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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

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IMPORTANT DAYS**International Labour Day Observed on May 1**

- **International Labour Day**, also known as **May Day**, is observed every year on **May 1** to commemorate the **struggles and achievements of workers**.
- The **2026 theme**, as highlighted by the **International Labour Organization**, is “**Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment**”.
- **International Labour Day** was first celebrated on **May 1, 1890**, following its declaration by the **International Congress of Socialist Parties in Europe on July 14, 1889**.
- In **India**, the first celebration of **International Labour Day** was held in **Chennai in 1923**.

Gujarat Foundation Day Observed on May 1

- **Gujarat Foundation Day**, also known as **Gujarat Gaurav Diwas**, is celebrated every year on **May 1** to mark the **formation of Gujarat in 1960 after separation from Bombay State**.
- In **2026**, the state-level celebrations are held in **Surat**, featuring **cultural programmes and police motorcycle stunts**, reflecting a blend of **tradition and modern progress**.
- In **1956**, these regions were merged into **Greater Bombay State**, comprising both **Gujarati-speaking and Marathi-speaking populations**.
- On **May 1, 1960**, under the **Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960**, **Bombay State** was divided into **Gujarat and Maharashtra**, giving Gujarat a **distinct cultural and linguistic identity**.

World Tuna Day Observed on May 2

- **World Tuna Day** is observed every year on **May 2** to raise awareness about the **importance of tuna conservation**.
- The day was established by the **United Nations General Assembly** and has been observed annually since **2017**.
- **Tuna** is an **economically important fish species**, widely consumed and significant for **global food security and livelihoods**.
- **Thailand** is one of the **largest producers of tuna** in the world

World Laughter Day 2026 Observed on May 3

- **World Laughter Day 2026** is observed on **May 3, 2026**, as it falls on the **first Sunday of May** every year.
- The day was established in **1998** by **Dr Madan Kataria**, founder of the **Laughter Yoga Movement**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The theme for 2026 is “**World Peace Through Laughter**”, focusing on the role of laughter in **reducing stress, improving immunity, and promoting peace**.
- The **first celebration** of World Laughter Day was held on **May 10, 1998**.

Coal Miners Day Observed on May 4

- **Coal Miners Day** is observed every year on **May 4** to recognise the **contribution of coal miners** to the economy and energy sector.
- **Coal** is a **major fossil fuel rich in carbon** and remains a **key source of energy** for power generation and industrial use.
- **Coal mining** refers to the **extraction of coal from the earth**, which plays a crucial role in **energy production and industrial development**.

World Press Freedom Day Observed on May 3

- **World Press Freedom Day** is observed every year on **May 3** to promote the importance of **press freedom and independent media**.
- The day was proclaimed by the **United Nations General Assembly** in **December 1993**, following a recommendation by the **United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization General Conference**.
- The theme for 2026 is “**Shaping a Future of Peace**”.

World Asthma Day 2026 Observed on First Tuesday of May

- **World Asthma Day** is observed every year on the **first Tuesday of May** to raise awareness about **asthma**, a chronic respiratory disease affecting the lungs. In **2026**, it is observed on **5 May 2026**.
- The day is organized by the **Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)** to promote better understanding, prevention, and management of asthma.
- Theme for 2026: “**Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma – still an urgent need**”
- First observed in **1998** across more than **35 countries**

World Athletics Day 2026 Observed on 7 May

- **World Athletics Day 2026** is observed on **7 May 2026** to promote awareness about **athletics** and encourage participation in sports.
- The day was first observed in **1996** and was launched by **Primo Nebiolo**, President of the **International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)**, to honour sportspersons and inspire youth to bring pride to the nation.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- Initiative launched by the **International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)** under the theme “**Athletics for a Better World**”
- **International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)** founded in **1912** for governing athletics globally
- Renamed as **International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)** in **2001**

World Thalassaemia Day 2026

- **World Thalassaemia Day** is observed every year on **8 May** to spread awareness about **Thalassaemia**, a genetic blood disorder, and to support patients suffering from the disease.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by patients suffering from **Thalassaemia** and the importance of early diagnosis and treatment.
- In **1994**, the **Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF)** established **8 May** as World Thalassaemia Day.
- The day is observed in memory of **George Englezos**, son of the founder and President of the **Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF)**.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2026

- **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day** is observed every year on **8 May** to spread awareness about humanitarian values, relief activities, and the importance of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement across the world.
- The day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of **Henry Dunant**, who was born on **8 May 1828**.
- **Henry Dunant** was the founder of the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**.
- Henry Dunant was also awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** for his humanitarian contributions.
- The proposal to observe this day was studied by an **International Commission** established during the **14th International Conference of the Red Cross**.

Victory Day 2026 Celebrated on May 9 in Russia Commemorating End of Second World War in Europe

- **Victory Day** is observed every year on **May 9** as one of the most significant national holidays in **Russia**, marking the surrender of **Nazi Germany in 1945** during the **Second World War**.
- The day commemorates the signing of the **German Instrument of Surrender** in Berlin, which led to the end of the war in Europe.
- Victory Day was first observed across the **15 Republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)** following the declaration of victory after the Second World War.

National Technology Day 2026 Observed on May 11 to Mark Pokhran Nuclear Tests and Promote

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

Scientific Advancement

- **National Technology Day** is observed every year on **May 11** to recognise the contributions of **scientists, research, and technological advancements** in India.
- The day commemorates the successful **Pokhran nuclear tests conducted on May 11, 1998** under **Operation Shakti** at the **Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan**.
- **National Technology Day** was first declared by former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** and was first observed on **May 11, 1999**.
- The day aims to **promote awareness about the importance of technology, innovation, and scientific research** in national development.

International Nurses Day 2026 Observed on May 12 to Honour Contribution of Nurses

- **International Nurses Day** is observed every year on **12 May** to recognise the **contribution of nurses to society and healthcare systems**.
- The day commemorates the **birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale**, the pioneer of modern nursing.
- The **International Council of Nurses** announced the theme for 2026 as “**Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives.**”
- In **1974, 12 May** was officially designated as **International Nurses Day**.

Mental Health Awareness Week 2026 Observed from May 11 to 17 with Theme ‘Action’

- **Mental Health Awareness Week 2026** is being observed from **May 11 to May 17, 2026**
- The week is organised by the **Mental Health Foundation** and supported by organisations like **Mind** and the **National Health Service**
- The theme for 2026 is ‘**Action**’, focusing on **moving beyond awareness to practical steps for mental wellbeing**
- The campaign also promotes ‘**Wear It Green Day**’ to show **solidarity for mental health awareness**

International Day of Families 2026 Observed on 15 May

- **International Day of Families** is celebrated every year on **15 May** to raise awareness about the **importance of families in society**.
- The **theme for 2026** is “**Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing.**”
- The day was proclaimed by the **United Nations General Assembly in 1993** and was **first observed in 1994**.

World Hypertension Day 2026 Observed on 17 May

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- **World Hypertension Day 2026** is observed annually on **17 May** to create awareness about **Hypertension**, high blood pressure, and related health complications.
- The observance is promoted by the World Hypertension League, which is an umbrella organisation representing **85 National Hypertension Societies and Leagues** across the world.
- The World Hypertension League was launched on **14 May 2005**, and World Hypertension Day has been officially observed every year since **2006**.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2025 Observed on 17 May

- **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2025** is observed annually on **17 May** to highlight the importance of **Telecommunication, Information Technology, and Digital Connectivity** in global development.
- The United Nations General Assembly declared **17 May** as **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**.
- The observance has been celebrated annually since **1969** to commemorate the foundation of the International Telecommunication Union.
- The International Telecommunication Union was established on **17 May 1865** and is a specialised agency responsible for global telecommunication and information communication technologies.

International Museum Day 2026 Observed on 18 May

- **International Museum Day 2026** is observed annually on **18 May** to raise awareness about the importance of museums in society and their role in preserving cultural heritage.
- The observance is promoted by the International Council of Museums, which has organised the day every year since **1977**.
- The decision to **establish International Museum Day** was adopted during a general meeting of the **International Council of Museums** held in **Moscow, Russia**.
- The first official **International Museum Day** was celebrated in **1977**.

World AIDS Vaccine Day 2026 Observed on 18 May

- **World AIDS Vaccine Day 2026** is observed annually on **18 May** and is also known as **Human Immunodeficiency Virus Vaccine Awareness Day**.
- The day is observed to create awareness about the need for an effective **Human Immunodeficiency Virus Vaccine** and to highlight the importance of research in preventing **acquired immunodeficiency syndrome**.
- **World AIDS Vaccine Day** was first observed in **1998**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The concept of the observance was first introduced in **1997** by Bill Clinton at Morgan State University.

World Metrology Day 2026 is observed annually on 20th May

- **World Metrology Day** is observed annually on **20 May** to raise awareness about the importance of metrology and measurement science.
- The day commemorates the signing of the **Metre Convention** in **Paris, France, in 1875** by representatives of 17 nations.
- **Metrology** refers to the science of measurement.
- The first **World Metrology Day** was celebrated in **1961**.
- The day is promoted by the **Measurement Standards Laboratory (MSL)** and international metrology organizations.

Anti-Terrorism Day 2026 Observed on 21 May

- **Anti-Terrorism Day** is observed every year on **21 May** in India to spread awareness about the dangers of terrorism, violence, and extremism.
- The day is observed to promote **peace, unity, harmony, and national integration** among citizens.
- **Anti-Terrorism Day** is observed on the death anniversary of former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi**, who was assassinated in 1991 during an election campaign.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development Observed on 21 May

- **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** is observed every year on **21 May** to raise awareness about the importance of **cultural diversity, dialogue, inclusion, and sustainable development**.
- The day was adopted by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** in **2001**.

International Day for Biological Diversity 2026 Observed on 22 May

- The **International Day for Biological Diversity 2026** is observed on **22 May** every year to raise awareness about the importance of **biological diversity and environmental conservation**.
- The official theme for **International Day for Biological Diversity 2026** is “**Acting Locally for Global Impact.**”

Commonwealth Day 2026 Observed on May 24

- **Commonwealth Day** is observed every year on **May 24** in India, while most countries of the **Commonwealth of Nations** celebrate it on the **second Monday of March**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The day is celebrated to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Queen Victoria** and to recognise the unity, cooperation and shared values among Commonwealth nations.
- Commonwealth Day was earlier known as **Empire Day**. It was first observed in the **United Kingdom in 1904** by **Reginald Brabazon**.

International Day of Action for Women’s Health 2026 – May 28

- **International Day of Action for Women’s Health** is observed every year on **28 May** to raise awareness about women’s health issues and promote their overall well-being, especially in the areas of **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)**.
- The observance aims to remind governments, policymakers, healthcare institutions, and the general public about the importance of ensuring accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare services for women.

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers Observed on May 29

- The **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers** is observed every year on **May 29** to honour the dedication and sacrifice of UN peacekeepers across the world.
- The first **United Nations Peacekeeping Mission** was established in **May 1948**. The mission, named United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (**UNTSO**), was deployed in **Palestine**.

International Everest Day 2025 Observed on May 29

- **International Everest Day 2025** is observed on **May 29** to commemorate the historic first successful ascent of **Mount Everest** in **1953**.
- The day honours Tenzing Norgay of Nepal and Edmund Hillary of New Zealand, who became the first climbers to reach the summit of Mount Everest.
- Mount Everest is located on the border between **Nepal and China** and is the **highest mountain in the world above sea level**.

World No Tobacco Day 2026 – 31 May

- **World No Tobacco Day** is observed every year on **31 May** to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and promote tobacco-free lifestyles.
- The day is organized by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and is also known as **World Anti-Tobacco Day**.
- The first **World No Tobacco Day** was observed by the member states of the **World Health Organization (WHO)** in **1987**.

About World Health Organization (WHO)

- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- Established: **1948**
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has 194 member

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Employees Provident Fund Organisation to Launch E-PRAAPTI Digital Platform

- The **Employees Provident Fund Organisation** will launch a new digital platform **E-PRAAPTI**, announced by **Union Minister of Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya**, to enhance **digital governance, transparency, and user empowerment**.
- **E-PRAAPTI (Employees Provident Fund Aadhaar-Based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts)** is designed to help users **trace and reactivate dormant or unclaimed provident fund accounts**, even **without Universal Account Number**.
- The platform uses **Aadhaar-based authentication**, allowing users to **access accounts independently without employer intervention**.
- In **Financial Year 2025–26**, **55.1 million advance claims** were processed, with **71.11 per cent settled within three days** and **98.70 per cent resolved within 20 days**.

Maharashtra Approves Artificial Intelligence Policy 2026 to Boost Investment and Employment

- The **Maharashtra Cabinet led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** approved the **Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence Policy 2026** to position the state as a **leading Artificial Intelligence hub in India**.
- The policy aims to attract over **₹10,000 crore investment** and generate around **1.5 lakh jobs by 2031**.
- It focuses on building a **robust ecosystem** integrating **advanced infrastructure, skilled workforce, startup ecosystem, and responsible Artificial Intelligence governance**.
- Infrastructure development includes establishment of **5 Artificial Intelligence Innovation Cities**, creation of a **common computing backbone with 2,000 Graphics Processing Units**, and introduction of **Compute-as-a-Service for government departments**.
- The state plans to train **2 lakh youth and professionals** and set up the **Maharashtra Centre for Advanced Artificial Intelligence Training** to strengthen **industry-academia collaboration**.

About Maharashtra:

- Chief Minister: Devendra Fadnavis
- Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma.
- Capital: Mumbai

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- National Parks: Tadoba National Park, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Melghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary

Bengaluru Police Launch Artificial Intelligence-Powered Multilingual Feature in Namma 112

Helpline

- **Bengaluru Police** introduced an **Artificial Intelligence-powered multilingual feature** in the **Namma 112 emergency helpline**, becoming the **first police unit in India** to implement such technology.
- The system enables communication in **more than 10 Indian and foreign languages**, improving **accessibility, emergency response, and public safety**.
- The feature is built on **Voice Artificial Intelligence for Nationwide Key Interventions** and developed in collaboration with **Monday Ventures and Aeos**.
- Supported languages include **Bengali, Malayalam, Gujarati, Odia, Manipuri, Assamese, Kashmiri, Nepali, French, Spanish, and Arabic**, along with existing support in **Kannada, English, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu**.

About Karnataka:

- Capital: Bengaluru
- Chief Minister: Siddaramaiah
- Governor: Thaawarchand Gehlot
- National Parks: Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Kudremukh National Park, Anshi (Kali) National Park, Bannerghatta National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Ganga Expressway** in **Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The expressway is a **594 kilometre long six-lane greenfield corridor**, expandable to **eight lanes**, built at a cost of **₹36,230 crore**.
- It connects **Meerut to Prayagraj**, passing through **12 districts** including **Meerut, Bulandshahr, Hapur, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The project enhances **connectivity between western, central, and eastern Uttar Pradesh**, creating a **unified transport network**.

About Uttar Pradesh:

- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **Capital:** Lucknow
- **National Parks:** Dudhwa National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary (Shahid Chandra Shekhar Azad Bird Sanctuary), Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, Sur Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahavir Swami Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranipur Wildlife

Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 Report Released on National Panchayati Raj Day

- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** released the **Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 Report on National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24)**, highlighting progress in **rural development and grassroots governance**.
- A total of **3,635 Gram Panchayats** were classified as **Front Runners (A Grade)**, reflecting strong performance.
- The report covers over **2.59 lakh Gram Panchayats across 33 States and Union Territories**, making it one of the **largest data-driven governance assessments in India**.
- Nearly **1,18,824 Panchayats (45.72 per cent)** fall under the **Performer (B Grade)** category, while others are classified as **Aspirant and Beginner**.

West Bengal Records Highest-Ever Voter Turnout in Assembly Elections

- **West Bengal** recorded its **highest-ever voter turnout after Independence** with an overall participation of **92.47 per cent** in the **Assembly Elections conducted in two phases**.
- **Phase One turnout** stood at **93.19 per cent**, while **Phase Two recorded 91.66 per cent**, surpassing the previous highest turnout of **84.72 per cent in 2011**.
- The data reflects a **significant rise in electoral participation**, setting a **new benchmark in India's electoral history**.
- **Gender-wise participation** showed inclusivity, with **Male voters at 91.07 per cent**, **Female voters at 92.28 per cent**, and **Third gender at 91.28 per cent** in Phase Two.
- The **Election Commission of India** used **advanced technology platforms such as Election Commission Integrated Network** for monitoring.

About West Bengal:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee
- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Capital: Kolkata
- National Parks: Sundarbans National Park, Jaldapara National Park, Buxa National Park, Gorumara National Park, Neora Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary, Bibhutibhushan Wildlife Sanctuary, Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary, Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Haliday Island Wildlife Sanctuary

Karnataka Launches India's First Digital Grievance Redressal System for Gig Workers

- **Karnataka** introduced **India's first digital grievance redressal system for gig workers**, aiming to enhance **transparency, accountability, and worker protection**.
- The system allows **platform-based workers** to register complaints related to **wages, incentives, working conditions, and disputes with digital platforms**.
- The initiative is developed by the **Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers Board** in collaboration with the **Department of Electronic Governance Karnataka**.
- Complaints can be filed through the **Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System portal**, enabling **registration, tracking, and time-bound resolution**.

About Karnataka:

- Capital: Bengaluru
- Chief Minister: Siddaramaiah
- Governor: Thaawarchand Gehlot
- National Parks: Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Kudremukh National Park, Anshi (Kali) National Park, Bannerghatta National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

India Deploys Aarogya Maitri Healthcare Infrastructure in Jamaica under Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Framework

- **India** deployed the **Aarogya Maitri portable healthcare infrastructure** in **Jamaica** under the **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief framework**, strengthening **India–Caribbean relations**.
- The initiative focuses on rapid medical response, humanitarian support, and technology-driven healthcare solutions.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- **Aarogya Maitri** is a portable and modular healthcare system designed for quick deployment in disaster-affected areas.
- It provides **scalable medical facilities**, enabling **technology-enabled diagnosis and treatment during emergencies**.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026 to be Held from June to August

- The **Government of India** announced that the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026** will be conducted from **June to August**, marking progress in **restoration of cross-border pilgrimage**.
- The yatra is organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs** in coordination with **China**.
- It will be conducted through two routes: **Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand** and **Nathu La Pass in Sikkim**.
- The **Lipulekh Pass route** is **traditional and physically demanding**, involving trekking through **Himalayan terrain**.
- The **Nathu La Pass route** is **comparatively easier**, with most travel done by **vehicles**, suitable for **elderly pilgrims**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visits Uttar Pradesh and Launches Development Projects Worth ₹6,350 Crore

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited **Uttar Pradesh** covering **Varanasi and Hardoi**, focusing on **women empowerment and infrastructure development**.
- He attended a **Mahila Sammelan in Varanasi** with large participation of women and offered prayers at the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**.
- Development projects worth around **₹6,350 crore** were inaugurated and foundation stones laid during the visit.
- This includes **over 48 completed projects worth more than ₹1,050 crore** and **112 projects worth over ₹5,300 crore**.
- The initiatives cover sectors such as **healthcare, tourism, railways, infrastructure, and connectivity**.

About Uttar Pradesh:

- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **Capital:** Lucknow
- **National Parks:** Dudhwa National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary (Shahid Chandra Shekhar Azad Bird Sanctuary), Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary,

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Sur Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahavir Swami Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranipur Wildlife

National Rifle Association of India Marks 75th Anniversary with New Initiatives

- **Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya** attended the **75th anniversary celebrations of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)** held at **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range Finals Hall, New Delhi**.
- A **commemorative logo** was unveiled to mark **75 years of Indian shooting**, symbolising **excellence, discipline, and achievements in the sport**.
- The **My National Rifle Association of India Athlete Application** was launched as a **digital platform**, making the federation **India's first fully digitised sports body**.
- The programme will provide a **hands-on "10-shot experience"**, promoting **sports participation and talent identification at the grassroots level**.

About NRAI

- President: **Raninder Singh**
- Founded: **1951**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**

Government Notifies Citizenship Amendment Rules 2026 with Changes for Overseas Citizen of India Cardholders

- The **Government of India**, through the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, notified the **Citizenship Amendment Rules 2026**, modifying the **Citizenship Rules 2009** to make processes **more streamlined, digital, and efficient**.
- A key clarification states that a minor child cannot hold both an Indian passport and a foreign passport simultaneously, reinforcing citizenship norms.
- All applications related to **Overseas Citizen of India registration and renunciation** will now be **submitted online**, eliminating **manual paperwork**.
- The rules introduce **electronic Overseas Citizen of India registration**, allowing issuance of either a **physical card or digital registration**.

India Chairs Brazil Russia India China South Africa Middle East and North Africa Meeting 2026 in New Delhi

- **Dr Neena Malhotra**, Secretary South, **Ministry of External Affairs**, chaired the **Brazil Russia India China South Africa (BRICS) Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys for the Middle East and North Africa meeting** in **New Delhi** under **India's chairship**.

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- The meeting witnessed participation from **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, focusing on **regional stability, humanitarian crises, and the West Asia conflict**.
- Members expressed concern over the **situation in Palestine and Gaza**, including **humanitarian assistance and the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Releases “Women and Men in India 2025” Report

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** released the **27th** edition of its publication titled “**Women and Men in India 2025: Selected Indicators and Data**” at the **National Deliberative Summit on Data for Development** held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- Aims to support **evidence-based policymaking for inclusive and sustainable development**
- **Sex ratio at birth improved from 904 (2017–19) to 917 (2021–23)**
- **Infant mortality rate** declined consistently for both **male and female infants (2008–2023)**
- **Gender parity achieved** across all levels of **school education from Primary to Higher Secondary**
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education** increased to **30.2 for females and 28.9 for males (2022–23)**
- **Labour Force Participation Rate** increased for both genders, with **rural females rising from 37.5 per cent to 45.9 per cent (2022–2025)**
- **Women in managerial positions increased by 102.54 per cent**, compared to **73.80 per cent increase for men (2017–2025)**

Tamil Nadu Becomes Top Marine Fish Producing State in 2025

- According to the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute**, **Tamil Nadu** has emerged as the **top marine fish producing state in India in 2025**, overtaking **Gujarat**.
- The shift is attributed to a **significant decline in Gujarat’s fish landings** due to adverse weather conditions, extended fishing bans, and cyclonic disturbances. Despite this, India’s total **marine fish production increased by about 3 per cent year-on-year to 3.57 million tonnes in 2025**.
- **Gujarat recorded around 15 per cent decline** in marine fish landings, losing its top position
- Decline caused by **reduced fishing days due to adverse weather, Operation Sindoor-related ban, and extended fishing ban (60 to 75 days)**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- Impact of **cyclonic disturbances including Cyclone Shakti** affected Gujarat and **Daman and Diu**
- **Tamil Nadu** emerged as the **leading marine fish producing state** in 2025
- **Kerala** retained **third position** with **0.62 million tonnes**, showing marginal growth

About Tamil Nadu:

- **Capital:** Chennai
- **Chief Minister:** K. Stalin
- **Governor:** Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- **National Parks:** Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Indira Gandhi (Anamalai) National Park, Guindy National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Vettangudi Bird Sanctuary, Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary, Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary, Vallanadu Wildlife Sanctuary, Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary

India Launches Multi-Lane Free Flow Barrier-less Tolling System on National Highway-48

- **Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways**, announced the launch of India's first **Multi-Lane Free Flow barrier-less tolling system** at the **Chorayasi Toll Plaza** on the **Surat–Bharuch section of National Highway-48 in Gujarat**.
- The system enables **non-stop toll collection** through advanced digital technologies, marking a key advancement in smart highway infrastructure development.
- Introduced as a **state-of-the-art tolling mechanism** eliminating the need for physical toll booths
- Combines **Automatic Number Plate Recognition with Artificial Intelligence analytics** and **Radio Frequency Identification-based Electronic Toll Collection system**

About Gujarat:

- **Chief Minister:** Bhupendra Patel
- **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat
- **Capital:** Gandhinagar
- **National Parks:** Gir National Park, Blackbuck National Park, Vansda National Park, Marine National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary, Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary

India Placed on United States Trade Representative Priority Watch List 2026

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- India has been included in the **Priority Watch List** of the **United States Trade Representative Special 301 Report 2026**, indicating concerns over the country's **intellectual property rights framework**.
- Classification system includes **Priority Foreign Country, Priority Watch List, and Watch List**
- **India's placement** points to gaps in **legal enforcement and administrative efficiency**
- Concerns relate to **limited protection environment for innovation-driven industries**

Andaman and Nicobar Islands Sets Guinness World Record with Largest Underwater National Flag

- The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** achieved a **Guinness World Record** by unfurling the **world's largest underwater national flag** at **Radhanagar Beach** on **Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island)**.
- The **Indian National Flag**, measuring **60 × 40 metres**, was deployed underwater through a coordinated operation and received **official recognition from Guinness World Records**, marking a significant achievement for the country.
- Record created for the **largest underwater national flag**, measuring **60 × 40 metres**
- Event conducted at **Radhanagar Beach, Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island)**

Sikkim Becomes India's First Fully Paperless Judiciary

- **Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India**, announced that **Sikkim** has become the **first state in India to achieve a fully paperless judiciary**.
- The announcement was made at the **National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education** in **Gangtok**.
- The development marks a significant step towards **digital justice delivery**, with court processes being carried out entirely through **electronic systems**, eliminating the need for physical paperwork and improving overall efficiency.
- **Sikkim** sets a national example by implementing a **fully digital judicial system**

About Sikkim:

- Chief Minister: Prem Singh Tamang
- Governor: Om Prakash Mathur
- Capital: Gangtok
- National Parks: Khangchendzonga National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary, Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary, Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Launches National Framework for Childhood

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Diabetes Management

- The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has introduced a national framework for managing childhood diabetes for the **0–18 years** age group.
- The initiative emphasizes **early identification, standardized treatment, and long-term disease management** to reduce **complications and mortality**.
- It is supported by the release of the **Guidance Document on Diabetes Mellitus in Children**, establishing a **uniform national protocol**.
- The framework strengthens the healthcare system by creating **linkages from grassroots screening to tertiary-level treatment**, and highlights the government's focus on **Non-Communicable Diseases** in children.

Karnataka Launches Centre of Excellence for Space Technology in Bengaluru

- The **Government of Karnataka** has launched India's first **state-led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology (CoE SpaceTech Foundation)** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- The initiative aims to **bridge the gap between research and commercialisation** in the space sector and strengthen **innovation, startup ecosystem, and industry collaboration**.
- Established by **Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)** in collaboration with **SatCom Industry Association of India (SIA-India)**
- Signed **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)**, **Helogen Corporation**, **Dassault Systèmes**, and **Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE)**

About Karnataka:

- Capital: Bengaluru
- Chief Minister: Siddaramaiah
- Governor: Thaawarchand Gehlot
- National Parks: Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Kudremukh National Park, Anshi (Kali) National Park, Bannerghatta National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

Cell Broadcast System Launched to Strengthen Emergency Communication in India

- **Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Communications**, launched the **Cell Broadcast System (CBS)** in **New Delhi** to enhance India's **emergency communication and disaster management framework**.

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- The system is an **indigenous technology** developed by the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** under the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, in collaboration with the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- **Cell Broadcast System (CBS)** enables **near real-time, geo-targeted emergency alerts** to mobile users
- Overcomes limitations of **Short Message Service (SMS)-based alert systems**

Padma Doree Initiative Launched to Promote Cross-Regional Textile Integration

- The **Northeastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC)** under the **Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (MDoNER)** launched ‘**Padma Doree**’, a cross-regional textile initiative combining **Eri (Ahimsa) silk of Northeast India** with **Chanderi weaving of Madhya Pradesh**.
- The initiative was unveiled by **Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, MDoNER**, in line with the vision of **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India** under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**.
- **Padma Doree** integrates **Eri silk (Ahimsa silk)** with **Chanderi handloom craftsmanship**
- Promotes **sustainable and ethical textile production** with innovative design fusion
- Led by **NEHHDC** with support from **MDoNER** to strengthen artisan collaboration

About Madhya Pradesh:

- Chief Minister: Mohan Yadav
- Governor: Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
- Capital: Bhopal
- National Parks: Kanha National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park, Pench National Park, Panna National Park.
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Ken Gharial Sanctuary, Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Launches Fire Safety Week 2026

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** launched **Fire Safety Week 2026** from **4–10 May 2026**, beginning with a nationwide pledge led by **Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary**.
- The initiative aims to strengthen **fire safety standards in healthcare facilities** and introduces the **National Guidelines on Fire and Life Safety in Healthcare Facilities**.
- Theme: “**Safe Schools, Safe Hospitals, and a Fire-Safety Aware Society: Together for Fire Prevention**”

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- Nationwide participation involving **central ministries, state governments, Union Territories, and healthcare institutions**

Hazaribag to Become India's First Pearl Farming Cluster

- **Hazaribag district in Jharkhand** is set to become **India's first pearl farming cluster**, led by the **Fisheries Department** with government support.
- The initiative focuses on promoting **scientific aquaculture, employment generation, and sustainable rural development**, with a special emphasis on **women participation**.
- **Hazaribag** identified as the **first dedicated pearl farming cluster** in India due to favourable water resources
- Initiative aims to develop a **model hub for pearl cultivation** with structured expansion plans
- Promotion of **modern pearl farming techniques** and **capacity building of farmers**

Bureau of Indian Standards Issues Six New Standards for Assistive Technologies

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, under the **Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD)**, has published **six new Indian Standards** for priority **medical assistive technologies** under the **National List of Essential Assistive Products (NLEAP)**
- The initiative aims to enhance accessibility, safety, and quality of assistive devices in India.
- **IS 18558 Part 1: 2025 (Elbow Crutches)**: Specifies **safety, ergonomics, and testing methods**, aligned with **International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 11334-1**
- **IS 5145: 2026 (Walking Sticks)**: Indigenous standard covering **materials, dimensions, and performance** for single-point sticks
- **IS 18558 Part 4: 2025 (Multi-leg Walking Sticks)**: Defines requirements for **enhanced stability using three or more legs**
- **IS 19631: 2026 (Portable Ramps)**: Indigenous standard for **wheelchair access and mobility support in buildings and transport systems**
- **IS 19189: 2025 (Tactile Guide Maps)**: Guidelines for **accessible navigation for visually impaired persons**
- **IS 19190: 2025 (Braille on Signage)**: Establishes **uniform Braille standards** on equipment and public infrastructure
- Supports implementation of **National List of Essential Assistive Products (NLEAP)** for inclusive accessibility

About BIS

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the National Standards Body of India, established under the BIS Act 2016 (which came into force on October 12, 2017) to ensure the harmonious development of standardization, marking, and quality certification of goods. It succeeded the Indian Standards Institution (ISI), which was established on January 6, 1947.

Union Government Notifies South Coast Railway Zone with Headquarters at Visakhapatnam

- The **Union Government** has notified the creation of the **South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR)** with headquarters at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** under the **Railways Act, 1989**.
- The new zone will become operational from **1 June 2026**, aiming to improve **railway administration, regional connectivity, and operational efficiency** through reorganisation of existing zones.
- **South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR)** created by reorganising **East Coast Railway (ECoR)** and **South-Central Railway (SCR)**
- Includes **Guntakal, Guntur, and Vijayawada divisions** (earlier under South Central Railway)
- **Waltair division** of East Coast Railway bifurcated:
 - Part becomes **Visakhapatnam division** under South Coast Railway
 - Remaining merged into **new Rayagada division** under East Coast Railway
- **East Coast Railway (Headquarters: Bhubaneswar)** to include **Sambalpur, Khurda Road, and Rayagada divisions**
- **South Central Railway (Headquarters: Secunderabad)** to retain **Hyderabad, Nanded, and reorganised Secunderabad divisions**

About Andhra Pradesh:

- Chief Minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu
- Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer
- Capital: Amaravati
- National Parks: Sri Venkateswara National Park, Papikonda National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary, Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary, Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary, Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary

National Council of Educational Research and Training Launches PRASHAST 2.0 for Early Identification of Disabilities

- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has launched **PRASHAST 2.0 (Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool)**, an upgraded digital platform for **early identification of disabilities in school children**.

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- **PRASHAST 2.0 (Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool)** is a digital screening platform available in mobile and web formats
- Designed to identify **21 types of disabilities** as defined under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**
- Integrated with national platforms such as **Unified District Information System for Education Plus, Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry Identification, and Swavlamban Card Portal**

Union Cabinet Approves Increase in Supreme Court Judge Strength to 37

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by **Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved a proposal to increase the judge strength of the **Supreme Court of India** from **33 to 37 judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India)**.
- The proposal will be introduced through the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, to amend the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**, with the aim of improving **judicial efficiency and speedy disposal of cases**.
- Total sanctioned strength to increase from **34 to 38 judges (including Chief Justice of India)**
- Aims to address **rising pendency of cases and increasing workload on judges**
- Based on **Article 124 of the Constitution of India**, which empowers Parliament to determine the number of judges

Union Cabinet Approves Ship Repair Facility at Vadinar, Gujarat

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by **Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**, has approved the establishment of a **state-of-the-art ship repair facility** at **Vadinar, Gujarat**, with an investment of around **₹1,570 crore**.
- The project was cleared by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** and will be implemented by **Deendayal Port Authority** in partnership with **Cochin Shipyard Limited**, aiming to strengthen India's **maritime infrastructure and ship repair capabilities**.
- Project to be developed as a **brownfield expansion** with modern ship repair infrastructure
- Strategic location at **Vadinar** due to **deep draft availability and proximity to major ports like Mundra and Kandla**

About Gujarat:

- **Chief Minister:** Bhupendra Patel
- **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat
- **Capital:** Gandhinagar

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- **National Parks:** Gir National Park, Blackbuck National Park, Vansda National Park, Marine National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary, Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary

Union Cabinet Approves Two Semiconductor Projects under India Semiconductor Mission

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi**, **Prime Minister of India**, has approved **two semiconductor projects** under the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** with a **combined investment of over ₹3,936 crore**.
- The projects will be set up in **Gujarat** and are expected to generate over **2,200 skilled jobs**, strengthening India's position in the **global semiconductor ecosystem**.
- Approval for **two semiconductor units**:
 - **Compound semiconductor fabrication facility with Mini/Micro Light Emitting Diode production**
 - **Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility**
- **Crystal Matrix Limited** to establish facility in **Dholera**, focusing on **Gallium Nitride technology-based fabrication**

India to Host First International Big Cat Alliance Summit in New Delhi

- India will host the **first International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit** on **1–2 June 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- The announcement was made by **Bhupender Yadav**, **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, who also launched the official logo and website of the summit.
- The event aims to strengthen global cooperation for **big cat conservation and ecosystem protection**.
- **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** is an intergovernmental initiative headquartered in India

About IBCA

- **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** launched in **2023** under the leadership of Shri **Narendra Modi**, **Prime Minister of India**
- India highlighted its conservation initiatives such as **Project Tiger**, **Asiatic Lion conservation**, **Snow Leopard conservation**, and **Cheetah reintroduction programme**

Union Cabinet Proposes Legal Protection for Vande Mataram on 150th Anniversary

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by Shri **Narendra Modi**, **Prime Minister of India**, has proposed granting **Vande Mataram** legal protection equivalent to the **National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana**, through amendments to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act**.

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- The proposal comes as **Vande Mataram completes 150 years** since it was written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in 1875.
- **Vande Mataram** written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in 1875
- Originally composed in **Sanskritised Bengali** and published in the novel **Anandamath**

India and European Union Launch ₹169 Crore Initiative for Electric Vehicle Battery Recycling

- **India** and the **European Union (EU)** have launched a **₹169 crore joint initiative** to strengthen **Electric Vehicle (EV) battery recycling capacity**.
- The project aims to support the growing EV ecosystem by improving recovery of critical raw materials, reducing environmental risks, and promoting sustainable clean energy goals.
- Initiative launched under the **India-European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** under **Working Group 2 on Green and Clean Technologies**
- Focus on strengthening **Electric Vehicle battery recycling infrastructure and technology**
- Aims to recover critical minerals such as **lithium, cobalt, and nickel** from used lithium-ion batteries

About EU

- Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Launches JANANI Digital Platform

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** has launched the **JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care)** platform to strengthen **maternal and child healthcare services** in India.
- The platform aims to digitally monitor and manage healthcare services for women and children across different stages of reproductive and child healthcare.
- **JANANI** developed as an integrated **digital healthcare monitoring platform**
- Focuses on healthcare services from **pregnancy to neonatal and young child care**
- Covers **antenatal, delivery, postnatal, newborn, and family planning services**

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute and Bharat

Petroleum Corporation Limited Recognised for Plastic Waste-Based Road Technology

- The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)** and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** have been recognised by the **India Book of Records** and **Asia Book of Records** for developing India's first road section using **technical textile geocells made from end-of-life plastic waste**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The recognition ceremony was held at **CSIR-CRRI, New Delhi** in the presence of scientists and industry experts.
- Developed India's first road section using **geocells manufactured from recycled end-of-life plastic waste**
- **Geocells** are three-dimensional cellular structures used in civil engineering for improving **soil stability and road durability**

Reliance Industries Limited to Build India's Largest Artificial Intelligence-Focused Data Centre Cluster in Andhra Pradesh

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** is set to establish India's largest **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-focused data centre cluster** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, with an investment of around **₹1.6 lakh crore (over USD 17 billion)**.
- The project aims to strengthen India's digital infrastructure and position Visakhapatnam as a major Artificial Intelligence and technology hub.
- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** to develop a **1.5 Gigawatt (GW) Artificial Intelligence-focused data centre cluster** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- Total investment estimated at around **₹1.6 lakh crore**.
- Project will be developed across **935 acres** near **Bhogapuram**.

Bengaluru Records Highest Suicide Rate Among Major Indian Cities: National Crime Records Bureau Data

- According to data published by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**, **Bengaluru** has recorded the highest suicide rate among major Indian cities in recent years.
- The suicide rate in Bengaluru remained close to **20 suicides per lakh population** during **2022, 2023, and 2024**, placing it at the top among mega cities.
- The NCRB report titled **Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI)** provides annual data on **suicide cases, accidental deaths, causes of suicides, and demographic patterns** across States, Union Territories, and selected cities.

India Inaugurates Pavilion at 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia 2026 in Venice, Italy

- **India** officially opened its **Pavilion** at the **61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia 2026** in **Venice, Italy**.
- The Pavilion was inaugurated in the presence of **Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** along with senior international cultural dignitaries.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The India Pavilion presents the exhibition titled “**Geographies of Distance: remembering home**”, focusing on themes of **memory, migration, belonging, and cultural identity** through contemporary Indian art.
- The exhibition is curated by **Dr Amin Jaffer** and presented by the **Ministry of Culture** in collaboration with the **Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre** and **Serendipity Arts**.
- The inauguration was attended by key dignitaries including **President of La Biennale di Venezia Mr Pietrangelo Buttafuoco**, **Secretary, Ministry of Culture Shri Vivek Aggarwal**, **Ambassador of India to Italy H.E. Vani Rao**, **Smt Nita M Ambani**, **Smt Isha Ambani**, and **Shri Sunil Kant Munjal**.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Launches Nationwide Free Annual Health Check-Up Initiative for Workers Under New Labour Codes

- Union Minister for Labour and Employment **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** launched a nationwide **free annual health check-up initiative** for workers aged **40 years and above** under the new Labour Codes.
- The initiative was launched at the **Employees’ State Insurance Corporation Medical College and Hospital, Basaidarapur, New Delhi**.
- The programme is being implemented through the **Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** network across India to strengthen occupational healthcare and social security coverage.

India to Host BRICS Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting 2026 in Indore Focused on Food Security and Smart Farming

- India will host the **BRICS Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting 2026** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh** under its **BRICS Presidency**.
- The two-day meeting is scheduled to be held in **June 2026** and will bring together agriculture ministers from **BRICS member countries**.
- The BRICS grouping includes **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, which together represent a significant share of global population, agricultural output, and emerging economies.
- The meeting will focus on major global agricultural issues, including **food security, sustainable farming, climate-resilient agriculture, and agricultural trade cooperation**.
- Key discussion areas will include **artificial intelligence in agriculture, machine learning applications, precision farming, and digital agriculture systems** to improve productivity and resource efficiency.

All India Ophthalmological Society – Armed Forces Ophthalmic Update 2026 Conference to be Held at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment

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- The **All-India Ophthalmological Society – Armed Forces Ophthalmic Update 2026 Conference (AIOS–AFOU 2026)** will be held at the **Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment**.
- The event is jointly organised by the **Army Hospital (Research and Referral)** and the **All-India Ophthalmological Society**.
- The conference will witness participation of the **Chief of Defence Staff, three Service Chiefs, Defence Secretary**, and senior defence and medical officials, highlighting its **tri-service and national importance**.

Aizawl Hosts First Regional Cooperative Reform Conference Under “Sahkar se Samriddhi”

Vision

- **Aizawl, Mizoram** hosted its **first Regional Cooperative Reform Conference** under the vision of **“Sahkar se Samriddhi”** to strengthen cooperative institutions in **North-East India**.
- The conference was organised by the **Ministry of Cooperation** as part of nationwide cooperative reform initiatives.
- It marked the **first such conference in Mizoram**, highlighting focus on expanding **cooperative-led development in the North-East region**.
- Representatives from **all North-Eastern states**, cooperative institutions, financial organisations, and national agencies participated in the event.
- Key sectors discussed included **dairy cooperatives, fisheries cooperatives, cooperative banking, grain storage infrastructure, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies expansion, and organic farming**.

