

NANDYAL BANKING COACHING CENTER

(IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY - JUNE - JULY 2026)

325 notes, duplicates merged. Red ink = the fact to memorise.

COLOUR = TOPIC | BLUE RBI · GREEN BANKING · YELLOW ECONOMY · ORANGE SCHEMES · LILAC RANKS · PINK STATES · CREAM GK & BOOKS · TEAL SUMMITS · LIME PLACES · ORCHID ARTS

RBI & POLICY

POLICY RATES — UNCHANGED

61st MPC (June 2026): Repo **5.25%**, stance **Neutral**, decision unanimous. SDF **5.00%** · MSF & Bank Rate **5.50%** · CRR **3.00%** · SLR **18.00%**.

RBI & POLICY

MISSION SAKSHAM

RBI capacity-building drive for **Urban Cooperative Banks**. Full form: **Sahakari Bank Kshamata Nirman**. Hybrid training in regional languages — management, compliance, digital, risk, cyber.

RBI & POLICY

FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT

GNPA **1.8%** (Mar 2026), projected to stay **below 2%** till 2028 (1.9% baseline). Credit growth **14.5%**. Household debt = **45.5% of GDP**.

RBI & POLICY

WHO SITS ON THE MPC

Formed **2016**, meets **6 times a year**, **6 members** = 3 RBI + 3 Govt. Headed by Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**. RBI: Malhotra, Poonam Gupta, Indranil Bhattacharyya. Govt: Nagesh Kumar, Saugata Bhattacharyya, Ram Singh.

RBI & POLICY

UNREGISTERED TYPE I NBFC

New RBI category: assets under **₹1,000 crore**, no public funds, no customer interface. Registration exempt till **1 July 2026**; opt-out via **PRAVAAH** portal till **31 Dec 2026**.

RBI & POLICY

GOLD LOAN SURGE

Bank gold loans grew **42.4%** since Mar 2024 to **₹5,142 billion** — a **5-fold** jump in 2 years (₹4.6 lakh cr by Mar 2026).

RBI & POLICY

INFLATION TARGET EXTENDED

Govt extended RBI's **4% ±2%** inflation target for **5 more years** — **1 Apr 2026 to 31 Mar 2031**. Target is based on **CPI**, not **WPI**.

RBI & POLICY

NBFC — UPPER LAYER

RBI classifies NBFCs with assets above **₹1 lakh crore** as **NBFC-UL**. Scale-Based Regulations revised. NBFCs also allowed in term money market (**14–364 days**) as borrowers and lenders.

RBI & POLICY

RBI GOLD RESERVES

RBI added **104.23 metric tonnes** of gold to domestic vaults — **77%** of its total gold is now held within India.

RBI & POLICY

MPC REVISIONS (JUNE 2026)

FY GDP estimate cut **6.9% → 6.6%** (crude prices + global tensions). CPI projection raised **4.6% → 5.1%**.

RBI & POLICY

MULEHUNTER AI

RBI's **AI tool to detect mule accounts**. Backed by an MoU between **I4C** and the **RBI Innovation Hub**.

RBI & POLICY

₹2000 note — final status

Withdrawn **19 May 2023** when **₹3.56 lakh crore** was in circulation. As of **30 Apr 2026**, **98.47%** returned; only **₹5,451 crore** still out.

RBI & POLICY

INTEGRATED OMBUDSMAN SCHEME 2026

Effective **1 July 2026**. Bank gets **30 days**; customer then has **90 days** to appeal. Compensation: financial loss **₹20L → ₹30L**; mental harassment **₹1L → ₹3L**. **No cap** on dispute amount. Covers banks, NBFCs, PPIs, CICs.

RBI & POLICY

FREE AI FRAMEWORK

RBI's **Framework for Responsible & Ethical Enablement of AI** for banks. Advisory committee headed by **Pushpak Bhattacharyya**.

RBI & POLICY

RBI ODDS + ENDS WORTH MARKING

Symbol = **palm tree + Royal Bengal Tiger**. India's 4 mints: **Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Noida**. Balance sheet expanded **20.6%** in FY25–26.

RBI & POLICY

ROHIT JAIN — DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Appointed RBI **Deputy Governor**, succeeding **T. Rabi Sankar**. Holds **Fintech, Forex & IT** after the portfolio reshuffle among the **4 DGs**.

RBI & POLICY

DEPOSIT + CARD RULES

Interest ceiling on **NRE/FCNR** deposits removed; fresh NRE & FCNR deposits **exempt from CRR/SLR**. Credit cards must get a **3-day grace period**. Banks barred from charging for **SMS alerts**.

RBI & POLICY

SCHEMES REVAMPED

RBI revamped the **Lead Bank Scheme** and the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme; unified agricultural loan rules and modified **NPA definitions**.

RBI & POLICY

LICENCES PULLED

RBI cancelled licences of **Sarvodaya Cooperative Bank** and **Sarvodaya Small Finance Bank**; imposed 6-month restrictions on **Mogaveera Co-operative Bank** (Mumbai).

RBI & POLICY

GLOBAL MOUS

RBI-**European Central Bank** MoU signed in **Basel, Switzerland**. RBI-**State Bank of Vietnam** MoU on financial innovation and digital payments.

RBI & POLICY

TREDS TIGHTENED

Trade Receivables Discounting System — launched **2016**, lets MSMEs auction invoices to banks/NBFCs. Minimum net worth for operators raised to **₹25 crore**.

RBI & POLICY

DIGITAL PAYMENTS — WHO REGULATES

Governed by the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**. RBI is the regulator; **NPCI** is the manager. RBI also proposed a **1-hour cooling period** for high-value digital payments.

BANKING

AU SFB → UNIVERSAL BANK

AU Small Finance Bank became the **first SFB** to get RBI in-principle approval to convert into a **Universal Bank**. HQ: **Jaipur**. Also tied up with Zagg for co-branded Visa & RuPay cards.

BANKING

EMIRATES NBD BUYS RBL BANK

Dubai's **Emirates NBD** acquired a **60% majority stake** in **RBL Bank** through a **\$2.75 billion** (≈₹26,000 crore) capital infusion.

BANKING

KOTAK'S TWO BUYS

Kotak Mahindra Bank acquired **Deutsche Bank's India retail + wealth business** for **₹281.7 crore**. Also got RBI nod to buy stakes in **AU Small Finance Bank** and **Federal Bank**.

BANKING

FEDERAL BANK ← STANCHART CARDS

Federal Bank acquired **Standard Chartered India's** retail credit card portfolio — **4.5 lakh customers**, deal size **₹1,500 crore**.

BANKING

AVIVA — A FIRST IN INSURANCE

Aviva PLC (UK) became the **first foreign insurer** to own **100%** of an Indian life insurance JV, buying Dabur's remaining 26%. Insurance FDI is now **100% automatic** — but **LIC** stays capped at 20%.

BANKING

UPI ABROAD — 10 COUNTRIES

Greece = 10th, Cambodia = 9th. Full list: Singapore, UAE, France, Nepal, Mauritius, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Greece. Cambodia link built by **NIPL + Acleda Bank**.

BANKING

PSBs — PROFIT + HIRING

4th consecutive year of profit: **₹1.98 lakh crore** net in FY26. Four PSBs paid **₹9,439 crore** dividends; SBI alone gave **₹8,813 crore** (₹17.35/share). Over **50,000 recruitments** planned after **50,552** offer letters in 2025-26.

BANKING

BANK CHAIRS + CEOs

HDFC Bank — **Keki Mistry** interim chairman, then **Rajiv Kumar** (ex-CEC) joins the board. **Axis Bank** — **N.S. Vishwanathan** reappointed Non-Exec Chairman for 3 yrs (to Oct 2029).

BANKING

NEW MD + CEOs

Canara Bank — **Brijesh Kumar Singh**. **City Union Bank** — **R. Vijay Anand**. **South Indian Bank** — **Mahesh M. Pai**. **SBI Capital Securities** — **Baldev Prakash**. **GIC** — **Hitesh R. Joshi**.

BANKING

BHARAT MARITIME INSURANCE POOL

BMIP launched with a corpus of **₹12,980 crore** (about **\$1.5 billion**) to cover Indian maritime risk domestically.

BANKING

NARCL — THE BAD BANK

Cumulative recovery **₹6,345 crore**, of which **₹4,364 crore** came in FY26 alone.

BANKING

ECLGS 5.0

Crossed **1 lakh guarantees** — **1,06,549** issued worth **₹48,484.26 crore**. RBI relaxed **CRAR** norms for participating lenders.

BANKING

JAN SURAKSHA AT 11

PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY completed **11 years**; total claims settled **₹25,160 crore**.

BANKING

VIABILITY PLAN 2.0 — RRBS

Approved by the **Department of Financial Services** to restore profitability of **Regional Rural Banks**.

BANKING

NSE MILESTONES

Crossed **13 crore** unique registered investors. Launched **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)**, a **National Coal Exchange**, and **Nifty 500 Ahimsa** — India's first animal-friendly index.

BANKING

BSE SAATVIK 100

BSE launched **India's first Saatvik 100 index** to promote ethics-based investing.

BANKING

SEBI VS FINFLUENCERS

PRRVA (Past Risk Return Verification Agency) framework operational **4 May 2026**. **CARE Ratings** = designated verifier; **NSE** = data centre.

BANKING

SEBI GARUDA

Green-channel mechanism to **fast-track approvals for AIFs** (Alternative Investment Funds). SEBI also set up expert groups on **debenture trustees** and conflict-of-interest rules.

BANKING

DILIP ASBE JOINS SWIFT

NPCI's MD & CEO Dilip Asbe was inducted into the global supervisory board of **SWIFT**.

