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1. G V Satish Sir- Best Picks

1. Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (PM-JUGA) Launched

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched this massive umbrella scheme for tribal welfare.
- The title "Dharti Aaba" (Father of the Earth) honors the iconic tribal leader and anti-colonial freedom fighter **Birsa Munda**.

2. Union Health Minister Launches Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)

- Union Health Minister **JP Nadda** launched the **Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)** to provide comprehensive healthcare coverage for children up to 3 years (**36 months**) of age.
- The scheme operates under the slogan "Pehle 3 saal, sampoon dekhbhaal".
- It mandates up to **9 home visits in 42 days** for at-risk newborns and up to **8 home visits until 36 months** for at-risk children.

3. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) Completes 10 Years

- The **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)**, originally launched in June 2016 by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**, completed 10 years of strengthening maternal healthcare and high-risk pregnancy tracking.
- The scheme provides free antenatal care on the 9th of every month.
- To mark this decadal milestone, the government released a **₹75** commemorative coin and **₹5** postage stamps.

4. Supreme Court Declares Right to Walk a Fundamental Right

- The **Supreme Court of India** declared that walking on a safe, demarcated footpath is a fundamental right under **Article 19(1)(d)** (freedom of movement) and **Article 21** (right to life) of the Indian Constitution.

5. Zojila Tunnel Project Marks Breakthrough as India's Longest Road Tunnel

- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** witnessed the excavation milestone for the **Zojila Tunnel Project**, located in Minamarg in the Kargil district of **Jammu and Kashmir** on **National Highway-1 (NH-1)**.
- Built at an altitude of 2,900 m to 3,310 m with an investment of **₹6,809 crore**, the 14.15 km bi-directional single-tube project will be **India's** longest road tunnel and the world's longest high-altitude single-tube bi-directional road tunnel.

6. India's First Offshore Airport to be Constructed in Maharashtra

- **India's** first-ever offshore airport, developed entirely on water near the coast, has been approved for construction at **Kore Beach**, located in the **Palghar** district of **Maharashtra**.

7. World's First Nuclear-Based Hydrogen Production Facility Commissioned in Kalpakkam

- The **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** commissioned the world's first nuclear process heat-based hydrogen production facility using a copper-chlorine thermochemical water-splitting cycle.
- The facility is located at the **Fast Breeder Test Reactor** in the **Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant, Tamil Nadu**, and is regulated by the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** and the **Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR)**.

8. India's First Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project Launched in Odisha

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone for **India's** first commercial-scale coal-to-ammonium nitrate project in **Lakhanpur**, located in the **Jharsuguda** district of **Odisha**.
- The **₹25,016-crore** mega project is being developed by **Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited (BCGCL)**.

9. India's First 3D Human Brain Atlas 'ANKUR' Launched by IIT Madras

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** launched 'ANKUR', the world's most detailed 3D human brain atlas, during the **BRICS Neuroscience Symposium**.
- The atlas aims to accelerate research and help find cures for complex neurological diseases such as **Alzheimer's** and **Dementia**.

10. First Made-in-India Airbus C295 Military Transport Aircraft Completes Maiden Flight

- **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)**, collaborating with **Airbus**, successfully completed the maiden test flight of the first locally assembled **Airbus C295** military transport aircraft.
- The milestone flight took off from **Vadodara, Gujarat**.

11. India's First Hydrogen Train Successfully Tested in Haryana

- **India's** first Hydrogen-powered train successfully completed its trial runs on the **Jind to Sonapat** railway track in **Haryana**.

12. Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India (GHCI) Launched

- Union Minister **Pralhad Joshi** launched the **Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India (GHCI)**.
- It serves as a secure, audited digital platform providing certifications and tax support to manufacturers adopting green fuels, and will become fully operational after a security audit.

13. RBI Comprehensive Revamp of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme Guidelines

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** comprehensively revamped the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme guidelines, originally launched in 1998, with the updated rules taking effect on January 1, 2027.

- The card will operate as a consolidated "Composite KCC Facility" covering short-term credit, working capital, and long-term investments with a fixed **6-year tenure**.

- Collateral and margin requirements are waived for loans up to **₹2 lakh** (extendable to **₹3 lakh** for tie-up arrangements), and a flexible credit limit between **₹10,000 and ₹50,000** is introduced for marginal farmers.

14. RBI Standardizes Agricultural Loan Rules and Non-Performing Asset (NPA) Definitions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued unified agricultural loan guidelines standardizing crop durations and **Non-Performing Asset (NPA)** rules, effective January 1, 2027.

- Short-duration crops are defined as up to 12 months, and long-duration crops are over 12 months up to 18 months.

- A loan is classified as an NPA if unpaid for **two crop seasons** for short-duration crops, or **one crop season** for long-duration crops.

15. RBI Finalizes Digital Fraud Compensation Framework

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** finalized a framework addressing small-value digital banking frauds, effective January 1, 2027.

- Customers losing under **₹50,000** in digital fraud (UPI, phishing, SIM-swap) are eligible for compensation of **85% of the lost value or ₹25,000**, whichever is lower, as a once-in-a-lifetime benefit.

- The fraud must be reported to the **1930** helpline within 5 days, and the domestic payment loss split is set at **65%** borne by the **RBI** (via the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund), **10%** by the customer's bank, **10%** by the beneficiary bank, and **15%** by the customer.

16. PFC Becomes First NBFC to Use RBI's Subsidized Hedging Facility

- The **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** became the first **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** to utilize the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** Subsidized Hedging Facility.

- Under this facility, **PFC** successfully raised **\$300 million** through a 5-year dollar bond from foreign investors.

17. RBI Exempts CRR/SLR on Fresh NRE & FCNR Deposits

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** exempted commercial banks from maintaining Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) on fresh **Non-Resident External (NRE)** and **Foreign**

Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) term deposits of 3 to 5 years.

- This relaxation applies to deposits mobilized between June 19, 2026, and September 30, 2026, to attract foreign currency inflows.

18. SEBI Approves 'GARUDA' Green Channel for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** approved the Green Channel AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement (GARUDA) mechanism.

- This framework fast-tracks **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** scheme approvals, cutting the regulatory waiting period from 30 days down to **10 working days**.

19. BSE Launches India's First Saatvik 100 Index

- The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** launched **Saatvik 100**, India's first-ever index designed to promote ethical-based and socially responsible investing.

20. Zerodha Fund House Launches India's First Life Cycle Mutual Funds

- **Zerodha Fund House** launched **India's** first life cycle target-date mutual funds, a category approved by **SEBI** in 2026.

- The funds launched are the **Zerodha Life Cycle Fund 2036** (10-year maturity) and **2041** (15-year maturity), managed by **Kedarnath Mirajkar**.

21. DRDO Successfully Tests Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) System and LRLACM

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted three consecutive flight tests in **Odisha** for its multi-layer **Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD)** interceptor missile, often called **India's "Iron Dome"**.

- **DRDO** also successfully tested its indigenous **Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)** from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Chandipur, **Odisha**.

22. Indian Army Receives 106 Jet-Powered Kamikaze Drones

- The **Indian Army** received its first batch of **106** "Peacekeeper" (Agniveg) jet-powered kamikaze loitering munitions manufactured by **SMPP**.

- The high-tech drones feature a top speed of **450 km/h** and an operational range of **180 km**.

23. Indian Air Force to Participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026 in Australia

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will participate in the biennial multinational air combat exercise **Exercise Pitch Black 2026**, hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**.

- The exercise runs from July 20 to August 7, 2026, in Darwin, Northern Territory, and Queensland, featuring over 100 aircraft and **18 countries**.

24. Indian Army Updates Uniform Pamphlet 2026 to Remove Colonial Legacies

- The **Indian Army** updated its dress code via the **Army Uniform Pamphlet 2026**, officially dropping colonial-era terms like "Royal", and removing pouch belts and ceremonial swords for reviewing officers.
- It also introduced the indigenous '**Bandi**' jacket into the formal civil dress code.

25. First Batch of Women National Defence Academy (NDA) Cadets Commissioned

- The **Ministry of Defence** commissioned the historic first batch of **17 women cadets** from the **National Defence Academy (NDA)** who joined in August 2022.
- Of the 17 cadets, **9** joined the **Indian Army**, **5** joined the **Indian Air Force**, and **3** joined the **Indian Navy**.

26. West Bengal Assembly Introduces Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill

- The **West Bengal** State Assembly introduced its own **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** Bill.
- Upon passage, **West Bengal** is positioned to become the **4th state** in **India** to implement the UCC.

27. PM Modi Attends 52nd G7 Summit in France

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attended the **52nd G7 Summit** as a guest partner.
- The summit was held in **Évian-les-Bains, France**, hosted by French President **Emmanuel Macron**, under the theme "Working together to address major international challenges".
- PM Modi and President Macron also co-launched **Bharat Innovate 2026**, a bilateral platform connecting **120 Indian deep-tech startups** and institutes with French counterparts.

28. India Hosts BRICS National Security Advisor (NSA) and Energy Ministers Meetings

- **India** hosted the **16th BRICS National Security Advisor (NSA)** meeting in **New Delhi**, chaired by National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval**, under the theme "Non-traditional security challenges confronting the world today".
- **India** also hosted the **11th BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting** in Gurugram, **Haryana**, under the theme "Sarvesha Urjanam" (Energy for All), where India shared its goal of constructing **410 GWh** of energy storage capacity by 2032.

29. India and Japan Adopt Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under Paris Agreement

- **India** and **Japan** formally adopted the **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** under Article 6.2 of the **Paris Agreement** to facilitate carbon emission reductions and clean technology cooperation.

30. India-UK Sign Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) and DCC

- **India** and the **United Kingdom (UK)** officially signed the **Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA)** and the **Double Contribution Convention (DCC)** to ease bilateral trade barriers and employment rules.

31. Uzbekistan Joins New Development Bank (NDB) as 10th Member

- **Uzbekistan** officially joined the **New Development Bank (NDB)** as its **10th member** country and the first Central Asian nation to join the Shanghai-headquartered institution.

32. Bangladesh Joins International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) as 27th Member

- **Bangladesh** officially joined as the **27th member** of the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**.
- Initiated in 2023 by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to mark 50 years of Project Tiger, the alliance aims to conserve **7 major big cat species** (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma).

33. South Korea Establishes AI Security Partnership with OpenAI

- **South Korea** became the **4th country** globally (following the US, UK, and Japan) to establish a formal AI security partnership with the leading artificial intelligence firm **OpenAI**.

34. China's 'LineShine' Overtakes USA as World's Fastest Supercomputer

- According to the **67th Top 500 Supercomputer Rankings** released in Hamburg, Germany, **China's** supercomputer '**LineShine**' claimed the top spot globally with an operational speed of **2.198 Exaflops**, overtaking the USA's **EI Capitan**.
- **LineShine** operates nearly 26 times faster than **India's** top supercomputer, "**Shakti Cloud**" (ranked 32nd), while India's fastest-ranked supercomputer "**Airawat**" sits at 211th.

35. Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026 Released

- The **20th Edition** of the **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026** was released by the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**.
- **Iceland** retained the **#1 rank** for the 19th consecutive year, while **India** dropped to the **127th position** out of 163 countries (down from 115th in 2025).
- **Bhutan** ranked **16th** as the most peaceful country in South Asia, while **Russia** ranked as the least peaceful country (163rd) for the first time.

36. QS World University Rankings 2027 Published

- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** in the USA secured the **#1 global rank** for the 15th consecutive year with a perfect score of 100.
- **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)** emerged as the top university in **India** for the second consecutive year, ranking **118th** globally,

followed by IIT Bombay (134th), IIT Madras (170th), and Delhi University (highest non-IIT institution at 322nd).

37. India Ranks 70th in WEF Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026

- **India** was placed at the **70th position** (improving from 72nd) in the **Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026** released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.

- **Sweden, Finland, and Denmark** retained the top three global positions.

38. India Ranks 13th in QS World Future Skills Index 2027

- **India** secured the **13th rank** globally among 89 economies with a score of **89.4 out of 100** in the **QS World Future Skills Index 2027**, heavily driven by its **5.8 million IT workforce** and major AI investments.

- The **USA, Australia, and the UK** secured the top three spots.

39. FAO State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2026 Report

- The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** released its "State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture" (SOFIA) 2026 report under the theme "Blue Transformation".

- **India** was declared the **world's 2nd largest producer** of aquatic animals and aquaculture (with a 9% global share, behind China), and ranks **1st globally** in inland capture fisheries with **2.2 million tons** of catch.

40. PM Narendra Modi Conferred Slovakia's Highest National Award

- Slovakian President **Peter Pellegrini** conferred Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** with Slovakia's highest national award, "**The Order of the White Double Cross (First Class)**".

- This marks PM Modi's **33rd international award** and makes him the first Indian PM to visit Slovakia since its independence in 1993.

41. Two Indian Women Conservationists Win 2026 Whitley Award ('Green Oscar')

- Indian conservationists **Parveen Shaikh** and **Dr. Barkha Subba** won the prestigious **2026 Whitley Award** (receiving **£50,000** project funding each) in London.

- Parveen Shaikh was recognized for her "Guardians of the Skimmer" project in the Chambal River ecosystem, and Dr. Barkha Subba was honored for protecting the rare Himalayan salamander in the Darjeeling Himalayas.

42. Professor Jainendra K. Jain Wins Wolf Prize in Physics 2026

- Indian-origin physicist and IIT Kanpur alumnus Professor **Jainendra K. Jain** became the first

person of Indian origin to win the prestigious **Wolf Prize in Physics**.

- He was awarded for his ground-breaking research in composite fermions.

43. Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) Elevated to Navratna Status

- The **Ministry of Finance** elevated the **Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)** to "Navratna" status, making it the **28th Navratna** Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

- This status permits **CPCL** to invest up to **₹1,000 crore** (or 15% of its net worth) in projects without prior government approval.

44. Sarvam AI Becomes India's 130th Unicorn and First AI Unicorn

- Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence startup "**Sarvam AI**" officially became **India's 130th unicorn** and the country's first AI startup to achieve a \$1 billion+ valuation.

45. Meta Invests \$900 Million in CRED; Kunal Shah Appointed Global Head of WhatsApp

- **Meta** announced a **\$900 million** Series H strategic investment in Indian fintech platform **CRED**, pushing its valuation to **\$4.5 billion**.

- **CRED's** founder **Kunal Shah** was appointed as the Global Head (and CEO) of **WhatsApp**.

46. Mahesh Dixit Appointed New Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB)

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** appointed **Mahesh Dixit** (a 1993 batch IPS officer) as the new Director of the **Intelligence Bureau (IB)** for a two-year tenure (2026–2028), succeeding **Tapan Kumar Deka**.

47. Harmanpreet Kaur Becomes First Cricketer to Play 200 T20Is

- Indian women's cricket team captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** became the first cricketer globally (men or women) to play **200 T20 International (T20I)** matches, achieving this against South Africa.

48. Deepti Sharma Ties Record as Highest Wicket-Taker in Women's International Cricket

- Indian spin bowler **Deepti Sharma** tied the record for the highest wicket-taker in women's international cricket history with **355 wickets**, sharing the top spot with fellow Indian legend **Jhulan Goswami**.

49. India Wins Historic First Gold at World Rowing Cup

- **India** won its historic first-ever Gold medal at the **World Rowing Cup** in Lucerne, **Switzerland**.

- The **Indian Army** duo of **Lakshya** and **Ujjwal Kumar Singh** won the lightweight men's double sculls event, beating out teams from Hong Kong and the Netherlands.

50. DISHA 2.0 Scheme Approved for Digital Justice Delivery

- The **Ministry of Law and Justice** approved the **DISHA 2.0** (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) central sector scheme for a five-year period (April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2031) with a 100% government-funded outlay of **₹255 crore**.
- It aims to provide equitable justice access under Article 39A of the Constitution and introduces **Vidhi Sanjeevani**, a digital platform featuring the multilingual AI chatbot "**Nyaya Setu**" built using **Bhashini** translation technology.

2. Amounts & Agreements

India's First Commercial-Scale Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project Launched in Odisha

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone for **India's first commercial-scale coal-to-ammonium nitrate project**.
- The project involves a massive investment of **₹25,016 crore**.
- It is being developed by **Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited (BCGCL)** at **Lakhanpur** in the **Jharsuguda district** of **Odisha**.

Six States Sign MoU for the Tons River Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project

- Six Indian states—**Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi**—signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for the **Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project**.
- The project is designed to harness the **Tons River**, a major tributary of the **Yamuna River**, straddling the border between **Uttarakhand (Dehradun district)** and **Himachal Pradesh (Sirmour district)**.
- The estimated cost of the project is **₹15,000 crore**, with the **Central Government** funding **90%** of the cost.

World Bank Approves \$1.5 Billion Development Policy Financing for India

- The **World Bank** approved **\$1.5 billion** in **Development Policy Financing (DPF)** for **India**.
- The funding supports **structural reforms**, accelerates **private sector job creation**, and drives **economic growth**.

World Bank Approves ₹4,000 Crore Loan for Haryana Water Security Project

- The **World Bank** approved a loan of **₹4,000 crore** (out of a total budget of **₹5,714 crore**) for the "**Jal Sanrakshit Haryana Project**".