About Mizoram:

- Capital: Aizawl
- Chief Minister: Lalduhoma
- Governor: Vijay Kumar Singh
- National Parks: Murlen National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Dampa Wildlife Sanctuary, Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary, Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary, Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary, Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary

India Advances BRICS Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Cooperation Under 2026 Chairship with Focus on Finance and Financial Technology

- **India** is advancing **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) cooperation** under its **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) Chairship 2026** with focus on **financial inclusion, financial technology ecosystems, and inclusive growth**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** organised the **first Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group Meeting on April 24, 2026**, focusing on **access to finance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**.
- India will organise **three Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group Meetings** and host the **inaugural Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Forum** during its Chairship.
- The meeting was conducted under the **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution**, which promotes cooperation in **industry, technology, innovation, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises development**.

India Introduces QR-Code Verification for Census Enumerators for Census 2027

- India has introduced **QR-code-enabled identity cards** for Census enumerators for the upcoming **Census 2027** to improve **identity verification and data collection**.
- The initiative allows citizens to **verify enumerators by scanning QR codes using mobile devices**, enhancing transparency and security during field visits.
- The first phase of **Census 2027 began on April 1, 2026** and will continue till **September 30, 2026**.
- Around **30 lakh enumerators** are involved in the nationwide Census exercise.
- The introduction of QR-code verification is significant as it enhances **public trust, prevents impersonation, strengthens digital governance, and ensures transparent Census operations**.

Odisha Tops Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 House Completions with Over 2,000 Houses Completed

- **Odisha** has emerged as the **top-performing state** in house completions under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)**.
- The state maintained the **first position from March 2025 to March 2026** in terms of housing completion performance.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0** was launched in **September 2024** to provide **affordable pucca houses to urban poor, economically weaker sections, and middle-income groups**.
- Odisha has made significant progress under the scheme:
 - 24,625 houses sanctioned
 - 23,464 sites geo-tagged
 - 3,134 houses with foundation work started

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- 2,008 houses completed as of May 5, 2026

About Odisha:

- Chief Minister: Mohan Charan Majhi
- Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Parks: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary, Nandankanan Zoological Park, Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Lakhari Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary

Maharashtra Approves Compressed Biogas Policy 2026 with ₹500 Crore Support to Promote Waste-to-Energy Projects

- The **Government of Maharashtra** has approved the **Compressed Biogas Policy 2026** to promote **renewable energy generation through waste-to-energy projects**.
- The policy was approved by the **Maharashtra Cabinet** and officially released.
- The state has allocated **₹500 crore for implementation in the financial year 2026–27**.
- The policy aims to establish **Compressed Biogas projects in every district** of the state using **municipal solid waste and agricultural residue**.
- It supports India's **clean energy transition and Net-Zero emissions target by 2070**.

About Maharashtra:

- Chief Minister: Devendra Fadnavis
- Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma.
- Capital: Mumbai
- National Parks: Tadoba National Park, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Melghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary

Supreme Court Proposes Permanent Women-Only Vice-President Post in Supreme Court Bar Association from 2027–28

- The **Supreme Court of India** has proposed the creation of a **permanent women-only Vice-President post** in the **Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** starting from the **2027–28 election cycle**.
- The proposal was made during hearings related to **reforms in Bar bodies and women's representation in the legal profession**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The move aims to **increase participation of women advocates in leadership roles** within the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Jharkhand Achieves Zero Primary Dropout Rate in 2024–25 as per Unified District Information System for Education Plus Data

- **Jharkhand** has achieved a **zero primary dropout rate (0%)** in 2024–25, marking a major milestone in school education.
- The primary dropout rate declined from **6.41 per cent in 2014–15 to 0 per cent in 2024–25**, as per data from the **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)** and a **NITI Aayog report** released on May 8, 2026.
- The state also recorded significant improvement in other levels:
 - **Upper primary dropout rate** reduced from **7.42 per cent to 1.7 per cent**
 - **Secondary dropout rate** declined from **23.2 per cent to 3.5 per cent**
- Jharkhand ranked **fourth in India** in terms of reduction in secondary dropout rates.

About Jharkhand:

- Capital: Ranchi
- Chief Minister: Hemant Soren
- Governor: Santosh Gangwar
- National Parks: Betla National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Palamau Wildlife Sanctuary, Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary, Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary, Topchanchi Wildlife Sanctuary

India's Steel Sector Emerges as Key Growth Driver with Focus on Self-Reliance and Green Transition

- India's steel sector is recognised as a **“sunrise sector”** and has been the **second-largest steel producer in the world since 2018**.
- India is also the **second-largest consumer of finished steel**, with consumption rising from **77 million tonnes in 2014–15 to 163.7 million tonnes in 2025–26**.
- India's share in global crude steel production increased from **5.2 percent in 2014 to 7.9 percent in 2024**.
- Steel consumption growth is driven by **infrastructure development, urbanisation, manufacturing expansion, and rising domestic demand**.
- **Crude steel production increased to 168.4 million tonnes in 2025–26**, reflecting strong sectoral growth.

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India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0 Held at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City to Boost Aviation Financing Ecosystem

- The **India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0** was organised at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- The summit was jointly organised by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, International Financial Services Centres Authority, and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry**.
- The event was presided over by **Union Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu**, with **Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel** as **Chief Guest**.
- The summit focused on strengthening **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City International Financial Services Centre** as a **global hub for aircraft leasing and aviation finance**.

Supreme Court Ruling Highlights Misuse Concerns in Section 498A of Indian Penal Code

- A recent **Supreme Court of India** judgment in a **dowry harassment case** has brought renewed focus on **Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code**.
- **Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code** was introduced in **1983** to protect married women from **cruelty, harassment, and dowry-related abuse**.
- Under this provision, **cruelty by husband or his relatives is a criminal offence**, enabling **registration of a First Information Report and initiation of legal proceedings**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visits Karnataka and Telangana; Inaugurates Projects Worth ₹9,400 Crore

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited **Karnataka and Telangana** to participate in events and **inaugurate development projects worth around ₹9,400 crore**
- The visit included the inauguration of **Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Park** in **Warangal, Telangana**
- In **Bengaluru**, the Prime Minister attended the **45th anniversary celebrations of The Art of Living Foundation** and the **70th birthday of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**
- He inaugurated the **Dhyan Mandir** at the **Art of Living International Centre** in **Bengaluru**

India Launches 'Sehat Mission' to Integrate Agriculture, Nutrition and Healthcare

- The **Government of India** launched the **'Sehat Mission'** in the **National Capital** under the leadership of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**
- **Sehat Mission (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation)** aims to **integrate agriculture, nutrition, and healthcare** through a **unified approach**
- The mission is a joint initiative of:

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- Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- Indian Council of Medical Research
- The objective is to **link agricultural production with health outcomes** and promote **preventive healthcare**

Government to Launch ‘Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025’ from July 1, 2026

- The **Government of India** has announced the rollout of the ‘**Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025**’ (VB-G RAM G Act)
- The Act will come into force from **July 1, 2026**
- The initiative aims to **enhance rural employment, strengthen livelihood security, and develop rural infrastructure**
- The Ministry of Rural Development has notified that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 will be **repealed from July 1, 2026**
- Under the new Act, every eligible rural household will get **125 days of guaranteed wage employment per financial year**

India Plans ‘Made in India Brand Scheme’ to Boost Domestic Manufacturing

- The **Government of India** is planning to launch the ‘**Made in India Brand Scheme**’ to **strengthen domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence**
- The scheme aims to create a **trusted global identity for products manufactured in India**
- The government plans to identify nearly **100 products** that are **not produced in India or manufactured in limited quantities**
- The announcement was made by Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, at the CII Annual Business Summit 2026

Supreme Court Launches ‘One Case One Data’ Initiative and ‘Su-Sahayak’ AI Chatbot to Modernize Judicial System

- The **Supreme Court of India** has launched the ‘**One Case One Data**’ initiative along with an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chatbot ‘Su- Sahayak’**
- The initiative aims to **digitally integrate case data across all levels of the judiciary**
- ‘**One Case One Data**’ is a **digital case management framework** designed to create a **unified judicial data system**
- It will connect courts across different levels, including:
 - **Supreme Court**
 - **High Courts**

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- **District Courts**
- **Taluka Courts**
- **Government Departments**

West Bengal Announces Annapurna Bhandaar Scheme to Provide ₹3,000 Monthly Aid to Women

- The **Government of West Bengal**, led by **Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari**, has approved the launch of the **Annapurna Bhandaar Scheme** in its first Cabinet meeting
- The scheme provides **₹3,000 per month** financial assistance to **eligible women**
- It will be implemented from **June 1, 2026**
- Funds will be transferred through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**
- Focus on **financial empowerment of women**
- The scheme will replace the **Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme**
- Earlier benefits: **₹1,500 (General Category)** and **₹1,700 (Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes – SC/ST)**

Jute Crop Information System Strengthens India's Jute Sector with Satellite-Based Monitoring

- The **Jute Crop Information System (JCIS)** has been implemented to enable **technology-driven monitoring of jute cultivation** in India
- The initiative is led by the **National Jute Board** in **collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Jute Corporation of India**
- JCIS integrates **satellite data, weather analytics, and field-level inputs** into a **single unified platform** for crop monitoring
- Two key tools developed under the system are:
 - **BHUVAN JUMP** – a **mobile application for field-level data collection**
 - **PATSAN (Prospective Assessment of Jute Using Mobile App-Based Field Observations)** – a **web-based platform for real-time analytics**

Periodic Labour Force Survey Revised to Provide Monthly and Quarterly Labour Market Data

- The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted by the **National Statistical Office** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has been **revamped from January 2025**
- The revised methodology aims to provide **high-frequency labour market indicators** for both **rural and urban areas** under the **Current Weekly Status (CWS)** framework
- Key objectives of the revised PLFS include:
 - **Monthly estimates of Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), and Unemployment Rate (UR)**

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- **Quarterly estimates** for both rural and urban areas
- **Annual estimates** under **Usual Status (Principal Status + Subsidiary Status)** and **Current Weekly Status (CWS)**

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant Announces Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee for Court Reforms

- The **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** has announced the formation of a **Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee** to improve **court infrastructure across India**
- The committee aims to address issues such as **poor facilities, outdated buildings, digital gaps, and delays in case handling**
- The committee will be **headed by Justice Aravind Kumar**
- The objective is to identify infrastructure gaps and develop a national roadmap for judicial infrastructure development

India Raises Import Duty on Gold and Silver to 15% to Protect Rupee and Forex Reserves

- The **Government of India** has increased **import duty on gold and silver to 15%**
- The move aims to **protect foreign exchange reserves** and **support the Indian rupee** amid global uncertainties
- The customs duty on **gold and silver** has been increased from **6% to 15%**
- For **platinum**, the duty has been raised from **6.4% to 15.4%**
- The revised duty structure includes:
 - **10% Basic Customs Duty (BCD)**
 - **5% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC)**

Cabinet Approves Ahmedabad–Dholera Semi High-Speed Rail Project Worth ₹20,667 Crore

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)–Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line rail project** at an estimated cost of **₹20,667 crore**.
- The project aims to **enhance connectivity between Ahmedabad and Dholera** and support major upcoming infrastructure developments.
- The approval was granted by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, under the **Ministry of Railways**.
- It will be **Indian Railways' first semi high-speed rail corridor developed using indigenous technology**, marking a key step in railway modernisation.

About Gujarat:

- **Chief Minister:** Bhupendra Patel
- **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat

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- **Capital:** Gandhinagar
- **National Parks:** Gir National Park, Blackbuck National Park, Vansda National Park, Marine National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary, Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary

Union Cabinet Approves ₹37,500 Crore Coal Gasification Scheme

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved a **₹37,500 crore scheme** to promote **surface coal and lignite gasification projects**.
- The initiative aims to **reduce dependence on imported fuels and industrial chemicals** and strengthen India's energy security.
- The scheme has a **total financial outlay of ₹37,500 crore** and targets the **gasification of 75 million tonnes of coal and lignite**.
- It supports India's broader goal of achieving **100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030**.

Prime Minister Internship Scheme 2026 Launched to Boost Youth Employability

- The **Central Government** has launched the **Prime Minister Internship Scheme 2026** to provide practical **workplace experience and improve employability among youth**.
- The scheme aims to offer internship opportunities to **one crore youth over the next five years**, making it a large-scale skill development initiative.
- It is designed to bridge the gap between classroom education and industry requirements by enabling hands-on experience in leading companies across sectors.
- The pilot phase was launched in Financial Year 2024-2025 with a target of **1.25 lakh internship opportunities**.

India Imposes Ban on Sugar Exports Until September 2026

- The **Government of India** has imposed an **immediate ban on sugar exports until 30 September 2026** to **safeguard domestic supply and control inflation risks**.
- As the **world's second-largest sugar producer**, this move is expected to **impact both domestic availability and global sugar prices**.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has **changed the sugar export policy from "restricted" to "prohibited"**, marking a **significant policy shift**.
- The ban applies to:
 - **Raw sugar**
 - **White sugar**

- Refined sugar

India Sets Ambitious 1 Trillion Dollar Export Target, Releases LEADS (Logistics Excellence Advancement and Performance Shield)2025 Report

- The **Government of India** has set an **ambitious export target of 1 trillion United States dollars** for the **current financial year**, following a **record export of 863 billion United States dollars in Financial Year 2025-2026**.
- The roadmap was announced by **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal** while releasing the **Logistics Ease Across Different States Report 2025** and honouring logistics leaders at the **Logistics Excellence Advancement and Performance Shield Awards 2025** in **New Delhi**.

Assam Cabinet Approves Draft Uniform Civil Code Bill

- The **State Government of Assam** has approved the **draft Uniform Civil Code Bill**, marking a **major legal and political development** in the state.
- The decision was taken by the Assam Cabinet led by **Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma**.
- The Bill is expected to be **introduced in the Assam Legislative Assembly on May 26**.
- The **Chief Minister clarified that tribal communities will be fully exempted** from the provisions of the Uniform Civil Code.

About Assam:

- Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Governor: Lakshman Prasad Acharya
- Capital: Dispur
- National Parks: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Orang National Park, Bura-Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary, Nameri Wildlife Sanctuary

Uber Partners with Adani Group for First Data Centre in India

- **Uber has partnered with the Adani Group** to establish its **first data centre in India**, marking a **significant expansion of its digital and engineering infrastructure** in one of its most important global markets.
- The announcement was made by **Chief Executive Officer Dara Khosrowshahi** after a meeting with **Gautam Adani** in **Ahmedabad**.
- The proposed facility will be **Uber's first data centre in India** and is expected to strengthen the company's digital backbone for technology development and deployment.

India's Ethanol Programme Sees Major Shift as Maize Emerges as Top Feedstock

- India's ethanol programme is witnessing a major shift as maize becomes the largest ethanol feedstock, surpassing sugarcane-based sources.
- During the first half of Ethanol Supply Year 2025-2026, total ethanol supplies crossed 515 crore litres, indicating strong progress in clean fuel transition.
- According to estimates by the All-India Distillers Association, maize has become the single largest contributor to ethanol production.
- Maize contributed around 182 crore litres, the highest among all feedstocks.

India Hosts 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue in New Delhi

- India hosted the 10th edition of the Indian Ocean Dialogue in New Delhi under the theme “Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World.”
- The Dialogue was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Indian Ocean Rim Association Secretariat.
- India has previously hosted multiple editions, including the inaugural edition in Kerala in 2014, the sixth edition in New Delhi in 2019, and the eighth edition held virtually in 2021.

India Plans 2,000 Kilometre Oman–Gujarat Subsea Gas Pipeline

- India is planning to construct a ₹40,000 crore subsea gas pipeline connecting Oman and Gujarat to strengthen long-term energy security.
- The Ministry of Petroleum is directing GAIL, Engineers India, and Indian Oil Corporation to prepare a detailed feasibility report for the ₹40,000 crore Middle East-India Deep-water Pipeline (MEIDP).
- This follows a pre-feasibility study by South Asia Gas Enterprise, which has already laid 3,000 metres of test pipeline to assess seabed conditions.
- The project, if approved, could take five to seven years to complete and would deliver 31 mmscmd of natural gas directly to Gujarat.

Election Commission of India Begins Phase III of Special Intensive Revision

- The Election Commission of India has launched Phase III of the Special Intensive Revision across 16 States and 3 Union Territories to update electoral rolls.
- The exercise covers 36.73 crore voters and aims to ensure accurate, transparent, and updated electoral data before upcoming elections.
- The Special Intensive Revision is a detailed process conducted to:
 - o Update electoral rolls
 - o Add new eligible voters

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- o Remove duplicate or ineligible entries
- o Correct voter details

India Assumes Chair of Common Criteria Development Board for 2026–2028

- India has assumed the **Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board for 2026–2028**, marking a major achievement in the country's global cybersecurity leadership.
- The decision was confirmed during the meeting of the **Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement** held in **Tokyo, Japan**, in April 2026.
- The **Common Criteria Development Board** is a major technical body responsible for developing and maintaining international cybersecurity evaluation standards.
- It functions under the **Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement**, a global framework that enables countries to mutually recognise Information Technology security certifications.

Lieutenant Governor Inaugurates High-Altitude Irrigation Canal in Changthang Region of Ladakh

- **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena** inaugurated the **Mahey Tokpo–Raldho irrigation canal** in the remote **Changthang region of Ladakh**.
- The canal has been constructed at an elevation of **more than 14,000 feet**, making it a significant engineering achievement in the Himalayan region.
- The newly completed canal is **2.10 kilometres long** and has been designed to bring water from **Yaya Lake** to agricultural fields in the Mahey area.

Centre Launches ₹189.79 Crore Mizoram Ginger Mission to Boost Exports

- The **Central Government** has launched the **₹189.79 crore Mizoram Ginger Mission** to transform **Mizo ginger into a globally recognised agricultural brand**.
- The initiative aims to improve **processing, branding, exports, farmer incomes, and international market access** for ginger farmers in Mizoram.
- The mission is supported by the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region**.
- It was launched by **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** and **Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma**.
- The Mizoram Ginger Mission is a value-chain development initiative designed to strengthen every stage of ginger production, from cultivation to international exports.

About Mizoram:

- Capital: Aizawl
- Chief Minister: Lalduhoma
- Governor: Vijay Kumar Singh
- National Parks: Murlen National Park

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- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Dampa Wildlife Sanctuary, Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary, Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary, Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary, Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology Pune Launches Climate Innovation Startup Hub

- The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune**, has launched a dedicated **climate-tech startup incubation centre** focused on weather and climate innovation.
- The launch took place alongside the **Weather and Climate Innovation Meet for Startups and Entrepreneurs 2026**.
- The incubation centre will support startups working in:
 - Weather technology
 - Climate analytics
 - Forecasting applications
 - **Artificial Intelligence-driven climate solutions**
 - Disaster management tools
 - Climate resilience technologies
- The centre is being developed under the **National Enterprise for Atmospheric Technology** initiative of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences Mission Mausam** programme.

Rajasthan Launches First Semiconductor Cluster in Bhiwadi

- **Rajasthan** launched its first **Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Cluster** in **Bhiwadi**, marking a major industrial milestone for the state.
- The cluster was inaugurated by **Bhajan Lal Sharma**.
- The project marks Rajasthan's entry into India's rapidly growing **Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Sector**.
- According to Ashwini Vaishnav, the Bhiwadi cluster has attracted investments worth around **₹1,200 Crore**.
- The project is expected to generate nearly **2,500 Jobs**.

About Rajasthan:

- Capital: Jaipur
- Governor: Haribhau Bagade
- Chief Minister: Bajan Lal Sharma
- National Parks: Ranthambhore National Park, Sariska Tiger Reserve, Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary), Desert National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranthambore Wildlife Sanctuary, Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary

National Highways Authority of India Launches Project Saksham for Women Empowerment

- **National Highways Authority of India** launched **Project Saksham** to promote **Inclusive Development** through skill development and employment opportunities.
- The initiative is being implemented in collaboration with Vertis Foundation.
- **Project Saksham** aims to empower **Rural Women** by providing industry-relevant skills and improving access to formal employment opportunities.
- Main objectives of the initiative:
 - **Industry-Relevant Skill Development**
 - **Promotion of Financial Independence**
 - **Access to Formal Employment Opportunities**
 - **Economic Empowerment of Rural Women**

India Concludes Kimberley Process Intersessional 2026 in Mumbai

- **India** concluded the **Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026** in **Mumbai** under its chairship.
- The meeting was led by Piyush Goyal.
- The event focused on:
 - **Transparency in Diamond Trade**
 - **Governance Reforms**
 - **Responsible Sourcing**
 - **Consumer Trust in Natural Diamonds**
- **Kimberley Process (KP)** is an international initiative launched in **2000**.
- Objective of KP:
 - Prevent **Conflict Diamonds** from entering global markets
 - Promote **Ethical Diamond Trade**
 - Ensure **Transparency in Diamond Supply Chain**

President Approves Increase in Supreme Court Judge Strength from 34 to 38

- **Honorable President Droupadi Murmu** approved the **increase in the judge** strength of the **Supreme Court of India from 34 to 38 Judges** through an ordinance.
- The decision aims to improve judicial efficiency, strengthen the functioning of the Supreme Court, and reduce the growing backlog of pending cases.
- After the amendment, the total strength of the Supreme Court will now be:
 - **1 Chief Justice of India**
 - **37 Other Judges**

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o Total: **38 Judges**

- Respectable Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal confirmed the development.
- The increase has been implemented through **The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026**.
- The ordinance amends the existing **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**.

Andhra Pradesh Announces Cash Incentives for Third and Fourth Child Under New Population Policy

- **Respectable Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** announced a new population policy in **Andhra Pradesh to address declining population growth and falling fertility rates in the state**.
- Under the proposed policy:
 - o Families will receive **₹30,000** for the birth of a **Third Child**
 - o Families will receive **₹40,000** for the birth of a **Fourth Child**
- The Andhra Pradesh Government is expected to announce detailed implementation guidelines for the scheme within the next month.
- Earlier, the state government had also proposed an incentive of around **₹25,000** for the birth of a **Second Child**.

About Andhra Pradesh:

- Chief Minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu
- Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer
- Capital: Amaravati
- National Parks: Sri Venkateswara National Park, Papikonda National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary, Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary, Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary, Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary

Nimapara Patha Utsav 2026 Inaugurated in Puri by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida

- **Respectable Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida** inaugurated **Nimapara Patha Utsav 2026** in Puri under the **Utkarsha Nimapara 2.0 Initiative**.
- The festival was organised to combine **Traditional Odia Culture, Youth Participation, Public Awareness Campaigns, Sports Activities, and Regional Development** into a community-focused programme.
- The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, students, artists, youth groups, and community organisations.

About Odisha:

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- Chief Minister: Mohan Charan Majhi
- Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Parks: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary, Nandankanan Zoological Park, Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Lakhari Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary

Sikkim to Implement Anand Marriage Act, 1909 from 1 June 2026

- **Sikkim will implement the Anand Marriage Act, 1909 from 1 June 2026**, allowing Sikh couples to directly register marriages conducted through the traditional **Anand Karaj Ceremony**.
- The implementation provides separate legal recognition to Sikh marriages under their own legal framework within the state.
- Earlier, due to the absence of state-level registration rules, many Sikh couples in Sikkim had to register marriages under the **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955** despite following Sikh religious customs.
- The **Union Law Ministry** officially notified that the Anand Marriage Act will become operational in Sikkim from June 2026.

About Sikkim:

- Chief Minister: Prem Singh Tamang
- Governor: Om Prakash Mathur
- Capital: Gangtok
- National Parks: Khangchendzonga National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary, Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary, Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary

Ministry of Education Launches Pilot Programme for Out-of-School Adolescents

- The **Union Ministry of Education** unveiled a new pilot programme as a targeted intervention to reintegrate over **2 crore out-of-school adolescents aged 14–18 years** back into the education system through flexible learning pathways.
- The initiative was chaired by **Sanjay Kumar**, Secretary of the **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL)**.
- The programme shifts the **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** from a passive voluntary framework to a proactive and state-supported outreach mechanism.

About Minister of Education

- Union Minister of Education – Dharmendra Pradhan

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- Ministers of State in the Ministry of Education – Jayant Chaudhary and Sukanta Majumdar

Central Bureau of Investigation Launches “Abhay” Artificial Intelligence-Based Helpbot

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation** launched “**Abhay**”, an **Artificial Intelligence-Based Helpbot** developed to verify the authenticity of notices issued in the name of the Central Bureau of Investigation.
- The initiative was unveiled by **Justice Surya Kant** to help citizens protect themselves from the increasing cases of:
 - **Cyber Fraud**
 - **Digital Arrest Scams**
 - **Fake Investigation Threats**
 - **Online Financial Extortion**
- “Abhay” has been developed internally by the Central Bureau of Investigation as part of efforts to strengthen cybercrime awareness and improve public safety.

About Central Bureau of Investigation:

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Director:** Praveen Sood
- **Motto:** “Industry, Impartiality, Integrity”

Karnataka Introduces Two Digital Drug Monitoring Systems

- **Karnataka** introduced **Two New Digital Monitoring Systems** through the State Food Safety and Drug Administration to strengthen **Drug Safety, Public Health Protection, and Regulatory Transparency** in the pharmaceutical sector.
- The first digital system has been developed to automatically block the sale of medicines identified as **Not of Standard Quality (NSQ)**. Once a drug batch is declared substandard, its details will be uploaded into the portal and the batch will immediately be locked, preventing any further sale or distribution within the state.
- Karnataka also launched a second digital portal to monitor medicines covered under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act**.

About Karnataka:

- **Capital:** Bangalore
- **Chief Minister:** Siddaramaiah
- **Governor:** Thaawarchand Gehlot

Tripura Becomes First State to Complete All Priority Areas Under Deregulation Reform Programme

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- **Tripura** became the **First State in India** to complete all Priority Areas under **Deregulation Phase-II** of the national **Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Initiative** led by the Cabinet Secretariat.
- With this achievement, Tripura also became the **First State in India** to complete all **51 Priority Areas** under both Phase-I and Phase-II of the reform programme.
- The state completed **23 Priority Areas under Phase-I** and **28 Priority Areas under Phase-II**.

About Tripura:

- **Capital:** Agartala
- **Chief Minister:** Manik Saha
- **Governor:** Indra Sena Reddy Nallu

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches ₹175 Crore Coffees of Nagaland Mission

- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** launched the **₹175 Crore Coffees of Nagaland Mission** to develop **Nagaland** as a premium specialty coffee destination in India and global markets.
- The mission has been launched under the **Cluster-Based Coffee Value Chain Development Mission** and aims to create a complete coffee ecosystem instead of focusing only on coffee cultivation.

India Releases First Satellite-Tagged Ganges Softshell Turtle in Assam

- India achieved a major milestone in wildlife conservation by releasing the country's **first-ever satellite-tagged Ganges softshell turtle** into the **Brahmaputra River** at **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam**.
- The historic release coincided with **Endangered Species Day**, observed.
- The development was announced by **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma**.
- The satellite telemetry exercise was conducted under a programme of the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.

Uttarakhand Plans ₹450 Crore Ropeway Between Rishikesh and Neelkanth Mahadev Temple

- The Government of **Uttarakhand** has planned a **₹450 crore ropeway project** connecting **Rishikesh** to the famous **Neelkanth Mahadev Temple**.
- The proposed ropeway will cover a distance of around **6.5 kilometres** and is expected to reduce travel time from nearly **three hours to just 15 minutes**.
- The ropeway alignment will begin from the **Tapovan area in Rishikesh** and connect directly to the **Neelkanth Mahadev Temple**, which is an important pilgrimage site dedicated to **Lord Shiva**.

About Uttarakhand:

- **Chief Minister:** Pushkar Singh Dhama

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- **Governor:** Gurmit Singh
- **Capital:** Dehradun
- **National Parks:** Jim Corbett National Park, Nanda Devi National Park, Rajaji National Park, Gangotri National Park, Valley of Flowers National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary, Askot Wildlife Sanctuary, Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, Govind Wildlife Sanctuary, Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary, Nandi Devi Wildlife Sanctuary

Maharashtra Leads in Central Government Infrastructure Projects Across India

- India is witnessing rapid infrastructure expansion through major **Central Government projects** across sectors such as **highways, railways, airports, industrial corridors, ports, energy, and urban development.**
- According to recent data, **Maharashtra ranks first in the country** in terms of the number of Central Government projects.
- The state currently has **215 projects** with an estimated investment of around **₹5.5 trillion.**

About Maharashtra:

- Chief Minister: Devendra Fadnavis
- Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma
- Capital: Mumbai
- National Parks: Tadoba National Park, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Melghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary

Delhi Airport to Launch Automated Air Train Project by 2029

- **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI Airport), New Delhi** is set to launch its first automated air train system by **2029** to improve passenger movement across the airport.
- The project will be developed by **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)** with an estimated investment of around **₹3,000 crore to ₹4,000 crore.**

About Delhi:

- Chief Minister: Rekha Gupta
- Lieutenant Governor: Taranjit Singh Sandhu
- Capital: New Delhi

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- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Aravalli Biodiversity Park

West Bengal Approves 7th Pay Commission for State Employees and Pensioners

- The Government of **West Bengal** has approved the implementation of the **7th Pay Commission** for state government employees and pensioners. The decision was taken during a **Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari**.
- The revised pay structure is expected to benefit lakhs of employees working in state government departments, boards, corporations, aided institutions, and educational bodies.
- Pensioners are also likely to receive revised pension benefits under the new pay structure.

About West Bengal:

- Chief Minister: Suwendu Adhikari
- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Capital: Kolkata
- National Parks: Sundarbans National Park, Jaldapara National Park, Buxa National Park, Gorumara National Park, Neora Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary, Bibhutibhushan Wildlife Sanctuary, Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary, Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Haliday Island Wildlife Sanctuary

India Notifies E30 Petrol Standards, Signalling Next Phase of Ethanol Blending Policy

- **India has officially notified new fuel standards for higher ethanol-blended petrol**, including **E22, E25, E27, and E30**, marking a major step in the country's clean energy and biofuel transition.
- The new standards have been notified by the **Bureau of Indian Standards** for petrol blended with up to **30% ethanol** for use in petrol engine vehicles.
- **E30 fuel** means petrol containing **30% ethanol and 70% conventional gasoline**. Similarly, **E20** contains 20% ethanol blended with petrol.

Indian Railways Approves ₹238 Crore Upgrade for Jammu–Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Rail Section

- **Indian Railways** has approved a **₹238 crore** infrastructure and safety upgrade project for the **Jammu–Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra rail section** under the **Northern Railway Zone**.
- The project aims to improve **passenger safety, operational reliability, and long-term infrastructure resilience** on this strategically important railway route in **Jammu and Kashmir**.

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- The approved works include **slope stabilisation, tunnel rehabilitation, seepage treatment, and bridge protection measures** in vulnerable sections of the route.

India Assumes Chairmanship of Regional Cooperative Agreement for 2026

- **India officially assumed the chairmanship** of the **Regional Cooperative Agreement** for the year **2026** under the **International Atomic Energy Agency**.
- The announcement was made during the **48th Meeting of National Representatives** being held in **Navi Mumbai**.
- The meeting is being organized by the Department of Atomic Energy and brings together delegates from Asia-Pacific and African countries.

About IAEA

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field. As the global "Atoms for Peace and Development" organization, it works to promote the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
- Member States: 181 countries.
- Headquarters: Vienna, Austria
- Director General: Rafael Mariano Grossi.
- Establishment: Founded on July 29, 1957.

India Hosts 68th Asian Productivity Organization Governing Body Meeting in New Delhi

- **India is hosting the 68th Governing Body Meeting of the Asian Productivity Organization** in New Delhi.
- The high-level meeting is being held at Bharat Mandapam and brings together more than **60 senior delegates** from **20 member economies** of the Asia-Pacific region.
- India is hosting the meeting as the **current Chair of the Asian Productivity Organization**.

India Celebrates World Metrology Day 2026 with Major Legal Metrology and Digital Compliance Reforms

- India observed **World Metrology Day 2026** with a major focus on strengthening **legal metrology, digital compliance systems, precision standards and consumer protection mechanisms**.
- World Metrology Day is observed every year on **20 May** to commemorate the signing of the **Metre Convention** in Paris in 1875, which established the foundation for a globally uniform measurement system.

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- The official theme of **World Metrology Day 2026** was “**Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making**”, highlighting the importance of accurate measurements in governance, trade, healthcare, industrial regulation and scientific decision-making.

India Launches Arunachal Kiwi Mission with ₹167 Crore Outlay

- **The Government of India** launched the **Arunachal Kiwi Mission** with a financial outlay of **₹167 crore** to **transform Arunachal Pradesh** into a premium organic kiwi production and **export hub with strong domestic and international market presence**.
- The mission titled “**Arunachal Kiwi: The Unique Selling Proposition of Arunachal Pradesh**” was launched by Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and is being implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region as part of the broader **Viksit North East** development vision.
- A dedicated premium brand named “**Arunachal Organic Kiwi**” will be promoted through media campaigns, international trade fairs, export market integration and **Quick Response code-enabled traceable packaging to position Arunachal Pradesh kiwi** alongside leading imported premium kiwi brands in global markets.

Kerala Becomes First State to Create Cabinet-Level Artificial Intelligence Portfolio

- **Kerala became the first Indian state** to create a dedicated **Artificial Intelligence portfolio** at the cabinet level under the **new United Democratic Front government**.
- The newly created **Artificial Intelligence portfolio** has been **assigned to P. K. Kunhalikutty** as **part of the cabinet restructuring**.
- The Artificial Intelligence portfolio has been placed under the **Industries and Commerce Department** along with Information Technology, startups, mining and geology, and handlooms and textiles.

Government to Launch JEEVAN (Joint Elderly Empowerment and Virtual Assistance Network) App and SHATAYU (Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility) Dashboard for Senior Citizens

- **Union Minister Virendra Kumar** will launch the **JEEVAN (Joint Elderly Empowerment and Virtual Assistance Network) mobile application** and the **SHATAYU (Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility) dashboard**.
- The initiative is aimed at improving elderly care services through technology, policy support and community participation.
- The launch is being organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during a virtual programme themed “**Creating a Well-Functioning Care Economy.**”

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Delhi Plans to Raise Ration Card Income Eligibility Limit to ₹2.5 Lakh

- The **Delhi government** has announced plans to increase the annual income eligibility limit for ration cards from **₹1.2 lakh to ₹2.5 lakh**.
- The move is expected to expand access to subsidized food benefits for many lower middle-income households in Delhi.
- Currently, residents with annual income above **₹1.2 lakh** are not eligible for ration cards under the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- The proposed increase reflects changing economic conditions, including rising inflation and higher urban living costs.

India Approves Major Chenab River Projects Worth ₹2,600 Crore

- **India has approved major infrastructure and hydropower projects linked to the Chenab River**, with a total investment of nearly **₹2,600 crore**.
- The projects are expected to be implemented by **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)**.
- The decision comes shortly after India placed engagement under the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** framework in abeyance following heightened tensions with Pakistan after the **Pahalgam terror attack**.

Delhi Forest Department Plans 'Vaman Van' Biodiversity Project

- **The Delhi Forest Department** is planning to develop **'Vaman Van'**, a unique interactive biodiversity space aimed at promoting **environmental awareness, ecological education and nature conservation**.
- The project will focus on showcasing **dwarf and miniature plant species** to create an engaging and compact biodiversity zone for children, students and visitors.
- **Vaman Van** is designed as an interactive ecological learning space where visitors can directly observe plant diversity and understand forest ecosystems through practical experience.

About Delhi:

- Chief Minister: Rekha Gupta
- Lieutenant Governor: Taranjit Singh Sandhu
- Capital: New Delhi
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Aravalli Biodiversity Park

Project Cheetah Records Major Success as India's Cheetah Population Reaches 53

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- **India's flagship wildlife restoration programme Project Cheetah** has achieved a major milestone as the country's cheetah population increased to **53**, including **33 cubs born in India**.
- The progress reflects successful adaptation, breeding and survival of cheetahs reintroduced under one of the world's most ambitious wildlife conservation programmes.
- **Project Cheetah was launched to reintroduce cheetahs** into India after the species was officially declared extinct in the country in **1952** due to hunting and habitat loss.

Government Plans High-Powered Demography Mission to Tackle Illegal Immigration

- The **Central Government** is preparing to launch a **High-Powered Demography Mission** aimed at tackling illegal immigration, strengthening border security and **preventing demographic changes in sensitive border regions**.
- The initiative was **announced by Amit Shah** during the **Rustamji Memorial Lecture** organized by the **Border Security Force**.
- The mission will mainly focus on preventing infiltration from neighbouring countries such as **Bangladesh and Myanmar**.

Dr Jitendra Singh Launches Phase-II of UMMID Programme for Rare Genetic Disorders

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched **Phase-II of the Unique Methods of Management and Treatment of Inherited Disorders (UMMID) Programme**.
- The programme was launched under the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** of the **Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T)** at Prithvi Bhawan.
- The programme focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, and management of **Rare Genetic Disorders (RGDs)**.
- Phase-II includes the establishment of **National Inherited Diseases Administration (NIDAN) Kendras** for advanced genetic diagnostics and counselling services.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah Chairs 26th Central Zonal Council Meeting in Bastar

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Amit Shah** chaired the **26th meeting of the Central Zonal Council** in **Bastar, Chhattisgarh**.
- The meeting was attended by **Vishnu Deo Sai, Mohan Yadav, Yogi Adityanath, and Pushkar Singh Dhami**.
- The meeting was organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home Affairs, with the Government of Chhattisgarh as the host.

India and United States Hold High-Level Talks Ahead of Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting

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- **Marco Rubio**, Secretary of **State of the United States**, held talks with **S. Jaishankar** during his official visit to India ahead of the **Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting**.
- The discussions reflected the expanding scope of the **India–United States Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership**.
- Major areas of discussion included **artificial intelligence, defence cooperation, trade, energy security, critical minerals, nuclear energy, counter-terrorism, migration concerns, and Indo-Pacific security**.

Government Releases Guidelines for Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna Scheme to Develop 100 Industrial Parks

- The **Government of India** released detailed guidelines for the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna BHAVYA Scheme** aimed at developing **100 world-class industrial parks** across India.
- The guidelines were issued by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**.
- The scheme has a total financial outlay of **Rs 33,660 crore**.
- The **BHAVYA Scheme** is a Central Sector Scheme focused on creating integrated industrial ecosystems to attract domestic and global manufacturers.
- The scheme aligns with major national initiatives such as **Make in India** and **Prime Minister Gati Shakti**.
- Under the scheme, **100 industrial parks** will be developed between **Financial Year 2026–27 and Financial Year 2031–32**.

Kerala Gets First Private Medical Museum in Thiruvananthapuram

- **Kerala** has established its first private medical museum, named the **Museum of Medical Archives**, at Ulloor in **Thiruvananthapuram**.
- The museum focuses on **human anatomy, medical history, and biological education** through interactive scientific exhibits and handcrafted anatomical models.
- The museum was founded by **A. Sivaraman**, a former artist-modeler at the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram.

India Semiconductor Mission Launches Investors Support Portal to Boost Semiconductor Manufacturing

- The **India Semiconductor Mission** has launched the **Investors Support Portal** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** to strengthen India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem and improve investor facilitation under the **Semicon India Programme**.

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- The portal has been developed as a **single-window facilitation platform** for semiconductor investors and ecosystem participants.
- It aims to simplify investor engagement by providing centralized access to government schemes, policy guidelines, regulatory requirements, approved semiconductor projects, and investor support services.
- A major objective of the portal is to strengthen investor confidence in India's growing semiconductor sector by ensuring faster communication, structured coordination, and easier access to information related to semiconductor manufacturing and design projects.

Khajuraho to Host Yoga Mahotsav 2026 Ahead of International Day of Yoga

- The **UNESCO World Heritage temples at Khajuraho** Group of Monuments will host **Yoga Mahotsav 2026**, marking the important **25-day countdown** to the **International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026**.
- The event is being organised by the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga** under the Ministry of Ayush and aims to combine India's ancient cultural heritage with its global wellness diplomacy initiatives.
- Yoga Mahotsav is an annual outreach programme conducted before the International Day of Yoga celebrations observed every year on **21 June**.
- The initiative is designed to increase public awareness about yoga, encourage mass participation, promote holistic health, and expand yoga outreach across both India and the international community.

Oil India Discovers New Gas-Bearing Zone in Rajasthan's Dandewala Field

- **India has discovered** a new **natural gas-bearing zone** in the **Dandewala field** located in **Rajasthan**.
- The discovery was made by **Oil India Limited**, which is one of India's leading public sector oil and gas exploration companies.
- This discovery is considered an important step towards strengthening India's domestic energy production.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Showcases India's Tribal Heritage Through Diplomatic Gifts

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** showcased **India's tribal heritage** and indigenous **craftsmanship through diplomatic gifts** presented to global leaders during his recent foreign visits.
- The initiative reflects India's broader cultural diplomacy strategy focused on promoting traditional knowledge, regional identity, and indigenous craftsmanship at the global level.

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- One of the notable gifts was a traditional **Gond painting** from Madhya Pradesh presented to **Victoria, Crown Princess of Sweden**.

Adani Green Energy Commissions 3.37 Gigawatt-hour Battery Energy Storage System at Khavda

- **Adani Green Energy Limited** commissioned a **3.37 Gigawatt-hour Battery Energy Storage System** at Khavda, Gujarat.
- The project is described as the **world's largest single-location battery storage deployment outside China**.
- **The Battery Energy Storage System** aims to strengthen India's renewable energy infrastructure by improving grid reliability and supporting stable power supply.

