

1. Lok Sabha Women's Empowerment Committee Formed

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla formed a committee for women's empowerment.
- Headed by BJP MP Dr. Daggubati Purandeswari.

2. Tripura — First State to Complete All 51 Deregulation Priority Areas

- Tripura became the first state in India to complete all 51 priority areas under Deregulation Phase 1 and Phase 2.

3. SVAMITVA Scheme — Extended to September 2026 & Presented to World Bank

- The SVAMITVA Scheme was launched to create digital village property databases using drones.
- IIM Ahmedabad presented SVAMITVA to the World Bank as a successful model for rural property mapping and governance.
- Scheme extended to September 30, 2026.
- Funding: ₹472 crore.
- Villages mapped: 1.89 lakh villages.
- Property cards issued: Over 3.14 crore.

4. Project Saksham — NHAI Skill Development Initiative

- Launched by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Target beneficiaries: Rural youth and women living near highway corridors.
- Skills offered: Tailoring, Nursing, career guidance, and job placements.
- Expected monthly salaries: ₹13,000 – ₹16,000.

5. DigiLocker Integration — States Felicitated by Government

- Government felicitated Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Nagaland, and Rajasthan for integrating DigiLocker with citizen services.
- Karnataka: Integrated 73% of its e-services; recorded highest number of accounts — over 2.7 crore users.
- Gujarat: Introduced digital disability certificates for free bus transport.

6. NIOS Launches "To Reach the Unreached" Initiative

- The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) was established in 1989.
- NIOS launched the "To Reach the Unreached" initiative.
- Objective: Bring 2 crore out-of-school children back into the formal education system.

7. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) — Incorporation Day & GeM Manthan

- The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) was established in 2016.
- GeM celebrated its Incorporation Day.
- Upcoming event announced: 'GeM Manthan' with the theme: "Enriching the GeM Marketplace".

8. State-Specific Developments

(i) Andhra Pradesh:

- Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Manufacturing Centre — Cost: ₹15,000 crore
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Core Integration and Flight Testing Centre — Cost: ₹2,000 crore

(ii) Delhi:

- Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced collateral-free loans up to ₹10 Crore for Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Startups at the Mega SHG Mela 2026.

(iii) Kerala:

- V.D. Satheesan (All India Congress Committee — AICC), former Leader of Opposition, appointed as 13th Chief Minister of Kerala.

(iv) Ladakh:

- Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena inaugurated the Mahe Tokpo Reldho irrigation canal.

9. PM Modi's Multi-Nation Tour — UAE, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway & Italy

(i) Sweden:

- HRH Crown Princess Victoria conferred PM Modi with the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross'.
- Sweden Capital: Stockholm | Currency: SEK | PM: Ulf Kristersson.

(ii) Netherlands :

- Bilateral trade: USD 27.8 billion (2024–25).
- Netherlands is India's 4th largest foreign investor (cumulative FDI: USD 55.6 billion).
- Signed a Letter of Intent on Water Management Cooperation for Gujarat (India's Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil involved).
- Leiden University presented PM Modi with historic 11th-century Leiden Chola copper plates.
- Netherlands Capital: Amsterdam | Currency: Euro.

(iii) United Arab Emirates (UAE) :

- UAE is India's 3rd largest trading partner.
- Emirates NBD to invest \$3 billion in RBL Bank (acquiring a 74% stake for ₹26,000 crore, cleared by Government, Competition Commission of India — CCI, and Reserve Bank of India — RBI, converting it into a foreign bank subsidiary)
- Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to invest \$1 billion in infrastructure — rail, roads, airports

10. India Assumes CCDB Chairmanship for Cyber Security (2026–2028)

- India assumed the chairmanship of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) for two years — April 2026 to April 2028.
- Represented by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

11. Kimberley Process 2026 — International Meeting in Mumbai

- India hosted the Kimberley Process 2026 international meeting in Mumbai (May 11–14).
- Focus areas: Responsible diamond trade, preventing conflict diamonds, and certification schemes.

12. BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting Held in India

13. India-Afghanistan Custom Laboratory Agreement — \$46 Million Pact

14. UN High-Level Meeting on Road Safety — New York

- A High-Level United Nations (UN) Meeting took place in New York.
- Goal: Halve road traffic deaths and injuries by 2030.

