiconductor sector</b>

## Chapter 10: Important MoU

MoU	Between Which Countries
<b>Signed an MoU on the exchange of pre-arrival customs information to improve the clearance of goods and boost bilateral trade</b>	India and Kenya
<b>Signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen India's startup ecosystem and promote innovation-led growth across sectors</b>	The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade with Chamber India

<b>Signed an MoU to strengthen India's logistics and e-commerce ecosystem</b>	<b>The Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications</b> with <b>DTDC Express Limited</b>
<b>Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote responsible and scalable adoption of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare</b>	<b>IndiaAI</b> and the Indian Council of Medical Research ( <b>ICMR</b> )
<b>Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in the field of central banking</b>	The <b>Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</b> and the <b>European Central Bank (ECB)</b>
<b>Signed an MoU to strengthen cooperation in combating cyber-enabled financial frauds and identifying mule accounts across the banking and digital payment ecosystem</b>	The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre ( <b>I4C</b> ) with the <b>Reserve Bank Innovation Hub</b>
<b>Signed a tripartite MoU to develop its first Mega Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, marking a major step in strengthening India's shipbuilding infrastructure</b>	HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering (HD KSOE), NSHIP-TN, and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) under the India-South Korea maritime cooperation framework <b>VOYAGES</b> .
<b>Signed an MoU to enhance investor awareness through informative messages on Doordarshan's national and regional channels</b>	Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs with Prasar Bharati
<b>Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance multilingual access to Ayush digital services using AI-powered language technologies.</b>	The Ministry of Ayush with the Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)
<b>Signed an MoU to launch India's first sustainability-linked dealer financing programme in the automotive sector</b>	Mahindra & Mahindra and DBS Bank India
<b>Signed an MoU to strengthen corporate governance, ESG frameworks, and India's capital markets.</b>	NISM and IICA
<b>Signed an MoU to set up India's first private-sector Marine Gas Turbine (MGT) Repair, Overhaul and indigenous development complex at Visakhapatnam, within an 80-acre site in the Defence Manufacturing Corridor</b>	Bharat Forge Limited with the <b>Government of Andhra Pradesh</b>

**Tata Power has signed an MoU with Druk Green Power Corporation**

To develop a **skill development framework supporting Bhutan's 5,000 MW clean energy capacity expansion.**

## Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

### SBI Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.6% for 2026-27

- According to the **State Bank of India Research report**, India's economy is projected to grow at **6.6% in FY 2026-27** despite global economic headwinds.
- The report estimates real GDP growth at around **7.2%** in the fourth quarter of the previous fiscal year, indicating continued economic resilience.

### United Nations Cuts India's 2026 Growth Forecast to 6.4%

- The **United Nations** has lowered **India's economic growth forecast for 2026 to 6.4%** from its earlier estimate of **6.6%**, citing global economic uncertainties.
- According to the revised outlook released by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), India's economy is projected to grow by **6.6%** in 2027.

### ICRA Cuts India's FY2026-27 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.2% Amid Rising Crude Oil Prices

- Rating agency **ICRA** has projected **India's GDP growth at 6.2%** for the **Financial Year 2026-27**, lower than its earlier estimate of **6.5%**.
- The downward revision in GDP growth forecast is mainly attributed to elevated crude oil prices caused by the ongoing West Asia crisis.

## Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)

### PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Six BCCI Indoor Cricket Academies Across Northeast India

- **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated **six indoor cricket academies** under the Board of Control for Cricket in India expansion programme in Northeast India.
- The academies are located in **Rangpo (Sikkim), Doimukh (Arunachal Pradesh), Imphal (Manipur), Madan Kurkalang (Meghalaya), Aizawl (Mizoram), and Dimapur (Nagaland).**

### PM Modi Inaugurates 594-km Ganga Expressway

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **594-km-long Ganga Expressway**, the longest expressway in Uttar Pradesh, connecting Meerut to Prayagraj.
- It passes through 12 districts, including Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareli, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj.
- A key strategic feature is a **3.5 km airstrip in Shahjahanpur**, designed for Indian Air Force emergency landing and take-off operations.

### Google to Invest \$15 Billion in AI Hub at Visakhapatnam as Naidu and Vaishnaw Lay Foundation Stone

- **N. Chandrababu Naidu and Ashwini Vaishnaw** laid the foundation stone for the **Google Cloud India AI Hub in Visakhapatnam**.
- Google will invest \$15 billion, making it one of the largest FDI projects in India, with a 1 GW data centre capacity spread over ~600 acres.

### Ladakh Expands to 7 Districts as LG Vinai Kumar Saxena Approves Creation of Five New Districts

- **Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena** approved the creation of **5 new districts** in Ladakh, increasing the total from **2 to 7 districts**.
- Earlier, Ladakh had only Leh and Kargil; the newly created districts are **Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass**.

### NITI Aayog Launches DPI @2047 Roadmap to Drive India's \$30 Trillion Viksit Bharat Vision

- The NITI Aayog launched the "**Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) @2047**" roadmap to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.
- The roadmap was unveiled by **Suman Bery and Ajay Kumar Sood**.

### Marathi Films "Jeev - The Creature" and "April May 99" Selected for Cannes Film Festival Film Market

- **Marathi films "Jeev - The Creature"** (directed by Ravindra Jadhav) and "**April May 99**" (directed by Rohan Mapuskar) have been **selected for the film market section of the Cannes Film Festival**.
- This selection highlights the growing global recognition of regional Indian cinema, especially Marathi films, on prestigious international platforms.

### Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana IV in Odisha

- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has launched **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana IV** in Rayagada to boost rural connectivity and development.
- Under PMGSY-IV, 827 road projects covering about 1,701 km will be developed at a cost of over ₹1,698 crore, benefiting 898 habitations with all-weather road connectivity for the first time.

### Ministry of Mines Approves 58 Companies Under ₹1500 Crore Critical Mineral Recycling Incentive Scheme

- The **Ministry of Mines, Government of India**, has approved **58 companies** under the **Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling**, marking a key step towards strengthening India's critical mineral security and circular economy.
- The scheme, with an outlay of ₹1500 crore under the National Critical Mineral Mission, aims to develop domestic recycling capacity for critical minerals from lithium-ion batteries, e-waste, and industrial scrap.

### India Deploys Aarogya Maitri portable hospital in Jamaica to Strengthen India-CARICOM Health Cooperation

- **India** has deployed its **flagship Aarogya Maitri portable hospital** in **Jamaica**, strengthening India-Caribbean relations and marking a major step in humanitarian diplomacy under India-CARICOM cooperation.
- The initiative, coordinated under India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief framework and guided by the National Security Council Secretariat along with the Ministry of External Affairs, India, focuses on rapid and technology-enabled medical support to partner nations.

### India Launches First Commercial Seaplane Service as SkyHop Aviation Gets DGCA Approval

- **India** is expanding its aviation sector from **land to water with the launch of its first dedicated commercial seaplane services**. **SkyHop Aviation** has received the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from the DGCA, officially clearing it for commercial operations in the country.
- In the first phase, **services will focus on Lakshadweep**, connecting five islands internally as well as linking them to the Indian mainland, aiming to boost tourism and drastically reduce travel time in remote and water-bound regions.

### Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Flags Off Somnath Swabhiman Parv Yatra from Delhi to Gujarat

- Union Minister of Culture and Tourism **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** inaugurated the **Somnath Swabhiman Parv Yatra**, describing the Somnath Temple as a symbol of India's self-respect, resilience, and indomitable spirit.
- As part of the yatra, a special train carrying around 1,300 devotees was flagged off from Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi to the Somnath Temple in Gujarat, marking a large-scale pilgrimage initiative.

### Government to Launch SACHET Mobile-Based Disaster Alert System for Nationwide Emergency Communication

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** and Communications Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** will launch the **mobile-based disaster communication system SACHET**, aimed at strengthening real-time emergency alert dissemination across India.
- The system has been **developed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** in collaboration with the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** to improve disaster preparedness and response through technology.

### Tamil Nadu Becomes India's Top Marine Fish Producing State in 2025, Overtakes Gujarat: CMFRI Report

- According to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) report, Tamil Nadu has overtaken Gujarat to become India's largest marine fish-producing state in 2025, marking a significant shift in coastal fisheries production ranking.
- Tamil Nadu topped the marine fish production chart with 6.85 lakh tonnes, reflecting strong growth in its fishing output and improved coastal productivity.

### Nitin Gadkari Launches India's First MLFF Barrier-Less Tolling System in Gujarat

- **Nitin Gadkari** announced the launch of **India's first Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF)** barrier-less tolling system at **Chorayasi Toll Plaza** on the Surat-Bharuch section of NH-48 in Gujarat.
- The MLFF system enables seamless toll collection without stopping, using technologies like Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and FASTag.

### Government to Launch Prashast 2.0 for Early Identification of Disabilities in Children

- The Government of India will launch **Prashast 2.0**, an upgraded digital platform to identify 21 types of disabilities in children and support **Children With Special Needs (CWSN)**.
- The platform will enable early detection of disabilities at the school level by teachers and school heads, ensuring timely intervention and inclusive education.

### India Deploys Aarogya Maitri in Jamaica Under BHISHM Initiative to Boost HADR Outreach

- **India** deployed the **Aarogya Maitri** in Jamaica under its **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** framework, strengthening ties with Caribbean nations.

- The BHISHM Initiative (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri) is an emergency medical aid programme featuring portable hospital systems for disaster situations.

### 7-Year-Old Ishank Singh Becomes Youngest to Cross Palk Strait

- **Seven-year-old Ishank Singh** from Ranchi became the **youngest swimmer to cross the Palk Strait**, covering a 29-km distance.
- His achievement under “**Mission Samandar**” was officially recognised by the Universal Records Forum.

### Sikkim Becomes India's First Fully Paperless Judiciary

- **Sikkim** becomes the **first state in India to achieve a fully paperless judiciary**, announced by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant at a conclave in Gangtok.
- A paperless judiciary system enables e-filing, virtual hearings, digital records, and real-time case tracking, ensuring faster, transparent, and efficient justice delivery.

### Rajnath Singh Inaugurates North Tech Symposium in Prayagraj

- **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **North Tech Symposium in Prayagraj**. The event is jointly organised by the Indian Army Northern Command, Indian Army Central Command, and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers.
- The symposium, themed “**Raksha Triveni Sangam**”, features participation from 284 companies, including MSMEs, startups, and defence tech firms showcasing indigenous technologies.

