

1 to 15 MAY 2026 NBCC CA-200 IMP – For Revision

SECTION 1: BANKING & FINANCE

1. RBI Launches Mission SAKSHAM for Urban Cooperative Banks

- Full form: Sahakari Bank Kshamata Nirman — strengthens Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)
- Provides hybrid (physical + digital) training in regional languages
- Covers Management, compliance, digital education, risk management & cybersecurity

2. RBI Introduces 'Unregistered Type 1 NBFC' Category

- Asset size under Rs.1,000 crore, no public funds raised, no customer interface
- Exempt from registration until July 1, 2026; can deregister via PRAVAAH portal by Dec 31, 2026
- RBI also allowed suo-moto loan resolutions for natural calamity victims

3. RBI's 46th Half-Yearly Report: Forex Reserves & Gold Holdings

- India's foreign currency reserves declined to \$691 billion (from \$700 billion, Oct 2025)
- RBI sold dollars to stabilize Indian Rupee (approx. Rs.95 to \$1)
- RBI's gold holdings: 880 metric tonnes — 680 stored in India, 197 at Bank of England

4. RBI Mandates 3-Day Grace Period for Credit Card Payments

- 3-day grace period after due date — no late fees charged during this period
- NPA (Non-Performing Asset) 90-day classification counted from original due date
- Important: Grace period does NOT reset NPA counting clock

5. RBI Tightens Unsecured Lending Rules for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)

- Effective October 1, 2026; Max unsecured loan portfolio: 20% of total advances
- Tier 1 UCBs: Max Rs.5 lakh | Tier 2: Rs.7.5 lakh | Tier 3 & 4: Rs.10 lakh
- Home loan tenure cap for UCBs: 20 years maximum

6. RBI Adds 104.23 Metric Tonnes of Gold to Domestic Reserves

- Total RBI gold: 880.52 metric tonnes; 77% now held domestically

- RBI simultaneously sold gold stored abroad to shift storage back to India

- Strategic move to reduce dependence on foreign storage (Bank of England)

7. RBI AI Tool MuleHunter.ai Deployed Across 26 Banks

- Developed by RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH) to detect illegal 'mule accounts'
- Finance Ministry directed all banks to adopt MuleHunter.ai
- Mule accounts are used for illegal money transfers in financial fraud

8. RBI Calamity Loan Resolution Framework — Effective July 2026

- Banks and NBFCs can offer relief (moratoriums, interest waivers) in disaster areas
- Based on State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) recommendations
- Timeline: Relief within 45 days; fully implemented within 135 days; 5% extra provision

9. Rohit Jain Appointed as RBI Deputy Governor

- 3-year term effective May 2, 2026; succeeds T. Rabi Sankar
- Current RBI Deputy Governors: Swaminathan J (senior), Poonam Gupta, S.C. Murmu, Rohit Jain
- RBI Governor: Sanjay Malhotra; Rohit Jain oversees Fintech, Forex & IT departments

10. RBI Subsidiaries — Key Facts for Exams

- DICGC: Insures deposits up to Rs.5 lakh per depositor per bank
- BRBNMPL: Operates printing presses at Mysuru & Salboni; ReBIT: Cybersecurity
- IFTAS: IT functions; RBIH (Reserve Bank Innovation Hub): Financial innovation

11. Federal Bank Acquires Standard Chartered's Retail Credit Card Portfolio

- Acquired 4,50,000 credit cards worth approximately Rs.1,500 crore
- Federal Bank: Private sector lender; Standard Chartered: UK-based foreign bank
- Largest credit card portfolio acquisition in Indian banking history

12. 100% FDI Allowed in Insurance Sector via Automatic Route

- Finance Ministry amended FEMA rules — FDI raised from 74% to 100%
- Exception: LIC (Life Insurance Corporation) foreign investment still capped at 20%
- Companies must have at least one resident Indian as Chairperson/MD/CEO

13. NARCL (Bad Bank) Recovery: Rs.6,345 Crore Cumulative; Rs.4,364 Crore in FY26

- NARCL (National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited) established in 2021
- Acquired 33 borrower entities with loans totaling Rs.1.65 lakh crore by March 2026
- On track to achieve Rs.2 lakh crore acquisition target

14. Bank Gold Loans Skyrocket 5-Fold — Rs.4.6 Lakh Crore by March 2026

- 123% YoY growth — fastest-growing loan sector in banking
- Banks cannot issue gold loans for purchasing gold (except jewelry manufacturers)
- Priority Sector Housing Loans grew to 39.8%; Consumer Durable Loans declined 5.3%

15. SEBI Operationalizes PRRVA/PARVAAH Framework to Combat Finfluencer Fraud

- Past Risk Return Verification Agency (PRRVA) went live on May 4, 2026
- CARE Ratings Limited: Designated agency/verifier; NSE: Data center
- Verifies performance of investment advisors, mutual funds & AMCs

16. NSE Launches Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) Segment

- EGRs are digital certificates representing physical gold in SEBI-accredited vaults
- Held in Demat accounts; No GST on digital EGR trading
- GST only levied when converting EGRs to physical gold; replaces discontinued SGBs

17. SEBI Introduces Fast-Track Approval for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)

- AIFs: Privately pooled funds with minimum investment of Rs.1 crore
- Waiting period reduced from 60-90 days to 30 days after PPM submission
- Covers investment in startups, real estate & non-traditional assets

18. SEBI Chairman Issues Cyber Security Advisory on 'Mythos' AI

- SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey warned about 'Mythos' AI model

- Mythos can detect and exploit software vulnerabilities in financial market systems
- Advisory for all market participants to strengthen cyber defenses

19. EPFO Launches 'e-Prapti / e-PRAAPT' Portal for Inoperative PF Accounts

- Full form: EPF Aadhaar Based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts
- Tracks and reactivates PF accounts inactive for 3 years; links multiple UANs
- Announced by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya; EPFO settled 8.31 crore claims in FY26

20. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Launches Zero-Balance SHG Savings Account

- Zero-balance Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) account for women Self-Help Groups
- Utilizes 1.64-1.65 lakh post office network; Maximum deposit limit: Rs.2 lakh
- Payment Banks cannot issue loans or credit cards — key static fact for exams

21. NPCI BharatBillPay + Juspay Partnership for Unified Banking Switch

- NBBL (NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited) partnered with Juspay Technologies
- Unified switch and SDK to simplify banking integrations
- Aims to streamline bill payment and banking infrastructure

22. Axis Bank Launches India's First Digital Locker-Focused Branch

- First-of-its-kind branch in New Delhi dedicated to digital locker services
- Axis Bank: Major private sector bank; HQ in Mumbai
- Subrat Mohanty reappointed as Axis Bank Executive Director for 2026-2029

23. RBI Merges Two Cooperative Banks in Kerala

- Mattancherry Mahajanik Cooperative Urban Bank merged with Peoples Urban Cooperative Bank
- Part of RBI's ongoing consolidation of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)
- RBI has authority to amalgamate cooperative banks under Banking Regulation Act

24. Biometric Authentication Replaces OTPs for Digital Card Payments

- Flipkart, PayU, Axis Bank & Wibmo partnered for this initiative
- Facial and fingerprint biometric replaces OTP for digital card payments

