1. Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY)

- Aim: strengthen Gram Panchayats as institutions of local self-governance through better planning, coordination, capacity building and transparency.
- Total outlay: ₹7,395.55 crore over 5 years (FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31), aligned with the 16th Finance Commission period.
  - Central share: ₹4,869.48 crore.
  - State share: ₹2,526.07 crore.

2. PANCHAM: an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled, multilingual, two-way communication platform in 17 Indian languages.

3. Cabinet Approves ₹10,000 Crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)

- Outlay: ₹10,000 crore over 13 years (FY 2027–28 to FY 2039–40): 3 years for setting up facilities + 10 years of production support.
- Target: raise India's annual container manufacturing capacity about tenfold, from about 70,000 TEU to 7.5 lakh TEU (7,50,000 TEU).

4. PM-KISAN: 24th Instalment of ₹18,680 Crore Released from Banaskantha, Gujarat

- Launched on 24 February 2019 at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- Provides eligible landholding farmer families ₹6,000 per year in three equal instalments of ₹2,000 through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

5. Digital Kisan Credit Card (KCC): Uttar Pradesh Ranks First

- KCC Scheme was introduced in 1998 on the recommendation of the R.V. Gupta Committee.
- Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) loan limit raised from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh (announced in Union Budget 2025–26).
- Interest subvention: 1.5% to lending institutions + 3% Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI) to farmers, reducing the effective interest rate from 7% to 4% per annum.
- Collateral-free limit raised from ₹1.6 lakh to ₹2 lakh.
- Uttar Pradesh ranks 1st in India in Digital Kisan Credit Card (KCC) applications, with more than 1 lakh applications within 8 months of launch (reported 7–8 October 2026).
  - Rank 2: Karnataka (about 95,000 applications).
  - Rank 3: Haryana (about 42,000 applications).
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) KCC Directions (19 June 2026):
  - Tenure: 6 years for the composite KCC facility (earlier 5 years), applicable to KCC loans sanctioned from 1 January 2027.
  - Collateral-free limit of ₹2 lakh retained; up to ₹3 lakh without collateral in specified crop-hypothecation and recovery tie-up cases.
  - Crop seasons standardised at 12 months (short-duration crops) and 18 months (long-duration crops).
  - Flexi-KCC of ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 for marginal farmers with up to 1 hectare of land.
- Union Budget 2026–27: ₹22,600 crore allocated for MISS (KCC interest subvention).
- Kisan Rin Portal (launched in 2023): for digital tracking of KCC loans and interest subvention claims.

6. Concessional Annual Local Pass for Residents near National Highway Toll Plazas

- Eligibility: owners of non-commercial vehicles living within a 20 km radius of an eligible National Highway (NH) fee plaza, with a valid FASTag.
- Annual fee:
  - Fee plazas outside municipal/local town limits: ₹1,500 per year.
  - Fee plazas within municipal/local town limits: ₹3,000 per year.
- All-India FASTag Annual Pass: ₹3,075 for 2026–27, valid for 1 year or 200 crossings, whichever is earlier.
- FASTag: valid for 5 years; uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology under the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

7. Cabinet Approves Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme

- Outlay: ₹1,856.67 crore over about 8 years (2026–27 to 2033–34).
  - ₹1,130 crore for Anchor Investment Support and Turnover Linked Support.

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- ₹105 crore for International Sports Federation certification.

8. Index of Industrial Production (IIP) Grows 6.7% in September 2026

- MoSPI revised the IIP base year from 2011–12 to 2022–23; the first release under the new series came on 1 June 2026 (April 2026 data).
- Item groups expanded from 407 to 463; items/products from 839 to 1,042.

9. Revised base years of key macroeconomic indicators:

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP): 2022–23 (earlier 2011–12).
- Index of Industrial Production (IIP): 2022–23 (earlier 2011–12).
- Consumer Price Index (CPI): 2024 (earlier 2012); new series released on 12 February 2026 (January 2026 inflation: 2.75%).

10. RBI Sets Interest Rate on GoI Floating Rate Bond 2034 at 7.26%

11. RBI Extends Directions on The Irinjalakuda Town Co-operative Bank, Kerala

12. NPCI MD & CEO Dilip Asbe Appointed to SWIFT Supervisory Board

- SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication): founded in 1973; HQ: La Hulpe, Belgium; uses 8–11 character Business Identifier Codes (BIC / SWIFT codes).
- NPCI: incorporated in December 2008 under the guidance of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
  - 10 core promoter banks: State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Citibank and HSBC.