### Andaman & Nicobar Islands Set Guinness World Record with Largest Underwater National Flag Near Havelock Island

- **The Andaman and Nicobar Islands** set a **Guinness World Record** by deploying the world's largest underwater national flag near Havelock Island.
- The dive operation was led by D. K. Joshi, with participation from the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, police, and professional divers.

### South Coast Railway Zone to Be Notified on June 1, 2026, as India's 18th Railway Zone with HQ in Visakhapatnam

- The **Union Government** will notify the **South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR)** on **1 June 2026**, making it India's 18th railway zone, with headquarters at Visakhapatnam.
- The project received Cabinet approval in February 2025, and the foundation stone for the headquarters was laid by Narendra Modi, with land allocated at Mudasarlova.

### Siemens Mobility Delivers First D9 Freight Locomotive to Indian Railways

- **Siemens Mobility** has delivered the first of 1,200 electric freight locomotives to Indian Railways under a €3-billion contract signed in 2023.
- The D9 locomotives are India's most powerful (9,000 hp) six-axle electric freight engines, capable of speeds up to 120 km/h, and are the first Indian rolling stock tested to the EN 14363 European standard.

### Cabinet Approves ₹5,659 Crore Mission for Cotton Productivity to Boost Output and Quality by 2031

- **The Union Cabinet**, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved ₹5,659.22 crore for the **Mission for Cotton Productivity (2026–27 to 2030–31)** to address challenges in India's cotton sector.
- The mission aligns with the Government's 5F vision (**Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign**) to strengthen the textile value chain.

### Cabinet Approves ₹3,936 Crore Semiconductor Projects to Boost India's Chip Ecosystem

- **The Union Cabinet** has approved two new semiconductor projects worth ₹3,936 crore to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem and boost employment.
- The projects—**Crystal Matrix Limited** and **Suchi Semicon Private Limited**—have been cleared under the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**.

### India Relaxes FDI Norms, Allows Up to 10% Investment from Bordering Countries via Automatic Route

- **The Government of India** has amended FDI rules under Foreign Exchange Management Act, allowing overseas companies with up to 10% ownership from land-bordering countries (like China) to invest through the automatic route.
- Under the new 2026 rule, non-controlling stakes up to 10% from such countries no longer need prior approval, simplifying foreign investment procedures.

### Larsen & Toubro Bags ₹2,500–₹5,000 Crore Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project in Odisha

- **Larsen and Toubro** has secured a ₹2,500–₹5,000 crore contract to develop a coal-to-ammonium nitrate project in Odisha.
- **Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited**, a joint venture of Coal India Limited and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, has awarded the project.

### Karnataka Launches India's First State-Led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology in Bengaluru

- The Karnataka Government has launched India's first state-led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology (COE SpaceTech Foundation) in Bengaluru.
- The centre has been established by the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society in collaboration with the SatCom Industry Association of India.

### Andaman & Nicobar Islands Set Guinness World Record with Largest Underwater National Flag Near Havelock Island

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands set a Guinness World Record by deploying the world's largest underwater national flag near Havelock Island.
- The Indian national flag measured 60m × 40m, making it the largest underwater flag ever displayed.

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- The Union Government will notify the South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR) on 1 June 2026, making it India's 18th railway zone, with headquarters at Visakhapatnam.
- The new zone will strengthen railway administration in Andhra Pradesh by reorganizing divisions, including Guntakal, Guntur, Vijayawada, and a newly created Visakhapatnam division.

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### Union Cabinet Approves Increase in Supreme Court Judge Strength from 33 to 37

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved increasing the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court of India from 33 to 37 (excluding the Chief Justice of India).
- The move aligns with Article 124 of the Constitution and continues the gradual expansion of the Supreme Court's strength over the years to enhance judicial capacity.

### Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates 100th N-Gen Post Office at NEHU Shillong in Meghalaya

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia virtually inaugurated the 100th N-Gen Post Office at North-Eastern Hill University in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- The upgraded facility is designed as a modern, youth-centric post office to serve students, faculty members, and campus residents.

### India–EU Launch ₹169 Crore Joint Initiative to Boost EV Battery Recycling Under TTC Framework

- India and the European Union have launched a ₹169 crore (€15.2 million) joint initiative to enhance EV battery recycling capacity, strengthening sustainable mobility solutions.
- The initiative is implemented under the India–EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) Working Group-2 to promote clean and green technology cooperation.

### Akashvani Organises Marathon in New Delhi to Celebrate 90th Anniversary

- Akashvani organised a 3.5-km marathon in New Delhi to celebrate its 90th anniversary, with the run starting and ending at Akashvani Bhavan.
- Employees of Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati, along with their family members, participated in the marathon in the presence of Gaurav Dwivedi and Rajeev Kumar Jain.

### Skyroot Aerospace Becomes India's First Space-Tech Unicorn with \$1.1 Billion Valuation

- Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace has become India's first space-tech unicorn after raising nearly USD 60 million in a new funding round, taking its valuation to USD 1.1 billion.
- The funding round saw participation from major investors including Sheralo Ventures, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC Private Limited, Greenko Group founders, and Arkam Ventures, supporting the company's mission to build low-cost orbital launch capabilities.

### Health Ministry Launches JANANI Digital Platform to Strengthen Maternal and Child Healthcare Services in India

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care), a QR-enabled digital platform designed to track maternal and child healthcare services across India.
- The platform will maintain comprehensive digital health records of women, covering antenatal care, delivery, postnatal care, newborn care, and family planning, ensuring continuity of care throughout the reproductive cycle.

### Apple Inc. to Invest ₹100 Crore in India's Renewable Energy Infrastructure

- Apple Inc. has announced an investment of ₹100 crore to strengthen renewable energy infrastructure in India.
- In partnership with CleanMax, Apple will help develop more than 150 MW of renewable energy capacity across the country.

### Jagat Prakash Nadda Launches Swasth Bharat Portal to Integrate Health Systems Across India

- **Jagat Prakash Nadda** launched the **Swasth Bharat Portal**, a unified digital platform aimed at integrating multiple health programme systems across India.
- The Swasth Bharat Portal has been developed by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** to improve coordination and efficiency in healthcare services.

### Jan Suraksha Schemes Complete 11 Years with Insurance Claims Settlement of ₹25,160 Crore in India

- The **three major Jan Suraksha Schemes** launched by Narendra Modi on May 9, 2015, have completed 11 years of implementation in India.
- The schemes include **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**, **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**, and **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**, aimed at providing affordable insurance and pension coverage.

Scheme	Type	Premium	Age Limit	Benefit
Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)	Life Insurance	₹436/year	18-50 years	₹2 lakh
Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)	Accident Insurance	₹20/year	18-70 years	₹2 lakh
Atal Pension Yojana (APY)	Pension Scheme	Contribution-based	18-40 years	₹1,000-₹5,000 pension

### India and Vietnam Target \$25 Billion Bilateral Trade by 2030

- **India and Vietnam** have set a target to increase bilateral trade to **\$25 billion annually** by 2030 from around \$16 billion recorded in the last financial year during talks between Narendra Modi and To Lam.
- Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of Vietnam signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in financial innovation and digital payments.

### Pabitra Margherita Attends Swearing-in Ceremony of Laura Fernandez in Costa Rica

- Minister of State for External Affairs **Pabitra Margherita** attended the **swearing-in ceremony of Laura Fernandez** as the new President of Costa Rica.
- Laura Fernandez became the 50th President of Costa Rica and the country's second woman President, succeeding Rodrigo Chaves.

### Mohan Yadav Releases Two Female Cheetahs into Wild at Kuno National Park under Project Cheetah

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Mohan Yadav** released **two female cheetahs into the wild at Kuno National Park** after they completed quarantine and adaptation.
- The two cheetahs are part of a group of nine brought from Botswana in February 2026 under Project Cheetah, taking India's total cheetah population to 57.

### Supreme Court launches 'One Case One Data' and 'Su Sahay'

- **Surya Kant** has launched the '**One Case One Data**' digital initiative to integrate judicial administration from taluka courts to the Supreme Court of India into a unified system.
- The Chief Justice also launched '**Su Sahay**', an **AI-powered chatbot** integrated with the Supreme Court of India website, developed by the National Informatics Centre in collaboration with the Supreme Court Registry.

### PM Modi Inaugurates India's First PM MITRA Park at Warangal, Telangana

- **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated **India's first functional PM MITRA Park at Warangal, Telangana.**
- The park has been developed at a cost of ₹1,695.54 crore, spread over 1,327 acres, and is located near the proposed Nagpur-Vijayawada Greenfield Expressway (NH-163G).

### Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 Rolled Out Nationwide from 1 July

- The Centre has notified the implementation of the **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-GRAM G)**, which will be rolled out nationwide from 1 July 2026.
- The Act guarantees 125 days of wage employment per financial year, replacing the earlier **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** and enhancing employment support for rural households.

### APEDA India Facilitates First-Ever Export of Honey from Assam's Baksa to USA

- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated the **first-ever export of 20 Metric Tons of honey from Baksa district of Assam to the USA.**
- The initiative included infrastructure support such as testing and laboratory equipment at the processing facility to ensure compliance with international food safety and quality standards.

### J.P. Nadda and Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launch 'SEHAT Mission' to Link Agriculture with Nutrition and Public Health

- Union Minister J.P. Nadda and Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'SEHAT Mission' in Delhi to strengthen the link between agriculture and public health.
- The SEHAT Mission focuses on bio-fortified and nutrient-rich crops, traditional millets, and a "One Health" approach to improve nutrition, disease prevention, and farmer welfare in India.

### Surya Kant Announces High-Powered Panel for Modernisation of Courts in India

- Surya Kant announced the formation of the 'Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee' to modernise courts across India and seek government funding of ₹40,000–50,000 crore for judicial infrastructure development.
- The high-powered committee will be headed by Aravind Kumar and will include Justices Debangsu Basak, Ashwani Kumar Mishra, and Somasekhar Sundaresan, along with officials from the CPWD and the Supreme Court.