Department of Consumer Affairs Expands Role of Government Approved Test Centres

- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** has expanded the role of **Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs)** through amendments to the **Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013**.
- Under the amended rules, GATCs will now be authorised to verify dispensing systems for:
 - **Petrol**
 - **Diesel**
 - **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)**
 - **Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)**
 - **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**
 - **Hydrogen**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Chairs 51st PRAGATI Meeting to Review Major Infrastructure and Development Projects

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** chaired the **51st meeting of Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)** to review major infrastructure, renewable energy, sanitation, and water resource projects across the country.
- The meeting focused on ensuring faster implementation, improved inter-state coordination, and timely completion of public projects.
- During the meeting, the Prime Minister reviewed seven key infrastructure projects related to the **railway, power, and road sectors** across nine states involving an estimated investment of nearly **₹30,000 crore**.
- **Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)** is an **Information and Communication Technology-enabled multi-modal governance platform** launched by the

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Government of India to monitor major infrastructure projects, resolve administrative bottlenecks, and strengthen coordination between the Centre and States.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches Mission Queen Pineapple in Tripura

- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** launched the ₹236 crore **Mission Queen Pineapple** in Tripura to transform the state's **Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Queen Pineapple** into a premium global brand.
- The mission will be implemented from **Quarter 2 of Financial Year 2026 to Quarter 4 of Financial Year 2028** and aims to develop a complete ecosystem around Tripura's unique Queen Pineapple variety.
- The mission is anchored by the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)**.

Union Health Ministry Releases National Health Accounts Estimates 2022-23

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** released the **National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates 2022-23**, highlighting major improvements in India's healthcare financing system over the past decade.
- The report shows a steady rise in **Government Health Expenditure (GHE)**, reduction in **Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE)**, and increased public investment in healthcare infrastructure, insurance coverage, and financial protection schemes.
- The report is prepared by the **National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat (NHATS)** under the **National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC)** of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The 2022-23 edition is the **10th National Health Accounts report** released by India and follows the **System of Health Accounts (SHA) 2011 framework**.

Assam Legislative Assembly Passes Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026

- The **Assam Legislative Assembly** passed the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026**, making Assam the **first state in Northeast India** and the **third state in the country** after **Uttarakhand and Gujarat** to adopt Uniform Civil Code legislation.
- The Bill aims to establish a **common civil legal framework** for all residents of the state in matters related to **marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships**.
- The legislation was introduced by Atul Bora on behalf of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during the first session of the 16th Assam Legislative Assembly.

SkyCast Aviation Weather Monitoring System Launched at Indira Gandhi International Airport under Mission Mausam

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **SkyCast Aviation Weather Monitoring System** at **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi**.

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- The system has been developed under the Government of India's flagship **Mission Mausam** programme.
- **SkyCast** is an advanced aviation weather intelligence platform that provides **real-time atmospheric information** to enhance aviation safety and operational efficiency.

Cabinet Approves Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in Public Distribution System (SARTHAK-PDS) with ₹25,530 Crore Outlay

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in Public Distribution System (SARTHAK-PDS)** for a period of **5 years**.
- The scheme has an outlay of **₹25,530 crore** and aims to strengthen **food security** across the country.
- The scheme covers the entire **Public Distribution System (PDS)** value chain, including **foodgrain distribution, logistics, transportation, material handling, and grievance redressal mechanisms**.

Chhattisgarh to Launch 'Adarsh Shahar Samridhi Yojana' for Urban Infrastructure Development

- The **Chhattisgarh Government** will launch the '**Adarsh Shahar Samridhi Yojana**' to equip emerging towns and urban centres with **modern civic infrastructure and public facilities**.
- The state government has allocated **₹200 crore** for the scheme in the **2026–27 Budget**.
- The scheme has been conceptualised on the lines of the '**Mukhyamantri Nagarotthan Yojana**', which was introduced for **municipal corporations**.
- In the first phase, the **Urban Administration and Development Department** has selected **32 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** across the state's **five revenue divisions**:
 - **Bilaspur – 9**
 - **Bastar – 6**
 - **Surguja – 6**
 - **Raipur – 6**
 - **Durg – 5**

About Chhattisgarh

- **Capital:** Raipur
- **Chief Minister:** Vishnu Deo Sai
- **Governor:** Ramen Deka

Government Approves Two New Special Economic Zones in Puducherry

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- The **Government of India** has notified **two new Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** in the **Union Territory of Puducherry**.
- The approvals were granted during the **137th Meeting of the Board of Approval (BoA)** under the **Department of Commerce**, held on **27 February 2026**.
- The projects are expected to attract investments of nearly **₹1,975 crore** and generate around **8,500 employment opportunities**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Expands Global Geopark Network with Addition of 12 New Sites, Raising Total to 241

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has designated **12 new Global Geoparks**, increasing the total to **241 sites** across **51 countries**, covering more than **882,000 square kilometres (sq km)**.
- The **newly added UNESCO Global Geoparks** are located in **China, France, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Portugal, Russia, Tunisia (first-ever), and Uruguay**.
- The **UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme** was officially established in **2015** as a UNESCO label using a **“bottom-up approach”** involving local stakeholders.
- The **main objective** of Global Geoparks is to **protect geological heritage** while promoting **environmental education, sustainable development, and local community empowerment**.

About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization:

- Formation: 16 November 1945
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Director-General: Khaled El-Enany
- Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council

United Arab Emirates Announces Exit from Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and OPEC+ Alliance Effective May 2026

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has announced its decision to **exit the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and the wider **OPEC+ alliance**, effective from **May 1, 2026**.
- The **UAE joined OPEC in 1967** and is currently the **third-largest oil producer** in the group after Saudi Arabia and Iraq, contributing around **12% of total output**.

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- A key reason for withdrawal is **production constraint** under **OPEC+ quotas**, which has limited the UAE's ability to fully utilise its **expanded capacity**.
- The UAE's state-owned oil company, **Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)**, has increased **production capacity** to around **5 million barrels per day**, but **quota restrictions** have restricted output.

About UAE :

- President : Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Prime Minister : Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- Capital : Abu Dhabi
- Currency : Emirati dirham (AED)

United States of America Launches 'Project Freedom' Naval Operation to Secure Shipping in Strait of Hormuz

- The **United States of America (USA)**, under **President Donald Trump**, launched "**Project Freedom**", a **naval escort operation** to secure **commercial vessels** in the **Strait of Hormuz** amid rising **Iran–USA tensions**.
- The operation aims to ensure the **safe passage** of **global shipping routes** and protect against **maritime disruptions**, **regional conflict risks**, and **oil supply instability**.
- **Project Freedom** involves deployment by the **United States Navy** under **S. Central Command (CENTCOM)** to **escort and secure** commercial vessels.
- The **Strait of Hormuz** is a **strategic maritime chokepoint** connecting the **Persian Gulf** with the **Gulf of Oman** and the **Arabian Sea**.

About United States of America :

- President : Donald Trump
- Capital : Washington, D.C.
- Currency : U.S. dollar (\$)

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's First-Ever Bilateral Visit to Jamaica Strengthens India–Caribbean Relations

- Union Minister **S. Jaishankar**, Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) undertook a **2-day official visit** to **Jamaica (May 2–4, 2026)**, marking the **first-ever bilateral visit** by an **Indian External Affairs Minister** to Jamaica.
- The visit aimed to strengthen **India–Jamaica relations**, expand **Caribbean cooperation**, and reinforce India's commitment to **South–South cooperation** and **diaspora engagement**.

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- During the visit, **EAM Dr. Jaishankar** held **delegation-level talks** with **Andrew Holness** and **Kamina Johnson Smith**.
- The discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in key sectors such as **healthcare, agriculture, digitalisation, tourism, sports, infrastructure, education, capacity building, and multilateral affairs**.

About Jamaica :

- Prime Minister : Andrew Holness
- Capital : Kingston
- Currency : Jamaican dollar

Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Begins Fuel Loading, Moves Closer to Power Generation

- **Bangladesh** has begun **uranium fuel loading** at **Unit-1** of the **Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant**, marking the final stage before **electricity generation**
- With this milestone, **Bangladesh** is set to become the **33rd country** in the world to generate **nuclear power**.
- The reactor will undergo **controlled nuclear fission** and **multiple safety tests**, ensuring **operational readiness** before power production.
- **Trial electricity generation** of around **300 MW** is expected to begin by **August 2026**, with phased scaling of output thereafter.

About Bangladesh:

- Capital: Dhaka.
- Currency: Bangladeshi Taka (BDT).
- President: Mohammad Shahabuddin

India hands over Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics banner to South African Astronomical Observatory to boost astronomy and scientific collaboration

- India's High Commissioner to South Africa, **Prabhat Kumar**, formally handed over the banner of the **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)** to the **South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)** during a ceremony at the **Royal Observatory, Cape Town**.
- The event highlights the strengthening of long-standing **scientific and astronomical cooperation** between **India and South Africa**.

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- The **IUCAA banner** will be displayed at the **Southern African Large Telescope (SALT)**, one of the largest **optical telescopes** in the Southern Hemisphere, symbolising **enhanced research collaboration** in **astronomy and astrophysics**.
- The initiative promotes **joint research, academic exchanges, and collaborative projects** in **astronomy and space sciences** between the two countries.

About IUCAA :

- The **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)**, located in **Pune, Maharashtra**, focuses on **research and education** in **astronomy and astrophysics**.

United Nations Global Forest Goals Report 2026 Highlights Fuelwood Demand as Key Driver of Global Forest Loss

- The **United Nations (UN)** released its latest assessment on global forests titled the “**Global Forest Goals (GFG) Report 2026**” during the **21st session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** at the **UN Headquarters in New York, United States of America**.
- The report highlighted that the **rising demand for fuelwood (woodfuel and charcoal)** is the **key driver of global forest loss**, especially in **sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia**, despite ongoing afforestation and forest restoration programmes.
- Along with fuelwood demand, the report identified **agricultural expansion** as the **major cause of global deforestation**.
- The report was jointly prepared by the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)** and the **UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat**.

About United Nations :

- **Established : 1945**
- **Headquarters : New York City, the United States of America (USA)**
- **Secretary General : António Guterres**

India Becomes Bangladesh’s Second-Largest Trading Partner

- **India has overtaken the United States to become Bangladesh’s second-largest trading partner**, reflecting **changing trade dynamics in South Asia**.
- According to the latest trade data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, India accounted for **8.47 percent** of Bangladesh’s total external trade by February 2026.
- The United States accounted for **8.46 percent** of Bangladesh’s total trade, placing it slightly behind India in the overall trade rankings.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Pays Two-Day Official Visit to Sweden at the Invitation of PM Ulf Kristersson

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **Sweden** on a two-day official visit from **17–18 May 2026** at the invitation of Swedish Prime Minister **Ulf Kristersson**.
- PM Modi had earlier visited Sweden in **2018** to attend the inaugural **India-Nordic Summit**.
- During the visit, PM Modi held bilateral talks with Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson in **Gothenburg**.
- PM Modi also participated in the **European Round Table for Industry**, co-hosted by Ulf Kristersson and **Ursula von der Leyen**.
- PM Modi was conferred with the “**Royal Order of Polar Star**”, **Degree Commander Grand Cross**, one of the highest civilian honours of the Swedish Government.

About Sweden :

- Prime Minister : Ulf Kristersson
- Capital : Stockholm
- Currency : Swedish krona

India, China and Japan Join World Trade Organization Members in Criticising UK Steel Safeguard Measures

- **India, China, and Japan** have joined other **World Trade Organization (WTO)** members, including South Korea, Switzerland, Russia, and Brazil, in criticising the **United Kingdom’s steel safeguard measures**.
- The UK steel safeguard measures include **tariff-rate quotas** and a **25% tariff** on imports exceeding quota limits.

World Health Organization Holds 79th World Health Assembly 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** organised the **79th World Health Assembly (WHA79)** in **Geneva, Switzerland** from **18–23 May 2026**.
- The theme of WHA79 was “**Reshaping Global Health: A Shared Responsibility**”.
- During the six-day session, member countries adopted **more than 20 decisions and 13 resolutions** on major global health challenges.

About WHO :

- Formation : 7 April 1948
- Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- Director General : Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) which coordinates responses to international public health issues and emergencies.

BANKING AND BUSINESS**Reserve Bank of India Introduces Mission SAKSHAM to Strengthen Capacity in Urban Co-operative Banking Sector**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched **Mission SAKSHAM (Sahkari Bank Kshamta Nirman)**, a nationwide **capacity-building programme** for strengthening the **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**
- The mission aims to enhance **managerial and operational capabilities**, improve **compliance culture**, and strengthen **institutional resilience** across **UCBs**.
- **Mission SAKSHAM** seeks to create a **continuous learning ecosystem**, contributing to **systemic stability** and **sustainable growth** of the cooperative banking sector.
- The programme follows a **collaborative approach**, developed in consultation with the **Umbrella Organisation of UCBs** and various **national and state cooperative federations**.

Government Enhances Public Sector Banks with Strategic Expansion of Workforce Capacity

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India is implementing sustained and targeted measures to strengthen **human resource capacity** in **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** through calibrated **workforce expansion**, improved **operational efficiency**, and **governance-oriented reforms**.
- A **well-calibrated recruitment scale** is a key pillar of human resource management, ensuring **optimal staffing** and sustained **operational efficiency** in the banking sector.
- These initiatives are aligned with the Government's broader objective of building a **resilient, customer-centric, and future-ready banking system**.
- **Recruitment in PSBs** is carried out through the **Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)** based on the specific manpower requirements of participating banks.

About Ministry of Finance:

- Cabinet Minister: Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State (MoS): Shri Pankaj Chaudhary

Reserve Bank of India Announces Expected Credit Loss-Based Norms from April 2027 and Phased foreign exchange Derivatives Reporting from July 2027

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a **Master Direction** on asset classification, income recognition, and provisioning, introducing a shift to the **Expected Credit Loss (ECL)** framework, effective from **April 1, 2027**.
- The new **ECL-based approach** will replace the existing norms based on the **incurred loss model**, marking a major reform in **banking risk management** and **provisioning standards**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- Under the transition, banks will move from recognising losses only after default occurs to a **forward-looking ECL model**, improving **early risk identification** and **financial stability**.
- The **Expected Credit Loss (ECL)** framework requires banks to **estimate probable future losses** using **forward-looking risk parameters**, rather than waiting for actual defaults.

Flipkart Internet Private Limited, Axis Bank Limited and PayU Payments Private Limited Introduce OTP-Free Card Payments with Biometric Authentication

- **Flipkart Internet Private Limited**, in partnership with **Axis Bank Limited** and **PayU Payments Private Limited**, has launched **biometric authentication** for card payments, replacing traditional **One-Time Passwords (OTPs)-based verification**.
- The system enables users to approve transactions using **fingerprint or Face ID**, marking a major shift towards **faster, seamless, and secure** digital payment systems.
- The ecosystem involves **Flipkart** (checkout platform), **PayU** (merchant infrastructure), **Axis Bank** (card issuer), and **Wibmo** (issuer-side authentication) for **end-to-end biometric payment processing**.
- The technology works on both **Android and iOS** devices, using **device-bound authentication, one-touch approval, and advanced fraud detection mechanisms**.

Frequently Asked Questions on Cheque Clearing

- **Cheque Truncation System (CTS)** is a mechanism where the **physical cheque is stopped (truncated)** during clearing after its **electronic image** is captured and transmitted, eliminating the need for **physical movement** of cheques between banks.
- Under **CTS**, the **presenting bank** captures cheque data and images, which are sent electronically to the **clearing house** and **drawee (paying) bank**, enabling faster, **cost-effective** and **automated clearing**.
- **Continuous Clearing** is an advanced system where **presentation and return (confirmation) sessions** run simultaneously in a **continuous flow**, improving speed, efficiency, and **real-time processing** of cheques compared to traditional batch clearing.

India Post Payments Bank Introduces Self Help Group Savings Account to Boost Financial Inclusion

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**, a **100% Government of India-owned** entity under the **Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications**, has launched the **Self Help Group (SHG) Savings Account** to promote **financial inclusion** and **women empowerment** in rural India.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** play a crucial role in **rural economic transformation** and are linked with schemes like the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)** under the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** and initiatives supported by **NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)**.
- **IPPB** leverages the **extensive Postal Network** of the **Department of Posts (DoP)** along with **digital banking capabilities** to provide **doorstep banking services**.

About IPPB :

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** was launched on **1 September 2018** with the vision of creating the **most accessible, affordable, and trusted bank** for the common people.
- Headquarters : New Delhi, India
- **IPPB** operates on the pillars of **India Stack**, enabling **paperless, cashless, and presence-less banking** through **CBS-integrated smartphones** and **biometric devices**.

About Ministry of Communications :

- Cabinet Minister : Jyotiraditya Scindia

National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited Enhances Stressed Asset Resolution System and Boosts Recoveries in FY 2025–26

- The **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)** has emerged as a key institution in India's **stressed asset resolution framework**, supporting the **banking sector balance sheet strengthening**.
- **NARCL** plays a crucial role in **aggregating large stressed exposures** and enabling their resolution through **transparent and market-based mechanisms**.
- This has helped improve **recovery outcomes** and **unlock value** for lenders and financial institutions.
- As of **March 2026**, **NARCL** has acquired **33 borrower entities** with an aggregate **debt exposure of ₹1,65,862 crore**.
- It has also participated in **resolution processes** under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, strengthening the overall **resolution ecosystem** in India.

About NARCL :

- The **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)** was established in **July 2021** as part of India's **financial sector reforms**.
- It is commonly referred to as a **“bad bank”**, created to **manage and resolve stressed assets** of commercial banks.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The **primary objective** of NARCL is to **acquire, manage, and dispose** of stressed assets to improve the **health of the banking system**.
- It acts as a **centralized asset reconstruction platform**, purchasing **bad loans** from banks to **clean their balance sheets**.
- **NARCL** is a **government-sponsored company**, ensuring **institutional support** for stressed asset resolution.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. Downgrades Indian Equities from “Overweight” to “Neutral” on Elevated Valuations Versus Emerging Market Peers

- **JPMorgan Chase & Co.** has **downgraded Indian equities** from “**overweight**” to “**neutral**”, citing **elevated valuations** compared to **emerging market peers**.
- The **downgrade** reflects concerns over **stretched market valuations** in India, despite ongoing **structural growth trends** in the economy.
- **JPMorgan** noted that India is making progress in areas such as **AI startups**, large investments in **data centres**, and **chip design centres** for global firms, indicating **long-term technological development potential**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases 46th Half-Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves (Oct 2025–Mar 2026)

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released the **46th Half-Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves** for the period **October 2025 to March 2026**.
- During this period, **India’s foreign exchange reserves** declined from **USD 700.09 billion** to **USD 691.11 billion**.
- The **RBI** publishes these reports **twice a year**, based on positions as of **end-March and end-September**.
- India’s **foreign exchange reserves** are held in **multiple currencies**, including the **US Dollar, Euro, Pound Sterling, and Japanese Yen**, but are reported in **US Dollar terms**.
- The **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)** form a **major component** of reserves and are maintained as a **multi-currency portfolio** comprising global currencies and valued in **USD terms**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Reporting Instructions for Authorised Dealer Category–I Banks to Enhance Forex Transparency

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has directed banks to report all **Over-the-Counter (OTC)** foreign exchange derivative contracts involving the **Indian Rupee (INR)** to the **Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)**.
- The directive aims to **enhance transparency** in the **foreign exchange market**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- It applies to **global transactions** undertaken by **related parties**, including **offshore entities** of **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I** banks.
- Both **deliverable and non-deliverable INR derivative contracts** must be reported.
- From **01 July 2027**, banks must report all **foreign exchange derivative contracts** involving **INR** undertaken by their **parent entities**, including **branches of the parent**.

Reserve Bank of India Exempts Small Non-Banking Financial Companies from Registration Norms Under New Framework Effective July 1, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued final guidelines titled **RBI (NBFC – Registration, Exemptions and Framework for Scale Based Regulation) Amendment Directions, 2026** for certain **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**.
- The new regulations will come into effect from **01 July 2026**.
- The framework applies to **NBFCs** not availing **public funds** and not having **customer interface**, with an **asset size below ₹1,000 crore**.
- Such entities will be classified as **‘Unregistered Type I NBFCs’**, while all other NBFCs will be categorised as **‘Type II NBFCs’**.
- These eligible NBFCs will be **exempted from RBI registration and reserve fund requirements**.

Reserve Bank of India Clarifies Credit Card Accounts to Be Reported as ‘Past Due’ Only After 3-Day Delay

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a **3-day grace period** for **credit card payments** under its updated regulatory framework.
- A **credit card account** will be marked as **“past due”** only after **3 days from the due date**, instead of being classified immediately.
- **Banks** can impose **late payment charges** and report to **credit bureaus** only after the **3-day grace period**.
- The **new rule** will come into effect from **01 April 2027**.
- Under the **revised norms**, **late fees and penalties** will be levied only on the **outstanding amount**, not on the total billed amount.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Launches PaRRVA Framework to Enhance Transparency and Investor Protection

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has operationalised the **Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)** framework to improve **transparency in performance claims** made by market intermediaries.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The **PaRRVA framework** aims to strengthen **investor protection** and **market transparency** in India's financial ecosystem.
- Under the framework, **CARE Ratings Limited** has been recognised as the **PaRRVA agency** responsible for **validation of performance data**.
- The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** will function as the **PaRRVA Data Centre (PDC)** as per SEBI's regulatory framework issued on **04 April 2025**.
- **PaRRVA** is India's **first system** to **independently validate** risk and return performance claims of **regulated intermediaries** and **unregistered influencers**.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Gol.

Finance Ministry Notifies 100% foreign direct investment in Insurance Sector and Amends Foreign Exchange Management Act Rules to Liberalise Investment Framework

- The **Central Government** has notified **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the **insurance sector** under the **automatic route**.
- The reform aims to **liberalise and modernise** India's insurance sector framework to attract **global investment**.
- Key laws being amended include the **Insurance Act, 1938**, the **LIC Act, 1956**, and the **IRDAI Act, 1999**.
- The implementation of **100% FDI** will be subject to approval and regulation by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.
- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** will remain under a separate framework with a **foreign investment cap of 20%** under the automatic route.

DFS Organises Colloquium of Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals Chairpersons and Debts Recovery Tribunals Presiding Officers to Enhance Debt Recovery System Efficiency

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** organised a colloquium of **Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs)** and **Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs)** at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi** to improve tribunal functioning.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- **Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs)** are specialised judicial bodies established under the **Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (DRT Act)**.
- DRTs handle cases involving **disputed bank loans above ₹20 lakh**.
- The **SARFAESI Act, 2002 (Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act)** enables banks and financial institutions to **recover secured debts** without court intervention at the first stage.

About Ministry of Finance:

- Cabinet Minister: Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State (MoS): Shri Pankaj Chaudhary

Bank Loans Against Jewellery Rise Nearly Fivefold to ₹4.6 Lakh Crore by March 2026-Reserve Bank of India Data

- According to **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** data, **bank loans against jewellery** surged nearly **5 times** to **₹4.6 lakh crore** in **March 2026**, up from ₹93,301 crore two years earlier.
- On a **year-on-year basis**, **gold/jewellery loans** grew **123%**, marking the **fastest growth** among all lending sectors.
- **Priority sector housing loans** rose sharply by **39.8%** to **₹10.44 lakh crore**, while **overall housing credit** increased by **11.5%** to **₹33.56 lakh crore**.
- **Personal loans** registered a growth of **16.2% year-on-year**, reflecting sustained **consumer demand**.

Finance Ministry Notifies Foreign Direct Investment Relaxation for Foreign Firms with Up to 10% Chinese Stake under FEMA Rules

- The **Government of India** has tweaked rules under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)** to allow certain **overseas investments** under the **automatic route**.
- The new provision permits **overseas entities** with up to **10% Chinese shareholding** to invest in India **without prior government approval**.
- This decision follows the **Cabinet approval** in **March 2026**, which revised the **regulatory framework** for foreign investments.
- The amendment is implemented through the **Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Amendment) Rules, 2026**, which have come into **immediate effect**.

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited and Juspay Introduce Unified Switch and Software Development Kit to Enhance Banking Connect Net Banking Platform

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- **NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL)**, a subsidiary of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, has partnered with **Juspay Technologies Private Limited** with an aim to launch a **unified switch** and **Software Development Kit (SDK)** for the **Banking Connect platform**.
- The initiative is designed to enhance the **net banking experience** across India.
- **Banking Connect** is an **interoperable platform** that **standardises net banking workflows** across banks and payment aggregators.

Tata AIA Life Insurance Introduces ‘Shubh Health Criti’ Unit-Linked Health Fund Plan

- **Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited** has launched a new **Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP)** named ‘**Shubh Health Criti**’ in India.
- The plan is designed to build a **market-linked health fund** to meet **long-term medical and critical illness expenses**.
- It provides coverage for **over 60 critical illnesses** and is available for individuals aged **18 to 65 years**.
- The product includes a **30-year premium guarantee**, integrating **investment growth** with **healthcare financial planning**.
- The plan combines **insurance protection, investment growth, and structured health preparedness**.
- It integrates **Tata AIA Health SIP (Systematic Investment Plan), Health Buddy, and Comprehensive Protection Rider**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Amendments to Securitised Debt Instruments Regulations to Align with Reserve Bank of India Securitisation Framework

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed amendments to the **Securitised Debt Instruments (SDI) Regulations** to align them with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** guidelines on **securitisation of standard assets (SSA)**.
- The move aims to remove **regulatory inconsistencies** between SEBI and RBI frameworks, especially for transactions originated by **RBI-regulated entities**.
- **SEBI** has proposed allowing **single-asset securitisation** for RBI-regulated entities by **exempting** them from the condition that no **single obligor** should account for more than **25% of the asset pool**.
- The proposal also seeks to **relax restrictions** on transactions between **originators** and related **Special Purpose Distinct Entities (SPDEs)**, provided there is **no control** exercised over the SPDE or trustee.

About SEBI :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Gol.

Scheduled Commercial Banks Report Strong Credit Growth of 15.9% in FY 2025–26 Driven by Robust Economic Activity and Credit Demand

- The **Financial Year 2025–26** ended with strong **year-on-year (y-o-y) non-food credit growth of 15.9%**, an increase of **497 basis points (bps)** from 10.9% in FY 2024–25.
- The **aggregate credit outstanding** in **March 2026** reached **₹212.9 lakh crore**, which is **₹29.2 lakh crore higher** than the previous year.
- The growth in credit was supported by a **low-interest rate environment, government-led capex cycle, structural reforms, and private sector investment crowding-in**, boosting **domestic credit demand**.
- **Agriculture and Allied Activities**: Credit growth accelerated to **15.7%**, up by **528 bps** from 10.4% last year, driven by **strong rural demand and formalisation of rural credit**.
- **Industrial Sector**: Credit expanded at **15.0%**, nearly **double** the previous year's 8.2% growth.
- **Micro and Small industries** recorded a sharp **33.1% growth** (3.7 times higher).

About Ministry of Finance:

- Cabinet Minister: Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State (MoS): Shri Pankaj Chaudhary

Asian Development Bank Unveils \$70 Billion Plan to Link Asia's Energy and Digital Infrastructure Networks

- The **Asian Development Bank** launched a **USD 70 billion initiative** to expand **energy and digital infrastructure** across **Asia-Pacific by 2035**.
- The initiative was announced during the **59th Annual Meeting** held in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.
- The programme focuses on enhancing **connectivity, cross-border power trade, broadband access, and regional resilience**.
- The initiative includes **two major components**:
 - **USD 50 billion Pan-Asia Power Grid Initiative**
 - **USD 20 billion Asia-Pacific Digital Highway**

About Asian Development Bank :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- Formation : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Philippines
- President : Masato Kanda
- Members : 69 countries

Reserve Bank of India Increases Domestic Gold Holdings by 104.23 Metric Tonnes in Six Months

- The **Reserve Bank of India** moved **104.23 metric tonnes (MT)** of its **gold reserves domestically** in the six months ended **March 2026**, reflecting a continued shift toward **domestic gold custody**.
- The **RBI's total gold holdings** increased marginally to **880.52 MT** in March 2026, from 880.18 MT in September 2025, as per the **half-yearly foreign exchange reserves report**.
- In **FY 2025–26**, the RBI brought a total of **168.06 MT of gold to India**, compared to 107.21 MT in 2023–24 and 103.68 MT in 2024–25, showing a **rising trend in domestic gold storage**.
- Around **77%** of RBI's total gold holdings (**680 MT**) is now **stored within India**, strengthening **domestic custody** of reserves.
- As of March 2026, **197.67 MT** of gold was held in **safe custody** with the **Bank of England** and **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**, while **2.80 MT** was kept as **gold deposits**.

India's Goods and Services Tax Revenue Hits Record ₹2.43 Lakh Crore in April, Grows 8.7% year-on-year

- According to government data, India's **gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue** reached a record **₹2.43 lakh crore** in **April**, marking an **8.7% year-on-year growth** over ₹2.23 lakh crore collected in April last year.
- The growth was primarily driven by **import-based GST collections**, while **domestic sales growth** remained relatively slower.
- **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** was introduced in **2017** through the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016**, as a comprehensive **indirect tax** for the entire country.
- **GST has three components:**
 - **CGST (Central GST)** collected by the **Centre**
 - **SGST/UTGST** collected by **States/Union Territories**
 - **IGST (Integrated GST)** for **inter-state supplies**, with revenue settlement to the **destination state**

Cabinet Approves Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0) to Support MSMEs and Businesses

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The **Union Cabinet** chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0)** to address **short-term liquidity challenges** arising due to the **West Asia crisis**.
- The scheme is implemented through **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)**, providing **credit guarantee coverage** to **lending institutions (MLIs)**.
- It offers **100% guarantee coverage for MSMEs** and **90% coverage for non-MSMEs** and the **airline sector** on defaulted credit amounts.
- **Eligible borrowers** include **MSMEs, non-MSMEs, and scheduled passenger airlines** having **standard loan accounts** as of **March 31, 2026**.
- The scheme provides **additional credit** up to **20% of peak working capital (Q4 FY26)** for **MSMEs/non-MSMEs**, capped at **₹100 crore**, and up to **100% (₹1,500 crore cap)** for **airlines**.

Department of Financial Services Approves Viability Plan 2.0 to Strengthen Regional Rural Banks

- The **Department of Financial Services** has approved **Viability Plan 2.0** for **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** to strengthen **financial stability, governance reforms, and operational efficiency**.
- The plan builds on the earlier **Viability Plan (FY 2021–22 to FY 2024–25)**, which focused on **performance monitoring and governance improvements** in RRBs.
- The revised **Viability Plan 2.0** will be implemented for **three years (FY 2025–26 to FY 2027–28)** to ensure **continued oversight and long-term competitiveness**.
- The framework includes **30 performance parameters** based on **four key pillars: operational excellence, asset quality, profitability, and growth**.

National Stock Exchange of India Introduces Electronic Gold Receipts to Boost Transparency in Gold Trading

- **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has launched the **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)** segment with approval from **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to create a **transparent and efficient gold trading ecosystem**.
- The initiative aims to enhance **price discovery, broaden market participation, and strengthen investor confidence** in gold trading.
- **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)** are **dematerialised securities** backed by **physical gold** stored in **SEBI-approved vaults**, and are **traded electronically** on stock exchanges.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- **EGRs help formalise gold investments** by providing a **regulated and digital trading mechanism**.

Asian Development Bank Launches Financing Partnership Facility to Strengthen Critical Mineral Supply Chains in Asia-Pacific

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched a new financing facility titled “**Critical Minerals-to-Manufacturing Financing Partnership Facility**” to strengthen **critical minerals supply chains** across **Asia and the Pacific region**.
- The initiative was announced during the **ADB 59th Annual Meeting (AM)** of the Board of Governors held in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**.
- The **financing structure** includes **two key windows**:
- **Grant Window**: Provides funding for **feasibility studies, environmental and social assessments, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing activities**.
- **ADB** has also established a **Critical Minerals Database** to improve **transparency, data coordination, and efficiency** in global supply chains.

About ADB :

- Formation : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Philippines
- President : Masato Kanda
- Members : 69 countries

Securities and Exchange Board of India Introduces Fast-Track Approval System for Private Placement Memoranda of Alternative Investment Funds

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced a **fast-track mechanism** for processing **Private Placement Memoranda (PPM)** of **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**.
- The new system enables **faster launch** of **AIF schemes**, while placing **greater responsibility** on **merchant bankers** and **AIF managers**.
- Under the **revised framework**, AIFs (excluding **Large Value Funds for Accredited Investors**) can launch schemes and circulate **PPMs 30 days after filing documents** with SEBI.
- **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)** are **privately pooled investment vehicles** that serve as an **alternative** to mutual funds and stock markets.

Jio Payments Bank Partners with Ezeepay as Business Correspondent to Boost Last-Mile Digital Banking in Rural and Semi-Urban India

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- **Jio Payments Bank Limited (JBPL)**, a subsidiary of **Jio Financial Services Limited (JSFL)**, has partnered with fintech platform **Ezeepay** as a **Business Correspondent (BC)** to strengthen **last-mile digital banking services** in rural and semi-urban India.
- The main objective of the partnership is to expand access to **basic banking services** through **local merchant outlets**, improving **financial inclusion**.
- Under this collaboration, **Ezeepay BC merchants** will offer **cash withdrawal and cash deposit services** using the **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS)**.
- The partnership also enables **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based cash withdrawal services**, in compliance with **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines**.

About Jio Payments Bank Limited :

- **Founded** : 3 April 2018
- **Headquarters** : Navi Mumbai, India
- **Chairperson** : Vivek Bhandari
- **MD & CEO** : Vinod Easwaran

SBI Cards Sells ₹1,800 Crore Stressed Credit Card Pool to Integro Finserv

- **SBI Cards and Payment Services**, a listed subsidiary of **State Bank of India**, has sold a **stressed credit card receivables pool** worth around **₹1,800 crore** to **Integro Finserv**, a Mumbai-based NBFC.
- The transaction is aimed at **reducing non-performing assets (NPAs)** and **improving asset quality** amid rising **credit card delinquencies**.
- This is one of the **largest bad loan sales** by SBI Cards in the last four years, highlighting increased focus on **stress asset resolution**.
- The company earlier executed a similar sale of **₹200 crore in 2022**, indicating a growing trend of **portfolio clean-up measures**.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Final Revised Lending Norms for Urban Co-operative Banks to Simplify Credit Rules and Strengthen Risk Management

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **final revised lending norms** for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** to simplify **credit regulations** and strengthen **risk management**.
- The directions titled **Urban Co-operative Banks (Concentration Risk Management) – Amendment Directions, 2026** were issued under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- The revised framework focuses on **unsecured lending limits**, **housing loan conditions**, and enhanced **transparency requirements**.

National Stock Exchange of India Crosses 13 Crore Registered Investors, Marking Strong

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

Growth in Retail Participation

- The **National Stock Exchange of India** has crossed **13 crore unique registered investors**, with the latest **1 crore investors** added in just **7 months** (since September 2025).
- The NSE took **14 years** to reach its **first 1 crore investors** after commencement of operations, and an additional **11 years** to add the next **3 crore investors**, showing **accelerated retail participation** in recent years.
- The **total number of client codes** reached **25.7 crore** as of April 25, 2026, reflecting **strong growth** in retail investor participation and market penetration.

About National Stock Exchange of India :

- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Founded : **27 November 1992**.
- MD & CEO : **Ashishkumar Chauhan**

Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Major Regulatory Reforms for Online Bond Platform Providers to Strengthen Retail Bond Market Ecosystem

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed **major regulatory reforms** for **OBPPs** to strengthen India's **retail bond market ecosystem**.
- SEBI aims to allow **OBPPs** to offer a **wider range of debt securities**, including **government securities** and **listed debt instruments**, beyond current permitted products.
- The regulator has proposed permitting **OBPPs** to distribute **tax-saving bonds** under **Section 54EC** of the Income Tax Act as well as similar provisions in the **new Income-tax Act**.
- SEBI has also proposed expanding **OBPP scope** to include products regulated by the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**, enabling access to **overseas-listed debt securities** via **GIFT-IFSC** (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City).

About SEBI :

- Established : **12 April 1988** as an executive body and was given statutory powers on **30 January 1992** through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Chairman : **Tuhin Kanta Pandey**
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Gol.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Forms 'Cyber-suraksha.ai' Task Force to Address AI-Driven Cybersecurity Threats in Financial Markets

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- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has constituted a dedicated task force named “**Cyber-suraksha.ai**” to assess **cybersecurity risks** arising from advanced **Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools** and strengthen **cyber resilience** in financial markets.
- The task force aims to evaluate threats from **AI-driven vulnerability identification tools** such as **Claude Mythos** and develop strategies to enhance **financial cybersecurity frameworks**.
- The **Cyber Suraksha AI task force** will include representatives from **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)**, **Qualified Registrar and Transfer Agents (QRTAs)**, **Regulated Entities (REs)**, and other key stakeholders.
- Its primary responsibility is to identify and assess **AI-based cybersecurity risks** and develop a **uniform mitigation strategy** to address emerging threats.

S&P Global Cuts India’s FY27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast to 6.6%

- **S&P Global Market Intelligence** and **CRISIL Ratings Limited** jointly released a report titled “**India Forward – Emerging Perspectives**”, revising India’s Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) **growth forecast for FY27 downward by 50 basis points to 6.6%** from **7.1%**.
- The revision is attributed to **disruptions in trade and energy supply chains** and **rising inflation** due to the ongoing **West Asia conflict**.
- For **FY26**, India’s **GDP growth** is estimated at **7.6%**, reflecting strong near-term economic performance.
- The report projects India’s **average annual GDP growth at 7.3%** between **FY23 and FY26**, indicating sustained **medium-term growth momentum**.

Retail Investors Turn to Reserve Bank of India Retail Direct Platform for Safer Investment and Better Returns

- **Retail investors** are increasingly shifting towards the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Retail Direct platform** in search of **safer and better investment returns** in government securities.
- The number of **Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) accounts** rose by around **64% year-on-year** to approximately **3.61 lakh accounts** (as of April 27, 2026), compared to **2.20 lakh accounts** in the previous year.
- The **RBI Retail Direct Scheme**, launched in **November 2021** (originally announced in February 2021), aims to improve **accessibility of government securities** for retail investors.

Bihar Cabinet Clears World Bank Loan of USD 500 Million for Urban Transformation and Infrastructure Development

- The **Bihar State Cabinet**, chaired by **Samrat Choudhary**, approved a **USD 500 million (₹4,750 crore)** loan from the **World Bank** for the **Bihar Urban Transformation Programme**.

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- The programme aims to **strengthen urban governance**, improve **civic infrastructure**, enhance **public services**, and promote **sustainable urban development** across major cities and municipalities in Bihar.
- The initiative focuses on developing **integrated urban economic zones** and improving infrastructure in **selected urban centres**.
- The **World Bank funding** will support **urban infrastructure upgrades**, municipal **capacity building**, **water supply improvements**, **sanitation projects**, and **planned urban expansion**.

About World Bank:

- The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.
- The World Bank consists of 5 institutions: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), The International Development Association (IDA), The International Finance Corporation (IFC), The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).
- Founded Year: 1944
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- President: Ajay Banga
- Members: 189 countries

Three Jan Suraksha Schemes (Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana) complete 11 years of delivering social security cover

- The three **Jan Suraksha Schemes** — **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**, **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** and **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** — have completed **11 years of implementation**.
- The **Jan Suraksha Schemes** were launched on **9 May 2015** by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to provide **affordable insurance and pension security** to citizens, especially the underserved and vulnerable sections of society.
- The three flagship schemes are **PMJJBY (life insurance)**, **PMSBY (accident insurance)**, and **APY (pension scheme)**, aimed at strengthening **financial inclusion**, **social security**, and **long-term financial resilience**.
- **PMJJBY** provides **life insurance cover** for death due to **any cause** at a premium of **less than ₹2 per day**, ensuring affordable protection.

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- **PMSBY** provides **accident insurance coverage** at a very low premium to ensure financial protection against **accidental death and disability**.
- **APY** aims to build a **universal pension system** for workers in the **unorganised sector**, especially the poor and underprivileged.

About Ministry of Finance:

- Cabinet Minister: Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State (MoS): Shri Pankaj Chaudhary

Securities and Exchange Board of India Withdraws Investor Risk Reduction Access Platform for Stock Brokers

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has discontinued the **Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA)** platform for stock brokers with **immediate effect**.
- The **IRRA platform** was launched on **01 October 2023** to provide brokers with an **alternative trading access point** during disruptions in trading services.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Gol.

Department of Financial Services Insurance Division Secures First Position in Group A Category of Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index Rankings for March 2026

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** receives more than **2.5 lakh grievances annually** and has consistently ranked among the **top 10 ministries/departments** in the **Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI)** since **November 2025**, reflecting strong **administrative responsiveness**.
- In **March 2026**, the **Insurance Division** secured the **top position** in **Group A category** of GRAI, while the **Banking Division** retained **5th position** for the second consecutive month, indicating **sustained performance**.
- The **GRAI framework**, developed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, evaluates ministries on **effectiveness and timeliness** of grievance redressal through the **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)**.

Ministry of Finance launches performance-based framework under Special Assistance for State Capital Investment scheme to promote fiscal discipline among states

- The **Ministry of Finance** has introduced a **performance-based framework** under the **Special Assistance for State Capital Investment (SASCI)** Scheme to reward states showing stronger **fiscal discipline**.
- States demonstrating **prudent debt management**, adherence to **borrowing schedules**, and complete disclosure of **off-budget liabilities** will receive priority access to a **₹3,000 crore incentive pool**.
- The new assessment framework gives **50% weightage to debt management**, **30% weightage to borrowing discipline**, and **20% weightage to fiscal transparency**.
- States are required to prepare a **Medium-Term Debt Strategy (MTDS)** in consultation with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- **Larger states** are eligible for incentives up to **₹250 crore**, while **mid-sized states** can receive up to **₹200 crore**.
- **Smaller states** and **North-Eastern states** are eligible for incentives ranging between **₹100 crore** and **₹150 crore**.