13. Jio Platforms Lists at 21.36% Premium; Reliance Group Overtakes Tata Group in Market Value

- Jio Platforms Ltd listed on the BSE and National Stock Exchange (NSE) on 28 October 2026.
- Price band ₹1,065–1,119; issue price ₹1,119; listed at ₹1,358 on both exchanges — a 21.36% listing premium.
- Jio Platforms became India's 2nd most valuable listed company, after Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), overtaking Bharti Airtel.

14. Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) 'Srishti' Launched at Goa Shipyard

- Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS): Admiral Krishna Swaminathan

15. 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Held in Cebu, Philippines

- The Philippines holds the ASEAN / ADMM Chairmanship for 2026. The meeting was chaired by Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr.
- Theme: "Navigating Our Future, Together".
- India was represented by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- ADMM-Plus comprises the 11 ASEAN member states and 8 Dialogue Partners: India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States.
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): founded on 8 August 1967; HQ: Jakarta, Indonesia. Timor-Leste became the 11th member in October 2025.

16. The indigenous Shivalik-class guided-missile stealth frigate INS Sahyadri arrived at Busan Naval Base, Republic of Korea (ROK),

17. Exercise Garuda Shakti 2026: India–Indonesia Special Forces Exercise

18. Bilateral naval exercise Konkan-26 between the Indian Navy and the UK Royal Navy was held off Plymouth, United Kingdom

- Participating ships: INS Trishul (India) and HMS Sutherland (UK).

19. Air Marshal Vikram Gaur has been appointed Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Ministry of Defence.

20. SEBI Signs MoU with Bank of England on Clearing Corporations

21. Gyan Bharatam Mission: India Signs Manuscript MoU with National Library of France

22. The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held from 19 to 30 October 2026 in Yerevan, Armenia, along with meetings of the Cartagena Protocol and Nagoya Protocol.

- Slogan: "Taking Action for Nature".

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- Logo: inspired by the Erivan Anomalous Blue butterfly (*Polyommatus eriwanensis*), found only in and around Yerevan.
- Indian delegation led by Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- CBD Secretariat: Montreal, Canada.
- International Day for Biological Diversity: 22 May.

23. UNCCD COP17 Held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

- The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

24. National Green Hydrogen Mission: Targets and State Policies

- Approved by the Union Cabinet on 4 January 2023 under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), with an initial outlay of ₹19,744 crore.
- Target: green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) per annum by 2030.
- Supports India's target of Net-Zero emissions by 2070.

25. Earthshot Prize 2026 Awards to Be Held in Mumbai— the first time India hosts the ceremony

- Karan Johar will host the ceremony — the first Indian to do so.

26. ISRO Launches Navigation Satellite NVS-03 on GSLV-F18

- Chairman, ISRO: Dr. V. Narayanan. ISRO established on 15 August 1969; HQ: Bengaluru.
- Director, SDSC SHAR: S. Muthuchezhian.
- Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC): Dr. U. P. Rajeev (appointed June 2026).

27. Cochin International Airport Becomes First to Use Digi Yatra for International Passengers

- The first passenger flew to the Maldives on an IndiGo flight.
- International Digi Yatra trials run from 1 November to December 2026 at 7 airports: Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin, Mumbai, Chennai and Amritsar.
- Digi Yatra is operational at 38 airports; 27 more are to be added by 2027 (as on 30 May 2026).

28. Andhra Pradesh Bans Artificial (Analogue) Paneer for One Year

- Maharashtra (August 2026), Karnataka and Telangana (September 2026) had already imposed similar 1-year bans

29. Justice M. Satyanarayana Murthy Takes Charge as Chairman, Andhra Pradesh State Human Rights Commission

30. The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, approved the PRAGATI Park

- PRAGATI = Platform for Robotics and AI Growth Through Technology and Innovation.

31. Chhattisgarh Adopts Orange Oakleaf as State Butterfly

- Chhattisgarh chose the Orange Oakleaf (*Kallima inachus*; family Nymphalidae; also called Indian Oakleaf or Dead Leaf) as its first State Butterfly.

32. 14th International Tourism Mart (ITM) Held in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh

33. International Booker Prize to Be Renamed Bukhman International Booker Prize

- International Booker Prize 2026 (announced 19 May 2026): "Taiwan Travelogue" by Yáng Shuāng-zǐ, translated by Lin King.

