

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

- Phygital = Physical + Digital banking model
- Original concept of phygital banking in India initiated by Bank of Baroda (BOB)
- Slice Small Finance Bank was formerly known as North East Small Finance Bank
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated India's first AI-powered Phygital branch
- Location: GS Road, Guwahati, Assam

### 2. NPCI's Reverse Sound Box Platform

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is the apex body for digital payment infrastructure in India
- NPCI developed an interoperable reverse sound box platform
- A single device now supports multiple UPI payment apps (e.g., PhonePe, Paytm)

### 3. IDFC First Bank — Business Multiplier Metal Credit Card

- Launched "Business Multiplier Metal Credit Card" — a fixed deposit (FD)-backed business credit card
- Launch city: Mumbai
- Minimum credit limit: ₹50,000 (matching their FD amount)

### 4. Delhi's Collateral-Free Loan Scheme for Women Entrepreneurs

- Delhi CM Rekha Gupta launched the collateral-free loan scheme
- Loans up to ₹10 crores for women entrepreneurs

### 5. PM SVANidhi Scheme — Extension and Revision

- PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) launched on June 1, 2020
- Original aim: Provide collateral-free loans to street vendors
- Original end date: December 31, 2024
- End date extended to March 31, 2030
- New outlay: ₹7,332 crores
- Implementing Ministries: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Ministry of Finance
- Loan structure (progressive loans):
  - ₹15,000 (1st loan)
  - ₹25,000 (2nd loan)
  - ₹50,000 (3rd loan)
- Beneficiaries repaying the 2nd loan on time receive a UPI-linked RuPay credit card
- PM Modi recently launched this RuPay credit card in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

### 6. RBI Payment System Report (December 2025)

- India processed 77.6 crore digital payments daily
- UPI accounted for 85.5% of transaction volume
- RTGS (Real Time Gross Settlement) handled 68.8% of transaction value
- Credit card spending rose to ₹23.2 lakh crores
- UPI is now live in 8 countries, including France and the UAE

### 7. Morgan Stanley Upgrades India GDP Projection

- Morgan Stanley upgraded India's current GDP growth (FY real GDP) from 6.2% to 6.7%
- Projected growth rate for FY28: 7%
- Estimated inflation: 4.7%

### 8. Sunday Times Rich List 2026 — Indian-Origin Billionaires

- Hinduja Group retained #1 spot in UK's Sunday Times Rich List for the 5th consecutive year
- Hinduja Group's estimated wealth: Euro 38 billion
- David and Simon Reuben ranked 2nd

### 9. Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 — Extension and Upgradation

- Jal Jeevan Mission initially launched in 2019

- Goal: Provide safe tap drinking water (55 litres per head daily) to rural households by 2024

### 10. Project Saksham — NHAH and Vertis Foundation Initiative

- National Highway Authority of India (NHAH) HQ: New Delhi; Chairman: Santosh Kumar Yadav
- Vertis Foundation: CSR arm of Mumbai-based Vertis Infrastructure Trust; Joint CEOs: Gaurav Chandan and Jafar Khan
- NHAH and Vertis Foundation launched Project Saksham
- Aim: Empower rural women and underserved youth through vocational training

### 11. Nagaland Coffee Mission — ₹175 Crore Launch

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the Nagaland Coffee Mission in New Delhi
- Outlay: ₹175 crores

### 12. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla appointed BJP MP Dr. Daggubati Purandeswari as Chairperson of the Committee on Empowerment of Women

### 13. CBI Chatbot 'Abhay' — AI Tool to Fight Cyber Fraud

- CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) launched AI-powered chatbot 'Abhay'
- Launched by: Justice Surya Kant
- Purpose: Helps Indians fight cyber frauds, digital arrests, and fake investigations

### 14. India Elected as Chair of CCDB (Common Criteria Development Board)

- India nominated as Chairman of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)
- Tenure: April 2026 to April 2028
- Decision taken at the CCRA (Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement ) meeting in Tokyo

### 15. Ayush Anudan Portal — Digital Governance for Ayush Colleges

- Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav launched the Ayush Anudan Portal in New Delhi

### 16. CIC Ruling — BCCI Not Under RTI Act

- Central Information Commission (CIC) ruled that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is a private entity
- BCCI is NOT covered under the Right to Information (RTI) Act

### 17. Sikkim — 51st Statehood Day and Key Developments

- Sikkim celebrated its 51st Statehood Day on May 16, 2026
- Mission Sikkim Organics:
  - Outlay: ₹360 crores for 66,000 farmer families
  - Goal: Certify Sikkim as a global premium organic producer

### 18. West Bengal — 7th Pay Commission and New Schemes

- West Bengal cabinet implemented the 7th Pay Commission for state employees (with long-pending arrears)
- Annapurna Bhandar scheme rolled out:
  - ₹3,000 monthly assistance to eligible women
  - Transition from the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme

### 19. Khet Bachao Abhiyan (Save the Land Campaign)

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, officially announced the Khet Bachao Abhiyan (Save the Land / Save Farms Campaign) during the Eastern Regional Agriculture Conference held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The nationwide campaign is scheduled to run for a fortnight (15 days) starting 1 June 2026.