- Aims to reduce fraud and improve payment security

25. GSMA Report: Global Mobile Money Transactions Cross \$2 Trillion in 2025

- Registered accounts: 2.3 billion globally; doubled over four years
- Merchant payments: \$155 billion; Bank-to-Mobile transfers: \$167 billion
- GSMA: Global System for Mobile Communications Association

26. Public Sector Banks Plan 50,000+ Recruitments in Current Year

- Department of Financial Services (DFS) under Finance Ministry oversees 12 PSBs
- Sent 50,552 offer letters in 2025-26 via IBPS (Institute of Banking Personnel Selection)
- Plans over 50,000 recruitments in current year across all PSBs

27. National Bad Bank (NARCL) on Track for Rs.2 Lakh Crore Target

- NARCL: National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited — India's 'Bad Bank'
- Established 2021 to acquire stressed assets; 70% of cumulative recovery in FY26
- Total cumulative recovery: Rs.6,345 crore as of FY2025-26

28. UPI Transactions: 22.35 Billion Transactions Worth Rs.29.03 Lakh Crore in April 2026

- 25% Year-on-Year growth in UPI transactions
- All-time high record (March 2026): 22.64 billion transactions worth Rs.29.53 lakh crore
- UPI governed by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)

29. April 2026 Records All-Time High GST Collection of Rs.2.43 Lakh Crore

- 8.7% increase over April 2025's Rs.2.23 lakh crore collection
- GST implemented July 1, 2017; recommended by Vijay Kelkar Committee
- Top 5 contributing states: Maharashtra, UP, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu

30. Direct Tax Collection FY 2025-26: Net Collection Rs.23.40 Lakh Crore

- 5.12% growth over previous year; Gross collection: Rs.28.11 lakh crore (4.03% growth)
- CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) released FY26 data
- Record collection reflects improved compliance and economic growth

31. Viability Plan 2.0 for 28 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

- Department of Financial Services approved RRB Viability Plan 2.0 for 2025-28
- Banks assessed on 30 parameters across 4 pillars: Operational Excellence, Asset Quality, Profitability, Growth
- RRBs owned: Central Govt (50%), State Govt (15%), Sponsor Bank (35%)

32. PFRDA Grants Pension Fund License to Motilal Oswal AMC

- PFRDA oversees the National Pension System (NPS) in India
- NPS: Voluntary retirement savings scheme for all Indians aged 18-70 years
- PFRDA is statutory regulatory body under Ministry of Finance

33. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 Approved

- Addresses liquidity stress caused by West Asia Crisis (Strait of Hormuz disruption)
- Total outlay: Rs.18,100 crore; Guarantee: 100% for MSMEs, 90% for non-MSMEs/airlines
- Eligible until March 31, 2027; only standard non-NPA accounts eligible

34. DRT Conference: India Has 39 DRTs & 5 DRATs for NPA Recovery

- Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) resolves bank loan recovery disputes above Rs.20 lakh
- Department of Financial Services hosted conference with banks & IBA
- DRATs (Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals): 5 across India

35. S&P Global Lowers India's FY26 GDP Forecast to 6.6%

- Reduced from earlier forecast of 7.1%; CRISIL is S&P Global's Indian subsidiary
- Three major global credit rating agencies: S&P, Moody's, Fitch
- India's exports: \$860 billion in FY26, a 4.2% increase over previous year

36. ADB Launches \$70 Billion Regional Connectivity Plan for Asia-Pacific

- Target year: 2035; announced at 59th Annual Meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan
- Goals: 20 GW renewable energy integration; broadband access to 200 million people
- ADB HQ: Manila, Philippines; India is a founding member

37. NSE Launches National Coal Exchange for Bidding & Trading

- First commodity exchange for coal supplies in India
- National Stock Exchange (NSE): India's largest stock exchange by trading volume
- Enables transparent price discovery for coal — key energy commodity

38. FEMA Amended: FDI from Border Countries (Up to 10% Stake) via Automatic Route

- Previously: Even 1% Chinese stake required government approval (since 2020)
- New rule: Up to 10% non-controlling stake from border nations (China, Pakistan, Bangladesh) via automatic route
- Applies to 40 sub-sectors including rare earth magnets & printed circuit boards

39. India Post Payments Bank — Key Static Facts

- IPPB uses 1.64-1.65 lakh post office network for financial inclusion
- Rs.1 note printed by Ministry of Finance (Finance Secretary signs it)
- All other currency notes printed by RBI and carry Governor's signature

40. Rs.2000 Note Withdrawal Status as of April 30, 2026

- RBI announced withdrawal on May 19, 2023; Rs.3.56 lakh crore in circulation then
- 98.47% of Rs.2000 notes returned; remaining Rs.5,451 crore still in circulation
- Rs.2000 notes remain legal tender; can be deposited at 19 RBI offices or India Post

SECTION 2: ECONOMY & GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

41. PMGSY Phase 4 Launched in Rayagada, Odisha

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase 4 launched by Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Financial outlay: Rs.1,698.04 crore for 827 road projects covering 1,701.84 km across 898 villages
- Centre-State cost sharing: 60:40 (Centre 60%, State 40%)

42. SVAMITVA Scheme: Rs.135 Lakh Crore Rural Land Assets Unlocked

- Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas — launched 2020
- Rs.1,679 crore institutional loans facilitated via property cards
- Gram Panchayat tax revenues increased by 4.71%; evaluated by IIM Ahmedabad

43. MGNREGA: Rs.17,744 Crore Released; to be Replaced by VB-G RAM G

- MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of employment per year to rural households
- Replacement: VB-G RAM G (Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission)
- VB-G RAM G budget: Rs.95,692.31 crore; increases guarantee from 100 to 125 days/year

44. Mission for Cotton Productivity Approved — Rs.5,659.22 Crore Outlay

- Duration: 5 years (FY2026-27 to FY2030-31); joint: Ministry of Agriculture & Textiles
- Target: Increase yield from 440 kg/hectare to 755 kg/hectare by March 2031
- 5F Vision: Farm-Fibre-Factory-Fashion-Foreign; India is largest cotton cultivator globally

45. India Semiconductor Mission: 12 Total Projects Worth Rs.1.64 Lakh Crore

- 2 new units approved: Crystal Matrix Limited (Dholera, Gujarat) & Suchi Semicon (Surat, Gujarat)
- Crystal Matrix: India's first commercial Mini/LED display using Gallium Nitride (GaN)
- Total investment: 12 projects worth Rs.1.64 lakh crore

46. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 Extended to December 2028

- Revised budget: Rs.8.69 lakh crore; MoU signed with Uttarakhand, Karnataka & Tripura
- Aim: 100% functional tap water connection to every rural household
- JJM 2.0 focuses on Gram Panchayat-led rural water governance

47. National Critical Mineral Mission: 58 Companies for Recycling

- Launched in 2025 with budget of Rs.16,300 crore; total scheme outlay Rs.1,500 crore
- Ministry of Mines approved 58 companies to extract lithium, cobalt & rare earth from e-waste
- Companies to invest Rs.5,000 crore to build recycling capacity of 850 kilotons/annum

48. Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Released for FY 2023-24

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj released on National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24)
- Assessed 2.59 lakh Gram Panchayats across 33 States/UTs
- Top state: Tripura; Top 5: Tripura, Kerala, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli

49. IIP Growth Slows; MoSPI Introduces Index of Services Production (ISP)

- India's IIP growth: 5-month low of 4.1% in March 2026; 8 core industries = 40.27% of IIP
- ISP introduced by MoSPI with 2024-25 base year; covers 70% of service sector GVA
- ISP uses GST data; will NOT replace the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

50. NITI Aayog: New Members & Leadership Changes

- Ashok Kumar Lahiri appointed Vice-Chairperson (replaced Suman Bery)
- New full-time members: R. Balasubramaniam & Joram Aniya (first from Arunachal Pradesh, Nyishi community)
- Nidhi Chhber: Temporary CEO; total full-time members increased from 5 to 7

51. NITI Aayog Releases 'DPI @ 2047 Roadmap' for \$30 Trillion Economy

- Vision: \$30 trillion economy and \$18,000 per capita income by 2047
- DPI 2.0 (2025-2035): Livelihood-led growth; DPI 3.0 (2035-2047): Broad-based prosperity
- Released in partnership with EkStep Foundation & Deloitte

52. India's First Multi-Lane Free-Flow (MLFF) Tolling System Launched

- Launched by Nitin Gadkari at Choryasi toll plaza on NH-48, Surat-Bharuch, Gujarat
- Uses ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) & FASTag for barrier-less payment
- First multi-lane free-flow tolling system in India — no vehicles need to stop

53. Economic Survey 2025-26: Labor Force Participation Rate at 55.9%

- LFPR of 55.9% highlights employment-focused skills priority for India's youth
- Rural female LFPR increased from 37.5% to 45.9% (highest jump)
- Women in managerial roles surged by 102.54%; Sex Ratio at Birth: 917 per 1,000 males

54. 'Women and Men in India 2025' Report — 27th Edition by MoSPI

- Total Fertility Rate 2023: 1.5 (Urban), 2.1 (Rural)
- Higher Education Gross Enrolment: Females 30, Males 28.9 (2022-23)
- Infant Mortality Rate decreased; Health-seeking behaviour improved by 12.2% (rural), 14.9% (urban)

55. NARCL & Debt Recovery: DRT Key Statistics

- India has 39 DRTs and 5 DRATs for resolving NPA disputes

- DRT jurisdiction: Individual NPA cases where disputed loan exceeds Rs.20 lakh
- Ministry of Finance & IBA coordinate DRT conferences for expediting resolution

56. PM Modi Inaugurates 594 km Ganga Expressway in Hardoi, UP

- Rs.36,230 crore 6-lane expressway connecting Meerut to Prayagraj
- Also inaugurated Rs.6,350 crore projects in Varanasi including water & solar plants
- 1-megawatt solar plant at Bhalupur, Varanasi

57. APEDA Signs 70-Year Lease for Basmati Training Center in Pilibhit, UP

- APEDA: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority
- 7-acre training center to train UP & Uttarakhand farmers; strengthen basmati exports
- Plans AI paddy survey to modernize basmati cultivation tracking

58. India's Medical & Wellness Tourism Market: \$8.7 Billion, Projected \$16.2 Billion by 2030

- Global Medical Value Travel Market: \$115 billion (2022) to \$286 billion (current)
- India: 10th globally in Medical Tourism Index; 12th in Wellness Tourism; 5th in Asia-Pacific
- 69,000 hospitals, 1.2M doctors, 1,299 NABH-accredited hospitals; e-medical visa for 172 countries

59. India Tops Global Remittances — IOM World Migration Report 2026

- India's remittances: Over \$137 billion in 2024 (highest globally)
- 2nd place: Mexico with \$67.6 billion
- IOM (International Organization for Migration) HQ: Geneva, Switzerland

60. India's 18th Railway Zone: South Coast Railway Zone from June 1, 2026

- HQ: Mudasarlova, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Integrates Guntakal, Guntur, Vijayawada & new Visakhapatnam divisions
- Created from reorganizing East Coast & South Central Railway Zones

61. Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (CART) Inaugurated at Visakhapatnam

- Developed under Mission Mausam (Rs.2,000 crore initiative) at cost of Rs.180 crore
- Location: Andhra University, Visakhapatnam; Developed by IITM
- Function: Predicts coastal weather, cyclones, and issues early warnings

62. India's First Orbital Data Center Satellite 'Pathfinder' by Pixxel & Sarvam AI

- Partnership between Pixxel and Sarvam AI for India's first orbital data center satellite
- Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1: India's first privately built orbital rocket (integration started)
- Vikram-1 propellants named Kalam, Raman, and Dhawan after Indian scientists

63. ISRO Completes High-Resolution 1:10,000 Land Use Mapping of India

- Can distinguish between paddy fields and ponds
- Data to be integrated into Ministry of Panchayati Raj's Gram Manchitra portal
- India has 6,49,481 villages as per 2011 Census

64. Bharat Khera Appointed as Secretary, Ministry of MSME

- MSME sector is crucial for employment generation and GDP contribution
- Ministry of MSME oversees Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises development
- ECLGS (Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme) is key MSME support programme

65. Padma Doree Initiative: Blending North-East Eri Silk with Chanderi Handloom

- Launched by North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation
- Blends Eri silk of North-East India with Chanderi handloom of Madhya Pradesh
- Objective: Manufacture unique export-quality fabrics for global markets

66. 8th Household Consumption Health Survey Released by NSO

- Government insurance coverage: 45.5% (rural), 31.8% (urban)
- Median Out-of-Pocket (OOP) medical expense during hospitalisation: Rs.1,285
- Zero cost for non-hospitalised patients in public facilities

67. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme: NCGTC as Guarantor

- NCGTC: National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd provides guarantee
- MSMEs: Up to Rs.100 crore (5-year tenure, 2-year moratorium); Airlines: Up to Rs.1,500 crore (7-year)
- Addresses liquidity stress from Iran-Israel-US conflict disrupting Strait of Hormuz

68. Citizenship Amendment Rules 2026 & e-OCI Card

- Ministry of Home Affairs updated rules for OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) cardholders
- Minors under 18 and OCI holders cannot simultaneously hold Indian and foreign passports
- Introduction of electronic OCI (e-OCI) card for digital convenience

69. DPIIT Signs MoU with Chamber India for 5 Startup Incubation Centers

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) signed MoU
- Objective: Establish 5 incubation and startup centers with funding & marketing support
- DPIIT also established 60-day expedited FDI clearance for 40 sub-sectors

70. India's Total Exports: \$860 Billion in FY26 (4.2% Increase)

- Unemployment rate: 5.1% in March 2026
- Non-food credit growth: 15.9% YoY; Services sector: 19% growth (highest)
- Electronics exports surpassed \$47 billion in 2025

SECTION 3: KEY APPOINTMENTS

71. HAL Gets New CMD: Ravi K Appointed, Replaces DK Sunil

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) HQ: Bengaluru; Established: 1940
- Ravi K brings 30 years of aerospace & Tejas (Light Combat Aircraft) experience
- HAL is a Maharatna company under Ministry of Defence

72. Prasoon Joshi Appointed Chairman of Prasar Bharati

- Writer and lyricist Prasoon Joshi became Chairman of India's public broadcaster
- Prasar Bharati oversees Doordarshan (TV) & All India Radio (AIR)
- Prasar Bharati also launched 'Waves OTT' platform

73. Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal Appointed NCLT President

- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT): Corporate disputes court in India
- 5-year tenure or until age 67; NCLT handles insolvency proceedings under IBC
- Kumar Mangalam Birla appointed Chairman of Vodafone Idea

74. 57th IFFI 2026: Ashutosh Gowariker Appointed Festival Director

- International Film Festival of India organized by NFDC & Entertainment Society of Goa

• Venue: Goa; Month: November; IFFI established: 1952

• This is the 57th edition of India's premier film festival

75. Dilip Kumar Appointed CVO of SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited)

• Appointed on April 27, 2026 as Chief Vigilance Officer of SAIL

• SAIL is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Steel

• CVO oversees anti-corruption vigilance in the organization

76. R. Vijay Anand Appointed MD & CEO of City Union Bank

• 3-year appointment; succeeds N. Kamakodi

• City Union Bank: Private sector bank headquartered in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu

• RBI approves all bank CEO/MD appointments

77. Anugraha Narayan Dass Appointed Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)

• 1991 batch officer; effective May 1, 2026; replaced Biswajit Sahay

• CGDA oversees Ministry of Defence audits

• Biswajit Sahay assumed charge as Secretary of Defence Finance

78. Prasar Bharati CEO & IFFI Key Appointment Facts

• Prasar Bharati: India's public broadcaster; Prasoon Joshi: New Chairman

• IFFI is organized by NFDC (National Film Development Corporation)

• 57th IFFI scheduled in Goa in November 2026

79. PV Sindhu Joins BWF Council (2026-2029) as Athletes' Commission Chair

• BWF: Badminton World Federation; Sindhu has voting rights in BWF Council

• She chairs the BWF Athletes' Commission — first Indian in this role

• PV Sindhu: 2-time Olympic medalist from Hyderabad, Telangana

80. Subrat Mohanty Reappointed as Axis Bank Executive Director (2026-2029)

• 3-year reappointment as Executive Director of Axis Bank

• Axis Bank: India's 3rd largest private sector bank

• Subject to RBI approval as per Banking Regulation Act

SECTION 4: DEFENCE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

81. DRDO & Indian Navy Conduct Maiden Salvo Launch of NASM-SR Missile

• Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Short Range (NASM-SR); Range: 55 km

• Launch platform: Helicopter; Location: Off Odisha coast / Bay of Bengal

• First-ever salvo flight test conducted from Navy helicopter platform

82. India Conducts 2nd Test of LRSM — Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile

• Range: 1,500 km; Test Location: APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha

• LRSM designed for Indian Navy to engage distant ship targets

• Hypersonic missiles travel at speeds exceeding Mach 5

83. INS Mahendragiri: 6th Nilgiri-Class Project 17A Frigate Delivered

• Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai

• Project 17A: 7 stealth frigates, approved 2015; total cost Rs.45,000 crore

• Features: CODOG propulsion; 75% indigenous components; designed by Warship Design Bureau

84. BHEL-DRDO Technology Transfer Agreement for Naval Gas Turbine

• BHEL signed licensing agreement with DRDO's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)

• Purpose: Manufacture LM2500 gas turbine infrared suppression system for naval vessels

• Reduces India's dependence on foreign warship components

85. MoD Signs Rs.1,476 Crore Contract with BEL for Army Electronic Systems

• 5 ground-based mobile electronic systems for Indian Army

• BEL: Bharat Electronics Limited — Navratna PSU for defence electronics

• DRDO has transferred 2,200 technologies to industry; waived 20% transfer fee

86. India-New Zealand Historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Signed

• Signed in New Delhi by India's Piyush Goyal & New Zealand's Todd McClay

• Benefits: 100% duty-free access to New Zealand for Indian exports

• Secures \$20 billion USD investment commitment from New Zealand

87. UAE Officially Exits OPEC and OPEC+ (May 1, 2026)

- OPEC founded 1960; HQ: Vienna, Austria; Current SG: Haitham Al Ghais
- After UAE's exit, OPEC membership reduced to 11 countries
- Angola exited OPEC in January 2024; Congo joined in 2018

88. India-Tanzania: 5th Joint Trade Committee Meeting in Dar es Salaam

- Bilateral trade reached \$9.02 billion in 2025-26
- Dar es Salaam: Tanzania's commercial capital
- Tanzania: East African country; Capital: Dodoma; Currency: Tanzanian Shilling

89. India-South Korea Set \$50 Billion Bilateral Trade Target by 2030

- South Korea Capital: Seoul; Currency: South Korean Won (KRW)
- Trade target aims to double bilateral economic engagement
- India and South Korea have comprehensive economic partnership (CEPA)

90. SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attended 23rd SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting
- SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) focuses on regional security
- Bishkek: Capital of Kyrgyzstan

91. BRICS MENA Meeting on West Asia Conflict Hosted by India

- MEA Secretary Dr. Neena Malhotra chaired the 2026 BRICS MENA Meeting in New Delhi
- Focus: West Asia conflict, UNRWA, terrorism & regional stability
- Next BRICS meeting to be hosted by China in 2027

92. India Deploys Aarogya Maitri BHISHM Cubes to Jamaica

- BHISHM: Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri
- World's first portable modular hospital; contains 72 mini-cubes; treats up to 200 patients
- EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar made India's first bilateral visit to Jamaica

93. India-Italy Defence Cooperation: Rajnath Singh & Guido Crosetto Meeting

- Discussed India-Italy defence cooperation and 2026-27 military engagements
- Also discussed the Iran-Israel conflict situation

• India-Italy bilateral defence ties strengthened under strategic partnership

94. Vietnam Presidential Visit to India (May 5-7)

- Vietnamese President To Lam visited to mark 10th anniversary of India-Vietnam strategic partnership
- Vietnam: Capital Hanoi; Currency: Vietnamese Dong
- India and Vietnam have comprehensive strategic partnership since 2016

95. Operation Netra 1.0: Indian Army High-Altitude Eye Camp in Leh, Ladakh

- Indian Army conducted mega eye camp for residents of remote high-altitude areas
- Part of Indian Army's humanitarian outreach programme
- Ladakh now has 7 districts after addition of 5 new districts (Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, Drass)

96. IN-SLN DIVEX 2026: 4th India-Sri Lanka Navy Diving Exercise in Colombo

- India deployed submarine rescue vessel INS Nireekshak
- India gifted 2 Bhishma Cubes under Arogya Maitri humanitarian initiative
- DIVEX: Diving Exercise; India-Sri Lanka: Key bilateral naval partnership

97. CINBAX-II 2026: India-Cambodia Joint Military Exercise (2nd Edition)

- Held in Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia; 13 days (May 4-17, 2026)
- India: 120 personnel from Maratha Light Infantry Regiment
- Cambodia: Capital Phnom Penh; Currency: Cambodian Riel

98. USA Returns 657 Stolen Antiquities to India Worth ~\$14 Million

- Notable items: Avalokiteshwara bronze statue & dancing Ganesha sandstone figure
- Part of ongoing India-US cultural property repatriation programme
- India is actively recovering heritage objects from multiple countries

99. China Launches Pakistan's EO3 Earth Observation Satellite

- Also known as PRSC-E03; Launched from Taiyuan Launch Center
- Launch vehicle: Long March-6 rocket
- Reflects growing China-Pakistan space cooperation