- The project is aimed at supporting and enhancing **water security** across the state of **Haryana**.

Amazon Announces \$48 Billion Investment in India by 2030

- **Amazon Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Andy Jassy** met with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and announced a **\$48 billion** investment in **India** by **2030**.
- The investment is designated to expand **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud infrastructure**.

Meta Invests \$900 Million in Indian Fintech Startup CRED

- **Meta** (parent company of **Facebook**) completed a **\$900 million Series H** strategic investment in Indian fintech platform **CRED**, pushing its valuation to **\$4.5 billion**.
- **CRED's founder Kunal Shah** was appointed as the **Global Head / Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **WhatsApp** (succeeding **Will Cathcart**), while **Mithen Sampat** was appointed to head **CRED**.

Dubai-Based Emirates NBD Acquires 60% Stake in RBL Bank

- **Emirates NBD** acquired a **60% majority stake** in India's **RBL Bank**.
- The acquisition was finalized via a **\$2.75 billion** (approximately **₹26,000 crore**) capital infusion.

MoRTH Signs MoUs with Commercial Vehicle Manufacturers for ₹9,585 Crore Delhi-NCR Fleet Replacement

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** signed separate Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with **Tata Motors, Ashok Leyland, and BharatBenz (Daimler India Commercial Vehicles)** to join the **₹9,585 crore vehicle replacement scheme** for the **Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region)**.
- Owners who scrap old vehicles and purchase new BS6-compliant or electric vehicles will receive a **100% concession on motor vehicle tax for 10 years**.

India and MERCOSUR Block Agree to Expand Preferential Trade Agreement by Mid-2027

- **India** and the **MERCOSUR** block (comprising **Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay**) targeted **mid-2027** to expand their **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)**.
- The expansion will increase the agreement to **1,500–2,000+ lines**, covering both **tariff and non-tariff barriers**.

India and Vietnam Establish \$25 Billion Bilateral Trade Target

- **India and Vietnam** set a bilateral trade target of **\$25 billion** to be achieved by the year **2030**.

Axis Bank Grant of ₹100 Crore CSR Funding for BITS Pilani Hyderabad Innovation Park

- **Axis Bank** provided a **₹100 crore Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** grant to establish a technology and innovation research park.
- The park will focus on **life sciences and healthcare** and will be located at the **Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani Hyderabad campus in Genome Valley**.

Ministry of Petroleum Approves ₹150 Crore for India's First Private 2G Ethanol Project

- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** approved a **₹150 crore** financial assistance under the **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana (PM JI-VAN)** to establish **India's first private hybrid second-generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery**.
- The commercial-scale facility is being set up at **Wave Sugar in Dhanaura (Dura), Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Inaugurates Northeast India's Largest Organic Spice Processing Unit

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the "**Organic Spice Industrial Unit Prime Hub**" in **Bhoirymbong (Ri-Bhoi district), Meghalaya**.
- This organic spice processing facility is the largest in Northeast India and was built with an investment of **₹32 crore**.

Asian Development Bank Plans \$1 Billion Direct Private Sector Financing in India for 2026

- **India** was recognized as the **Asian Development Bank's (ADB)** largest private sector market in **2025** and is projected to retain this position in **2026**.
- **ADB** plans to provide **\$1 billion** in direct private sector financing to Indian companies in **2026**.

Asian Development Bank Approves \$42.2 Million Facility for Northeast Bamboo Industry

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a **\$42.2 million** financial facility to develop and cultivate the **bamboo industry in Northeast India**.
- The states benefiting from this loan include **Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Manipur**.

India and Japan Adopt Joint Crediting Mechanism Under the Paris Agreement

- **India and Japan** adopted the **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** under **Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement**.

India and United Kingdom Sign CETA and Double Contribution Convention

- **India and the United Kingdom (UK)** signed two agreements: the **Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA)** and the **Double Contribution Convention (DCC)**.

India and Ethiopia Sign WTO Accession Protocol

- **India and Ethiopia** signed a **World Trade Organization (WTO) accession protocol**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** congratulated **Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali** on his re-election.
- **Ethiopia** (capital: **Addis Ababa**) is situated in the **Horn of Africa** and features **Ras Dashen** as its highest peak. PM Modi has previously received the country's highest honor, the "**Nishan of Ethiopia**".

ASSOCHAM and Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce Sign MoU for \$1 Billion Trade Target

- The **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)** signed an MoU with the **Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI)** in **New Delhi**.
- The partnership aims to boost bilateral trade to a **\$1 billion target** in key sectors such as **mining, food processing, pharmaceuticals, and oil**.

CAG India and Supreme Audit Institution of Israel Sign MoU for Tech-Driven Auditing

- **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** of India, **K. Sanjay Murthy**, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Supreme Audit Institution of Israel** (represented by State Comptroller **Matanyahu Englman**).
- The MoU is focused on advancing collaboration in **data analytics and digital auditing technologies**.
- This aligns with a broader **India-Israel MoU** designed to enhance cooperation in **public sector auditing**.

India and Denmark Sign MoU for 17th-Century Shipwreck Mission

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Museum of Denmark**.
- The collaboration aims to locate the **Oresund**, a 17th-century Danish ship that sank in **1619** near **Karaikal, Puducherry**.

IITM Pune and ARIES Sign 50-Year MoU for High-Altitude Climate Observatory

- The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune** and the **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)** in Nainital signed a **50-year MoU**.
- Under this agreement, a high-altitude climate observation laboratory will be established at the **Devasthal campus in Uttarakhand**.
- The initiative is funded under the **₹2,000 crore "Mission Mausam"** (part of the **Bharat Climate Observation Network**).

Digital India Bhashini Division Partners with GeM for Multilingual Procurement

- The **Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)** partnered with the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** to integrate multilingual capabilities and an **AI translation tool** for public procurement.
- The tool integrates GeM services in **22 officially recognized Indian languages**.
- Bhashini currently supports **36 Indian text languages and 23 voice languages**, processing over **15 million inferences daily** across **800 government websites** (and 50 million interactions daily).

Digital India Bhashini Division Partners with Assam Innovation and Startup Foundation

- The **Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)** and the **Assam Innovation and Startup Foundation (AISF)** signed an MoU under the **"Bhashini Rajyam"** initiative.
- The collaboration will promote **language technology and generative AI governance** in vernacular languages like Assamese.

MoSPI Partners with GRAAM to Launch Embark India Development Fellowship

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with the **Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM)** to launch the **Embark India Development Fellowship**.
- The 18-month program will engage **two fellows** with a **₹65,000 monthly stipend** to focus on public policy, capacity building, data governance, and program implementation.

Bhutan and Tata Power Partner for Clean Energy Skill Development

- **Tata Power** entered into a partnership with **Druk Green Power** to develop clean energy skills in **Bhutan**.

National Stock Exchange Signs MoU with Bharat Metal Exchange Ltd.

- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** signed an MoU with **Bharat Metal Exchange Ltd.** to promote awareness and development of **non-ferrous metal derivatives** (copper, aluminium, zinc, lead, and nickel) to strengthen price risk management in India.

Fencing Association of India and International Fencing Federation Sign MoU

- The **Fencing Association of India** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **International Fencing Federation**.

3. Appointments

National Security, Defense & Law Enforcement Appointments

- **Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth** (also referred to as **Dheeraj Seth**) was appointed as the next **Chief of Army Staff (CoAS)** of the **Indian Army**, succeeding **General Upendra Dwivedi** effective **June 30, 2026**.
- **Vice Admiral K. Swaminathan** was appointed as the new **Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)** of the **Indian Navy (Navy Chief)**.
- **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** was appointed as the next **Vice Chief of Air Staff (VCAS)** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- **Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai** was appointed as the **Military Advisor** to the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)**, succeeding **Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani**.
- **Mahesh Dixit** (a **1993 batch Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer) was appointed as the new **Director** of the **Intelligence Bureau (IB)** for a **two-year tenure (2026–2028)**, replacing **Tapan Kumar Deka** (also referred to as **Tapan Deka**).
- **Praveen Sood** received a **one-year extension** as the **Director** of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**.

Banking & Financial Sector Appointments

- **Keki Mistry** received an extension as **interim part-time Chairman** of **HDFC Bank** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for **three months until September 18, 2026**, succeeding **Atanu Chakraborty**.
- **Arijit Basu** was appointed as the **part-time Chairman** of **IndusInd Bank**.
- **Rajendra Kumar Saoo** (Executive Director, also referred to as **Shri Rajendra Kumar Saboo**) was given additional charge as the **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **UCO Bank**.

- **Sanjay Lohiya** was appointed as a member of the **Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- **Tushar Mehta** was reappointed by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** as the **Solicitor General of India** for an additional **three-year term** starting **July 1, 2026**.

Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) & Corporate Appointments

- **Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi** (also referred to as **Hitesh Ramchand Joshi**) was appointed as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of the **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)**, succeeding **Narend Ramaswami** (whose term ended on September 30, 2025).
- **Krishna Kumar Singh** took additional charge as the **Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**.
- **Pradeep Singh Kharola** (former **Civil Aviation Secretary**) joined **Air India** as **Executive Advisor to the Chairman**.
- **R. Mukundan** (Tata Chemicals Chief Executive Officer) was elected as the **President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** for the **2026-27 term**.
- **Kumar Shanker** was appointed as the new **Managing Director (MD)** of **Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)**.
- **Vibhor Jain** was appointed as the **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**.

Government Commissions & Statutory Bodies

- **Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay** (former director of the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kolkata**) was appointed as the **Chairperson of the National Statistical Commission (NSC)**.
- **Prof. Shubhabrata, Satyendra Bahadur Singh, and Madhavan Mukund** were appointed as **part-time members** of the **National Statistical Commission (NSC)**.
- **Saurabh Vijay** was appointed as the new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the **India AI Mission** and as the newly appointed **Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**.
- **Nidhi Chhibber** was appointed as the **interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **NITI Aayog** (National Institution for Transforming India).

- **Vir Vikram Yadav** was appointed as the new **Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.
- **Ashwini Bhide** was appointed as the **first woman Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** commissioner.
- **Sanjay Jaju** was appointed as the **Chief Secretary of Telangana**, succeeding **K. Ramakrishna Rao**.

International Diplomacy & Global Corporate Appointments

- **Vivek Agarwal** (currently Secretary in the **Ministry of Culture**) was elected as the **Vice President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**. This marks the first time India has assumed the Vice Presidency of the **FATF**.
- **Dr. Bimal N. Patel** (renowned Indian jurist) was elected as a **judge to the United Nations (UN) International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)** for a **nine-year term (2026–2035)**, securing **115 valid votes**.
- **Prashant Pise** was appointed as India's next **Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman**.
- **Kunal Shah** (CRED founder) joined **Meta** as the **Global Head / Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **WhatsApp**, succeeding **Will Cathcart**.
- **Mithen Sampat** was appointed to head **CRED**, succeeding **Kunal Shah**.
- **Prabhjeet Singh** was appointed by **OpenAI** as its **Managing Director (MD)** for **India**.

International Political Leadership Appointments & Resignations

- **Abelardo de la Espriella** (also referred to as **Abelardo Gabriel de la Espriella Otero**) took charge as the new **President of Colombia**, succeeding **Gustavo Petro**.
- **Abiy Ahmed Ali** was re-elected for a **second consecutive five-year term** as the **Prime Minister of Ethiopia**.
- **Keir Starmer** (**Labour Party**) resigned as both the **Prime Minister (PM)** of the **United Kingdom (UK)** and leader of his party due to party members' concerns about winning upcoming elections.

Other Sectoral Appointments

- **Rahul Vatts** (**Bharti Airtel**) was appointed as the **Chairperson of the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)** for the **2026-27 term**, replacing **Abhijit Kishore**.
- **Devsh Tyagi** was mentioned as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)**.

- Cricketer **Virat Kohli** was appointed by **United Spirits** as the brand ambassador for the **Johnnie Walker** brand campaign.

4. Arts & Culture

Cultural Festivals & Melas

- **Ambubachi Mela:** The annual festival commenced at the **Kamakhya Temple** located on the **Nilachal Hills** in **Guwahati, Assam**. The festival venerates the menstruation cycle of **Mata Shakti**.
- **Kheer Bhawani Mela / Festival:** This important observance is celebrated by **Kashmiri Pandits** in **Jammu and Kashmir**. It is dedicated to **Ragnya Devi** at the **Kheer Bhawani Temple**.
- **Raja Parba / Raja Sankranti:** A traditional harvest festival celebrated in **Odisha** to mark the onset of the monsoon and honor Mother Earth's fertility (soil health).
- **Indian Orchid Festival:** Hosted and celebrated in the state of **Sikkim**.

Monumental Landmarks, Statues & Temple Heritage

- **Jagannath Temple, Puri (Trademarks):** The 12th-century Kalinga-style **Jagannath Temple** in **Puri, Odisha**, received 10-year trademarks for two specific words and one logo:
 - **Words:** "**Patitapabana**" and "**Ananda Bajara**" (which refers to the massive temple kitchen used for preparing *Mahaprasad*).
 - **Logo:** The "**Neela Chakra**" positioned atop the temple dome.
- **Swami Vivekananda Statue in Chicago:** A life-size bronze statue honoring **Swami Vivekananda's** historic **1893** speech at the **World's Parliament of Religions** was unveiled at the **Consulate General of India** in **Chicago, USA**, by Ambassador **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**.
- **Maharishi Sushruta Statue in Edinburgh:** A **90 kg** bronze statue of **Maharishi Sushruta** (widely known as the **Father of Surgery / Plastic Surgery**) was unveiled at the **Royal College of Surgeons** in **Edinburgh, Scotland**. The statue was crafted in a town in **Tamil Nadu, India**.
- **Shri Ambabai Temple Development:** **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** announced a **₹1,500 crore** investment to develop the **Shri Ambabai Temple** in **Kolhapur, Maharashtra**, with construction

expected to conclude by **2027**. The temple is dedicated to **Mata Lakshmi** and features a historic **black stone idol**.

- **Restoration of Original Odia Place Names:** **Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi** approved restoring the original Odia names for **64 places** (including changing **Cuttack** to **Kataka** and **Balasore** to **Baleswar**).

Cultural Literature, Books & Releases

- **Agastya – The Unifier / Agatthiyar – The Unifier:** The book (originally published in English as *Agastya – The Unifier*) was officially released by the **Vice President of India, C.P. Radhakrishnan**. It was authored by **O. Shama Bhatt** and **Dr. M.N. Sudha**, and translated into Tamil by **Prof. Kalyani**.
- **Sanskriti Ratna Bhandar: Bhawaiya Eyar Itibritta** (also referred to as *Sanskritik Ratna Bhandar*): Released by **Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan**. Co-authored by **Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy** and **Sangeeta Roy**, the book focuses on **Bhawaiya**, a traditional folk music associated with **Assam, North Bengal**, and the **Koch Rajbongshi** community.
- **VIP Culture in India: Power, Privilege and the Distance from Democracy:** Released by **Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan**, the book is authored by **Nabam Rebia** and co-authored by **Sandeep Kumar**.
- **IIT: The Story of India's Most Prestigious Educational Ecosystem:** Launched by **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla**. The book was authored by **IRS officer Prabhat Kumar** and published by **HarperCollins India**.
- **Mintage World Coffee Table Book:** **Mintage World** launched a **200-page coffee table book** titled *Stamps, Coins and Banknotes issued during the premiership of Shri Narendra Modi*, conceptualized and curated by **Sushil Kumar Agarwal** (**Chief Executive Officer** of **Mintage World**).

Cultural Geographies & Geographical Indications (GI Tags)

Geographical Indications (GI tags) are granted by the Geographical Indication Registry in Chennai, governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, valid for 10 years, and facilitated nationally by NABARD. Internationally, they are regulated by the TRIPS Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

- **Assam (New GI Tags):** Received GI tags for **4 traditional products**, bringing its total to **12**:

- **Bihu Pepa:** A traditional musical instrument crafted from buffalo horn.
- **Banh Shilpa:** Traditional Assam bamboo craft.
- **Karbi Anglong Handloom Products.**
- **Deori Handloom Products.**
- **Jharkhand (New GI Tags):** Secured GI tags for **11 traditional handloom, textile, and craft products:**
 - **Kuchai Silk Saree:** A traditional Tussar silk variety.
 - **Bhagaiya Silk Saree:** A specific Tussar silk textile.
 - **Munda Jewellery:** Traditional tribal ornaments.
 - **Jharkhand Bamboo Craft.**
 - **Bhoya Saree & Fabric.**
 - **Pancho Saree & Fabric.**
 - **Tumka Chadar** (textile).
 - **Dokra Craft:** Traditional metal casting art.
 - **Baroni Paintings** (artwork).
 - **Jadopatia Painting** (artwork).
 - **Kesaria Kalakand:** Traditional sweet.
 - (Note: *Sohrai Painting* already held a GI tag in Jharkhand).
- **Tripura (New GI Tags):** Secured a total of **4 GI tags**, including:
 - **Tripura Sarinda:** A traditional tribal stringed musical instrument.
 - (Note: Existing tags include the *Queen Pineapple* (State Fruit), *Risa & Pachra/Rignai* (traditional textiles), and *Matabari Peda* (sweet from Tripura Sundari Temple)).
- **Bihar (New GI Tags):** Secured **3 new GI tags:**
 - **Bawan Buti Saree & Fabric:** Originating from **Nalanda**, featuring **52 distinct motifs/butis**.
 - **Patharkatti Stone Craft:** Originating from **Gaya**, featuring carvings on black granite/stone.
 - **Pidiya Painting:** Originating from **Bhojpur**.
- **Madhya Pradesh (New GI Tags):** Secured **3 new GI tags**, making **Ratlam** the first district in the state to hold **4 GI tags** (adding to existing tags for *Ratlami Sev* and *Riyawan Silver Garlic*):
 - **Khurasani Imli:** A distinct tamarind variety from the **Mandu** region in **Dhar district**. It grows on the **African Baobab tree** brought to the

region by Afghans and Arabs **600 years ago**.