### 20. AMCA Program Facility — Defence Infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh

- Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program facility — ₹15,803 crores — in Andhra Pradesh

### 21. India's First SME Semiconductor Facility — Sahasra Semiconductor

- Sahasra Semiconductor Pvt Ltd inaugurated in Bhiwadi, Rajasthan
- Inaugurated by: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Investment: ₹150 crores

### 22. India's First Solar-Powered Algae Tree — Bhopal

### 23. UN Global Forest Goals Report 2026 — Forest Cover Decline

- Report published by: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
- Period covered: 2015–2025
- Severe decline in global forest cover from 2015 to 2025
- Forest cover: Declined from approximately 4.18 billion hectares (2015) to 4.14 billion hectares (2025)
- Annual net loss: approximately 4.12 million hectares

### 24. Turtle Conservation — First Satellite-Tagged Ganga Soft-Shell Turtle

- Occasion: Endangered Species Day, May 15
- India released its first satellite-tagged Ganga soft-shell turtle in Kaziranga, Assam
- Purpose: Track its ecosystem in the Brahmaputra basin

### 25. PM Modi's European Tour — Awards from Sweden and Norway

- PM Narendra Modi received highest civilian awards:
  - Sweden: "Royal Order of the Polar Star"
  - Norway: "Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit" (conferred by King Harald V in Oslo)
- PM Modi is the first Indian PM to visit Norway in 43 years (since Indira Gandhi)

### 26. International Assemblies and Summits — WHO, G20, and Quad

#### (i) 79th World Health Assembly (WHA)

- Addressed by: Health Minister J.P. Nadda, in Geneva
- Theme: "Reshaping Global Health, a Shared Responsibility"

#### (ii) G20 2026

- USA is hosting the 2026 G20 Summit
- Foreign Ministers' Meeting: Atlanta, Georgia (October)
- Leaders' Summit: Miami, Florida (December)
- Announced by: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio

#### (iii) Quad Foreign Ministerial Meeting

- India (as current chair) to host in New Delhi

### 27. Key Appointments

#### (i) UIDAI CEO:

- IAS Officer Saurabh (Saurav) Vijay (1998 batch) assumed charge as CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) under MeitY
- Succeeded Babesh Kumar (elevated to Secretary, Department of Tourism)

#### (ii) Kerala Chief Minister:

- V. D. Satheesan sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister of Kerala
- Sworn in by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- Succeeded Pinarayi Vijayan

#### (iii) RBI Executive Director:

- Gunveer Singh appointed as Executive Director, RBI

#### (iv) Committee on Empowerment of Women:

- BJP MP Dr. Daggubati Purandeswari appointed Chairperson

### 28. Obituaries

- Major General Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri passed away in Dehradun
- Sudhanshu Singh: Veteran CPI (Communist Party of India) leader and former MP passed away

### 29. Italian Open Tennis 2026 — Results

- Event: Italian Open Tennis 2026 (Rome, 83rd edition)
- Men's Singles: Jannik Sinner (Italy) won the title
- Women's Singles: Elina Svitolina (Ukraine) won the title

### 30. IPL and WPL Records and Rankings 2026

### (i)Sixes Record:

- Vaibhav Suryavanshi broke Abhishek Sharma's record (42 sixes) for most sixes by an Indian in a single IPL season
- (Source note: New record cited as 43–53 sixes across sources)

### (ii)Earnings (Fnatic Sports & Hurun Report):

- Virat Kohli: Highest IPL earner — ₹230 crores
- Rohit Sharma: ₹227.2 crores
- MS Dhoni: ₹200 crores
- Total IPL franchise valuation: ₹1.63 lakh crores
- Most valuable franchise: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), followed by MI, CSK, SRH, RCB
- Smriti Mandhana: Highest WPL (Women's Premier League) earner — ₹13.7 crores

### 31. Mount Everest Records 2026

- Kami Rita Sherpa (Nepal): Achieved his 32nd summit of Mount Everest
- Lhakpa Sherpa ("Mountain Queen"): Achieved her 11th summit of Mount Everest
- 32. NADA Bans — Meldonium Doping Violations
- National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) imposed 3-year bans on athletes Ankit and Jayesh Patil
- Reason: Use of prohibited substance "Meldonium"

### 33. Books and Honorary Awards

#### (i)Dogri-Punjabi Dictionary:

- Released by Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta
- Authored by the late Chandan Negi

#### (ii)Ishaan Khatter:

- Received honorary membership from the 45 Cavalry of the Indian Armoured Corps
- Awarded for portraying Captain Balram Singh Mehta in the movie Pippa

### 34. Important Days — May 2026

- May 15: Endangered Species Day
- May 16: Sikkim's 51st Statehood Day
- May 17: Multiple Observances —
  - World Telecommunication and Information Society Day — Theme: "Digital lifeline strengthening resilience in a connected world"
  - World Hypertension Day — Theme: "Controlling hypertension together — check your blood pressure regularly — defeat the silent killer"
  - International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia — Theme: "At the heart of democracy"
  - US Armed Forces Day — Observed every 3rd Saturday of May
- May 18: World AIDS Vaccine Day — Theme: "Rethink, Rebel and Rise"
- May 19: World Fair Play Day
- May 20:
  - World Metrology Day — Tradition started in 1961
  - International HR Day — Established in 2019 by EAPM (European Association for People Management) — Theme: "Empower people to lead change"