BANKING

BRANCH FIRSTS

India's first **AI-powered phygital banking branch** opened in **Guwahati**. **Axis Bank** opened India's first **digital locker-focused branch** in New Delhi.

BANKING

GIFT CITY MOVES

Central Bank of India opened its first **IFSC Banking Unit** at GIFT City. **Punjab & Sind Bank** (119th Foundation Day) secured an **IFSCA licence**. **CTBC Bank** — first Taiwanese bank at GIFT City.

BANKING

PAYTM'S EU LICENCE

Paytm became the **first Indian company** to receive an **EU financial services licence**.

BANKING

EPFO ESSENTIALS

Interest **8.25%** for FY 2025-26. Auto-settlement limit raised to **₹5 lakh**. **e-PRAAPT** portal tracks inoperative PF accounts (inactive 3 yrs). Est. **1952**, HQ New Delhi, issues a 12-digit **UAN**.

BANKING

THE 4 CREDIT INFORMATION COMPANIES

CIBIL, Equifax, Experian, CRIF High Mark — regulated by RBI under the **CIC Act, 2005**.

BANKING

BANK OF BARODA

bob Golden Goal Deposit — **555 days** at **7.4%**, for deposits below ₹3 crore. Signed a pact with Japan's **Mizuho Bank** for cross-border M&A financing.

BANKING

IPPB FOR SHGs

India Post Payments Bank launched a **zero-balance SHG Savings Account** for rural women. No minimum balance; max deposit **₹2 lakh**; uses the **1.64 lakh** post office network.

ECONOMY

RETAIL INFLATION — JUNE 2026

CPI rose to **4.38%** (from 3.93% in May) — crossing RBI's **4% target** for the first time since Jan 2025. Released by **NSO** under MoSPI.

ECONOMY

WPI -> PPI TRANSITION

WPI June 2026: **9.87%** (May 9.68%). To be **phased out over 5 years** and replaced by the **Producer Price Index**. WPI base year now **2022-23**; articles tracked **697 -> 957**. Released by **DPIIT**.

ECONOMY

CPI BASE YEAR REVISED

New **"CPI 24"** series announced by MoSPI — base year **2024**. New items added: smartphones, ACs, electric kettles, food processors, packaged foods.

ECONOMY

IIP

Grew **5.1%** in May 2026 (April 4.9%). Base year updated to **2022-23**. The **eight core industries** make up **40.27%** of IIP.

ECONOMY

INDEX OF SERVICES PRODUCTION

New MoSPI index — base year **2024-25**, covers **19 sub-sectors** = **60%** of India's services economy. Released on the **29th monthly** with a 2-month lag.

ECONOMY

GST COLLECTIONS

June 2026: **₹1.95 lakh crore** (+14% YoY). April 2026 all-time high: **₹2.43 lakh crore** (+8.7%). GST completed **9 years** on 1 July.

ECONOMY

GST — STATIC POINTS

Replaced **17 indirect taxes**; recommended by the **Kelkar Committee**; "Father of GST" = **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**; **101st Constitutional Amendment**; **Assam** first state to pass the bill. **GST 2.0 slabs: 5%, 18%, 40%** (12% & 28% scrapped).

ECONOMY

EXTERNAL DEBT

Climbed to **\$762.8 billion** at end-March 2026 — up **\$26.3 billion** from March 2025.

ECONOMY

GDP — ACTUAL VS FORECASTS

FY25-26 real GDP growth: **7.7%**. Forecasts for FY26/27 — RBI **6.6%**, SBI **6.6%**, Goldman Sachs **6.8%**, OECD **6.3%**, ICRA **6.2%**, UN **6.4%**.

ECONOMY

JOBS DATA

PLFS unemployment rate **5.5%** (May 2026). Labour Force Participation Rate **55.9%** per Economic Survey 2025-26. India's social security coverage now **64.3%** (ILO).

ECONOMY

Q1 FY27 EXPORTS

Combined exports **\$232.73 billion**, up **11.37%**. Merchandise **+15.92%**, services **+6.16%**. Top partners: **China, USA, UAE**. Top destinations: **USA, UAE, Netherlands**.

ECONOMY

FDI — UNCTAD 2026

India rose to **11th globally** in FDI inflows (from 16th), receiving **\$38.89 billion** in 2025. **USA overtook Mauritius** as India's 2nd-largest FDI source in FY25-26.

ECONOMY

TAX + DUTY

Direct tax FY25-26 net collection: **₹23.40 lakh crore**. Customs duty on **gold, silver and platinum hiked to 15%** (effective 13 May 2026).

ECONOMY

REMITTANCES — INDIA #1

India remained the world's **top recipient of remittances** at **\$137.67 billion** — **IOM World Migration Report 2026**.

ECONOMY

16TH FINANCE COMMISSION

Covers **2026-27 to 2030-31**. Chairman: **Arvind Panagariya**.

ECONOMY

STATE FISCAL DEFICIT

Combined fiscal deficit of all states rose to **3.3% of GSDP** in FY25, up from **2.9%** in FY24.

ECONOMY

MSME CLASSIFICATION

Micro — **₹2.5 cr** investment / **₹10 cr** turnover.
Small — **₹25 cr / ₹100 cr**.
Medium — **₹125 cr / ₹500 cr**.

ECONOMY

UPI + BHIM VOLUMES

April 2026: **22.35 billion** UPI transactions worth **₹29.03 lakh crore**. **BHIM** transactions surged **301%** in FY26. India leads global digital wallet downloads — **440 million** of 1.8 billion.

SCHEMES

MGNREGA IS GONE

Replaced on **1 July 2026** by the **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025** — Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin). Framework size: **₹1.25 lakh crore**.

SCHEMES

PM SVANIDHI AT 6

Extended to **March 2030**. Plan for **50 modern street food hubs**; **Lakhanpur (J&K)** is in the first batch of 50 towns.

SCHEMES

JAL JEEVAN MISSION 2.0

Extended to **December 2028** with a revised budget of **₹8.69 lakh crore**. MoUs signed with multiple states/UTs for rural water governance.

SCHEMES

UDAN GETS 10 MORE YEARS

Cabinet approved a revamped "**Viksit Udan**" (**UDAN 2**) regional connectivity scheme with an outlay of **₹28,840 crore** over 10 years.

SCHEMES

PM SETU

₹60,000 crore to upgrade **1,000 ITIs**. **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel** was the first approved company. Expansion of **₹1,237 crore** for 5 regional clusters.

SCHEMES

MISSION FOR COTTON PRODUCTIVITY

Outlay **₹5,659.22 crore** for **2026-31**. Target: **755 kg per hectare** by 2031.

SCHEMES

ANNIVERSARIES TO REMEMBER

PMKSY (Krishi Sinchayee) — 10 years. **PMSMA** (Surakshit Matritva) — 10 years, commemorative coin & stamp. **Digital India** — 11 years (launched 1 July 2015). **Skill India** — 12 years. **IBC** — 10 years.

SCHEMES

HEALTH PLATFORMS LAUNCHED

JANANI — digital maternal & newborn care platform. **SUMAN Roadmap 2030**. **Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)**. **Swasth Bharat Portal** by JP Nadda. **Anemia Mukta Bharat's new 7x7 strategy**.

SCHEMES

FOUR LABOUR CODES

The **4 new Labour Codes** consolidate and replace **29 central labour laws**.

SCHEMES

SUPREME COURT CHANGES

Judges' strength raised from **34 to 38**. Launched '**One Case One Data**' (**OCOD**) and the '**SuSahay**' AI chatbot. Declared the **Right to Walk** a fundamental right.

SCHEMES

CENSUS 2027

Will be **India's first digitally conducted census**. Enumerator identity cards will carry a **QR code** system.

SCHEMES

DISHA 2.0

Approved by the Ministry of Law & Justice — **₹255 crore**, 100% Gross Budgetary Support, for digital justice delivery. Full form: **Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice**.

SCHEMES

BHARAT TAXI

India's **first cooperative ride-hailing platform**, launched by **Amit Shah**. Gujarat Police signed an MoU with it.

SCHEMES

PANCHAYAT ADVANCEMENT INDEX 2.0

Assessed **2.59 lakh Gram Panchayats** across **33 States/UTs**. **3,635** reached 'Front Runner' (90+ points); **1.18 lakh** graded 'Performer'. Released on **National Panchayati Raj Day (24 April)**.

SCHEMES

PORTALS TO REMEMBER

BHAVYA — 100 industrial parks.
VINIMAY — land port management.
NAFEX — NAFED digital auction. **WT MARUT** — wind turbine supply chain.
Pension Sahay — PFDA AI grievance tool. **e-Jagriti** — consumer redress (won Silver at national e-gov awards).

SCHEMES

OTHER APPROVALS

Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 replaced the 2016 Rules. Cabinet approved an **ATF Price Stabilization Fund**, the **SARTHAK** PDS umbrella scheme, and **₹37,500 crore** for coal/lignite gasification.

SCHEMES

FARM SUPPORT

PM-KISAN 23rd installment released. **CCEA approved MSP hike for 14 Kharif crops (2026-27)**. Sugarcane **FRP** hiked. Onion procurement price up **13%**.

RANKS & REPORTS

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2026

India ranked **127 / 163**. Released by the **Institute for Economics and Peace**. **Iceland** most peaceful; **Russia** least peaceful for the first time. Global military spend: **\$2.7 trillion**.

RANKS & REPORTS

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX 2026

India **157 / 180**. **Norway** tops, **Eritrea** last. Released by **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**.

RANKS & REPORTS

UN SDG INDEX 2026

India **94 / 167** with a score of **68.3**. **Finland** ranked 1st.