- **Ratlami Garadu / Garudu:** A purple yam tuber grown in specific areas of Ratlam, consumed as a winter delicacy.
- **Balam Kakdi:** A thick, fleshy cucumber variety exclusive to **Sailana, Ratlam**, consumed as a snack rather than a salad.
- **Malvi Potato.**
- (Note: *Uttar Pradesh* currently holds the maximum number of GI tags in India, followed by *Tamil Nadu*).

Cinema & Film Festivals (19th Mumbai International Film Festival - MIFF)

- **19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF 2026):** Organized biennially in Mumbai by the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** and the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
 - **Opening Documentary:** "Time and Water" (Directed by Sara Dosa).
 - **Golden Conch (Best Documentary):** Awarded to "Silver", a documentary directed by Polish filmmaker **Natalia Koniarz**.
 - **Silver Conch (Best Animation):** Awarded to "Maya's Song".
 - **Silver Conch (Best Short Fiction):** Awarded jointly to "Under the Snow" and "Small Clouds".
 - **Best Student Film:** Awarded to "The Old Bull Knows, or Once Knew".

Cultural Obituaries

- **Gavari Devi:** The renowned Rajasthani folk singer passed away at **98 years of age**. She was widely celebrated for popularizing **Maand music** and the iconic Rajasthani folk song "**Kesaria Balam**".
- **Robert A.F. Thurman:** The esteemed American Buddhist scholar, author on Tibetan Buddhism, and close friend of the Dalai Lama passed away at **84 years of age** in **Woodstock, New York**. He was awarded the **Padma Shri** by India in **2020** for Literature and Education and is best known for publishing *The Tibetan Book of the Dead* in **1994**.

5. Awards

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Global Honours

- **Slovakia's Highest National Award:** Slovakian President Peter Pellegrini conferred the "Order of the White Double Cross (First Class)" upon Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi during his visit to Bratislava. This marks the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since its independence in 1993. This honor brings PM Modi's global award tally to 33.
- **Seychelles' Highest Civilian Honour:** During his visit to the Seychelles for its 50th National Day (Golden Jubilee of Independence), PM Narendra Modi was awarded the "Guardian of the Blue Horizon" by President Patrick Herminie.

Defense and Gallantry Honours

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, distributed several prestigious defense and academic honors:

- **Sword of Honour and President's Gold Medal:** Awarded to Lieutenant Vishal Kumar for securing first place at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) Dehradun passing-out parade.
- **Shaurya Chakra:** Awarded to Captain Yogender Singh Thakur.
- **National Security Guard (NSG) Honour:** Major Akhilesh Bhatt was honored for scaling Mount Everest and leading a 12-member NSG team.
- **President's Bronze Medal:** Conferred upon Cadet Captain Sahil Sharma.
- **Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Silver Medal:** Conferred upon Sub Lieutenant Sachin Kumar.
- **Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card & Medal:** Bestowed upon Colonel Divya Shankar Bhattacharya by General Upendra Dwivedi in Tezpur, Assam, for extraordinary post-retirement societal contributions.

Padma Awards 2026

- **President Droupadi Murmu distributed 65 out of 131 Padma Awards for the year 2026.** Notable recipients included:
 - **Padma Shri:** Awarded to Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma and actor R. Madhavan.
 - **Padma Bhushan:** Awarded to veteran actor Mammooty and playback singer Alka Yagnik.

Scientific and Academic Achievements

- **Wolf Prize in Physics:** Indian-origin physicist Professor Jainendra K. Jain (an IIT Kanpur alumnus originally from Rajasthan) became the first person of Indian origin to win the prestigious **Wolf Prize in Physics** (widely considered second only to the Nobel Prize). He was a joint recipient of the prize alongside **James P. Eisenstein** and **Mordehai Heiblum** for research on composite fermions.
- **WMO's 71st IMO Prize:** The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** awarded its **71st IMO Prize** to French meteorologist **Dr. Florence Rabier** for her pioneering contributions to numerical weather prediction.

Environmental and Conservation Awards

- **2026 Whitley Award ("Green Oscar"):** Two Indian women conservationists were presented this prestigious award in London by **Princess Anne**, securing **£50,000** in project funding each:
 - **Parveen Shaikh (Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)):** Recognized for her community-led "Guardians of the Skimmer" project in the **Chambal River** ecosystem, which helped increase the **Indian skimmer** bird population from 400 to nearly 1,000.
 - **Dr. Barkha Subba:** Recognized for her efforts to protect the rare **Himalayan salamander** and fragile wetlands in the **Darjeeling Himalayas**.

Sports Awards & Recognitions

- **Inaugural Indian Athletics Awards (2025):** Distributed by the **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)**:
 - **Best Male Athlete of the Year:** **Neeraj Chopra** (Javelin).
 - **Best Female Athlete of the Year:** **Parul Chaudhary** (Sprinter/Steeplechase record-holder).
 - **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Conferred upon legendary athlete **PT Usha** (current President of the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**), alongside **Gurbachan Singh Randhawa** and **Bahadur Singh Chouhan**.
 - **Best Coach of the Year:** **Parveer Singh**.
 - **Best Emerging Male Athlete:** **Shahnawaz Khan** (Long Jump).

- **Best Emerging Female Athlete:** Pooja Singh (High Jump).
- **Best State:** Tamil Nadu.
- **Best State Supporting Athletics:** Odisha.
- **Best Sponsor:** Reliance Foundation.
- **Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award:** Awarded to **Zafar Iqbal**.
- **World Archery Para-Archer of the Year 2025:** India's **Sheetal Devi** was officially named the recipient of this global title.
- **SJFI Gold Medal:** Five-time **World Chess Champion** and **International Chess Federation (FIDE) Deputy President Viswanathan Anand** was awarded the **Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI) Gold Medal** for his exceptional contributions to chess, presented by former cricketer **K. Srikanth**.
- **TIME's 100 Most Influential in Sports:** Indian cricketer and **Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** champion **Smriti Mandhana** (Team India Vice Captain) was the **sole Indian athlete** featured on the global list.
- **ICC Men's Player of the Month:** **Mushfiqur Rahim** of **Bangladesh** was named the winner for **May 2026**.

International and National Corporate & Leadership Awards

- **UK-India Awards 2026:** **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** received a special award at the annual ceremony in **London** for his exceptional leadership in elevating UK-India relations.
- **Global Prestige Award at the House of Lords:** **Harshvardhan** (President of the **Bihar Cricket Association (BCA)**) was honored at the **UK Parliament** for his contributions to the "**Viksit Bharat 2047**" vision under the theme "**Visionary of the Change: Charting the Course to Viksit Bharat 2047**".
- **Earth Dubai Award:** Conferred upon **Deepak Bhatia**.
- **ASSOCHAM Lifetime Achievement Award:** **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)** selected **Dr. VS Mehta** for this prestigious honor.
- **Spice Coast Legacy Award:** The **Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (MILMA)** won the award at the **Spice Coast Excellence Awards 2026**, organized by the

Cochin Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Community and Infrastructure Recognitions

- **Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar:** The **Tripura Panchayat** secured the top national honor in this category.
- **Russian Grand Sand Masters Cup 2026:** **Padma Shri** awardee sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** (from **Puri, Odisha**) became the first Indian to win this cup at the **International Festival of Sand Sculpture in Kaliningrad, Russia**, by building a 3-meter-high "**Earth faces**" sand sculpture.
- **J&K Police Passport Award:** The **Jammu and Kashmir Police** won the **Institutional Performance Award for State Police in Passport Seva (2025-26)** for the second consecutive time due to rapid passport verification, tied to **Passport Seva Divas on June 24**.
- **Prix Versailles Architecture and Design Awards:** The **Adani-operated Navi Mumbai International Airport (Terminal 1)** and **Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (Guwahati, Terminal 2)** were ranked among the **top 7 most beautiful airports globally** at the **UNESCO headquarters in Paris**.
- **Custom YouTube Milestone:** Global creator **Mr. Beast** received a custom creator button from **YouTube's Indian-origin CEO Neal Mohan** for hitting **500 million subscribers**.

6. Banking and Finance

RBI Keep Repo Rate Unchanged and Cites Penal Actions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** decided to keep the **benchmark policy repo rate** unchanged at **5.25%**.
- The **RBI** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹2.49 lakh** on **Canara Bank** for regulatory non-compliance.
- The **RBI** canceled the banking license of **Shree Mahalaxmi Urban Co-operative Credit Bank Ltd.** located in **Gokak, Karnataka**, under the **Banking Regulation Act**.

RBI Revamps Kisan Credit Card Scheme Guidelines

- **Origin & Background:** The **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme was originally launched in **1998** based on the recommendations of the **R.V. Gupta Committee**. Subsequently, smart-cum-debit cards were introduced to let farmers withdraw funds outside of branch hours, following the **T.M. Bhasin Committee** recommendation.
- **Implementation Date:** The **RBI** comprehensively revamped the **KCC** guidelines, with the revised directions set to take effect from **January 1, 2027**, across all **Commercial Banks, Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), and Cooperative Banks**.
- **Scope & Coverage:** The revamped scheme provides a **Composite KCC Facility**—a consolidated card covering short-term credit, working capital, and long-term investments, with a streamlined **6-year tenure**. It spans activities across **agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries**.
- **Crop Season Standardization & NPA Definitions:**
 - **Short-duration crops** are defined as crops with a cycle of up to **12 months**.
 - **Long-duration crops** are defined as crops with a cycle of over **12 months and up to 18 months**.
 - Under **Non-Performing Asset (NPA)** recovery guidelines, a loan is classified as an **NPA** if it remains unpaid for **two crop seasons** for short-duration crops, or **one crop season** for long-duration crops.
- **Collateral & Margin Waivers:** Collateral and margin requirements are strictly waived for agricultural loans up to **₹2 lakh** (increased from the previous **₹1.6 lakh** limit). Banks hold discretionary power to raise this collateral-free limit up to **₹3 lakh** specifically for tie-up arrangements. Borrowers also have the option to voluntarily pledge assets like gold or silver.
- **Marginal Farmers:** Marginal farmers owning up to **1 hectare of land** are eligible for flexible credit limits ranging between **₹10,000 and ₹50,000**.

RBI Finalizes Digital Fraud Compensation Framework

- **Effective Date:** The **RBI** finalized a comprehensive framework to address small-value digital banking frauds (including

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), phishing, and SIM-swap frauds), effective **January 1, 2027**.

- **Eligibility & Limits:** Victims who suffer a loss of **under ₹50,000** are eligible to receive a once-in-a-lifetime compensation benefit. The compensation is capped at **85% of the lost value or ₹25,000**, whichever is lower.
- **Conditions:** To qualify, the fraud must be reported to the national cybercrime helpline (**1930**) within **5 days** of occurrence. For disputed credit card frauds, banks must provide "**shadow reversals**" within **5 days**.
- **Resolution Timeline:** The dispute resolution period is capped at **45 days** for domestic transactions and **60 days** for international or cross-border transactions.
- **Compensation Funding Split:**
 - **Domestic Fraud Split:** The **RBI** bears **65%** of the compensation amount via the **Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund**, the customer's bank pays **10%**, the beneficiary bank pays **10%**, and the remaining **15%** is absorbed as the customer's loss.
 - **International Fraud Split:** The **RBI** bears **65%** of the compensation, and the customer's bank bears the remaining **20%**.

RBI Regulatory Directives on PSOs, TReDS and NBFCs

- **Payment System Operators (PSOs) Guidelines:** The **RBI** issued revised guidelines under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007** for PSOs, which include card networks (such as **Visa, Mastercard, RuPay**), Automated Teller Machine (ATM) operators, and digital payment companies (like **PhonePe** and **Google Pay**). The regulations cap aggregate foreign investment voting power from jurisdictions that are non-compliant with the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** to **under 20%**.
- **TReDS Net Worth Requirements:** The **RBI** issued revised final directions for **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** platforms—digital platforms where **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** upload pending invoices to secure immediate bank funding via bidding. Operating entities must maintain a minimum net worth of **₹25 crore**. Existing operators

have until **March 31, 2028**, to comply with this threshold.

- **NBFC Upper Layer Classification:** The **RBI** classified **Non-Banking Financial Companies** (NBFCs) with an asset size exceeding **₹1 lakh crore** (₹1 trillion) as "**Non-Banking Financial Company Upper Layer**" (NBFC-UL).
- **NBFC Term Money Market Participation:** The **RBI** proposed allowing NBFCs to participate as both borrowers and lenders in the term money market (maturities of **14 to 364 days**), with borrowing limits capped at **200% of their Net Owned Funds** from the previous financial year.
- **ECLGS 5.0 Capital Norm Relaxations:** The **RBI** relaxed **Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio** (CRAR) requirements for commercial banks lending under the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme** (ECLGS) 5.0, designed to aid businesses impacted by the West Asia crisis. Under the relaxed guidelines, the portion of the loan guaranteed under **ECLGS 5.0** carries **zero risk weight** up to **75%** of the amount (provided banks settle claims within 30 days), while the remaining **25%** attracts a reduced risk weight of **20%**. The scheme permits limits of up to **₹100 crore** for MSMEs (with up to a 10-year tenure) and **₹1,500 crore** for airlines (with up to a 7-year tenure).
- **Variable Rate Repo Auction:** The **RBI** injected **₹1.41 lakh crore** of liquidity into the banking system through a **7-day Variable Rate Repo** (VRR) auction.

RBI Forex Operations and Financial Surveys

- **Balance Sheet Growth:** The **RBI's** balance sheet expanded by **20.6%** in the **2025–26** fiscal year, representing its fastest recent growth rate, heavily supported by foreign exchange operations. Broad money supply grew by **13%**.
- **Consumer Confidence Survey (May 2026):**
 - The **Urban Consumer Confidence Index** (CSI) dropped to **90.7** in May 2026 from **95.7** in March.
 - The **Rural Consumer Confidence Index** (CSI) dropped to **95.2** in May 2026 from **98.0** in March.
- **Lead Bank Scheme (LBS) Revamp:** The **RBI** updated its **Lead Bank Scheme** guidelines to boost priority sector lending and local financial inclusion. Rooted in the

Target Area Approach (suggested by the **Gadgil and Nariman committees**), the update mandates that designated Lead Banks appoint a **Lead District Manager** in every district to coordinate local banking activities with government agencies.

Deposit Rate Deregulations and Foreign Currency Accounts

- **NRE & FCNR Deposit Interest Ceiling Removal:** The **RBI** temporarily lifted interest rate ceilings on select **Non-Resident External** (NRE) and **Foreign Currency Non-Resident** (FCNR) deposits. Valid until **September 30, 2026**, the exemption allows commercial banks to offer higher interest rates on deposits with maturities of **3 years or more**.
- **CRR and SLR Exemptions:** The **RBI** exempted commercial banks from maintaining **Cash Reserve Ratio** (CRR) and **Statutory Liquidity Ratio** (SLR) on fresh **NRE and FCNR** term deposits of **3 to 5 years** mobilized between **June 19, 2026, and September 30, 2026**.
- **Bank of Baroda's "bob Golden Goal Deposit Scheme":** Launched as a retail non-bulk Fixed Deposit (FD) scheme for amounts **under ₹3 crore**, featuring a fixed maturity of **555 days** and a **7.4%** annual interest rate.
- **Federal Bank's FCNR Max Deposit:** Launched to offer a **6.25%** annual interest rate on US dollar-denominated deposits for **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)**, carrying a **3 to 5 years** tenure.
- **Four-Bank FCNR(B) Launch:** Four commercial banks—**Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Federal Bank, and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**—launched **Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)]** US Dollar deposit schemes for **NRIs, Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs), and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)**, offering interest rates of up to **6.55%**.
- **PaisaBazaar and SBM Bank India secured card:** Partnered to launch "**Paisa Plus**", a secured credit card backed by a minimum fixed deposit of **₹2,000**, offering up to **7%** interest to help consumers build credit history.

Financial Market Approvals & Stock Exchange Updates

- **SEBI's "GARUDA" Green Channel:** The **Securities and Exchange Board of India** (SEBI) approved the **Green Channel AIF**

Rollout Upon Document

Acknowledgement (GARUDA) mechanism for **Alternative Investment Funds** (AIFs).