Reserve Bank of India and European Central Bank Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Mutual Cooperation in Central Banking

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Governor **Shri Sanjay Malhotra** and **European Central Bank (ECB)** President **Christine Lagarde** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen cooperation in the field of **central banking**.
- The **MoU** was signed on the sidelines of the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)** meetings held in **Basel, Switzerland**.
- The newly signed **MoU** updates and **replaces the earlier RBI-ECB agreement** signed in **2015**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹31.80 Lakh Penalty on Yes Bank for Know Your Customer Non-Compliance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹31.80 lakh** on **Yes Bank Limited** for non-compliance with **Know Your Customer (KYC)**
- **RBI** found that the bank failed to establish a system for using the **KYC Identifier** assigned by the **Central KYC Records Registry (CKYCR)** while opening account-based customer relationships.

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- The penalty was imposed under the provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** following a **Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE)** based on the bank's financial position as of **March 31, 2025**.

Reserve Bank of India Makes Reporting of Offshore Rupee-Linked Derivative Transactions Mandatory for Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a **new reporting framework** to strengthen monitoring of **offshore rupee-linked foreign exchange (FX) derivative transactions**.
- Under the revised framework, all **banks operating in India** are required to report **offshore foreign exchange derivative contracts** involving the **Indian Rupee (INR)** to the RBI.
- Banks must submit detailed information related to **counterparties, trade structures, settlement patterns**, and transaction-specific data to the **trade repository of CCIL** (Clearing Corporation of India Limited).

Reserve Bank of India Levies ₹5 Lakh Penalty on Himachal Pradesh Gramin Bank for Regulatory Non-Compliance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹5 lakh** on **Himachal Pradesh Gramin Bank, Mandi** for violations related to **deposit regulations** and **statutory compliance**.
- The action was taken under powers conferred by **Section 47A(1)(c)** read with **Sections 46(4)(i) and 51(1)** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- The violations involved contravention of **Section 26A** read with **Section 51(1)** of the Banking Regulation Act and non-compliance with **RBI directions on 'Interest Rate on Deposits'**.
- The **statutory inspection** of the bank was conducted by the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** based on the bank's financial position as of **March 31, 2025**.

Reserve Bank of India Releases Final 2026 Directions on Capital Charge for Credit Risk under Standardised Approach, Effective from April 2027

- The **Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)** issued the final **Basel III framework** titled "**Basel III: Finalising post-crisis reforms**" in **December 2017** to ensure prudent and credible calculation of **Risk-Weighted Assets (RWAs)** for banks.
- The framework permits two major approaches for calculating risk-based capital requirements for credit risk: the **Standardised Approach (SA)** and the **Internal Ratings Based (IRB) Approach**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to implement the **Standardised Approach (SA)** for assessing credit risk for banks under its jurisdiction.

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- The revised RBI directions titled “**Capital Charge for Credit Risk – Standardised Approach**” will come into effect from **April 1, 2027**.

Public Sector Banks post record net profit of ₹1.98 lakh crore in FY26, extending profitability streak to fourth consecutive year

- **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** recorded **strong financial performance** during **FY 2025–26**, reflecting sustained business growth, **improved asset quality**, **record profitability**, and **strong capital position**.
- The improved performance demonstrates the growing **resilience, stability, and institutional capacity** of PSBs in supporting the **credit needs** of the **Indian economy**.
- The **Gross NPA (Non-Performing Assets) ratio** of PSBs declined to **1.93%** as on **31 March 2026**, indicating **historically low stressed assets**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Revises Norms, Permits Use of Market Data for Educational Purposes with 30-Day Delay

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** revised rules to allow a **uniform 30-day time lag** for sharing and using **stock price data** for **educational and investor awareness activities**.
- The revised framework aims to maintain a balance between **preventing misuse of market data** and ensuring that **educational content** remains relevant and updated.
- The new rules will come into effect from **July 1, 2026**.
- The revised framework replaces the earlier system of **one-day lag** for sharing market data and **three-month lag** for educational usage.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Gol.

State Bank of India Research estimates India’s Q4 FY26 Gross Domestic Product growth at 7.2%

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** released its latest **Ecowrap Research Report**, providing key projections on **India’s economic growth outlook**.

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- The report projects India's **real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at 7.2% in Q4 (Jan–Mar) Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26)**, slightly lower than the earlier estimate of 7.3% (Feb 2026 projection).
- For the **full FY26**, India's **GDP growth is projected at 7.5%**, supported by **rural demand, fiscal stimulus, and urban consumption** despite global headwinds.
- For **FY27**, India's **real GDP growth is estimated at 6.6%**, mainly due to **global geopolitical uncertainties**.

Reserve Bank of India issues Master Direction on exchange of notes and coins under Banking Regulation Act, 1949

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated all **bank branches** to provide **universal cash services** without discrimination.
- Branches must ensure facilities for:
 - **Issuing fresh currency notes and coins**
 - **Exchanging soiled, mutilated, and imperfect notes**
 - **Accepting coins and small denomination notes** from the public
- All banks and **White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs)** must ensure **timely ATM cash replenishment** to prevent cash shortages and customer inconvenience.
- All coins of **₹1, ₹2, ₹5, ₹10, and ₹20** remain **legal tender**.

Reserve Bank of India issues Second Amendment Directions on Credit Risk Management for Commercial Banks, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued amendments to the “**Commercial Banks – Asset Classification, Provisioning and Income Recognition Directions, 2026**” under **Section 35A** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, in public interest.
- **RBI** clarified that until banks fully adopt **internal country rating systems**, they may continue using the **seven-category country classification framework** of **Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)**.
- The **ECGC framework** will provide **quarterly updates** and issue alerts on sudden major changes in country classifications to all banks.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation ties up with Airtel Payments Bank to launch RuPay ‘On-The-Go’ mobility cards

- **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** has partnered with **Airtel Payments Bank** to launch **co-branded RuPay ‘On-The-Go’ National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC)** for seamless **digital payments** and **metro travel** across India.

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- The initiative supports the **Government of India's** vision of “**One Nation, One Card**”, aimed at promoting **interoperability, cashless transactions, and commuter convenience**.
- The cards enable users to travel across **metro systems, buses, and other public transport networks** using a single **open-loop mobility card**.
- The **co-branded cards** are issued in **two variants: Debit Cards and PPI-MTS (Prepaid Payment Instrument for Mass Transit Systems)**

About Airtel Payments Bank:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, India

India Post records ₹15,296 crore revenue in FY26, says Union Minister Scindia

- **India Post** has added more than **11,000 post offices** in the last four years, expanding its reach to nearly **90% rural geography**, strengthening its role as a **last-mile logistics partner**.
- The **total network** has reached **1,64,999 post offices**, making it one of the **largest postal networks** in the world.
- The Department achieved a **record revenue of ₹15,296 crore in FY26**, registering a strong **16% year-on-year growth**, marking a significant performance milestone.
- This is the first time in several years that **India Post** has recorded **revenue growth above 15%**, indicating a clear shift toward a **revenue-driven business model**.

Reserve Bank of India issues Master Direction on currency distribution incentives and penalties for banks and currency chests

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued a **Master Direction on incentives for currency distribution and exchange**, along with **penalties for deficiencies in customer service** and reporting by bank branches and currency chests.
- A **Scheme of penal interest and penalties** has been introduced to ensure **accurate and timely reporting of Currency Chest (CC) transactions** and improve **customer service delivery** through banks, branches, and ATMs.
- The provisions apply to all banks, and **Currency Chest-related penalties** apply to banks operating **Currency Chests (CCs)**.

Government of India and International Fund for Agricultural Development launch eight-year Country Strategic Opportunities Programme 2026–2033 strategy to boost rural livelihoods and resilience

- The **Government of India** in partnership with the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** launched a new **Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP)**

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2026–2033 to enhance **rural incomes, resilience, and sustainable livelihood opportunities** across India.

- The new **8-year COSOP strategy** places strong emphasis on strengthening **Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), and cooperatives** as key **grassroots institutions**.
- These institutions will connect **rural communities** with **finance, technology, infrastructure, and markets** to support **inclusive rural development**.
- Over the past **two decades**, **IFAD-supported projects** in India have significantly improved **women’s financial inclusion** through **SHGs**, enhanced **market access** for farmers, and promoted **women-led enterprises** through **value addition** and **e-commerce integration**.

Department of Financial Services Launches USD 1.5 Billion Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool Backed by USD 1.4 Billion Sovereign Guarantee Amid Middle East Tensions

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** under the **Ministry of Finance** launched the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)** with a size of **USD 1.5 billion** and a **sovereign guarantee of USD 1.4 billion (₹12,980 crore)** to ensure uninterrupted **maritime insurance coverage** amid global geopolitical tensions.
- The **BMIP** covers major **maritime risks** including **Hull & Machinery, Cargo, Protection and Indemnity (P&I), and War Risk** for **Indian-flagged or controlled vessels** and ships operating to or from India.
- The launch event was chaired by **DFS Secretary Shri M. Nagaraju** and attended by senior officials.
- The first **Marine Hull & Machinery War Policy** under **BMIP** was issued by **New India Assurance Company Limited to Hoyer Offshore and Marine Private Limited** for protection against **War Perils** in high-risk maritime zones.

Securities Exchange Board of India proposes GARUDA Green-Channel mechanism to fast-track launch and approval of Alternative Investment Funds schemes in India

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed a new regulatory framework called the “**Green-Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement (GARUDA) mechanism**” to speed up the launch process of **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** schemes in India.
- The **GARUDA mechanism** aims to streamline the processing of **Placement Memorandums (PPMs)** filed with SEBI and improve **ease of fundraising** and **capital deployment** by AIFs.

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- Under the proposed system, **Non-Accredited Investor AIF schemes** will be allowed to launch within **10 working days** of filing documents, compared to the current **30-day waiting period**, significantly reducing **approval timelines**.
- The mechanism will also allow **Angel Funds** and **Accredited Investor-only (AI-only) schemes** to begin **fundraising almost immediately** after filing, improving **speed and efficiency** in capital markets.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Gol.

Finance Ministry Designates Principal Bench of Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal as National Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings

- The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** empowered the **Principal Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)**, New Delhi to function as the **National Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings (NAAAR)**.
- The notification came into effect from **April 1, 2026**, following the recommendation of the **GST Council** under **Section 101A(1A)** of the **CGST Act, 2017**.
- The **President of GSTAT** will act as the **Presiding Officer of NAAAR**.
- The **Principal Bench of GSTAT**, acting as **NAAAR**, will **resolve disputes** arising from **divergent advance rulings** issued across different **States and Union Territories (UTs)** under **Section 101B** of the **CGST Act, 2017**.

Moody's Cuts India's Calendar Year 2026 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast to 6% in Latest Global Macro Outlook Update

- Moody's **Ratings** released its **Global Macro Outlook – May 2026 Update**, revising **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast** for Calendar Year 2026 (CY26) downward by **80 basis points to 6%**, reflecting a weaker global and domestic economic outlook.
- The **downgrade** is driven by **weak private consumption**, **slower capital formation**, and **subdued industrial activity**, along with **elevated energy costs** impacting overall economic momentum.

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- For **CY2027**, **Moody's** further reduced **India's growth projection** by **50 basis points** to **6%**, indicating continued **moderation** in **medium-term growth expectations**.
- The outlook highlighted **risks** arising from the **United States–Iran confrontation** and ongoing **shipping disruptions** in **West Asia**, which may impact **global energy supply chains**.

CMS Info Systems secures ₹400 crore, five-year ATM services contract from HDFC Bank

- **CMS Info Systems** has secured a **₹400 crore contract** from **HDFC Bank** for managing around **6,000 ATMs** for a period of **five years**.
- The agreement is an **integrated ATM managed services outsourcing contract**, covering **currency forecasting, cash logistics, and AI-based operational solutions**.
- The company will deploy its **Vision AI-based monitoring solution "HAWKAI"**, aimed at improving **ATM uptime, security, and regulatory compliance**.
- The deal is expected to strengthen **CMS Info Systems' presence** in the **private banking sector**, expanding its **ATM management business footprint**.

About HDFC Bank:

- Founded: 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Managing Director & CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline: "We understand your world"

Securities and Exchange Board of India proposes new rules on use of Investor Protection Fund income by depositories

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed allowing **depositories** to use up to **5% of the interest or income** earned from **Investor Protection Fund (IPF)** investments for **administrative and statutory expenses**.
- The proposal aims to bring **depositories in line** with existing rules already applicable to **stock exchanges**, ensuring **uniform regulatory treatment** of **IPF usage**.
- The permitted **administrative expenses** may include **salaries of IPF Trust employees, taxes, audit fees, Charity Commissioner fees, and other IPF-related operational costs**.

Reserve Bank of India overhauls authorisation and renewal framework for forex dealers under Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced the **Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026** to rationalise **authorisation and renewal framework** for foreign exchange dealers.

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- Under the **revised framework**, issuance of **fresh licences** for **Full-Fledged Money Changers (FFMCs)** will generally be **discontinued**, except for applications already under process.
- The regulations permit **AD Category-I** and **AD Category-II** entities to appoint **Forex Correspondents (FxCs)** under a **principal–agent model** for conducting money-changing operations.
- **Forex Correspondents (FxCs)** are allowed to:
 - **Buy and sell foreign currency notes, coins, and travellers' cheques**
 - Operate for **travel-related foreign exchange requirements**

Reserve Bank of India cancels banking licence of Mumbai-based Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank Limited

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the **banking licence** of **Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank Limited**, based in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**, under **Sections 22(4) and 56** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- The licence was cancelled due to **inadequate capital, weak earning prospects, inability to repay depositors** in full, and **non-compliance** with **capital adequacy** and licensing norms under **Sections 11(1) and 22(3)** of the Banking Regulation Act.
- The **RBI** observed that continuation of the bank's operations would be **prejudicial to the interests of depositors**, leading to the cancellation decision.

Foreign Portfolio Investors Share in Indian Equities Falls to 14-Year Low Amid Sustained Selling Pressure

- **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** holding in Indian equities declined to **14% in June 2026**, marking the **lowest level in nearly 14 years**, indicating sustained **foreign selling pressure** in Indian markets.
- At the same time, **Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs)** increased their stake to **18.9%**, reflecting the **rising dominance and strength** of domestic capital in Indian equities.
- **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)** refers to investments by foreign entities in **financial assets** such as stocks, bonds, and securities without acquiring **control** over companies.

Reserve Bank of India relaxes rules allowing banks to include quarterly profits in Common Equity Tier 1 capital for Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio calculation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued amended directions relaxing norms for inclusion of **quarterly profits** in **Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital** for calculating the **Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)**.

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- The revised framework allows banks to include **current year quarterly profits** in **CET1 capital** without the earlier additional qualifying condition.
- Earlier, banks could include quarterly profits only if **incremental NPA provisions** in the previous financial year did not deviate by more than **25%** from the **four-quarter average**.
- Under the revised rules, the restriction linked to **NPA provisioning variability** has been removed after **stakeholder feedback**.
- The relaxation applies to **commercial banks**, **small finance banks**, and **payments banks**, and comes into **effect immediately**.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation releases uniform guidelines for compilation of Gross State Value Added estimates with base year 2022–23

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has directed all **States and Union Territories** to shift their **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** base year from **2011–12 to 2022–23** by **FY27**.
- The move aligns with the **revised national GDP base year of 2022–23**, aimed at improving **accuracy, consistency, and comparability** of economic data.
- Currently, **34 States/UTs** are still using the **2011–12 base year** for GSDP estimation.
- **MoSPI** revised the **national accounts base year** in **February 2026**, incorporating new data sources, improved methodology, and updated economic structure coverage.
- The revision better captures **informal sector activity**, **service sector growth**, and **structural economic changes**.

AU Small Finance Bank launches four new credit cards with travel and lifestyle benefits to boost retail banking segment

- **AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB)** has launched a new **credit card portfolio** comprising four cards — **AU Ananta**, **AU Lakshya**, **AU Tejas**, and **AU Prathama** — to strengthen its **retail credit card business** across **Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities**.
- The portfolio is designed to cater to customers across **different income groups** and **lifestyle segments**, enhancing **financial inclusion** and **retail banking penetration**.
- The launch includes an **industry-first feature** offering **complimentary airport lounge access** through flight bookings made on the **AU Rewardz platform**.

About AU Small Finance Bank :

- **Founded** : 1996 (converted into Small Finance Bank in 2017)
- **MD & CEO** : Sanjay Agarwal
- **Tagline** : ‘Chalo Aage Badhein’

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Directorate General of Foreign Trade tightens rules for duty-free gold imports for gems and jewellery exports under Advance Authorisation scheme

- The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** has tightened regulations for **duty-free gold imports** under the **Advance Authorisation (AA) scheme** for the **gems and jewellery sector**.
- The revised norms introduce **five new compliance notes** under **Standard Input Output Norms (SIONs) M1 to M8**, effective immediately to strengthen **monitoring and regulatory control**.
- Under the new framework, **gold import authorisations** under the **AA scheme** are **capped at 100 kilograms per licence**, aimed at preventing misuse and ensuring better compliance.

Reserve Bank of India removes prior approval requirement for banks–fintech tie-ups for outward remittance services

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has removed the requirement of **prior approval** for **non-bank entities (fintechs)** to enter into **tie-up arrangements** for enabling **outward remittance services** through banks in India.
- This move is part of the **RBI's updated operating framework** to facilitate **outward remittances** via **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I banks**.
- Earlier, under the **2016 framework**, **non-bank entities** were required to obtain **RBI approval** before partnering with **AD banks** for providing **outward remittance services**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India proposes gradual transition to physical settlement for select agricultural derivative contracts

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed allowing select **agricultural commodity derivatives contracts** to be initially **financially settled** before transitioning to **compulsory physical settlement**.
- The proposal aims to **improve liquidity**, revive **illiquid agri-derivative contracts**, and encourage the launch of new **delivery-based commodity contracts** on exchanges.
- According to the proposed framework, contracts will be designed as **delivery-based from inception**, while the **financially settled phase** will function as a **temporary market-development mechanism**.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Tuhin Kanta Pandey

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Gol.

India's retail inflation rises to 3.48% in April, hits 14-month high on surge in food, gold and silver prices

- India's **retail inflation (CPI)** rose to **3.48% in April**, marking a **14-month high**, primarily due to increased prices of **food items, gold, and silver**.
- Despite the rise, inflation remained **below the RBI target of 4%**, supporting expectations that **interest rates** may remain **unchanged** in the near term.
- The **highest inflation** was recorded in key commodities such as **silver jewellery (144.34%)**, **coconut/copra (44.55%)**, **gold, diamond and platinum jewellery (40.72%)**, **tomato (35.28%)**, and **cauliflower (25.58%)**.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the updated **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** in February, **revising the base year to 2024**, replacing the earlier 2012 base year.

CTBC Bank becomes first Taiwanese bank to open branch at GIFT City, Gujarat

- **CTBC Bank Co. Ltd.** has opened its new branch at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, becoming the **first Taiwanese bank** to establish presence in India's **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**.
- The branch was established after receiving necessary approvals from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**, marking a key milestone in **India–Taiwan financial cooperation**.
- The new **CTBC Bank** branch in **GIFT City** aims to strengthen **cross-border financing, trade, and investment flows**, and enhance **financial connectivity** between **India, Taiwan**, and the wider **Asia region**.

Reserve Bank of India informs Supreme Court: 30 banks integrated with UDGAM portal to help trace deceased account holders' unclaimed funds

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** informed the **Supreme Court** that **30 banks** have been integrated into the **UDGAM portal** to help **legal heirs** trace **unclaimed funds** of deceased account holders.
- **UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information)** is an **online centralized portal** developed by the **RBI**.

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- The platform was developed in collaboration with **Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT)** and **Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS)** along with selected banks.
- The portal covers around **90% of unclaimed deposits (by value)** held in the **Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund**.
- A total of **30 banks** are currently part of the **UDGAM platform**, enabling **consolidated search** of unclaimed accounts.

National Statistics Office revises release schedule for Annual Gross Domestic Product Provisional Estimates and Fourth Quarter GDP data

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has revised the **release schedule** for India's **Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and **Fourth Quarter (Q4) GDP estimates**.
- Under the revised system, the **Provisional Estimates (PE)** of **Annual GDP** and **January–March Quarter GDP data** will now be released on **7 June** every year, or on the previous working day if 7 June is a holiday.
- Earlier, the **GDP data** used to be released on the **last working day of May**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Eases Norms, Allows Greater Flexibility in Borrowings for Infrastructure Investment Trusts and Special Purpose Vehicles

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has widened the permissible use of **fresh borrowings** by **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** where **net debt exceeds 49% of asset value**, aiming to improve **operational efficiency** and **asset performance**.
- **SEBI** has allowed **InvITs** to use **additional borrowings** for **capital expenditure, capacity expansion, major maintenance, and asset performance improvement**, particularly in **road infrastructure projects**.
- The regulator permitted **refinancing of existing debt**, but only for the **principal amount** of the original borrowing used for approved purposes.

India's Wholesale Price Index inflation rises to 42-month high of 8.3% in April 2026

- India's **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation** surged to **8.3% in April 2026**, marking a **42-month high**, compared to 3.88% in March.
- On a **month-on-month basis**, **WPI inflation** rose to **3.86% in April** from 1.52% in March, indicating a rise in **input cost pressures** in the economy.

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- The **WPI** measures price changes at the **wholesale market level** and is compiled by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- The **base year of WPI is 2011–12**, and it includes a total of **697 items** classified into three major categories.
- The **WPI basket** is dominated by **Manufactured Products (64.23%)**, followed by **Primary Articles (22.62%)** and **Fuel & Power (13.15%)**, reflecting trends in industrial, agricultural, and energy prices.

Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal Sets Up Nationwide Benches and Introduces Structured System for Listing GST Appeals

- **Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)** formally operationalised benches across India and introduced a structured framework for **categorisation, scrutiny, and listing of GST appeals**.
- The move aims to strengthen India's **GST dispute resolution mechanism** and reduce the burden on **High Courts** through a dedicated appellate system for GST cases.
- **Division Bench scrutiny** has been made **mandatory** before assigning any matter to a **Single Bench** to ensure consistency in handling significant legal issues.
- Cases involving **tax liability below ₹50 lakh** and not involving **substantial questions of law** may be heard by a **Single Bench** after approval from the **President or Vice-President of GSTAT**.

ICICI Bank, in partnership with Visa, launches India's first USD-denominated debit card

- **ICICI Bank** has launched a **USD-denominated debit card** in partnership with **Visa**, aimed at helping **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** manage **offshore wealth** more efficiently.
- The card enables users to **spend directly in US dollars**, eliminating the need for **currency conversion layers** and avoiding **forex markup charges (2–3.5%)** and **GST** on international transactions.
- The **debit card** is linked to a **USD Global Savings Account** maintained at the **IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)** in **GIFT City**, rather than a domestic INR-based account.

About ICICI Bank:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi
- Founded Year: 1994 (as a bank; ICICI established in 1955)
- Slogan: "Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka"

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Central banks become net gold sellers for the first time in 10 months

- According to the **World Gold Council (WGC)**, **central banks** became **net sellers of gold** in **March 2026** for the first time in 10 months.
- Central banks sold a **net 30 tonnes** of gold during **March 2026**, mainly led by **Türkiye and Russia**.
- **Türkiye** sold **60 tonnes** of gold for **foreign exchange reserve management** and **liquidity purposes**.
- The **Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye** additionally **swapped 80 tonnes** of gold to manage liquidity conditions.
- **Russia** sold **6 tonnes** of gold, mainly to support **budget deficit financing** and inject **liquidity** into the economy.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹3.10 Lakh Penalty on IIFL Finance for Violating NBFC Scale Based Regulation Norms

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a penalty of **₹3.10 lakh** on **IIFL Finance Limited** for violating the **NBFC Scale Based Regulation Directions, 2023**.
- RBI found that IIFL Finance **failed to return the surplus amount** received from auction of pledged gold articles to certain borrowers after recovery of loan dues.
- The penalty was imposed under the provisions of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934** following RBI's statutory inspection of the company's financial position as on **31 March 2025**.
- RBI also imposed a penalty of **₹5.80 lakh** on **Appnit Technologies Private Limited** for non-compliance with **Know Your Customer (KYC)** and **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI)** guidelines.

33rd Financial Stability and Development Council Sub-Committee Meeting Held at Reserve Bank of India Headquarters in Mumbai

- The **33rd meeting** of the **Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC-SC)** was held at the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Mumbai**, under the chairmanship of **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra**.
- The committee reviewed key **global and domestic macroeconomic and financial sector developments** and assessed their implications for **financial stability and systemic risk management**.
- The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was constituted by **Government of India notification dated 30 December 2010**, following the recommendations of the **Raghuram Rajan Committee (2008)** on financial sector reforms.

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- The **FSDC-SC (Sub-Committee)** operates under the **chairmanship of the RBI Governor** and meets more frequently than the full council to ensure continuous monitoring of financial stability.

RBL Bank Gets Regulatory Clearance for Emirates NBD's Nearly \$3 Billion Investment

- **RBL Bank** has received all required regulatory and government approvals for the proposed strategic investment of around **USD 3 billion (₹26,850 crore)** by Dubai-based **Emirates NBD**.
- The investment was first announced in **October 2025** and is regarded as **one of the largest foreign investments** in India's banking sector.
- After completion of the transaction, Emirates NBD's shareholding in RBL Bank is expected to range between **51% and 74%**, subject to RBI regulations and completion of the mandatory open offer process.

About RBL Bank :

- RBL Bank, formerly known as **Ratnakar Bank Limited**, is an Indian private sector bank.
- Established : **1943**
- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
- **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) : R. Subramaniakumar**

Xflow Launches Pilot Programme to Enable Stablecoin-Based Cross-Border Payments for Indian Businesses

- **Xflow** has launched a pilot programme enabling Indian businesses to **accept international payments in stablecoins (USDC and USDT)** and convert them compliantly into **Indian Rupees (INR)**.
- The solution allows **stablecoin-native platforms** and cross-border payment providers to facilitate payments **without requiring businesses to directly hold or manage cryptocurrencies**.
- Under the framework, the **stablecoin transaction is processed outside India**, while only **fiat currency is routed into India** through an **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I bank** in full compliance with regulations.

Securities and Exchange Board of India introduces framework to classify market benchmarks as significant indices based on Assets Under Management

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced a regulatory framework classifying certain market benchmarks as "**Significant Indices**" based on **Assets Under Management (AUM)** tracked by mutual fund schemes.
- An index will be classified as a **Significant Index** if the daily average cumulative **AUM tracking or benchmarking exceeds ₹20,000 crore** for each of the preceding **six months**.

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- The **threshold assessment** will be conducted on a **half-yearly basis**, ending on **June 30 and December 31** every year.
- Once classified as significant, an index will continue in the category unless its tracked AUM falls below the threshold for **three consecutive years**.

Unified Payments Interface Marks 10 Years of Transformational Growth, Emerges as World's Largest Real-Time Payment System Powering India's Digital Economy

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, launched on **11 April 2016** by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** under the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, has completed **10 years** and emerged as the **world's largest real-time payments platform**, becoming a backbone of **India's digital economy**.
- From just **373 transactions** in its first month, **UPI** has scaled to around **24,162 crore transactions** worth nearly **₹314 lakh crore in FY 2025–26**, reflecting an almost **12,000-fold increase in volume** and massive **nationwide adoption**.
- **UPI** now processes about **66 crore transactions daily** with a **daily value** of around **₹0.86 lakh crore**, while **monthly transactions crossed 2,264 crore in March 2026**, showing its **high-frequency usage** in retail payments.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurates India's first Artificial Intelligence - powered phygital banking branch of Slice Small Finance Bank in Guwahati

- Chief Minister (CM) of Assam, **Himanta Biswa Sarma** inaugurated India's **1st Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered "phygital" banking branch** of **Slice Small Finance Bank** in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- The launch marks a major step towards **financial inclusion** by building a more inclusive financial ecosystem for both urban and underserved communities.
- The banking model is a **"phygital" model**, which **combines physical banking infrastructure with advanced digital technologies** to deliver seamless, faster, and customer-friendly services.

IDFC FIRST Bank Introduces FD-Backed Business Multiplier Metal Credit Card for Startups, Founders and Entrepreneurs

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** has launched the **'FD-backed Business Multiplier Metal Credit Card'** for founders, entrepreneurs, startups, MSMEs, and business owners in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- The card offers a dedicated business credit solution with assured credit limits linked to **Fixed Deposits (FDs)**, starting from a minimum FD of **₹50,000**.
- The premium **metal credit card** displays both the **business name and cardholder's name**, enabling a professional business identity.

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About IDFC First Bank:

- **Founded:** 2015
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- **Managing Director & CEO:** V. Vaidyanathan
- **Tagline :** Always You First
- **Merger:** IDFC Bank merged with **Capital First** in 2018

Morgan Stanley Revises India's FY27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast Upward to 6.7% in Mid-Year Outlook Report

- **Morgan Stanley**, the American brokerage firm, released its latest **Mid-Year Outlook for India**, revising India's real **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for FY2026–27 (FY27) upward by 50 basis points (bps) to 6.7%**, compared to the earlier estimate of **6.2% (April 2026)**.
- The report projects India's GDP growth for **FY28 at 7%**, indicating continued strong economic expansion.
- For the **first quarter (Q1: April–June) of FY27**, India's GDP growth is projected at **6.5% year-on-year (Y-o-Y)**.

Reserve Bank of India decides against activating Countercyclical Capital Buffer at present

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided **not to activate the Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB)** at present, stating that current economic and banking conditions do not require its implementation.
- The decision was taken after **RBI reviewed key CCyB indicators**, especially the **credit-to-GDP gap**, which is the **primary indicator** for assessing **systemic credit risk** in the economy.
- The **Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB)** is a **macro-prudential regulatory tool** used in the banking system.
- **CCyB** requires banks to **build additional capital buffers** during periods of **strong credit growth** and favourable economic conditions.

Department of Financial Services Organises Workshop on Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act, 2026

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance** organised a half-day workshop on the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act, 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- The workshop was chaired by **Shri M. Nagaraju**, Secretary, DFS, and attended by senior officials from the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of**

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India (IBBI), legal experts, and representatives of public sector banks and financial institutions including NARCL, IDRCL, and ASREC (India) Limited.

- The **main objective** of the workshop was to deliberate on the impact of recent amendments to the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** on the **banking sector** and to strengthen stakeholder understanding of its **implementation framework**.

SBI Ventures appointed to manage ₹20,000 crore Maritime Investment Fund

- The Government of India selected **SBI Ventures** as the fund manager for the **₹20,000-crore Maritime Investment Fund (MIF)** to promote investment in India's maritime sector.
- The Maritime Investment Fund (MIF) is a major component of the **₹25,000-crore Maritime Development Fund** approved by the Union Cabinet.
- The Central Government will contribute **₹9,800 crore (49%)** through budgetary support for the fund.
- The remaining **51% of the corpus** will be mobilised from private investors, sovereign wealth funds, institutional investors, CPSEs, PSUs and major port authorities through a **blended finance model**.

Mahindra & Mahindra and DBS Bank India launch India's first sustainability-linked dealer financing programme

- **Mahindra & Mahindra** and **DBS Bank India** signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch India's **first sustainability-linked dealer financing programme** in the automotive sector on **19 May 2026**.
- The programme links **loan interest rates** for authorised Mahindra dealers to their **environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance** along with **sales targets**.
- **DBS Bank India** operates as a banking subsidiary of **DBS Group**, while **Mahindra & Mahindra** is an Indian automobile manufacturer engaged in passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and electric mobility.

United Nations Revises India's Gross Domestic Product Growth Forecast for 2026 to 6.4 Percent

- The **United Nations** revised India's **Gross Domestic Product growth forecast** for 2026 downward to **6.4 percent** from the earlier estimate of **6.6 percent**.
- The revised projection was released by the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**.
- Despite the downgrade, India is expected to remain among the **fastest-growing major economies in the world**.

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- The United Nations projected that India's economic growth may improve to **6.6 percent in 2027**, indicating that the slowdown could be temporary.

About UN:

- The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. Currently made up of 193 Member States, the UN and its work are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.

Reserve Bank of India Announces 5 Billion United States Dollar–Indian Rupee Buy/Sell Swap Auction

- The **Reserve Bank of India** announced a **5 billion United States Dollar–Indian Rupee buy/sell swap auction to inject long-term liquidity into the banking system.**
- The swap auction will be conducted with a tenor of **three years.**
- Under the swap mechanism, the Reserve Bank of India will:
 - Buy United States dollars from banks in exchange for Indian rupees
 - Sell back the same amount of United States dollars after three years
- The operation aims to provide **durable liquidity support** to the banking system and improve overall financial market stability.

About RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the nation's central banking institution. It was established on April 1, 1935, under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, based on the recommendations of the Hilton Young Commission.
- Nationalized on January 1, 1949, it is fully owned by the Government of India.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra (initially established in Kolkata and permanently shifted to Mumbai in 1937).

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Organises Atal Pension Yojana Annual Felicitation Programme in New Delhi

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** organised the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Annual Felicitation Programme in New Delhi.**
- During the programme, **53 APY Service Providers (SPs), 10 State Level Bankers' Committees (SLBCs),** and top 5 branches and Lead District Managers (LDMs) were awarded for outstanding performance in achieving APY targets during **FY 2025-26.**
- He highlighted that **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** crossed **9 crore gross enrolments with Assets Under Management (AUM) exceeding ₹54,000 crore.**
- A record **1.35 crore subscribers** were added under APY during **FY 2025-26.**

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About Ministry of Finance:

- Cabinet Minister: Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State (MoS): Shri Pankaj Chaudhary

About PFRDA:

- Established: 2003 (Statutory status from PFRDA Act, 2013)
- Under which Ministry: Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman: Sivasubramanian Ramann
- Purpose: To promote, develop, and regulate the pension sector in India, especially the National Pension System (NPS) and other old-age income security schemes.

Bajaj General Insurance Unveils MHCP EDGE+ Health Plan Offering Coverage up to Rs 5 Crore

- **Bajaj General Insurance Limited (BGIL)** launched ‘**My Health Care Plan Edge+ (MHCP EDGE+)**’, a next-generation **health indemnity insurance plan** for individuals and families.
- The plan offers health insurance coverage ranging from **Rs 5 lakh to Rs 5 crore**.
- MHCP EDGE+ provides **unlimited reinstatement benefits, modular add-ons, global treatment coverage, and wellness-linked healthcare services**.
- The main objective of the plan is to **reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenses** through flexible, customisable, and long-term health protection solutions.

NCDEX Introduces ‘RAINMUMBAI’, India’s First Exchange-Traded Weather Derivatives Contract

- **National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX)** launched India’s first exchange-traded weather derivatives contract named ‘**RAINMUMBAI**’.
- The launch of RAINMUMBAI marks India’s entry into a **regulated weather-risk trading market**.

ICRA Cuts India’s Financial Year 2026-27 Gross Domestic Product Growth Projection to 6.2%

- **ICRA Limited** (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited) revised down India’s **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast** for Financial Year 2026-27 (**FY27**) to **6.2%** from its earlier estimate of 6.5%.
- The GDP forecast was reduced by **30 basis points (bps)** by ICRA.
- The agency stated that the downward revision in India’s economic growth outlook was mainly due to **elevated crude oil prices** caused by the ongoing **West Asia conflict**.

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs High-Level Review Meeting at GIFT City, Gandhinagar

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**, chaired a high-level review meeting on the progress of **GIFT City at Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

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- The meeting reviewed the development of GIFT City's **international financial services ecosystem**.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Forms Committee to Examine New Asset Classes for Enhancing Pension Returns

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** constituted a committee to explore the **long-term inclusion of new asset classes** in pension investments.
- The objective of the committee is to **improve returns for subscribers** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.
- The committee formed by PFRDA is chaired by **Narayan Ramachandran**.
- The panel aims to identify **investment options that provide stable, steady, and long-term growth** while avoiding excessive market volatility in pension returns.
- PFRDA Chairman **S. Ramann** stated that the regulator is studying **global pension fund models**.

Reserve Bank of India Grants Prepaid Payment Instrument Issuer Authorisation to ZikZuk Technologies

- **ZikZuk Technologies Private Limited** received final authorisation from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer**.
- The approval was granted under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSSA), 2007**.
- The final authorisation follows the company's earlier **in-principle approval** received in **May 2025**.
- The PPI authorisation enables ZikZuk Technologies to operate across **digital payments, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure, and cross-border financial services**.

Reserve Bank of India Levies ₹10.10 Lakh Monetary Penalty on City Union Bank Limited

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹10.10 lakh** on **City Union Bank Limited**.
- The penalty was imposed for **non-compliance** with RBI directions related to **'Priority Sector Loan accounts'** and **'Reporting of Self Help Group (SHG) member-level data to Credit Information Companies (CICs)'**.
- RBI imposed the penalty under the powers conferred by **Section 47A(1)(c)** read with **Section 46(4)(i)** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** and **Section 25(1)(iii)** read with **Section 23(4)** of the **Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005**.

About City Union Bank (CUB):

- Founded Year: 1904

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- Headquarters: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Dr. N. Kamakodi
- Slogan: "Trust and Excellence Since 1904"

Reserve Bank of India Issues Revised Loan Recovery and Recovery Agent Regulations Effective from October 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released final amendments to overhaul **loan recovery and recovery agent regulations**, which will come into effect from **1 October 2026**.
- Under the new framework, banks must conduct **strict due diligence** and **periodic background verification** of recovery agents before engagement.
- Banks can engage only **certified recovery agents** trained through approved institutions such as the **Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF)**.
- RBI introduced detailed **borrower protection norms** to regulate recovery practices.
- Recovery agents are allowed to contact borrowers only between **8 AM and 7 PM**.
- The new rules **prohibit harassment, abusive language, intimidation, social media shaming, and pressuring of relatives or colleagues** during loan recovery.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Launches \$10 Billion Facility to Support West Asia-Affected Member Countries

- The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** established the **Energy, Food Security and Economic Resilience Facility**, aimed at supporting member countries affected by the **Middle East conflict**.
- The facility provides up to **US\$10 billion over two years** for member countries and clients impacted by the conflict.
- The AIIB is a **multilateral development bank (MDB)** headquartered in **China (Beijing)** and began operations in **2016**, financing infrastructure and development projects across Asia and other regions.
- **India is the second-largest shareholder** in AIIB after China, reflecting its significant role in the institution.
- The AIIB has **more than 100 approved members**, including countries such as India, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Australia, Israel, Kuwait, Nepal, Oman, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and the UAE.
- The bank is capitalised at around **US\$100 billion** and holds a **AAA credit rating** from major international rating agencies.

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- Shareholding structure includes **China (26.54%)**, **India (7.58%)**, **Russia (5.9%)**, and **Germany (4.1%)** as major stakeholders.

Reserve Bank of India Approves Record ₹2.87 Lakh Crore Surplus Transfer to Government for Financial Year 2025-26

- The **Reserve Bank of India** announced a record **surplus transfer of ₹2.87 lakh crore** to the Government of India (GoI) for Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26), during the **623rd meeting of the Central Board of Directors (CBoDs)**.
- The surplus transfer for FY26 was higher than last year's transfer of **₹2.69 lakh crore**.
- However, the transfer remained lower than the **Union Budget estimate of ₹3.16 lakh crore** for dividend receipts.
- The 623rd Central Board Meeting was chaired by **Dr. Sanjay Malhotra** in **Mumbai**.

Unincorporated Establishments Cross 9 Crore, Driving Strong Economic Growth

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **Quarterly Bulletin on Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE)** for **January–March 2026**.
- The report provides high-frequency data on India's **unincorporated non-agricultural sector**.

Karnataka Grameena Bank Honoured with National Award for Excellence in APY Enrolments

- **Karnataka Grameena Bank** received the **National Award** from the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** for outstanding enrolment performance under the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**.
- The award was presented during the **APY Annual Felicitation Programme** held in **New Delhi**.
- The award was received by **Shreekant M Bhandiwad**.

About Karnataka Grameena Bank :

- **Founded** : May 1, 2025
- **Headquarters** : Ballari, Karnataka, India
- **Chairman** : Sri Shrikant M Bhandiwad
- **Owner** : Government of India (50%), Government of Karnataka (15%), Canara Bank (35%)
- The bank was formed by the amalgamation of Karnataka Gramin Bank and Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank under The "One State, One RRB" policy of the government designed to improve operational efficiency.
- It functions under Regional Rural Banks' Act 1976 and is sponsored by Canara Bank.

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs TEXPROCIL Export Awards 2023–24 Ceremony in Mumbai

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- **Nirmala Sitharaman**, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, presided over the **TEXPROCIL Export Awards 2023–24** ceremony held in Mumbai.
- The awards were organised by **The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL)**, which is sponsored by the Government of India, to recognise excellence in the cotton textile export sector.
- The awards honoured exporters for outstanding performance in exports, as well as contributions in **employment generation, innovation, ESG initiatives, and e-commerce excellence**.

Eurobank Opens Its First Representative Office in India to Expand Trade and Investment Opportunities

- **Eurobank** will become the first European bank to enable **cross-border remittances** from **Greece and Cyprus to India** through the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.
- The UPI-based remittance service has been launched in partnership with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- The remittance service has already **started operations in Greece**, while operations in **Cyprus** are expected to begin soon.
- The initiative aims to provide **faster, cheaper, and seamless digital money transfers** for Indians residing in Greece and Cyprus who send remittances to India.