### Cabinet Approves ₹20,667 Crore Ahmedabad–Dholera Semi High-Speed Rail Project Under PM Gati Shakti Plan

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Narendra Modi, has approved the Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)–Dholera semi high-speed double-line railway project at a cost of ₹20,667 crore, marking the first such project in Indian Railways.
- The 134-km corridor, built under the vision of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" and PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, will connect Ahmedabad with Dholera Special Investment Region, Dholera Airport, and Lothal National Maritime Heritage Complex.

### PM Narendra Modi Participates in Somnath Amrut Parv, Marks 75 Years of Restored Somnath Temple

- PM Narendra Modi offered prayers and performed puja at the Somnath Temple during the Somnath Amrut Parv celebrations in Gujarat.
- The rebuilt Somnath Temple was inaugurated in 1951 by Rajendra Prasad after its reconstruction in post-independence India.

### India Launches "Unified Bharat e-Charge" — UPI-Like Platform for EV Charging Across Networks

- Union Heavy Industries Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy launched the Unified Bharat e-Charge (UBC), a national platform described as the "UPI for EV charging" to enable seamless EV charging access across India.
- Developed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and supported by the Government of India and NPCI, the "one nation, one app" system provides real-time data on charger availability, ownership, location, and power output.

## DigiHaat Launches “Swadeshi” Marketplace to Promote Made-in-Bharat Products under Atmanirbhar Bharat

- Government-backed e-commerce platform DigiHaat has launched a new marketplace called “Swadeshi” to promote authentic Made-in-Bharat products and support local producers under the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The platform operates under the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) ecosystem and is designed to strengthen a decentralized digital commerce network in India.

## PMEGP Exceeds Targets, Creates 36.33 Lakh Jobs with Full Budget Utilisation in 15th Finance Commission Cycle

- The Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to support new micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector.
- During the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021–22 to 2025–26), the scheme exceeded its target by establishing over 4,03,706 micro-enterprises against the target of 4,02,000 units.

## Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool Approved to Strengthen India’s Shipping Trade Amid Global Geopolitical Risks

- The Government of India has approved the €129.8 billion (about \$1.4 billion) Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool to ensure uninterrupted maritime trade and reduce dependence on foreign insurers amid rising global geopolitical tensions and sanctions affecting shipping insurance.
- The initiative was announced by Ashwini Vaishnaw and will remain operational for 10 years, with a provision to extend it by another 5 years, where insurance policies will be issued collectively by member insurers using pooled underwriting capacity.

## Droupadi Murmu Confers National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 to 15 Nursing Professionals at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 at Rashtrapati Bhavan to 15 nursing professionals for their outstanding contribution in the field of nursing and healthcare services.
- The award, instituted in 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, recognizes Registered Nurses, Midwives, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, and Lady Health Visitors serving across government, UTs, and voluntary organisations, and includes a certificate, medal, and ₹1 lakh cash prize.

## India Doubles Import Tax on Gold and Silver to 18.4% Amid Forex Reserve Concerns

- The Government of India has increased the effective import tax on gold and silver from 9.2% to 18.4%, effective from May 13, 2026, through two separate notifications issued on May 12.
- Earlier, imports attracted 5% basic customs duty, 1% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC), and 3% IGST, while the revised structure raises customs duty to 10% and AIDC to 5%, significantly increasing the total tax burden.

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

- The Government has revised the release schedule of Provisional Estimates of Annual GDP and Q4 Quarterly GDP, shifting it from the last working day of May to 7th June every year (or the previous working day if it is a holiday).
- The decision has been taken after consultation with the Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS) to ensure better coordination and accuracy in national accounts reporting.

## Centre releases first instalment of Rs 401.50 crore for court infrastructure scheme

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal released the first instalment of ₹401.50 crore (FY 2026–27) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the development of infrastructure facilities in district and subordinate courts across States and Union Territories via the PFMS system.
- The scheme aims to strengthen judicial infrastructure and improve “ease of justice”, with proposals including a new component of “Waiting Hall for Litigants”, while also extending the scheme’s tenure up to 2030–31 and a temporary extension granted till September 30, 2026.

## Piyush Goyal Releases LEADS 2025 Report

- The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal released the LEADS 2025 Report in New Delhi and also felicitated winners of the LEAPS 2025 Awards, highlighting India’s logistics sector performance across States and UTs.
- LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) is published by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and serves as an annual benchmarking framework to assess logistics efficiency based on infrastructure, policy framework, service reliability, and operating environment.

- The **LEADS 2025 edition is the seventh report** and introduces a four-tier classification system—Exemplars, High Performers, Accelerators, and Growth Seekers—replacing the earlier three-tier system.
- The new four-tier categorization is as follows:
  - **Exemplars:** Exemplars represent the top-performing States and Union Territories, demonstrating sustained excellence across policy, infrastructure, service delivery, and regulatory dimensions.
    - **Coastal States:** Tamil Nadu
    - **Landlocked States:** Uttar Pradesh
    - **North- Eastern States:** Mizoram
    - **Union Territories:** Delhi
  - **High Performers:** High Performers comprise States and Union Territories that demonstrate strong and consistent outcomes across the majority of performance indicators.
    - **Coastal States:** Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra
    - **Landlocked States:** Haryana, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Bihar
    - **North- Eastern States:** Tripura, Meghalaya
    - **Union Territories:** Jammu & Kashmir, Puducherry
  - **Accelerators:** Accelerators comprise States and Union Territories that have demonstrated notable improvement momentum and a clear reform orientation in recent years.
    - **Coastal States:** Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, Karnataka
    - **Landlocked States:** Punjab, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh
    - **North- Eastern States:** Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam
    - **Union Territories:** Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Chandigarh, Ladakh, Lakshadweep
  - **Growth-Seekers:** Growth Seekers represent States and Union Territories that are at a foundational stage of logistics system development and institutional strengthening.
    - **Coastal States:** West Bengal
    - **Landlocked States:** Rajasthan
    - **North- Eastern States:** Sikkim
    - **Union Territories:** Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**India to Chair Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) from 2026–2028 at Global Cybersecurity Forum in Tokyo**

- India has been nominated as the **Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) for the term April 2026 to April 2028**, strengthening its role in global IT security standards.
- The decision was confirmed during the 1st Quarter Meeting of the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA), held in Tokyo, Japan (April 14–16, 2026), which facilitates the mutual recognition of IT security certifications across countries.

### India's Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 5.2% in April 2026

- India's overall unemployment rate (UR) for persons aged **15 years and above remained largely stable at 5.2% in April 2026**, slightly higher than 5.1% recorded in March 2026.
- Rural unemployment increased to 4.6% in April from 4.3% in March, while urban unemployment declined marginally to 6.6%, indicating relatively better employment conditions in urban areas.

### Ashwini Vaishnaw Inaugurates Electronics Manufacturing Cluster and India's First SME Semiconductor Facility in Rajasthan

- Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology **Ashwini Vaishnaw** virtually inaugurated the **Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) developed by ELCINA at Salarpur, Khushkhera, Bhiwadi in Rajasthan**, along with Sahasra Semiconductors' ATMP/OSAT facility.
- The Electronics Manufacturing Cluster in Bhiwadi has been developed over 50.3 acres with an investment of ₹46.09 crore, aimed at strengthening India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem.

### MP High Court Declares Bhojshala Complex as Temple of Goddess Vagdevi

- The **Madhya Pradesh High Court** ruled that the disputed **Bhojshala complex and Kamal Maula Mosque site in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh** is a temple dedicated to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati).
- The court permitted the Hindu community to continue worship at the site while dismissing the claims made by the Muslim community over the disputed structure.

### Goa Declares Ecologically Sensitive Areas Near Old Goa as 'No Development Zones'

- The **Goa government** declared around **4 lakh square metres of ecologically sensitive land near Old Goa** and mangrove areas in **St Cruz village as "No Development Zones"** to prevent construction and protect the environment.
- The Town and Country Planning (TCP) Board specifically notified nearly 102,000 square metres of land around Old Goa, including orchards and an archaeological park, under the protected category.

## President approves increase in sanctioned strength of judges in Supreme Court from 33 to 37

- Droupadi Murmu approved the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026**, increasing the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court of India **from 33 to 37 (excluding the Chief Justice of India)**.
- With this amendment to the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, the total strength of the apex court, including the Chief Justice of India, will rise to 38 judges.

## CBSE Makes Three-Language Study Compulsory for Class 9 Under NEP 2020 Guidelines

- The **Central Board of Secondary Education** has made it compulsory for **Class 9 students to study three languages from 1 July**, in alignment with the National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023.
- **CBSE clarified that the third language (R3) will not have a Board exam in Class 10**; instead, it will be assessed internally at the school level, and no student will be barred from Class 10 Board Exams due to R3 performance.

## IITM Pune Launches Climate Startup Incubation Centre Under NEAT and Mission Mausam Initiative

- The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune** has launched a **dedicated startup incubation centre** focused on weather and climate innovation, inaugurated alongside the WISE 2026 (Weather and Climate Innovation Meet for Startups and Entrepreneurs).
- The incubation centre aims to support startups working in weather technology, climate analytics, forecasting applications, and climate resilience tools to boost innovation in the sector.

## NIOS Launches “To Reach the Unreached” Mission to Re-enroll Out-of-School Children

- National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has launched a major initiative to reconnect out-of-school children with the formal education system across India.
- Under its mission “To Reach the Unreached,” National Institute of Open Schooling aims to bring nearly two crore out-of-school children back into the education system.

## Himanta Biswa Sarma Inaugurates India’s First AI-Powered ‘Phygital’ Banking Branch in Guwahati

- Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated India's first AI-powered 'phygital' banking branch of Slice Small Finance Bank in Guwahati, marking a major step in digital-first banking innovation.
- The new branch combines physical and digital banking services through AI-enabled self-service kiosks, paperless cash deposits and withdrawals, and fully digital onboarding processes.

### Narendra Modi Receives Historic 11th-Century Chola Copper Plates from Leiden University During Netherlands Visit

- Narendra Modi was presented with the historic 11th-century Chola Copper Plates by Leiden University during his official visit to the Netherlands, marking a key moment in cultural cooperation and heritage restitution.
- The Leiden Copper Plates, preserved for over a century, include 21 large and 3 small copper plates linked to Chola kings Rajendra Chola I and Kulottunga Chola I, with inscriptions in Sanskrit and Tamil detailing administration, taxation, and governance systems.

### UIDAI Extends Free Aadhaar Document Update Service Till June 2027

- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has extended the free online document update service on the myAadhaar portal for one more year.
- Aadhaar users can now update their identity proof and address proof documents online free of cost till June 14, 2027.