It drastically cuts down the regulatory waiting and scheme approval period for AIFs from **30 days** to **10 working days**.

- **SEBI ETF Price Band Revisions:** Effective **September 1, 2026**, SEBI replaced the fixed **20%** price band for Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) with dynamic price bands that start at **10%** and can extend to **20%** after a cooling-off period. Gold and silver commodity ETFs will start with a **±6%** limit. Base prices will be calculated using the **Volume-Weighted Average Price** (VWAP) of transactions executed in the final **30 minutes** of the preceding trading day.
- **SEBI Quick Transmission Process (QTP):** SEBI introduced a faster mechanism for transferring shares to legal heirs without requiring a Permanent Account Number (PAN) card or a court-issued will/probate up to revised limits. The limit for skipping a probate was doubled to **₹30 lakh** for demat accounts (up from **₹15 lakh**) and to **₹10 lakh** for physical shares (up from **₹5 lakh**).
- **BSE Saatvik 100 Index:** The **Bombay Stock Exchange** (BSE) launched India's first **Saatvik 100 Index** to support and promote ethical-based investments.
- **NSE CSR Investment:** The **National Stock Exchange** (NSE) announced it will invest **10%** of its **Corporate Social Responsibility** (CSR) funds directly through the **Social Stock Exchange**.
- **NSE Indices Expansion:** NSE Indices Limited added **11 new sector-specific indices**, increasing its total portfolio of sector indices to **34**.
- **Novama Wealth SEBI Approval:** **Novama Wealth Management Company** received formal approval from SEBI to operate as a mutual fund investment provider.
- **PFC Subsidized Hedging:** **Power Finance Corporation** (PFC) became the first **Non-Banking Financial Company** (NBFC) to utilize the RBI's **Subsidized Hedging Facility** to raise **\$300 million** via a **5-year** green dollar bond from foreign investors.

Fintech & Neobanking Developments

- **Centrum Finserv and Bandhan Bank 3-in-1 Account:** **Bandhan Bank** partnered with **Centrum Finserv** to launch a unified **3-in-1 account** that merges savings, trading, and

Demat functions onto a single digital platform.

- **Zerodha AMC Life Cycle Mutual Fund:** **Zerodha Fund House** launched India's first life cycle target-date mutual funds, a category approved by SEBI in **2026**. Managed by **Kedarnath Mirajkar**, the offerings include **Zerodha Life Cycle Fund 2036** (10-year maturity) and **Zerodha Life Cycle Fund 2041** (15-year maturity).
- **PhonePe Wallet Fees:** **PhonePe** announced it will deduct a **₹100** quarterly maintenance fee from any digital wallets that have remained inactive for **365 consecutive days**. These wallets are regulated by the **RBI** as **Prepaid Payment Instruments** (PPI).
- **Jump UPI Approval:** The AI-driven fintech platform **Jump** (also referred to as **jUMPP**) secured approval from the **National Payments Corporation of India** (NPCI) to operate as a **Third-Party Application Provider** (TPAP) for UPI services, with **Yes Bank** acting as the **Payment Service Provider** (PSP).
- **Lexi Gift City Approval:** The AI-powered financial platform **Lexi** received in-principle approval from the **International Financial Services Centres Authority** (IFSCA) to operate as a **Payment Service Provider** (PSP) at **GIFT City** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- **Central Bank of India IFSC Branch:** Opened an **International Financial Services Centre** (IFSC) Banking Unit (IBU) at **GIFT City, Gujarat**.

National Macroeconomic Metrics and Fiscal Reports

- **Current Account Surplus:** India recorded a current account surplus of **\$7.1 billion** (**0.7% of GDP**) in the fourth quarter (Q4, January to March) of the fiscal year, driven by high service exports and strong inward remittances.
- **WPI Inflation & Re-basing:** The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** (DPIIT) of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** updated the base year of the **Wholesale Price Index** (WPI) and **Producer Price Index** (PPI) series from **2011-12 to 2022-23**. Under the new base year, the total number of tracked WPI articles was expanded from **697 to 957** (comprising **129 Primary Articles**, **25 Fuel & Power items**, and **803 Manufactured Items**). It added wind/solar

energy, moved crude petroleum/natural gas to fuel/power, and included services for the first time. Driven by these changes, **WPI inflation** rose to **9.68%** in May 2026 (up from **8.26%** in April), while **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** inflation stood at **3.93%**. Over the next **5 years**, the WPI is planned to be completely replaced by the **Producer Price Index (PPI)**.

- **Unemployment and Labour Force Survey (May 2026):** The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** reported that India's overall unemployment rate rose to **5.5%** in May 2026 (up from **5.2%** in April). The urban unemployment rate was **6.4%**, while the rural unemployment rate was **5.1%**. The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** for individuals aged 15 and above stood at **54.4%**, and the **Worker Population Ratio** was **51.4%**.
- **GDP Projections:**
 - The **World Bank** upgraded India's **FY27 GDP growth forecast** to **6.6%** (up from **6.5%**), while projecting global economic growth to slow to **2.5%** in **2026**.
 - **S&P Global** projected India's real GDP growth rate at **7.2%** for **FY26** and **6.6%** for **FY27**.
 - **Goldman Sachs** upgraded India's real GDP growth forecast for the **2026 calendar year** (January–December) to **6.8%** (up from **6.5%**), projecting headline inflation at **4.6%** and the **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** at **1.1% of GDP**.
 - **State Bank of India (SBI)** projected India's economic growth at **6.6%**.
 - **National Statistical Office (NSO)** data referenced a real GDP growth rate of **7.0%** and a nominal GDP growth rate of **8.9%** for the **2025–26** fiscal year, utilizing **2022–23** as the new base year.

7. Defence

Record Defence Production and Exports

- India achieved an all-time high **Defence Production** of **₹1.78 lakh crore** in the **Financial Year (FY) 2025-26**.
- **Defence Exports** from India surged by **62.66%**, reaching a record **₹38,424 crore**.

Historic Commissioning of First Batch of Women NDA Cadets

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** commissioned the historic first batch of **17 women cadets** from the **National Defence Academy (NDA)** who originally joined the academy in August 2022.
- Out of the 17 commissioned women officers, **9** will join the **Indian Army**, **5** will join the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, and the remaining **3** will join the **Indian Navy** at the **Indian Naval Academy (INA)** in **Ezhimala, Kerala**.

Establishment of National Military Drone Technology Hub

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** granted in-principle approval to establish the **National Military Drone Technology Hub** at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- The project involves an investment of **₹500 crore** to develop advanced drones specifically for the **Indian Army**.

Missile, Ammunition & Weapon System Tests

- **Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM):** The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully tested the indigenous **LRLACM** from **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island** (formerly known as **Wheeler Island**) in **Chandipur, Odisha**.
- **Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) System:** **DRDO** successfully conducted three consecutive flight tests in **Odisha** for India's multi-layer **BMD interceptor missile**. Known as India's "**Iron Dome**", this system is designed to destroy incoming enemy missiles mid-air.
- **"Peacekeeper" (Agniveg) Kamikaze Drones:** The **Indian Army** received **106 "Peacekeeper" (Agniveg) jet-powered kamikaze loitering munitions** manufactured by **SMPP**. The drones feature a top speed of **450 km/h** and an operational range of **180 km**.
- **Garudastra Mortar System:** India successfully conducted field trials and live operational demonstrations of "**Garudastra**" for the **Indian Army** at the **Infantry School in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh**. Engineered by the Pune-based private defense firm **Nibe Limited** in collaboration with a foreign **Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)**, it is one of India's heaviest **120 mm vehicle-mounted mortar systems**.
- **HELINA (Helicopter Launched NAG) Anti-Tank Missile:** Developed by **DRDO**,

the **HELINA** helicopter-launched anti-tank guided missile has an operational range of **500 metres to 7 km**.

- **NETRA Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System:** The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** received **Final Operational Clearance (FOC)** for **DRDO's** indigenous **NETRA AEW&C** platform.

Indian Army Dress Code Reforms

- The **Indian Army** updated its dress code regulations via the **Army Uniform Pamphlet 2026** to remove remaining colonial-era practices.
- The updates include dropping terms like "**Royal**", removing **pouch belts** and **ceremonial swords** for reviewing officers, and introducing the indigenous '**Bandi**' jacket into formal civil dress.

Indian Navy Ship Commissionings, Decommissionings and Deployments

- **Three Indigenous Naval Platforms Commissioned:** The **Indian Navy** launched and commissioned three indigenous ships in **Kolkata, West Bengal**:
 - **INS Dunagiri:** A stealth guided-missile frigate constructed under **Project 17A** by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**.
 - **INS Sanshodhak:** A **Survey Vessel Large (SVL)** designed for ocean mapping and maritime surveillance.
 - **INS Agray:** An **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)** of the **Arnala class**.
- **Sea King MK 42B Helicopters Retired:** After **55 years** of active service, the **Indian Navy** officially retired and decommissioned its fleet of "**Sea King MK 42B**" helicopters.
- **INS Sharda Colombo Port Call:** The **Indian Navy's** **Sukanya-class** offshore patrol vessel **INS Sharda** concluded a friendly port call in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**.
- **INS Tarkash and INS Ikshak Seychelles Visit:** The **Indian Navy** and the **Indian Coast Guard** deployed the **Talwar-class** frigate **INS Tarkash** (built in **Yantar Shipyard, Russia** and commissioned on November 9, 2012) alongside **INS Ikshak** to **Port Victoria**. The deployment was part of a friendly visit and participation in the **Seychelles' 50th National Day** celebrations.
- **PS Lespoir Handover:** During the high-level visit to the Seychelles, India handed over the **Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) "PS Lespoir"** to the island nation.

- **INS Sudarshini USA Visit:** The sail training ship **INS Sudarshini** reached **Baltimore, Maryland**, in the **United States of America (USA)** for the "**Lokayan 26**" expedition and to participate in the US 250th anniversary ("**Sail 250**").
- **INS Sudarshini Cabo Verde Visit:** **INS Sudarshini** completed a port call in **Mindelo, Cabo Verde**.
- **INS Sagardhwani Vietnam Visit:** **INS Sagardhwani** successfully completed a visit to **Cam Ranh, Vietnam**.
- **Eastern Fleet Thailand Deployment:** Indian Navy Eastern Fleet ships **INS Udaygiri**, **INS Kavaratti**, and **INS Shakti** arrived in **Sattahip, Thailand**, as part of international engagements.

International Military Exercises

- **Exercise Pitch Black 2026:** The **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)** is hosting this massive biennial multinational air warfare and combat exercise from **July 20 to August 7, 2026**, in **Darwin, Northern Territory**, and **Queensland**. It features over **100 aircraft** and approximately **18 countries**, with the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** actively participating.
- **Exercise Khaan Quest 2026:** A contingent of the **Indian Army's** **Jat Regiment** participated in the **23rd** edition of this multilateral military exercise in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.
- **RIMPAC 2026:** The **United States (US)** hosted the **30th** edition of the **Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)** exercise, the world's largest maritime war games, featuring **30 countries** under the theme "**Partners, Integrated and Prepared**".
- **Valiant Shield & Resolute Dragon 26 Drills:** The **United States** and **Japan** jointly hosted the "**Valiant Shield**" and "**Resolute Dragon 26**" military exercises in the Western Pacific, specifically across the **Mariana Islands** and the **Philippine Sea**.

National Cadet Corps (NCC) Expansion

- Established in **1948**, the **National Cadet Corps (NCC)** is the world's largest uniformed youth organization, boasting **20 lakh cadets**.
- The NCC approved the creation of two new independent **State Directorates** in **Andhra Pradesh** and **Jharkhand**, increasing the total number of state directorates from **17 to 19**.

Border Infrastructure & Air Safety Incidents

- **BRO Project Brahmark:** The **Border Roads Organisation's** (BRO) infrastructure development mission in Northeast India, **Project Brahmark**, completed **16 years** of operations on **June 29, 2026**.
- **IAF AN-32 Crash:** An **Indian Air Force** (IAF) **AN-32** transport aircraft crashed at the **Jorhat airbase** in **Assam**, resulting in the tragic death of **5 personnel**.

8. International

India and the European Union Sign Aviation Pact

- **India** and the **European Union** (EU) signed a free trade agreement pact in the aviation sector.

Global Social Media and Generative AI Restrictions for Minors

- **United Kingdom** (UK): Under **Prime Minister Keir Starmer**, the UK will ban social media platforms like **TikTok**, **Snapchat**, **Instagram**, and **Facebook** for children under the age of **16** by early **2027** (exempting **YouTube Kids** and **WhatsApp**).
- **Indonesia:** Became the first Southeast Asian nation to ban social media for users under the age of **16**.
- **United Arab Emirates** (UAE): Became the first Arab country to introduce nationwide regulations banning children under **15 years** of age from accessing, creating, or operating social media accounts.
- **Norway:** Enforcing a near-total ban on generative **Artificial Intelligence** (AI) tools in elementary schools (covering ages **6–13** / Grades **1–7**) starting late **August 2026**. **Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre** noted that over-reliance on AI hinders foundational learning and critical thinking.

Uzbekistan Becomes 10th Member of New Development Bank

- **Uzbekistan** officially became the **10th member** and the first Central Asian country to join the **New Development Bank** (NDB).
- The NDB (also known as the BRICS Bank) is headquartered in **Shanghai, China**, and led by **Dilma Rousseff**.
- The bank's membership now consists of the five founding **BRICS** nations (**Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**) and five expanded members (**Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates** (UAE), **Egypt, Algeria, and Uzbekistan**).

US Indo-Pacific Command Renamed

- The **United States** (US) **Department of Defense** officially renamed the **US Indo-Pacific Command** back to its previous name, the **US Pacific Command**.

US President Donald Trump Unveils National Resilience Strategy

- **United States** (US) **President Donald Trump** unveiled a **National Resilience Strategy** built around four key principles (**Prioritize, Modernize, Distribute, and Simplify**) across four critical sectors (**National Security, Economy, Public Health & Safety, and National Infrastructure**).

South Korea Establishes AI Security Partnership with OpenAI

- **South Korea** became the **4th country** (following the **United States, United Kingdom, and Japan**) to establish an **Artificial Intelligence** (AI) security partnership with **OpenAI**.

China Builds World's Largest Hydropower Dam on Brahmaputra

- **China** is constructing the world's largest hydropower dam on the **Brahmaputra River**.
- The river is known as **Yarlung Tsangpo** in **Tibet** and **Siang** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Mombasa Declaration Adopted by 15 Countries

- Fifteen countries adopted the **Mombasa Declaration** at the **11th Our Ocean Conference** in **Mombasa, Kenya**.
- The declaration aims to improve fisheries governance transparency, prevent illegal fishing, and protect marine environments in international waters.

Volcanic Eruption in Guatemala

- Guatemala's "**Volcán de Fuego**" (an active stratovolcano) erupted due to the collision of the **Cocos** and **Caribbean** tectonic plates, emitting basaltic rocks.

Albania's "Flamingo Revolution" Protests

- Major protests, termed the "**Flamingo Revolution**", erupted in **Albania**.
- Albania's capital is **Tirana**, its currency is the **Lek**, and the nation joined the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** (NATO) in **2009**. (Note: In India, the **Flamingo Festival** is celebrated at **Pulicat Lake** in **Andhra Pradesh/Tamil Nadu**).

Italy Declared UNESCO World Heritage Capital

- **Italy** was declared the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** (UNESCO) **World Heritage Capital**, possessing **61 heritage sites** (**55**

cultural and 6 natural), including Rome, Venice, and Vatican City.

- China follows with 60 sites, Germany and France have 54 each, Spain has 50, and India holds 44 sites. (Note: UNESCO was established in 1945 and is headquartered in Paris, France. India's newest World Heritage site is the Maratha military landscapes, and its newest intangible heritage sites include Diwali, Garba dance, and Durga Puja).

India Launches Operation AMSTAT for Venezuela Earthquake Relief

- India launched "Operation AMSTAT" (also referred to as "Operation Amistad", meaning "friend" or "dost") to deliver humanitarian aid to Venezuela following a major earthquake.
- Two Indian Air Force (IAF) C-17 Globemaster aircraft were deployed carrying assistance, which included indigenous BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita & Maitri) Cube portable hospitals.
- Venezuela's capital is Caracas and its currency is the Bolivar.

India-Kiribati Health Cooperation

- India's High Commissioner Suneet Mehta met with Kiribati's Health Minister Bootii Nauan to discuss bilateral health cooperation.
- Kiribati's capital is South Tarawa / Tarawa, and it uses the Australian Dollar (AUD).

Scheduled Visit of Japanese Prime Minister

- Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is scheduled to visit India from July 1 to July 3.

Bangladesh Joins the International Big Cat Alliance

- Bangladesh officially joined as the 27th member of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).
- The IBCA, initiated in 2023 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mark 50 years of Project Tiger, aims to safeguard seven major big cat species: Tiger, Lion, Jaguar, Puma, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, and Leopard.
- Saudi Arabia was the 26th member to join, and Russia is also a member.

FIFA Suspends Nepal Football Association

- FIFA suspended the All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) with immediate effect over violations concerning third-party interference.