15. Global Developments — Latvia, Uganda, US Crypto Bill, WHO, Forest Loss, Passport Index

(i) Latvia:

- President Edgars Rinkēvičs nominated Andris Kulbergs as Prime Minister.

(ii) Uganda:

- Yoweri Museveni, the longest-serving leader, took charge as President for his seventh consecutive term.
- Capital: Kampala | Currency: Ugandan Shilling.

(iii) Henley Passport Index 2026:

- India's rank dropped from 75th (February) to 78th, with visa-free/on-arrival access to 56 destinations.
- Rank 1: Singapore | Rank 2: Japan | Rank 3: South Korea.

16. India's Inflation Data — April 2026

- CPI hit a 14-month high of 3.48% in April 2026. Remains within the RBI's target band of 2–6%.
- Base year recently updated to 2024; now tracks 358 items (up from 299).
- WPI surged to a 42-month high of 8.3% (up from 3.88% in March).
- WPI base year: 2011–12; tracks 697 items.

17. India's Trade & GDP Data

- Trade Deficit narrowed to \$7.81 billion (from \$11.16 billion). (As on April 2026)
- The National Statistical Office (NSO) changed the annual release date for provisional GDP and Q4 data from the last working day of May to June 7th annually.

- Morgan Stanley raised India's FY27 GDP growth forecast to 6.7%.

18. Central Bank Gold Reserves — March 2026

- Central banks globally became net sellers for the first time in 10 months.
- Largest seller: Turkey — sold 60 metric tons.
- Second largest seller: Russia — sold 6 metric tons.
- Top buyer: Poland, followed by Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI): Maintained reserves at 880 metric tons (neither buying nor selling).

19. UDGAM Portal — Unclaimed Deposits & RBI Update

- Funds inactive for 10 years are transferred to the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF).
- The Unclaimed Deposit Gateway to Access inforMation (UDGAM) portal was created by Reserve Bank Information Technology (ReBIT) and Institute for Financial and Technology Services (IFTAS).
- The RBI informed the Supreme Court that 30 banks (covering 90% of unclaimed values) are integrated with the UDGAM portal.

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

- Chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

21. PFRDA — Reduced Mandatory Annuity for Private Subscribers

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) reduced the mandatory annuity requirement from 40% → 20% for private/non-government subscribers.
- Subscribers can now withdraw up to 80% of the pension corpus as a lump sum or in phases.

22. ICICI Bank Launches India's First USD Debit Card at GIFT City

- ICICI Bank partnered with Visa to launch India's first US Dollar-denominated debit card at the IFSC Banking Unit in GIFT City.

23. Slice Small Finance Bank — India's First AI-Powered Phygital Branch

- Slice Small Finance Bank opened India's first AI-powered "phygital" (physical + digital) branch in Guwahati.

24. Banking Sector Developments — IDFC, CTBC & Prudential

- IDFC First Bank launched the fixed-deposit-backed "Business Multiplier Metal Credit Card" for founders and entrepreneurs.
- Taiwan-based CTBC Bank became the first Taiwanese bank to open a branch in GIFT City.
- This is its 3rd branch in India (after Delhi and Tamil Nadu).
- UK-based global insurer Prudential plc acquired a 75% stake in Bharti Life Insurance Company from Bharti Enterprises.

25. Banking Concepts

(i) Payment Banks:

- Minimum capital: ₹100 crore.
- Accept only demand deposits up to ₹2 lakh; cannot give loans.
- Capital Adequacy Ratio: 15%; 75% deposits to be invested in Government Securities (G-Secs) with 1-year maturity.
- Conversion to Small Finance Bank (e.g., Fino Payments Bank) requires 5 years experience and ₹300 crore capital.

(ii) Basel III Norms:

- Public Sector Banks (PSBs): Must maintain a 12% Risk-Weighted Asset Ratio.
- Other banks: 9% Risk-Weighted Asset Ratio.

(iii) Positive Pay System:

- Additional verification for issued cheques.
- Optional: ₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh | Mandatory: Above ₹5 lakh.

(iv) Microfinance Loans:

- Designated for families with annual income below ₹3 lakh.

26. Trade & Export Policies

(i) Sugar Export Ban Extended:

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) prohibited export of raw, white, and refined sugar until September 2026.