Reserve Bank of India Levies ₹3.10 Lakh Monetary Penalty on Mintifi Finserve Private Limited

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹3.10 lakh** on **Mintifi Finserve Private Limited**.
- The penalty was imposed for **non-compliance** with RBI directions related to **'Know Your Customer (KYC)'** norms.
- RBI imposed the penalty under **Section 58G(1)(b)** read with **Section 58B(5)(aa)** of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

Skydo Receives Payment Service Provider Licence at GIFT City and Reserve Bank of India Approval for Cross-Border Outward Payments

- **Skydo** received **in-principle approval** to operate as a **Payment Service Provider (PSP)** at the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- With this approval, Skydo became one of the **first cross-border fintech companies** to obtain a **PSP licence** at GIFT City.
- The approval will enable the company to develop advanced capabilities such as **multi-currency collections, e-money accounts, and merchant acquisition services**.

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- Skydo also received **regulatory approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India** under the **Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB)** framework.

Reserve Bank of India Data Shows India's Outward Remittances Declined by 2% to Nearly \$29 Billion in FY26

- India's **outward remittances** under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** declined by **2%** in **FY26** due to global uncertainty and geopolitical tensions.
- According to data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, total outward remittances declined to **USD 28.9 billion** in **FY26** from **USD 29.6 billion** in **FY25**.
- The sharpest fall was recorded in remittances for **overseas education**, which declined by more than **20%** to **USD 2.3 billion** from **USD 2.9 billion** in the previous financial year.
- The **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** is an RBI policy that allows all resident individuals, including minors, to remit funds abroad freely.
- Under the LRS, individuals can remit up to **USD 250,000 per financial year** outside India.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Launches New Retirement Income Schemes and Drawdown Facilities Under National Pension System

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** introduced new **Retirement Income Schemes (RIS)** and **drawdown options** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.
- The new framework aims to improve **retirement cash flow management** and extend the **longevity of retirement corpus** for subscribers.
- Under the revised system, retirees can withdraw their NPS corpus gradually through **monthly, quarterly, or annual payouts** instead of taking the full lump sum amount at once.
- PFRDA introduced a new option called **RIS Steady**, which follows a **lifecycle investment approach**.

Reserve Bank of India Introduces Mandatory Three-Year Cooling-Off Period for Co-operative Bank Directors After 10-Year Tenure

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued final amendment directions for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** and **Rural Co-operative Banks (RCBs)** to strengthen governance standards in the cooperative banking sector.
- The amended rules introduce a **mandatory three-year cooling-off period** for directors who complete **10 consecutive years** on the board of a co-operative bank.
- The new directions **came into effect immediately** after notification by the RBI.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Reports Insurance Ombudsman

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Resolved 41,055 Complaints in FY26

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** reported that the **Insurance Ombudsman** resolved **41,055 grievances** during **FY 2025–26**.
- Around **79% of the decisions** were delivered in favour of policyholders, indicating strong consumer-oriented dispute resolution outcomes.
- The data was presented by IRDAI during an **orientation programme** for Insurance Ombudsmen.
- The Office of Insurance Ombudsman functions under the administrative control of the **Council for Insurance Ombudsmen (CIO)**, constituted under the **Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017**.

About IRDAI:

- Headquarters (HQ): Hyderabad, Telangana, India
- Chairperson: Ajay Seth
- Founded: 1999

Jumpp Secures Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Licence to Offer Digital Insurance Distribution Services

- Conversational fintech platform **Jumpp**, operated by Finvasia Group, received **Corporate Agency and Insurance Self Network Platform (ISNP)** licences from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.
- The approvals allow Jumpp to **distribute insurance products digitally** through its **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered platform**.
- With the IRDAI approval, Jumpp entered the **insurance distribution segment** and expanded its financial services beyond investments.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹2.70 Lakh Monetary Penalty on Newa Investments Private Limited

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹2.70 lakh** on **Newa Investments Private Limited**.
- The penalty was imposed for non-compliance with RBI directions related to **'Governance' norms**.
- RBI imposed the penalty under **Section 58G(1)(b)** read with **Section 58B(5)(aa)** of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

World Bank Report Identifies India as a Major Emerging Carbon Market; Carbon Pricing Now Covers 29% of Global Emissions

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- The **World Bank Group** released the **13th edition** of the report titled “**State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2026**”.
- The report identified **India** among the **world’s largest new carbon markets** following the launch of its **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)** in **2026**.
- According to the report, global carbon pricing systems currently cover **29% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**.
- The report highlighted that **annual revenues** from emissions trading systems and carbon taxes have **tripled over the last decade**.

Reserve Bank of India Forms 8-Member Expert Panel Under Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem (Q-SAFE) Initiative

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** constituted an Expert Committee on “**Quantum Secure and Adaptive Financial Ecosystem (Q-SAFE)**”.
- The committee has been formed to study the **opportunities, risks, and implications of quantum technology** in India’s financial sector.
- The committee is chaired by **Dr. Anil Prabhakar**, Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Revises Household Savings Calculation Method, Raising India’s FY25 Gross Savings-to-Gross Domestic Product Ratio to 34.94%

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** revised the methodology for calculating **household savings through securities markets**.
- Due to the revised methodology, India’s **FY25 gross savings-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio** increased from **34.47% to 34.94%**.
- The revised estimates were released through a SEBI research paper prepared in consultation with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Gol.

Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs Small Industries

Development Bank of India's 37th Foundation Day Celebrations

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a set of **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)-backed** strategic web portals and initiatives during the **37th Foundation Day celebrations** held in **Mumbai**.
- The initiatives were launched to strengthen the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) ecosystem** through innovation, inclusive financing, technology adoption, and collaborative partnerships.
- The **SIDBI-RRB Co-Lending Platform** was launched to operationalise collaboration between **SIDBI and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** for improving **MSME credit flow in semi-urban and rural areas** across India.

About Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI):

- It is an All India Development Financial Institution (DFI) focused on financing and developing Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India.
- Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- Founded: April 2, 1990, by the Government of India
- Chairman & Managing Director: Shri Manoj Mittal

Department of Financial Services Conducts Credit Outreach Programme in Udaipur, Tripura

- A **Credit Outreach Programme** was organised at **Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura** on **26 May 2026**.
- The programme was chaired by **M. Nagaraju**, Secretary of the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, under the **Ministry of Finance**.
- Various banks sanctioned loans worth **₹105.40 crore** to **4,577 beneficiaries** during the programme.
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** and **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** announced sanctions exceeding **₹2 crore** for different development projects.

India Records Historic Gross Foreign Direct Investment Inflows of \$94.5 Billion in FY26 While Net FDI Stands at \$7.6 Billion

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reported that India's **gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows reached a record high of **USD 94.53 billion in FY 2025-26**, registering a **17% increase** over the previous year.
- Despite record gross inflows, India's **net FDI inflows** stood at only **USD 7.65 billion**, indicating a sharp gap between total inflows and actual retained investment.

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- **Gross FDI** refers to the total foreign investment entering India before any deductions.
- **Net FDI** is calculated by **subtracting repatriated funds and overseas investments** made by Indian companies from gross FDI, representing the actual net addition to India's investment stock.

India's Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Marks a Decade Since Its Implementation in 2016

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, which came into force in **2016**, completed **10 years of implementation** in **2026**.
- The **IBC** is regarded as a **watershed economic reform** aimed at consolidating and modernising India's fragmented insolvency framework.
- The Code established a **creditor-driven, time-bound, and efficient insolvency resolution mechanism** focused on corporate revival and value maximisation.

About Ministry of Corporate Affairs :

- Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State : Harsh Malhotra

Life Insurance Corporation of India Introduces 'New Jeevan Sathi' Joint Life Insurance Plans for Couples

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** launched two new joint life insurance savings plans named "**LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium**" and "**LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium.**"
- The new insurance products became available from **June 2026**.
- Both plans are **joint life insurance policies** designed for a **married individual and his or her spouse** under a single policy.
- The schemes combine **savings benefits** with **financial protection** to provide long-term financial security for couples and families.

About Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC):

- Headquarters (HQ): Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Founded: 1956

One Mobikwik Systems Limited Receives Reserve Bank of India Nod for Expansion of Offline Payment Aggregator Services

- **One Mobikwik Systems Limited**, the parent company of **MobiKwik**, received **in-principle approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for a **Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P) licence**.
- The **PA-P licence** will enable **MobiKwik** to facilitate **offline merchant payments** across India.

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- The approval allows the company to provide **payment aggregation services** to **physical merchants**.

What is a Payment Aggregator?

- A **Payment Aggregator (PA)** is an entity that facilitates **aggregation of customer payments** to merchants through one or more payment channels.
- Payment aggregators enable transactions for the purchase of goods, services, and investment products through **physical or virtual merchant interfaces**.

Andhra Pradesh Government and Small Industries Development Bank of India Launch Deep-Tech Angel Fund Through Ratan Tata Innovation Hub to Boost Innovation Ecosystem

- The **Government of Andhra Pradesh**, in collaboration with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, announced the creation of a **Deep-Tech Angel Fund**.
- The initiative will be implemented through the **Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH)** in **New Delhi**.
- The programme aims to position **Andhra Pradesh** as a major **hub for deep-tech innovation** in India.

Reserve Bank of India and State Bank of Vietnam Ink Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation in Digital Payments and Financial Innovation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **State Bank of Vietnam (SBV)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with an aim to strengthen bilateral cooperation in **financial innovation** and **digital payments** between India and Vietnam.
- The agreement was signed after receiving approval from the **Union Cabinet of India**.
- The MoU focuses on promoting **cross-border QR Code-based merchant payments** between the two countries.
- The partnership aims to improve **payment system connectivity** and facilitate **seamless cross-border transactions**.

Department of Financial Services Introduces Unified Portal for Accessing Unclaimed Financial Assets

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, under the **Ministry of Finance**, launched the **Common Landing Portal for Unclaimed Financial Assets** on **29 May 2026**.
- The portal was developed in collaboration with the **PSB Alliance** to provide easier access to information related to **unclaimed financial assets**.
- The portal was launched by **M. Nagaraju, Secretary, DFS**, during the review meeting of **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**.
- The portal is accessible through the official website: **Unclaimed Financial Assets Portal**.

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Department of Financial Services Secretary Reviews FY 2025–26 Performance and Operational Progress of Public Sector Banks

- **Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), M. Nagaraju**, chaired a review meeting of **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** to assess their performance during **FY 2025–26**.
- The meeting was attended by senior **DFS officials**, the **Chairman of State Bank of India**, and **MDs, CEOs, and Executive Directors** of PSBs.
- During the meeting, a **Coffee Table Book** titled “**आपकी पूँजी, आपका अधिकार (Your Money, Your Right)**” was unveiled.
- The campaign focused on helping citizens identify and reclaim **unclaimed financial assets**.

Reserve Bank of India Data Shows Indians’ Overseas Travel Expenditure Fell to USD 1.09 Billion in March 2026

- According to data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, **overseas travel spending** by Indians declined to **USD 1.09 billion** in **March 2026**.
- Overseas travel expenditure decreased by nearly **USD 212 million** compared to February 2026.
- The decline reflects **reduced spending on foreign travel** by Indian residents.
- Under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**, Indians can remit up to **USD 2,50,000 per financial year** for permitted transactions.
- The LRS allows remittances for purposes such as **foreign travel, education, investments, and maintenance of relatives abroad**.
- **Total outward remittances** under the LRS stood at **USD 2.59 billion** in March 2026.

AWARDS AND HONOUR

Parveen Shaikh Wins 2026 Whitley Award for Indian Skimmer Conservation

- **Indian scientist Parveen Shaikh** received the **2026 Whitley Award** from the **Whitley Fund for Nature** for her work in protecting the **endangered Indian Skimmer**.
- The award was presented at the **Royal Geographical Society** by **Princess Anne**, recognising **global impact of community-led conservation**.
- The **Indian Skimmer** is a **rare river bird**, identified by its **bright orange bill** and **unique skimming feeding technique**.
- **India hosts over 90 per cent of the global population**, estimated at around **3,000 birds**, nesting on **sandbars and mid-river islands**.
- The species faces threats from **habitat loss, river flow changes, pollution, and human disturbance**, leading to decline across **South and Southeast Asia**.

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Indian Journalists Win Pulitzer Prize 2026 for Reporting on Cyber Fraud

- Indian journalists **R. K. Anand** and **Suparna Sharma** have won the **Pulitzer Prize 2026** in the **Illustrated Reporting and Commentary** category for their reporting on **cyber fraud and digital surveillance**.
- They shared the award with **Natalie Obiko Pearson** for their collaborative work published in **Bloomberg**.
- The award-winning project is titled “**trAPPed**”
- The **Pulitzer Prize** is administered by **Columbia University** in the **United States of America**

Soma Mandal Wins South Asia Regional Award in Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards 2026

- **Soma Mandal** has been named the **South Asia regional winner** of the **Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards 2026** for her contribution to **environmental and climate change education**.
- The award was announced by **Cambridge University Press & Assessment**, recognising her efforts in promoting climate awareness, sustainability, and environmental responsibility among students.
- Recognised for encouraging students to actively engage with **climate change and sustainability issues**
- Award honours teachers making significant contributions to **student learning and development**

President Presents National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 on International Nurses Day

- The **President of India, Droupadi Murmu**, presented the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026** at Rashtrapati Bhavan on **International Nurses Day (May 12)**
- The awards recognise **outstanding nursing professionals** for their **dedication, service, and contribution to healthcare**
- The awards are instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to honour **excellence in nursing services**
- Each award includes:
 - **Certificate of Merit**
 - **₹1 lakh cash prize**
 - **Medal**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Receives Sweden’s Royal Order of the Polar Star

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** received Sweden’s prestigious **Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross**, one of the country’s highest honours awarded to foreign Heads of Government.

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- The award was presented during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to Sweden, where he held bilateral talks with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson to strengthen India–Sweden relations.
- The honour recognises Prime Minister Narendra Modi's contribution towards **International Diplomacy, Bilateral Cooperation, Public Leadership, and Global Partnerships**.
- The **Royal Order of the Polar Star** was established in **1748** by Frederick I of Sweden to recognise exceptional achievements in **Civil Service, Scientific Contributions, Public Welfare, and Cultural Development**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Receives Norway's Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was awarded Norway's **highest civilian honour, the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit**, during his official visit to **Norway**.
- The award is one of Norway's most prestigious honours given to foreign dignitaries for exceptional contribution towards strengthening international relations and promoting cooperation with Norway.
- With this recognition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has now received **32 international honours and awards** from foreign nations, reflecting India's growing diplomatic influence and global engagement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Receives Food and Agriculture Organization Agricola Medal in Rome

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** received the prestigious **Food and Agriculture Organization Agricola Medal** in **Rome, Italy**.
- The award was presented by the Food and Agriculture Organization for contributions towards **sustainable agriculture, food security and rural development**.
- The recognition highlights India's progress in **agricultural modernization, climate-resilient farming and farmer welfare initiatives**.

About Italy

- Capital: Rome
- Currency: Euro
- President: Sergio Mattarella
- Prime Minister: Giorgia Meloni

Taiwan Travelogue' Wins International Booker Prize 2026

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- **Taiwan Travelogue has won the International Booker Prize 2026**, bringing global recognition to Taiwan's literary culture and storytelling tradition.
- The novel was written by **Yang Shuang-zi** and translated into English by **Lin King**.
- The victory is historically significant as it marks the **first work translated from Mandarin Chinese** to win the International Booker Prize.
- The International Booker Prize recognises both the author and translator equally, highlighting the growing importance of **literary translation in global publishing**.

Tripti Mukherjee to Receive Padma Shri for Contribution to Kantha Embroidery

- **Kantha embroidery artist Tripti Mukherjee** will receive the **Padma Shri** on for her contribution to preserving and **promoting the traditional Kantha stitching art of West Bengal**.
- The award will be presented by **President Droupadi Murmu**.
- She is being honoured for her contribution to traditional Indian handicrafts and women empowerment through artisan training and skill development.
- Tripti Mukherjee is a renowned artisan from West Bengal with nearly **37 years of experience** in Kantha embroidery.

Chandrayaan-3 Receives 2026 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Goddard Astronautics Award

- **India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has received the prestigious 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award** from the **American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)**, one of the world's leading organisations in the field of aerospace science and astronautics.
- The award was presented in **Washington, District of Columbia (DC), United States**, and was accepted on behalf of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** by **India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Kwatra**.
- The honour recognises the historic success of **Chandrayaan-3**, which made India the **first country in the world to successfully achieve a soft landing near the Moon's south pole**.

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur Director Manindra Agrawal and Dr Soumya Swaminathan Named Fellows of the Royal Society

- **Professor Manindra Agrawal**, Director of Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, and **Dr Soumya Swaminathan** were elected as **Fellows of the Royal Society (FRS)**.
- The **Royal Society (FRS)** is one of the world's oldest and most prestigious **scientific academies**.
- By receiving the honour, they joined the elite group of distinguished scientists including **Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, and Charles Darwin**.

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- Professor Manindra Agrawal was recognised for his pioneering contributions to **Theoretical Computer Science**.
- He is especially known for the **AKS (Agrawal–Kayal–Saxena) Primality Test**, a breakthrough algorithm for identifying prime numbers.

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and Fondation L'Oréal Announce Winners of 2026 For Women in Science International Awards

- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and Fondation L'Oréal announced the five laureates of the “2026 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Awards”.
- The awards recognised outstanding contributions in **life sciences and environmental sciences**.
- The 2026 edition received a record **504 nominations from 89 countries**.
- **Liesl Zühlke** received the **Africa and Arab States Award** for her cardiovascular research on **childhood rheumatic heart disease**.

South Africa Confers Order of Mapungubwe on Salim Abdool Karim and Keertan Dheda

- South African President **Cyril Ramaphosa** conferred the country's highest civilian honour, the **Order of Mapungubwe**, on Indian-origin scientists **Professor Salim Abdool Karim** and **Professor Keertan Dheda**.
- The awards were presented during the **National Orders ceremony** held in Pretoria.
- **Professor Salim Abdool Karim** received the **Order of Mapungubwe (Gold)** for his exceptional contributions to **medical science, epidemiology, and public health**.
- He was honoured for his research on **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and Tuberculosis (TB)**.

Major Abhilasha Barak Receives 2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

- **Abhilasha Barak**, serving with the Indian Battalion as Commander of the **Female Engagement Team** in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, received the **2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award**.
- The announcement was made by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations on **23 May 2026**.
- Major Abhilasha Barak is the **first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army**.

Sansad Ratna Awards 2026 Announced for Outstanding Parliamentary Performance

- The **Sansad Ratna Awards 2026** were announced to recognise outstanding performance by **Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Standing Committees**.

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- This year, the jury selected **10 Lok Sabha Members of Parliament, 2 Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament, and 4 Parliamentary Standing Committees** for the awards.
- **Medha Vishram Kulkarni** and **Smita Uday Wagh** were among the prominent awardees.
- Smita Uday Wagh received special recognition for continuing parliamentary duties despite undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer.
- The awards are based on parliamentary performance up to the end of the **Budget Session 2026**.

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board Ranked Among Top 5 Global Utilities at Global Water Summit 2026

- The **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board** emerged as one of the top five global utilities at the **Global Water Summit 2026** held in **Madrid**.
- The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board became the only Indian water utility to secure a position among the global top five in three major award categories at the summit.
- The board received international recognition for its integrated approach towards water conservation, **wastewater recycling, water reuse, and sustainable urban water governance** through its **“5 pillars” strategy**.

Sikkim Police Conferred President’s Police Colour

- The **Sikkim State Police** has been conferred the prestigious **President’s Police Colour**, one of the highest honours awarded to a police force in India.
- President Droupadi Murmu presented the honour during a ceremonial event held in Gangtok on **28 May 2026**.
- The award recognises the police force for:
 - **Exceptional service**
 - **Professional excellence**
 - **Distinguished record of duty**
 - **Commitment to public safety**
 - **Contribution to maintaining law and order**

United Nations to Honour Two Indian Peacekeepers; Major Abhilasha Barak Receives United Nations Gender Award

- On the occasion of the **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers**, the **United Nations (UN)** will honour two Indian peacekeepers who lost their lives while serving under the UN flag.

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- The prestigious **Dag Hammarskjold Medal** will be awarded posthumously to **Lance Havildar Harbhajan Singh** and **Naib Subedar Sujit Kumar Pradhan**.
- Lance Havildar Harbhajan Singh served with the **United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)**, while Naib Subedar Sujit Kumar Pradhan served with the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited Appoints Parminder Singh as Chief Executive Officer

- **Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL)**, a joint venture (JV) between **Reliance Intelligence Limited** and **Meta (Facebook Overseas Inc.)**, appointed **Parminder Singh** as its **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** with immediate effect.
- **Parminder Singh** is a **global technology leader** with over **30 years of experience** across major firms including **Google, Apple, Twitter, and IBM**, specialising in **digital business scaling, enterprise strategy, and AI-driven transformation**.
- He has served as **Managing Director (MD)** at **Google (Asia-Pacific)** and **MD** at **Twitter (Southeast Asia, India, and MENA region)**, highlighting his leadership in **global digital expansion**.

Bharat Khera Takes Charge as Secretary of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- **Shri Bharat Khera** has assumed charge as **Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, Government of India.
- He is a **1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer** of the **Himachal Pradesh cadre** with over **three decades** of administrative experience in both **Central and State Governments**.
- Prior to this role, he served as **Additional Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs**.
- He worked as **Joint Secretary** in the **Ministry of Defence** (November 2014 – February 2020), handling matters related to the **Indian Air Force** as **Joint Secretary (Air)**.

About Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises :

- Cabinet Minister : Jitan Ram Manjhi
- Minister of State : Shobha Karandlaje

Filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker Named Festival Director for the 57th International Film Festival of India

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- The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB)** has appointed noted filmmaker **Ashutosh Gowariker** as the **Festival Director** for the **57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** to be held in **Goa**.
- **Ashutosh Gowariker** is an acclaimed **Indian filmmaker** known for his significant contribution to **Indian cinema** and has maintained a long association with **IFFI** spanning several decades.
- The **57th edition of IFFI** is scheduled to be held in **November 2026** in **Goa**.
- The **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** was established in **1952** and is regarded as **Asia's oldest and premier** film festival.
- **IFFI** serves as a major platform for **showcasing global cinema**, promoting **cultural exchange**, and encouraging **artistic collaboration**.

About Ministry of Information & Broadcasting :

- Cabinet Minister : Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Minister of State : L. Murugan

Vishvajit Sahay Takes Charge as Secretary (Defence Finance)

- **Shri Vishvajit Sahay**, a **1990-batch officer** of the **Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)**, assumed charge as **Secretary (Defence Finance)**, **Ministry of Defence** on **1 May 2026**.
- Prior to this appointment, he served as the **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)**, playing a key role in **financial oversight and governance** in defence establishments.
- During his career, he has held several important positions including **Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser** in the **Department of Science and Technology**.

Rohit Jain Appointed as Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India

- The **Government of India** has appointed **Rohit Jain** as the **Deputy Governor** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** through a notification dated **02 May 2026**.
- The appointment has been made under the provisions of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (Section 8)**.
- **Rohit Jain** is currently serving as an **Executive Director** at the **Reserve Bank of India**.

Shri Anugraha Narayana Das Assumes Charge as Controller General of Defence Accounts

- **Shri Anugraha Narayana Das**, a **1991-batch officer** of the **Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)**, has assumed charge as the **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)** with effect from **1 May 2026**.
- He brings over **three decades of experience** in **defence, financial management** and **public service**.

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- During his career, he has led key initiatives in **procurement policy, audit and oversight mechanisms, budgeting, and expenditure monitoring.**
- He has undergone **advanced training** from premier global institutions **Justice (Retd.) Anupinder Singh Grewal Appointed as President of the National Company Law Tribunal**
- **Justice (Retd.) Anupinder Singh Grewal**, former judge of the **Punjab and Haryana High Court (HC)**, has been appointed as the **President of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).**

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Reconstitutes Four Parliamentary Committees for 2026–27 Term

- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** has reconstituted **four Parliamentary Committees** for the year **2026–27.**
- The **Committee on Estimates** has been chaired by **BJP MP Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal** and comprises **30 members from the Lok Sabha.**
- The **Committee on Public Undertakings** will be headed by **BJP MP Baijayant Panda** and includes **15 Lok Sabha members** and **7 Rajya Sabha members.**
- The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** has been chaired by **Congress MP K. C. Venugopal** consists of **15 Lok Sabha members** and **7 Rajya Sabha members.**
- The **Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)** will be headed by **BJP MP Faggan Singh Kulaste.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Approves Appointment of Dr. R. Balasubramaniam and Dr. Joram Aniya as Full-Time Members of National Institution for Transforming India Aayog

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has approved the appointment of **Dr. R. Balasubramaniam** and **Dr. Joram Aniya** as **full-time members of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).**
- With these appointments, the **total number of full-time members** in NITI Aayog has increased to **seven.**
- **Dr. R. Balasubramaniam** is a former member of the **Capacity Building Commission** and author of the book **“Power Within”.**
- **Dr. Joram Aniya** is an academician with expertise in **public policy** and **Nyishi culture.**
- Her appointment is **historic** as she is the **first woman from the Nyishi community** with a **PhD** and the **first Hindi doctorate** from **Arunachal Pradesh.**

About NITI Aayog:

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) is a government agency that advises the central and state governments of India.

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- It was established on January 1, 2015, replaced the **Planning Commission**
- Headquarters : New Delhi, India
- The **Prime Minister of India** serves as the **Chairperson**, while the **Vice-Chairperson** is appointed by the PM, reflecting its **top-down policy structure**.

Renowned Lyricist and Communication Expert Prasoon Joshi Appointed Chairman of Prasar Bharati

- The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has appointed noted lyricist, writer, and communications expert **Shri Prasoon Joshi** as the **Chairman of Prasar Bharati**, India's public service broadcaster.
- **Prasoon Joshi** is a renowned creative professional known for his contributions in **films, advertising, literature, and public communication**.
- Prior to this appointment, he served as **Chairperson** of the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** in Mumbai since August 2017, contributing to strengthening **film certification processes**.
- He also held key roles such as **CEO of McCann World Group India** and **Chairman of McCann World Group Asia Pacific**, and has been a **Trustee** of the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts** since 2016.

About Ministry of Information & Broadcasting :

- Cabinet Minister : Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Minister of State : L. Murugan

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Appoints Shri Ravi K. as 22nd Chairman and Managing Director

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** has appointed **Shri Ravi K.** as its **22nd Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)**.
- He succeeds **Dr. D.K. Sunil**, who retired on **30 April 2026** after attaining superannuation.
- The appointment was made with **Government of India approval** and due compliance with **stock exchange disclosure requirements**.
- **Shri Ravi K.** has over **30 years of experience** in **aerospace, defence manufacturing, electronics, and industrial operations** within HAL.

About Hindustan Aeronautics Limited :

- **Headquarters** : Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- **Owner** : Government of India (71%)

City Union Bank Appoints R. Vijay Anandh as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- **City Union Bank (CUB)** announced a leadership transition, as **N. Kamakodi** completed his maximum tenure of **15 years as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer**.
- The bank appointed **R. Vijay Anandh** as the new **Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
- His appointment will be effective from **May 1, 2026**, for a term of **three years**.
- **R. Vijay Anandh** previously served as **Executive Director** at City Union Bank, having joined as Executive President in 2023 and elevated to ED in 2024.

About City Union Bank (CUB):

- Founded Year: 1904
- Headquarters: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India
- Slogan: "Trust and Excellence Since 1904"

Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati Appointed as Chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification

- The **Government of India**, through a notification issued by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** on **May 6, 2026**, appointed **Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati** as the **Chairperson** of the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**.
- He will hold office for a **period of three years** from the date of joining, strengthening leadership in India's **film certification regulatory framework**.
- He succeeds **Shri Prasoon Joshi**, who stepped down after being appointed as **Chairman of Prasar Bharati**.
- The **Central Board of Film Certification** is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** responsible for **regulating public exhibition of films** in India.

About Ministry of Information & Broadcasting :

- Cabinet Minister : Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Minister of State : L. Murugan

Kumar Mangalam Birla Appointed as Non-Executive Chairman of Vodafone Idea

- **Kumar Mangalam Birla** has been appointed as the **Non-Executive Chairman** of **Vodafone Idea**.
- The company's board accepted the resignation of the outgoing chairman **Ravinder Takkar**, who will continue as a **Non-Executive Director** and also serve as **Non-Executive Vice Chairman**.
- **Kumar Mangalam Birla** had previously served as **Chairman of Vodafone Idea** from August 2018 to 2021, stepping down during a period of **financial stress** in the company.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry appoints Priyanka Mittal as Co-Chair of the Saudi-India Business Council

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** has nominated **Priyanka Mittal**, Director of **KRBL (Khushi Ram & Behari Lal) Limited**, as the **Co-Chair** of the **Saudi-India Business Council (SIBC)**, strengthening India's representation in **bilateral economic cooperation**.
- **Siddeek Ahmed**, Chairman of **Eram Holdings**, has been nominated as the **Chair** of the Indian side of **SIBC**, which is a key platform for **India–Saudi Arabia trade and investment relations**.
- The **Saudi-India Business Council (SIBC)**, jointly formed by **FICCI** and the **Federation of Saudi Chambers (FSC)**, is an important bilateral platform promoting **trade, investment, and economic cooperation** between India and Saudi Arabia.

Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan appointed as Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of India

- The Government has appointed **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**, PVSM, AVSM, VSM as the **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)** of India.
- The present **CNS Dinesh Kumar Tripathi** will retire from service on **31 May 2026**, marking a **key leadership transition** in the **Indian Navy**.
- **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** is the **34th Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief** of the **Western Naval Command**, having assumed charge on **31 July 2025**.
- He was commissioned into the **Indian Navy** on **01 July 1987** and is a specialist in **Communication and Electronic Warfare**, reflecting strong **technical expertise** in naval operations.

Suvendu Adhikari Sworn in as West Bengal's First BJP Chief Minister Along with Five Cabinet Ministers

- **Suvendu Adhikari** took oath as the **9th Chief Minister** of **West Bengal**, leading the **first-ever Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** government in the state.
- He became the **second Chief Minister from Midnapore** after **Ajoy Mukherjee**.
- The oath of office and secrecy was administered by **Governor R. N. Ravi** at a grand ceremony held at the **Brigade Parade Grounds, Kolkata**.
- Along with the Chief Minister, **five Cabinet Ministers** also took oath in the presence of the Governor.
- The Cabinet Ministers include **Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Nisith Pramanik, and Kshudiram Tudu**.

About West Bengal:

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief Minister: Suvendu Adhikari

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- Capital: Kolkata
- National Parks: Sundarbans National Park, Jaldapara National Park, Buxa National Park, Gorumara National Park, Neora Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary, Bibhutibhushan Wildlife Sanctuary, Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary, Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Haliday Island Wildlife Sanctuary

Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (Retd) appointed as India's Chief of Defence Staff

- The Government has appointed **Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani**, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd) as the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** and also as **Secretary, Department of Military Affairs**, effective from the date of assumption of charge until further orders.
- The outgoing **CDS Anil Chauhan** will complete his tenure on **30 May 2026**, marking a formal **leadership transition** in the **Indian Armed Forces**.
- **Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani** is currently serving as **Military Adviser, National Security Council Secretariat** since **01 September 2025**.

Laura Virginia Fernández Delgado Takes Oath as Costa Rica's New President

- **Laura Virginia Fernández Delgado**, aged **39**, was sworn in as the **50th President of Costa Rica** at the **National Stadium in San José, Costa Rica**.
- She will serve a **four-year term** from **2026 to 2030**, succeeding former President **Rodrigo Chaves Robles**.
- Her political party, the **right-wing Sovereign People's Party (PPSO)**, secured an **absolute majority** in the legislature by winning **31 out of 57 seats** in the **February 2026 elections**.

About Costa Rica :

- Capital : San José
- Currency : Costa Rican colón

Dr. A.K. Panda assumes charge as Chairman & Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Limited

- **Ashok Kumar Panda** assumed charge as **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** under the **Ministry of Steel**, effective from **9 May 2026**.
- He succeeded **Krishna Kumar Singh**, who was serving as **interim MD & CEO** after **Amarendu Prakash** stepped down on **1 April 2026**.
- **Ashok Kumar Panda** joined **SAIL** in **1992** as a **Management Trainee (Technical)**.

About Steel Authority of India Limited :

- Incorporated : 1973
- Headquarters : New Delhi, India

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

About Ministry of Steel :

- Cabinet Minister : H.D. Kumaraswamy

Joseph Vijay takes oath as 9th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu representing Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam

- **Joseph Vijay**, founder of **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)**, was sworn in as the **13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai**.
- He officially succeeded **Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin** as **Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu**.
- The **oath of office** was administered by **Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**.

Dr. Harvansh Chawla appointed as Chairman of BRISEC Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- Legal expert **Dr. Harvansh Chawla** has been appointed as the **Chairman** of the **BRISEC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRISEC CCI)** after stepping down from his earlier role as Chairman of the **BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI)**.
- **Dr. Harvansh Chawla** is the **Founder and Managing Partner** of **K.R. Chawla & Co. Advocates** (since 1994) and is an expert in **infrastructure, privatisation** (including port privatisation in India), and **banking transactions**.
- He has handled **major financial deals** including **ABN-AMRO** and **Bank of America** transactions, highlighting his experience in **international banking** and **corporate law**.

About BRISEC CCI :

- The **BRISEC CCI**, established in **May 2026**, is recognised by **NITI Aayog** and focuses on promoting **global trade, investment, innovation, and economic cooperation** beyond BRICS countries.
- The organisation aims to strengthen **cross-border trade** and investment opportunities, foster **partnerships** across emerging and developed markets, and encourage **innovation and collaboration** across key sectors.
- It also works to facilitate **policy dialogue** to improve **global business engagement** and create a smoother environment for **international trade and cooperation**.

Bulgarian Parliament Elects Rumen Radev as New Prime Minister

- The **National Assembly of Bulgaria** formally elected and swore in former President **Rumen Radev** of the **Progressive Bulgaria Party** as the **Prime Minister of Bulgaria** in **Sofia, Bulgaria**.
- **Rumen Radev** secured the support of **124 out of 240 members** in the Bulgarian Parliament.
- The election marked Bulgaria's **eighth parliamentary election in five years**, following the collapse of former Prime Minister **Rosen Zhelyazkov's** government in **December 2025**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- **Rumen Radev** holds the rank of **Major General** and previously served as a professional **fighter pilot**.

About Bulgaria :

- Capital : Sofia
- Currency : Euro

Confederation of Indian Industry elects R Mukundan as President for 2026–27, succeeding Rajiv Memani

- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** elected **R Mukundan** as its **President** for **2026–27**, succeeding **Rajiv Memani** after the announcement by the newly constituted **CII National Council**.
- **R Mukundan** is the **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Tata Chemicals**.
- The **CII** also elected **Dr Suchitra K. Ella** as **President-Designate** and **Shashwat Goenka** as **Vice President** for the **2026–27 term**.

About Confederation of Indian Industry :

- **Formation** : 1895
- **Headquarters** : New Delhi, India
- **Director General** : Chandrajit Banerjee

Peter Magyar Becomes Hungary's Prime Minister, Ending Viktor Orbán's 16-Year Rule

- **Peter Magyar** was sworn in as the new **Prime Minister of Hungary** after his party secured victory in the **parliamentary elections**.
- His victory marks the end of nearly **two decades of political dominance** by former Prime Minister **Viktor Orbán** and his **Fidesz government**.
- Magyar's centre-right **Tisza Party** achieved a **historic win** by securing a **two-thirds majority** with **141 seats** in the **199-member National Assembly**.

About Hungary :

- **Capital** : Budapest
- **Currency** : Hungarian Forint (HUF)

Himanta Biswa Sarma sworn in as Assam Chief Minister for a second consecutive term

- **Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma**, senior leader of the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** and **MLA** from the **Jalukbari constituency**, was sworn in as the **Chief Minister (CM)** of **Assam** for a **second consecutive term**.

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- With this achievement, **Himanta Biswa Sarma** became the **first non-Congress leader** in Assam to serve **two successive terms** as Chief Minister.
- The **oath-taking ceremony** was held at the **Veterinary College Ground, Khanapara, Guwahati**.
- **Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Assam**, administered the **oath of office and secrecy** according to the **Third Schedule** of the **Constitution of India**.

About Assam:

- Governor: Lakshman Prasad Acharya
- Capital: Dispur
- National Parks: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Orang National Park, Bura-Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary, Nameri Wildlife Sanctuary

Jio Platforms appoints Akash Ambani as Managing Director for a five-year term

- **Jio Platforms Limited (JPL)**, the digital services arm of **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)**, has appointed **Akash Ambani** as its first **Managing Director (MD)** for a **five-year term** effective from **9 April 2026**.
- **Akash Ambani** is the eldest son of **Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of Reliance Industries Limited.
- He joined the **Board of Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL)** in **October 2014** and has served as its **Chairman** since **June 2022**.

Yoweri Museveni sworn in as President of Uganda for a seventh consecutive term

- **Yoweri Museveni**, leader of the **National Resistance Movement (NRM)**, was sworn in as the **President of Uganda** for a **seventh term** after winning the **January 2026 presidential election**.
- He took the **oath of office** at the **Kololo Independence Grounds** in **Kampala, Uganda**, in a ceremony featuring fly-pasts of **Russian-made Sukhoi fighter jets**.
- **Museveni** first came to power in **1986** as a **rebel leader** and has since won **seven presidential elections**, making him one of **Africa's longest-serving leaders**.
- In the **January 2026 election**, **Museveni** secured over **71% of the vote**, while opposition leader **Bobi Wine** received nearly **25% of the votes**.

About Uganda :

- Prime Minister : Robinah Nabbanja
- Capital : Kampala
- Currency : Ugandan shilling (UGX)

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

N. Rangasamy sworn in as Puducherry Chief Minister for fifth term after 2026 Assembly elections

- **N. Rangasamy**, leader of the **All India N.R. Congress (AINRC)** from **Thattanchavady** and **Mangalam** constituencies, was sworn in as the **Chief Minister (CM)** of **Puducherry** for a **fifth term** following the **2026 Assembly elections**.
- With this achievement, **N. Rangasamy** became the **first leader** in the history of Puducherry to serve as **Chief Minister for five terms**.
- The **oath of office and secrecy** was administered by the **Lieutenant Governor (LG) Kuniyil Kailashnathan** at **Lok Nivas, Puducherry**.
- Along with the **Chief Minister**, two ministers—**Malladi Krishna Rao (AINRC)** and **A. Namassivayam (BJP)**—also took oath in the **AINRC-led NDA government**.

Central Government extends Praveen Sood's tenure as Central Bureau of Investigation Director by one more year

- The **Central Government** has extended the tenure of **Praveen Sood** as **Director** of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** by **one more year**.
- The extension was approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** on **24 May 2026**, based on the recommendation of the **selection committee**.
- **Praveen Sood** originally assumed charge as **CBI Director** on **25 May 2023** for a **two-year term** and has now received his **second tenure extension**.
- This marks his **second extension** in office since becoming the head of India's **premier investigative agency**.

About CBI :

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** is India's **premier investigating agency**, established in **1963** by the **Government of India (GoI)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The **CBI** is responsible for investigating cases related to **corruption**, **economic offences**, and other **serious crimes**.
- The **CBI** is headed by a **Director**, who is appointed by the **Prime Minister of India** on the recommendation of the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**.
- The **CBI Headquarters** is located in **New Delhi**.
- The organisation functions as the country's **top agency** for **major criminal investigations** and **integrity-related cases**, ensuring enforcement of **anti-corruption** and **economic crime laws**.

Kuljeet Kaur Marhas Becomes First Indian Woman Elected as Fellow of The Meteoritical Society

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- **Dr. Kuljeet Kaur Marhas** has become the **first Indian woman** to be elected as a **Fellow of The Meteoritical Society**, a prestigious global organisation in planetary science and meteoritics.
- She is only the **third Indian scientist** to receive this honour after **Devendra Lal and J.N. Goswami**, marking a significant milestone for India's space and planetary research community.
- Dr. Marhas is a professor at the **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad**, which is associated with **ISRO**, strengthening India's link with advanced space science research.

Indian Administrative Service Officer Saurabh Vijay Takes Charge as Chief Executive Officer of the Unique Identification Authority of India

- **Shri Saurabh Vijay**, an **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer of the **1998 Maharashtra cadre**, has assumed charge as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**.
- He is a **civil engineer** from the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi**, with extensive experience in both Government of Maharashtra and Government of India.
- Prior to joining UIDAI, he served as **Principal Secretary (Expenditure), Finance Department, Government of Maharashtra**, handling key responsibilities in public financial management.

About UIDAI :

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** was initially set up on **28 January 2009** by a **notification of the Planning Commission of India**.
- UIDAI was later established as a **statutory authority on 12 July 2016** under the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016**.
- The UIDAI is responsible for issuing and managing the **Aadhaar unique identification system** in India.
- **Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi.**

Reserve Bank of India appoints Shri Gunveer Singh as Executive Director

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** appointed **Shri Gunveer Singh** as **Executive Director (ED)** with effect from **18 May 2026**, marking a key leadership change in the central bank.
- Prior to his promotion, Shri Gunveer Singh served as **Chief General Manager-in-Charge** of the **Department of Payment and Settlement Systems (DPSS)** at RBI.

Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi becomes Iraq's youngest Prime Minister after taking oath of office

- **Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi** was sworn in as the new **Prime Minister (PM)** of Iraq and **Commander-in-Chief** of Iraq's Armed Forces.
- Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi was nominated by the **Coordination Framework** political alliance.
- At the age of **40 years**, al-Zaidi became the **youngest Prime Minister** in Iraq's modern history.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The official swearing-in ceremony was held in **Baghdad, Iraq**.
- Outgoing Prime Minister **Mohammed Shia al-Sudani** formally transferred power to the new administration.

About Iraq :

- Capital : Baghdad
- Currency : Iraqi dinar

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet Extends Narcotics Control Bureau Director General Anurag Garg's Deputation Tenure Till July 2027

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, chaired by **Narendra Modi**, extended the deputation tenure of **Anurag Garg** as **Director General (DG)** of the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** till **31 July 2027**.
- **Anurag Garg** was appointed as **DG of NCB** in **September 2024**.
- He succeeded **Satya Narayan Pradhan**, who served as **DG of NCB** from **July 2021 to August 2024**.

About Narcotics Control Bureau :

- The **Narcotics Control Bureau** was established in **1986** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **NCB** functions as India's **apex anti-drug law enforcement and intelligence agency** under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**.

Reserve Bank of India Approves Reappointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ICICI Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the reappointment of **Sandeep Bakhshi** as **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **ICICI Bank**.
- The new tenure of Sandeep Bakhshi will be for **two years**, starting from **4 October 2026** and ending on **3 October 2028**.
- The reappointment was earlier approved by the **ICICI Bank Board in January 2026**, subject to RBI approval.

About ICICI Bank :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Founded Year: 1994 (as a bank; ICICI established in 1955)
- Slogan: *"Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka"*
- ICICI Bank is India's **second-largest private sector bank** in terms of market capitalisation.

Federal Bank Limited Appoints Elias George as Part-Time Chairman

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the appointment of former IAS officer **Elias George** as the **Part-Time Chairman** of the Board of Directors of **Federal Bank Limited**.
- The appointment became effective from **May 23, 2026**, for a **three-year tenure**.
- Elias George is a **1982-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer** with more than **35 years of experience** in public administration, infrastructure financing, and public utility management.

About Federal Bank:

- Founded: 1931
- Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala, India
- Managing Director & CEO: KVS Manian
- Tagline: "Your Perfect Banking Partner"

Financial Services Institutions Bureau Recommends T. D. Sivakumar as Deputy Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited

- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** has recommended **T. D. Sivakumar** for the post of **Deputy Managing Director (DMD)** of **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)**.
- The recommendation was made after interface evaluations conducted on **20–21 May 2026**, assessing nine eligible candidates for the senior leadership role.
- The selection process considered performance during interviews, professional experience, and other eligibility parameters under a **merit-based evaluation framework**.

P. Jawahar Takes Charge as Chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority

- **P. Jawahar** officially assumed charge as the **Chairman** of the **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**.
- Marine Products Export Development Authority functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**.
- P. Jawahar **succeeded D.V. Swamy** as the Chairman of MPEDA.
- He will serve as Chairman for a **period of five years** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

About MPEDA :

- Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) was **established in 1972** as the **statutory body** for promoting India's marine product exports.
- MPEDA is **headquartered in Kochi**.
- India's seafood exports reached an all-time high of **₹72,325.82 crore** (around **USD 8.28 billion**) during **FY26**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- India's seafood export volume also reached a record **19.32 lakh Metric Tonnes (MT)** in FY26.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Clears Appointment of Amit Mahajan and Nayana Ovalekar as Executive Directors of Central Depository Services Limited

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approved the appointment of **Amit Mahajan** and **Nayana Ovalekar** as **Executive Directors (EDs)** on the board of **Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL)**.
- The disclosure regarding the appointments was made under **Regulation 30** of the **SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements – LODR) Regulations, 2015**.
- **Amit Mahajan** will head **Vertical 1** at CDSL, which is responsible for **Critical Operations**.
- **Nayana Ovalekar** will lead **Vertical 2**, overseeing **Regulatory Affairs, Compliance, Risk Management, and Investor Grievances**.
- **BSE Limited** also appointed **Saurabh Shukla** as Executive Director for **Vertical 1** and **Gopalan S. Raghavan** as Executive Director for **Vertical 2**.
- **National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL)** appointed **Subhash Kelkar** and **Ankit Sharma** as **Executive Directors (EDs)** for its two major operational verticals.

Ajay Kochhar Takes Over as the 48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy

- **Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar** assumed charge as the **48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)** on **29 May 2026**.
- On assuming office, he paid tribute to the fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the **National War Memorial**.
- For his distinguished service, he was awarded the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM)** in **2022** and the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM)** in **2026**.
- Prior to becoming VCNS, he served as **Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command**.

Reserve Bank of India Extends Ketan Merchant's Tenure as Interim Chief Executive Officer of Fino Payments Bank by Three Months

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved a **three-month extension** for **Ketan Merchant** to continue as the **Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Fino Payments Bank**.
- The extended tenure became effective from **27 May 2026**.
- The disclosure regarding the extension was made under **Regulation 30** of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements – LODR) Regulations, 2015.

Senegal Names Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo as Prime Minister Following Removal of Ousmane

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

Sonko

- **Bassirou Diomaye Faye, President of Senegal**, appointed **Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo** as the new **Prime Minister (PM)** of Senegal.
- **Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo** is a veteran **central banker, economist**, and member of the **Pastef party**.
- The **political transition** occurred **three days** after President Bassirou Diomaye Faye **dissolved the government** and dismissed former Prime Minister **Ousmane Sonko**.

About Senegal :

- **Capital** : Dakar
- **Currency** : West African CFA franc

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Partners with Sikkim to Document Ru-Soam Indigenous Engineering

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has partnered with the **Government of Sikkim** to document the indigenous engineering practice of **Ru-Soam cane bridges** developed by the **Lepcha community** in the **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve**.
- The initiative aims to study the **design, durability, and environmental aspects** of these bridges and assess their relevance for climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resilient infrastructure development.
- **Ru-Soam** refers to traditional **cane bridges**, where 'Ru' means cane and 'Soam' means bridge
- Built using **locally available materials** such as **bamboo, cane, and wood**

Reform-Linked Memoranda of Understanding Signed with Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Tripura under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** signed **reform-linked Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with the states of **Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Tripura** under **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0**, following approval by the **Union Cabinet**.
- The MoUs establish a **Gram Panchayat-led, service-based and community-centric model** for rural water governance to ensure **sustainable and regular drinking water supply**.
- Objective to provide **adequate quantity and prescribed quality of drinking water** to every rural household on a regular basis

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- MoUs signed in presence of **C. R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti** and **V. Somanna, Minister of State**
- **Uttarakhand** achieved around **98 per cent Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)** coverage (14.20 lakh out of 14.48 lakh households)
- **Karnataka** recorded about **87 per cent coverage**, addressing challenges as a water-stressed state

Dhash Defense Systems and IIT Ropar Defence Research and Innovation Foundation Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Indigenous Defence Mobility

- **Dhash Defense Systems Private Limited (DDS)** and **IIT Ropar Defence Research and Innovation Foundation** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **indigenous defence mobility capabilities**
- The partnership focuses on **advanced ground mobility systems**, including:
 - **Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs)**
 - **Robotic Combat Vehicles (RCVs)**
 - **All-terrain and specialised mobility platforms**
- The initiative emphasises **Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured (IDDM)** solutions with **high local content**
- The collaboration includes a **joint Research and Development (R&D) programme** in **autonomous systems, robotics, and next-generation mobility platforms**

Confederation of Indian Industry and National University of Singapore Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Artificial Intelligence Leadership Programme

- **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** and **National University of Singapore – Institute of Systems Science (NUS-ISS)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance **digital leadership and governance in Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
- The MoU was exchanged at the **CII Annual Business Summit** in the presence of N. Chandrababu Naidu and Simon Wong
- The partnership aims to **strengthen India’s digital transformation ecosystem** and build **AI leadership capabilities among enterprises**
- Under the collaboration, both organisations will jointly deliver the **‘Leadership Programme on Artificial Intelligence and Governance’**
- The programme is designed for:
 - **Board members**
 - **Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- **Senior executives and decision-makers**

D Y Patil International University Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Dassault Systèmes to Establish Digital Engineering Centre

- **D Y Patil International University (DYPIU)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Dassault Systèmes**
- The partnership aims to establish an **Advanced Digital Engineering and Digital Manufacturing Experience Centre** on campus
- The initiative focuses on **strengthening industry–academia collaboration** and **enhancing student employability**
- The Experience Centre will integrate advanced digital technologies into the Smart Manufacturing curriculum
- It is among the **first such initiatives in Maharashtra** to create **industry-ready talent**

India and Vietnam Elevate Ties to Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

- **To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**, visited India on the invitation of **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**.
- During the visit, both countries upgraded bilateral relations to an **Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and signed **13 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** to strengthen cooperation across strategic, economic, technological, cultural, and maritime sectors.
- Bilateral relationship elevated to **Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**
- **Vietnam joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)** for cooperation in maritime security and regional stability
- Agreement between **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **State Bank of Vietnam (SBV)** for collaboration in **financial innovation and digital payment systems**

IndiaAI and Indian Council of Medical Research Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Artificial Intelligence-Based Healthcare Innovation

- **IndiaAI**, the Government of India's flagship Artificial Intelligence initiative under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to strengthen Artificial Intelligence-based healthcare innovation in India.
- The partnership aims to combine **IndiaAI's digital infrastructure and Artificial Intelligence ecosystem** with **ICMR's expertise in biomedical and public health research** to develop ethical and scalable healthcare solutions.

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- Under the agreement, **ICMR will provide anonymised and ethics-approved biomedical datasets, Artificial Intelligence models, and toolkits** developed under its **Medical Information Data for Artificial Intelligence Solutions framework** to the **AIKosh platform**.
- The **AIKosh platform** will enable researchers, startups, and innovators to access high-quality biomedical datasets for developing Artificial Intelligence-based healthcare applications and public health solutions.

All India Football Federation and Department of Sports and Youth Services Sign Five-Year Memorandum of Understanding to Boost Youth Football Development

- **All India Football Federation and the Department of Sports and Youth Services, Government of Odisha**, have signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to expand their **elite youth football development partnership**
- The MoU was signed by **Vijay Yeddula and M. Satyanarayan** in the presence of **Syed Sabir Pasha**
- The partnership originally began in **November 2023** under the **All India Football Federation – Fédération Internationale de Football Association Talent Academy** initiative, supported by the **Fédération Internationale de Football Association Talent Development Scheme**

About AIFF

- **Establishment:** The AIFF was founded in 1937 and is responsible for managing football in India.
- **Affiliation:** It is affiliated with FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.

Afghanistan Signs 46 Million Dollar Deal with Indian Company for Customs Infrastructure

- The **Taliban administration in Afghanistan** has signed a **46 million United States dollar agreement** with Indian company TCRC to develop **customs laboratory infrastructure across Afghanistan**.
- The project aims to improve **trade quality checks, customs inspection systems, and technical capacity** in the country.
- The agreement was signed between the Taliban's economic office and TCRC.

India and United Arab Emirates Sign Major Energy Agreements During Shri Narendra Modi's Abu Dhabi Visit

- **Shri Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited the **United Arab Emirates**.
- During the visit, India and the United Arab Emirates signed major agreements related to:

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- **Strategic Petroleum Reserve Cooperation**
- **Liquefied Petroleum Gas Supply**
- **Long-Term Energy Security**
- The agreements are considered an important step towards strengthening India's **Energy Security** amid rising global geopolitical uncertainties.
- One of the most significant outcomes of the visit was the agreement under India's **Strategic Petroleum Reserve Framework**.
- Under the proposed arrangement, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company may store up to **30 Million Barrels of Crude Oil** in India.

Tata Electronics Signs Strategic Partnership with Advanced Semiconductor Materials Lithography for Dholera Semiconductor Fabrication Facility in Gujarat

- **Tata Electronics signed a strategic partnership agreement with ASML (Advanced Semiconductor Materials Lithography)** to support India's first commercial **300 Millimetre Semiconductor Fabrication Facility in Dholera**.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of **Shri Narendra Modi and representatives from the Netherlands government**.
- The partnership is considered a major step towards strengthening India's **Semiconductor Manufacturing Ecosystem** and reducing dependence on imported semiconductor chips.

India and Italy Elevate Bilateral Relations to Special Strategic Partnership

- **India and Italy** upgraded their bilateral ties to a **Special Strategic Partnership** during the visit of **Shri Narendra Modi to Italy**.
- The partnership announcement was made jointly by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Giorgia Meloni** and reflects growing political trust, strategic alignment and expanding economic cooperation **between New Delhi and Rome**.
- Both countries agreed to institutionalize **annual leadership-level meetings** during bilateral and multilateral engagements to maintain regular high-level diplomatic coordination.

Madhya Pradesh Partners with Google Cloud India for Artificial Intelligence-Powered Simhastha 2028 Management

- **Madhya Pradesh** partnered with **Google Cloud India** to introduce **Artificial Intelligence-powered solutions** for the management of **Simhastha Kumbh 2028** in **Ujjain**.
- The partnership aims to improve crowd management, traffic control, emergency response and pilgrim assistance during one of India's largest religious gatherings.

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- **Chief Minister Mohan Yadav** held discussions with **Google Cloud India officials** in **Bhopal** regarding the implementation of **Artificial Intelligence-driven systems for Simhastha 2028**.
- A formal **Memorandum of Understanding** between the Madhya Pradesh government and Google Cloud India is expected to be signed soon.

India and South Korea Strengthen Strategic Ties with Indian War Memorial Inauguration

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **Indian War Memorial** at **Imjingak Peace Park**, marking an important milestone **in relations between India and South Korea**.
- The memorial honours Indian military personnel who served during the **Korean War (1950–53)**, especially those involved in **humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping duties**.
- The inauguration ceremony was jointly conducted with **Kwon Oh-eul**.

India and Ethiopia Sign World Trade Organization (WTO) Accession Protocol to Strengthen Trade Relations

- **India and Ethiopia** have signed a **bilateral World Trade Organization (WTO) accession protocol** in Geneva to support Ethiopia's entry into the World Trade Organization.
- The agreement reflects India's continued support for integrating developing economies into the global trading system.
- The protocol was signed at the headquarters of the **World Trade Organization in Geneva**.
- India was represented by **Dr. Senthil Pandian C., Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the WTO**, while Ethiopia was represented by **Ambassador Tsegab Kebebew Daka, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia in Geneva**.

About Ethiopia

- Capital: Addis Ababa
- Currency: Ethiopian Birr
- Prime minister: Abiy Ahmed Ali

India and Cyprus Upgrade Bilateral Ties to Strategic Partnership

- **India and Cyprus** have upgraded their bilateral relationship to a **Strategic Partnership** during the visit of **Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides to New Delhi**.
- The development marks an important step in strengthening India's engagement with the Mediterranean region.
- Both countries signed **six major agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** covering areas such as **defence, cybersecurity, innovation, education, maritime cooperation and culture**.

About Cyprus

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- Capital: Nicosia
- Currency: Euro
- President: Nikos Christodoulides

Securities and Exchange Board of India, National Institute of Securities Markets and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Corporate Governance and Sustainability Initiatives

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India, National Institute of Securities Markets, and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs** signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on **corporate governance, Environmental Social and Governance initiatives, and capital market-related programmes.**
- The agreement was signed in Mumbai in the presence of **Tuhin Kanta Pandey**, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- The **National Institute of Securities Markets** was established by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, while the **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs** functions under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Maharashtra Signs Memorandums of Understanding Worth Rs 6.5 Lakh Crore for Nuclear Energy Projects

- The Government of Maharashtra signed **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with **NTPC Limited, Adani Power Limited, Reliance Industries Limited, and Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited** in Mumbai.
- The initiative aims to attract investments worth **Rs 6.5 lakh crore** for nuclear energy projects in the state.
- The proposed projects are expected to generate a total power generation capacity of **25,400 Megawatts.**
- The projects are aimed at strengthening Maharashtra's **long-term energy security, industrial growth, clean energy expansion, and decarbonisation efforts** in line with net-zero energy systems.

Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association Launches “Bharat Digital Samvad” in New Delhi

- The **Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association** launched “**Bharat Digital Samvad**” at Shangri-La Eros New Delhi.
- The event is India's **first dedicated national forum on digital sovereignty and infrastructure policy.**

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- The summit marked the formal public launch of the Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association as a **not-for-profit industry body**.

About Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association

- **Piyush Somani**, President of the Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association, stated that India's digital economy is projected to reach **1 trillion United States Dollars by 2030**.
- The headquarters of the **Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association** is located in New Delhi.
- **Abhishek Bhatt** serves as the Secretary General of the association.
- The Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association was established in **2026**.

British International Investment and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners Launch “North Star” Renewable Energy Platform

- **British International Investment** partnered with **Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners** to launch a **300-million United States Dollar renewable energy platform** named “**North Star**”.
- The platform will invest in **solar, wind, hybrid, and energy storage projects** in India.
- British International Investment and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, through their **Growth Markets Fund Two**, will each commit up to **150 million United States Dollars** for the platform.

About British International Investment

- **British International Investment** is headquartered in London and was established in **1948**.
- **Diana Layfield** is the Chairperson and **Leslie Maasdorp** is the Chief Executive Officer of British International Investment.

About Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners

- **Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners** is headquartered in Copenhagen and was established in **2012**.

Delhi Government Signs Memorandum of Understanding with State Bank of India for e-Pay System

- The **Delhi e-Governance Society** under the **Information Technology Department of the Delhi Government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **State Bank of India**.
- The agreement aims to introduce an integrated electronic payment system called “**e-Pay**” on the Delhi Government electronic procurement portal.
- The initiative is intended to make the government procurement process **faster, transparent, efficient, and paperless**.

Department of Posts and Flipkart Sign Agreement for Last Mile Parcel Delivery Services

- The **Department of Posts** under the Ministry of Communications signed an agreement with **Flipkart India Private Limited** for **Last Mile Parcel Delivery Services**.

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- The agreement aims to strengthen India's **e-commerce logistics ecosystem** and improve **last mile delivery capabilities** across the country.
- The agreement was signed in New Delhi by **Neeraj Kumar Jha**, General Manager of the Parcel Directorate, Department of Posts, and **Harvinder Kapur**, Director-Commercial of Flipkart India Private Limited.

India and Canada Aim to Finalise Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement by 2026

- **India and Canada** have decided to strengthen economic relations with the aim of finalising the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement**, a broad-based **Free Trade Agreement**, by the end of 2026.
- **Piyush Goyal**, during his official visit to Ottawa, stated that both countries are working to conclude the negotiations at the earliest possible time.
- The third round of negotiations is being held from 25 May to 29 May 2026 after the successful completion of two earlier rounds.

About Canada

- Capital: Ottawa
- Currency: Canadian Dollar (CAD)
- Prime Minister: Mark Carney

Steel Authority of India Limited Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Management Development Institute Gurgaon

- The Management Training Institute of **Steel Authority of India Limited** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Management Development Institute Gurgaon** to collaborate on executive education programmes aimed at **developing future-ready leaders within the company**.
- The partnership combines academic expertise with practical industry application to strengthen organisational capability and leadership development in Steel Authority of India Limited.

About SAIL

- **Steel Authority of India Limited** is headquartered in New Delhi.
- **Ashok Kumar Panda** is the Chairman and Managing Director of the company.
- Steel Authority of India Limited was founded on **24 January 1973**.

Tata Power Partners with Druk Green Power Corporation for Clean Energy Skill Development in Bhutan

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- **Tata Power** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Druk Green Power Corporation** to create a training framework supporting the development of **5,000 Megawatt clean energy capacity** in Bhutan.
- The training programmes under the partnership will be delivered through the **Tata Power Skill Development Institute**, which focuses on bridging skill gaps in the power sector through industry-oriented training and certification programmes.
- The initiative is aimed at strengthening local workforce capabilities required for Bhutan's expanding clean energy sector and supports the broader **India–Bhutan partnership in renewable energy development**.

About Tata Power

- **Tata Power** is headquartered in Mumbai.
- **Natarajan Chandrasekaran** is the Chairman
- **Praveer Sinha** is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company.

Ayush Export Promotion Council and Spices Board of India Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Promote Ayush and Medicinal Spice Exports

- **Ayush Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL)** and **Spices Board of India** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen India's global position in traditional wellness and natural products.
- The agreement focuses on the integrated promotion of **Ayush products** and **medicinal spices** in international markets.
- The MoU was signed by Anurag Sharma, Chairman of AYUSHEXCIL, and M. S. Manivannan, Secretary of the Spices Board of India.

About Spices Board of India

- Headquarters: **Kochi, Kerala**
- Chairperson: Sangeetha Viswanathan
- Founded: **1987**

About Ayush Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairman: Anurag Sharma
- Established: **2022**

India and United States Sign Bilateral Framework for Critical Minerals and Rare Earth Elements Cooperation

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- **India** and the **United States of America (USA)** have signed a **bilateral framework** to strengthen cooperation in the **supply, mining, and processing of critical minerals and rare earth elements**.
- The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the **11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting**.
- The framework covers cooperation in **mining, processing, recycling, and related investments** across the critical minerals value chain.
- It builds upon ongoing **India–United States** efforts to strengthen **supply chain security** in critical and strategic sectors.

About United States of America (USA)

- **Capital:** Washington, D.C.
- **Currency:** United States Dollar (USD)
- **47th President:** Donald Trump
- **50th Vice President:** JD Vance

National Skill Development Corporation Partners with Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation to Boost Skilled Workforce Mobility to Japan

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** has partnered with **Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation (FVCC)**, Japan, to strengthen and facilitate **workforce mobility opportunities for Indian talent in Japan**.
- The collaboration will leverage the '**Credibility Check**' framework provided by **NSDC Trust**, a group organisation of the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.
- The initiative aims to establish a **structured and reliable verification mechanism** for Indian candidates travelling to Japan through **Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation (FVCC)**.

About National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chief Executive Officer (CEO):** Arun Kumar Pillai
- **Chairman:** A. M. Naik
- Functions under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.

Gujarat Government and Meta Platforms Inc. Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Provide WhatsApp-Based Government Services

- The **Government of Gujarat** and **Meta Platforms Inc. (Meta)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in **Gandhinagar** to provide **WhatsApp-based access to government services** across the state.

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- Under the initiative, around **20 citizen services** from **five major departments** will be integrated into the **Sugam Digital Gujarat** platform.
- Citizens will be able to access these services through a **single WhatsApp number**.
- The services will be delivered through a **chatbot available in Gujarati and English**.

About Gujarat

- **Capital:** Gandhinagar
- **Chief Minister:** Bhupendra Patel
- **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat

About Meta Platforms Inc.

- **Headquarters:** Menlo Park, California, United States
- **Chief Executive Officer (CEO):** Mark Zuckerberg
- **Founded:** 2004

Odisha Government, Intel Corporation and 3D Glass Solutions Sign \$3.3 Billion Semiconductor Manufacturing Agreement

- The **Government of Odisha, Intel Corporation, and 3D Glass Solutions Inc. (3DGS)** signed a **tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**.
- The agreement aims to establish an **Advanced Packaging Glass Core Substrate Manufacturing Facility** in the **Bhubaneswar–Khurda region of Odisha**.
- The project involves an estimated investment of **\$3.3 billion**, making it one of the largest semiconductor-related investments in India.

RANKING AND INDEX

India Ranked 157th in World Press Freedom Index 2026

- **India has been ranked 157th out of 180 countries** in the **World Press Freedom Index 2026** released by **Reporters Without Borders**.
- The report indicates that **global press freedom has reached its lowest level in 25 years**, with more than **50 per cent of countries falling under 'difficult' or 'very serious' categories**.
- The **World Press Freedom Index** is an **annual assessment** based on **political environment, legal framework, economic conditions, social context, and safety of journalists**
- **India's rank (157)** reflects **declining press freedom conditions** over the years

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Rankings (World Press Freedom Index 2026):

Country	Rank
Norway	1
Netherlands	2
Estonia	3
Denmark	4
Sweden	5
Finland	6
Ireland	7
Switzerland	8
Luxembourg	9
Portugal	10
India	157
Eritrea	180

Worst Performing Countries:

Country	Rank
Azerbaijan	171
Russia	172
Turkmenistan	173
Vietnam	174
Afghanistan	175
Saudi Arabia	176
Iran	177
China	178
North Korea	179
Eritrea	180

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India Remains World's Top Remittance Recipient in 2024: World Migration Report 2026

- According to the **World Migration Report 2026** released by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, India remained the **largest remittance recipient country in the world in 2024**, receiving more than **137 billion United States Dollars (USD)**.
- India became the **only country globally to cross USD 100 billion in remittance inflows**.
- India remained the **top remittance recipient country globally since 2010**
- Remittance inflows to India increased from:
 - **USD 53.48 billion (2010)**
 - **USD 68.91 billion (2015)**
 - **USD 83.15 billion (2020)**
 - **USD 137.67 billion (2024)**
- Other top remittance recipient countries in 2024:
 - **Mexico**
 - **Philippines**
 - **France**
- India ranked **second globally in internationally mobile students**, with over **620,000 Indian students studying abroad in 2022**
- **China** ranked first with more than **1 million students abroad**

India's Passport Ranked 78th in Henley Passport Index 2026

- **India's passport has been ranked 78th in the Henley Passport Index 2026**, slipping from its earlier **75th position**.
- According to the latest ranking, Indian passport holders have access to **56 destinations** through visa-free entry, visa-on-arrival, or simplified visa procedures.
- The **Henley Passport Index** is one of the world's most recognised passport rankings.
- It ranks **199 passports globally** using data from the International Air Transport Association.
- The strongest passports in the 2026 rankings are:
 - **Singapore** – Rank 1 with access to 192 destinations
 - **Japan** – Rank 2
 - **South Korea** – Rank 3

World Cities Report 2026 Highlights Worsening Global Housing Crisis

- The **World Cities Report 2026** was released by the **United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)** during the **World Urban Forum** held in **Baku, Azerbaijan**.

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- The report highlights the rapidly worsening global housing crisis and describes housing as one of the most serious urban challenges of the **21st century**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu lay foundation stone for Google Cloud AI Hub in Visakhapatnam

- **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting(MIB) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology(MeitY)) along with **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** laid the **foundation stone** for the **Google Cloud India Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hub** in **Tarluvada, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The project is valued at **USD 15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore)** and is recognised as the **largest single Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** project in India.
- The initiative aims to transform **Visakhapatnam (Vizag)** into a **global AI and Cloud Capital**.
- The project includes **hyperscale data centres** designed for **AI workloads**, along with **high-capacity fibre networks**.
- The project is managed by **Google's subsidiary Raiden Infotech India Private Limited**, in strategic collaboration with **AdaniConneX** (a Joint Venture between **Adani Enterprises** and **EdgeConneX**) and **Nxtra by Airtel**.
- The facility will have a **capacity of 1 Gigawatt (GW)**, making it one of the **largest AI-focused data centres** in India.

China National Space Administration Launches Pakistan's PRSC-EO3 Satellite Using Long March-6

- The **China National Space Administration (CNSA)** successfully launched **Pakistan's PRSC-EO3 (Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite–Earth Observation-3) satellite** aboard a **Long March-6 rocket** from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center**, placing it into its designated orbit.
- The launch marks the **640th mission** of China's **Long March rocket series**, highlighting China's advancement in **space launch capabilities**.
- **PRSC-EO3 (Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite–Earth Observation-3)** is an **Electro-Optical (EO)** Earth Observation satellite developed **indigenously** by **SUPARCO** as part of Pakistan's **Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation**.

About China:

- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi (CNY)

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Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy Flags Off Vikram-1, India's First Privately Built Orbital Rocket Developed by Skyroot Aerospace

- **A. Revanth Reddy**, Chief Minister of Telangana, flagged off the **flight hardware** of **Vikram-1**, India's **first privately built orbital rocket**, developed by **Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited**.
- The hardware was flagged off from the **Max-Q campus** in **Hyderabad, Telangana** to the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota** (Andhra Pradesh) for integration.
- **Vikram-1** is India's **maiden privately developed orbital launch vehicle**, marking a major milestone in the country's **private space sector**
- The rocket is a **multi-stage launch vehicle** designed to carry payloads of up to **350 kg** into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**, located between 160 km and 2,000 km above Earth.

Inauguration of Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART) Open-Field Observatory at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam

- The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, an autonomous institute under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, Government of India, has established a **Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART)** at **Andhra University (AU), Visakhapatnam**.
- **Andhra University** has provided land on its campus for an **open-field meteorological observatory** to enable continuous atmospheric observations and research collaboration.
- The **Open-Field Observatory of C-ART** was inaugurated on **1 May 2026** by **M. Ravichandran**, Secretary, MoES, in the presence of **Prof. G. P. Raja Sekhar** (Vice Chancellor, AU) and **Dr. Suryachandra Rao** (Director, IITM).
- The initiative is part of the **Mission Mausam** programme of MoES, aimed at **strengthening weather observation networks** and improving **model prediction systems**.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Launches Indigenous Silicon Photonics Solutions at CoE-CPPICS, IIT Madras, Chennai

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has launched two **indigenously developed Silicon Photonics technology solutions** at the **Centre of Excellence for Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuits and Systems (CoE-CPPICS), IIT Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- The two solutions are the **Silicon Photonics Process Design Kit (PDK)** and the **Universal Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuit (PPIC) Test Engine**.
- The **Silicon Photonics PDK** provides **50+ verified components** for designing **Photonic Integrated Circuits (PICs)** within India.

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- The **Universal PPIC Test Engine** is an automated platform for testing, characterisation, and validation of photonic and optoelectronic modules.
- The initiative involves **international and domestic collaboration** including **SilTerra (Malaysia)** for fabrication, **izmo Microsystems (Bengaluru, Karnataka)** for packaging, and **IIT Madras** as the **R&D hub**.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited Clears Joint Venture with Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited and ONGC Petro additions Limited to Streamline Petrochemical Marketing Operations

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)**, under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)**, has approved the formation of a **Joint Venture (JV)** for integrated petrochemicals marketing and trading.
- The **JV** will be formed with **ONGC's subsidiaries Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)** and **ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL)**.
- The proposal is subject to approval from the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**.
- The **shareholding structure** of the JV includes **ONGC (50% – ₹25 crore)**, **MRPL (25% – ₹12.5 crore)**, and **OPaL (25% – to be confirmed)**.
- The **JV** aims to create a **unified group-level platform** for petrochemical marketing operations across ONGC group companies.

India Successfully Conducts Second Test of Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile with 1,500 km Range and Mach 10 Speed

- **India** has successfully conducted the **second flight test** of a **Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile (LR-AShM)** developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- The test was carried out off the **Odisha coast**, marking a major boost to **maritime defence capability**.
- The missile has a **strike range of over 1,500 km** and can achieve speeds of up to **Mach 10**, making it one of the **fastest weapons** in India's arsenal.
- It is based on a **Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV)** system, maintaining an average speed of around **Mach 5** during the glide phase.

Sigma Advanced Systems Inks ₹3,800 Crore Agreement with Rolls-Royce to Supply Aerospace Components

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- **Sigma Advanced Systems Limited (SIGD)**, an Indian aerospace and defence company, has signed a **7-year long-term agreement** worth **₹3,800 crore (~300 million pounds)** with **Rolls-Royce (UK)**.
- The agreement focuses on the **manufacturing and supply of high-precision, safety-critical aerospace components** for global aerospace programmes of Rolls-Royce.
- The scope includes **aerospace components, assemblies, engine parts, and aerostructure components**, ensuring high-quality and safety standards.
- The collaboration operates through an **integrated India–UK manufacturing platform**, combining **cost efficiency** with **engineering excellence** and proximity.

Indian Council of Medical Research Develops Priority Pathogen List for Syndromic Surveillance in India

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has developed a **Priority Pathogen List for Syndromic Surveillance** in India.
- The list was released by the **Division of Communicable Diseases** on **17 November 2025** for **infectious disease monitoring, diagnostic standardisation, and outbreak detection**.
- **Syndromic surveillance** is a public health monitoring system that tracks **symptoms** such as fever, respiratory illness, diarrhoea, and encephalitis before **laboratory confirmation**.

India's Defence Production Hits ₹1.54 Lakh Crore with 174% Growth, Defence Exports Rise to ₹23,622 Crore with 34-Fold Increase in a Decade: Dr. Jitendra Singh

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** stated that India has entered a **decisive phase** in its **defence transformation**, driven by **technology, indigenous innovation, and private sector participation**.
- He made these remarks at the **North Tech Symposium 2026** held in **Prayagraj**, highlighting India's evolving **defence ecosystem** and global positioning.
- India has transitioned from a **major defence importer** to an **emerging defence exporter**, marking a major shift in **self-reliance**.
- **Defence production** has reached **₹1.54 lakh crore**, registering a **174% increase** over the last decade.
- **Defence exports** have risen to **₹23,622 crore**, showing a **34-fold increase** in ten years.
- The **private sector** contributed around **₹15,000 crore** to total **defence exports**, highlighting growing **public-private collaboration**.

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- The government has significantly increased **defence allocation**, with the **Budget 2026–27** earmarking **₹6.81 lakh crore**, an increase of **9.5%**.
- The **North Tech Symposium 2026** is themed “**Raksha Triveni Sangam – Where Technology, Industry and Soldiering Converge**”.

SpaceX Launches Falcon 9 Carrying South Korea’s CAS500-2 Satellite and 45 Rideshare Payloads from California

- **SpaceX** successfully launched a **Falcon 9 rocket** from Space Launch Complex 4 East (SLC-4E) at Vandenberg Space Force Base in **California, United States of America (USA)**.
- The mission deployed **Republic of Korea’s CAS500-2 Earth observation satellite** into a **Sun-synchronous orbit (SSO)**.
- **CAS500-2** is a **534 kg high-resolution Earth observation satellite**, developed by **Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI)** and **Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI)**.
- The satellite is designed for **high-resolution optical imaging** for **Earth observation purposes**.
- The **Falcon 9 first-stage booster (B1071)** completed its **33rd flight**, highlighting **reusability** in space missions.

Technology Development Board-Department of Science & Technology Backs NTF Energy Solutions for Commercial Production of Indigenous Type-IV CNG Cylinders to Promote Clean Mobility

- The **Technology Development Board** under the **Department of Science and Technology** signed an agreement with **NTF Energy Solutions Private Limited** for establishing a manufacturing facility for **Type-IV Composite CNG Cylinders**.
- The initiative supports the Government of India’s vision of **clean energy mobility**, **reduced carbon emissions**, and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in advanced manufacturing.
- The project focuses on the **commercialization** of indigenously developed **Type-IV CNG cylinders** using advanced technologies such as **filament winding**, **blow moulding**, and **high-pressure testing**.
- **Type-IV composite cylinders** are next-generation alternatives to traditional steel cylinders and provide up to **75% weight reduction**, improving **vehicle efficiency** and **fuel economy**.

Indian Startups Pixxel and Sarvam AI Partner to Launch Space-Based AI Data Centre Satellite

- **Spacotech startup Pixxel** partnered with **Sarvam AI** to develop India’s first **orbital data centre satellite**, named **Pathfinder**.
- Under the partnership, **Pixxel** will design, build, launch, and operate the satellite, while **Sarvam AI** will provide the **AI backbone** and **full-stack language models** for **in-orbit AI processing**.

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- The **200 kg-class Pathfinder satellite** is scheduled for launch in the **fourth quarter of 2026**.
- Unlike conventional satellites using low-power processors, **Pathfinder** will carry **data centre-grade GPUs**, significantly increasing **space-based computing capability**.
- The satellite will perform **AI training and inference** directly in orbit, reducing dependence on **ground-based processing systems**.

Unique Identification Authority of India and National Forensic Sciences University Sign 5-Year Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics Ecosystem

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** signed a **5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** to strengthen India's **cybersecurity** and **digital forensic ecosystem** for **Aadhaar infrastructure**.
- The MoU was signed between **Vivek Chandra Verma**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UIDAI and **Dr. S.O. Junare**, Director of NFSU, Gujarat Campus, in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The partnership aims to enhance **cyber resilience**, **digital security**, and **forensic capabilities** of India's **Aadhaar system**.
- Key focus areas include **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based anomaly detection**, **deepfake detection**, **blockchain technology**, and **cryptographic systems**.

O.P. Jindal Global University becomes first Indian Institute of Eminence to secure Data Science Council of America accreditation

- **P. Jindal Global University (JGU)**, Sonapat, Haryana, has become India's first **Institute of Eminence (IoE)** to receive accreditation from the **Data Science Council of America (DASCA)**.
- **DASCA** is an **international standards body** that provides academic accreditation and professional certifications in **Data Science** and **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- The accreditation was awarded under the **World Data Sciences & AI Initiative (WDSAI)**, a global initiative led by DASCA to help universities adopt **internationally benchmarked AI and data science standards**.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum Observes Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav 2026 to Enhance IP Awareness in India

- **CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum** celebrated **Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav (RBSM) 2026** on **8 May 2026** to promote **Intellectual Property (IP) awareness** in India.
- **RBSM** is part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** initiative and was first launched in **July 2023**.
- The programme began with **lamp lighting** and **Saraswati Vandana**, followed by opening remarks from **Dr. D V Naik**, In-charge of **IPMG, CSIR-IIP**.

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- **Dr. Maity**, Chairman of **PPC**, delivered a brief address during the event.

Pixxel wins United States National Reconnaissance Office contract for hyperspectral remote sensing development

- Indian space technology company **Pixxel** has secured a major contract from the **National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)**, United States under the **Commercial Systems Program Office (CSPO)** to develop advanced **hyperspectral remote sensing**
- The contract is part of the **Strategic Commercial Enhancements Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO)** programme, aimed at integrating commercial hyperspectral data into **US national intelligence** and **Earth observation systems** for defence and security applications.
- The project will utilise Pixxel's **Firefly satellite constellation**, which consists of **six hyperspectral satellites** launched in **2025**, to demonstrate **high-resolution global imaging**

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Says India Advancing Rapidly in Quantum, AI and Emerging Technologies with Youth Key to Viksit Bharat 2047

- **Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Atomic Energy and Space**, inaugurated the “**Lakshya 2047**” Centre for **Future Skills, Cadaveric Centre, and Advanced Medical Simulation** facilities at **Parul University**.
- The initiative aims to prepare India's youth for a **Viksit Bharat by 2047** through advanced training in **emerging technologies** and **future skills**.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh** stated that India is progressing rapidly in **Quantum Technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Semiconductors, Cybersecurity, and Deep-Tech** sectors.
- The **Lakshya 2047 Centre** has been developed in collaboration with **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Ethnotech, and Cambridge University Press & Assessment**.
- The centre will provide training in **nine future-technology domains** along with **globally recognised certifications**.

Dr Jitendra Singh Reviews Department of Science & Technology-Supported Interdisciplinary Facility “SATHI” at BHU, Varanasi

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** visited **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** and reviewed the **Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institute (SATHI)** established with support from the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India.

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- **DST** is expanding **scientific infrastructure** and research support systems across universities and higher educational institutions to **democratise access** to advanced technology, innovation, and research facilities in India.
- Jitendra Singh highlighted that initiatives such as **SATHI, FIST, and ARRF-linked** research support mechanisms are strengthening the ecosystem for **research, innovation, start-ups, MSMEs, and industry-academia collaboration**.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine Jammu and Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Startup Ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir

- The **CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM)**, Jammu, through its **Technology Business Incubator (IIIM-TBI)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI)** to strengthen the **startup ecosystem** in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The MoU aims to promote **entrepreneurship, innovation, skill development, and startup incubation** by leveraging the strengths of both institutions.
- It focuses on creating a **collaborative framework** for **nurturing startups, capacity building, and market linkages**.
- The partnership will support **startup incubation, training programmes, mentorship, and investor connect**.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates Buyer–Seller Meet at CSIR Innovation Complex, Mumbai

- **Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space**, inaugurated a **Buyer–Seller Meet** organized by **CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM)** at CSIR Innovation Complex, Mumbai as a prelude to **Lavender Festival 2026**.
- The event focused on **strengthening market linkages** and building a **sustainable lavender-based enterprise ecosystem** under the **CSIR Aroma Mission** and **Purple Revolution** in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The **Aroma Industry–Farmer Meet** brought together aroma and perfumery industries, scientists, startups, entrepreneurs, and **lavender farmers**, especially from the **Bhaderwah region** of Jammu & Kashmir.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh reviews preparations for Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign and India International Science Festival, stresses coordination and public

participation

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh** chaired a high-level review meeting on preparations for the “**Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar (SSSS)**” campaign and the upcoming **India International Science Festival**, emphasizing **coordination and public participation**.
- The **Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar 2026** edition will be conducted from **12–19 September 2026**, culminating on **International Coastal Cleanup Day**, as a **nationwide coastal cleanliness movement**.
- The campaign will cover India’s **11,098 km coastline** with participation from **Central and State Ministries**, scientific institutions, district administrations, youth organizations, and local communities, promoting **marine ecological protection**.

Bureau of Indian Standards hosts international meeting on space systems standards in New Delhi for ISO/TC 20/SC 14 for the first time in India

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** under the **Department of Consumer Affairs**, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution organised the **35th Plenary and Working Group meetings of ISO/TC 20/SC 14 (Space Systems and Operations)** for the first time in India.
- The event was held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (Delhi)** from **May 4–8, 2026**.
- Around **131 international delegates** from **13 countries** participated, including representatives from **National Standards Bodies, ISRO, space agencies, industry, and academia**.
- The meeting focused on developing **global standards for space systems and operations** under the **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research marks National Technology Day with transfer of 13 indigenous CSIR-Central Building Research Institute technologies to industries

- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** organised its monthly **Technology Transfer Event** at **CSIR Headquarters, New Delhi** on the occasion of **National Technology Day**.
- The event reaffirmed India’s commitment toward **technology-led growth, innovation, and self-reliance (Aatmanirbhar Bharat)**.
- The programme focused on **Technology Transfers** by **CSIR-Central Building Research Institute (CSIR-CBRI), Roorkee**.
- During the event, **13 indigenous technologies** developed by **CSIR-CBRI** were formally transferred to **industries and start-ups**.

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- The initiative supports the national vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, **sustainable infrastructure**, and **technology-driven development**.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announces India Meteorological Department AI-enabled systems for hyper-local weather forecasting

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched two advanced **AI-driven weather forecast products** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** to provide **hyper-local, impact-based and decision-support** weather services.
- The products were developed jointly by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, **Pune**, and **National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)**.
- The first product is an **AI-enabled “Forecast of Monsoon Advance over Different Parts of the Country”**, which provides **probabilistic monsoon forecasts** up to **4 weeks** in advance.

Indian Army inducts indigenous ULPGM and AGNIKAA VTOL-1 kamikaze drone systems developed by Adani Defence

- The **Indian Army (IA)** inducted two **indigenous combat systems** under the **Emergency Procurement-6 (EP-6)** programme — the **UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM)** and **AGNIKAA VTOL-1 First-Person View (FPV) Kamikaze Drone** — from **Adani Defence & Aerospace Limited** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- The induction took place after successful **high-altitude, Electronic Warfare (EW)**, and **precision-strike trials** conducted in the presence of officials from the **Western Command** of the Indian Army.
- The **ULPGM** was jointly developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** and **Adani Defence & Aerospace Limited**.

About Indian Army :

- **Headquarters** : **New Delhi, India**
- **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)** : **General Upendra Dwivedi**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Psyche spacecraft captures rare crescent view of Mars during flyby

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Psyche Mission** captured a rare image of **Mars** appearing as a **thin glowing crescent** during its deep-space journey.
- At the time of imaging, the **Psyche spacecraft** was approximately **8 million kilometres** away from Mars, showcasing its **advanced long-distance imaging capability**.

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- The spacecraft is not travelling to Mars but is using the planet's gravity for a **“gravity assist” manoeuvre to increase speed** and **save fuel** on its journey toward the **metal-rich asteroid Psyche**.

About NASA :

- Formed : July 29, 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C.
- Administrator : Jared Isaacman

Technology Development Board-Department of Science & Technology backs Helix Cell Therapeutics' Indo-Singapore project for advanced CAR-T therapy for Multiple Myeloma

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India, has signed an agreement with **Helix Cell Therapeutics Private Limited, Hyderabad, Telangana** for a project on **dual-targeting CAR-T cell therapy for Multiple Myeloma**.
- The project is titled **“Generation of Novel Dual Targeting Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cells to Treat Multiple Myeloma and Conducting Phase I Clinical Trial.”**
- The initiative is being implemented under the **Indo-Singapore collaborative framework** in partnership with **Biocell Innovations, Singapore**, strengthening **India-Singapore biomedical cooperation**.

Samsung Electronics crosses \$1 trillion valuation, becoming Asia's second company after TSMC to achieve milestone

- **Samsung Electronics** has crossed the **\$1 trillion market valuation** mark, driven by strong global demand for **AI-related semiconductor chips**.
- This milestone highlights the company's strong position in the global **technology and semiconductor industry**.
- Samsung Electronics became only the **second Asian company** to achieve a **\$1 trillion valuation**, after **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC)**.

India's SVAMITVA scheme recognised as a model for developing countries

- The **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A)** presented the **SVAMITVA scheme** as a successful **governance and rural property mapping model** to the **World Bank**.
- The presentation highlighted how the **SVAMITVA scheme** has strengthened **rural property ownership documentation** and significantly reduced **land-related disputes** across villages in India.

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- Under the scheme, **drone-based surveys** have been conducted in approximately **3.3 lakh villages**, out of a target of **3.44 lakh villages** across the country.
- Launched in **April 2020**, **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas)** provides **legal ownership rights** of rural residential land using **drone-based mapping technology**.
- The scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, with support from the **Survey of India** and **NICSI (National Informatics Centre Services Inc.)**.
- The objective of the **SVAMITVA** scheme is to **empower rural citizens** through **property cards**, enabling access to **credit facilities**, **dispute resolution**, and improved **village-level planning**.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh says Quantum & Artificial Intelligence sovereignty with indigenous ecosystems will shape India's next-generation growth

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, stated that **Quantum and Artificial Intelligence (AI) sovereignty** along with **indigenous ecosystems** will define India's next-generation growth.
- The Government launched the **Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund Scheme** to accelerate **private sector participation** in **research and development (R&D)** and strengthen India's **deep-tech ecosystem**.
- The programme was organised by the **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** at **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi**.

National Health Authority, IndiaAI Mission and Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru conclude AB PM-JAY Auto-Adjudication Hackathon Showcase 2026

- **National Health Authority (NHA)** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, in collaboration with the **IndiaAI Mission** and **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, concluded the **AB PM-JAY Auto-Adjudication Hackathon Showcase 2026**.
- The hackathon focused on improving **health claims adjudication** under **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** using **AI-driven solutions** for greater **speed, transparency, and accuracy**.
- In the category **"Clinical Document Classification and Compliance with Standard Treatment Guidelines"**, **Team Nirnaya** led by **Vinay Babu Ulli** won for its **AI-based healthcare claims interpretation and compliance assessment solution**.

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- In the category “**Radiological Image-Based Condition Detection and Report Correlation**”, **Team BiltIQ AI** led by **Harish Kumar** secured first place for its **AI-powered radiology interpretation and report correlation system**.

About Ministry of Health and Family Welfare :

- **Cabinet Minister** : J. P. Nadda
- **Minister of State** : Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates India’s first integrated CCUS field laboratory facility at IIT Bombay

- **Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan**, Ministry of Education (MoE), inaugurated India’s first **Integrated Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)** field laboratory facility under “**Bharat Innovates 2026**” at **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B)**, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The facility is India’s first **end-to-end pilot-scale platform** integrating **Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU)** with **Geological Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Sequestration (GCS)** in **basalt formations**.
- It also includes the country’s first **pilot-scale scientific drilling** initiative to evaluate **CO₂ storage potential** in the **Deccan Traps**.
- The project is being scaled up by **UrjanovaC**, a **deep-tech venture** incubated at the **Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE)**, IIT Bombay, and is featured under **Bharat Innovates 2026**.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh dedicates 200 MW Solar Module Manufacturing Line of Central Electronics Limited to the nation

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, dedicated the **200 MW Solar Module Manufacturing Line** of **Central Electronics Limited (CEL)** to the nation.
- The initiative is aligned with India’s **clean energy vision**, focusing on **renewable energy expansion** and **sustainable development**.
- India has set a target of achieving **net-zero emissions by 2070**, and is expanding capabilities in **solar, wind, nuclear, and ocean-based energy systems**.
- **Central Electronics Limited (CEL)** has a historic role, having manufactured the **first solar cell** in **1977** and established the **first solar plant** in **1979**.

India and Norway strengthen science, technology and innovation cooperation through new bilateral agreements

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- During the visit of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to Norway, the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)**, Government of India signed a series of key agreements with Norwegian institutions in **Oslo** to strengthen **science, technology, innovation and sustainable development** cooperation.
- The agreements were signed under the leadership of **Dr. N. Kalaiselvi**, Director General of CSIR and Secretary of DSIR, along with Norwegian research, academic and industry partners, aimed at boosting **bilateral R&D, startup engagement and institutional collaboration**.

About Norway :

- Prime Minister : Jonas Gahr Støre
- Capital : Oslo
- Currency : Norwegian krone

United States Industry Delegation Engages with Dr. Jitendra Singh on Private Investment Opportunities in India's Nuclear Sector

- A high-level **United States (U.S.) industry delegation**, comprising representatives from the **Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)** and the **U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)**, held discussions with **Dr. Jitendra Singh** on **private investment and industry collaboration** in India's nuclear sector.
- The visit, facilitated by **USISPF**, brought together **U.S. nuclear industry leaders**, business stakeholders, and Indian officials engaged in **civil nuclear energy and advanced technology cooperation**.

Scientists Discover Oldest Directly Dated Air Sample on Earth from Antarctica's Allan Hills Region

- Scientists working in **Antarctica** have discovered the **oldest directly dated ice and air sample on Earth** from the **Allan Hills region of East Antarctica**.
- The sample contains tiny air bubbles trapped in **6-million-year-old ice**, making it the **oldest directly dated atmospheric sample** ever found.
- The age of the ice was determined using **argon isotope analysis** of trapped air, providing accurate geological dating of ancient atmospheric composition.

Nanogold-Embedded Ultrathin Flexible Films Enable Self-Powered Sensors and Advanced Wearable Electronics

- Researchers have developed a new **ultrathin flexible film** capable of efficiently converting **tiny temperature fluctuations into electrical signals**, enabling applications in **smart photodetectors, low-grade heat harvesters**, and flexible electronic systems.

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- The innovation supports growing demand for **lightweight, flexible, and low-power materials** for next-generation **wearable devices** and **autonomous sensors** used in healthcare, environmental monitoring, and energy-efficient electronics.

CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute Discovers Ancient Buried River Channel Beneath Prayagraj–Kanpur Stretch in Uttar Pradesh

- Scientists from the **CSIR–National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad** have identified an **ancient underground river channel (palaeo-channel)** beneath the **Prayagraj–Kanpur stretch in Uttar Pradesh**.
- A **palaeo-channel** is defined as an **abandoned or buried river course** that is preserved below the surface and filled with materials such as sand, silt, or groundwater.
- The identified buried river channel lies **10–15 metres below the ground surface** and extends for approximately **200 kilometres from Prayagraj to Kanpur**.

Liberty Mutual Insurance increases shareholding in Liberty General Insurance Limited to 74%

- **Liberty Mutual Insurance** increased its stake in **Liberty General Insurance Limited (LGI)** to **74%** from **55.40%**, strengthening its presence in **India’s insurance market**.
- The stake increase follows **Liberty Mutual’s** earlier rise in shareholding from **49%** to **55.40%** in **September 2025**, reflecting growing **foreign investment in India’s insurance sector**.

About Liberty Mutual Insurance :

- **Liberty Mutual Insurance** is a **global property and casualty insurer**, and the increased stake highlights its **long-term commitment** to the **Indian insurance industry**.
- **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Whole-Time Director** : **Parag Ved**

India Successfully Conducts Trials of ‘Suryastra’ Rocket System with 300 km Strike Range off Odisha Coast

- India successfully conducted consecutive trials of the **‘Suryastra’ Universal Rocket Launcher System**, achieving precise strikes on targets up to **300 kilometres (km)**.
- The trials successfully met **all mission objectives** during the testing phase.
- The high-precision trials were conducted by **NIBE Limited** from the **Integrated Test Range**.

Technology Development Board-Department of Science & Technology Backs Ansoz Creations for Commercialisation of Electronics and IT-Based STEM Learning Kits

- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, Government of India, signed an agreement with **M/s Ansoz Creations Private. Limited., Bhopal**.

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- The agreement was signed for the project titled “**Commercialization of Electronics and IT based STEM Activity Kit.**”
- The initiative aims to strengthen India’s **indigenous educational technology** and **experiential learning ecosystem.**
- M/s Ansoz Creations Pvt. Ltd. will work on **scaling up the manufacturing** of advanced **STEM activity kits.**

Anusandhan National Research Foundation Selects 10 Institutions to Establish Convergence Research Centres of Excellence

- The **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** announced the selection of **10 Convergence Research Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** under its flagship Convergence Research Centres of Excellence Programme.
- The initiative aims to promote the integration of **Scientific Knowledge, Social Sciences, Humanities, Science, and Technology** through a multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary research approach.

Russia Successfully Conducts Test of RS-28 Sarmat Intercontinental Ballistic Missile System

- **Russia** successfully conducted the test of the **RS-28 Sarmat Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** from the **Plesetsk Cosmodrome** in northern Russia.
- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** described the newly tested Sarmat missile system as the “**world’s most powerful missile system.**”
- The RS-28 Sarmat, also known by NATO designation “**Satan II**”, is designed to replace the Soviet-era **R-36M2 Voyevoda** missiles.
- The missile is approximately **35 metres long** and weighs over **208 tonnes**, making it one of the heaviest and most powerful ICBMs in the world.

New giant dinosaur species Nagatitan chayaphumensis discovered in Thailand, marked as the largest dinosaur found in Southeast Asia

- Researchers have discovered a new giant dinosaur species named **Nagatitan chayaphumensis** in **Thailand**, which is considered the **largest dinosaur ever found in Southeast Asia.**
- The fossils were discovered in **Chaiyaphum province**, located in **northeastern Thailand**, marking an important breakthrough in paleontological research.
- The recovered fossils include key skeletal parts such as **spine, ribs, pelvis and leg bones**, indicating a well-preserved large dinosaur specimen.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

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Organise Three-Day Workshop to Enhance India's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Systems

- India submitted its first **Biennial Transparency Report (BTR-1)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.
- India is strengthening its **National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Systems** and improving emissions accounting as part of global climate action efforts.
- A three-day **Knowledge Sharing Workshop on National Greenhouse Gas Inventory** was organised from **20–22 May 2026** at **CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP)**, Dehradun.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)'s Central Rice Research Institute Creates 'Plant-OpenCRISPR1', the World's First AI-Based Genome Editing Platform for Crops

- Scientists at the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)'s Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI)** developed and validated **Plant-OpenCRISPR1 (POC1)** in **Cuttack, Odisha**.
- The research was led by **Dr. Kutubuddin Ali Molla**.
- **Plant-OpenCRISPR1 (POC1)** is the world's first **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-designed genome-editing platform for plants**.
- The platform was developed using **rice as a model crop**.
- POC1 enables advanced **gene knockout, base editing, and prime editing** in rice crops.

India Conducts Successful Trials of Vayu Astra-1 Loitering Munition with 100 km Operational Range

- **NIBE Limited**, a defence manufacturing company, successfully conducted trials of its **Vayu Astra-1 Loitering Munition (LM)**.
- The Vayu Astra-1 has an **operational range of 100 kilometres (km)**.
- The trials were conducted at **Pokhran, Rajasthan** and **Joshimath (Malari), Uttarakhand**.
- The trials demonstrated the **No-Cost, No-Commitment (NCNC) model**.

India Successfully Conducts Agni-1 Short-Range Ballistic Missile Test at Chandipur, Odisha

- **India** successfully conducted the test-firing of the **Agni-1 Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM)** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**.
- The missile test was carried out under the supervision of the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**.
- The successful launch validated all the **operational and technical parameters** of the missile system.
- **Agni-1** is part of India's **Agni series of ballistic missiles** developed for the country's **strategic deterrence capability**.
- The missile is capable of carrying both **conventional and nuclear warheads**.

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- **Agni-1** is a **single-stage, solid-fuelled, road-mobile** Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM).

China Launches Shenzhou-23 Mission with Three Astronauts to Tiangong Space Station

- China launched the **Shenzhou-23** spacecraft carrying **three astronauts** to the **Tiangong Space Station** for scientific research and orbital operations.
- The mission marks China's **first space mission** expected to support a **year-long human stay** in orbit.
- The spacecraft was launched aboard the **Long March-2F Y23** carrier rocket from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center** in northwestern China.
- The three-member crew includes **Zhu Yangzhu**, the **mission commander** and space engineer.
- The crew also includes **Zhang Zhiyuan**, a pilot and **former Air Force officer**.

About China:

- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi (CNY)

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Successfully Completes First-Ever All-Women Mount Everest Expedition

- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP)** successfully completed its first-ever **all-women international mountaineering expedition** to **Mount Everest**, the world's highest peak.
- The **14-member ITBP team** summited the **8,848 metre (m)** Mount Everest via the **South Col Route** from **Nepal**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Announces USD 20 Billion Three-Stage Programme to Establish Permanent Lunar Base

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** unveiled a **USD 20 billion three-phased plan** to establish a **permanent base on the Moon**.
- The plan was announced by **NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman**.
- The **lunar base programme** will involve **robotic landers, lunar rovers, and drones** to support **long-term human presence** on the Moon.
- NASA aims to establish the **first lunar base by March 2027** and plans to **land astronauts** on the Moon again in **2028** under the **Artemis programme**.
- The mission aims to help the **United States** develop the capability to **live and operate** in the Moon's **harsh environment**.

Technology Development Board-Department of Science and Technology Backs IDT Innovation Technologies Private. Limited. for Commercialisation of Indigenous Industrial AIoT Technologies

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- The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, signed an agreement with **IDT Innovation Technologies Private. Limited., Nagpur.**
- The agreement is for the project titled “**Industry 4.0: Development and Commercialization of Industrial AIoT Devices.**”
- The initiative aims to strengthen India’s **Industry 4.0 ecosystem** and accelerate indigenous **industrial digital transformation.**

Department of Space Clears Two New Space Technology Facilities in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat

- The Department of Space approved the establishment of **Common Technical Facilities (CTFs)** in **Gujarat** and **Tamil Nadu (TN)** to strengthen India’s space ecosystem.
- The new CTFs aim to promote **domestic manufacturing capabilities** and support the growth of India’s space sector industry base.
- These facilities will include **advanced testing, validation, and integration infrastructure** for high-precision assessment of space systems and components.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Says ‘Khet Bachao Abhiyan’ Reaches 2.71 Crore Citizens Across India

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** under the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)** implemented the nationwide “**Khet Bachao Abhiyan**” focusing on **soil health, balanced fertiliser use, and sustainable agriculture practices.**
- The campaign has achieved widespread outreach, reaching around **2.71 crore citizens** across the country.
- Under the initiative, a total of **12,979 awareness camps and seminars** were organised nationwide.

About Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare :

- Cabinet Minister : Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Minister of State : Bhagirath Choudhary, Ram Nath Thakur

New Light-Driven Nano-Catalyst Enables Cleaner and Cost-Effective Production of Medicines and Industrial Chemicals

- Researchers developed a novel **light-driven nano-catalyst** aimed at reducing the use of toxic solvents, high temperatures, and energy-intensive industrial processes.
- The innovation is expected to make the manufacturing of **medicines and industrial chemicals** cleaner, faster, and more energy efficient.

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- The research was carried out by scientists from the **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali**.

Dr. Ronaldo Laishram Leads Discovery of 12.6-Billion-Year-Old “Loktak Protocluster” Ancient Galaxy Structure

- An international research team led by Indian scientist **Dr. Ronaldo Laishram** discovered a **12.6-billion-year-old cosmic structure** named the “**Loktak Protocluster**.”
- **Dr. Ronaldo Laishram** is associated with the **National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ)**.
- The discovery was formally published in ***The Astrophysical Journal Letters***.
- The **Loktak Protocluster** is described as an ancient “**city of galaxies**” formed in the **early Universe**.

11th Quadrilateral Security Dialogue Foreign Ministers’ Meeting Conducted in New Delhi

- The **11th edition** of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (QFMM 2026)** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The meeting was chaired by **S. Jaishankar**, Union Minister of the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, Government of India.
- Key participants included **Penny Wong** from Australia, **Toshimitsu Motegi** from Japan, and **Marco Rubio** from the United States.
- **India** announced that it will host the **2nd edition** of the **Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission**.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh to Launch the 4th Lavender Festival at Baderwah, Doda

- **CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM Jammu)** will organize the **4th Lavender Festival** on **6–7 June 2026** at **Government Degree College, Baderwah, Doda** under the theme “**Lavender goes global**”.
- The festival celebrates the success of the **Purple Revolution** and lavender-based **rural entrepreneurship** in Jammu and Kashmir.

Google Launches ‘Google for Education Schoolers’ Free Artificial Intelligence Training Initiative for Teachers Across Maharashtra, Assam, Punjab and Other Indian Regions

- **Google** announced the **Google for Education Schoolers (GES)** programme at the **Education World Forum 2026** held in **London, United Kingdom**.
- **GES** is a **free Artificial Intelligence (AI)** training programme designed for **school and higher education teachers across India**.
- The initiative aims to provide **mobile-first AI training** on the **responsible use of AI tools**, including **Gemini**, in classrooms and academic environments.

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- The programme has been launched in collaboration with **various state governments** and the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**.

About Google :

- Founded : September 4, 1998
- Headquarters : California, U.S.
- CEO : Sundar Pichai

Indian Council of Medical Research Hosts “Medical Innovations Patent Mitra: Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect” Programme in New Delhi

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, under the **Department of Health Research (DHR)**, organised the “**Medical Innovations Patent Mitra: Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect**” event.
- The event was held at the **Manekshaw Centre** in **New Delhi**.
- **Indian Council of Medical Research** functions under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.
- The programme was inaugurated by **Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav**, Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Nibe Group and Elbit Systems Partner to Establish Propellant Manufacturing Unit in India

- **Nibe Group** and **Elbit Systems** signed a **Joint Venture (JV)** agreement to establish advanced **energetic materials** and **propellant manufacturing facilities** in India.
- The strategic partnership supports the Government of India's ‘**Make in India**’ and ‘**Atmanirbhar Bharat**’ initiatives.
- The proposed defence products to be manufactured under the JV include **Nitro Cellulose**, **Nitro Glycerine**, and **various propellant bases**.

DEFENCE NEWS

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited Enters Technology Transfer Pact with Defence Research and Development Organisation's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory for Gas Turbine Infrared Suppression System for Naval Vessels

- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has signed a **Licensing Agreement** for Transfer of **Technology (LAToT)** with **Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)**, marking a **key step** in **indigenous defence technology development**.

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- The agreement relates to the **Gas Turbine–Infrared Suppression System (GT-IRSS)** used in **naval vessels**, aimed at enhancing **stealth and survivability** of warships.
- The **GT-IRSS technology**, developed by **NSTL** for **LM2500 gas turbines**, reduces the **infrared signature** of ships by **cooling exhaust gases** and **shielding heat emissions**, improving **naval stealth capability**.
- Under the agreement, **BHEL** will handle **fabrication, installation, commissioning, and technology absorption** of the **GT-IRSS system**, strengthening its **defence manufacturing capabilities**.

About Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited :

- Founded : 1956
- Headquarters : New Delhi, India
- Chairman & Managing Director : K S Murthy
- Owner : Government of India (63.17%)
- BHEL is an Indian central public sector undertaking and the largest government-owned electrical/ industrial technology company.
- It is owned by the Government of India, with administrative control under the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

Indian Navy Receives Indigenous Project 17A Advanced Stealth Frigate ‘Mahendragiri’

- **Mahendragiri (Yard 12654)**, the **sixth ship** of **Nilgiri-class (Project 17A)** and the **fourth ship** built at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL)**, was delivered to the **Indian Navy** in **Mumbai**.
- The delivery marks a **major milestone** in achieving **self-reliance (Aatmanirbharta)** in **warship design and construction**.
- **Project 17A frigates** are **multi-mission stealth warships** designed to address current and emerging **maritime challenges**.
- These frigates represent a **quantum leap** in **naval design, stealth, firepower, automation, and survivability**.

About Ministry of Defence:

- **Cabinet Minister:** Rajnath Singh
- **Minister of State (MoS):** Sanjay Seth

Indian Army Contingent Leaves for India–Cambodia Bilateral Military Exercise CINBAX-II 2026

- The **Indian Army** contingent has departed for the **2nd edition** of **India–Cambodia Bilateral Military Exercise CINBAX-II 2026**, a joint **India–Cambodia Army Exercise**.

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- The exercise will be conducted from **04 to 17 May 2026** at the **Techo Sen Phnom Thom Mreas Prov Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre (Camp Basil)**, Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia.
- The exercise is part of India's ongoing **Defence Cooperation with friendly foreign countries** amid evolving global security challenges.
- **CINBAX-II 2026** is conducted under the framework of **Chapter VII of the United Nations (UN) Mandate**, focusing on **company-level joint training** in a **sub-conventional operational environment**.
- The **Indian Army contingent** consists of **120 personnel**, mainly from a battalion of the **Maratha Light Infantry Regiment**.

About CAMBODIA :

- Prime Minister : Hun Manet
- Capital : Phnom Penh
- Currency : Riel

Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Navy Achieve First-Ever Salvo Launch of Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Short Range

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** in collaboration with the **Indian Navy (IN)** successfully conducted the **maiden salvo launch** of the **Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Short Range (NASM-SR)**.
- The test was carried out from a **naval helicopter platform** off the coast of the **Bay of Bengal** in **Odisha**.
- During the trial, **two missiles** were launched in **quick succession** from the same helicopter, marking the **first-ever salvo launch** of an advanced **air-launched anti-ship missile system**.
- The missiles successfully demonstrated **waterline hit capability**, enhancing their effectiveness against **enemy ships**.
- All **test objectives** were successfully achieved, with tracking carried out using **radar, electro-optical systems**, and **telemetry** at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)**, Chandipur.

About DRDO:

- Founded: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Parent Ministry: Ministry of Defence, Government of India
- Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat

Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu Visits Army Training Command (ARTRAC)

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Headquarters in Shimla

- The Hon'ble **President of India** and **Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces**, **Droupadi Murmu**, visited the **Headquarters of Army Training Command (ARTRAC)**, Shimla.
- She was received by the Hon'ble **Governor of Himachal Pradesh Shri Kavinder Gupta** and **Lieutenant General Devendra Sharma, GOC-in-C, ARTRAC**.
- The President was briefed on the **evolution of ARTRAC** and its key role in providing **quality training** to **Indian Army personnel** to enhance **operational efficiency**.

IG Defence Unveils Indigenous Weapon Systems KAL and JWALA at North Tech Symposium 2026 in Prayagraj

- **IG Defence** unveiled two **indigenous defence systems—KAL and JWALA—**at the **North Tech Symposium 2026** held in **Prayagraj**.
- The launch highlights the growing role of the **private defence industry** in India and supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative**.
- The **KAL drone** is India's first **long-range one-way attack drone**, designed for **deep-penetration missions** with a strike range of up to **1,000 km**.
- The **JWALA missile system** is a **short-range, rapid-response weapon platform** with **surface-to-air and surface-to-surface capability**.

Visit of Royal Netherlands Navy Deputy Commander and HNLMS De Ruyter to Kochi Strengthens Maritime Cooperation

- The **Royal Netherlands Navy ship HNLMS De Ruyter (F804)**, a **De Zeven Provinciën-class frigate**, arrived at **Kochi**, marking an important step in **India–Netherlands maritime cooperation**.
- The visit is part of a **five-month Indo-Pacific deployment**, during which the ship will participate in **maritime exercises** with partner nations to enhance **regional naval cooperation and interoperability**.
- The ship was escorted by **Indian Navy Fast Interceptor Craft** and received a **ceremonial welcome**, reflecting strong **naval diplomacy** and goodwill.
- The visit coincides with a **high-level delegation** from the Royal Netherlands Navy, including **Major General Rob De Wit** and **Ambassador Marisa Gerards**.

Indian Ocean Ship Sagar Arrives at Yangon Harbour in Myanmar to Strengthen Maritime Cooperation

- The **Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar – INS Sunayna** entered **Yangon Harbour** as part of India's **maritime outreach and regional engagement**.

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- The visit coincided with the presence of **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Adm Dinesh K. Tripathi**, highlighting strengthened **India–Myanmar naval cooperation**.
- The **port call** began with a **ceremonial welcome** by the **Myanmar Navy**, reflecting strong **bilateral maritime relations**.
- The deployment aligns with India's **MAHASAGAR vision (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across Regions)**, focusing on **maritime security** and **regional cooperation** in the Indian Ocean Region.

Ministry of Defence Signs ₹1,476 Crore Contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems for Indian Army

- The **Ministry of Defence** signed a contract worth **₹1,476 crore** with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Hyderabad** for procurement of five **Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems** for the **Indian Army**.
- The contract is under the **Buy (Indian–Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)** category, promoting **domestic defence production** and **self-reliance**.
- The agreement includes a minimum of **72% indigenous content**, strengthening the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative in the defence sector.
- The contract was signed in the presence of **Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh** at **Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Launches Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Field Training and Demonstration Centre at Burari Plains, Delhi

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** inaugurated the **Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Field Training and Demonstration Centre** at **Burari Plains, Delhi**.
- The centre was inaugurated by **Samir V Kamat**, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and **Chairman, DRDO**.
- The initiative aims to strengthen India's **preparedness** for **radiological and nuclear emergencies** and improve **CBRN crisis response capabilities**.
- The facility is part of the upcoming **CBRN Centre of Excellence** under the **Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)**.

About DRDO:

- Founded: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Parent Ministry: Ministry of Defence, Government of India

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- Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat

Second Edition of Joint Commanders' Conference on "Military Capability in New Domains" to be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan

- The **Second Edition** of the **Joint Commanders' Conference** will be held in **Jaipur, Rajasthan** on **May 07–08, 2026**, focusing on the theme "**Military Capability in New Domains**".
- The conference will be attended by **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** and **Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan**, marking a key **strategic defence engagement**.
- The event coincides with the **first anniversary** of **Operation Sindoor**, a **Tri-Services operation** symbolising India's political resolve and **precision-based military capability**.

India–Algeria Joint Commission Holds First Meeting in New Delhi, Agrees to Expand Defence Cooperation

- The **inaugural Joint Commission meeting** between **India and Algeria** was held in **New Delhi**, marking a significant step in strengthening **bilateral defence cooperation**.
- The meeting focused on **key areas of collaboration** such as **training, military exercises, medical cooperation, and defence industries**.
- Both sides agreed to **expand defence cooperation activities** and strengthen **strategic engagement** between India and Algeria.
- The two countries signed the **Rules of Procedure**, which will act as a **guiding framework** for implementing **India–Algeria defence cooperation** through Joint Commission meetings.

About Algeria :

- **President** : Abdelmadjid Tebboune
- **Prime Minister** : Sifi Ghrieb
- **Capital** : Algiers
- **Currency** : Algerian dinar

Indian Navy Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini Arrives at Mindelo Port in Cape Verde

- The **Indian Navy Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini** entered the **Port of Mindelo**, marking its **eighth port call** during the ongoing voyage.
- The visit is part of the **Lokayan-26 transoceanic training voyage**, flagged off on **20 January 2026**, and represents the **final African stopover** before the ship's **trans-Atlantic journey** to the **Caribbean**.
- During the port call, the **Commanding Officer** of **INS Sudarshini** will engage with **maritime authorities of Cape Verde** to strengthen **naval cooperation** and **bilateral relations**.

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- The programme includes **cross-training exchanges** and **professional and social interactions** with the **Cape Verde Coast Guard** to enhance **mutual understanding** and **maritime coordination**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Air Force Successfully Carry Out Maiden Flight Trial of Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation Weapon System

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted the **maiden flight-trial** of the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)** weapon on **07 May 2026** off the coast of **Odisha**.
- **TARA** is India's **first indigenous glide weapon system** designed to convert **unguided warheads** into **precision-guided weapons**.
- The system has been **designed and developed** by **Research Centre Imarat (RCI Hyderabad)** along with other **DRDO laboratories**.

About DRDO:

- Founded: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Parent Ministry: Ministry of Defence, Government of India
- Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat

India's First International Ophthalmology Research Conference to be Inaugurated by Raksha Rajya Mantri in New Delhi

- The **Department of Ophthalmology, Army Hospital (Research & Referral), New Delhi**, in collaboration with the **All India Ophthalmological Society**, will host **India's first International Ophthalmology Research Conference** on **09–10 May 2026** at the **Manekshaw Centre**.
- The two-day conference is titled **AIOS-AFOU 2026 (All-India Ophthalmological Society – Armed Forces Ophthalmology Update 2026)**.
- The event will be inaugurated by **Sanjay Seth (Raksha Rajya Mantri)**.
- The conference will witness the presence of the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**, the **three Service Chiefs**, and the **Defence Secretary**, highlighting its **national importance** and **Tri-service character**.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Establishes First International Centre in USA to Strengthen Deep-Tech Innovation and Startups

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Global Research Foundation** has announced its **first international centre** in **Menlo Park**, expanding India's **deep-tech innovation** presence into global ecosystems.

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- The announcement was made during the **SelectUSA Investment Summit** held at National Harbor, United States.
- The **IITM Centre** is designed to act as a **launchpad for Indian deep-tech startups**, enabling access to **global capital, markets, mentorship, and strategic partnerships**.
- The centre will be developed with a total investment of **USD 7.5 million**, including a **USD 4.5 million greenfield investment** from the IITM Global Research Foundation.

Skyroot Aerospace Becomes India's First Space-Tech Unicorn After Raising USD 60 Million

- **Skyroot Aerospace**, a private Indian space launch startup, has become **India's first space-tech unicorn** after raising **USD 60 million (₹570 crore)**.
- With this funding, the company's **valuation** has reached **USD 1.1 billion**, nearly double its 2023 valuation of USD 550 million.
- The startup's **total funding** has now crossed **USD 160 million (₹1,500 crore)**, marking a major milestone in **India's private space sector growth**.
- Skyroot Aerospace became the **fourth Indian startup** to enter the **unicorn club in 2026**, after KreditBee, Neysa, and Juspay.
- The latest funding round was **co-led by Sherpalo Ventures (Ram Shriram) and GIC Private Limited**.

ICGS Achal, Adamyia-class Fast Patrol Vessel, commissioned into Indian Coast Guard at Goa Shipyard Limited

- The **ICGS Achal**, the latest **Adamyia-class Fast Patrol Vessel**, was commissioned into the **Indian Coast Guard at Goa Shipyard Limited**, marking a major boost to India's **maritime operational capability**.
- The vessel was formally commissioned by **Shri A. Anbarasu**, Additional Secretary & Director General (Acquisition), **Ministry of Defence**.
- The ship is named "**Achal**" (meaning "**firm**"), symbolizing the Indian Coast Guard's **steadfast commitment** to maritime security, coastal protection, and safeguarding national interests.

Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully conducts long-duration test of Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor for Hypersonic Missile technology

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** achieved a major breakthrough in **Hypersonic Missile technology** through a successful long-duration test of the **Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor**.
- The test was conducted by the **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)** at the **Scramjet Connect Pipe Test (SCPT) Facility**, Hyderabad, on **09 May 2026**.

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- During the test, the **Scramjet Combustor** achieved a run-time of **over 1,200 seconds**, surpassing the earlier successful test of 700 seconds conducted in January 2026.

Steel Cutting Ceremony Held for Indian Navy's Fifth Fleet Support Ship at Hindustan Shipyard Limited Visakhapatnam

- The '**Steel Cutting**' Ceremony of the **5th and final Fleet Support Ship (FSS)** was held at **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam**.
- The **Indian Navy** had signed a contract with **HSL** in **August 2023** for the acquisition of **five Fleet Support Ships (FSS)**.
- **Delivery** of the Fleet Support Ships is scheduled to commence from **mid-2027**.
- The **Fleet Support Ships** will strengthen the **Blue Water capabilities** of the Indian Navy by enabling **replenishment of fleet ships at sea**.
- Each **FSS** will have a **displacement of more than 40,000 tonnes**, making them among the **largest support vessels** for the Navy.

India and Australia Hold 10th Defence Policy Talks in New Delhi

- The **10th edition** of **Defence Policy Talks** between **India and Australia** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The **Indian delegation** was led by **Amitabh Prasad**, while the **Australian delegation** was headed by **Bernard Philip**.
- Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the **India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.
- The establishment of the annual **India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue in 2025** was highlighted as a major step in strengthening **defence consultations** and **mutual trust**.

About Australia :

- **Prime Minister** : Anthony Albanese
- **Capital** : Canberra
- **Currency** : Australian dollar (\$)

Indian Air Force Conducts 88-Hour "Operation Sindoor" Commemorative Run from May 7 to 10, 2026

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted the "**Op Sindoor Commemorative Run**" for **88 hours** from **07 May to 10 May 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- The event commemorated the **first anniversary** of the **88-hour successful air operations** carried out by the **IAF**, showcasing its capability to deliver **decisive and precise strikes**.

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- Around **600 runners** from various **Commands** of the **Indian Air Force** and the **Indian Army** participated in the commemorative event.
- The run was **flagged off** on **07 May 2026** at **0105 hours** by the **Air Officer in Charge Administration (AOA)** from **India Gate**.

India successfully tests advanced Agni missile with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle system

- India successfully conducted the **flight-trial** of an advanced **Agni missile** equipped with **Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV)** technology from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**.
- The missile was tested with **multiple payloads**, each capable of **striking different targets** spread across a large geographical area in the **Indian Ocean Region**.
- The trial demonstrated India's capability to **simultaneously engage multiple strategic targets** using a single missile system through **MIRV technology**.

About DRDO:

- Founded: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Parent Ministry: Ministry of Defence, Government of India
- Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat

Indian Air Force Maintenance Command and Centre for Airpower and Strategic Studies Organise Joint Aerospace Power Seminar in Nagpur

- **Headquarters Maintenance Command** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, in collaboration with the **Centre for Airpower and Strategic Studies (CAPSS)**, organised a one-day **Joint Aerospace Power Seminar** at Nagpur.
- The seminar was conducted on the theme “**Efficient Maintenance and Atmanirbharta Enablers of Airpower**”, focusing on **maintenance efficiency** and **self-reliance** in strengthening India's **aerospace capability**.
- The event brought together **senior military leaders, domain experts, strategic thinkers, and operational stakeholders** to discuss the role of **maintenance systems** in enhancing **operational readiness** and **national security**.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth to inaugurate Kalam & Kavach 3.0 focused on advancing JAI through I²

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- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth** will inaugurate the third edition of “**Kalam & Kavach**” at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.
- The conference will serve as a **premier strategic platform** bringing together **policy makers, military leadership, defence industry stakeholders**, diplomats, innovators, start-ups, academia, and strategic experts.
- The event focuses on **India’s defence transformation, indigenous capability development, and future warfighting preparedness**.
- The conference is centred around the strategic vision of **Jointness, Aatmanirbharta and Innovation (JAI)** along with **Indigenisation and International Collaboration (I²)**.

Raksha Mantri and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister lay foundation stones for Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre and Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** and **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** laid the **foundation stones** and presided over **grounding ceremonies** of **strategic aerospace and defence projects** at **Puttaparthi, Sri Sathya Sai district, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The **foundation stone** was laid for the **Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre** at **Puttaparthi**, aimed at accelerating the development of the **Fifth-Generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** and other **indigenous aircraft platforms**.
- The **AMCA programme** has a total outlay of around **₹15,000 crore**, while the **Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre** of the **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** under **DRDO** is being established at a cost of approximately **₹2,000 crore**.

INS Sagardhwani Leaves Malaysia After Successful Engagement with Royal Malaysian Navy

- Indian Navy’s oceanographic research vessel **INS Sagardhwani** departed **Port Klang, Malaysia** after completing a successful engagement with the **Royal Malaysian Navy**.
- The **port call** strengthened **India–Malaysia maritime relations** through a series of **professional and scientific interactions** between the two navies.

Pakistani Navy commissions its first Chinese-built Hangor-class submarine at Sanya, Hainan Island

- The **Pakistani Navy** has commissioned its first **Chinese-built Hangor-class submarine** at **Sanya** on China’s **Hainan Island**, a major naval facility.
- The submarine, named **PNS Hangor**, is the first of **eight submarines** that **China** is scheduled to deliver to **Pakistan by 2028**.

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- The **Hangor-class submarine** is based on the **Chinese Type-039A** design and is equipped with an **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system**, enabling it to remain **submerged for 2–3 weeks** without surfacing.

About Pakistan:

- Capital: Islamabad
- Currency: Pakistani Rupee (PKR)
- President: Asif Ali Zardari
- Prime Minister: Shehbaz Sharif

Indian Navy Opens Premier Naval Sailing Node at Bhojtal in Bhopal

- The **Indian Navy** inaugurated its premier **Naval Sailing Node** at **Upper Lake (Bhojtal), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- The inauguration ceremony was presided over by **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)**, in the presence of senior defence officials, civil administration representatives, NCC cadets, and students.

Ministry of Defence issues stricter norms: Up to 5-year debarment for poor performance, 10-year ban for ethical misconduct

- The **Ministry of Defence** issued revised guidelines imposing **stricter penalties** on **defence suppliers** for **non-performance** and **ethical misconduct**.
- The new policy replaces the **2016 debarment framework** and adopts a **zero-tolerance approach** toward **corruption** and **unethical practices** in **defence procurement**.
- **Defence vendors** failing to meet **contractual obligations** or supplying **substandard/underperforming equipment** can face **debarment** from government contracts for up to **5 years**.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to Visit Vietnam and South Korea on Official Tour to Strengthen Defence Cooperation

- Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** is undertaking an official visit to **Vietnam (May 18–19, 2026)** followed by the **Republic of Korea (May 19–21, 2026)** to strengthen India's defence and strategic partnerships in Asia.
- The visit aims to expand bilateral engagement, with a focus on **strategic military cooperation**, **defence industrial partnerships**, and **maritime collaboration**, supporting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

About Vietnam :

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- Prime Minister : Lê Minh Hưng
- Capital : Hanoi
- Currency : Vietnamese đồng

About South Korea :

- President : Lee Jae Myung
- Prime Minister : Kim Min-seok
- Capital : Seoul
- Currency : Korean Republic won

India's Artificial Intelligence-Powered Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle 'Kaal Bhairava' to Be Manufactured at First Overseas Facility in Portugal

- **Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA)**, a deep tech defence company, announced that its flagship Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) “**Kaal Bhairava**” will be manufactured at its **first international production facility in Portugal**.
- The initiative is part of “**Operation 777**”, which aims to establish **7 global headquarters across 77 countries** to expand international defence presence.
- The project is being developed in collaboration with **SKETCHPIXEL**, a European company specializing in **advanced fighter jet simulation systems**, including those used for the **F-16 aircraft**.