Foreign University Campuses Approved in India

- The Ministry of Education approved the establishment of branch campuses in India for three foreign universities:
 - University of Bristol in Mumbai.
 - University of York in Mumbai.
 - University of New South Wales in Bengaluru (scheduled to start in August 2026).

9. Meetings

52nd G7 Summit Held in France

- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi attended the 52nd Group of Seven (G7) Summit hosted in Évian-les-Bains (also referred to as Nice), France, as a partner and guest.
- This was PM Modi's 7th consecutive G7 summit.
- The summit was hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron under the theme "Working together to address major international challenges".
- On the sidelines of the summit, the "Bharat Innovate 2026" bilateral platform was launched to connect 120 Indian deep-tech startups and institutes with French institutions.
- The G7 Presidency for the 2027 summit will transfer to the United States of America (USA).

114th International Labour Conference (ILC) / ILO Summit

- The 114th International Labour Organization (ILO) Summit was held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- India was represented at the summit by Shobha.
- The summit focused extensively on gig worker rights under Convention 193.
- The term "Platform Economy" was officially coined, and debates were held regarding fundamental rights, fixed hours, and minimum wages for platform workers.

18th BRICS Chairmanship & National Summits Hosted by India

- India assumed the chairmanship of the BRICS block (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa along with expanded members) for the fourth time (previously chairing in 2012, 2016, and 2021).
- The overall theme for India's 2026 BRICS Presidency is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability".

- The following sector-specific BRICS events and summits were hosted in India under this chairmanship:

16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (Indore)

- The **16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting** was held in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.
- The meeting concluded with the adoption of the **Indore Declaration**.
- The event was held under the theme "**Building for resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability**".
- The ministers launched a tree plantation campaign called "**BRICS Vatika**".
- The meeting approved the AI-driven "**BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture**", which will be managed by the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi**.

11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting (Gurugram)

- Hosted by India in **Gurugram, Haryana**, on **June 25-26, 2026**.
- The energy-specific theme was "**Urja for All**" (also referred to as "**Sarvesha Urjanam**"), focusing on solar energy and biofuels.
- The meeting was attended by **11 members**, including newly joined nations: **Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iran, Egypt, and Ethiopia** (who joined in January 2024), and **Indonesia** (who joined in January 2025).
- **Sudhakar Dalela** served as the **Indian Sherpa** for the meet.
- India highlighted its national target to build **410 Gigawatt-hours (GWh)** of energy storage capacity by **2032**.

16th BRICS National Security Advisors (NSA) Meeting (New Delhi)

- Held in **New Delhi** on **June 22-23, 2026**, and chaired by India's **National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval**.
- The meeting focused on the theme "**Non-traditional security challenges confronting the world today**".

13th BRICS Urbanization Forum (New Delhi)

- The **13th BRICS Urbanization Forum** was held at the **Sushman Swaraj Bhavan** in **New Delhi** on **June 11-12**.
- The forum operated under the theme "**Cities for people, BRICS cooperation for inclusive and resilient urban future**".

BRICS Space Agencies & Space Economy Meetings (Bengaluru)

- The **BRICS Space Agencies Meeting** was hosted by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**, with all **11 member nations** participating.
- Discussions focused on the **BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite** under the overarching chairmanship theme.
- Simultaneously, a dedicated **BRICS Space Economy Summit** was conducted in **Bengaluru**.

Other BRICS Sectoral Meetings

- **1st BRICS MSME Forum**: Held in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **BRICS HOSA (Heads of Space Agencies) Meeting**: Held in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- **BRICS 20th Anniversary Week**: Celebrated in **Moscow, Russia**.

2nd Pax Silica Summit on AI Supply Chains (Washington DC)

- The **2nd Pax Silica Summit** was held in **Washington DC, USA**, on **June 25-26** and was hosted by **Jacob Helberg**.
- The summit focused on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** supply chains.
- Delegations from **35 nations**, including **India** (represented by **S. Krishnan** from the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**), signed an agreement/statement on artificial intelligence opportunities.

11th Our Ocean Conference (Mombasa)

- The conference was hosted in **Mombasa, Kenya**, where **15 countries** officially adopted the **Mombasa Declaration**.
- The declaration focuses on improving transparency in fisheries governance, preventing illegal fishing, and protecting marine environments in international waters.
- The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** also released its "**State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture**" (SOFIA) 2026 report at this conference.

16th World Pharmacopoeias Meeting (Brasilia)

- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)**, led by **V. Kalaiselvan**, represented India at the **16th international meeting** in **Brasilia, Brazil**.

SCO Women's Forum 2026 (Kyrgyzstan)

- The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Women's Forum 2026** was successfully hosted in **Kyrgyzstan**.

West African Hydrographic Summit (Nigeria)

- The summit was held across **Abuja and Lagos** in **Nigeria**.

10th National Public Health Summit (Chandigarh)

- The **10th edition** of the **National Public Health Summit** was held in **Chandigarh**.

16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare

- **Union Health Minister JP Nadda** launched the **SUMAN (Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan) Roadmap 2030** during the **16th conference** of the council.

Global Wind Day Conference 2026 (Goa)

- Hosted in **Goa** on **June 15** under the theme "**Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration**".
- **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi** utilized the platform to launch the "**WT MARUT**" (**Wind Turbine Material and Resource Utility Tracker**) portal.

RISE Conclave (Bengaluru)

- At the **Research Industry Startup Entrepreneurship (RISE) Conclave** held in **Bengaluru**, **Union Minister Jitendra Singh** highlighted that India's space economy is projected to grow from **\$8-9 billion** to **\$40-45 billion** over the next decade.

10. Miscellaneous

World Blood Donor Day (June 14)

- **World Blood Donor Day** is celebrated annually on the birth anniversary of **Karl Landsteiner**, the Nobel Prize-winning scientist who discovered the **ABO blood group system**.
- Organized by the **World Health Assembly (WHA)**.
- **2026 Theme: "One drop of humanity, give blood save lives"** (also referred to as "**One Drop of Humanity, Give Blood Save Life**").

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15)

- **2026 Theme: "Beyond awareness making elder abuse prevention work"**.

Global Wind Day (June 15)

- **2026 Theme: "Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration"**.

International Day of Family Remittances (June 16)

- **2026 Theme: "Remittances for rural resilience, entrepreneurship and employment"**.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (June 17)

- Adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in **1994**.

- **2026 Theme: "Rangelands, Recognize, Respect, Restore"** (also referred to as "**Rangelands Recognize Respect and Restore**").

World Crocodile Day (June 17)

- Observed to raise awareness for crocodiles, which are 200-million-year-old "**living fossils**" and "**keystone species**".
- **2026 Theme: "Legacy in Every Scale"**.
- India's historical **Project Crocodile** was originally launched in **1975**.

Autistic Pride Day (June 18)

- Established in **2005** by the organization "**Aspies for Freedom**" to highlight that autistic brains function differently and that autism is not a disease.
- **2026 Theme: "Autistic Voices Leading the Narrative"**.
- (*Note: World Autism Awareness Day is observed on April 2*).

Sustainable Gastronomy Day (June 18)

- Annually observed to recognize gastronomy as a cultural expression of the world's natural and cultural diversity.

World Sickle Cell Awareness Day (June 19)

- Established by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in **2008**.
- **2026 Theme: "Closing the Gap: Survival Gap in Equity in Sickle Cell Disease"**.
- The disease causes crescent-shaped **Red Blood Cells (RBCs)** that block blood vessels.

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (June 19)

- Observed annually to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence.

World Refugee Day (June 20)

- **2026 Theme: "Until Everyone is Safe"**.

12th International Day of Yoga (June 21)

- Led by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** from **Kolkata's Red Road** (with Vice President **C.P. Radhakrishnan** participating in **Leh, Ladakh**).
- **2026 Theme: "Yoga for Healthy Aging"**.
- The **United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York** hosted a session featuring **800 participants**, led by PM Modi's yoga guru, **H.R. Nagendra**, at **Times Square**.
- The **Ministry of Ayush** organized the **International Festival of Yoga and Meditation in Leh, Ladakh (Mahabodhi International Meditation Center)** from **June 15 to 21**.

- Celebrations at the **Siachen Glacier** and **Pangong Tso Lake** highlighted “**Sowa-Rigpa**” medical techniques.

Summer Solstice (June 21)

- Celebrated as the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere.

World Music Day (June 21)

- Marks the **44th anniversary** of the day, which originally started in **France** in **1982**.
- **2026 Theme: "Music for Peace"**.

World Hydrography Day (June 21)

- Established by the **International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)** to raise awareness about water resource mapping.
- **2026 Theme: "Transforming how ocean data is shared"**.

World Rainforest Day (June 22)

- **2026 Theme: "The Forest Within You"**, highlighting the critical role of standing forests in climate regulation and biodiversity preservation.

International Olympic Day (June 23)

- Marks the **1894** formation of the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**.
- **2026 Theme: "You Can Do This Let's Move"** (also referred to as "**You can do this**").

United Nations Public Service Day (June 23)

- Commemorates the **International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 151** to celebrate government employees and public institution transparency.
- **2026 Theme: "Transforming public institutions, advancing innovation, participation and inclusion"**.

International Widows' Day (June 23)

- **2026 Theme: "Invisible Women, Invisible Problems"**.

Passport Seva Divas (June 24)

- Marks the **14th national observance** commemorating the enactment of the **Passport Act of June 24, 1967**.

International Day of Women in Diplomacy (June 24)

- Originally established in **2022** by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.
- **2026 Theme: "Leadership, Equality, Advancement, and the Pursuit of Peace"**.

Panchayati Raj Day (April 24)

- Celebrated on **April 24** to mark the constitutional status given to Panchayati Raj institutions.

World Vitiligo Day (June 25)

- Raises awareness about the autoimmune skin disorder.

- **2026 Theme: "From stigma to strength"** (the official awareness color is **purple**).

Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas (June 25)

- Marked the **51st anniversary** and **3rd national observance** commemorating the declaration of the **National Emergency** in **1975** by **President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed** under **Article 352** of the Constitution.

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (June 26)

- Originally established by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in **1987**.
- **2026 Theme: "World drug problem: persisting issue, new challenges, and innovative responses"** (also referred to as "**The world drug problem: persisting issues, new challenges, innovative responses**").

World Refrigeration Day (June 26)

- **2026 Theme: "Pool Intelligence"**.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (June 26)

- Marked the **29th annual observance** to raise global awareness regarding the absolute prohibition of torture.

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day (June 27)

- Established by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in **April 2017**.
- **2026 Theme: "Empowering MSMEs through Innovation and Sustainable Industrial Development"**.

National Insurance Awareness Day (June 28)

- Observed annually on **June 28**.

National Statistics Day (June 29)

- Commemorates the birth anniversary of **Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis**, the "**Father of Indian Statistics**".

- **2026 Theme: "Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data"**.

International Day of Parliamentarism (June 30)

- Observed annually on **June 30**.

International Asteroid Day (June 30)

- Observed annually on **June 30**.

National Security & Public Safety Initiatives Temporary Ban on Telegram under Section 69A of the IT Act

- A temporary ban was applied to the messaging platform **Telegram** under **Section 69A** of the **Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000**.

Drug-Free India Week (Nasha Mukta Bharat Saptah) Observed

- The national observation ran from **June 17 to June 26** under the theme "**Nasha Mukta Bharat Vikasit Bharat Prayan**".
- The initiative was organized and implemented by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

Vision Document on Drug Control 2026-29 Unveiled

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** unveiled the **Vision Document on Drug Control 2026-29** in **New Delhi**.

CCPA Fines Storia Foods and Bectors Foods

- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹1 lakh** on **Storia Foods** and **Bectors Foods**.
- The action was taken for misleading advertisements that made false "**100% composition**" claims regarding their products.

Agricultural, Maritime & Transport Highlights First Scientific Assessment Report for the Great Hog Badger

- The first scientific assessment report for the **Great Hog Badger** (locally known in Assamese as '**Mati Gahori**') was released in **Kaziranga National Park, Assam**.
- The animal is listed as '**Vulnerable**' by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, inhabits evergreen forests, and belongs to the pig category.

Assam Exports Joha Rice to Europe

- For the first time, **Assam** successfully exported **Joha rice** (a Geographical Indication [GI]-tagged product) to **Europe**.

Smart Warehousing System for Food Grain Storage

- **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi** inaugurated a state-of-the-art **Smart Warehousing System** for food grain storage in **New Delhi**.

Kempegowda International Airport Named India's Most Child-Friendly Airport

- The **Kempegowda International Airport** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**, was recognized as India's **most child-friendly airport** and ranked **third globally**.

Mamallapuram Receives Green Destination Silver Certificate

- **Mamallapuram** (located in **Tamil Nadu**) became the first heritage site in **South Asia** to receive the prestigious **Green Destination Silver Certificate**.

Lipulekh Pass Reopens for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

- The strategic **Lipulekh Pass** in **Uttarakhand** reopened for the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** after remaining closed for six years (since **2020**).
- Lipulekh is a strategic tri-junction bordering **India, China (Tibet), and Nepal**.
- Meanwhile, the first route via the **Nathu La Pass** in **Sikkim** recently sent its first batch of **44 tourists**.

"Divine East Temple Tour" Announced

- The **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** announced the launch of the "**Divine East Temple Tour**" to be operated on the **Bharat Gaurav Deluxe Tourist Train**.

Viksit Bharat 2047 Targets Discussed at UK Parliament

- Targets for the "**Viksit Bharat 2047**" vision were presented and discussed at the **United Kingdom (UK) Parliament**.
- The targets are structurally built around four main pillars: **Youth, Poor, Women, and Farmers**.
- The long-term vision aims to achieve a national **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** of **\$30–40 trillion** and an individual per capita income of **\$15,000–\$18,000**.

Miscellaneous Achievements

- **Youngest to Cross Palk Strait**: 7-year-old **Ishank Singh** became the youngest person to cross the **Palk Strait**.

11. MoUs

IIT Hyderabad Partners with CEEPL India and Dassault Systemes for India's First Nuclear Design Center

- **Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH)** entered into a collaboration with **CEEPL India** and **Dassault Systemes**.
- The partnership aims to establish **India's first nuclear design center**.

BSNL Collaborates with IIT Kanpur for Next-Generation Telecom Technology Development

- **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** partnered with the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur)**.
- The collaboration is focused on the research, testing, and deployment of **Fifth-Generation (5G)**, **Sixth-Generation (6G)**, and next-generation telecom technologies across **India**.

Oil India Limited Partners with Canada's Petroleum Technology Research Centre

- **Oil India Limited (OIL)** signed a bilateral agreement with Canada's **Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PTRC)**.
- The agreement was signed at the **Global Energy Show 2026** in **Calgary, Canada**.

Delhi Government Partners with Prasar Bharati to Build Media and Entertainment Hub

- The **Delhi Government** partnered with India's public broadcaster, **Prasar Bharati**.
- The collaboration aims to develop a state-of-the-art **global media and entertainment hub** in the national capital.

NCB and UltraTech Cement Sign MoU for Skill Development in the Cement Sector

- The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **UltraTech Cement**.
- The partnership is designed to promote and boost **skill development** within the cement manufacturing sector.

Assam and Nagaland Agree to Collaborate on Border Region Crude Oil Exploration

- The state governments of **Assam** and **Nagaland** signed a bilateral agreement to collaborate on natural resource extraction.
- Under this agreement, both states will work together to explore and extract **crude oil** and **natural gas** in shared border regions.

NHAI Signs MoU with NCAER for Dedicated Transport Research Center

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)**.
- The partnership will establish a dedicated **Transport Research Center** to conduct studies and gather insights on national transport networks.

IITM Pune and ARIES Sign 50-Year Agreement for High-Altitude Climate Observation

- The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune** and the **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)** in Nainital signed a landmark **50-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**.
- Under this long-term agreement, the institutes will establish a high-altitude climate observation laboratory at the **Devasthal campus in Uttarakhand**.
- The project is funded and implemented under the **₹2,000 crore "Mission Mausam"**

initiative (part of the **Bharat Climate Observation Network [BCON]**).

Madhya Pradesh Partners with Google for AI-Driven Crowd Management at 2028 Kumbh Mela

- The state government of **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** established a strategic partnership with global technology giant **Google**.
- The collaboration will utilize **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** models to manage and monitor crowd dynamics during the **2028 Kumbh Mela**.

Andhra Pradesh Partners with Google for AI and Digital Governance Joint Task Force

- The state government of **Andhra Pradesh (AP)** partnered with **Google** to drive innovation in public administration.
- The partnership established a **joint task force** dedicated to implementing **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **cloud computing**, and **digital governance** solutions across the state.

Tata Power Collaborates with Druk Green Power for Bhutan Clean Energy Skills

- **Tata Power** entered into a partnership with Bhutan's **Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)**.
- The collaboration is focused on building and developing **clean energy skills** and technical training programs in **Bhutan**.