34. Book "Timeless India" Released in New Delhi

- Editor: Tarun Vijay, former Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist; 18 archaeologists contributed chapters on Vadnagar, Lothal, Dholavira, Kashi, Kedarnath and Mahakaleshwar (Ujjain).
- Chief Guest: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism; Guest of Honour: Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS (Independent Charge), Science & Technology.
- Full title: "Timeless India: Protection and Revival of Indian Cultural Identity under the Leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

35. Aditya Wins Gold at World Boxing U19 Championships in Montenegro

- The World Boxing U19 Championships were held in Budva, Montenegro
- India's tally: 4 medals (1 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze).

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- Silver: Megha Sheokand (women's 80 kg).
- Bronze: Harshika (65 kg) and Prachi Tokas (80+ kg).

36. WJP (World Justice Project) Rule of Law Index 2026: India Ranked 88th

- India: 88th out of 143, overall score 0.48 — down 2 places from 86th in 2025; 3rd in South Asia (after Nepal and Sri Lanka).
- Top 5: 1st Denmark (score 0.90), 2nd Norway, 3rd Finland, 4th Sweden, 5th Luxembourg.
- Bottom 3: 141st Haiti, 142nd Afghanistan, 143rd Venezuela.

37. India's Ranks in Major Global Indices (Latest Editions)

- World Youth Skills Index (Shanghai): 10th.
- QS World Future Skills Index 2027 (QS Quacquarelli Symonds, June 2026): 13th of 89 economies.
- Global Terrorism Index 2026 (Institute for Economics & Peace – IEP, March 2026): 13th (Pakistan 1st, most affected).
- Global Innovation Index 2026 (World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO): 38th of 139 (Switzerland 1st).
- Energy Transition Index 2026 (World Economic Forum – WEF, June 2026): 70th of 120 (up from 72nd; Sweden 1st).
- WJP Rule of Law Index 2026 (World Justice Project, October 2026): 88th of 143.
- Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 (Transparency International, released 10 February 2026): 91st of 182, score 39/100.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2026 (UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network – SDSN): 94th of 167 (India's best rank so far).
- Global Hunger Index 2026 (Welthungerhilfe & Concern Worldwide, October 2026): 100th of 122, score 24.1 ("serious").
- Electoral Democracy Index (V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg, Democracy Report 2026): 106th of 179.
- World Happiness Report 2026 (Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre, Gallup & UN SDSN, March 2026): 116th of 147 (Finland 1st for the 9th consecutive year).
- Global Passport Index 2026 (Global Citizen Solutions, July 2026): 125th of 197 (Sweden 1st).
- Henley Passport Index (Henley & Partners, October 2026): 84th (Singapore 1st).
- Global Peace Index 2026 (IEP, June 2026): 127th of 163 (Iceland 1st).
- Global Gender Gap Index 2026 (WEF, released 16 September 2026): 131st of 145 (Iceland 1st).
- World Press Freedom Index 2026 (Reporters Without Borders – RSF): 157th of 180.
- Environmental Performance Index 2026 (Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, July 2026): 176th of 177.

Important Questions and Answers

1. **From where was the 24th instalment of PM-KISAN released?**
   Banaskantha, Gujarat
2. **How much does a farmer get each year under PM-KISAN?**
   ₹6,000 (in three instalments of ₹2,000)
3. **On whose recommendation was the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme introduced in 1998?**
   R.V. Gupta Committee
4. **Which state ranks 1st in Digital Kisan Credit Card applications?**
   Uttar Pradesh
5. **What is the annual fee for the local toll pass at fee plazas outside town limits?**
   ₹1,500
6. **What is the new base year of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?**
   2022–23

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7. **Who was appointed to the SWIFT Supervisory Board?**
   Dilip Asbe (MD & CEO, NPCI)
8. **What was the listing premium of Jio Platforms?**
   21.36%
9. **What is the name of the Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel launched at Goa Shipyard?**
   Srishti
10. **Which country became the 11th member of ASEAN?**
    Timor-Leste
11. **Where was COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity held?**
    Yerevan, Armenia
12. **Which city will host the Earthshot Prize 2026 awards?**
    Mumbai
13. **Which airport was the first to use Digi Yatra for international passengers?**
    Cochin International Airport
14. **What is Chhattisgarh's state butterfly?**
    Orange Oakleaf
15. **What is India's rank in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2026?**
    88th (out of 143)

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