### Bhupender Yadav Inaugurates 'Lion' Species Spotlight Event at Sasan Gir Ahead of IBCA Summit 2026

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the 'Lion' Species Spotlight Event at Sasan Gir, Gujarat, as part of the Pre-Summit activities for the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit 2026.
- The event highlighted India's successful lion conservation model and focused on global cooperation among lion-range countries, along with discussions on challenges like habitat loss, climate change, and human-wildlife conflict.

### Everest Sets New Record: 274 Climbers Summit in a Day, Three Indians Included

- A total of 274 climbers successfully summited Mount Everest from the Nepal side, setting a new world record for the highest number of ascents in a single day.
- Among them, three Indian mountaineers — Tulasi Reddi Palpunoori, Sandeep Are, and Ajay Pal Singh Dhaliwal — were part of the record-setting Everest expedition.

## Jitendra Singh Dedicates UMMID Programme for Rare Genetic Disorders to the Nation

- Jitendra Singh dedicated the **UMMID (Unique Methods of Management of Inherited Disorders) Programme** for Rare Genetic Disorders to the nation in New Delhi, emphasising the future of genome-based and precision-driven healthcare in India.
- The Minister also launched the UMMID Compendium and UMMID Dashboard to improve nationwide access to genetic diagnostics, counselling, screening, outreach, and programme monitoring for inherited disorders.

## Bharat Tex 2026 to Showcase India's Textile Strength with AI-Powered Innovation

- India's flagship global textile event, **Bharat Tex 2026**, will be held in **New Delhi** from 14th to 17th July, showcasing India's textile strength, sustainability initiatives, recycling capabilities, and advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Textile Secretary Neelam Shami Rao launched the Bharat Tex Mobile App, featuring AI-enabled search to help buyers and exhibitors easily find products, suppliers, and stall locations.

## Eight Core Industries Growth Rises to 1.7% in April 2026 Led by Cement and Steel Output

- The combined **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** recorded a growth of **1.7% in April 2026 on a year-on-year basis**, improving from the revised growth rate of 1.2% in March, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Several sectors witnessed a decline in output, including coal production (-8.7%), fertiliser production (-8.6%), natural gas (-4.3%), crude oil (-3.9%), and petroleum refinery products (-0.5%); the eight core industries together account for over 40% weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

## India and Italy to Celebrate 2027 as "Year of Culture and Tourism" to Boost Cultural and Economic Ties

- **India and Italy** will celebrate **2027 as the "Year of Culture and Tourism"** to enhance cultural exchanges, strengthen people-to-people ties, and deepen cultural diplomacy between the two ancient civilisations.
- Both countries also agreed to advance the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), aimed at boosting trade, investment, supply-chain resilience, and regional connectivity across Europe, the Middle East, and India.

### PM Modi Gifts Giorgia Meloni Assam Muga Silk and Manipur Shirui Lily Stoles

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni two culturally significant stoles from India's Northeast, showcasing the rich heritage of the region.
- The gifts included a Muga Silk Stole from Assam, known as "Golden Silk," and a Shirui Lily Stole from Manipur, inspired by the rare Shirui Lily found only at Shirui Kashong Peak.

### Reliance Industries Limited Becomes First Indian Company to Cross \$120 Billion Revenue Mark in FY26

- Reliance Industries Limited has become the first Indian company to cross the \$120 billion revenue mark in the financial year 2025–26, achieving a historic corporate milestone.
- Earlier, the company had also become the first Indian firm to surpass \$10 billion in annual net profit, further strengthening its position among the world's leading businesses

### Rajnath Singh Lays Foundation Stone for AMCA Fifth-Generation Fighter Aircraft Project in Andhra Pradesh

- Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project at Puttaparthi in the presence of N. Chandrababu Naidu.
- The AMCA project is being developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to build a fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft and advanced flight testing systems.

### Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Defence Complex in Shirdi

- Rajnath Singh inaugurated a private defence manufacturing complex in Shirdi developed by NIBE Limited and flagged off India's first 300-km Universal Rocket Launching System 'Suryastra', highlighting India's growing self-reliance in defence production.
- The complex will focus on advanced artillery systems, missile and space technologies, rocket systems, energetic materials, and autonomous defence platforms, along with indigenous technologies such as TNT, RDX, and bio-energy systems.

### ABDM Crosses 100 Crore ABHA-Linked Health Records Milestone in India

- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), implemented by the National Health Authority, has crossed the milestone of linking over 100 crore health records with Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA).
- Among states, Uttar Pradesh led with more than 15.03 crore ABHA-linked health records, followed by Andhra Pradesh with over 11.95 crore linked records.

### ITBP Completes First-Ever All-Women Everest Expedition

- **The Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP)** successfully completed **its first-ever all-women international mountaineering expedition to Mount Everest (8,848 m)**.
- As part of the “Clean Himalaya – Save Glacier” campaign, the team also conducted environmental awareness activities during the expedition.

### **BSF Creates History with First-Ever All-Women Everest Summit under Mission Vande Mataram**

- The **Border Security Force (BSF)** created history by **successfully completing its first-ever all-women mountaineering expedition to Mount Everest** during its Diamond Jubilee celebrations.
- The expedition was conducted under “Mission Vande Mataram,” marking a significant milestone in promoting women empowerment in adventure and high-altitude operations.

### **Assam Becomes First Northeast State to Pass Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026**

- **Assam Legislative Assembly** passed the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026**, making Assam the first North-Eastern state and the third state in India to adopt such legislation.
- The UCC Bill aims to create a common civil legal framework for matters like marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships, while excluding Scheduled Tribes to **protect constitutional safeguards** and customary practices.

### **Sikkim Declared Fully Literate State Under ULLAS Initiative**

- **Sikkim** has been declared a **fully literate state under the ULLAS initiative**, becoming the third state in Northeast India and the fifth state in the country to achieve full literacy.
- The ULLAS initiative, launched by the Ministry of Education under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, focuses on adult education, functional literacy, and lifelong learning for people aged 15 years and above.

### **Kolkata to Host Main Celebration of International Day of Yoga 2026**

- **The main celebration of International Day of Yoga 2026** will be held in **Kolkata on June 21**, as announced by Union Minister of State for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav.
- The theme for this year’s observance is “**Yoga for Healthy Ageing**,” emphasizing yoga’s importance in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, preventive healthcare, and balanced living.

### **Indian Railways Approves First 10-Car Hydrogen Fuel Cell DEMU Train on Jind–Sonipat Route**

- The **Ministry of Railways** has approved the introduction of a **10-car Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based DEMU train on the Northern Railway Jind–Sonipat section**, marking a major step towards green mobility in Indian Railways.
- The approved trainset is a 1200 KW Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based DPRS DEMU with a maximum operational speed of 75 kmph, aimed at promoting eco-friendly rail transport.

### Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Releases Second Edition of Novel “Bazaar” in Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** released the **second edition of the novel “Bazaar”**.
- The book is **authored by Niranjana Dev Sharma** and highlights key social and political events from 1971 to 1992.

### ₹236 Crore “Mission Queen Pineapple” Launched in Tripura to Boost Production

- The **₹236 crore “Mission Queen Pineapple, Tripura”** was launched in **New Delhi** as a three-year transformative initiative to boost production, processing, and export of Tripura’s premium Queen Pineapple. Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Tripura CM Manik Saha, and Agriculture Minister Ratan Lal Nath jointly launched the mission.
- The project aims to address low farm-gate prices (₹6–₹10/kg) by promoting value addition and exports, where processed Queen Pineapple can fetch ₹80–₹150/kg. The fruit is known for its sweetness, aroma, and high nutritional value, rich in vitamins A, B, C and minerals like potassium and magnesium.

### IBC Completes 10 Years: ₹4 Lakh Crore Recovery Marked as Landmark Reform in India’s Insolvency Framework

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**, has completed 10 years, emerging as a major institutional reform that strengthened India’s credit markets, improved corporate discipline, and enhanced investor confidence by promoting timely debt resolution and repayment culture.
- As of March, the IBC framework has **successfully resolved 1,419+ cases**, enabling creditors to recover over ₹4 lakh crore, significantly improving credit discipline and overall economic efficiency in India’s financial system.

## Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

### UAE Announces Exit from OPEC and OPEC+ Effective May 1

- The **United Arab Emirates** announced its exit from **OPEC and OPEC+** effective May 1, reducing OPEC’s membership to 11 countries.
- The decision was driven by the UAE’s concern over production quotas, which it felt limited its ability to fully utilise and monetise its oil production capacity.

### China Launches Pakistan’s PRSC-E03

- **China** successfully launched the **Pakistani satellite PRSC-E03** from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre using a Long March-6 rocket on 26 April.

- The satellite was placed into its planned orbit, marking another milestone in space cooperation between China and Pakistan.

### Madame Tussauds London Launches 'Icons of India' Exhibition Featuring Amitabh Bachchan & Sachin Tendulkar

- **Madame Tussauds London** launched a special “Icons of India” exhibition at its headquarters, showcasing Indian cultural icons.
- The exhibition features 13 wax figures of Indian celebrities from cinema and cricket, including Amitabh Bachchan and Sachin Tendulkar.

### IOC Lifts Restrictions on Belarusian Athletes

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has lifted all restrictions on **Belarusian athletes**, allowing them to **return to international competitions**, including qualifiers for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.
- Earlier, since 2022, the IOC had recommended banning athletes and officials from Russia and Belarus due to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, with Belarus acting as a supporting base for the operation.

### Kami Rita Sherpa Creates History with Record 32nd Ascent of Mount Everest

- **Nepali mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa** created history by **climbing Mount Everest for a record 32nd time**, breaking his own record for the most ascents of the world’s highest peak.
- Born in Solukhumbu district of Nepal, Kami Rita Sherpa began his mountaineering career in 1992 and first successfully summited Everest in 1994, completing his 31st ascent last year.

### Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Exits Entire Stake in Microsoft After Selling \$3.2 Billion Worth Shares in 2026

- **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** has completely exited its investment in **Microsoft after selling its remaining shares in Q1 2026**.
- The foundation sold around 7.7 million Microsoft shares worth approximately \$3.2 billion (about ₹26,500 crore), ending its long-standing equity holding in the company.

### Greece’s Eurobank Opens Representative Office in Mumbai Ahead of India–Cyprus Diplomatic Milestone

- **Eurobank of Greece** has established a **representative office in India**, further strengthening financial and economic cooperation between the two countries.
- The new office in Mumbai was inaugurated by Nikos Christodoulides, while India and Cyprus are set to celebrate 65 years of diplomatic relations in February 2027.

### Saudi Arabia Joins International Big Cat Alliance as New Member

- **Saudi Arabia** became the **newest member of the International Big Cat Alliance**, taking the total membership to 26 countries, along with five observer nations.
- The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is an India-led global initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023 and approved by the Union Cabinet in February 2024.

### LIC Launches Two New Joint Life Insurance Plans “New Jeevan Sathi” for Couples with Guaranteed Benefits

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has launched two **new joint life insurance plans—New Jeevan Sathi-Single Premium and New Jeevan Sathi-Limited Premium—**for couples, offering a combination of savings and life protection with guaranteed benefits.
- Both plans are non-par and non-linked individual savings products designed for married couples, covering both spouses under a single policy with a minimum basic sum assured of ₹3 lakh.

## Chapter 14: Banking & Financial

### Flipkart, Axis Bank & PayU Introduce Biometric Authentication for Card Payments, Replacing OTP System

- **Flipkart, Axis Bank, and PayU** have introduced **biometric authentication for card payments on the Flipkart platform.**
- Axis Bank cardholders can now approve transactions using fingerprint or Face ID, replacing the traditional OTP (One-Time Password) system.

### Bank of Baroda Launches Indian Sign Language Video Call Support to Enhance Inclusive Banking Services

- **Bank of Baroda** launched **Indian Sign Language (ISL)** support via video calls at its Contact Centre to assist customers with hearing or speech impairments.
- The service is available across five platforms: website, mobile banking app, WhatsApp Banking, Phygital Branches, and ADI (GenAI-powered chatbot).

### SEBI Launches PaRRVA System to Boost Transparency and Investor Protection in Financial Markets

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has operationalised the **Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)** to enhance transparency and strengthen investor protection in financial markets.
- CARE Ratings Limited has been designated as the PaRRVA agency, while the National Stock Exchange of India Limited will function as the PaRRVA Data Centre (PDC) for verified financial performance data.

## IPPB Launches SHG Savings Account to Boost Financial Inclusion and Empower Women in Rural India

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has launched a **Self-Help Group (SHG) Savings Account** to promote financial inclusion and empower women-led SHGs in rural and semi-urban areas.
- The SHG savings account comes with key benefits such as zero balance requirement, no minimum balance, maximum balance limit of ₹2 lakh, free deposits and withdrawals, quarterly interest payout, and no account closure charges, making it a highly inclusive banking product for rural women.

## GST collections in India hit a record ₹2.42 Lakh Crore in April 2026

- India's Goods and Services Tax collections reached an **all-time high of ₹2.42 lakh crore** in April 2026, reflecting strong economic activity.
- The collections recorded a Year-on-Year growth of 8.7% compared to April last year (₹2.33 lakh crore).

## Finance Ministry Allows 100% FDI in Insurance Sector Under Automatic Route

- The **Ministry of Finance** has allowed **100% FDI in the insurance sector** under the automatic route, with approval and oversight by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India.
- The reform follows the passage of the **Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha Bill, 2025**, which raised the FDI limit from 74% to 100%.

## Axis Bank Launches First Digital Locker-Focused Branch in New Delhi

- **Axis Bank** has inaugurated its **first digital locker-focused branch** at **DLF Midtown Plaza**, marking a new step in secure banking innovation.
- The branch integrates advanced automation, high-end security, and technology-enabled locker services to enhance customer convenience and privacy.

## NARCL recovers Rs 4,364 crore in FY26

- **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)** recovered **₹4,364 crore** in FY 2025–26, contributing nearly 70% of its total recoveries so far.
- The government-backed “bad bank” has acquired 33 borrower entities with a total debt exposure of ₹1.65 lakh crore.

## CBDT Reports 5.12% Growth in Net Direct Tax Collections to ₹23.4 Lakh Crore in FY26

- **India's net direct tax collections** grew by **5.12% in FY 2025–26**, reaching **₹23,40,406 crore**, as per data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

- The gross direct tax collections stood at ₹28,11,936 crore, showing a 4.03% year-on-year increase compared to FY 2024-25.

### ADB Unveils \$70 Billion Asia-Pacific Connectivity Plan for Power Grid and Digital Infrastructure by 2035

- The Asian Development Bank announced a **\$70 billion regional connectivity plan** for electricity and digital infrastructure across Asia-Pacific by 2035.
- The plan includes two key components: \$50 billion Pan-Asia Power Grid Initiative and \$20 billion Asia-Pacific Digital Highway.

### NSE Launches Electronic Gold Receipts, Enables Dematerialisation of Physical Gold for Trading

- The National Stock Exchange has launched **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)** as a new instrument for gold trading in India.
- As part of the launch, NSE also successfully demonstrated the dematerialisation of a 1000-gram gold bar into an Electronic Gold Receipt.

### S&P Global Cuts India FY2026-27 Growth Forecast to 6.6% Amid Global Economic Risks

- S&P Global has lowered India's growth forecast for Financial Year 2026-27 by 50 basis points to 6.6%, reflecting a moderation in the economic outlook.
- According to the "India Forward" report (jointly prepared by S&P Global and Crisil), India faces external economic risks such as energy supply disruptions, rising oil and gas prices, and currency volatility.

### RBI Approves Kotak Mahindra Bank to Raise Stake in AU SFB and Federal Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved **Kotak Mahindra Bank** to raise its stake up to 9.99% each in AU Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank.
- The approval will allow Kotak Mahindra Bank to strengthen its strategic investments in both private sector lenders while remaining within the regulatory limit.

### SBI Reports 13% Rise in FY26 Net Profit to ₹80,032 Crore

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** reported a **6% year-on-year rise** in standalone net profit to ₹19,684 crore in the **fourth quarter of FY 2025-26**, compared to ₹18,643 crore in the same quarter last year.
- For the full Financial Year 2025-26, State Bank of India (SBI) posted a 13% year-on-year growth in standalone net profit at ₹80,032 crore, up from ₹70,901 crore in FY 2024-25.

### RBI Imposes Penalties on YES Bank and Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd

- The Reserve Bank of India imposed a **penalty of ₹31.80 lakh on YES Bank** for non-compliance with certain 'Know Your Customer (KYC)' provisions.

- Reserve Bank of India also imposed a penalty of ₹1.8 lakh on Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd for non-compliance with RBI directions related to governance norms.

### India's Retail Inflation Rises to 3.48% in April 2026

- India's retail inflation (Consumer Price Index) rose to 3.48% in April 2026, up from 3.40% in March 2026, as per provisional data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, driven mainly by higher food inflation.
- Rural inflation increased to 3.74% while urban inflation rose to 3.16%, indicating a broader upward trend in price levels across both rural and urban areas of India.

### PSBs Post Record ₹1.98 Lakh Crore Profit in FY26, Asset Quality Hits Multi-Year High

- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) recorded a historic net profit of ₹1.98 lakh crore in FY 2025–26, marking their fourth consecutive year of strong financial performance driven by improved asset quality and credit growth.
- The aggregate operating profit of PSBs stood at ₹3.21 lakh crore, while overall business rose 12.8% to ₹283.3 lakh crore, with deposits increasing 10.6% and gross advances surging 15.7% year-on-year.

### India's Wholesale Inflation Surges to 8.3%, Highest in Three-and-a-Half Years

- India's wholesale inflation rose to 8.3% in April 2026, marking the fastest increase in nearly 3.5 years and indicating rising price pressure in the economy.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) releases the WPI data on the 14th of every month, and the current base year for WPI is 2011-12.

### NaBFID raises 14,000 crore through 10-year bonds at 7.74%

- State-owned National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) raised ₹4,000 crore through 10-year bonds at a cut-off yield of 7.74%.
- The bond issuance is considered significant because most issuers recently preferred short-term borrowings (2–3 years) amid global uncertainty, yield volatility, and investor caution due to the West Asia crisis.

### MSCI Adds Federal Bank, Indian Bank, MCX & Nalco to Global Standard Index in May Review

- Global index provider MSCI added Federal Bank, Indian Bank, Multi-Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), and National Aluminium Company (Nalco) to its Global Standard Index in the May 2026 review.

- The inclusion of these four companies is expected to attract nearly \$1.38 billion in passive fund inflows, while stocks such as Hyundai Motor India, Kalyan Jewellers India, Rail Vikas Nigam, and Jubilant FoodWorks will face estimated outflows of about \$715 million after exclusion.

### CTBC Bank of Taiwan Opens First Branch at GIFT City in Gujarat

- **CTBC Bank** has opened a **new branch at GIFT City** to strengthen cross-border financing and financial connectivity between India, Taiwan, Asia, and global markets.
- CTBC Bank became the **first Taiwanese lender to establish a presence at GIFT City** and is currently the only Taiwanese bank operating a branch in India.

### Emirates NBD Gets Approval for \$3 Billion Strategic Investment in RBL Bank

- **RBL Bank** has received regulatory and government **approvals for a proposed strategic investment of nearly \$3 billion (₹26,850 crore)** from **Emirates NBD**, clearing the way for completion of the deal.
- As part of the deal, Emirates NBD will subscribe to about 959 million equity shares of RBL Bank at ₹280 per share via a preferential issue, giving it around 60% post-issue stake.

### Viyona Fintech Secures NPCI Certification for End-to-End UPI, IMPS and Mobile Banking Infrastructure

- **Viyona Fintech** has secured **NPCI certification for its technology framework** across key payment systems, including UPI Acquirer, UPI Issuer, IMPS, and IBMB integrations.
- With this achievement, the Hyderabad-based company joins a select group of fintech infrastructure firms building end-to-end payment orchestration systems aligned with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) standards.

### RBI Announces \$5 Billion Dollar-Rupee Swap Auction to Boost Banking Liquidity

- **Reserve Bank of India** announced a **\$5 billion dollar-rupee buy/sell swap auction** for a **three-year tenor** to inject durable liquidity into the banking system amid tight liquidity conditions.
- The swap auction, scheduled for May 26, aims to support the rupee, which has weakened beyond the 96-mark against the US dollar due to global uncertainties, geopolitical tensions, and strong dollar demand.

### BHIM Records 301% Surge in Transactions During FY 2025-26

- **BHIM** recorded a massive **301% growth in transaction volumes** during **Financial Year 2025-26**, highlighting the rapid rise in digital payment adoption in India.

- According to data released by NPCI BHIM Services Limited, monthly transactions on the BHIM app increased from 5.93 crore in April 2025 to 21.6 crore in March 2026.

### Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Holds APY Annual Felicitation Programme

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority organised the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Annual Felicitation Programme** in New Delhi to recognise outstanding performance in APY enrolment and implementation.
- Among Public Sector Banks, State Bank of India achieved 116% of its target, followed by Union Bank of India and UCO Bank.

### RBI Cancels Licence of Yashwant Co-operative Bank Over Weak Capital and Earnings

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of **The Yashwant Co-operative Bank** due to inadequate capital and poor earning prospects.
- Following the cancellation, the bank is no longer permitted to carry out normal banking operations as per RBI regulations.

### ZikZuk Technologies Receives RBI Approval to Operate as Prepaid Payment Instrument Issuer

- **ZikZuk Technologies** has received final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a **Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) Issuer** under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- The approval allows ZikZuk to offer regulated payment solutions, including digital wallets, prepaid cards, stored-value solutions, and services linked to UPI and cross-border financial systems.

### RBI Approves Record ₹2.86 Lakh Crore Surplus Transfer to Government for FY 2025-26

- The Reserve Bank of India approved a record **surplus transfer of ₹2.86 lakh crore** to the Central Government for FY 2025-26, marking one of its highest dividend payouts.
- The decision was taken during the **623rd meeting of the RBI Central Board in Mumbai**, chaired by Governor Sanjay Malhotra, where the bank also reviewed the economic outlook and annual accounts.

### RBI Imposes Penalties on City Union Bank, Mintifi Finserve and Newa Investments for Regulatory Non-Compliance

- The Reserve Bank of India imposed **monetary penalties on City Union Bank, Mintifi Finserve, and Newa Investments** for non-compliance with regulatory directions.

- City Union Bank was fined ₹10.10 lakh for levying loan-related charges on certain agriculture advances under priority sector lending norms and for not reporting self-help group member-level data to credit information companies.

#### **SBI Mutual Fund Raises Stake in Bandhan Bank Above 5%**

- **SBI Mutual Fund** has increased its stake in **Bandhan Bank to 5.0432% of the bank's paid-up share capital.**
- As of May 20, 2026, SBI Mutual Fund held 8,12,46,734 shares of Bandhan Bank under its various schemes, according to a regulatory filing.
- The mutual fund bought an additional 16,98,478 shares from the open market on May 20, while Bandhan Bank shares closed at ₹192.2 on the BSE that day.

#### **AI Fintech Platform JUMPP Gets IRDAI Approval to Distribute Insurance Products**

- **AI-powered fintech platform JUMPP** has received approval from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** to distribute insurance products through its platform.
- jUMPP offers users a single digital application to manage banking, savings, payments, investments, borrowing, and insurance services.

#### **FinTech Firm Skydo Gets PSP Approval at GIFT City**

- **Skydo** has received approval to operate as a **Payment Service Provider (PSP) at GIFT City**, India's international financial services hub.
- With this approval, Skydo can offer services including multi-currency payments, international money transfers, global payment collections, and e-money accounts.

#### **Nirmala Sitharaman Launches SIDBI MachFin Mart, RRB Co-Lending Portal and MoRE Initiative to Strengthen MSME Ecosystem**

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** launched **multiple SIDBI initiatives** in Mumbai during the **37th Foundation Day celebration of SIDBI** to strengthen the MSME ecosystem.
- SIDBI launched the **MachFin Mart**, a digital platform that enables MSMEs to access machinery through a structured marketplace supporting price discovery, standardisation, and technology adoption.

#### **RBI Tightens Co-operative Bank Governance: Introduces 3-Year Cooling-Off Period for Directors After 10-Year Tenure**

- **Reserve Bank of India** has introduced a **mandatory 3-year cooling-off period** for directors of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and Rural Co-operative Banks (RCBs) after completing **10 continuous years on the board.**
- During the cooling-off period, directors are not barred from joining the board of another bank, provided they are otherwise eligible as per the RBI (UCBs & RCBs Governance) Amendment Directions, 2026.

#### **AIIB Launches USD 10 Billion Facility to Support Member Nations Affected by West Asia Conflict**

- **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**, where India is the second-largest shareholder after China, has **launched a USD 10-billion fund facility to support member countries affected by the West Asia conflict.**
- The facility, named Energy, Food Security and Economic Resilience Facility, provides time-bound financing over two years to address energy shortages, food security challenges, and economic instability.

#### LIC Increases Stake in Central Bank of India to 6.06%

- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has increased its stake in **Central Bank of India from 3.16% to 6.06%** after acquiring 26.26 crore equity shares (2.901%) through market purchases.

## Chapter 15: Committee

Committee	Headed by	Purpose
The <b>Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs</b> (CCEA)	<b>Prime Minister Narendra Modi</b>	The project involves a <b>total investment of ₹1,570 crore</b> and will be jointly implemented by <b>Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard Limited.</b>
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)		Approved an increase in <b>Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 14 Kharif crops for Marketing Season 2026–27</b> , aiming to ensure remunerative prices for farmers and strengthen agricultural income.
The Committee on Empowerment of Women	<b>MP Dr. Daggubati Purandeswari</b>	To strengthen <b>parliamentary oversight on women-related issues</b>
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an eight-member expert committee named <b>Q-SAFE (Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem)</b>	<b>Prof. Anil Prabhakar of IIT Madras</b>	To study quantum <b>technology risks, benefits, and challenges in the financial sector.</b>

<p>The Union Government has constituted a <b>High-Level Committee</b></p>	<p><b>Retired Supreme Court Judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar and includes former IAS officer Durga Shanker Mishra, retired IPS officer Balaji Srivastava, Census officials, and economist Dr. Shamika Ravi</b></p>	<p>To study demographic changes caused by <b>illegal immigration and other abnormal factors</b>, with a focus on <b>population trends and national impact</b>.</p>
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## Chapter 16: Defence News

### INS Mahendragiri Delivered to Indian Navy

- **INS Mahendragiri**, the sixth ship of the Nilgiri-class (Project 17A), has been delivered to the **Indian Navy at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai**.
- It is the fourth Nilgiri-class stealth frigate built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, enhancing India's indigenous naval capabilities.

### INS Sindhukesari Arrives at Colombo for Operational Turnaround

- **INS Sindhukesari** arrived at the **port of Colombo for Operational Turnaround**, strengthening India-Sri Lanka maritime cooperation.
- **INS Sindhukesari** is a **Sindhughosh-class diesel-electric submarine** of the Indian Navy, known for its stealth and combat capabilities.

### HNLMS De Ruyter Arrives at Kochi to Boost India-Netherlands Maritime Cooperation

- The **Royal Netherlands Navy ship HNLMS De Ruyter (F804)** arrived at Kochi, marking a key step in strengthening maritime cooperation **between India and the Netherlands**.
- Before its departure from Kochi, the Dutch warship will conduct a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with an Indian Navy vessel to enhance naval interoperability and coordination.

### INS Sunayna Arrives in Myanmar During Indian Navy Chief Dinesh K Tripathi's Regional Visit

- **INS Sunayna** arrived at **Yangon Harbour in Myanmar** as part of India's maritime engagement and regional cooperation efforts.
- The visit coincided with the visit of **Dinesh K Tripathi** to Myanmar.

### DRDO, IAF successfully conduct maiden flight-trial of indigenous TARA glide weapon

- Defence Research and Development Organization and the Indian Air Force successfully conducted the maiden flight trial of the Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) off the coast of Odisha.
- Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) is India's first indigenous glide weapon system designed to convert unguided warheads into precision-guided weapons with improved accuracy and lethality.

### India Conducts Successful Test of Advanced Agni Missile with MIRV Capability Under Mission Divyastra

- India successfully tested an advanced **Agni Missile with MIRV (Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle)** capability from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island under Mission Divyastra.
- Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the missile has a strike range of nearly 5,000 kilometres, while earlier Agni-1 to Agni-4 variants have ranges between 700 km and 3,500 km.

### Indian Coast Guard Commissions Fast Patrol Vessel ICGS Achal in Goa

- Indian Coast Guard commissioned the **Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICGS Achal in Goa** as part of efforts to strengthen maritime security and coastal surveillance.
- ICGS Achal is the fifth vessel in the series of eight Adanya-class Fast Patrol Vessels being built by Goa Shipyard Limited and will be stationed at Vadinar, Gujarat under the Coast Guard Region (North West).

### INS Sudarshini Completes Port Call at Mindelo, Cape Verde

- Indian Navy sail training ship **INS Sudarshini** successfully completed a port call at Mindelo, Cape Verde.
- The visit was part of the Lokayan 26 expedition.
- It has departed for Antigua and Barbuda for the next phase of deployment.

### INS Sagardhwani Completes Port Visit to Cam Ranh

- The Indian Navy's oceanographic research vessel **INS Sagardhwani** completed a successful port visit to Cam Ranh, Vietnam.
- The visit aimed to strengthen maritime and scientific cooperation between India and Vietnam, enhancing bilateral collaboration in ocean research and naval engagement.

### DRDO Successfully Completes ULPGM-V3 Final Trials, Paving Way for Indigenous Missile Production

- Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully completed final development trials of the **ULPGM-V3 (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile)**, marking a major milestone in India's indigenous defence capability.

- The trials were conducted in air-to-ground and air-to-air modes at the DRDO test range near Kurnool, demonstrating high precision strike capability, reliability, and operational effectiveness using an advanced integrated Ground Control System.

### Indian Navy Launches Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel “Sanghmitra” at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata

- **Indian Navy launched Yard 3039 (Sanghmitra)**, a Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV), at **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers in Kolkata**.
- The construction of 11 NGOPVs is being carried out simultaneously at two shipyards—Goa Shipyard Limited and GRSE Kolkata—strengthening India’s naval modernisation efforts.