CAG India and Supreme Audit Institution of Israel Sign MoU for Tech-Driven Auditing

- The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** of India, **K. Sanjay Murthy**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Supreme Audit Institution of Israel** (represented by State Comptroller **Matanyahu Englman**).
- The MoU is focused on collaborative research and knowledge sharing in **data analytics** and **digital auditing technologies**.
- This agreement aligns with a broader **India-Israel MoU** aimed at enhancing cooperation in **public sector auditing**.

Digital India Bhashini Division Partners with Assam Innovation and Startup Foundation

- The **Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Assam Innovation and Startup Foundation (AISF)** under the "**Bhashini Rajyam**" initiative.
- The partnership aims to promote **language technology** and **generative AI governance** in vernacular languages, focusing on the deployment of Assamese translation tools.

MoSPI Signs Statement of Intent with GRAAM to Launch Embark India Development Fellowship

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** signed a **Statement of Intent (SoI)** with the **Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM)**.
- The partnership launched the **Embark India Development Fellowship**, an **18-month** program engaging **two fellows** with a **₹65,000 monthly stipend** to focus on public policy, capacity building, data governance, and program implementation.

Fencing Association of India Signs MoU with International Fencing Federation

- The **Fencing Association of India (FAI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **International Fencing Federation (FIE)** to develop fencing sports infrastructure and organize international tournaments in India.

National Stock Exchange and Bharat Metal Exchange Sign MoU for Non-Ferrous Derivatives

- The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Bharat Metal Exchange Ltd. (BMEL)**.
- The partnership is designed to promote awareness and development of **non-ferrous metal derivatives** (including copper, aluminium, zinc, lead, and nickel) to strengthen **price risk management** in India.

Archaeological Survey of India Partners with National Museum of Denmark for Shipwreck Search

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Museum of Denmark**.
- The collaboration is focused on underwater archaeological surveys to locate the **Oresund**, a **17th-century** Danish ship that sank in **1619** near **Karaikal, Puducherry**.

Gujarat Police Partners with Bharat Taxi for Cooperative Ride-Hailing Platform

- The **Gujarat Police** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Bharat Taxi**.
- **Bharat Taxi** is India's first cooperative ride-hailing platform, developed by **Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited** on a zero-commission model based on the principle of "**Saarthi hi Malik**" (meaning "Driver is the Owner").

Government e-Marketplace Partners with CSC to Establish Suvidha Kendras

- The **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** partnered with **Common Service Centres (CSC)** to set up **GeM Suvidha Kendras** in rural areas.
- The partnership aims to eliminate barriers to public procurement in rural areas, commencing with a pilot of **50 centers** across **9 states**.

Herbalife India and IIT Madras Launch Plant Cell Fermentation Centre of Excellence

- **Herbalife International India Private Limited** (Herbalife India) partnered with the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)**.
- The collaboration established India's first **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** on **plant cell fermentation technology** at the **IIT Madras Research Park in Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.

Yes Bank and Northern Arc Capital Partner to Expand Digital Lending

- **Yes Bank** entered into a strategic partnership with **Northern Arc Capital**.
- The partnership is designed to expand **digital lending** and facilitate wider **formal credit access** for underserved and unbanked populations across India.

12. National

Infrastructure & Transport Developments

India's First Hydrogen Train Tested in Haryana

- India's first **Hydrogen Train** was successfully tested on the **Jind to Sonipat** railway track in the state of **Haryana**.

India's First 8-Lane Twin-Tube Tunnel Opens in Rajasthan

- **Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav** announced the opening of India's first **8-lane twin-tube tunnel**.
- The **4.9 km** long tunnel is built beneath the **Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve** in **Rajasthan** (bordering **Madhya Pradesh**).
- The tunnel connects the newly constructed **Delhi-Mumbai Expressway**.

Noida International Airport Begins Commercial Operations

- Commercial operations officially commenced at the newly constructed **Noida International Airport** located in **Jewar, Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.

Air India Launches 'Easy Connect' Service

- **Air India** launched the '**Easy Connect**' service to assist travelers from **Tier-2** and **Tier-3** cities (such as **Bhopal** and **Varanasi**).

- The service allows passengers to complete their luggage check-in and international immigration locally before flying to domestic hubs like **Delhi** to connect to global destinations such as **London**.

Seven Railway Stations Shifted to South Coast Railway Zone

- Seven railway stations were officially shifted to the jurisdiction of the **South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR)** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.

Multi-Lane Free Flow Tolling System Launched in Rajasthan

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** launched Rajasthan's first barrier-less tolling system at the **Daulatpura/Daulatpur Toll Plaza** on **National Highway 48 (NH-48)** (Delhi-Jaipur).
- The system utilizes high-resolution cameras to automatically deduct toll charges via **FASTags** without requiring vehicles to stop.
- India's very first barrier-less tolling system was previously established in the state of **Gujarat**.

India's First Offshore Airport Approved in Maharashtra

- India's **first offshore airport** (developed on water near the coast) will be constructed at **Kore Beach** in the **Palghar district** of **Maharashtra**.

GMR Airports Takes Over Nagpur Airport

- **GMR Airports Limited** officially assumed the operations, management, and development of the **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport** in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**.

Zojila Tunnel Project Excavation Witnessed

- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** witnessed the excavation progress for the **Zojila Tunnel**, located in **Minamarg, Kargil district** (Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir [J&K]**) on **National Highway 1 (NH-1)**.
- Built at an altitude ranging between **2,900 m and 3,310 m**, the **₹6,809 crore** project is a **14.15 km** bi-directional single-tube tunnel.
- Upon completion, it will stand as India's longest road tunnel and the world's longest high-altitude single-tube bi-directional road tunnel.

Land Ports Expansion on International Borders

- To enhance border trade, India proposed the construction of **74 additional land ports** on its international borders.

- India shares a land border of approximately **15,106.7 km** with seven neighboring nations: **Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar**.
- The project's current status includes **15 operational ports, 11 under construction, 23 proposed in Phase 1, and 40 proposed in Phase 2**.

Tidong Stage 1 Hydroelectric Project In Himachal Pradesh

- The **150 Megawatt (MW) Tidong Stage 1 Hydroelectric Project** is situated on the **Tidong River** in the **Kinnaur district** of **Himachal Pradesh**.

National Policies, Guidelines & Legal Rulings Supreme Court Declares Right to Walk a Fundamental Right

- The **Supreme Court of India** declared that walking on a safe, demarcated footpath is a **Fundamental Right** protected under **Article 19(1)(d)** (freedom of movement) and **Article 21** (right to life) of the Constitution.

Supreme Court Appoints Aravalli Range Conservation Committee

- The **Supreme Court of India** appointed a high-level committee, headed by **Kanchan Devi**, to balance forest conservation with development and mining activities across the **Aravalli range**.

Draft Broadcasting Guidelines Released

- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** released draft rules aimed at unifying television and radio regulations.
- The rules mandate that **television channels** must broadcast **30 minutes** of public interest content daily.
- **FM radio** stations must dedicate **1 hour** daily to broadcast public-interest topics such as education, health, and agriculture.

Ministry of Petroleum Introduces LPG and PNG Shifting Guidelines

- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** introduced strict guidelines to manage fuel connections:
 - **"30-Day Rule"**: Mandates that a consumer must surrender their **Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)** cylinder within **30 days** of receiving a **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** connection.
 - **"90-Day Rule"**: Mandates that a consumer must shift to **PNG** within **90 days** if a piped natural gas network covers their local area.

Ministry of Finance Exempts Customs Duty on Nuclear Imports

- The **Ministry of Finance** issued a notification under **Section 28A** of the **Customs Act, 1962**, retrospectively exempting customs duty on goods imported for **nuclear power generation** between **April 1, 2019, and January 31, 2026**.
- This move aligns with India's long-term national target to build **100 Gigawatts (GW)** of nuclear power capacity by the year **2047**.

National Governance & Administration Clarification on Indian Passport and Citizenship Proof

- During the **14th Passport Seva Divas** on **June 24** (marking the enactment of the **Passport Act of 1967**), the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** clarified that an **Indian passport** is merely a legal travel document and cannot be used as a definitive certificate or proof of Indian citizenship locally.
- It was clarified that other identification documents such as **Voter ID, Aadhaar, Ration Card, and PAN Card** are also not definitive proofs of local citizenship.
- Under the **Citizenship Act, 1955** (governed by **Part 2, Articles 5–11** of the Constitution), citizenship is strictly determined by 5 methods: **birth, descent, registration, naturalization, and incorporation of territory**.

Revised Passport Fees Effective July 1, 2026

- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** announced the first revision in passport fees since **2012**, set to take effect from **July 1, 2026**.
- The application fee for a normal **30-page passport** will increase from **₹1,500 to ₹2,500**.
- The fee for **Tatkal** passport services will increase from **₹3,500 to ₹5,000**.

Ministry of Home Affairs Review of Cybercrime Helpline

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** chaired a high-level review meeting to analyze the operations of the national cybercrime helpline **1930** and reviewed two dedicated cybercrime portals.

"Abhigyan" Fingerprint Application Launched for Police

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** launched "**Abhigyan**", a real-time fingerprint scanning mobile application

authorized under the **Identification Act 2022** to assist law enforcement agencies.

DigiLocker Integrates State-Level Family ID Credentials

- **DigiLocker** onboarded **Family ID credentials** from four Indian states: **Rajasthan (Jan Aadhaar), Maharashtra (Mahasarathi), Madhya Pradesh (MP Samagra), and Uttar Pradesh (UP Family ID)**.

National Test House Modern Testing Facilities in Mumbai

- **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi** inaugurated state-of-the-art testing facilities at the **National Test House (NTH)** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Bureau of Indian Standards Launches Community Seed Bank Standard

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** published a new national standard (**IS 20201:2026**) outlining **Community Seed Bank Management Requirements**.

State-Level Developments

Uttarakhand Becomes India's 6th Fully Literate State

- **Uttarakhand** became India's **6th fully literate state**, achieving a literacy rate of **98.7%**.
- The first five Indian states to achieve fully literate status were **Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim**.

West Bengal Introduces Uniform Civil Code Bill

- The state government of **West Bengal** introduced a **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill**.
- This legislative move positions West Bengal to become the **4th state** in India to implement the **UCC** once the bill is successfully passed.

West Bengal State Budget 2026 Presented

- The state government of **West Bengal** presented its state budget with a total allocation of **₹4.38 lakh crore**.

Odisha Development Projects in Mayurbhanj

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **President Droupadi Murmu** visited **Mayurbhanj, Odisha**, on a visit that coincided with President Murmu's **68th birthday**.
- They allocated a development package of **₹47,600 crore** for various state projects.
- The leaders launched the **Indravati Pumped Storage Project** to boost electricity generation.

- They declared **Pahadpur** in Mayurbhanj a "Solar Village".

Tamil Nadu Becomes Top Marine Fish Producing State

- **Tamil Nadu** officially became India's top marine fish producing state.

Mumbai Port Authority Unveils 63 Foundation Day Projects

- **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** unveiled **63 projects** worth a total of **₹5,028.17 crore** during the **154th foundation day** of the **Mumbai Port Authority** in **Maharashtra**.
- The projects were launched under the theme "Together we can".

Restoration of Munjiyankulam Pond in Puducherry

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the restored **400-year-old Munjiyankulam Pond** in the Union Territory of **Puducherry**.

Karnataka Proposes Mekedatu Dam on Cauvery River

- The state government of **Karnataka** proposed the construction of the **Mekedatu Dam** on the **Cauvery River** to store water for local irrigation and municipal supply.

Ladakh Establishes Snow Leopard Nature Conservation Society

- The **Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh** established the **Snow Leopard and High Altitude Nature Conservation Society**.
- This society was established under the direction of **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena**.
- The **Snow Leopard** (scientific name: *Panthera uncia*) is the state animal of Ladakh.
- Currently, there are **718** snow leopards in India (including **477** in Ladakh), protected under **Schedule 1** of the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

National Education, Corporate & Institutional Affairs

Deemed University Status Granted to NCERT

- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** was granted **Deemed University Status** under a distinct institutional category.

Reliance Industries Unveils 'Five S' Leadership Model

- **Reliance Industries Limited** Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** unveiled a new structural framework ('**Five S**' Model) to guide the group's generational leadership transition.

- Under this framework, **Akash Ambani** is designated to lead technology/AI, **Isha Ambani** will lead retail/FMCG, and **Anant Ambani** will manage energy operations.

Osmania University Achieves Four ISO Certifications

- **Osmania University** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**, became the first university in India to simultaneously achieve **four ISO certifications**:
 - **ISO 21001:2018** (educational organization management)
 - **ISO 14001:2015** (environmental management)
 - **ISO 50001:2018** (energy management)
 - **ISO 22000:2018** (food safety management)

National Biodiversity Authority Forms Agro-Biodiversity Committee

- The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** formed a **1-year** expert committee on **Agro-biodiversity conservation**.
- Chaired by **Padma Shri Dr. P.L. Gautam**, the committee is tasked with advising farmers on crop diversification.

Committee Formed to Study Indian Cinema Sector

- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** constituted a high-level study group to examine the future prospects and challenges of the Indian cinema sector.
- The study group is headed by **Prasoon Joshi**, the current Chairperson of the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**.

Seven Indian Schools Shortlisted for World's Best School Prizes 2026

- Organized by UK-based global education platform **T4 Education**, **seven Indian schools** were shortlisted for the **World's Best School Prizes 2026**:
 1. **PCMC Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj English Medium School** (Pune)
 2. **Army Goodwill School** (Jammu and Kashmir)
 3. **Healthy Planet TG Early Year School** (Noida)
 4. **Inventure Academy** (Bengaluru)
 5. **Seth MR Jaipuria School** (Lucknow)
 6. **Euro School Bannerghatta** (Bengaluru)
 7. **Seth Anandram Jaipuria School** (Lucknow)

13. Persons in News

Notable Individuals

- **Mr. Beast** hit **500 million subscribers**, receiving a custom button from YouTube's Indian-origin CEO **Neal Mohan**.
- **Gautam Adani** launched "**Vande Bharatam**", a nationwide initiative to discover and nurture grassroots innovators, problem-solvers and entrepreneurs — covers all **36 states/UTs and over 800 districts**, with no age or background barriers.
- **HR Nagendra**, PM Modi's yoga guru, led a Yoga Day session at **Times Square** (see Miscellaneous — Important Days for full Yoga Day details).

Obituaries

- **Gavari Devi**: Renowned Rajasthani folk singer passed away at **98**; celebrated for popularizing **Maand music** and the iconic song "**Kesaria Balam**."
- **Lt. General Vijay Oberoi**: Former **Vice Chief of Army Staff**, who lost his right leg during the 1965 India-Pakistan war, passed away at **84**.
- **Princess Vajrakitiyabha Mahidol**: Thailand royalty passed away.
- **Robert A.F. Thurman**: Esteemed American Buddhist scholar, author on Tibetan Buddhism and friend of the Dalai Lama, passed away at **84** in Woodstock/New York; awarded the **Padma Shri by India in 2020** (Literature and Education); best known for publishing "**The Tibetan Book of the Dead**" (1994).
- **Alan Greenspan**: Former **Chairman of the US Federal Reserve** and highly influential central banker, passed away.
- **James Burrows**: Iconic American sitcom director who won **11 Emmys** and directed over 1,000 episodes, passed away at **85**.
- **François Englert**: Renowned physicist and **2013 Nobel Laureate (Physics)** for discovering the **Higgs boson** ("**God particle**"), passed away.
- **Bob Blair**: Former New Zealand fast bowler died at **94**.
- **K. Bhagyaraj**: Veteran Tamil actor, director, writer and filmmaker passed away at **73**.

Anniversaries

- **Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi** — death anniversary remembered on **June 18**; she died near **Gwalior in 1858** while fighting British forces led by **Hugh Rose**, opposing the **Doctrine of Lapse** during the **1857 Revolt**.

14. Ranks & Reports

Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026 (20th Edition)

- **Publisher**: Released by the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**.
- **Global Rankings**:
 - **Iceland** ranked **No. 1** for the **19th consecutive year**, retaining its status as the most peaceful country.
 - **Bhutan** ranked **16th** globally and stands as the most peaceful country in South Asia.
 - **Russia** was ranked as the least peaceful country (**163rd**) for the first time.
- **India's Rank**: India ranked **127th** out of 163 countries, dropping from the **115th** position in 2025.
- **Global Key Finding**: Global military expenditure reached a staggering **\$2.7 trillion**.

QS World University Rankings 2027

- **Global Top 5**:
 1. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** – United States of America (USA) took the top spot globally with a perfect score of **100** for the **15th consecutive year**.
 2. **Imperial College London** and **Stanford University** (tied for **No. 2**).
 3. **University of Oxford** (**No. 4**).
 4. **Harvard University** (**No. 5**).
- **Indian Performance**:
 - **52 Indian universities** were featured on the list, representing a substantial increase from just 14 in 2017.
 - **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)** emerged as the top-ranked university in India for the second consecutive year, ranking **118th** globally with a score of **65.7** (up from 123rd).
 - Other prominent Indian institutions ranked globally include:
 - **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)** at **134th**.

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** (IIT Madras) at **170th**.
- **Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur** (IIT Kharagpur) at **205th**.
- **Indian Institute of Science** (IISc) Bengaluru at **221st**.
- **Delhi University** (DU) was the highest-ranked non-IIT Indian institution at **322nd**.