RANKS & REPORTS

ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX 2026

Released by the **WEF**. India **70th** (improved from 72nd). Top 3: **Sweden, Finland, Denmark**.

RANKS & REPORTS

THE FOUR SOCIAL INDICES

World Happiness Report — India **116th**, **Finland** tops.
 Global Terrorism Index — India **13th**, **Pakistan** worst affected.
 Global Gender Gap — India **131st**, **Iceland** tops.
 Environmental Performance Index — India **176th**, **Estonia** tops.

RANKS & REPORTS

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

MIT 1st with a perfect 100. India's best: **IIT Delhi at 118**, then **IIT Bombay (134)**, **IIT Madras (170)**, **IIT Kharagpur (205)**, **IISc (221)**. **52** Indian universities listed.

RANKS & REPORTS

PASSPORT + SKILLS

Global Passport Index 2026: India **125th**, **Sweden** tops.
QS World Future Skills Index 2027: India **13th**.

RANKS & REPORTS

HAPPY CITY INDEX 2026

London tops globally. **Jaipur** is the only Indian city in the top 10 — India's happiest city.

RANKS & REPORTS

SIPRI 2025

India was the **5th largest military spender** at **\$92.1 billion**.

RANKS & REPORTS

ENERGY + ENVIRONMENT RANKS

India = **3rd largest renewable energy producer**, **2nd largest solar growth market**, **5th in global hydropower (IHA)**. Targets: **500 GW non-fossil** by 2030 and **155 GW wind** by 2035.

RANKS & REPORTS

FISHERIES + SHIPPING

FAO SOFIA 2026: India is the **2nd largest producer of aquatic animals** (after China). **UNCTAD**: India is the **world's top ship recycling nation**. Seafood exports hit a record **₹73,890 crore**.

RANKS & REPORTS

STARTUPS + UNICORNS

India is the **3rd largest startup ecosystem** (after USA, China) but slipped to **4th in unicorn count**. **Sarvam AI** = India's **130th unicorn** and **first AI unicorn**; **Skyroot** = first space-tech unicorn.

RANKS & REPORTS

HURUN INDIA 500 (2025)

Reliance tops the list. **NSE** is India's **most valuable unlisted firm**.

RANKS & REPORTS

AIR POWER + TOURISM

IAF ranked **3rd most powerful air force** (WDMMA 2026). **WEF Travel & Tourism Index**: India **8th in tourism economy**. India's space economy: **\$9 billion**.

RANKS & REPORTS

NIITI AAYOG + MOSPI REPORTS

DPI @ 2047 Roadmap for a **\$30 trillion** economy. **School Education System** report — India has the world's largest school system. **Women and Men in India 2025** (27th edition). **GSDP** base year revised to **2022-23**.

APPOINTMENTS

31ST CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF

Gen Dhiraj Seth, known as the "Tank Man", succeeded Gen Upendra Dwivedi. Unveiled the "VIJAY" roadmap — Vigilance, Innovation, Jointness, Atmanirbharta, Yodha. First COAS was K.M. Cariappa (1949); Army Day 15 January.

APPOINTMENTS

SERVICE CHIEFS

CDS — Lt Gen N.S. Raja Subramani (3rd).
Navy — Vice Adm Krishna Swaminathan (27th CNS), replaced Dinesh K. Tripathi.
Air Force — Air Chief Marshal Amarpreet Singh.

APPOINTMENTS

DEPUTY CHIEFS + STAFF

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit — 51st Vice Chief of Air Staff. Air Marshal Tejinder Singh — Chief of Integrated Defence Staff. Lt Gen Sandeep Jain — Vice Chief of Army Staff.

APPOINTMENTS

INTELLIGENCE

Mahesh Dixit (1993 IPS) — Director, Intelligence Bureau, succeeding Tapan Kumar Deka. Parag Jain — Chief of RAW.

APPOINTMENTS

FATF — INDIA'S FIRST VP

Vivek Aggarwal elected Vice President of FATF — the first time India holds the post. Giles Thomson (UK) is FATF President for 2026-28.

APPOINTMENTS

INSTITUTIONAL HEADS

Ashok Kumar Lahiri — 4th Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. Prasoon Joshi — Chairman, Prasar Bharati. Shashi Shekhar Vempati — CBFC Chairperson. Neelkanth Mishra — India's Executive Director at the World Bank.

APPOINTMENTS

EXTENSIONS

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri — extended 1 year to July 2027. CBDT Chairman Ravi Agarwal — extended 6 months. Tushar Mehta reappointed Solicitor General.

APPOINTMENTS

CORPORATE INDIA

Kumar Mangalam Birla — Chairman, Vodafone Idea. Sunil Bharti Mittal — Chairman, Bharti Airtel (from 1 Oct 2026). Pankaj Pawar — CEO, Jio Platforms. Prabhjeet Singh — OpenAI's first MD for India.

APPOINTMENTS

NEW CHIEF MINISTERS

Vijay Thalapaty — 13th CM of Tamil Nadu.
Suwendu Adhikari — 9th CM of West Bengal.
D.K. Shivakumar — 25th CM of Karnataka.

APPOINTMENTS

HEADS OF STATE + GOVERNMENT

Laura Fernandez — President, Costa Rica. Rumen Radev — PM, Bulgaria. Keiko Fujimori — President, Peru. Abelardo de la Espriella — President, Colombia. Mette Frederiksen — PM, Denmark (3rd term). Abiy Ahmed — PM, Ethiopia. Sanae Takaichi — PM, Japan.

INTERNATIONAL

52ND G7 SUMMIT

Held at Évian-les-Bains, France, hosted by President Emmanuel Macron. India attended as a guest. Theme: working together on major international challenges.

INTERNATIONAL

36TH NATO SUMMIT

Hosted in Ankara, Turkey — the second time Turkey has hosted (first was 2004).

INTERNATIONAL

INDIA'S BRICS YEAR

India hosts the 18th BRICS Summit. Meetings held: 13th Urbanisation Forum (New Delhi), 16th Agriculture Ministers (Indore — Indore Declaration), 11th Energy Ministers (Gurugram, theme "Urja for All"), 16th NSA meeting (New Delhi, chaired by Ajit Doval), Anti-Drug Agencies (Guwahati).

INTERNATIONAL

TRADE AGREEMENTS

India–New Zealand FTA signed. India–Oman CEPA in force from 1 June 2026. India–EU aviation FTA signed. India–Vietnam trade target \$25 bn by 2030; India–South Korea \$50 bn by 2030.

INTERNATIONAL

UAE QUITS OPEC

The UAE officially exited OPEC and OPEC+ on 1 May 2026.

INTERNATIONAL

NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK

Uzbekistan became the 10th member and the first Central Asian country to join. NDB is headquartered in Shanghai and led by Dilma Rousseff.

INTERNATIONAL

BRAHMOS TO VIETNAM

\$629 million deal finalised. Vietnam is the 2nd buyer after the Philippines (2022). BrahMos is jointly developed by India and Russia.

INTERNATIONAL

BIG CAT ALLIANCE

Bangladesh became the 27th member of the International Big Cat Alliance; Saudi Arabia also joined. The inaugural IBCA Summit is hosted in New Delhi.

INTERNATIONAL

INDIA'S UNSC BID

India launched its campaign for a **non-permanent UNSC seat (2028-29)** under the **"SHANTI"** vision. Five new non-permanent members were elected for the 2027-28 term.

INTERNATIONAL

OPERATION AMISTAD

India's **humanitarian relief operation for Venezuela** after an earthquake. India also deployed **BHISHM Cubes (Aarogya Maitri)** to Jamaica.

INTERNATIONAL

SUMMITS INDIA HOSTED

4th India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV), **16th India-Japan Annual Summit** (with PM Sanae Takaichi), **Kimberley Process intersessional** (Mumbai), **10th Indian Ocean Dialogue**, **13th ASEAN-India AITIGA Joint Committee**, **9th UNCTAD Consumer Protection** (chaired, Geneva).

INTERNATIONAL

UNESCO GEOPARKS

12 new Global Geoparks added — total now **241** across **51** countries.

DEFENCE

INDIA'S MAIDEN ICBM TEST

Conducted on **8 May 2026**. Separately, **Agni-5** with **MIRV** technology was tested under **"Mission Divyasthra"**.

DEFENCE

MISSILES TESTED

LRSM hypersonic anti-ship (range **1,500 km**) · **Rudram-2** air-to-surface · **LRLACM** from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island · **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket** (ITR Chandipur) · **HELINA** anti-tank (**500 m – 7 km**) · **NASM-SR** first-ever salvo · **TARA**, India's first indigenous glide weapon.

DEFENCE

INS MAHENDRAGIRI

The **6th Project 17A** stealth frigate, commissioned at **Visakhapatnam**. India also received its **4th S-400 Triumph squadron** from Russia.

DEFENCE

DEFENCE PRODUCTION RECORD

Production hit **₹1.54 lakh crore**; exports **₹23,622 crore**. The **Defence Acquisition Council** cleared **₹52,000 crore** of capital acquisitions. MoD signed a **₹1,476 crore** deal with **BEL**.

DEFENCE

EXERCISES

RIMPAC 2026 — 30th edition, Hawaii, theme **"Partners: Integrated and Prepared"**, India sent **INS Shivalik**. Also **Khaan Quest** (Mongolia), **Pitch Black** (Australia), **CINBAX-II** (Cambodia), **IN-SLN DIVEX** (Sri Lanka).

DEFENCE

TWO FIRSTS FOR WOMEN

ITBP completed the **first-ever all-women Everest expedition**. The **first batch of women NDA cadets** was commissioned.