Tonbo Imaging secures Indian Navy contract under ADITI 3.0 framework

- **Tonbo Imaging**, a Bengaluru-based defence technology company, has secured a contract from the **Indian Navy** under the **ADITI 3.0** innovation framework on **19 May 2026**.
- The contract involves integration and commissioning of a **High Power Microwave (HPM) system** for naval platforms, strengthening India's indigenous defence capabilities.
- The project is supported under the Ministry of Defence's **IDEX initiative (Innovations for Defence Excellence)** and the **Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)** framework.

India receives fourth squadron of S-400 Triumph air defence system

- India is set to receive the **fourth squadron** of the Russian-origin **S-400 Triumph**, strengthening its air defence capabilities.
- The S-400 system is part of a **\$5.43 billion agreement signed in 2018** between India and Russia for the procurement of **five S-400 squadrons**.
- The S-400 Triumph is a **long-range surface-to-air missile system** designed to intercept and destroy aircraft, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles at multiple ranges and altitudes.

Larsen & Toubro Limited Enters Strategic Tie-Up with France's Exail Technologies to Develop

Unmanned Mine Countermeasure Systems for Indian Navy

- **Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T)** has entered into a strategic partnership with France-based **Exail Technologies** to deliver advanced **Unmanned Mine Countermeasure (MCM)** systems for the **Indian Navy (IN)**.
- The collaboration will provide an **Unmanned MCM Suite** featuring autonomous and remotely operated systems for the safe **detection, identification, and neutralisation of naval mines**.
- Under the agreement, **L&T will act as the Prime Contractor** and will offer the Unmanned MCM Suite to shipyards involved in the Indian Navy's proposed programme for **12 Mine Counter Measure Vessels**.

About Larsen & Toubro Limited :

- **Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- **MD & CEO : Sekharipuram Narayanan Subrahmanyan**

PRAGATI 2026 Multilateral Military Exercise Begins in Meghalaya

- **India launched the multilateral military exercise PRAGATI 2026** at the **Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya** with participation from armed forces of 12 friendly nations.
- The exercise is being hosted by the Indian Army and focuses on **counter-terror operations, jungle warfare, tactical coordination and joint military preparedness** in challenging terrain conditions.
- PRAGATI stands for **Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region**, reflecting India's strategic vision of strengthening regional defence cooperation and promoting stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Launches INS Sanghmitra, First Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel for Indian Navy

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Limited** launched **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sanghmitra (Yard 3039)**, the **first of four Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs)** for the **Indian Navy (IN)**.
- The launch ceremony of INS Sanghmitra was held at **GRSE Yard, Kolkata, West Bengal, on 20 May 2026**.
- INS Sanghmitra belongs to the **Shachi-class NGOPV** category.
- The vessel is being built under the **Buy (Indian-IDDMM – Indigenous Design, Development and Manufacturing)** category.

Indian Army and Indian Navy Sign Memorandum of Association on Affiliation to Strengthen Inter-Service Cooperation and Joint Operational Capability

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- The **Indian Army (IA)** and the **Indian Navy (IN)** signed a **Memorandum of Association (MoA) on Affiliation** in **New Delhi, Delhi**, to enhance **inter-service cooperation, operational cohesion, and jointness** among the armed forces.
- The MoA was signed by **Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) VPS Kaushik, Adjutant General of the Indian Army**, and **Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh, Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy**.
- The main objective of the agreement is to institutionalise **structured professional exchanges, operational familiarisation, joint activities, and coordinated multi-domain operations** between the two services.

Maroon Beret Passing-Out Parade Held at Garud Regimental Training Centre, Air Force Station Chandinagar

- The **Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade** was held on **23 May 2026** at the **Garud Regimental Training Centre (GRTC), Air Force Station Chandinagar**.
- The parade marked the successful completion of training of the **Indian Air Force (IAF) Special Forces operatives** of the ‘Garud’ Force.
- **Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Rahul Gupta, ACAS Ops (Space)**, reviewed the parade as the **Chief Guest**.
- The **Commandant of Garud Regimental Training Centre** received the Chief Guest and briefed him on various aspects of the training programme.

Ahmedabad Hosts 138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee Meeting

- The **138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) Meeting** was held at **Ahmedabad**.
- The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of **Director General Indian Coast Guard, Paramesh Sivamani**.
- The main objective of the meeting was to review and strengthen the **security framework for India’s offshore installations and critical energy infrastructure**.

Ring Gantry-Based Linear Accelerator Commissioned at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi for Advanced Cancer Care

- A **Ring Gantry-based Linear Accelerator** was commissioned at the **Department of Radiation Oncology of Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi** on **25 May 2026**.
- The commissioning took place in the presence of **Rajesh Kumar Singh, the Defence Secretary of India**.
- The advanced medical technology will strengthen **cancer care services** at Army Hospital (R&R) and improve access to **advanced radiotherapy treatment**.

About Ministry of Defence:

- **Cabinet Minister:** Rajnath Singh
- **Minister of State (MoS):** Sanjay Seth

Indian Navy to Acquire 45 Ships in Next 3–4 Years, Receives Approval for 195 Additional Vessels

- The **Indian Navy** announced plans to acquire **45 new warships** over the next **3–4 years** to enhance maritime capability and operational preparedness.
- The Navy has received **in-principle approval for 195 additional vessels**, reflecting India's long-term strategy for fleet expansion and modernisation.
- At present, the Indian Navy operates around **130 ships**, and aims to expand its fleet strength to nearly **300 warships by 2035**.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Launches NIBE Limited Defence Manufacturing Facility at Shirdi in Maharashtra

- **Rajnath Singh**, Union Minister of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), inaugurated the **NIBE Group's private defence manufacturing complex** in **Shirdi, Maharashtra**.
- He also flagged off India's first **300-kilometre (km) Universal Rocket Launching System 'Suryastra'** to strengthen indigenous defence manufacturing and future warfare capabilities.
- The NIBE Defence Manufacturing Complex was developed by the **NIBE Limited (NIBE Group)** with an investment of over **Rs.5,000 crore**.
- The project is expected to generate nearly **4,000 employment opportunities** in the defence manufacturing sector.

INS Sudarshini Reaches Antigua and Barbuda Following Landmark Trans-Atlantic Voyage

- Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship (STS) **INS Sudarshini** arrived at **Antigua and Barbuda** as part of the ongoing **Lokayan 26 expedition**.
- The ship successfully completed a historic **trans-Atlantic passage**, marking the **first Atlantic crossing** by INS Sudarshini.
- The last Atlantic crossing by an Indian Navy sail training ship was undertaken by **INS Tarangini** in **2007**.

Ministry of Defence Releases Request for Proposal for India's Indigenous Fifth-Generation Stealth Fighter Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft Programme Project

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** issued the **Request for Proposal (RFP)** for the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme** in **New Delhi**.
- The **AMCA Programme** is India's first **indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft** project.

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- The government-funded programme has an estimated prototype development cost of **₹15,000 crore**.
- The project includes the development of **five flying prototypes** and **one structural test aircraft**.
- The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is a major **Make in India defence initiative**.

Indian Army Introduces 'Q-FORCE' App to Enhance Logistics and Sustainment Operations

- The **Indian Army** launched '**Q-FORCE**', an integrated **digital logistics application** designed to streamline logistics and sustainment management across varied operational terrains in India.
- **Q-FORCE integrates multiple logistics and inventory platforms** to ensure seamless coordination and efficient management of military resources.
- The application aims to improve **military logistics, supply-chain efficiency, transport coordination, and operational support** during deployments.
- **Q-FORCE** is an integrated digital logistics management system developed for **better real-time coordination, resource planning, and decision-making** within the Indian Army.

India and Singapore Discuss Expansion of Strategic Defence Cooperation at 16th Defence Policy Dialogue

- The **16th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue** was held in **Singapore** on **28 May 2026**.
- The dialogue was co-chaired by **Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary of India**, and **Joseph Leong, Permanent Secretary (Defence) of Singapore**.
- Both sides reviewed the progress of ongoing defence engagements and discussed key areas of **defence cooperation**.

About Singapore :

- President : Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- Prime Minister : Lawrence Wong
- Currency : Singapore dollar

Indian Coast Guard Carries Out Anti-Narcotics Operation Near Mundra Coast in Gujarat

- **The Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** seized approximately **115 kg of Cocaine** during a joint anti-smuggling operation conducted with the **Anti-Terrorism Squad Gujarat (ATS Gujarat)**.
- The operation was carried out from **25–26 May 2026** off the **Mundra coast in Gujarat**.
- The estimated international market value of the seized narcotics is around **₹1150 crore**.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS**Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited Acquires 51% Controlling Stake in Colombo Dockyard PLC in First Overseas Expansion**

- **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** has acquired a **controlling 51% stake** in **Colombo Dockyard PLC (CDPLC)**, marking its **first international acquisition**.
- The deal, valued at **₹249.5 crore**, makes **Sri Lanka's largest shipyard** a subsidiary of MDL.
- This acquisition strengthens **India's maritime presence** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL)** is a **Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU)** with shipyards located in **Mazagaon, Mumbai**.

Federal Bank to Acquire 4.5 Lakh Credit Card Portfolio from Standard Chartered Bank India

- **Federal Bank** is set to acquire a select **credit card portfolio** from **Standard Chartered Bank India** comprising around **4.5 lakh credit cards**.
- The portfolio has an estimated **outstanding value of ₹1,500 crore** and is valued at **1.5–1.6 times implied equity**.
- The acquisition will increase **Federal Bank's non-co-branded credit card receivables** by nearly **90%**, strengthening its existing base of **8 lakh non-co-branded cards** and **13 lakh co-branded cards**.
- The deal will significantly expand **Federal Bank's credit card footprint** in India's **top urban markets**, with around **75% of the portfolio** concentrated in the **top 8 cities**.

About Federal Bank:

- Founded: 1931
- Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala, India
- Managing Director & CEO: KVS Manian
- Tagline: "Your Perfect Banking Partner"

Lakshmi N Mittal Family, Aditya Mittal and Adar Poonawalla to Acquire Stake in Rajasthan Royals

- A consortium led by steel magnate **Lakshmi N. Mittal's family**, along with **Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla**, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the **IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals** at a valuation of about **\$1.65 billion**.
- After completion, the **Mittal family** will hold around **75% stake**, while **Adar Poonawalla** will hold about **18%** in the franchise.
- The remaining **7% stake** will remain with existing investors, including **Manoj Badale**, who will continue his association with the team.

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- The acquisition also includes **overseas franchises** such as **Paarl Royals (South Africa)** and **Barbados Royals (Caribbean league)**.

Kotak Mahindra Bank gets Reserve Bank of India approval to acquire up to 9.99% stake each in AU Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to acquire up to **99% stake (each)** in **AU Small Finance Bank** and **Federal Bank**, marking a key development in India's **banking sector consolidation**.
- The approval allows **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, along with its subsidiaries and managed funds (**Kotak Mahindra Group**), to collectively hold up to **99% shareholding/voting rights** in both banks.
- The permission is subject to compliance with the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, **RBI Commercial Banks (Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights Directions, 2025)**, and **FEMA, 1999** regulations, along with other applicable rules.

About AU Small Finance Bank :

- **Founded** : 1996
- **Headquarters** : **Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**
- **Founder, MD & CEO** : **Sanjay Agarwal**

About Kotak Mahindra Bank:

- **Headquarters**: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- **Managing Director & CEO**: Ashok Vaswani
- **Tagline**: Let's Make Money Simple

About Federal Bank:

- **Founded**: 1931
- **Headquarters**: Aluva, Kerala, India
- **Managing Director & CEO**: KVS Manian
- **Tagline**: "Your Perfect Banking Partner"

Fairfax India to Invest ₹2,000 Crore in IIFL Capital Services

- **Fairfax India Holdings Corporation**, led by billionaire investor **Prem Watsa**, plans to increase its stake in **IIFL Capital Services** to at least **51%** through a **₹2,000 crore capital infusion**.
- The investment will be made through Fairfax's wholly owned subsidiary **FIH Mauritius Investments** via a combination of **preferential allotment of equity shares**, **open offer**, and arrangements with existing promoters.

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- Currently, the Canada-headquartered **Fairfax Group** is the **second-largest shareholder** in IIFL Capital Services, holding around **27.18% stake** through FIH Mauritius Investments.
- Including its affiliate holdings, **Fairfax India**, through FIH Mauritius and **HWIC Asia Fund Class A**, presently holds nearly **30.5% stake** in the company.

Competition Commission of India Approves Thriveni Earthmovers' 7.14% Stake Acquisition in Lloyds Engineering Works and Merger of Three Companies into Lloyds Engineering Works Limited

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the acquisition of a **7.14% stake** in **Lloyds Engineering Works Limited (LEWL)** by **Thriveni Earthmovers Private Limited (TEMPL)** along with the **merger of three entities** into LEWL.
- The proposed transaction included a **Block Deal** under which **TEMPL** acquired **7.14% shareholding** in LEWL through **BSE Limited** on **09 February 2026**.
- The approved combination also involves the **merger by absorption** of **Lloyds Infrastructure & Construction Limited (LICL)**, **Metalfab Hightech Private Limited (MHPL)**, and **Techno Industries Private Limited (TIPL)** into **LEWL**, which will remain the **surviving entity**.

About CCI:

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act of 2002.
- Founded: October 14, 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairperson: Ravneet Kaur

Prudential plc to acquire 75% stake in Bharti Life Insurance Company Limited for ₹3,500 crore initial cash consideration

- **Prudential plc** has announced the acquisition of a **75% stake** in **Bharti Life Insurance Company Limited** for an initial value of **Rs 3,500 crore (around USD 389 million)**.
- The acquisition deal is subject to **regulatory approvals** and other **customary conditions**.
- Under the transaction arrangement, Prudential plc will acquire a **60% stake** from **Bharti Life Ventures Pvt. Ltd.** and a **15% stake** from funds managed by **360 ONE Asset Management**.

Google and Blackstone Launch \$5 Billion Artificial Intelligence Cloud Venture

- **Google** and **Blackstone** have launched a new **\$5 billion Artificial Intelligence cloud infrastructure venture** aimed at strengthening Artificial Intelligence computing capabilities and challenging the dominance of **Nvidia** in the global Artificial Intelligence chip market.

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- The new venture will be built around Google's custom-designed **Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)**, which are specialised chips developed specifically for Artificial Intelligence and machine learning workloads.
- The project will provide **Compute-as-a-Service**, allowing businesses to rent powerful Artificial Intelligence computing infrastructure through cloud platforms instead of building expensive hardware systems themselves.

Bharat Forge to Set Up India's First Private Marine Gas Turbine Facility in Andhra Pradesh

- **Bharat Forge Limited** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Government of Andhra Pradesh** to establish **India's first private-sector Marine Gas Turbine facility** in **Visakhapatnam**.
- The project was announced during the **Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Conclave** held in **Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by **Guru Biswal, Chief Executive Officer- Aerospace, Bharat Forge Limited**, and defence scientist **Dr G. Satheesh Reddy**, former Chairman of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation**.

Government to Sell 8% Stake in Central Bank of India Following Strong Offer for Sale Demand

- The **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** announced that the **Offer for Sale (OFS)** of the **Central Bank of India** was oversubscribed **2.35 times** on the first day.
- The strong response to the OFS was mainly driven by **institutional investor** demand.
- Following the oversubscription, the government decided to exercise the entire **greenshoe option**.
- With the greenshoe option, the total stake sale in the Central Bank of India increased from **4% to 8%** of the bank's equity.

About Central Bank of India :

- **Founded** : 21 December 1911
- **Headquarters** : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- **MD & CEO** : Kalyan Kumar

SBI Mutual Fund Raises Stake in Bandhan Bank Above 5%

- **SBI Mutual Fund** increased its stake in **Bandhan Bank** beyond **5%** of the bank's paid-up share capital.
- According to a regulatory filing, the total shareholding of SBI Mutual Fund under its various schemes reached **5.0432%** as on **20 August 2026**.

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- Before the latest acquisition, SBI Mutual Fund held a **4.963% stake** in Bandhan Bank.

About Bandhan Bank :

- Founded : 23 August 2015
- Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Partha Pratim Sengupta.

Life Insurance Corporation of India Raises Shareholding in Central Bank of India to 6.06%

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** acquired **26.26 crore equity shares** of **Central Bank of India** through open market purchases.
- The acquisition increased LIC's shareholding in Central Bank of India **from 3.16% to 6.06%**, representing an **additional 2.901% stake**.
- The transaction highlights LIC's growing investment exposure in the **public sector banking sector** and reflects confidence in the bank's future growth prospects.

About Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC):

- Headquarters (HQ): Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Founded: 1956

About Central Bank of India :

- Founded : 21 December 1911
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Kalyan Kumar

Shivalik Small Finance Bank to Acquire ManiBhavnam Home Finance for ₹109 Crore to Boost Affordable Housing Lending

- **Shivalik Small Finance Bank** is in the final stages of acquiring **ManiBhavnam Home Finance** in a deal valued at around **₹109 crore**.
- The acquisition has already received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, while clearance from the **Registrar of Companies (RoC)** is still awaited.
- The main objective of the acquisition is to strengthen Shivalik Small Finance Bank's presence in the **affordable housing finance segment**.

Adani Power Signs Deals to Acquire Stake in Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited and Churk Power Assets for Over ₹4,193 Crore

- **Adani Power** has signed definitive agreements with **Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL)** to acquire a **24% stake** in **Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited (JPVL)** along with the **180 MW Churk thermal power plant** in **Uttar Pradesh**.

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- The acquisition is part of an **NCLT-approved resolution plan** under the **insolvency process** for debt-ridden Jaiprakash Associates Limited.
- Adani Power will acquire JAL's 24% stake in JPVL for approximately **₹2,993.6 crore** through a **Share Purchase Agreement (SPA)**.

APPS & PORTALS

Mizoram Unveils 'Khuarel' App for Enhanced Real-Time Disaster Response

- The **Mizoram Government** has launched the '**Khuarel**' mobile application, a **real-time disaster incident reporting** and management system.
- The app was unveiled in **Aizawl, Mizoram** by **Lalnilawma**, Minister of **Disaster Management & Rehabilitation (DM&R)**.
- **Mizoram** has become one of the **first Northeastern states** to adopt a **digital disaster management solution**.
- The **Khuarel app** has been developed by the **Mizoram State e-Governance Society** for **disaster-prone regions**.

About Mizoram:

- Capital: Aizawl
- Chief Minister: Lalduhoma
- Governor: Vijay Kumar Singh
- National Parks: Murlen National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Dampa Wildlife Sanctuary, Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary, Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary, Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary, Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary

Swasth Bharat Portal Launched to Integrate Fragmented Health Systems and Strengthen India's Digital Health Ecosystem

- The **Swasth Bharat Portal** was launched during the **10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity** by the **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda**, marking a major step in India's **digital healthcare transformation**.
- The portal aims to create a **unified, integrated, and scalable** digital public health ecosystem by addressing the issue of **fragmented and siloed health data systems**.
- It supports **frontline health workers** (ASHAs, ANMs, CHOs, and Medical Officers) by providing a **single access platform** with **data visualisation tools** for monitoring and evidence-based planning.

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- The **Swasth Bharat Portal** is **ABDM-compliant** and integrates with **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account)** for secure and seamless exchange of health records.
- It is designed to connect with **national registries** such as the **Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR)** and **Health Facility Registry (HFR)**.
- Key benefits include a reduction in **infrastructure duplication (20–30%)**, **data entry effort (20–40%)**, and **HR duplication (20–40%)**.

About Ministry of Health and Family Welfare :

- Cabinet Minister : J. P. Nadda
- Minister of State : Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav

National Institution for Transforming India Aayog Introduces Central Prabhari Officer Portal to Enhance Real-Time Governance and Last-Mile Service Delivery

- **Nidhi Chhibber**, interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog launched the **Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal** in **New Delhi** to strengthen **real-time governance** and improve **last-mile service delivery** under the **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)** and **Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)**.
- The portal was launched by **Nidhi Chhibber** to enhance **field-level monitoring** and **administrative responsiveness**.
- The platform aims to bridge the gap between **field observations** and **administrative action** through a structured **real-time reporting system**.
- **Central Prabhari Officers (CPOs)** are senior **Central Government officials** responsible for **ground-level monitoring**, **programme implementation review**, and **Centre–State–District coordination**.

About NITI Aayog:

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) is a government agency that advises the central and state governments of India.
- It was established on January 1, 2015, replaced the **Planning Commission**
- Headquarters : New Delhi, India

Central Government plans “One Nation, One App” system for electric vehicle charging nationwide

- The **Central Government** has approved proposals worth **₹503.86 crore** for installing **4,874 electric vehicle (EV) chargers** across various States and **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**.

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- The implementation involves major **CPSEs** such as **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. (HPCL)**, **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)**, and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL)**, along with states including **Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.**
- **D. Kumaraswamy** announced the launch of the **Unified Bharat e-Charge (UBC)** platform, described as a “**UPI for EV charging**” to enhance **digital mobility infrastructure.**
- The platform aims to provide a “**One Nation, One App**” system, enabling **EV users to locate, book, access, and pay** for charging stations across **multiple networks** through a **single unified interface.**

Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav inaugurates Ayush Anudan Portal under the Ayush Grid digital initiative

- **Prataprao Jadhav** launched the **Ayush Anudan Portal** at Kartavya Bhawan to strengthen digital governance and transparency in the Ayush sector.
- The portal was developed by the **Ministry of Ayush** under the **Ayush Grid** initiative to streamline the submission, processing, approval and monitoring of funding proposals under various **Central Sector Schemes.**
- **Ayush Grid** is a flagship digital initiative of the Government of India aimed at creating an **integrated, transparent and citizen-centric digital ecosystem** for the Ayush sector using modern technology.

Haryana Launches ShramMitra Application to Digitize Labour Hiring System

- **Haryana** launched the **ShramMitra application**, a digital employment platform designed to **connect workers and employers directly across the state.**
- The application was launched by Anil Vij to modernize the labour hiring process and reduce dependence on the traditional labour chowk system.
- The **ShramMitra application** has been **developed by the Haryana Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.**

Secretary, Ministry of Textiles Ms. Neelam Shami Rao Unveils Bharat Tex 2026 Mobile App

- **Ms. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles,** launched the **Bharat Tex 2026 Event App** designed as a **unified digital platform** for India’s largest global textile event.
- The Bharat Tex 2026 App reflects a **digital-first approach** aimed at strengthening **business matchmaking**, improving attendee experience, enabling **data-driven engagement**, and supporting the overall scale of the event.

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- The app has been developed as a **comprehensive digital companion** enabling participants to access event information, discover exhibitors, **schedule meetings**, navigate venues, **capture leads**, access knowledge sessions, and receive **real-time updates** through a single mobile interface.

About Ministry of Textiles :

- Cabinet Minister : Giriraj Singh
- Minister of State : Pabitra Margherita

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to Launch PM-AJAY Portal and Mobile App for Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) Scheme

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** launched the **PM-AJAY Portal** and **PM-AJAY Mobile App** to strengthen digital governance and improve scheme implementation efficiency.
- The portal was launched by Union Minister **Dr. Virendra Kumar**, in the presence of Minister of State B. L. Verma, Secretary Sudhansh Pant, and senior officials of the department, along with state and UT representatives.
- The system aims to ensure **seamless coordination** among stakeholders, **faster service delivery**, and greater accountability in beneficiary services.

About Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment :

- Cabinet Minister : Virendra Kumar Khatik
- Minister of State : Ramdas Athawale, B. L. Verma

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances Unveils NeSDA 2025 Portal for Enhancing E-Governance and Online Service Delivery in India

- The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, Government of India, launched the **National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2025 Portal**.
- The portal was launched during a meeting with Nodal Officers of Central Ministries and States/Union Territories (UTs) on **25 May 2026**.
- **Sarita Chauhan**, Additional Secretary, DARPG, chaired the meeting and presented a detailed demonstration of the **NeSDA 2025 Portal**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Launches IP Catalyst Initiative and Digital Platform to Boost IP Commercialization in Electronics & IT Sector

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- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** organized a one-day national conference titled “**From Patent to Product: Accelerating IP Commercialization in Electronics & IT**” at the **India Habitat Centre, New Delhi** to strengthen India’s innovation and intellectual property ecosystem.
- The conference brought together **policymakers, industry leaders, startups, MSMEs, academia, researchers, and R&D institutions** to discuss ways to accelerate **IP commercialization** in the Electronics and IT sector.

About Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology :

- **Cabinet Minister** : Ashwini Vaishnaw
- **Minister of State** : Jitin Prasada

India–Africa Forum Summit Postponed Amid Ebola Virus Outbreak in Africa

- India has postponed the proposed **India–Africa Forum Summit** due to the ongoing **Ebola virus outbreak** in parts of Africa, particularly affecting the **Democratic Republic of Congo** and **Uganda**.
- The decision was taken as a **precautionary measure** to prevent potential **public health risks** and ensure the safety of delegates and participants from various countries.
- The **India–Africa Forum Summit** is the highest **apex institutional platform** for dialogue and cooperation between India and African countries.
- The summit was established in **2008** as a key mechanism to strengthen **India–Africa relations** in areas of **trade, development, and strategic partnership**.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Zoological Survey of India discovers two new spider species in Nagaland and completes revision of Indian whip scorpions after 100 years

- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** has discovered two new **spider species** named **Psechrus ntu** and **Psechrus phenshunyu** in **Nagaland**.
- The findings were published in the international scientific journal **Zootaxa**.
- The newly identified spider species were named after **Ntu village** and **Phenshunyu village** in Nagaland, highlighting **Northeast India** as an important **biodiversity hotspot**.
- Both newly discovered species belong to the **genus Psechrus** under the **family Psechridae**.
- The species **Psechrus himalayanus** was also recorded in the region for the **first time**.

Researchers Discover New Worm-Eating Snake Species ‘Trachischium lalremsangai’ in Mizoram

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- Researchers discovered a new worm-eating snake species named ‘**Trachischium lalremsangai**’ during biodiversity and herpetological surveys in the forest regions of **Mizoram and Myanmar**.
- The species was named after **Hmar Tlawmte Lalremsanga** in recognition of his contributions to herpetology research in India.
- The discovery was officially documented in the international journal **Herpetozoa**.
- The journal Herpetozoa is published by the **Austrian Herpetological Society**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : PERSON IN NEWS

Kami Rita Sherpa, Nepal’s “Everest Man”, climbs Mount Everest for a record 32nd time

- **Kami Rita Sherpa** created history by scaling **Mount Everest (8848.86 m)** for a record **32nd time**, breaking his own record for the highest number of Everest ascents.
- The **56-year-old** climber became the world record holder for the most climbs to the world’s highest peak, reinforcing his legacy as the “**Everest Man**”.
- Kami Rita Sherpa was born in the **Solukhumbu district of Nepal** and began his mountaineering career in **1992**, completing his **first Everest ascent in 1994**.

SPORTS NEWS

India Settles for Bronze After Semifinal Exit in Thomas Cup 2026

- India’s campaign in the **Thomas Cup 2026** ended with a **0–3 defeat against France in the semifinals**, resulting in a **bronze medal finish** in Horsens Denmark.
- The loss highlighted a challenging outing for India, as they failed to secure a single match in the semifinal tie.
- The absence of **Lakshya Sen** due to injury further weakened the team, while **France** created history by reaching their **first-ever final** in the tournament.
- India lost **0–3 to France** in the semifinal, ending their campaign with a **bronze medal**
- **Ayush Shetty** lost to **Christo Popov** (11–21, 9–21) in the opening singles match
- **Kidambi Srikanth** was defeated by **Alex Lanier** (16–21, 18–21) in the second match
- **HS Prannoy** lost to **Toma Junior Popov** (19–21, 16–21), sealing India’s exit

Badminton World Federation Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2026 Concluded in Denmark

- The **Badminton World Federation (BWF) Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2026** were held at **Horsens, Denmark**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- This marked the **34th edition of the Thomas Cup (men's team championship)** and the **31st edition of the Uber Cup (women's team championship)**.
- **People's Republic of China** won the **Thomas Cup 2026**, defeating **France (3–1)**, securing its **13th title**
- **Republic of Korea** won the **Uber Cup 2026**, defeating **People's Republic of China (3–1)**, securing its **third title**
- **Thomas Cup 2026 winners:**
 - Gold: **China**
 - Silver: **France**
 - Bronze: **Denmark and India**
- **Uber Cup 2026 winners:**
 - Gold: **South Korea**
 - Silver: **China**
 - Bronze: **Japan and Indonesia**

Rahul Dravid Becomes Owner of Dublin Franchise in European T20 Premier League

- **Rahul Dravid**, former Indian cricketer, has become the **owner of the Dublin franchise** in the **European T20 Premier League (ETPL)**
- The **European T20 Premier League (ETPL)** is **Europe's first International Cricket Council (ICC)-sanctioned multi-country franchise T20 league**
- The league aims to **promote and accelerate the growth of cricket in Europe**
- It is a **multi-country tournament** involving cricket boards of:
 - **Ireland**
 - **Scotland**
 - **Netherlands**

Apaar Saxena Earns International Master Title in Chess After Strong European Performances

- Indian chess player **Apaar Saxena** has been awarded the prestigious **International Master (IM) title** by the **Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)**.
- He achieved the title after securing all **three required International Master norms** through consistent performances in European chess tournaments.
- Apaar Saxena is from **Karnataka** and reached the milestone by performing strongly against high-rated international opponents.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The **International Master title** is awarded by the **Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)** and is considered one of the highest chess titles after the **Grandmaster title**.

About Fédération Internationale des Échecs (International Chess Federation).

- Established: July 20, 1924, in Paris, France.
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.

International Olympic Committee Lifts Restrictions on Belarusian Athletes Ahead of Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has lifted restrictions on Belarusian athletes ahead of the **Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics**, while **Russia continues to remain under suspension**.
- The IOC announced that it will no longer recommend restrictions on Belarusian athletes and teams in international competitions.
- Belarusian athletes will be allowed to participate in the **Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics**, including **opening ceremonies and medal events**.

About IOC

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is a non-profit, non-governmental international organization founded on June 23, 1894, in Paris, France. It is the supreme authority responsible for organizing the modern Olympic Games.

Faustino Oro Becomes Second Youngest Grandmaster in Chess History

- **Faustino Oro**, an Argentine chess prodigy, became the **second youngest Grandmaster in chess history** at the age of **12 years, 6 months, and 26 days**.
- He achieved this milestone by securing his **final Grandmaster norm at the Sardinia World Chess Festival 2026 in Italy**.
- The **Grandmaster title is the highest title awarded by the International Chess Federation**, the global governing body of chess.
- Faustino Oro is now behind only **Abhimanyu Mishra**, who became the **youngest Grandmaster in 2021 at 12 years, 4 months, and 25 days**.
- **Only seven players in history have achieved the Grandmaster title before the age of 13 years**, highlighting the rarity of this achievement.

India's Women's Recurve Archery Team Wins Gold at Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai

- India's women's recurve archery team won a **historic gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 2** held in **Shanghai, People's Republic of China**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The Indian team comprising **Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, and Kumkum Mohod** defeated the host nation **People's Republic of China** in a **tense shoot-off final**.
- The victory marks **India's first gold medal at the Archery World Cup since 2021**.

Sahdev Yadav Elected President of South Asian Weightlifting Federation

- **Sahdev Yadav** has been elected as the **President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation**.
- His election is seen as a significant step in strengthening **India's leadership in South Asian sports governance** and promoting regional cooperation in weightlifting.
- Sahdev Yadav, who currently heads the **Indian Weightlifting Federation**, was elected **unopposed** during the federation elections.
- He was elected **unanimously** as President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation.

India Wins 27 Medals at Asian Boxing Under-15 Championships 2026

- **India delivered** an impressive performance at the **Asian Boxing Under-15 Championships 2026**, winning a total of **27 medals**, including **9 gold medals**.
- The achievement highlights the emergence of strong young boxing talent at the international level.
- The **Under-15 girls team** emerged as the best-performing category for India.
- Medal tally of the Under-15 girls team:
 - **7 Gold Medals**
 - 2 Silver Medals
 - 5 Bronze Medals
- Gold medal winners in the girls category were:
 - **Anzee** – 37 kilogram category
 - **Soniya** – 40 kilogram category
 - **Tanvi** – 43 kilogram category
 - **Hanshika Attri** – 46 kilogram category
 - **Sunaina** – 58 kilogram category
 - **Bhumika** – 61 kilogram category
 - **Angel** – 70 kilogram category

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Creates Indian Premier League History with Most Sixes by an Indian in a Single Season

- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** created history in the **Indian Premier League 2026** by becoming the Indian batter with the **highest number of sixes in a single season**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- The milestone was achieved during **Rajasthan Royals match against Delhi Capitals at Arun Jaitley Stadium.**
- Before the match, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi required only three sixes to surpass Abhishek Sharma's record of **42 Sixes** in a single Indian Premier League season.

Central Information Commission Rules Board of Control for Cricket in India Outside Right to Information Act

- The **Central Information Commission** ruled that the **Board of Control for Cricket** in India does not fall under the scope of the **Right to Information Act, 2005.**
- The decision reverses the Commission's earlier 2018 ruling, which had declared the Board of Control for Cricket in India as a **public authority under the Right to Information Act.**
- The ruling came while reconsidering an appeal filed in 2017 before the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports seeking information regarding:
 - **Rules for Selection of Indian Cricket Players**
 - **Authority Granted to the Board of Control for Cricket in India by the Government**

Italian Open 2026 Winners Announced

- **Elina Svitolina of Ukraine** won the **women's singles title** at the **Italian Open 2026** by defeating **Coco Gauff of the United States.**
- It was **Elina Svitolina's third Italian Open title.**
- **Jannik Sinner of Italy** won the **men's singles title** after defeating **Casper Ruud of Norway.**
- With this victory, **Jannik Sinner** became the **first Italian man in 50 years** to win the tournament.

East Bengal Win Indian Super League Title for First Time

- **East Bengal FC** won the **Indian Super League 2026 title** for the first time, ending a **22-year wait** for a top-tier **domestic league championship.**
- East Bengal defeated Inter Kashi by **2-1** in the title-deciding match held at Kishore Bharati Krirangan.
- The victory marked one of the most significant moments in modern Indian football history and ended East Bengal's long title drought since the **2003–04 National Football League season.**

Vijay Shankar Announces Retirement from Domestic Cricket and Indian Premier League

- Former **Indian all-rounder Vijay Shankar** has announced his retirement from **domestic cricket** and the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**, bringing an end to a notable career in Indian cricket.
- With this retirement, Vijay Shankar will now become eligible to participate in various overseas franchise cricket leagues.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – May 2026

- Vijay Shankar represented India in **21 white-ball international matches** between **2018 and 2019**.

Gurindervir Singh Becomes Fastest Indian Sprinter with 10.09-Second Run

- Indian sprinter **Gurindervir Singh** became the fastest Indian ever in the men's **100-metre race** after clocking **10.09 seconds** at the **Federation Cup** in Ranchi.
- With this performance, he became the **first Indian athlete to enter the 10.0-second range** in the men's 100-metre event.
- The final race was held at Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium.
- A day before the final, Gurindervir Singh had clocked **10.17 seconds** in the semifinals and briefly set a new national record.

Lionel Messi Joins Billionaire Club, Becomes Second Footballer to Cross \$1 Billion Net Worth

- Football legend **Lionel Messi** officially entered the billionaire club and became only the **second footballer in history** after **Cristiano Ronaldo** to cross a **net worth of 1 billion United States Dollars**.
- According to the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**, Lionel Messi achieved this milestone through football salaries, bonuses, endorsements, investments, and business ventures.
- Reports suggest that Lionel Messi has earned more than **700 million United States Dollars** in salaries and bonuses since 2007.

Swara Lakshmi Nair Becomes Karnataka's Second Women's International Master

- **Karnataka-based chess player Swara Lakshmi Nair** has earned the prestigious **Women's International Master (WIM)** title, becoming the **second player from Karnataka** to do so.
- Isha Sharma was the first woman from the state to achieve the **WIM** title.
- The **19-year-old Swara Lakshmi** has also become the **first Women's International Master from Bengaluru**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BOOKS AND AUTHOR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Releases Books by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta at Bharat Mandapam

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** of the Ministry of Home Affairs released **two books authored by Tushar Mehta**
- The books titled **"The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre"** and **"The Lawful and the Awful"** were released at Bharat Mandapam
- The books are published by **Rupa Publications India**

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- The publications aim to provide insights into legal practice, advocacy, and judicial proceedings through real-life experiences and anecdotes

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched his new book “Apnapan: Narendra Modi Sang Mere Anubhav”

- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched his new book “**Apnapan: Narendra Modi Sang Mere Anubhav**” in New Delhi.
- The book was formally released by former Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** and former Prime Minister **H. D. Deve Gowda**.
- The book is based on Shivraj Singh Chouhan’s decades-long political association and experiences with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.

OBITUARIES

Olympic Bronze Medal-winning Indian Hockey Player Gurbax Singh Grewal Passed Away

- Renowned Indian hockey player **Gurbax Singh Grewal** passed away at the age of **84** in **New Delhi, Delhi**.
- He was born on **April 1, 1942** in **Lyallpur** (now Faisalabad, Pakistan).
- He was a member of the **Indian men’s hockey team** that won the **bronze medal** at the **1968 Mexico City Olympics** (Mexico).
- In his early career, he played professional hockey for **Western Railways**, where he established a **distinguished playing career** in his early 20s.
- He was part of the **1968 Indian Olympic hockey squad** and achieved the **rare distinction** of playing alongside his brother **Balbir Singh Grewal** at the **same Olympic Games**, marking a notable **family representation** for India.

Renowned Indian Golfer Vijay Kumar Passed Away

- Former Indian golfer **Vijay Kumar** passed away at the age of **57** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.
- He was born in **1968** in **Martinpurwa, Lucknow**, and rose from **humble beginnings** in the sport.
- He began his career as a **caddie** and initially played using **makeshift clubs** made from tree branches, before **turning professional in 1988**.
- **Vijay Kumar** achieved **domestic dominance**, becoming a **four-time Order of Merit champion** (1995–96, 1997–2000).

Italian Former F1 Driver and Paralympic Champion Alex Zanardi Passed Away

- **Alessandro Leone Zanardi**, popularly known as **Alex Zanardi**, passed away at the age of **59** in **Veneto, Italy**.
- He was born on **October 23, 1966**, in **Bologna, Italy**.
- He began his career as a professional **Formula 1 (F1) driver**, competing in **41 Grands Prix** between 1991 and 1999.
- His best **F1 performance** was **6th place** at the **1993 Brazilian Grand Prix**, while racing with teams like **Jordan, Minardi, Lotus, and Williams**.

CNN Founder and Media Mogul Ted Turner (Robert Edward Turner III) Passed Away at 87

- **Ted Turner**, media mogul, philanthropist, and **founder of CNN**, passed away at the age of **87** in Atlanta.
- He was born on **19 November 1938** in Cincinnati.
- Ted Turner's full name was **Robert Edward Turner III**, and he is regarded as a **pioneer in global television broadcasting** and **24-hour news media**.
- He revolutionized **broadcast journalism** by launching **CNN in 1980** as the **world's first 24-hour continuous news channel**, introducing the concept of **real-time global news coverage**.
- Turner transformed a struggling local TV station into the **Turner Broadcasting System (TBS)** and pioneered the **“superstation” satellite broadcasting model**.

Former India football midfielder Mohan Singh passed away at 78

- Former India football midfielder **Mohan Singh** passed away at the age of **78** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**, marking the loss of a notable figure in Indian football.
- Born in **1948**, he was known for his **skilful playing style** and key contributions to Indian football during the **1970s**.
- He made his **international debut** for India against **Burma** on **22 March 1972** in the **Pre-Olympic Tournament** held in Rangoon (now Yangon, Myanmar) and earned **3 international caps** during the campaign.

Former World No. 2 Australian tennis star Mal Anderson passed away at 91

- Australian tennis legend **Mal Anderson** passed away at the age of **91** in Australia.
- He was born on **3 March 1935** in **Theodore, Queensland**,
- Mal Anderson achieved a career-high ranking of **World No. 2** in international tennis.
- He began playing tennis on a **dirt court** and later became one of **Australia's most respected tennis players** during the **1950s to 1970s**.

Former Communist Party of India(M) Member of Parliament and Veteran Leader Sudhanshu Sil

Passed Away

- Veteran **Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)]** leader and former **Member of Parliament (MP) Sudhanshu Sil (Seal)** died at the age of 81 in **Kolkata, West Bengal (WB)**.
- Sudhanshu Sil was born on **27 March 1945** in Calcutta, Bengal Province, British India (now Kolkata, West Bengal).

Veteran Indian Archer and Arjuna Award Recipient Shyam Lal Meena Passed away at 61

- Veteran Indian Olympian archer and **Arjuna Award** awardee **Shyam Lal Meena** passed away at the age of **61 in Rajasthan**.
- He was born on **4 March 1965** in **Kevadia village, Banswara district, Rajasthan**.
- He won a **bronze medal** in the **men's recurve team event** at the **1987 Asian Archery Championships** held in **Kolkata, West Bengal**, along with **Limba Ram and Rajat Haldar**.
- Shyam Lal Meena received the prestigious **Arjuna Award in 1989** from the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)** for his outstanding contribution to archery.

Five-Time Olympian and Arjuna Award Recipient Raja Randhir Singh passed away at 79

- Renowned Indian shooter, **five-time Olympian**, and veteran sports administrator **Raja Randhir Singh** passed away at the age of **79 in New Delhi**.
- **Raja Randhir Singh** was born on **18 October 1946** in **Patiala, Punjab**.
- He was honoured with the prestigious **Arjuna Award in 1979** by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)** for his outstanding contribution to shooting sports.