100. GalaxEye Launches 'Mission Drishti': World's First OptoSAR Satellite

- India's largest private earth observation satellite (190 kg) via SpaceX Falcon 9
- World's first 'Opto-SAR' technology — captures clear images in darkness & bad weather
- Launched from Vandenberg, California, USA

101. Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1: India's First Private Orbital Rocket

- Named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, father of Indian Space Programme
- Propellants named Kalam, Raman, and Dhawan
- Integration phase flagged off by Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy

102. UNESCO Adds 12 New Global Geoparks; Total Reaches 241 Across 51 Countries

- Covers 882,000 sq. km; India received no new sites in this round
- Tunisia gained first UNESCO Global Geopark (Dahar)
- New additions include sites in China, France, Greece, Ireland, Malaysia, Portugal

103. North Tech Symposium 2026: Rs.38,424 Crore Defence Exports

- Theme: 'Raksha Triveni Sangam'; held in Prayagraj, UP
- India's Defence Production: Rs.1.54 lakh crore; Defence Exports: Rs.38,424 crore
- DRDO has 25% of R&D budget designated for academia and startups

104. UNGA President Annalena Baerbock Visits India

- 80th Session UNGA President; German diplomat; visited at invitation of Dr. S. Jaishankar
- UN established: October 24, 1945; HQ: New York; Members: 193
- UN Secretary-General: Antonio Guterres; Official languages: 6 (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish)

105. Maldives-Sri Lanka: 7 Agreements Signed; 60 Years of Diplomatic Relations

- Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu visited Sri Lankan President Anura Kumar Dissanayake
- Agreements cover tourism, defense, education & youth development
- Maldives: Capital Male; Currency: Maldivian Rufiyaa

106. ADB 59th Annual Meeting: Critical Minerals Initiative Launched

- ADB Critical Minerals to Manufacturing Financing Partnership Facility announced
- Minerals covered: Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel, Graphite, Rare Earth Metals
- Two windows: Research Grant Window & Catalytic Finance Window for minerals

107. India-Japan 3rd Joint Committee Meeting on Healthcare at Bharat Mandapam

- Co-chaired by JP Nadda (India) & Kimie Onoda (Japan)
- Topics: AI-enabled health systems, resilient medical infrastructure, healthcare innovation
- Bharat Mandapam: India's largest convention centre, New Delhi

108. SIPRI 2025: India 5th Largest Military Spender at \$92.1 Billion

- 8.9% increase in military spending; Global military spending: \$2.89 trillion
- Top 5: USA, China, Russia, Germany, India (58% of global spending)
- SIPRI: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

109. India Launches BRICS 2026 Presidency Theme, Logo & Website

- India holds BRICS 2026 Presidency
- BRICS now has 10 members: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia
- First BRICS Health Working Group Meeting hosted in New Delhi

110. SkyHopp Aviation: India's First Commercial Seaplane Service

- DGCA-licensed seaplane service using converted 19-seater DHC-6 Twin Otter aircraft
- Connects 5 Lakshadweep islands to mainland
- SkyHopp Aviation (formerly Sky Hops Aviation) pioneered commercial seaplanes in India

SECTION 5: GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & STATE NEWS

111. Ladakh Gets 5 New Districts; Total Now 7

- 5 new districts: Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar & Drass approved by MHA
- Total districts in Ladakh: 7 (now including Leh, Kargil & 5 new ones)
- Amit Shah also inaugurated cooperative dairy projects in Kargil

112. Sikkim: India's First Fully Paperless Judiciary State

• Announced by 53rd CJI Surya Kant & Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang in Gangtok

- Sikkim also celebrates 50 years of statehood
- Sikkim Governor: Om Prakash Mathur; also world's first 100% organic agriculture state

113. Supreme Court Judges Strength Increased from 34 to 38

- New strength: 37 judges + 1 CJI = 38 total
- Article 124(1): Parliament can increase judges by law; Article 125: Salaries from Consolidated Fund
- Retirement age for Supreme Court judges: 65 years

114. PRASHAST 2.0: Digital Disability Screening Tool Launched by NCERT

- PRASHAST: Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool/Test; both mobile & web-based
- Purpose: Early identification of 21 types of disabilities in young schoolchildren
- Aligned with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020; being tested in UP, Uttarakhand & Delhi

115. Meghalaya Launches 'CM Inspire' Scheme for UPSC Aspirants

- CM Conrad K. Sangma & Governor Vijay Shankar launched financial assistance scheme
- Provides financial assistance to youth preparing for UPSC Civil Services Exam
- Meghalaya: Capital Shillong; Official languages include Khasi & Garo

116. Maharashtra AI Policy 2026: Rs.10,000 Crore Investment, 1.5 Lakh Jobs by 2031

- 5 AI Innovation Cities; 6 Sectoral Centers of Excellence (Healthcare, Agriculture, Education, etc.)
- 2,000-GPU computing backbone; Rs.500 crore startup fund; Rs.1.25 crore subsidies for women-led startups
- Training 2 lakh youth in AI; 20% MSME subsidies under the policy

117. Google Cloud AI Hub: Largest Single-Location FDI in India — \$15 Billion

- Located in Tulluru, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh; 600 acres; 1 GW data center
- Investment: \$15 billion (Rs.1.35 lakh crore) — largest single-location FDI in India
- Coordinated by AdaniConneX & Airtel; Target: 2 lakh jobs by September 2028

118. Bengaluru Police Integrates AI Multilingual Translation into 'Namma 112'

- Supports real-time voice translation between Kannada & 10+ languages
- Includes French, Spanish, Bengali; India's Constitution 8th Schedule has 22 official languages

• 3 newest additions to 8th Schedule: Maithili, Bodo & Santhali

119. Namo Stall Scheme Launched for Fruit & Vegetable Vendors in Jharkhand

- Launched in Ranchi by Union Minister Sanjay Seth
- Provides free modern mobile stalls worth Rs.50,000 to street vendors
- Jharkhand CM: Hemant Soren; Capital: Ranchi; Jharkhand statehood: November 15, 2000

120. Punjab Launches 250 'Pendu Khed Maidan' Rural Sports Grounds

- CM Bhagwant Mann inaugurated rural sports grounds
- Objective: Foster healthy sporting culture & protect youth from drug abuse
- Pendu = Rural in Punjabi; initiative under Rangla Punjab sports mission

121. Karnataka Launches India's First State-Led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology

- Located in Bengaluru — India's space & aerospace hub
- Part of Karnataka's push to be a leader in deep tech & space economy
- Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru (Bangalore)

122. Swasth Bharat Portal Launched by Health Minister JP Nadda

- Designed for ASHA workers & Medical Officers; linked to Ayushman Bharat
- Ayushman Bharat provides coverage of up to Rs.5 lakh per family per year
- Portal collects & integrates health databases for improved service delivery

123. Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram 2.0 (RBSK 2.0) Guidelines Released

- Ministry of Health released at summit in Chandigarh
- 4D Model: Defects at birth, Disease, Deficiencies & Development delays
- Coverage: Children from birth to 18 years of age

124. National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24) — PAI 2.0 Key Data

- 3,635 Gram Panchayats achieved 'Front Runner' status (90+ points)
- 1.18 lakh Gram Panchayats graded as 'Performer'
- National Panchayati Raj Day observed on April 24 each year