DEFENCE

NETRA CLEARED

The IAF received **Final Operational Clearance** for DRDO's indigenous **NETRA** Airborne Early Warning & Control system. A **National Military Drone Technology Hub** was approved at **IIT Kanpur**.

SCI & TECH

WORLD'S FIRST — NUCLEAR HYDROGEN

The **Department of Atomic Energy** commissioned the **world's first nuclear process heat-based hydrogen production facility** at **IGCAR, Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu)**, using a **copper-chlorine thermochemical cycle**.

SCI & TECH

100TH RAMSAR SITE

India's **100th Ramsar site** is the **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary** in **Ballia, Uttar Pradesh**.

SCI & TECH

ANKUR BRAIN ATLAS

IIT Madras released **ANKUR** — the **world's most detailed 3D human brain atlas**, unveiled at the **BRICS Neuroscience Symposium**.

SCI & TECH

INDIA'S TRANSPORT FIRSTS

First **hydrogen train** tested on the **Jind-Sonipat** route (Haryana). First **flex-fuel passenger vehicle**: **Maruti Suzuki WagonR**. First **offshore airport** planned at **Palghar, Maharashtra**. **E20 fuel** rolled out 1 April 2026; **E85** planned for **Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur**.

SCI & TECH

PRIVATE SPACE

Skyroot's Vikram-1 — India's first privately built orbital rocket, **Mission Aagamam**. **GalaxEye's Mission Drishti** — world's first **Optosar** Earth observation satellite. **Assam** to build **AssamSat**, India's first state-owned satellite.

SCI & TECH

SPACE MISSIONS

NASA terminated the **MAVEN** Mars mission after 11 years. Indian-origin NASA astronaut **Anil Menon** selected for an **8-month ISS mission (Expedition 75)**. **ISRO** — est. **15 Aug 1969**, HQ **Bengaluru**, Chairman **V. Narayanan**.

SCI & TECH

CHIP MILESTONES

IBM introduced the world's first **sub-1 nanometre** semiconductor tech (**0.7 nm**). China's **LineShine** became the world's fastest supercomputer.

SCI & TECH

INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION

12 projects approved worth ₹1.64 lakh crore. An OSAT facility is coming up at Sanand, Gujarat; Project SAMARTH is a ₹190 crore training hub at IIT Gandhinagar.

AWARDS

JNANPITH AWARD 2025

Won by Vairamuthu (Tamil) — India's highest literary honour.

AWARDS

WOLF PRIZE IN PHYSICS 2026

Awarded to Indian-origin professor Jainendra K. Jain.

AWARDS

WHITLEY AWARD 2026

The 'Green Oscar' went to two Indian women conservationists, including Parveen Shaikh.

AWARDS

PULITZER PRIZE 2026

The 110th edition. The New York Times won 3 awards, taking its total to 142. Indian journalists were among the winners.

AWARDS

IMO PRIZE

The 71st IMO Prize of the World Meteorological Organization went to French meteorologist Dr Florence Rabier.

AWARDS

HONOURS FOR PM MODI

Slovakia's Order of the White Double Cross · Seychelles' Guardian of the Blue Horizon · Sweden's Royal Order of the Polar Star. He is also the first Indian PM to visit Slovakia since 1993 and India's longest continuously serving elected PM.

AWARDS

BUSINESS HONOURS

Nita Ambani topped Fortune India's Most Powerful Women 2026. Sunil Bharti Mittal received the USISPF 2026 Leadership Award. Piyush Goyal won a special award at the UK-India Awards 2026.

AWARDS

BOOKER RENAMED

The International Booker Prize was renamed the "Bukhman International Booker Prize" and its prize money doubled.

AWARDS

FILM + CULTURE

19th MIFF — Golden Conch to the Polish documentary 'Silver'. Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2025 to Ranchhod Lalji Goswami for Haveli Sangeet. Padma Awards 2026 and National Florence Nightingale Awards (15 nurses) announced.

SPORTS

WIMBLEDON 2026

Men's singles — Jannik Sinner (Italy) beat Alexander Zverev; his 4th Grand Slam and 2nd Wimbledon. Women's singles — Linda Noskova (Czechia), her first Grand Slam.

SPORTS

FRENCH OPEN 2026

The 125th edition. Men's singles — Alexander Zverev. Women's singles — Mirra Andreeva, her first Grand Slam title.

SPORTS

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

Hosted by USA, Canada and Mexico with 48 teams and a record prize pool of \$871 million. Messi scored his 18th World Cup goal. FIFA suspended the All Nepal Football Association.

SPORTS

CRICKET TITLES

Australia won the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. Sourav Ganguly became the 12th Indian inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame (with Anjum Chopra, Kevin Pietersen).

SPORTS

BADMINTON

Thomas Cup — China (13th title). Uber Cup — South Korea. Kidambi Srikanth finished runner-up at the Yonex US Open 2026.

SPORTS

SAFF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

India won its 6th title at the 2026 SAFF Women's Championship.

SPORTS

CHESS

R. Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian to win Norway Chess, beating Magnus Carlsen. Savitha Shri B won the Women's Asian Individual Championship. New GMs: Ethan Vaz (96th), Harsha Vardhan (97th), Aswath S (98th).

SPORTS

INDIA'S SPORTING FIRSTS

First-ever gold at the World Rowing Cup. First-ever bronze at the AVC Men's Volleyball Nations Cup. Yastika Bhatia — first woman to score a Test century at Lord's.

SPORTS

RECORDS BROKEN

Ancy Sojan broke Anju Bobby George's 22-year-old long jump national record — 6.83 m → 6.88 m. Harmanpreet Kaur became the first to play 200 T20Is. Vaibhav Suryavanshi (15 yrs, 71 days) became India's youngest international debutant.

SPORTS

MEDAL HAULS

India topped the ISSF Junior World Championship 2026 (Germany) with 25 medals — 7G, 8S, 10B. India swept gold at the 56th International Physics Olympiad. 41 medals at the Asian Wrestling Championships.

SPORTS

INDIA HOSTING

22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship — Delhi, 27 July – 2 Aug 2026, 25 countries. 8th Khelo India Youth Games — Telangana. First World Yogasana Championship — Ahmedabad.

STATES & DAYS

FULLY LITERATE STATES

Uttarakhand declared India's 6th fully literate state under ULLAS; Sikkim also declared fully literate. Sikkim is separately India's first fully paperless judiciary state.

STATES & DAYS

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

Assam became the first North-Eastern state to pass a UCC bill. West Bengal introduced its own UCC bill.

STATES & DAYS

TAMIL NADU LEADS

India's top marine fish producer (overtaking Gujarat), fastest-growing merchandise exporting state (13.7% YoY), and highest higher-education enrolment with a 52.3% GER.

STATES & DAYS

STATE MARKERS

Amaravati declared the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh. Ladakh got 5 new districts (total 7). West Bengal became the 33rd state to adopt NeVA and added 23 GI tags (3rd nationally).

STATES & DAYS

18TH RAILWAY ZONE

South Coast Railway, headquartered at Visakhapatnam, began operations on 1 June 2026 as India's 18th railway zone.

STATES & DAYS

IMPORTANT DAYS — JUNE

1 World Milk Day · 3 World Bicycle Day · 5 World Environment Day · 14 World Blood Donor Day · 15 Global Wind Day & Elder Abuse Awareness · 20 World Refugee Day · 21 International Yoga Day · 23 Olympic Day & UN Public Service Day · 27 MSME Day · 29 National Statistics Day · 30 Asteroid Day.

STATES & DAYS

IMPORTANT DAYS — JULY

1 National Doctors' Day · 3 Plastic Bag Free Day · 4 Day of Cooperatives · 10 Fish Farmers Day · 11 World Population Day · 15 World Youth Skills Day · 18 Nelson Mandela Day · 20 International Moon Day · 22 National Flag Day · 23 National Broadcasting Day · 24 Income Tax Day · 28 World Nature Conservation & Hepatitis Day.

STATES & DAYS

NATIONAL STATISTICS DAY

Observed 29 June, on the birth anniversary of P.C. Mahalanobis — the "Father of Indian Statistics", architect of the Second Five-Year Plan. First observed in 2007.

STATES & DAYS

GI TAGS TO NOTE

Sirsa Kinnow — Haryana's first fruit and first exclusive GI. Basholi Painting (J&K). Khurasani Imli (MP) — Ratlam became the first district with 4 GI tags. 8 Himachal products tagged (state total 17). NABARD facilitated 28 new GI registrations (total 176).

STATES & DAYS

NAV RATNA + MINIRATNA

Navratna: Chennai Petroleum Corporation (CPCL) and GRSE. Miniratna Category-I: MECON Limited and Yantra India Limited.

STATES & DAYS

ODD BUT ASKABLE

India's first cooperative bank to convert into a Small Finance Bank. VOC Port (Thoothukudi) — first major port with enterprise Generative AI ("PortGPT"). Kamarajar Port — 2nd major port with an 18-metre draft after Visakhapatnam. Paradip handles the most cargo; JNPT is busiest.

RBI & POLICY

RBI GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Governor Sanjay Malhotra. Four Deputy Governors: Rohit Jain, Swaminathan Janakiraman, Shreesh Chandra Murmu, Poonam Gupta. Five subsidiaries: DICGC, BRBNMPL, ReBIT (cybersecurity), IFTAS, RBIH.

RBI & POLICY

CAPITAL + LIQUIDITY MOVES

Quarterly profits now counted in CETI capital. RBI injected ₹1.41 lakh crore via a 7-day Variable Rate Repo auction. Lending norms eased for REITs and InvITs.

RBI & POLICY

G-SECS FOR RETAIL

RBI proposed letting retail investors buy and sell Government Securities directly through ordinary demat accounts via the NDS-OM platform. Retail Direct gilt accounts grew 64% YoY.

RBI & POLICY

GOLD LOAN LTV

Loan-to-Value ceilings are now tiered by loan size rather than a single flat cap — the smaller the loan, the higher the permitted LTV.

RBI & POLICY

POLYMER NOTES + FEMA

RBI is evaluating polymer currency notes. It also issued fresh FEMA 2026 regulations for authorised persons and a new framework for digital outward remittances.

DIGITAL FRAUD COMPENSATION

RBI introduced a new **framework for compensating victims of digital fraud**, alongside revised **PSO guidelines** under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

NIIF DOUBLED

Cabinet approved an extra **₹30,000 crore** for the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund**, taking total government commitment to **₹60,000 crore**. NIIF was set up in **2015**.

BSDA CAP

A **Basic Services Demat Account** with holdings up to **₹10 lakh** has annual maintenance charges capped at just **₹100**.

SMALL SAVINGS RATES — Q1 FY27

Unchanged for the **9th straight quarter**. **SCSS 8.2%** · **SSY 8.2%** · **NSC 7.7%** · **KVP 7.5%** (matures in 115 months) · **5-yr PO Time Deposit 7.5%** · **POMIS 7.4%** · **PPF 7.1%** · **PO Savings 4.0%**.

SBI FUNDRAISING

Raised **\$300 million** through senior unsecured **Floating Rate Notes** — 3-year maturity at **SOFR + 100 basis points**. Board separately approved raising **₹60,000 crore** in FY 2026-27.

DIGITAL RUPEE

India's **CBDC** — the **Digital Rupee (e-₹)** — is issued by the RBI as legal tender in retail and wholesale forms.

WHO SETS SMALL SAVINGS RATES

Reviewed **quarterly** by the **Department of Economic Affairs** using the **Shyamla Gopinath Committee formula (2011)** — G-Sec yields of comparable maturity plus a markup of **0 to 100 basis points**.

PMJJBY — THE NUMBERS

1-year life cover of **₹2 lakh** on natural death, premium **₹436/year**, age **18-50**. Over **27 crore** subscribers; **₹21,500 crore** of claims settled. Jan Suraksha launched **9 May 2015**.

EXTERNAL DEBT RATIO

External debt-to-GDP ratio rose to **20.8%** in March 2026, from **19.8%** a year earlier.

PPF + SSY BASICS

PPF — **15-year** lock-in, Section **80C** benefit, **EEE** tax status. **Sukanya Samriddhi** — for girl children **under 10**, run under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

BAANKNET

The **PSB Alliance** launched **BAANKNET** — the **Bank Assets Auction Network** — a common platform for auctioning seized assets.

GST TRIBUNAL RENAMED

The GST Appellate Tribunal now functions as the **National Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling (NAAAR)**, effective **1 April 2026**.

IBC COMPLETES 10 YEARS

Of **8,987** admitted cases, **7,102** were closed. Commercial banks recovered roughly **₹1.05 lakh crore** at a **52% recovery rate**.

NPA WRITE-OFFS

Private sector banks wrote off **49.7%** of their gross NPAs in FY26.

PRIVATE CREDIT DOUBLES

Moody's reports India's **private credit market doubled to \$25 billion** over the last 5 years.

NABARD AT 45

Founded **12 July 1982**, HQ **Mumbai**, Chairman **Shaji KV**, under the Ministry of Finance. Launched "**Gramodyan**" on its 45th Foundation Day; holds **176 GI tags**.

FIV-IND

Won **runner-up at the Best Egmont Case Award 2026**. The **Financial Intelligence Unit — India** was established in **2004** under the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

FPI TAX RELIEF

From **1 April 2026**, foreign portfolio investors pay **zero tax** on interest income and capital gains from **government securities**. SEBI also shifted FPI registration fees from **USD to INR**.

PAYMENTS FIRSTS

Visa Payment Passkey launched in India with **IDFC First Bank** as first partner. **PayGlocal** (RBI PA-CB licence) integrated **Google Pay**. **JUMPP** got NPCI nod as a **TPAP** with Yes Bank as PSP.

TWO QUICK FACTS

India is the **world's largest silver consumer**. India posted a **current account surplus** in Q4 of FY25-26.

SCHEMES

VB-G RAM G — THE NUMBERS

Guarantees **125 days** of work per household (up from MGNREGA's **100**). Floor wage **₹300/day**; national average **₹327.4/day** (was ₹298.8). Wages paid within **15 days**. Interim budget **₹95,000 crore**.

SCHEMES

PMEGP

Under the **Ministry of MSME**; nodal agency **KVIC**. Max project cost **₹50 lakh** (manufacturing) and **₹20 lakh** (service). Margin money subsidy **15–35%**. Eligibility: **18+**, minimum **8th pass**, no income ceiling.

SCHEMES

KEN-BETWA LINK

Transfers surplus water from the **Ken (MP)** to the **Betwa (UP)**. Cost **₹44,605 crore**, central support **₹39,317 crore**. Includes the **77-metre Daudhan Dam** in **Panna Tiger Reserve**; target **2030**.

SCHEMES

VB-G RAM G — WHERE + WHO

Nationally launched **2 July 2026** at **Mukkavaripalle village, Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)**. Nodal body: **Ministry of Rural Development** under **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.

SCHEMES

PMSMA AT 10

Launched **June 2016** by the **Health Ministry**. Provides free antenatal care on the **9th of every month**. Marked with a **₹75 commemorative coin** and a **₹5 postage stamp**.

SCHEMES

ANNAPURNA BHANDAR

West Bengal's new scheme under CM **Suvendu Adhikari** — DBT of **₹3,000 per month** to eligible women, replacing **Lakshmi Bhandar** (₹1,500 / ₹1,700). Free travel on state buses from **1 June**.

SCHEMES

PM SVANIDHI — HOW IT WORKS

Launched **1 June 2020** by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**. Collateral-free loans in three tranches — **₹15,000, ₹25,000, ₹50,000**. Repaying tranche 2 earns a UPI-linked **RuPay credit card** up to **₹30,000**. **SVANidhi se Samridhi** links **8 welfare schemes**.

SCHEMES

WOMEN'S SCHEMES

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao — launched **22 Jan 2015** from **Panipat, Haryana**. **Mission Shakti** — umbrella scheme (2021–22 to 2025–26) with **One Stop Centres**, **Women Helpline 181** and **Nari Adalat**.

SCHEMES

CORPORATE MITRA + APAAR

Corporate Mitra (**Ministry of Corporate Affairs**) trains advisers to help MSMEs with compliance and taxation. **APAAR ID** is the "**Aadhaar for education**", integrated with the **Academic Bank of Credit** (launched 2021 under **NEP**).

SCHEMES

PM SURYA GHAR MUFT BIJLI

Launched **13 Feb 2024** with **₹75,021 crore**. Target **75 lakh households** by **Dec 2026** and **1 crore** by **March 2027**. Subsidy up to **₹78,000** for **3kW**; **300 free units** a month. **World Bank** approved **\$890 million** for it.

SCHEMES

PMFME

Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises — launched **2020** with **₹10,000 crore** under the **Ministry of Food Processing**. Crossed **2 lakh credit-linked beneficiaries**; allows **100% FDI**.

SCHEMES

MODI'S 7 PRINCIPLES

For economic self-reliance: use **public transport**; **avoid foreign travel** for a year; **halt non-essential gold purchases**; **cut edible oil use**; **shift to natural farming**; go **Vocal for Local**; **adopt work from home** to save petrol.

SCHEMES

UJJWALA SUBSIDY CUT

Subsidised LPG refills under **PMUY** capped at **4 per year**, down from **9**. Subsidy stays at **₹300 per cylinder**.

SCHEMES

LOKOS + SHE LEAPS

Two portals under **DAY-NRLM**. **LOKOS** digitises Self-Help Group bookkeeping — savings, loans, member profiles. **She Leaps** launched **29 June 2026** for **SHG entrepreneurs**.

RANKS & REPORTS

GI TAG TARGET

India aims for **10,000 GI tags by 2030**. Recent additions: **Unjha Jeera** and **Unjha Saunf** (**Mahesana, Gujarat**) and the 200-year-old **Jodhpur Mojari** (**Rajasthan**).

SCHEMES

PMJAY

West Bengal became the **36th State/UT** to implement **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY**. Cover: **₹5 lakh per family per year**. Originally launched in **2018** from **Ranchi**.

SCHEMES

PM SETU — FULL FORM

Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs — a centrally sponsored scheme approved in **2025** to upgrade **1,000 ITIs**.

RANKS & REPORTS

TIGER RESERVES

India has **58 tiger reserves**; the **Environment Ministry (Bhupender Yadav)** prioritised **25** for population growth. The **58th** is **Madhav Tiger Reserve (MP)**. Announced at **Sariska**, marking **18 years** since reintroduction.

INTERNATIONAL

NECKLACE OF DIAMONDS

India's counter to China's encirclement, built on maritime footholds — **Dugm Port (Oman)**, **Chabahar Port (Iran)** and **Sabang Port (Indonesia)**.

STATES & DAYS

3RD JUNE PLAN

June 3 marked the **79th anniversary** of the **Mountbatten Plan** of 1947, introduced by **Lord Louis Mountbatten**, the last Viceroy of India.

STATIC GK

GI TAG FRAMEWORK

Governed globally by **TRIPS** under the **WTO**; a tag is valid for **10 years**. India's law is the **GI Act, 1999**, and the first Indian tag went to **Darjeeling Tea in 2004-05**.

INTERNATIONAL

SEYCHELLES VISIT

PM Modi signed **19 bilateral agreements**; Seychelles agreed to adopt **UPI**. He received the new civilian honour "**Guardian of the Blue Horizon**" — his **34th** international award. Capital **Victoria** · President **Patrick Herminie** · Currency **Seychelles Rupee**.

STATES & DAYS

OBITUARIES TO KNOW

Teejan Bai — legendary **Pandwani** exponent. **S. Janaki** — the "**Nightingale of South India**". **Vijaya Mehta** — Marathi theatre pioneer. **Lt Gen M.M. Lakhera** — former Governor of Mizoram and LG of Puducherry.

STATIC GK

GEOGRAPHY ONE-LINERS

Capital of Arunachal Pradesh — **Itanagar**. Longest river in India — **Ganga (2,525 km)**. Land of Five Rivers — **Punjab (Panchnad)**. Silicon Valley of India — **Bengaluru**.

INTERNATIONAL

INDIA-ITALY 2027

Declared the **Year of Culture and Tourism**. PM Modi gifted PM **Giorgia Meloni** stoles of **Assam Muga silk** and the **Manipuri Shirui Lily**.

STATES & DAYS

BOOKS RELEASED

The Second Orbit — Group Captain **Shubhanshu Shukla**. **China's War** — **Vijay Gokhale**. **Apnapan** — **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**. **IIT: The Story of India's Most Prestigious Educational Ecosystem** — **Prabhat Kumar**.

STATIC GK

DANDI MARCH

The **Salt March** was led by **Mahatma Gandhi**, beginning **12 March 1930**.

AWARDS

PADMA AWARDS 2026

President **Droupadi Murmu** presented **65** of **131** awards. **Padma Shri** — cricketer **Rohit Sharma** and actor **R. Madhavan**. **Padma Bhushan** — actor **Mammootty** and singer **Alka Yagnik**.

STATIC GK

CONSTITUTION BASICS

Fundamental Rights are in **Articles 12 to 35**. The Constitution was adopted and came into force on **26 January 1950**. **B.R. Ambedkar** is the Father of the Indian Constitution. India is described as a "**Union of States**".

STATIC GK

ASSAM — STATE PROFILE

Formed **26 January 1950**; capital **Dispur**; **Guwahati** sits on the **Brahmaputra**. **126** Assembly, **14** Lok Sabha, **7** Rajya Sabha seats. CM **Himanta Biswa Sarma**, Governor **Lakshman Prasad Acharya**. **35** districts including **Majuli**.

SCI & TECH

NIDAR 2.0

MeiTY launched the **National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research 2.0** with the **Drone Federation of India** — drones built on **Made-in-India chips** under the **Swayaan** initiative.

STATIC GK

WHICH LIST IS IT ON?

Defence — Union List. **Education** — Concurrent List. **Police** — State List. **IT sector** — **Residuary powers**.

STATIC GK

ASSAM — SYMBOLS + CULTURE

Animal **One-horned rhino** · Bird **White-winged wood duck** · Tree **Hollong** · Flower **Foxtail orchid**. Festival **Bihu** (thrice a year); classical dance **Sattriya**. **7** national parks — **Kaziranga** got its UNESCO tag in **1985**.

SCI & TECH

ZOJILA TUNNEL

Set to be **India's longest road tunnel**. Located at **Minamarg**, **Kargil district**, on **NH-1**; excavation witnessed by **Nitin Gadkari**.

STATIC GK

BODIES + AMENDMENTS

The **94th Amendment Act (2006)** mandates a **State Tribal Welfare Minister** in states like Bihar. The **National Commission for Women** is a **statutory body**. The **Union Budget** is released by the **Ministry of Finance**.

STATIC GK

UTTARAKHAND — STATE PROFILE

Formed **9 November 2000** from UP; renamed from **Uttaranchal** in **2007**. Known as **Devbhoomi**; borders **China** and **Nepal**. Capitals **Dehradun** and **Gairsain**. **70** Assembly, **5** Lok Sabha, **3** Rajya Sabha seats.

STATIC GK

UTTARAKHAND — SYMBOLS

Tree **Rhododendron** · Animal **Musk deer**
· Bird **Monal**. Local festival **Phool Dei**.
Hosts the **Chhota Char Dham** —
Yamunotri, Gangotri, Badrinath and
Kedarnath (on the Mandakini).

STATIC GK

KERALA'S NATIONAL PARKS

Pampadum Shola — Kerala's **smallest**,
also called the "**Snake Dance Forest**".
Also **Eravikulam**, **Silent Valley**, **Anamudi**
Shola, **Mathikettan Shola**. **Periyar** is
the tiger reserve.

STATIC GK

PARKS TO PLACE CORRECTLY

Jim Corbett — Uttarakhand. **Kanha**
Tiger Reserve and **Fossil National Park**
— Madhya Pradesh. **Gir** — Gujarat, the
only natural home of **Asiatic lions**.

STATIC GK

ORGANISATION FOUNDING FACTS

ZSI — est. **1 July 1916**, celebrated its
111th Foundation Day. **WEF** — founded
1971, HQ **Cologny, Geneva**. **ADB** — HQ
Mandaluyong, Philippines, President
Masato Kanda, **69** members.

RANKS & REPORTS

NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNTS (10TH)

Government health spend rose from
1.15% to 1.43% of GDP. Per capita
₹1,042 to ₹2,786 (2.7x).
Out-of-pocket expenditure fell from
64.2% to 43.4% — the key positive.
Private health insurance share up **3.4%**
to **9.2%**.

RANKS & REPORTS

NFHS-6

Conducted **2023-24** across **6.79 lakh**
households in **715 districts** (all
states/UTs except Manipur). Nodal
agency: **IIPS Mumbai**. Health insurance
coverage **41% to 60.2%**; full child
vaccination **83.8% to 87.1%**.

RANKS & REPORTS

CONTAINER PORT PERFORMANCE INDEX 2025

Jointly built by the **World Bank** and
S&P; **Global Market Intelligence**. Top
port **Fuzhou, China** — China holds **4 of**
the top 5. India's best is **JNPA** at
22nd.

RANKS & REPORTS

PASSPORT INDEX — THE TOP AND BOTTOM

Sweden 1st (score **96.5**), **Switzerland**
2nd, **Finland 3rd**, **Germany 4th**. India
125th with about **45.1**. Bottom three:
Somalia, Syria, Afghanistan (197th).

RANKS & REPORTS

GLOBAL INFLUENCE

US News and World Report 2026: India
ranked **16th**, driven by digital
transformation. The **United States** is
the most influential country.

RANKS & REPORTS

TOURISM NUMBERS

In **2024** India ranked **20th** globally with
20.6 million international arrivals,
earning **\$31.6 billion**. The **WTTC** projects
India as the **4th largest tourism**
economy within a decade.

RANKS & REPORTS

TOURISM SCHEMES

Swadesh Darshan (2014) — **76**
projects, **₹5,000 crore**, **75** completed.
Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (2022) —
experience-based tourism. **PRASAD** —
spiritual tourism, **54** projects, **₹1,700**
crore.
Mamallapuram became **South Asia's**
first Green Destination Silver Certificate
site.

RANKS & REPORTS

PGI 2.0 GRADES

Ministry of Education's Performance
Grading Index runs **Daksh** (highest),
Utkarsh, **Atti-Uttam**, **Uttam**, **Prachesta**
1-3, **Akanshi 1-3**. **NEP 2020** was drafted
under **Dr K. Kasturirangan**.

DEFENCE

EXERCISES TO PLACE

Lamitiye — India-Seychelles. **Dweep**
Shakti — tri-services, **Andaman &**
Nicobar. **IMT TRILAT** — Navy, at **Kochi**.
Amogh Jwala — Army, at **Babina**.
Khaan Quest — 23rd edition, **Mongolia**.

DEFENCE

DRONES INDUCTED

The Indian Army received **106 kamikaze**
drones and inducted indigenous **ULGPM**
and **Agnika VTOL-I** systems.

DEFENCE

TREATIES + YEARBOOKS

The US-Russia **New START** treaty is set
to **expire**. The **SIPRI Yearbook** tracked
global nuclear stockpiles and India's
military expenditure. India held its
first-ever Joint Defence Committee
meeting with **Zimbabwe**.

INTERNATIONAL

BRICS MSME FORUM

The **1st BRICS MSME Forum** and **3rd**
SME Working Group met at **Agra**, under
the theme "**Building for Resilience,**
Innovation, Cooperation and
Sustainability".

INTERNATIONAL

KAILASH MANSAROVAR ROUTES

Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand) reopened
after **6 years** as the **second route**. The
first route, **Nathu La Pass (Sikkim)**,
sent its first batch of **44** pilgrims.

INTERNATIONAL

FOREIGN CAMPUSES IN INDIA

Approved: **University of Bristol** and
University of York (UK) in **Mumbai**, and
the **University of New South Wales**
(Australia) in **Bengaluru**. **University of**
Liverpool is also opening in **Bengaluru**.
IIM Bangalore takes its first overseas
campus to **Indonesia**.

SCHEMES

PRAGATI INITIATIVE

Promoting Regenerative Agriculture through Agri Entrepreneurship Initiative — launched to support agri-entrepreneurs practising regenerative farming.

SCHEMES

SARTHAK, RAH VEER + MORE

SARTHAK — umbrella PDS scheme. **Rah Veer / Raahveer** — rewards Good Samaritans who help road accident victims, with **Rapido** partnering MoRTH. **PM-RAHAT** — cashless treatment for road accident victims.

STATES & DAYS

KERALA — ASWAS 2026

A 100-day one-time settlement scheme (1 June to 31 Aug 2026) for defaulters of primary agricultural cooperative societies — suspends attachment, waives penal interest, offers up to 15% interest concession.

STATES & DAYS

DELHI — PINK SAHELI CARD

Free bus travel card, now extended to transgender individuals. From 1 August 2026 it becomes mandatory for women to travel free on DTC and Cluster buses.

STATES & DAYS

HIMACHAL + UTTARAKHAND

HP's **Krishak Bakri Palan Yojana** — goat farming with a 60% subsidy. Uttarakhand's **STI Policy** under CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** applies AI, blockchain and drones to governance and agriculture.

STATES & DAYS

GUJARAT — OPERATION MILAP

Launched by Gujarat Police on 7 May 2026 to trace missing persons — 1,470 people reunited in one month, the most from Surat.

STATES & DAYS

ODISHA'S BIG THREE

Gyanodaya — **Shiksharu Samruddhi** — free education KG to PG, ₹5,467.55 crore over 5 years. **Go East** investment initiative. **Deep Sea Fishing Mission** — ₹2,295 crore, running 2026 to 2036.

STATES & DAYS

TELANGANA + KARNATAKA

Telangana sanctioned ₹7,345 crore for **Musi River** rejuvenation (Phase I). Karnataka announced India's first government-driven AI University and India's first state-led Space Tech Centre of Excellence.

STATES & DAYS

ANDHRA PRADESH

Launched **Pilloo AI**, a voice-based billing app for small businesses, and **Pillale Sampada** on World Population Day. Also set up the **AP Angel Fund** and a joint AI task force with Google.

STATES & DAYS

MIZORAM + PUNJAB

Mizoram launched the **Ginger Mission** (₹189.79 crore) and the **Kural** real-time disaster response app. Punjab launched **CM Meri Rasoi Yojana** and **250 Pendu Khed Maidan** rural sports grounds.

STATES & DAYS

DELHI'S ENVIRONMENT PUSH

Delhi EV Policy 2.0 came into effect. Cabinet approved the "Clean Air Healthy Delhi" project and **Mission Kayakalp** to modernise government schools.

STATES & DAYS

MORE IMPORTANT DAYS

9 June World Accreditation Day · 19 June World Sickle Cell Awareness Day (UNGA, 2008) and International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict · 16 June International Day of Family Remittances · 28 June National Insurance Awareness Day.

SPORTS

FORMULA 1 WINNERS

Lewis Hamilton took his first win for **Ferrari** at the **Barcelona GP**. **George Russell** won the **Austrian GP**. **Charles Leclerc** (Ferrari) won the **British GP**.

SPORTS

SAND ART RECORD

Sudarsan Pattnaik (Odisha) became the first Indian to win the **Russia Grand Sand Masters Cup 2026** at the sand sculpture festival in **Kaliningrad**.

SPORTS

WIMBLEDON PRIZE MONEY

Wimbledon announced a record purse of **£64.2 million** (about **\$85.74 million**) for 2026.

SPORTS

BANS AND REINSTATEMENTS

The **IOC** lifted its ban on **Belarus** athletes and later provisionally lifted the suspension of the **Russian Olympic Committee**. **FIDE** imposed a 2-year ban on Russian GM **Vladimir Kramnik**.

SPORTS

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS

Sheetal Devi named **Para Archer of the Year 2025**. **Neeraj Chopra** competed at the **Doha Diamond League**. **Smriti Mandhana** was the only Indian on **TIME's 100 Most Influential in Sports**.

SPORTS

IPL FRANCHISE DEALS

Rajasthan Royals acquired by the **Lakshmi Mittal** family (75%) and **Adar Poonawalla** (18%) at a **\$1.6 billion** valuation. **CCI** approved an **Aditya Birla**-led **₹16,660 crore** acquisition of **Royal Challengers Bengaluru**.

ECONOMY

BILLIONAIRE BENCHMARKS

Elon Musk topped the **Forbes Billionaires** list at **\$834 billion**; the top 10 together hold **\$2.9 trillion**. He later became the world's **first paper trillionaire**.

ECONOMY

BIG-TICKET INVESTMENTS

Amazon announced \$48 billion in India by 2030 for AI and AWS. Meta + Reliance are building a 168 MW data centre in Jamnagar. Google Cloud's AI hub in Visakhapatnam is India's largest single-location FDI.

ECONOMY

CORPORATE BORROWING FIRSTS

Reliance raised a 91.9 billion yen (about \$625 million) "Samurai Loan" — the largest by an Indian corporate. Power Grid secured an 80 billion yen (₹4,700 crore) loan from JBIC.

ECONOMY

MERGERS OF NOTE

REC Limited fully merged with Power Finance Corporation, as announced in the 2026-27 Budget. The government plans to sell a 5% stake in GIC Re.

SCI & TECH

AI LANDSCAPE

ChatGPT crossed 1 billion monthly active users — the fastest app in history. A UN AI Governance Report found 75% of global AI computing capacity sits in the US and 15% in China.

SCI & TECH

DISCOVERIES IN INDIA

Two new spider species (*Psechrus*) in Nagaland and a lynx spider (*Hamataliwa mawlyngot*) in Meghalaya, both by the ZSI. A 700-year-old banyan — among the world's oldest accurately dated — was found in Munger, Bihar.

SCI & TECH

HEALTH INNOVATIONS

Novo Nordisk launched "Aweekly" (insulin icodec) — the world's first once-weekly insulin. India introduced Pluvicto, a Novartis radioligand therapy. Japan became the first nation to recover rare earth metals from 6,000 m deep-sea sediments.

SUMMITS

BONN CLIMATE CONFERENCE 2026

The SB 64 session under the UNFCCC, held in Bonn, Germany (8-18 June), ahead of COP 31. COP pipeline: COP 30 Belem (Brazil) · COP 31 Turkey · COP 32 Ethiopia · COP 33 Australia.

SUMMITS

114TH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

Held in Geneva, Switzerland, focused on gig worker rights. India was represented by Shobha Karandlaje.

SUMMITS

ADB 59TH ANNUAL MEETING

Held at Samarkand, Uzbekistan. ADB launched a \$70 billion regional connectivity plan for Asia-Pacific with a target year of 2035, plus a critical minerals initiative.

SUMMITS

2ND PAX SILICA SUMMIT

Held in Washington DC (25-26 June) on AI supply chains, hosted by Jacob Helberg. 35 nations signed on, India represented by S. Krishnan of MeitY.

SUMMITS

13TH BRICS URBANISATION FORUM

Held at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan, New Delhi (11-12 June). Theme: "Cities for people, BRICS cooperation for inclusive and resilient urban future".

SUMMITS

11TH OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE

Held in Mombasa, Kenya, where 15 countries adopted the Mombasa Declaration on fisheries transparency, illegal fishing and marine protection.

SUMMITS

WHERE NEXT?

Thailand hosts the 2026 IMF-World Bank annual meeting. The 81st UNGA convenes in September 2026 in New York. The Global AI Summit 2027 goes to Geneva.

SUMMITS

HEALTH + PUBLIC POLICY

10th National Public Health Summit — Chandigarh. 16th Central Council of Health and Family Welfare conference, where JP Nadda launched the SUMAN Roadmap 2030.

SUMMITS

REGIONAL FORUMS

SCO Women's Forum 2026 — Kyrgyzstan. West African Hydrographic Summit — Abuja and Lagos, Nigeria. 14th Kultaranta Talks — India-Finland strategic review.

SUMMITS

BILATERAL SUMMITS

3rd Annual Bilateral Leaders' Summit — Melbourne, Australia, with PM Modi and PM Anthony Albanese. 8th India-Indonesia Joint Commission — New Delhi.

SUMMITS

DOMESTIC REVIEWS

PM Modi chaired the 51st PRAGATI meeting, reviewing ₹30,000 crore of infrastructure projects. The 11th NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting was also held.

SUMMITS

AI GOVERNANCE

The Global Dialogue on AI Governance 2026 met in Geneva. The ITU formed the AI for Good Global Commission with three Indian founding members.

COMMITTEES

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES COMMITTEE

Chaired by **Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar** under the **High Power Demographic Mission** (launched 15 Aug 2025). Given **one year** to study imbalances caused by **cross-border activity and illegal immigration**.

COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENT PANELS

The Supreme Court appointed a committee headed by **Kanchan Devi** to balance conservation and mining in the **Aravalli range**. The **National Biodiversity Authority** formed a **1-year expert committee on agro-biodiversity**.

PLACES IN NEWS

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

A rare **melanistic tiger** and three cubs at **Similipal (Odisha)**. Two female **cheetahs** released into **Kuno (MP)**. **Gharials** released into the **Gandak river (Bihar)**. A **caracal** sighted in **Madhya Pradesh**.

COMMITTEES

INDIAN CINEMA STUDY GROUP

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting set up a high-level group headed by **Prasoon Joshi** to chart the future of Indian cinema — report due in **3 months**.

COMMITTEES

COMMITTEES BEHIND THE POLICY

Kelkar Committee — recommended **GST**. **Shyamla Gopinath Committee (2011)** — small savings rate formula. **Nachiket Mor Committee (2014)** — financial inclusion. **RV Gupta Committee (1998)** — agricultural credit / **Kisan Credit Card**.

PLACES IN NEWS

PROTECTED SITES

Borjuli, Sonitpur (Assam) notified a **Biodiversity Heritage Site**. The **Natural History Museum, Mizoram University** became India's **21st Designated Repository** under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. **Goa's eco-zone** declared a **No Development Zone**.

COMMITTEES

NCW EXPERT COMMITTEE

The National Commission for Women formed a panel headed by former Delhi High Court judge **Asha Menon** to review the legal framework for **IVF clinics, ART centres and gamete banks**.