QS World Future Skills Index 2027

- **Global Rankings:** The **United States of America** (USA) ranked **1st** globally, followed by **Australia** (2nd), the **United Kingdom** (UK) (3rd), **Germany** (4th), and **Canada** (5th).
- **India's Rank:** India secured the **13th** rank among 89 economies, achieving a score of **89.4 out of 100**.
- **Key Driver:** India's high placement is attributed to its massive **5.8 million Information Technology (IT)** workforce and significant investments in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.

World Economic Forum (WEF) Energy Transition Index 2026

- **Global Top 5:** **Sweden** secured the **1st** position, followed by **Finland** (2nd), **Denmark** (3rd), **Estonia** (4th), and **Norway** (5th). (Note: Another section notes Sweden, Finland, and Denmark retained the top three global positions).
- **India's Rank:** India ranked **70th** globally, showing an improvement from its **72nd** position in previous evaluations.

World Economic Forum (WEF) Travel & Tourism Index

- **Tourism Economy Generation:** India ranked **8th** globally in terms of generating a tourism economy, contributing **\$231 billion**.
- **General Tourism Metrics:** India ranked **39th** in general tourism metrics per the biennial report of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- **General Tourism Statistics:**
 - Between 2014 and 2025, India recorded **181.25 million** international arrivals and **93.35 million** foreign tourist arrivals.
 - In 2024, India ranked **20th** globally with **20.6 million** international arrivals.
 - India earns **\$31.6 billion** directly from the tourism sector.

- The **World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)** projects India to become the **4th largest** tourism economy in the next decade.

Global Unicorn Index & Rankings

- **India's Rank:** India dropped to the **4th** position globally, trailing behind the **United States of America (USA)**, **China**, and the **United Kingdom (UK)**.
- **Metrics:** India possesses **61 unicorns** out of a global total of **1,603** worldwide.
- **Unicorn Spotlights:** Bengaluru-based Artificial Intelligence (AI) startup "**Sarvam AI**" achieved unicorn status, becoming India's **130th unicorn** overall and the country's **first dedicated AI startup** to reach this milestone.

FAO's State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) Report 2026

- **Publisher:** Released by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** under the theme "**Blue Transformation**".
- **Aquatic Animal Production:**
 - India is the world's **2nd largest** producer of aquatic animals (after China) with a **9% global share**.
 - India ranks **1st** globally in inland capture fisheries (with **2.2 million tons** of inland water catches, ahead of Bangladesh's **1.4 million tons**).
 - India ranks **2nd** in overall aquaculture production (behind China).
 - India ranks **3rd** globally in fisheries capture.

UNCTAD Global Ship Recycling Report

- **Publisher:** Released by the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**.
- **India's Status:** India was declared the world's **top ship recycling nation**, capturing a **35.4% share** in global ship recycling.
- **Milestone:** India achieved its **Maritime India Vision 2030** target **five years early** in 2025.

Global Startup Ecosystem Report

- **Global Top Spot:** **Silicon Valley (USA)** ranked **1st** globally.
- **Indian Cities:** **Bengaluru** ranked **15th** and **Delhi** ranked **31st** globally.

Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Ranking 2026

- **Global Top Spot:** **University of Manchester (UK)** secured **1st** globally.
- **Indian Performance:**

- **Lovely Professional University** (LPU) in Punjab secured **1st** in India and ranked **23rd** globally.
- **Manipal Academy of Higher Education** (MAHE) ranked **1st** in India specifically for **Sustainable Development Goal 5** (SDG 5: Gender Equality).

67th Top 500 Supercomputer Rankings

- **Publisher:** Released from Hamburg, Germany.
- **Global Top Spot:** China's 'Line Shine' claimed the title of the world's most powerful supercomputer, overtaking the USA's 'El Capitan', operating at a processing speed of **2.198 Exaflops**.
- **Indian Performance:**
 - **Line Shine** operates nearly **26 times faster** than India's top supercomputer, 'Shakti Cloud' (which is ranked **32nd** globally).
 - India's supercomputer 'Airawat' is currently ranked **211th** globally.

Hurun India 500 Report 2025

- **Top Listed Company:** **Reliance Industries Limited** remained India's most valuable listed company for the **5th consecutive time**.
- **Top Unlisted Company:** **National Stock Exchange** (NSE) emerged as India's most valuable unlisted firm with a valuation of **₹4.86 lakh crore**, beating **Serum Institute of India** and **Adani Properties**.
- **Value Creators:** **Bajaj Finance** was the highest value creator in percentage terms, while **Groww** recorded a massive **430%** valuation growth.

World Bank & S&P Global Container Port Performance Index 2025

- **Top Global Port:** **Fuzhou** (China) took the top global spot, with China holding **4 of the top 5 positions**.
- **India's Top Port:** **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority** (JNPA) in Maharashtra ranked **22nd** globally as a highly improved port. *(Note: Another section mentions Paradip Port in Odisha handles the most cargo shipping, while JNPT in Maharashtra is the busiest).*

WIPO Global Patent Ranking

- **Publisher:** Released by the **World Intellectual Property Organization** (WIPO).
- **Global Patent Filing:** China ranks **1st** globally with **73,718** applications filed annually, while India ranks **6th** globally with **64,480** patent applications filed annually.

- **Indian Corporate Highlight: Jio Platforms** became the first Indian technology innovator to enter the **top 20** of the global patent rankings.

NITI Aayog Trade Watch Quarterly (8th Edition)

- **Bilateral Trade Metrics:** India's total merchandise and service trade expanded by **5.4% YoY** (Year-on-Year) to **\$1.84 trillion** in **Financial Year (FY) 2025-26**.
- **Service Sector Growth:** India remains the **8th largest** service exporter globally, registering a **10.3% Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)** over the decade.

Adobe's 2026 AI & Digital Trends Report

- **Agentic AI Market:** India emerged as the biggest **Asia-Pacific (APAC)** market for "Agentic AI".

Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) 2026 University Rankings

- **Publisher:** Released by the **IIRF Centre for Institutional Research (ICIR)**.
- **Top Government University:** **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)**, New Delhi.
- **Top Management Institute:** **Indian Institute of Management (IIM)** Ahmedabad.
- **Top Engineering Institute:** **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)** Bombay.
- **Top Science Institute:** **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** Bengaluru.

NSO Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) May 2026

- **Publisher:** **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- **Unemployment Rates:** India's overall unemployment rate rose to **5.5%** in May 2026 (up from 5.2% in April).
 - **Urban Unemployment:** **6.4%**.
 - **Rural Unemployment:** **5.1%**.
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** (for individuals aged 15 and above): **54.4%**.
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** **51.4%**.

RBI Consumer Confidence Survey (May 2026)

- **Urban Consumer Confidence Index (CSI):** Dropped to **90.7** in May 2026 from **95.7** in March.
- **Rural Consumer Confidence Index (CSI):** Dropped to **95.2** in May 2026 from **98.0** in March.

Other Key National Rankings & Indicators

- **Doing Business Report:** India's rank in the World Bank's Doing Business Report showed long-term improvement from **142nd** in 2014 to **63rd** in 2019.

- **IMD Competitiveness Ranking:** Reached **41** in 2025, showing a decline from **37** in 2022.
- **Human Development Index (HDI):** India is ranked **130th**.
- **Global Hunger Index (GHI):** India is ranked **102nd**.
- **Global Gender Gap Index:** India is ranked **131st**.

15. Schemes and Initiatives

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) Completes 10 Years

- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** completed its **10-year anniversary**.
- Originally launched in **June 2016** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**, the scheme focuses on strengthening maternal healthcare, improving the tracking of high-risk pregnancies, and providing **free antenatal care on the 9th of every month** to pregnant women.
- To commemorate this milestone, the Central Government released a **₹75 commemorative coin** and a **₹5 postage stamp**.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme

- The **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** scheme, originally launched on **January 22, 2015**, by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** from **Panipat, Haryana**, continues to serve its core objectives.
- The initiative aims to halt the decline of the child sex ratio and actively promote girl child education across India.
- It is operated as a joint initiative by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)**, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**, and the **Ministry of Education (MoE)**.

Mission Shakti – Umbrella Scheme for Women Empowerment

- **Mission Shakti** is implemented as an integrated umbrella scheme focused on women's safety, security, and overall empowerment, running from the fiscal years **2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- The scheme includes crucial institutional safety and grievance redressal mechanisms such as **One Stop Centres (OSCs)**, the **Women Helpline (181)**, and **'Nari Adalat'** (local women's courts) designed to resolve grassroots-level women's disputes.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0 Integration

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** was integrated with the **Skill India Digital Hub**.
- PMKVY was originally launched on **July 15, 2015**, under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** to provide short-term, completely free, industry-relevant technical and skill training to Indian youth.

Regional Connectivity Scheme – UDAN Extended for 10 Years

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the modification and extension of the **Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (RCS-UDAN)** for an additional **10 years**, extending from **FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36**.
- Backed by a substantial budgetary allocation of **₹28,840 crore**, the scheme aims to develop **100 airports** and continue driving affordable air travel across regional routes.

PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) – 23rd Installment Disbursed

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** released the **23rd installment** of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** scheme.
- The launch took place at **Tarakeswar** in the **Hooghly district of West Bengal** (also synchronized with Kolkata to mark West Bengal's Foundation Day on June 20th).
- Under this installment, the government transferred **₹18,880 crore** via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) directly into the accounts of **9.44 crore eligible farmers**, with each beneficiary receiving **₹2,000**.

PM-RAHAT Scheme – Cashless Treatment for Road Accident Victims

- The **Pradhan Mantri Road Accident Humanitarian Aid & Treatment (PM-RAHAT)** scheme (originally launched on May 5, 2025, and implemented from **June 4, 2025**) operates under the regulatory provisions of **Section 162 of the Motor Vehicles Act**.
- The scheme provides cashless medical treatment of up to **₹1.5 lakh per road accident victim** for a maximum of **7 days**.
- This covers critical stabilization treatment: up to **24 hours** for non-life-threatening injuries, and up to **48 hours** for life-threatening emergency cases.

DISHA 2.0 (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) Approved

- The **Ministry of Law and Justice** approved the **DISHA 2.0** central sector scheme for a **five-year term** running from **April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031**.
- Funded via **100% Gross Budgetary Support** with a total outlay of **₹255 crore**, the scheme is designed to provide equitable access to justice for **3 crore beneficiaries**, upholding the constitutional mandate of **Article 39A** (free legal aid).
- **Key Components of DISHA 2.0:**
 - **Tele-Law:** Providing free pre-litigation legal advice to citizens through rural **Common Service Centres (CSCs)**.
 - **Nyaya Bandhu:** Encouraging pro bono (free) legal assistance from registered advocates and law students.
 - **Legal Literacy and Awareness Programme:** Executing nationwide campaigns on educational and legal rights.
 - **Vidhi Sanjeevani:** A centralized digital platform that introduces "**Nyaya Setu**", an AI-powered multilingual chatbot built utilizing **Bhashini** translation technology.

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (PM-JUGA)

- Formerly operated as the **Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA)**, this massive umbrella scheme has been renamed **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan**.
- The scheme is dedicated to comprehensive **tribal welfare** across India.
- The revised title "**Dharti Aaba**" (meaning *Father of the Earth*) is selected to honor the legacy of iconic tribal leader and anti-colonial revolutionary **Birsa Munda**.

PM Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana Disbursals

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** disbursed **₹2,400 crore** under the **PM Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana**.
- The scheme was originally launched in **August 2025** by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.

Restructured Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- The government launched the restructured **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**, expanding crop insurance coverage to **50 lakh farmers** with a total insured valuation of **₹28,140 crore**.

Digital Agriculture Mission – Agri Stack

- As part of the national **Digital Agriculture Mission**, the government launched **Agri Stack** in the state of **West Bengal** to digitize crop records and land profiles.

Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK) Launched

- **Union Health Minister JP Nadda** launched the **Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)**.
- Operating under the slogan "**Pehle 3 saal, sampoon dekhbhaal**", the scheme provides comprehensive healthcare coverage for all infants and children up to **3 years of age** (36 months).
- The guidelines mandate up to **9 home visits in 42 days** by health workers for at-risk newborns, and up to **8 home visits until 36 months** for at-risk children to track developmental goals.

National Green Hydrogen Mission Outlay and SIGHT Scheme

- The total financial outlay for the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** stands at **₹19,744 crore**.
- The primary national goal is to build a production capacity of at least **5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)** of green hydrogen per annum by **2030**.
- The **Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT)** scheme constitutes the largest sub-component of this mission, receiving a massive funding allocation of **₹17,490 crore**.

National Tourism Infrastructure Schemes (Viksit Bharat 2047)

- **Swadesh Darshan Scheme (2014):** Launched to develop theme-based tourism circuits. A total of **76 projects** were sanctioned with a funding of **₹5,000 crore**, of which **75 projects** are fully completed.
- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (2022):** Upgraded to focus on experience-based, sustainable, and community-led tourism.
- **PRASAD Scheme: The Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)** scheme is designed to enhance spiritual tourism, with **54 projects** sanctioned worth **₹1,700 crore**.
- **Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (2024–25):** Sanctioned **40 projects** across **23 states** with a capital of **₹3,295.76 crore** to elevate key tourist destinations, with a special focus on the Northeast region.

Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana (PM JI-VAN)

- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** utilized financial frameworks under the **PM JI-VAN Yojana** to approve a **₹150 crore** assistance grant.
- The funding will establish India's first private-sector hybrid **Second-Generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery** at **Wave Sugar** in **Dhanaura (Dura), Uttar Pradesh**.

Bhashini Rajyam Initiative

- The **Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)** partnered with the **Assam Innovation and Startup Foundation (AISF)** to launch the "**Bhashini Rajyam**" initiative.
- The initiative focuses on promoting language technologies and generative AI governance in regional languages, starting with Assamese translation systems.

Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India (GHCI)

- **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi** launched the **Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India (GHCI)**.
- This digital platform provides green hydrogen certifications and tax incentive support to manufacturers adopting green fuel.
- The portal is scheduled to become fully operational on **July 1, 2026**, following a standard security audit.

"Namo Cities" Greenfield Development Initiative

- The **National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)**, chaired by **Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar**, approved the development of **four greenfield smart cities** under the "**Namo Cities**" initiative.
- The new cities will be developed across four regions: **Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan**.

NAFED Kalyan & nafex.in Portals Launched

- **Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah** launched four digital portals under the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)**:
 - **nafex.in**: A transparent digital platform for live crop auctions.
 - **NAFED Kalyan**: A dedicated digital scholarship portal for the children of registered farmers.
 - **Drishti**: A specialized inventory management portal for pulses and oilseeds.
 - **Saksham ERP**: An enterprise resource planning tool for internal NAFED administration.

Project GIB (Great Indian Bustard)

- Under the conservation initiative "**Project GIB**", artificial and captive breeding efforts in the states of **Rajasthan** and **Gujarat** successfully increased the wild population of this critically endangered bird to **94**.
- The **Great Indian Bustard** is the official state bird of **Rajasthan**.

Project Crocodile

- India's historical **Project Crocodile**, originally launched in **1975** to conserve and breed endangered crocodilian species, was highlighted as a major ecological success.

16. Science and Technology

India Commissions World's First Nuclear Process Heat-Based Hydrogen Facility

- The **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** commissioned the world's first nuclear process heat-based hydrogen production facility.
- The facility is located at the **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)** at the **Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR)** in **Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**, which is regulated by the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** and **IGCAR**.
- It utilizes a **copper-chlorine (Cu-Cl) thermochemical water splitting cycle** to produce hydrogen.

IIT Madras Launches 'ANKUR' – World's Most Detailed 3D Human Brain Atlas

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** launched "**ANKUR**", the world's most detailed **3D Human Brain Atlas**, at the **BRICS Neuroscience Symposium**.
- The atlas is developed to help medical researchers find cures for complex neurological conditions such as **Alzheimer's** and **Dementia**.

India's First Drone-Based Mail and Parcel Delivery Service Launched in Himachal Pradesh

- **Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia** announced the launch of India's first drone-based mail and parcel transmission service for the **Department of Posts** in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- The transmission service operates between the **Mandi Head Post Office** and the **Rehardhar** (also referred to as **Rihundar, Rihardhar, or Rehatdhar) Branch Post Office**, commencing operations on **June 12, 2026**.

Avtar.ai Launches 'Varya' Video Story-Generating AI Model

- Supported by the **India AI Mission**, tech startup **Avtar.ai** launched 'Varya', India's first indigenous video story-generating **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** model.
- The AI model is designed to distill complex ideas into simple, high-quality videos.

ICAR Launches WhatsApp AI Chatbot 'Oil Seed Kisan Mitra'

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** launched 'Oil Seed Kisan Mitra', a WhatsApp-based multilingual AI chatbot.
- It was developed by the **Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (IIOR)** in **Hyderabad** and is available in multiple regional languages to assist farmers with cultivation queries.

MoHFW Launches C-DAC Developed 'e-Sushrut @ Clinic' HMIS

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** launched "e-Sushrut @ Clinic", a lightweight **Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)**.
- The system was designed and developed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**.