125. Mizoram Launches 'Khurail' Real-Time Disaster Response App

- Also called 'Kural'; available in Mizo & English languages
- Helps citizens locate medical and food facilities during emergencies
- Mizoram CM: Lalduhoma; Capital: Aizawl

126. Cell Broadcast System Launched for Disaster Warning by Jyotiraditya Scindia

- Developed by C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics) & NDMA
- Delivers real-time geo-targeted siren alerts to mobile phones during disasters
- 'Sachet' is the mobile disaster alert system using Common Alerting Protocol

127. Andaman & Nicobar Sets Guinness World Record for Largest Underwater Flag

- Flag dimensions: 60 x 40 meters at Radhanagar Beach, Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island)
- Led by Lt. Governor D.K. Joshi, supported by Indian Navy
- Andaman & Nicobar: Union Territory; Lt. Governor administers it

128. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026: Two Routes (June-August)

- Route 1: Lipulekh Pass, Uttarakhand (trekking); Route 2: Nathu La Pass, Sikkim (vehicle)
- Organized by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in coordination with China
- Mansarovar Yatra resumes after COVID interruption

129. Gujarat Launches 'NAARIT' AI Tool for Narcotics Investigation

- AI-powered tool for narcotics case investigation & intelligence
- Gujarat: Known for anti-narcotics drive; Capital: Gandhinagar
- Gujarat also inaugurated 'Choryasi' MLFF tolling on NH-48

130. Uttar Pradesh 'One District One Dish' Scheme Launched (Jan 24, 2026)

- Inspired by Central Government's 'One District One Product' (ODOP) initiative
- Budget: Rs.150 crore; Assistance: Up to Rs.20 lakh per individual/business
- Examples: Agra's Petha, Mathura's Pedas, Jaunpur's Imarti

131. Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 — MoU Signed with Uttarakhand, Karnataka & Tripura

- Extended to December 2028 with revised budget of Rs.8.69 lakh crore

- Union Minister CR Patil (Chandrakant Raghunath Patil) & V Somanna (MoS) were present
- Tripura also ranked #1 in Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0

132. West Bengal Assembly Elections: 92.93% All-Time High Voter Turnout

- Female turnout: 92.28%; Male turnout: 97.07%
- Highest-ever voter turnout in West Bengal assembly elections
- West Bengal CM: Mamata Banerjee; Capital: Kolkata; Governor: C.V. Ananda Bose

133. UIDAI-NFSU 5-Year Cybersecurity Pact for Aadhaar Infrastructure

- UIDAI: Unique Identification Authority of India (manages Aadhaar)
- NFSU: National Forensic Sciences University (headquartered in Gandhinagar, Gujarat)
- Enhances cybersecurity & digital forensics for Aadhaar system

134. CBI Launches AI Chatbot 'ABH' to Combat Digital Scams

- ABH chatbot helps citizens verify CBI notices & identify digital scams
- CBI operates under Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- Key tool in India's fight against digital arrest and cyber fraud

135. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Launches 6 New Assistive Device Standards

- Certified devices: Elbow crutches, multi-leg walking sticks, portable ramps, tactile guide maps, Braille on signage
- BIS operates under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
- Aligns with India's push for accessibility for persons with disabilities

136. NLC India Signs Agreement with France's EDF for Nuclear Power Technologies

- NLC India (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation) exploring EPR & Small Modular Reactor (SMR) technologies
- India's target: 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047
- France's EDF: Electricite de France — major nuclear energy company

137. NITI Aayog Launches Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal

- Enables real-time governance, field monitoring & last-mile service delivery
- Covers aspirational districts across India

- Launched by NITI Aayog's Interim CEO for performance monitoring

138. 100th Next Generation Post Office Inaugurated at NEHU, Shillong

- Virtually inaugurated by Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia
- Location: North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya
- Next Generation Post Offices modernize traditional postal services

139. PM-AASHA Scheme: First Pulse Procurement in Bihar

- PM-AASHA: Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan — ensures fair prices to farmers
- Bihar: First structured pulse procurement through NCCF & NAFED
- Chhattisgarh boosted procurements through e-Samyukti portal for direct farmer participation

140. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand: India's First Pearl Farming Cluster

- Jharkhand emerges as pioneer in freshwater pearl farming
- Pearl farming involves cultivating pearls in freshwater mussels
- Part of diversification of rural livelihoods beyond traditional crops

SECTION 6: AWARDS, SPORTS & IMPORTANT DAYS

141. Thomas Cup 2026: China Wins 13th Title; Uber Cup: South Korea

- Thomas Cup (Men's): China beat France in final (13th title); hosted in Denmark
- Uber Cup (Women's): South Korea won (3rd title), defeating China
- India won Bronze in Thomas Cup 2026; BWF governs badminton globally

142. Madrid Open 2026 Results

- Women's Singles: Marta Kostyuk (Ukraine) beat Mirra Andreeva (Russia)
- Men's Singles: Jannik Sinner — first player since 1990 to win 5 consecutive ATP Masters 1000 titles
- Madrid Open: Major clay court tennis tournament (part of Masters 1000 series)

143. SIPRI Military Expenditure 2025: India 5th at \$92.1 Billion

- Top 5 spenders: USA, China, Russia, Germany, India (58% of global spending)
- Global military spending: \$2.89 trillion in 2025
- India's spending increased 8.9% year-on-year

144. Parveen Shaikh Wins 2026 Whitley Award ('Green Oscar') for Indian Skimmer Conservation

- Won £50,000 for 'Guardian of the Skimmer' project
- Conserving endangered Indian Skimmer birds in Chambal River & Prayagraj
- Barkha Subba also won Whitley Award for protecting Himalayan salamanders

145. Vairamuthu Receives Jnanpith Award 2025 — India's Highest Literary Honor

- Tamil poet and lyricist Vairamuthu receives the prestigious Jnanpith Award
- Jnanpith Award: India's highest literary award
- Amol Palekar received META (Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards) Lifetime Achievement Award

146. Sheetal Devi Wins Para Archer of the Year 2025 Award

- Sheetal Devi: India's armless para-archer from Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir
- Shoots arrows using feet and mouth; multiple World Archery Para-championship medalist
- Symbol of India's growing prowess in Paralympic sports

147. Pulitzer Prize 2025/2026 (110th Edition): Indian Journalists Win

- Indian journalists Anand R.K. & Suparna Sharma (Bloomberg) won for 'trAPPed' project
- Exposed massive cybercrime networks; highlighted Lucknow neurologist losing Rs.2.8 crore in digital house arrest
- New York Times: 3 awards (total 142 historically); Washington Post: Public service award

148. SAFF Women's Championship 2026 Hosted by India (May 24-June 7)

- Venue: Fatorda Stadium, Goa; 6 teams competing
- India has previously won the championship 5 times
- SAFF: South Asian Football Federation; India hosts as reigning champions

149. Sunil Narine Becomes 3rd Bowler to Take 200 IPL Wickets

- KKR (Kolkata Knight Riders) spinner joins elite 200-wicket club
- Other 200+ wicket takers: Yuzvendra Chahal & Bhuvneshwar Kumar
- Virat Kohli: 1st batter to hit 84 runs in a knockout match; 87 boundaries in 274 IPL matches