### Nibe Limited Successfully Tests Indigenous Loitering Munition ‘Vayu Astra-1’ with High Precision Strike Capability

- Pune-based defence firm **Nibe Limited** successfully conducted no-cost, no-commitment trials of its indigenous loitering munition system “**Vayu Astra-1**” for the Indian Army at **Pokhran (Rajasthan)** and **Joshimath (Uttarakhand)** in **April 2026**.
- The anti-personnel variant of Vayu Astra-1, tested at the Pokhran Range on April 18–19, carried a 10-kg warhead and successfully hit its target at a 100 km range in a single attempt.

Defence Exercise	Between	About
<b>The first edition of the multilateral exercise “Pragati”</b>	Military delegations from 11 friendly countries	<p>“<b>Pragati</b>” stands for <b>Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region</b>, reflecting a focus on collective security in the Indian Ocean Region.</p> <p>The maiden edition of the <b>multilateral military exercise PRAGATI 2026 concluded successfully on Saturday at the Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya</b> with a</p>

		comprehensive 72-hour validation exercise.
<b>The second edition of the bilateral military exercise CINBAX</b>	The Indian Army and Cambodia	The exercise will be held at the <b>Techo Sen Phnom Thom Mreas Training Centre (Camp Basil)</b> located in <b>Kampong Speu province</b> , focusing on strengthening military cooperation between the two countries.

## Chapter 17: Sports News

### R. Rithika Sri Becomes Tamil Nadu's First Transgender Umpire

- R. Rithika Sri became the first transgender umpire from Tamil Nadu, marking a significant step towards inclusivity in cricket.
- The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association introduced an 'Other' gender option in its State Panel Umpire exam form, influenced by her efforts and determination.

### South Korea Defeats China 3-1 to Win Uber Cup 2026

- South Korea national badminton team defeated defending champions China national badminton team by 3-1 to win the Uber Cup 2026, securing their third title in the tournament.
- This victory marks South Korea's third Uber Cup triumph, strengthening its position in women's team badminton at the global level.
- Earlier, South Korea had also won the title in 2010 (Kuala Lumpur) and 2022 (Bangkok), with both victories coming against China.

### China Retains Thomas Cup 2026 Title, Wins 13th Crown

- China's national badminton team retained the Thomas Cup 2026 title in men's team badminton by defeating France national badminton team in the final.
- India national badminton team secured the bronze medal in Thomas Cup 2026 after losing 0-3 to France in the semi-final.

### Marta Kostyuk Wins Madrid Open 2026, Defeats Mirra Andreeva to Claim Biggest Career Title

- Marta Kostyuk won the Madrid Open 2026 (WTA 1000 title), defeating world No. 8 Mirra Andreeva 6-3, 7-5 in the women's singles final, marking the biggest title of her career.

- With this victory, Kostyuk is set to rise from world No. 23 to a career-high No. 15 in the WTA rankings and has also strengthened her position ahead of the upcoming French Open 2026 in Paris.

### Apaar Saxena Earns International Master Title After Strong European Performances

- **Apaar Saxena** has earned the prestigious **International Master (IM)** title after achieving all three required norms with strong performances across Europe.
- He hails from Karnataka.

### New Delhi to Host 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship

- **New Delhi** will host the **22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship** from July 27 to August 2.
- The championship will be jointly organised by the Table Tennis Federation of India and the Delhi government, with participation from 35 Commonwealth nations.

### India to Host Inaugural World Yogasana Championship in Ahmedabad

- **India** will host the **inaugural World Yogasana Championship** from June 4 to 8 in **Ahmedabad** with participation from more than 40 countries.
- The World Yogasana Championship is being organized by Yogasana Bharat under the aegis of World Yogasana.

### India to Host Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026 in Gandhinagar After 44 Years

- **India** is set to host the prestigious **Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026 in Gandhinagar**, Gujarat, marking its return after 44 years, with the last hosting in New Delhi in 1982.
- The event highlights India's growing role in international sports, as it hosts the continental championship for the first time in decades.

### Faustino Oro Becomes Second Youngest Grandmaster in Chess History at Just 12 Years of Age

- **IM Faustino Oro of Argentina** created history by securing **his final Grandmaster (GM)** norm with a round to spare at the Sardinia World Chess Festival in Italy, **becoming the second-youngest GM ever.**
- At just 12 years, 6 months, and 26 days, he achieved the prestigious chess title, earning his third and final GM norm and marking a major milestone in chess history.

### India Wins 27 Medals, Including 9 Gold, at Asian Boxing U-15 Championships 2026

- **India delivered a strong performance at the Asian Boxing U15 Championships 2026**, finishing with a total of 27 medals, including 9 gold, showcasing the rise of young boxing talent at the international level.
- The U-15 girls team emerged as the top contributor with 7 gold medals, along with 2 silver and 5 bronze, dominating multiple weight categories in the championship.

### Rahul Dravid Becomes Owner of Dublin Franchise in Europe's First ICC-Approved ETPL T20 League

- **India's former cricketer Rahul Dravid** has become the owner of the **Dublin franchise in the European T-20 Premier League (ETPL)**, Europe's first ICC-approved multi-country franchise T20 league.
- The European T20 Premier League will be launched this year and aims to bring together top international cricket talent across European franchise teams.

### Jannik Sinner Wins Italian Open 2026, Creates History by Completing Career Golden Masters

- **Jannik Sinner** won the **Italian Open title in Rome** by defeating Norway's **Casper Ruud** 6-4, 6-4 in the final, becoming the first Italian man to win the tournament since 1976.
- With this victory, World No. 1 Jannik Sinner became only the second player after Novak Djokovic to complete the Career Golden Masters, winning all nine ATP Masters 1000 titles.

### Elina Svitolina Wins Italian Open 2026 Women's Title After Defeating Coco Gauff in Thrilling Final

- **Elina Svitolina** won the **women's singles title at the Italian Open** by defeating World No. 4 Coco Gauff in a three-set thriller 6-4, 6-7 (3-7), 6-2.
- During her title run, Elina Svitolina defeated top-ranked players including World No. 2 Elena Rybakina and World No. 3 Iga Swiatek, showcasing a strong comeback performance throughout the tournament.

### Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026 Held in Gujarat

- The **Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026** was held at **Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**, and organized by the **Indian Weightlifting Federation**, marking only the second time India has hosted the event since 1982.
- India won a total of 10 medals (1 silver and 9 bronze), with Gyaneshwari Yadav securing the only silver in the women's 53kg snatch event and Komal Kohar opening the medal account with bronze in the 48kg category.

### Vijay Shankar Announces Retirement from Domestic and IPL Cricket After 15-Year Career

- **Vijay Shankar** announced his retirement from domestic and IPL cricket after a 15-year career, having represented India in 12 ODIs and 9 T20Is, including the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup.
- Vijay Shankar played 77 First-Class matches, scoring 4,253 runs and taking 43 wickets, while also featuring in 78 IPL matches for teams including Chennai Super Kings, Delhi Capitals, Sunrisers Hyderabad, and Gujarat Titans.

### Gurindervir Singh Becomes Fastest Indian Sprinter

- **Gurindervir Singh** became the fastest Indian sprinter ever by clocking **10.09 seconds** in the men's 100m final at the Federation Cup held in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- With this performance, he became the first Indian athlete to break into the 10.0-second range in the 100m sprint, creating a new milestone in Indian athletics history.

### Ahmedabad to Host 1st World Yogasana Championship 2026

- **Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** announced that the **1st World Yogasana Championship in Ahmedabad** marks a major step in promoting India's traditional yoga practice as a global sporting discipline.
- He highlighted that Yogasana reflects India's soft power, promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, and healthy living, with participation expected from around 75 countries and over 500 participants.

### Kimi Antonelli Wins Canadian Grand Prix

- **Kimi Antonelli** won the **Canadian Grand Prix**, securing his fourth consecutive Formula One victory and extending his championship lead to 43 points over teammate George Russell.
- The 19-year-old Mercedes driver finished over 10 seconds ahead of Lewis Hamilton of Ferrari, while George Russell retired from the race due to engine failure after an intense battle for the lead.

## Chapter 18: Book and Author

Book	Author
The book <b>The Library Man of India: The Story of P.N. Panicker</b>	Released by the <b>Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan</b> Authored by <b>P. P. Sathyan</b>
<b>"India's First Olympic Gold" Book</b>	Released by <b>PT Usha</b>

The book "Apnapan: Narendra Modi sang mere anubhav"

Written by **Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**

## Chapter 19: Important Day

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
1 May	International Labour Day	It highlights issues like <b>fair wages, workers' rights, and safe working conditions</b> , and is celebrated in India as ' <b>Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas</b> '.
1 May	Maharashtra Day	The state was created after the division of the <b>bilingual Bombay State into Maharashtra and Gujarat on linguistic basis</b> .
2 May	World Tuna Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Sustaining Tuna, Sustaining Nations and Advocating for Tuna Conservation</b>
2 May	International Harry Potter Day	The day marks the anniversary of the <b>Battle of Hogwarts, a key event symbolising the victory of good over evil</b> .
3 May	World Press Freedom Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Shaping a Future of Peace: Promoting Press Freedom for Human Rights, Development, and Security</b>
3 May	World Laughter Day	It was started in <b>1998 by Dr Madan Kataria, the founder of the Laughter Yoga movement</b> .
4 May	Coal Miners' Day	The day recognises the important role of coal miners in <b>industrial development and energy production, especially in countries like India</b> .
4 May	International Firefighters' Day	The date is associated with <b>Saint Florian's Day, as Saint Florian is regarded as the patron saint of firefighters</b> .