Anthropic Releases "Fable Five" Advanced AI Model

- Anthropic** released "Fable Five" from its **Claude** family, which represents its most advanced general-public AI model.
- The model's access remains restricted in sensitive areas.

Novartis Introduces "Pluvicto" Radioligand Therapy in India

- India introduced **Pluvicto**, an advanced "guided missile approach" radioligand therapy developed by Switzerland-based **Novartis** to target cancer cells.

VOC Port Deploys "PortGPT" Generative AI Application

- The **V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority** in **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**, became India's first major port to deploy enterprise-grade **Generative AI**.
- The port implemented the custom-built "PortGPT" application to optimize port logistics and operations.

India's First Plant Cell Fermentation Centre of Excellence Launched

- Herbalife International India Private Limited** (Herbalife India) and the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** partnered to launch India's first

Centre of Excellence (CoE) on **plant cell fermentation technology**.

- The facility is located at the **IIT Madras Research Park** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.

Government Mandates QR Codes on Medicines to Prevent Counterfeiting

- To combat counterfeit drugs, the government mandated the inclusion of **Quick Response (QR)** codes—containing product IDs, manufacturer details, and expiration dates—on medicine packaging.
- The rule becomes mandatory from **July 1, 2027**, on **vaccines, anti-cancer medicines, and narcotics**.
- It will also be mandatory on **antimicrobials** starting **July 1, 2028**.

Construction of India's First 3D-Printed Artificial Reef Module

- India's first **3D-printed artificial reef module** was successfully constructed in **Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu**.
- The module is designed to improve and restore local **marine biodiversity**.

Biodiversity Discoveries & Virus Detections

- New Lynx Spider Species Discovered:** Scientists discovered a new species of lynx spider, named *Hamataliwa mawlyngot*, in **Meghalaya**.
- Two New Moth Species Discovered:** The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** discovered two new species of moths—*Antaram Idukki* and *Mimeusemia kali*—in the **Western Ghats of Kerala**.
- Usutu Virus Detected in Scotland:** The **Usutu virus (USUV)**, a mosquito-borne, single-stranded RNA virus of the *Flavivirus* genus, was detected in **Scotland** for the first time. It causes high mortality in wild birds but has not affected humans.

17. Sports

Cricket

Vaibhav Suryavanshi's Record-Breaking Debut and Fastest Fifty

- Vaibhav Suryavanshi** became the **youngest player** to debut for the Indian cricket team at **15 years and 71 days**, breaking **Sachin Tendulkar's** long-standing record.
- He won the **Orange Cap** and the **Most Valuable Player (MVP)** award in his debut tournament.

- During the **Tri-Nation Series** final, the 15-year-old scored the **fastest List A half-century** in just **11 balls** against **Sri Lanka**.

Harmanpreet Kaur Plays Historic 200th T20I

- **Harmanpreet Kaur** became the **first cricketer globally** (male or female) to play **200 Twenty20 International (T20I)** matches, achieving the milestone against **South Africa in Manchester**.
- In men's cricket, **Paul Stirling** leads with **163 matches**, followed by **Rohit Sharma** with **159 matches**.

Deepti Sharma Ties All-Time Wicket-Taker Record

- Indian cricketer **Deepti Sharma** tied the record for the **highest wicket-taker** in women's international cricket history with **355 wickets**.
- She shares the top spot exclusively with Indian legend **Jhulan Goswami (355 wickets)**, while England's **Katherine Sciver-Brunt** ranks third with **335 wickets**.

Akshara Gupta's Historic Under-19 Innings

- Bihar cricketer **Akshara Gupta** made history in the **Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) Women's Under-19 One Day Trophy** by hitting an unbeaten **360 runs**.
- She struck **55 boundaries** and **8 sixes** in just **126 balls**.

Fatima Sana Sets Captaincy World Cup Record

- Pakistan's **Fatima Sana** became the first captain to score **50 or more runs** and take at least **three wickets** in the same **Women's T20 World Cup** match, achieving this against **South Africa in Birmingham**.

International Cricket Retirements

- **Kane Williamson**: The New Zealand captain retired from international cricket after a **16-year career** (playing **110 tests**, scoring **955 runs** with a **54.1 average**, and leading New Zealand to the 2019 and 2021 World Cup finals).
- **Ben Stokes**: England's Test Captain announced his retirement, playing his final match against **New Zealand at Trent Bridge**.

Football

FIFA World Cup Host Nations and Tournament Records

- **2026 Edition**: Co-hosted by the **United States (US)**, **Canada**, and **Mexico** (featuring **48 teams** and **104 matches**).
 - In the opening game, **Mexico** defeated **South Africa 2-0**.

- Mexico's **Estadio Azteca** became the first stadium to host **three World Cups (1970, 1986, 2026)**.

- **2030 Edition**: Scheduled to be co-hosted by **Morocco, Spain, and Portugal**.

- **2034 Edition**: Scheduled to be hosted by **Saudi Arabia**.

Lionel Messi Sets All-Time World Cup Goal Record

- Argentinian star **Lionel Messi** became the **all-time leading scorer** in FIFA World Cup history, netting his **18th goal** in a match against **Austria in Texas, USA**.
- He surpassed Germany's **Miroslav Klose** and Brazil's **Marta** for the absolute World Cup goal record.
- At **38 years old**, he became the **oldest player** to score a World Cup hat-trick, achieving it against **Algeria**.
- **Argentina** unveiled a **26-meter statue** in his honor.

Cristiano Ronaldo Scores in Six World Cups

- Portugal's **Cristiano Ronaldo** became the first player to play and score in **six World Cups (2006–2026)**, scoring against **Uzbekistan**.
- At **41 years and 138 days**, he is the **second-oldest scorer** in tournament history and surpassed **Eusebio** as Portugal's all-time leading World Cup goalscorer.

Sarpreet Singh's Historic World Cup Start

- **Sarpreet Singh** became the first footballer of Indian origin to start a FIFA World Cup match, playing **92 minutes** wearing the **#10 jersey** for **New Zealand** against **Iran** on **June 15, 2026, in California**.

All Nepal Football Association Suspended

- The International Association Football Federation (**FIFA**) suspended the **All Nepal Football Association (ANFA)** with immediate effect over violations concerning third-party interference.

Archery & Shooting

Bommadevara Dhiraj Wins Double Gold

- Indian archer **Bommadevara Dhiraj** won **two Gold medals** at the **Archery World Cup Stage 3** in **Turkey**.
- He won the **Men's Recurve Individual** title and the **Recurve Mixed Team** event (partnering with **Kumkum Mohat**), defeating **South Korea** in both finals.

Hyderabad to Host Archery Premier League

- **Hyderabad, Telangana**, will host the **second edition** of the **Archery Premier League** from **October 8 to 18**.

India Tops ISSF Junior World Championship in Germany

- India topped the medal tally at the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship** in Suhl, Germany.
- India won a total of **25 medals (7 Gold, 8 Silver, and 10 Bronze)**.
 - **Individual Golds:** Pritam Kendre (10m Air Rifle), Sameer (25m Rapid Fire Pistol), and Rohit Kanyan (50m 3 Positions).
 - **Silvers:** Shiva Narwal (10m Air Pistol) and the **10m Air Pistol Team**.

Tennis & Squash

Shrishti Kiran Reaches World No. 1

- 13-year-old **Shrishti Kiran** of Bengaluru, Karnataka, became the **World No. 1** in the Under-13 category of the **International Tennis Federation (ITF) Junior World Ranking** after winning **5 ITF titles**.

Mera Andrea Wins French Open

- **Mera Andrea** won her first Grand Slam title at the **French Open**.

Marketa Vondrousova Suspended for Doping Violation

- Former Wimbledon women's champion **Marketa Vondrousova** of the **Czech Republic** received a **4-year suspension** from the **International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA)** for refusing an anti-doping test.

Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar Win Squash Title

- The Indian duo of **Abhay Singh** and **Velavan Senthilkumar** won the **Men's Doubles** title at the **3rd Asian Doubles Squash Championship 2026** in Sarawak, Malaysia.

Hockey

Indian Women's Hockey Team Wins FIH Nations Cup

- The **Indian Women's Hockey Team** won the **International Hockey Federation (FIH) Women's Nations Cup** in Auckland, New Zealand, by defeating the hosts **2-0**.
- This victory marks India's **second title** (first won in 2022) and secures their promotion to the **FIH Women's Pro League**.
 - **Individual Honors:** Deepika (India) was the tournament's top scorer, Lalsai (India) was named player of the match, and Ashley Sessa (USA) was awarded player of the tournament.

Other Hockey Updates

- **7th Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament:** Hosted in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Other Sports

Neeraj Chopra Finishes 4th at Doha Diamond League

- At the **Doha Diamond League** (held at **Suheim bin Hamad Stadium, Qatar**), India's Olympic champion **Neeraj Chopra** finished in **4th place** with an **85.69m** throw, successfully clearing the **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** qualifying mark.
- **Ramesh Tharanga** of Sri Lanka won the Gold (**88.68m**), followed by **Anderson Peters** (2nd) and **Curtis Thompson** (3rd).

India Wins Gold in 2nd Asian Relay Championships

- Hosted in **Shangyu, China**, India won **Gold** in the **Women's 4x100m relay** with a time of **43.85 seconds**.
- The winning relay team consisted of **Srabani Nanda, Sneha, Sudeshna Shivankar, and Tamanna**.
- India won a total of **3 medals** at the championships.

Historic Gold at the World Rowing Cup

- India won its **historic first-ever Gold medal** at the **World Rowing Cup** in Lucerne, Switzerland.
- The Indian Army duo of **Lakshya** and **Ujjwal Kumar Singh** won the **lightweight men's double sculls** event, defeating teams from Hong Kong and the Netherlands.

India Dominates First World Yogasana Championship

- India hosted the **first-ever World Yogasana Championship** and dominated the competition, winning **114 medals** (including **102 Gold**).

George Russell Wins Austrian Grand Prix

- British Mercedes driver **George Russell** won the **2026 Austrian Grand Prix**.

Kurtis Marschall Defeats Armand Duplantis

- Australia's **Kurtis Marschall** defeated world record holder **Armand "Mondo" Duplantis** in pole vault (**5.90 m vs. 5.80 m**) at the **Wanda Diamond League Bauhaus-Galan** in Stockholm, Sweden.

Chess Grandmasters (GM) Milestones

- 14-year-old **Ethan Vaz** of Goa became India's **96th Chess Grandmaster** after securing his final norm in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. He is the third GM from Goa,

following **Anurag Mhamal** and **Leon Mendonca**.

- **Harshavardhan GB** became India's **97th Chess Grandmaster**.
- **Rashali** won the **WR Chess Women's Rapid Tournament**.

SAFF Women's Championship

- India won the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship** for the **sixth time**.

Upcoming Major Sporting Events

- **2026 Winter Paralympics**: Scheduled to be held in **Milan, Italy**.
- **Commonwealth Games**: Scheduled to be hosted in **Glasgow, Scotland**.

18. Static News

Constitution & Indian Polity

- **Father of the Indian Constitution: B.R. Ambedkar** is recognized as the Father of the Indian Constitution, which was formally adopted on **January 26, 1950**.
- **Union of States**: India is constitutionally defined as a "**Union of States**", and its federal structure divides legislative and administrative power between the **Union (Central) Government** and the **State Governments**.
- **Fundamental Rights**: Guaranteed to all citizens and are enshrined in **Articles 12 to 35** (Part III) of the Constitution of India.
- **Distribution of Legislative Subjects**:
 - **Defense** is classified under the **Union List** (exclusive central jurisdiction).
 - **Education** is classified under the **Concurrent List** (joint jurisdiction of both Center and States).
 - **Police** is classified under the **State List** (exclusive state jurisdiction).
 - The **Information Technology (IT) Sector** falls under **Residuary Powers** (vested in the Union Government).
- **State Tribal Welfare Minister Mandate**: Under the **94th Amendment Act (2006)**, certain states (such as **Bihar**) are constitutionally mandated to appoint a dedicated **State Tribal Welfare Minister**.
- **National Commission for Women (NCW)**: Functions as a **Statutory Body** (established via an Act of Parliament rather than being directly defined in the Constitution).

- **Union Budget**: Released and presented annually by the **Ministry of Finance**.

State in Focus: Assam

- **Basic Epithetes**: Known widely as the "**Land of Rivers and Red Hills**".
- **Formation & Borders**: Formally formed on **January 26, 1950**, Assam serves as the gateway to Northeast India. It shares its land borders with **six Indian states**, as well as the neighboring nations of **Bhutan** and **Bangladesh**.
- **Capital & Key Cities**: The state capital is **Dispur**. Its largest city, **Guwahati**, is situated along the banks of the **Brahmaputra River**.
- **Legislative Representation**: Assam holds **126 Assembly seats**, **14 Lok Sabha seats**, and **7 Rajya Sabha seats**.
- **Executive Leadership**: The **Chief Minister** is **Himanta Biswa Sarma**, and the **Governor** is **Lakshman Prasad Acharya**.
- **Administrative Divisions**: Comprises **35 districts**, which includes **Majuli** (the world's largest river island).
- **Major Rivers**: The primary river systems flowing through the state are the **Brahmaputra**, **Barak**, and **Manas**.
- **National Parks**: Assam houses **7 National Parks**, including:
 - **Kaziranga National Park** (which was inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **1985**).
 - **Manas National Park**.
 - **Nameri National Park**.
 - **Orang National Park**.
 - **Raimona National Park**.
- **State Symbols**:
 - **State Animal**: **One-Horned Rhinoceros**.
 - **State Bird**: **White-winged Wood Duck**.
 - **State Tree**: **Hollong**.
 - **State Flower**: **Foxtail Orchid**.
- **Culture & Language**: The official languages are **Assamese** and **Bodo**. Its major festival is **Bihu** (celebrated three times a year), and its recognized classical dance is **Sattriya**.
- **Pre-existing GI Tags**: Prominent pre-existing **Geographical Indication (GI)** tags from Assam include **Tezpur Litchi** and **Muga Silk**.

Geographical Indications (GI) Framework

- **International Regulation:** Globally, GI tags are governed by the **Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)** under the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.
- **Validity:** A GI tag is valid for a period of **10 years** before requiring renewal.
- **National Implementation:** In India, GI tags are issued by the **Geographical Indication Registry in Chennai**, governed by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**, and facilitated by **NABARD**.
- **First Indian GI Tag:** The first product to receive a GI tag in India was **Darjeeling Tea** during the financial year **2004–05**.

Tarawa, and it utilizes the **Australian Dollar (AUD)** as its official currency.

- **Albania:** Located in Southeastern Europe, Albania's capital is **Tirana**, its currency is the **Lek**, and it officially joined **NATO** in **2009**.

General Geography, History & Currencies

- **Arunachal Pradesh:** The capital city of the state is **Itanagar**.
- **Longest River in India:** The **Ganga River** is the longest river flowing entirely within India, measuring **2,525 km**.
- **Land of Five Rivers:** **Punjab** is historically referred to as the land of five rivers (the **Panchnad**).
- **Silicon Valley of India:** **Bengaluru** (Karnataka) is recognized as India's premier technology and startup hub, often dubbed the Silicon Valley of India.
- **Dandi March:** The historic **Salt March** was led by **Mahatma Gandhi** starting on **March 12, 1930**.
- **Currency of Japan:** Japan's official national currency is the **Yen**.

Global Institutions & Cultural Capitals

- **World Book Capital:** **Rabat** (Morocco) is designated as the **World Book Capital for 2026**. The very first World Book Capital was **Madrid** (Spain) in **2001**.
- **UNESCO:** The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** was established in **1945** and is headquartered in **Paris, France**.
- **World Economic Forum (WEF):** Founded in **1971**, the WEF is headquartered in **Cologny, Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF):** Established in **1989**, the FATF is a **40-member** global watchdog headquartered in **Paris, France**, focusing on money laundering and terror financing. India became an observer in **2006**, a full member in **2010**, and was placed in the regular follow-up category in **2024**.
- **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA):** Established in **1976**, the NIUA celebrated its **Golden Jubilee (50 years)** of operations under the theme "**Resilient Urban India 2047**".
- **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC):** Established in **1963**, the VSSC is headquartered in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
- **National Cadet Corps (NCC):** Established in **1948**, the NCC is the world's largest uniformed youth organization.

Global Nations & Capital/Currency Profiles

- **Slovakia:** Slovakia is a landlocked Central European nation that borders **Poland** and **Ukraine**. It has been a member of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** since **2004** and uses the **Euro** as its official currency.
- **Colombia:** Located on the **Andes Mountains** in South America, Colombia's capital is **Bogotá** and its currency is the **Peso**.
- **Ethiopia:** Situated in the **Horn of Africa**, Ethiopia's capital is **Addis Ababa** and its currency is the **Birr**. Its highest geographical peak is **Ras Dashen**.
- **Venezuela:** Located in South America, Venezuela's capital is **Caracas** and its currency is the **Bolivar**.
- **Kiribati:** An island nation in the Central Pacific, Kiribati's capital is **South Tarawa** /