150. Rathika Sree (Kritika Shree): Tamil Nadu's First Transgender Cricket Umpire

- From Salem, Tamil Nadu; India's first transgender registered cricket umpire from TN
- Landmark step for LGBTQ+ inclusion in Indian sports administration
- Women's cricket: BCCI Women's Cricket is part of mainstream cricket governance

151. 14-Year-Old Apaar Saxena Earns FIDE International Master (IM) Title in 5 Weeks

- From Karnataka; achieved ELO rating exceeding 2,450 in just 5 weeks
- Secured all 3 mandatory norms for FIDE IM title at record speed
- FIDE: International Chess Federation; HQ: Lausanne, Switzerland

152. Javed Akhtar Conferred 33rd PC Chandra Puraskar — Rs.20 Lakh Tax-Free Prize

- Legendary lyricist and screenwriter receives prestigious award
- PC Chandra Puraskar: Named after PC Chandra, jewelry brand founder
- Rs.20 lakh tax-free cash prize — one of India's significant cultural awards

153. FIFA World Cup 2026: 15% Increase in Financial Pool for 48 Teams

- Host countries: Canada, USA & Mexico
- Preparation money: \$8.5 million per team; Qualification payouts: \$10 million per team
- First-ever 48-team World Cup format

154. World Press Freedom Index 2026: India Ranks 157th; Norway Tops

- Published by RSF (Reporters Without Borders), Paris; evaluates 180 countries
- India: 157th (from 151st); 'Very Serious' category with score of 31.96
- Top 5: Norway, Netherlands, Estonia, Denmark, Sweden; Bottom: Eritrea (180th)

155. Madame Tussauds London Launches 'Icons of India' Exhibition — 13 Indian Figures

- Features wax figures of Sachin Tendulkar, Amitabh Bachchan, Virat Kohli, Aishwarya Rai
- Located at London, UK headquarters of Madame Tussauds Museum
- Celebrates India's global cultural influence

156. International Labour Day — May 1

- Honors 1886 US strike demanding 8-hour workday
- India first observed it in Chennai in 1923
- ILO formed 1919; HQ: Geneva, Switzerland; DG: Gilbert Hounbo; 2026 Theme: Healthy & psychosocial working environment

157. World Press Freedom Day — May 3

- 2026 Theme: 'Shaping a Future at Peace: Promoting Press Freedom for Human Rights, Development and Security'
- Observed annually on May 3; proclaimed by UNGA
- RSF: Reporters Without Borders publishes annual World Press Freedom Index

158. World Tuna Day — May 2 | World Immunization Week — April 24-30

- World Tuna Day 2026 Theme: 'Sustaining Tuna, Sustaining Nations'
- World Immunization Week organized by WHO; Theme: 'For Every Generation, Vaccines One'
- World Tuna Day established by UNGA in 2016; first observed May 2, 2017

159. May 1: Gujarat & Maharashtra 66th Foundation Day

- Bombay Reorganization Act, 1960 split Bombay State into Gujarat & Maharashtra based on language
- Effective date: May 1, 1960; both states celebrated 66th Foundation Day in 2026
- Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar; Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai

160. World Intellectual Property Day (April 26) & Chernobyl Remembrance Day

- World Intellectual Property Day Theme: 'IP & Sports: Ready, Set, and Innovate'
- UN International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day: 40th anniversary in 2026
- Chernobyl nuclear disaster: April 26, 1986 in Ukraine (then Soviet Union)

161. Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Rankings 2026 — IISc Bengaluru at 43rd

- 14th edition; 929 institutions analyzed; India represented by 128 universities
- Top Asian: Tsinghua University (1st), Peking University (2nd), NUS (3rd)
- IISc Bengaluru: India's best-ranked at 43rd; several IITs boycotted rankings

162. May 3: World Laughter Day | May 4: International Firefighters Day

- World Laughter Day: Founded by Dr. Madan Kataria in 1998; celebrated 1st Sunday of May
- 2026 Theme: 'World Peace through Laughter'
- Coal industry in India started in 1774 near Damodar River Valley/Raniganj

163. 7-Year-Old Ishang Singh: Youngest Swimmer to Cross Palk Strait

- Swam 29 km from Talaimannar (Sri Lanka) to Dhanushkodi (Tamil Nadu) in 9 hours 50 minutes
- Feat accomplished under 'Mission Samandar'
- From Ranchi, Jharkhand — youngest swimmer to accomplish this crossing

164. NRAI 75th Anniversary: 'myNRAI Athlete' App Launched

- National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) 75th Anniversary at Karni Singh Shooting Range
- Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched 75-year anniversary logo
- NRAI becomes India's first digitized sports federation with the myNRAI Athlete app

165. Special 301 Report 2026: India on US 'Priority Watch List' (38th Edition)

- Published by USTR (United States Trade Representative); 38th annual edition
- India retained on 'Priority Watch List' (with Chile, China, Indonesia, Russia, Venezuela)
- Vietnam elevated to 'Priority Foreign Country' status (Section 301 investigation triggered)

166. Shooting Parasport Governance Moves from IPC to ISSF

- Governance transferred from International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to ISSF
- ISSF: International Shooting Sports Federation
- Marks professionalization of para-shooting governance globally

167. Guntur Municipal Corporation Wins UNIDO Gender Equality Mobilization (GEM) Award

- Won in Vienna, Austria; UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- Reason: Training 200+ women as electric auto drivers for zero-emission waste collection
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital Amaravati; Guntur: Major commercial & agricultural center

168. Important Obituaries: Alex Zanardi, Gurbux Singh Grewal, Sri Ratan Agarwal

- Alex Zanardi: Italian F1 driver & 4-time Paralympic para-cycling gold medalist
- Gurbux Singh Grewal: Renowned Indian hockey player
- Sri Ratan Agarwal: Founder of Bikaji Foods International

169. New Books Released in 2026

- 'From Guerrilla Fighter to Chief Minister' by Zoramthanga (former CM of Mizoram)
- 'A Road Well Travelled' (Autobiography) by R.K. Raghavan (Former Director, CBI)

- Both books reflect on political & law enforcement careers in India

170. Tamil Nadu: Top Marine Fish Producer 2025; India's Total at 3.57 Million Tonnes

- Tamil Nadu overtook Gujarat as India's top marine fish producer; recorded 0.68 million tonnes
- Total India marine fish production: 3.57 million tonnes in 2025 (3% growth)
- Top 5 states: Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra

SECTION 7: TECHNOLOGY & MISCELLANEOUS

171. Global AI Spending Surpasses \$700 Billion; Google Cloud Leads at 63% Growth

- Global AI spending exceeded \$700 billion in 2026
- Cloud revenue growth: Google Cloud 63%, Microsoft Azure 40%, Amazon AWS 28%
- India's AI ambitions backed by Google's \$15 billion investment in Visakhapatnam

172. Reliance-Meta JV: Parminder Chopra Appointed CEO of Reliance Enterprises Intelligence

- 30+ years of technology experience; JV focuses on Indian AI development
- Reliance-Meta partnership for AI development in India
- Reliance Industries: Largest private sector company in India

173. Oxford University & Serum Institute Sign Agreement for R78C Malaria Vaccine

- Partnership between UK's Oxford University and India's Serum Institute
- R78C: Novel malaria vaccine candidate in development pipeline
- Serum Institute: World's largest vaccine manufacturer by doses