COMMITTEES

OTHER PANELS

A **5-member** search-cum-selection committee for the **National Sports Board**. A committee on the **Yamuna Action Plan**. The Tamil Nadu school curriculum committee is now chaired by **Dr Mylswamy Annadurai**, the "**Moon Man of India**".

PLACES IN NEWS

LADAKH

Chumur became India's **first model border village**. The **Fotu La Tunnel** was approved for all-weather connectivity. Ladakh also set up the first **Snow Leopard and High Altitude Nature Conservation Society**.

COMMITTEES

IRDAI AI WORKING GROUP

A **7-member** committee chaired by **Prof. Sandeep K. Shukla**, Director of **IIIT Hyderabad**, to guide responsible AI adoption by insurers.

PLACES IN NEWS

VOLCANOES THAT ERUPTED

Mayon — Albay province, **Philippines**. **Mount Dukono** — **Indonesia**. **Volcán de Fuego** — **Guatemala**, caused by the collision of the **Cocos and Caribbean plates**.

PLACES IN NEWS

RECORD-SETTING SPOTS

Havelock Island (A&N) — Guinness record for the **world's largest underwater national flag**. **Choryasi, Gujarat** — India's first **multi-lane free-flow tolling**. **Munger, Bihar** — a **700-year-old banyan**, among the world's oldest accurately dated.

COMMITTEES

SEBI'S PANELS

Expert group to modernise the **1993 regulations** — chaired by **Ananta Barua**, co-chaired by **Rajnish Kumar**. Separate **Expert Working Group on Debenture Trustees**, and the '**Cyber-suraksha.ai**' AI task force on market cybersecurity.

PLACES IN NEWS

STRAIT OF HORMUZ

The USA launched "**Project Freedom**" to protect commercial shipping there, while Iran's **IRGC** declared a strict **naval control zone**.

PLACES IN NEWS

INDUSTRIAL MAP

Sanand (Gujarat) — **OSAT** semiconductor facility. **Jewar (UP)** — circuit manufacturing plant. **Dholera** — semi-high-speed rail from **Ahmedabad**. **Thoothukudi (TN)** — India's first mega greenfield shipyard. **Warangal** — first **PM MITRA** park.

COMMITTEES

NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Dr Saibal Chattopadhyay, former director of **IIM Calcutta**, appointed **Chairperson**. Part-time members include **Madhavan Mukund** and **Satyendra Bahadur Singh**.

PLACES IN NEWS

THE OMEGA BLOCK

Extreme heat waves in **Western Europe** were caused by an "**Omega Block**" — a dome-shaped atmospheric boundary shaped like the Greek letter **omega** that traps hot air, blocks cloud formation and intensifies solar radiation.

PLACES IN NEWS

RESTORATION + HERITAGE

The **ASI** is helping restore the **Prambanan Temple in Indonesia**. Italy was declared **UNESCO World Heritage Capital** with **61 sites** (55 cultural, 6 natural). Nepal's **Jyestha Varna Mahavihara** won a **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award**.

ARTS & CULTURE

VENICE BIENNALE

India took part in the **61st International Art Exhibition in Venice, Italy**. Pavilion theme: **"Geographies of Distance: Remembering Home"**. Five artists including **A. Balasubramaniam, Ranjani Shettar and Asim Waqif**.

ARTS & CULTURE

19TH MIFF

The biennial non-fiction festival organised by **NFDC** and the Ministry of I&B. **Golden Conch** to the Polish film **"Silver"** (Natalia Koniarz). **Silver Conch** for animation to **"Maya's Song"**. Opening documentary: **"Time and Water"** by Sara Dosa.

ARTS & CULTURE

FESTIVALS TO PLACE

Raja Parba — Odisha's monsoon harvest festival; Odisha also has **Nuakhai, Rath Yatra (Puri)** and **Bali Jatra (Cuttack)**. **Moatsu** — Nagaland. **Thrissur Pooram** — Kerala. **Hool Diwas** — Jharkhand.

ARTS & CULTURE

TEMPLE FAIRS

Ambubachi Mela at the **Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati (Assam)**. **Kheer Bhawani Mela** in **Jammu & Kashmir**, celebrated by Kashmiri Pandits at the **Kheer Bhawani Temple**, dedicated to **Ragnya Devi**.

ARTS & CULTURE

ICONS OF INDIA

Madame Tussauds London launched an **'Icons of India'** exhibition with **13 Indian wax figures** — including **Sachin Tendulkar, Amitabh Bachchan, Virat Kohli and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan**.

ARTS & CULTURE

HERITAGE + ANNIVERSARIES

Vande Mataram to get legal protection on its **150th anniversary**. **Akashvani (All India Radio)** completed **90 years**. The **Jagannath Temple, Puri** secured trademarks.

ARTS & CULTURE

STATUES + EXHIBITIONS ABROAD

A **Swami Vivekananda** statue unveiled in **Chicago**. A **90 kg bronze** of **Maharishi Sushruta**, the **Father of Surgery**, unveiled at the **Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh**. The **'Shunya to Anant'** exhibition opened at **UN Headquarters**.

ARTS & CULTURE

THEATRE + FILM HONOURS

Amol Palekar received the **META Lifetime Achievement** award. The **23rd Stuttgart Indian Film Festival** was held in **Germany**. PM Modi received **11th-century Chola copper plates** from **Leiden University**.

BOOKS

POLITICAL MEMOIRS

'From Guerrilla Fighter to Chief Minister' — **Zoramthanga**, former CM of **Mizoram**. **'A Road Well Travelled'** — **R.K. Raghavan**, former **CBI Director**.

BOOKS

BOOKS BY TUSHAR MEHTA

Solicitor General **Tushar Mehta** authored **'The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre'** and **'The Lawful and the Awful'** — both released by **Amit Shah**.

BOOKS

SPORT + SPACE

"India's First Olympic Gold: Hockey Triumph at Amsterdam" — **K. Arumugam**, released by **PT Usha** and **Dilip Tirkey**. **"The Second Orbit"** — **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla**.

BOOKS

BUSINESS + POLITICS

"Better Never Stops" — **Shyam Srinivasan**, former head of **Federal Bank**. **"Politics, Policy and Predictions"** — **Derek O'Brien**. **"VIP Culture in India"** — **Nabam Rebia** and **Sandeep Kumar**.

BOOKS

OTHERS TO NOTE

"China's War" — **Vijay Gokhale**. **"Apnapan"** — **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**. **"IIT: The Story of India's Most Prestigious Educational Ecosystem"** — **Prabhat Kumar**. **"Stamps, Coins and Banknotes"** — **Mintage World**.

BOOKS

OPERATION SINDOOR VOLUME

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** released a commemorative volume documenting the operation, featuring testimonies from **100 armed forces personnel**. Operation **Sindoor** was launched **7 May 2025** in response to the **Pahalgam attack**.

APPOINTMENTS

AMBASSADORS + HIGH COMMISSIONERS

Prashant Pise — Ambassador to **Oman**. **Dinesh Trivedi** — High Commissioner to **Bangladesh**. **Pranay Verma** — Ambassador to **Belgium and the EU**. **Somnath Ghosh** — High Commissioner to **Malaysia**.

APPOINTMENTS

WORLD BANK POSTING

Neelkanth Mishra appointed India's **Executive Director at the World Bank** for **3 years**, replacing **Parameswaran Iyer**. World Bank HQ: **Washington DC**, headed by **Ajay Banga**.

APPOINTMENTS

BRAND AMBASSADORS

Shah Rukh Khan — **Visa**. **MS Dhoni** — **Drive**. **Leander Paes** — **Player Ambassador, Asian Tennis Federation**. **Shreyas Iyer** — **F1 Sim Racing India Open**. **Sourav Ganguly** — **InsuranceDekho**.

APPOINTMENTS

CORPORATE + INSTITUTIONAL

A.K. Panda — CMD, **SAIL**. **Anant Swarup** — Secretary General, **FICCI**. **Harvansh Chawla** — Chairman, **BRICS CCI**. **Prashant Sitaram Lokhande** — **CBSE** Chairman. **Sanjay Lohiya** — Director on the **RBI** and **SBI** Central Boards.

MISC

KUMBH + FESTIVALS AHEAD

Madhya Pradesh partnered with **Google** for AI-based crowd management at the **2028 Simhashta Kumbh**. **Maharashtra** unveiled the logo for the **Nashik Simhashta Kumbh Mela**. **Sikkim** hosted the **Indian Orchid Festival**.

APPOINTMENTS

MORE NAMES

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar — Vice Chief of Naval Staff. **Piyush Singla** — Director, National Health Authority. **Rahul Vatts** — Chairperson, **COAI**. **Kunal Shah** (**CRED** founder) — Global CEO of **WhatsApp** at **Meta**.

MISC

ODDS AND ENDS

India assumed chairmanship of the **Common Criteria Development Board** (2026-28) and bid to host the **ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2030**. **Scotland** became the first UK country to legalise **water cremation**. **Usutu virus** was detected in **Scotland**.

MISC

EMBO GOLD MEDAL 2026

Won by Indian-origin scientist **Gautam Dey** and Switzerland's **Omayra Judin** for work on the evolutionary origins of **nuclear organization and cell division**.

MISC

INDIA-UK PACTS

India and the UK signed the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** and the **Double Contribution Convention (DCC)**, alongside a **Critical Minerals Observatory**.

MISC

DIGITAL MILESTONES

MrBeast crossed **500 million** YouTube subscribers, receiving a custom button from India-origin CEO **Neal Mohan**. **Telegram** faced a temporary ban under **Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000**.

MISC

BHIM'S NEXT ACT

NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL) — one of **NPCI's** four subsidiaries — is upgrading **BHIM** from a payment app into a **financial super app**. **UPI FX** was also launched.