<b>5 May</b>	World Asthma Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma – still an urgent need</b>
<b>6 May</b>	International No Diet Day	It highlights the importance of <b>healthy lifestyles, mental well-being, and embracing all body types without stigma or discrimination.</b>
<b>7 May</b>	World Password Day	The day encourages people to use <b>complex passwords, enable two-factor authentication, and regularly update login credentials to protect digital accounts.</b>
<b>7 May</b>	World Athletics Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers</b>
<b>8 May</b>	World Red Cross	Theme 2026 - <b>Keeping Humanity Alive</b>
<b>8 May</b>	World Thalassaemia Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Hidden No More: Finding the Undiagnosed. Supporting the Unseen</b>
<b>8 May</b>	World Ovarian Cancer Day	Theme 2026 - <b>#No Woman Left Behind</b>
<b>8 - 9 May</b>	Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War	To honour and remember all those who <b>lost their lives during the Second World War.</b>
<b>9 May</b>	World Migratory Bird Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter</b>
<b>10 May</b>	World Lupus Day	The day aims to educate people about the <b>symptoms, early diagnosis, and treatment options of lupus, as it can affect multiple organs including the skin, joints, kidneys, and brain.</b>
<b>10 May</b>	Mother's Day	The day is dedicated to expressing <b>gratitude and respect towards mothers and maternal figures for</b>

		<b>their role in nurturing families and society.</b>
<b>10 May</b>	International Day of Argania	The day highlights the <b>environmental, economic, and social significance of argan trees, particularly in supporting sustainable development and biodiversity conservation.</b>
<b>11 May</b>	National Technology Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth</b>
<b>12 May</b>	International Nurses Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives</b>
<b>12 May</b>	International Day of Plant Health	Theme 2026- <b>Plant Biosecurity for Food Security and Nutrition</b>
<b>15 May</b>	International Day of Families	Theme 2026 - <b>Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing</b>
<b>16 May</b>	National Endangered Species Day	The day highlights the importance of <b>wildlife conservation and biodiversity protection</b> , encouraging efforts to prevent the extinction of rare animal and plant species.
<b>16 May</b>	International Day of Light	The day commemorates the <b>anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist Theodore Maiman</b> , marking a major breakthrough in modern science and technology.
<b>16 May</b>	Armed Forces Day	It aims to promote <b>public respect and awareness about the armed forces, encouraging citizens</b> to appreciate the commitment and dedication of military personnel.
<b>16 May</b>	International Day of Living Together in Peace	Theme 2026 - <b>Building Trust through Dialogue, Inclusion and Reconciliation</b>
<b>16 May</b>	National Dengue Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Unite. Act. Eliminate</b>

<b>16 May</b>	International Day of Living Together in Peace	Theme 2026 - <b>Living Together in Peace: Building Trust through Dialogue, Inclusion and Reconciliation</b>
<b>17 May</b>	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Digital lifelines: Strengthening resilience in a connected world</b>
<b>17 May</b>	World Hypertension Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Controlling Hypertension Together</b>
<b>17 May</b>	Sikkim Statehood Day	The day commemorates the historic decision that led to the <b>abolition of the monarchy in Sikkim and its merger with the Indian Union through a democratic process.</b>
<b>18 May</b>	World AIDS Vaccine Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Rethink. Rebuild. Rise</b>
<b>18 May</b>	International Museum Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Museums Uniting a Divided World</b>
<b>20 May</b>	International HR Day	The day highlights the importance of <b>HR in talent management, employee well-being, workplace culture, and organisational growth.</b>
<b>20 May</b>	World Bee Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Bee Together for People and the Planet – A partnership that sustains us all.</b>
<b>21 May</b>	International Tea Day	Theme 2026 - <b>"Sustaining Tea, Supporting Communities" and "Fostering Growth and Inclusion"</b>
<b>21 May</b>	National Anti-Terrorism Day	The day commemorates the assassination of <b>former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and reinforces the nation's commitment to fight terrorism in all its forms.</b>
<b>21 May</b>	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	The day highlights the importance of dialogue between different cultures to <b>support social cohesion, tolerance,</b>

		<b>and sustainable development worldwide.</b>
<b>22 May</b>	International Day for Biological Diversity	Theme 2026 - <b>Acting locally for global impact</b>
<b>23 May</b>	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	Theme 2026 - <b>Her Health Is a Right: Invest to End Fistula and Childbirth Injuries</b>
<b>23 May</b>	World Turtle Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Dancing Turtles Rock!</b>
<b>24 May</b>	National Brother's Day	The day highlights the importance of <b>sibling relationships and acknowledges the support, protection, and companionship brothers provide in life.</b>
<b>24 May</b>	World Schizophrenia Awareness Day	The day aims to reduce stigma, promote early <b>diagnosis, and encourage access to proper mental health treatment and support for patients and their families.</b>
<b>25 May</b>	Africa Day	The day celebrates <b>African unity, cultural diversity, economic progress, and the continent's efforts</b> towards peace, development, and regional cooperation.
<b>25 May</b>	Memorial Day	The day is marked with <b>ceremonies, parades, visits to cemeteries and memorials, and the decoration of soldiers' graves with flags and flowers.</b>
<b>25 May</b>	World Thyroid Day	Theme 2026 - <b>Thyroid and Nutrition</b>
<b>25 May</b>	International Missing Children's Day	The day highlights the importance of <b>child safety, prevention of child abduction, and the strengthening child protection systems across countries.</b>
<b>26 May</b>	National Paper Airplane Day	The day highlights <b>creativity and fun through the making and flying of paper airplanes, often as part of social gatherings.</b>

<b>25 - 31 May</b>	The International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	It focuses on <b>17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, promoting their right to self-determination and encouraging their political, economic, and social development.</b>
<b>25 May</b>	World Football Day	The day marks the historic first <b>international football tournament held on 25 May 1924</b> in Paris during the Olympic Games, involving teams from all regions.
<b>27 May</b>	World Otter Day	The day highlights the importance of protecting <b>otter habitats, as many otter species are threatened due to pollution, habitat loss, and illegal hunting.</b>
<b>28 May</b>	International Day of Action for Women's Health	Theme 2026 - <b>Essential, Not Optional: Strengthening Health Systems to Uphold Health Rights and SRHRJ in Times of Polycrisis</b>
<b>29 May</b>	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	Theme 2026 - <b>Invest in Peace</b>
<b>30 May</b>	International Day of the Potato	Theme 2026 - <b>Where potatoes grow, livelihoods flourish</b>
<b>30 May</b>	Goa Statehood Day	Goa was liberated from <b>Portuguese rule on 19 December 1961 through Operation Vijay and remained a Union Territory before attaining full statehood.</b>
<b>30 May</b>	Hindi Journalism Day	To commemorate the publication of ' <b>Udant Martand</b> ', the first Hindi newspaper, which was launched on 30 May 1826 in Kolkata.
<b>31 May</b>	World No Tobacco Day (Anti-Tobacco Day)	Theme 2026 - <b>Unmasking the Appeal: Exposing Industry Tactics on Tobacco and Nicotine Products</b>

## Chapter 20: Science & Technology

### GalaxEye Launches Mission Drishti, India's First OptoSAR Satellite

- GalaxEye launched **Mission Drishti**, the world's first OptoSAR satellite, making it India's largest privately developed Earth observation satellite.
- The 190-kg satellite was launched aboard a **SpaceX Falcon 9** rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base, enabling advanced Earth observation capabilities.

### Pixxel & Sarvam AI Partner to Launch India's First Orbital Data Centre Satellite 'Pathfinder' by 2026

- India's space-tech startup **Pixxel** has partnered with AI firm **Sarvam AI** to develop the country's first orbital data centre satellite, "**Pathfinder**."
- The ~200 kg satellite, expected to launch by end of 2026, will enable training and operation of AI models directly in space, marking a major step in space technology and AI integration.

### Samsung Launches 5th Edition of 'Solve for Tomorrow' Innovation Programme in India

- **Samsung** has launched the **fifth edition** of its flagship innovation and education programme, "**Samsung Solve for Tomorrow**," in India to encourage young innovators and problem-solvers.
- Under the 2026 edition, the top four winning teams will receive incubation grants worth ₹2 crore along with incubation support at IIT Delhi to help develop and scale their ideas.

### IIT Madras Launches First US Centre to Boost Deep-Tech Startups and Innovation Ecosystem

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** Global Research Foundation has announced the establishment of its **first international centre in the United States**, aimed at strengthening India's deep-tech ecosystem.
- The centre will act as a launchpad for deep-tech start-ups, while also promoting research collaborations and innovation ecosystem development between India and the US.

### GE Aerospace Invests ₹100 Crore in Pune Facility

- **GE Aerospace** has announced a **fresh investment of ₹100 crore** in its **manufacturing facility located in Pune**, strengthening its aerospace production capabilities in India.

- With this new investment, the total investment in the Pune facility has crossed ₹510 crore, highlighting the company's continued expansion in the Indian aerospace sector.

### First Hong Kong Astronaut Shenzhou-23 Launches to Tiangong space station on Historic Space Mission

- **China** launched its latest space mission, **Shenzhou-23**, carrying a three-member crew to the Tiangong space station, marking the first time a Hong Kong astronaut has gone to space.
- The crew includes **Li Jiaying**, a **43-year-old police officer and payload scientist**, along with two other astronauts, to conduct experiments on microgravity and human health in orbit.

## Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
<b>Alex Zanardi, a four-time Paralympic gold medallist and former Formula 1 driver</b>	In para-cycling, he won four <b>Paralympic gold medals—two at the London 2012 Paralympics</b> and two at the <b>Rio 2016 Paralympics</b> .
<b>Veteran Actor Sudesh Kumar, Known for Dosti</b>	Dosti won the <b>National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi</b> and is remembered for its <b>emotional storytelling and music</b> .
<b>CNN Founder Ted Turner</b>	Turner revolutionised television journalism by launching CNN in <b>1980 as the first 24-hour news network</b> , transforming global breaking news coverage.
<b>D. Sudhakar, Karnataka's Planning and Statistics Minister and a senior Congress leader</b>	<b>D. Sudhakar</b> was serving as the <b>MLA from the Hiriyr constituency</b> in Chitradurga district of Karnataka.
<b>Mal Anderson, First Unseeded U.S. Open Champion</b>	<b>Anderson rose from humble beginnings, starting his tennis career on a farm dirt court</b> , and went on to become an <b>Australian tennis great</b> , winning the <b>U.S. Championship</b> in 1957 along with three <b>major doubles titles</b> and two <b>Davis Cup victories for Australia</b> .

<p><b>Former England Test Captain MJK Smith</b></p>	<p>MJK Smith made his <b>Test debut against New Zealand in 1958</b> and played his final <b>Test against Australia in 1972</b>. He was also a dual-sport athlete, representing England in rugby union with one international cap in 1956.</p>
<p><b>Five-Time Olympian and Asian Games Gold Medallist Raja Randhir Singh</b></p>	<p>He was an <b>Asian Games gold medallist, Arjuna Awardee</b>, and also served as a member of the <b>International Olympic Committee (IOC)</b>, later becoming its honorary member</p>
<p><b>Pioneering Indian Archer Shyam Lal Meena</b></p>	<p>Meena was part of the Indian recurve team that won a historic bronze medal at the <b>1987 Asian Archery Championships, which qualified India for the Seoul Olympics.</b></p>