174. MeitY Launches Two Indigenous Silicon Photonic Solutions at IIT Madras

- Silicon photonics: Uses light instead of electricity for data transmission
- MeitY: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- IIT Madras: Top Indian engineering institution; ranked high in NIRF rankings

175. Mission Mausam: Rs.2,000 Crore Initiative to Strengthen India's Weather Forecasting

- Launched in 2024 to enhance meteorological capabilities
- CART (Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed) established under this mission

- Aims to improve cyclone prediction & early warning systems

176. Sahajanand Medical Technologies: First Indian Cardiovascular Manufacturer with ISO 50001

- Based in Surat & Hyderabad; received ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management System certification

- First domestic cardiovascular manufacturing unit with this certification

- ISO 50001: International standard for energy management systems

177. Vande Bharat Express: First Direct Service between Jammu and Srinagar

- Flagged off by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

- Also flagged off 'Somnath Swabhiman Parv Yatra' from New Delhi to Gujarat

- Somnath Yatra marks 1000th anniversary of Mahmud Ghazni's attack on Somnath Temple

178. Adani Vikas Kendra Inaugurated in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh

- Inaugurated by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia; implemented by Adani Foundation

- Facility: 48,000 sq. ft. under Swabhiman program

- Shivpuri: District in Madhya Pradesh; CM of MP: Mohan Yadav

179. Siemens Delivers First 9000 HP Electric Freight Locomotive to Indian Railways

- Part of Euro 3 billion contract signed in 2023

- Siemens: German technology company; major railway equipment supplier

- Electric locomotives are part of India's railway electrification mission

180. Rajasthan Royals Acquired by Lakshmi Mittal Family (75%) & Adar Poonawalla (18%)

- Franchise Valuation: \$1.65 billion

- Lakshmi Mittal: Chairman of ArcelorMittal (world's largest steel company)

- Adar Poonawalla: CEO of Serum Institute of India

181. Elon Musk Files Lawsuit Against OpenAI

- Lawsuit filed for OpenAI's shift from open-access mission to paid platform

- Musk was an early investor and board member of OpenAI

- OpenAI: Maker of ChatGPT; CEO: Sam Altman; Musk runs xAI (maker of Grok)

182. Scotland Becomes First UK Country to Legalize Water Cremation (Alkaline Hydrolysis)

- Alkaline hydrolysis: Eco-friendly alternative to traditional cremation

- Also called resomation or aquamation; uses water and alkali to dissolve body

- Scotland: Part of UK; Capital: Edinburgh; First Minister: John Swinney

183. Brazil Enacts Law to Restrict Social Media for Minors Under 16 Years (2026)

- Major step in protecting minors from harmful digital content

- Brazil: Capital Brasilia; Currency: Brazilian Real; President: Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

- Part of global trend of regulating social media access for children

184. ASI Collaborates with Indonesia to Restore Prambanan Temple

- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) shares expertise in temple conservation

- Prambanan: 9th-century Hindu temple compound in Java, Indonesia — UNESCO World Heritage Site

- ASI: Under Ministry of Culture; protects India's archaeological heritage

185. ONGC Petrochemical JV for Marketing & Trading

- Stake: ONGC 50%, MRPL 25%, OPaL 25%

- ONGC: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation; MRPL: Mangalore Refinery

- OPaL: ONGC Petro Additions Limited — petrochemical company

186. India-EU Launch Euro 15.2 Million EV Battery Recycling Initiative

- EU funding source: Horizon Europe programme

- Indian partner: Ministry of Heavy Industries

- Part of India-EU Green Partnership for sustainable development

187. International BRICS Health Working Group First Meeting in New Delhi

- First-ever BRICS Health Working Group Meeting hosted in New Delhi

- BRICS 2024 expansion: Now 10 members including UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia

- India holds BRICS 2026 Presidency

188. Mission Cotton Productivity: India 2nd Largest Cotton Producer Globally

- China: Largest producer | India: 2nd largest producer | Brazil: Largest exporter

- India is largest global cultivator of cotton (area-wise)

- Mission targets Kasturi Cotton brand for premium Indian cotton exports

189. Pixxel & Sarvam AI: 'Pathfinder' Orbital Data Center Satellite

- Two Indian space startups partnering for orbital computing
- World's first orbital data center satellite — processes data in space
- Part of India's growing private space ecosystem under IN-SPACE framework

190. DoP & DTDC Express Partnership for E-Commerce Delivery via Post Offices

- Department of Posts & DTDC Express partnership
- Leverages 1.64 lakh post offices for nationwide logistics & rural e-commerce parcel delivery
- Combines post office reach with DTDC's logistics expertise

191. Delhi University-CMEC MoU for Maritime Education

- CMEC: Centre for Maritime Education and Culture
- Target: Increase maritime workforce share from 12% to 20% by 2030
- India is strategically increasing maritime sector workforce

192. Election Commission Introduces QR-Based Photo Identity Card System

- New QR-based system for voter identity verification
- Election Commission of India (ECI): Constitutional body for conducting elections
- Chief Election Commissioner: Rajiv Kumar

193. India's First Green Ammonia Project Launched in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

- Part of India's green energy transition initiative
- Green ammonia: Produced using renewable energy (no carbon emissions)
- Kakinada: Port city in Andhra Pradesh

194. Ponduru Khadi (Andhra Pradesh) Receives GI Tag

- Geographical Indication (GI) tag recognizes region-specific products
- Ponduru: Small town in Srikakulam district, AP; known for finest khadi fabric
- GI tags protect traditional products and benefit local artisans

195. Karnataka Launches India's First Digital Grievance Portal for Gig Workers

- First state to provide digital redressal mechanism for gig economy workers

- Gig workers: Freelancers, delivery partners, cab drivers, etc.

- Karnataka CM: Siddaramaiah; Government targets gig worker welfare

196. Brownfield Ship Repair Facility Approved in Vadinar, Gujarat

- Rs.1,570 crore investment; Joint venture: Deendayal Port Authority & Cochin Shipyard Limited
- Vadinar: Port in Devbhumi Dwarka district, Gujarat
- Enhances India's ship repair and maintenance capabilities

197. Philippines Mayon Volcano Erupts in Albay Province

- Mayon Volcano: Most active volcano in the Philippines
- Located in Albay Province, Luzon Island, Philippines
- Philippines: Capital Manila; Currency: Philippine Peso

198. India-UAE Bilateral Trade Target Set at \$200 Billion for 2032

- UAE officially exited OPEC & OPEC+ on May 1, 2026
- India-UAE CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) signed in 2022
- UAE: Capital Abu Dhabi; Dubai is financial hub; Currency: UAE Dirham

199. University of New South Wales to Open Bengaluru Campus in August 2026

- First Australian university campus in India under the new education policy
- Bengaluru: Karnataka's capital; India's IT & education hub
- Part of India's internationalizing higher education under NEP 2020

200. Navi Mumbai International Airport Named After DB Patil

- Navi Mumbai International Airport to be named after Dharmaveer Bhaurao Patil (DB Patil)
- DB Patil: Social activist and politician from Maharashtra
- Andhra Pradesh also approved Daga Dharani Greenfield Airport in Nellore