(ii) Duty-Free Gold Import Rules — Advance Authorization Scheme

- DGFT introduced strict rules to stop domestic diversion of duty-free gold.
- Maximum limit: 100 kg per authorization.
- Exporters must fulfill 50% export obligation and submit fortnightly reports via Independent CA.

(iii) Seafood Exports

- The Ministry of Commerce reported the European Union (EU) as India's 3rd largest seafood export market in FY26 (following the USA and China).

27. Indian Army & Navy Collaboration — Military Exercises & Initiatives

28. Cyber Fraud Prevention — I4C-RBIH MoU & CBI's "Abhay" Platform

- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- Will use the I4C Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) suspect registry and tools like MuleHunter.AI.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) launched the AI-powered verification platform "Abhay" on its website.

29. Missile Testing — Russia & Pakistan

- Russia tested the RS-28 Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile.
- Pakistan test-fired its indigenous Fatah-4 surface-to-surface, ground-launched cruise missile.
- Fatah-4 features: Range — 750 km | Low radar signature.

30. "Kala Bhairava" — India's First AI-Powered Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV)

- Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace announced "Kala Bhairava", India's first AI-powered Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV).
- Manufacturing location: Portugal.
- Range: 3,000 km | Endurance: 30+ hours.

31. IN-SPACe Delegation at Space Meetings Veneto 2026 — Venice

- IN-SPACe Headquarters: Ahmedabad | Established: 2020.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman: V. Narayanan.
- ISRO Tagline: "Space is Open for All".

32. CBI Director, Praveen Sood received a one-year tenure extension to oversee cases including the 2024 and 2026 NEET paper leaks.

33. Periyasamy Kumaran replaced Vikram Doraiswami as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

34. Akash Ambani appointed as the first Managing Director of Reliance Jio Platforms for a 5-year term starting April 9.

35. Veteran Communist Party of India (Marxist) — CPI(M) leader and former Member of Parliament (MP), Sudhanshu Sil, passed away at 81 in Kolkata.

36. Virat Kohli became the 1st Indian and 6th player globally to score 14,000 T20 runs, breaking Chris Gayle's record for the fastest milestone.

37. Saudi Arabia will launch its first professional T20 cricket league in October 2026.

- Yuvraj Singh appointed as Ambassador of the league.
- The league will have 6 teams.

38. 56-year-old Nepali mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa broke his own record by scaling Mount Everest for the 32nd time.

39. Lhakpa Sherpa (also known as the "Mountain Queen") completed her 11th ascent of Everest.

40. Tennis — Italian Open

Nandya Banking Coaching Center - Daily News Dated 17-18 May 2026

- Women's Singles: Elina Svitolina (Ukraine) won, defeating Coco Gauff.
- Men's Singles: Jannik Sinner (Italy) won, defeating Casper Ruud.

41. Badminton

- Indian shuttler Shreesiyasi Valli Shethi won Silver at the Baoji China Masters, losing to China's An Qiu Yuan.

42. Book Releases:

- "Apnapan: My Experience with Narendra Modi ji" — Authored by Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- "A Man for All Seasons: The Life of K.M. Panikkar" — Authored by Narayani Basu | Published by The Hindu.

43. May 16

- International Day of Living Together in Peace.
- Theme: "Building trust through dialogue, inclusion and reconciliation"
 - 9th International Day of Light — organized by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- Theme: "Light for a Sustainable Future"
 - National Dengue Day.
- Theme: "Community Participation for Dengue Control"

44. May 17

- World Hypertension Day.
- Theme: "Controlling Hypertension Together, Check Your Blood Pressure Regularly, Defeat the Silent Killer"
 - World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.
- Established: 1865 by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva
- Theme: "Digital Life Line — Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World"

45. May 18

- International Museum Day — Established 1977 by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).
- Theme: "Museums Uniting a Divided World"
 - World AIDS Vaccine Day.
- Theme: "Rethink, Rebuild, Rise"
- Note: Not to be confused with World AIDS Day on December 1
 - 52nd Anniversary of India's First Nuclear Test — 'Smiling Buddha' / Operation Pokhran-I (18 May 1974).
- Note: Pokhran-II / Operation Shakti was conducted 11–13 May 1998 under PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee