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Famous Personalities

Prominent Personalities and Achievements

❑ Divij Todi - Jaipur: International Science Domain

- ◆ **Achievement:** Received the Third Grand Award at the 76th Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) 2026, held in the United States.
- ◆ **Project Name:** 'EcoFog': This is a low-cost indigenous technology designed to convert atmospheric moisture (fog and mist) into pure drinking water. It utilizes a specialized, advanced mesh structure. This technology is highly effective in addressing water crises in arid regions.
- ◆ **Other Honors:** He is recognized internationally as an 'Earth Prize Scholar 2026'.

❑ Demise of Padma Shri Dr. S.R. Mehta (Shri Ranjan) - Jaipur

- ◆ A renowned pillar of the medical fraternity and a senior physician, he **passed away** on May 21.
- ◆ In the medical world, he was known as the 'Godfather of Medicine.'
- ◆ **Padma Shri:** Conferred on March 16, 1985, by the then President, Giani Zail Singh.
- ◆ **Dr. B.C. Roy National Award:** (Highest national honor in the field of medicine)
- ◆ Contributions to SMS Medical College and Hospital
 - ✓ In 1984, he assumed charge as the Principal of SMS Medical College.
 - ✓ At SMS Hospital, super-specialty services—such as Neurology, Nephrology, and Cardiology—were developed as independent wings.
 - ✓ Established the Department of '**Nuclear Medicine**' in Rajasthan and initiated the '**Women's Hospital**' in Jaipur.



❑ Tanush Baheti - Record for the Fastest Recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa

- ◆ Age: Just 4 years, 3 months, and 20 days; from Raisinghnagar (Sri Ganganagar)
- ◆ New Record: Recited the entire Hanuman Chalisa in just 2 minutes and 19 seconds.
- ◆ Previous Record: The world record stood at 2 minutes and 31 seconds.
- ◆ Certifying Authority: An international records organization issued the official certificate.

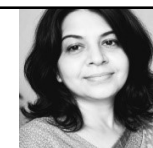


❑ Dr. Rohil Singh Kakkar

- ◆ Dr. Kakkar, a renowned orthopedic surgeon from Jaipur, has been selected for a 'Joint Reconstruction Surgery Fellowship' at the prestigious '**Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre**' at Oxford University (UK).
- ◆ He is the first orthopedic surgeon from Rajasthan to secure this fellowship.
- ◆ In Rajasthan, he is affiliated with Eternal Hospital in Jaipur and Marble City Hospital in Kishangarh.
- ◆ Specialization: Joint Replacement and Complex Joint Surgery.

❑ Neelam Meena (IAS)

- ◆ The Election Commission of India has appointed Neelam Meena, a 1998-batch IAS officer, as the new Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for the state of West Bengal.
- ◆ Residence: Koila Village, Bamanwas Subdivision, Sawai Madhopur.



Famous Places

Dandewala Field: New Natural Gas Discovery

- ❑ A new gas pay zone has been successfully discovered in **Jaisalmer** district.
- ❑ **Location:** **Sanu Formation** of Dandewala Field in Jaisalmer.
- ❑ **Exploring Company:** Oil India Limited (OIL), a public sector undertaking of the Government of India.
- ❑ **Production Capacity:** Currently, approximately 25,000 standard cubic meters (SCM) of natural gas is being produced per day from this new field.
- ❑ **Union Minister:** Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, lauded this achievement.

Raholi, Tonk, Rajasthan,

- ❑ PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School was honored with the prestigious "School Challenge TOFEI (Tobacco Free Educational Institutions) National Award" at the Novotel City Centre in New Delhi.
- ❑ **Provider:** A. Sreeja (Joint Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Union Ministry of Education)
 - ◆ Prof. Anjali Chhabra (Additional Director, CBSE)
- ❑ **Awardees:**
 - ◆ Dr. Yogendra Singh Naruka (Principal)
 - ◆ Pooja Patidar (Nodal Officer), Deepa Yadav
- ❑ **Contribution:** Drug-free campaign, social awareness.

Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, Jaipur:

- ❑ A special, solemn ceremony was held to mark the historic completion of 75 years (Platinum Jubilee) of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.
 - ◆ **Event Date:** May 18, 2026
 - ◆ **Chief Guests:** Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagde, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, and Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani.

- ◆ **New Logo Launch:** The Governor released the new digital logo of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.
- ◆ The new logo incorporates the state animal 'camel' and the state tree 'Khejri' to represent the desert region.



- ◆ The **13 gates** of the Legislative Assembly complex were named on May 18.

Assembly Entrances	New Name	Usage/Significance
Northern Gate	Kartavya Dwar	For the entry of the Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, Chief Minister, and Leader of the Opposition.
Southern Gate	Shakti Dwar	The main entrance for the general public and visitors.
Western Gate	Sushasan Dwar	Reserved for the entry of Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
Eastern Gate	Sankalp Dwar	For the entry of government officials and employees.

- ◆ **New Motto:** Along with this new emblem of the Legislative Assembly, a new motto – 'Rashtraya Dharmanishtha Vidhayika' (Legislature Dedicated to the Nation and Righteousness) – has also been adopted.
- ❑ **8 Outer Gates Named After Rajasthan's Cultural and Historical Regions:** To honor the geographical and cultural diversity of Rajasthan, the remaining gates have been named after the state's renowned regions, such as:
 1. **Mewar Gate** – A symbol of national pride and supreme sacrifice.
 2. **Marwar Gate** – A symbol of resilience and vitality.

3. **Shekhawati Gate** – A symbol of art, culture, and a land of valor.
4. **Hadoti Gate** - Literary - Unique architecture.
5. **Vagad Gate** - Symbol of tribal consciousness.
6. **Braj Gate** - Symbol of religious and cultural coordination.
7. **Dhundhar Gate** - Center of socio-cultural energy.
8. **Merwara Gate** – A symbol of the synthesis of saintly traditions.

Schemes/ Programme/ Campaign

BHAVYA Scheme: Industrial hubs to be established in 5 districts of Rajasthan.

- ❑ BHAVYA (Bharat Industrial Development Scheme)
- ❑ **Central Government Approval:** March 18, 2026 Proposal by the Government of Rajasthan to develop high-level “ultra-modern industrial hubs in five districts” under this scheme in Rajasthan.
- ❑ **5 Districts:** Balotra, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Kota, Dausa
- ❑ **Department:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❑ **Nodal Agency:** National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation.

Constitution of the Committees of the 16th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly

- ❑ **Composition:** These committees were constituted by Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani in April 2026 for the financial year 2026-27.
- ❑ **Term:** Effective until March 31, 2027.
- ❑ **Four** major financial committees and chairpersons

1. Public Accounts Committee	Tikaram (Congress)	Jully
2. Estimates Committee 'A'	Sandeep Sharma	
3. Estimates Committee 'B'	Babu Singh Rathore	
4. Committee on Public Undertakings	Kalicharan Saraf	

- ❑ Other important committees and chairmen-
 1. Rules Committee: **Vasudev Devnani** (ex-officio Chairman)
 2. General Purposes Committee: **Vasudev Devnani**

3. Question and Reference Committee **Rajendra Pareek**
4. Committee on Welfare of Women and Children :**Kalpana Devi**
5. Committee on Welfare of Backward Classes :**Narendra Budania**
6. SC Welfare Committee: **Ramesh Kheenchi**
7. ST Welfare Committee: **Phool Singh Meena**
8. Committee on Home and local bodies and panchayats :**Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav**
9. Committee on Library and Government Assurances :**Hari Singh Rawat**
10. Petitions and Ethics Committee: **Kailash Chand Verma**
11. Committee on Privileges and Subordinate Legislation :**Jitendra Kumar Gothwal**
12. Minorities Welfare and Environment Committee: **Kesaram Choudhary**

Rajasthan's Special Performance and Achievements in the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0

- ❑ **Released:** On April 24, 2026, on the occasion of 'National Panchayati Raj Day,' by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, for the financial year 2023-24.
- ❑ The assessment was conducted based on data from a total of 11,037 Gram Panchayats in Rajasthan –
 - ♦ Not a single Panchayat qualified as an 'Achiever' (Grade A+).
 - ♦ Number of 'Front Runner' (Grade A) Panchayats = 08
 - ♦ Number of 'Performer' (Grade B) Panchayats = 5,437
 - ♦ Number of 'Aspirant' (Grade C) Panchayats = 5,389
 - ♦ Number of 'Beginner' (Grade D) Panchayats = 203
- ❑ **Rajasthan's Overall Score: 77.89**
- ❑ **Top-Performing Gram Panchayats –**
 - (i) **Karola** (Block: Sanchores, Jalore) = 77.89
 - (ii) **Kanti** (Block: Kotri, Bhilwara) = 76.99
 - (iii) **Tapu** (Block: Osian, Jodhpur) = 76.56

- ❑ **Best Performance in Thematic Areas (09 Areas, LSDG)**

Thematic Themes	Gram Panchayat	District
T1: Poverty-Free Panchayat	Bhimpur	Karauli
T2: Healthy Panchayat	Sankhada	Bhilwara
T3: Child-Friendly Panchayat	Dadiya Rampura	Sikar
T4: Water-Sufficient Panchayat	Suwaniya	Chittorgarh
T5: Clean and Green Panchayat	Hirna	Sikar
T6: Self-Reliant (Infrastructure)	Semaliya Pilakheda	Chittorgarh
T7: Socially Secure	Hansalsar	Jhunjhunu
T8: Panchayat with Good Governance	Suranwali	Hanumangarh
T9: Women-Friendly Panchayat	Bhaisana	Pali

Foreign Language Communication Skills Program: Jaipur

- ❑ **Event Date:** May 1, 2026 (Birla Auditorium, Jaipur)
- ❑ **Objective:** To strengthen communication skills and proficiency in **foreign languages (German, French, Korean, Japanese, Spanish)** among the youth of Rajasthan.
- ❑ **Attendees:** Dharmendra Pradhan (Minister of Education, Government of India)
 - ◆ Jayant Chaudhary: (Minister of State for Skill Development, GoI)
 - ◆ Bhajanlal Sharma and Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Premchand Bairwa
- ❑ **Signing of Agreements for the Foreign Language Communication Skills Program:** Executed by the Government of Rajasthan with the following two institutions:
 - The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad
 - National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy-2024: Key Amendments:

- ❑ **Key Amendment:** The maximum grant amount for 'Technical Upgradation' has been increased from Rs. 50 Lakhs to Rs. 1 Crore.
- ❑ **Objective:** To equip the state's industries with modern technology aligned with global competitiveness, enhance production capacity, and improve product quality.

- ❑ **Context:** Announced by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma during the discussion on the Finance and Appropriation Bill as part of the State Budget 2026-27.

- ❑ **Background:** This policy was unveiled by the Chief Minister on December 4, 2024, and its notification was issued on December 8, 2024.

- ❑ **Other Major Assistance/Grants Payable Under the Policy**

Category	Maximum Grant Limit
Technical Upgradation	₹1 Crore
Documentation	₹5 Lakhs
Participation in International Events	₹3 Lakhs
E-Commerce (Reimbursement)	₹2 Lakhs

Caracal Conservation: Launch of Rajasthan's First 'Goat Bank' Initiative in Jaisalmer

- ❑ To facilitate the conservation of the rare Caracal (Siyagosh) wildlife species and to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, Rajasthan's first 'Goat Bank' initiative has been launched in Jaisalmer.
 - ◆ **Detailed Information on Caracals:** April Issue of Current Affairs Magazine, Page No. 13
- ❑ **Joint Initiative:** Rajasthan Forest Department and the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)
- ❑ **Primary Objective:** To prevent escalating human-wildlife conflict between Caracals (predators of goats) and local livestock herders, and to prevent villagers from killing Caracals out of a sense of retaliation."
- ❑ **Context:** In March 2026, in the India-Pakistan border region, a Caracal preyed upon approximately 50 goats; enraged by this incident, villagers surrounded and killed the animal.
- ❑ **Operational Mechanism (Goat Bank Initiative)**
 - ◆ If a Caracal preys upon a livestock herder's goat, a new, healthy goat will be provided immediately from the bank, bypassing the lengthy government compensation process.
 - ◆ Under this pilot project, each 'Goat Bank' facility will maintain a stock of 25 healthy goats.
 - ◆ A villager who receives a goat from the bank is required to return one of its offspring (a kid) to the bank at a later

date, thereby ensuring the replenishment of the bank's stock.

One District One Product (ODOP) Policy - 2024: Key Amendments

- ❑ In alignment with the vision of Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma to accord global recognition to local products, two major changes have been introduced in the ODOP-2024 policy.
- ❑ Announcement of '**Margin Money**' for the expansion of ODOP units in the State Budget 2026-27.
- 1. **Margin Money Subsidy** for Enterprise Expansion:
 - ◆ **Previously**, the Margin Money subsidy was available exclusively to newly established units.
 - ◆ **Currently**, Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) engaged in the Gems & Jewellery sector will also be eligible to receive this subsidy for the expansion of their existing enterprises.
 - ◆ An additional budget of **Rs. 15 crore** has been allocated for the implementation of these latest amendments.
 - ◆ **Subsidy Limit:**
 - Micro Enterprises: Up to a maximum of Rs. 20 Lakhs
 - Small Enterprises: Up to a maximum of Rs. 15 Lakhs
- 2. **Technical Upgradation through Private Institutions:**
 - ◆ **Previously**, the subsidy for technical upgradation was granted only when such upgrades were undertaken through government institutions.
 - ◆ **Now**, entrepreneurs will also be able to undertake technical upgradation through private institutions.
 - ◆ **Subsidy Limit:** Up to a maximum of **Rs. 5 Lakhs**
 - ◆ **Benefit:** This initiative will facilitate easy access to the latest machinery and technology for these units, thereby reducing energy consumption and enhancing the quality of production.

Rajasthan Government Cabinet Meeting (May 22, 2026)

Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy - 2026

- ◆ **Official Approval/Sanction:** May 22
- ◆ **Objective:** To propel Rajasthan's economy to a valuation of \$350 billion by the year 2028-29.

- ◆ **The 4G Pillars:** Based on four key pillars—
 - Green (Green Growth): Circular Economy
 - Governance (Good Governance): Administrative Efficiency
 - Growth (Economic Growth): Infrastructure Development
 - Globalization (Global Integration): Global Connectivity
- ◆ **Key Vision and Innovations:**
 - Connecting the youth with global opportunities and fostering future-oriented skill development.
 - Empowering women as leaders and entrepreneurs; enabling farmers through value addition and agro-based initiatives.
- ◆ Establishing a unique economic identity for every district—for instance:
 - **Neemrana:** Advanced Manufacturing Hub
 - **Bhiwadi:** Semiconductor and Logistics Hub
 - **Jaipur:** GCCs, Startups, and Digital Hub
 - **Bhilwara:** Textile Industry Expansion
 - **Jodhpur:** Handicrafts Ecosystem
 - **Barmer:** Development of Energy and Handicrafts Sectors
 - **Jaisalmer:** Industrial Development Corridor
- ◆ **Key Sectors:** Special incentives for Semiconductors, Data Centers & IT Services, Defense Manufacturing, Renewable Energy & Circular Economy, AI/ML, AVGC & XR, Aerospace, and GCCs (Global Capability Centers).
- ◆ **Industrial Infrastructure:** Establishment of CETPs (Common Effluent Treatment Plants) in RIICO and non-RIICO areas; development of new Integrated Resource Recovery Parks and Node-based Industrial Parks within the DMIC corridor.
- ◆ **Ease of Doing Business:** Prioritizing fast-track approvals, enhanced logistics connectivity, and 'Plug-and-Play' facilities.
- ◆ **Global Industrial Hub:** Promoting a talent-driven economy, aligned with the vision of 'India 2047'.

Rajasthan Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1996: Key Amendments

- ◆ **Relief for Children with Special Needs (Rule 67):** Children with special needs are now required to submit a permanent disability certificate only once. (Previously: Every three years)
- ◆ **Digital Facility for Pensioners (Rule 134):** Pensioners can now submit their Annual Life Certificate using 'Face Authentication Technology' via a mobile application.
- ◆ **Personnel Authorized to Authenticate Life Certificates:** In addition to Gazetted Officers, Non-Gazetted Employees (excluding Class IV employees) have now also been authorized to issue Life Certificates through their SSO IDs.
- ◆ **Simplification of Family Pension Procedures:** Previously, authentication by two Gazetted Officers or persons of repute was required for a Family Pension. Now, authentication by a single Gazetted Officer or person of repute will suffice.
- ◆ **NOTE:** Department of Agriculture, Rajasthan –
- ◆ The new designation of 'Senior Scientific Assistant' has been added to the Schedule of the Rajasthan Agriculture Subordinate Services Rules, 1978.

Industrial and Renewable Energy Projects

- **Land Allotment:** Effected under the 'Rajasthan Land Revenue (Allotment of Industrial Areas) Rules, 1959'.
- 1. Industrial Projects (Cement Industry)**
 - ◆ **M/s Dalmia Cement**
 - **Location:** Village Ramgarh, Tehsil Ramgarh No. 2, Jaisalmer
 - **Land:** 121.42 Hectares; **Investment:** Rs. 3,047 Crores
 - **Capacity:** Cement plant with an annual capacity of 3.6 million tonnes (Clinkerization Unit)
 - ◆ **M/s J.K. Cement Limited**
 - **Location:** Villages Selat, Mokla, Harchandram ki Dhani, Khinvsar, Parewar, and Lanela, Jaisalmer
 - **Land:** 71.37 Hectares

- **Purpose:** For the proposed railway line.

2. Renewable Energy Projects –

- ◆ **Jaisalmer:** Fatehgarh (Magra and Basra) Jaisalmer (Ghotaru)
- ◆ **Barmer:** Sheo (Mungeriya)
- ◆ **Bikaner:** Pugal (Karnisar Bhatiyani and Barju)

Rajasthan Senior Accredited Journalist Honour Scheme (Amendment) Rules, 2026

- **Nodal Department:** Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Rajasthan
- **New Honourarium Amount:** Rs. 18,000 per month
- (Previously, this amount was Rs. 15,000 per month; an increase of Rs. 3,000 has been implemented.)
- **Budget Announcement:** Implemented in accordance with the announcement made in the State Budget for the financial year 2026-27.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** Full-time accredited journalists who have served for a minimum of 20 years in daily, weekly, or fortnightly newspapers, independent journalism, electronic media, or news agencies.

Rajasthan Sandalwood Forest Project

- The State Government has identified **three specific areas** to be developed as 'Sandalwood Forests' with the aim of promoting sandalwood cultivation and maintaining ecological balance. (April-May 2026)
 - ◆ **Jhala Forest Block:** Banswara (Wagad Region)
 - ◆ **Banki Forest Block:** Udaipur (Mewar Region)
 - ◆ **Janapur:** Pindwara-Sirohi
- **Target:** More than 10,000 high-quality sandalwood saplings will be planted in each selected area (totaling approximately 30,000 saplings).
- **Large-scale Plantation Goal –**
 - ◆ **Year 2026:** Transforming Environmental Conservation into a Mass Movement

- ◆ A target was set to plant a record 100 million saplings in Rajasthan.
- ◆ **Historic Progress:** Drawing inspiration from the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A Tree in Mother's Name) campaign, the State Government set a new record by planting over 70 million saplings in 2024 and over 110 million saplings in 2025.

'Rang De Gulabi' (Paint it Pink) Campaign – Jaipur Municipal Corporation

- ❑ **Event:** Organized by the Municipal Corporations (Greater and Heritage) on May 2, 2026, under the 'Swachh Survekshan' (Cleanliness Survey) initiative, for the beautification of the 'Pink City'.
- ❑ **'Ek Din, Ek Sankalp'** (One Day, One Pledge) campaign – a first of its kind in the country – more than 500 walls across the city were painted with attractive and artistic colors in a single day.
- ❑ **Nodal Agency:** Jaipur Municipal Corporation
- ❑ **Theme-based Artworks:** Over 600 wall paintings featuring specific themes were created on public walls across all 13 zones of the city.

Rajasthan CETP Policy: May 2026

- ❑ **Reference:** New guidelines issued by the Department of Industries and Commerce in May 2026.
- ❑ **Key Objectives:** Management of industrial wastewater, environmental protection, and water reuse.
- ❑ **New Guidelines:** A scheme based on the 'Hybrid Annuity Model' (HAM).
- ❑ **Technical Basis:** 'Zero Liquid Discharge' (ZLD).
- ❑ **Grant Limit:** 80% of the project cost or a maximum of Rs. 150 Crores (whichever is lower).
- ❑ **Role of SPV:** It is mandatory for the industrial units within a cluster to form a 'Special Purpose Vehicle' (SPV) for the construction and operation of the CETP.
- ❑ **Eligibility:** Applicable to both RIICO and Non-RIICO industrial areas.
- ❑ **Phased Payment Mechanism (HAM Model)**
 - ◆ **60% Grant:** Disbursed in three installments of 20% each, aligned with the various stages of work execution.

- ◆ **20% Subsidy:** Over the next 20 years (to ensure effective long-term operations).

- ❑ **Amendment to the Old Scheme – Increased Subsidy:** The subsidy limit has been raised from 75% of the project cost (or a maximum of Rs. 75 crore) to Rs. 100 crore. Now, non-RIICO industrial areas will also be eligible under this scheme.
- ❑ **ZLD Technology:** Water treated using 'Zero Liquid Discharge' technology can be reused for industrial purposes, thereby reducing dependence on groundwater.
- ❑ **Financial Ease:** The SPV ('Special Purpose Vehicle') will be required to bear only 20% of the total cost.

Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP-II)

- ❑ **Announcement:** Union Budget 2022-23
- ❑ **Launch:** Phase-I was launched on April 10, 2023, by Union Home Minister Amit Shah from 'Kibithu' – a border village in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❑ **Objective:** To undertake the comprehensive development of villages situated adjacent to International Land Borders (ILBs) – thereby furthering the vision of 'Viksit Bharat@2047' – so that these border regions remain secure and vibrant.
- ❑ **Total Outlay:** Rs. 6,839 Crore.
- ❑ **Timeline:** From FY 2024-25 to 2028-29 (Approval: April 2025).
- ❑ **Coverage:** Strategic border villages across 17 States/Union Territories – namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- ❑ **Core Spirit:** 'Border villages are not the last villages of the country, but the first.'
- ❑ **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA); a program funded by the Government of India.

- ❑ **(In the context of Rajasthan):** Rajasthan was **not included** in Phase-I. Under VVP-II, the program was expanded to cover the western international border (India-Pakistan); currently, **184 villages** across **5 border districts** of Rajasthan have been included under this initiative and are undergoing development.
- ❑ **District-wise Selected Strategic Villages in Rajasthan:**
 - ◆ **Sri Ganganagar:** 68 villages
 - ◆ **Bikaner:** 46 villages
 - ◆ **Barmer:** 36 villages
 - ◆ **Jaisalmer:** 30 villages
 - ◆ **Phalodi:** 04 villages
- ❑ **Budget Allocation:** A provision of Rs. 3 crore per annum has been made to ensure 100% coverage of development schemes in these strategic villages.
- ❑ **Portal-based Process:** The entire process is executed through the '**Vibrant Villages Portal**'.
- ❑ **Coordination Mechanism:** To ensure effective implementation, a coordination framework has been established through three-tier committees operating at the Central, State, and District levels.
- ❑ **Key Activities and 4 Thematic Areas:**
 - ◆ **Road Connectivity:** All-weather access.
 - ◆ **Telecom Connectivity:** (4G/5G)
 - ◆ **Television:** (Doordarshan access)
 - ◆ **Electrification:** On-grid power supply (24×7).
- ❑ In the Budget for 2026-27, the State Government launched the 'Chief Minister Thar Border Development Program' (**Mukhyamantri Thar Seema Vikas Karyakram**). Under this initiative, a separate annual provision of Rs. 150 crore has been allocated for infrastructure development in 1,206 villages across the 5 border districts, aiming to ensure that Central and State schemes work in tandem to completely transform the landscape of these border regions.
- ❑ **On May 26, 2026, a high-level review meeting regarding India-Pakistan border security** was held in **Bikaner**, Rajasthan,

under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

◆ **360° Security Grid**

◆ **Strict Action against Illegal Structures:** All illegal structures situated within a **15-kilometer** radius of the International Border (India-Pakistan Border) will be identified and demolished.

◆ **'Prahari' Conference:** Sanchu Border Outpost, Bikaner

'Clean Cooperation, Prosperous Cooperation' Campaign

- ❑ **Duration:** May 4 to May 29, 2026.
- ❑ **Objective:** To strengthen work culture, make offices clean and well-organized, and enhance administrative efficiency.
- ❑ **Nodal Department:** Department of Cooperation, Government of Rajasthan
- ❑ **Leadership:** Administrative Secretary and Registrar, Dr. Samit Sharma
- ❑ **Three Main Phases of the Campaign**
 - ◆ **First:** Identification of obsolete records and materials.
 - ◆ **Second:** Comprehensive cleaning and improvement of organization.
 - ◆ **Third:** Disposal of identified materials in accordance with established rules.
- ❑ **Implementation of the '5S' Methodology –**
 1. **Seiri** (Sorting): Separating obsolete and old materials.
 2. **Seiton** (Systematizing): Organizing records and equipment; labeling.
 3. **Seiso** (Cleaning): Regular cleaning of office rooms and premises.
 4. **Seiketsu** (Standardizing): Establishing uniform standards for cleanliness and management.
 5. **Shitsuke** (Disciplining): Making cleanliness an integral part of daily work operations.

Awards

Major Award Winners and Achievements

❑ International Geeta Olympiad: 2026

- ◆ **Organizer:** Gupt Vrindavan Dham (Under Global Geeta Propagation Movement)
- ◆ **Exam Date:** 19 April 2026, Result Declaration: 3 May
- ◆ **Award Distribution Ceremony:** 24 May 2026
- ◆ **Leadership:** Amritasana Das (President, Gupta Vrindavan Dham: Jaipur)

Place	winner name	City	Award	Amount (₹)
First	Dr. Kewal Krishna Gupta	Jaipur	Geeta Ratna	51,000
Second	Yashasvi Shringi	Kota	Geeta Vibhushan	21,000
Third	Neha Mahawar	Kota	Geeta Bhushan	11,000

❑ CAZRI, Jodhpur Receives 'Best Centre Award'

- ◆ **National Honor:** The Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur, has been conferred with the 'Best Centre Award' at the national level. (May 15)
- ◆ **Sector:** For outstanding and commendable contributions in the field of Moth and Guar research.
- ◆ **Event:** Annual Group Meeting of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Kharif Pulses.
- ◆ **Venue:** University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), GKVK, Bengaluru.
- ◆ **Presented by:** Dr. M.L. Jat, Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General of ICAR.
- ◆ **Basis:** Genetic improvement of arid pulses for the hot arid regions of India.
- ◆ **Characteristics of Moth Bean and CAZRI's Contribution:**
 - ✓ **May 2026:** CAZRI Moth-10 and CAZRI Moth-11 were selected for release and notification.
 - ✓ **Climate-Resilient Crop:** Moth is a highly climate-resilient pulse crop.
 - ✓ **Development:** The new varieties developed by CAZRI are capable of withstanding both adverse conditions – prolonged drought and excessive rainfall.
 - ✓ **Major Indigenous Varieties Released Between 2023 and 2026**
 - 2023: CAZRI Moth-4 and CAZRI Moth-5
 - 2024: CAZRI Moth-6 and CAZRI Moth-7
 - 2025: CAZRI Moth-8 and CAZRI Moth-9

❑ Jaipur International Airport Receives 'Green Airport' Honor

- ◆ **International Recognition:** Honored on a global platform for environmental conservation and sustainable development.
- ◆ **Category:** Silver recognition in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East Green Airports Recognition 2026.
- ◆ **Initiative:** Successful development of a 'Cool Terminal Ecosystem' to cope with a semi-arid climate and extreme heat.
- ◆ **Energy and Temperature Efficiency:** A reduction of approximately 35 percent was recorded in electricity consumption.
- ◆ **Zero Waste to Landfill:** The airport achieved a 100% recycling target, ensuring that none of its generated waste is sent to landfill sites.
- ◆ **Carbon Accreditation:** Jaipur Airport also attained 'Level 3 Accreditation' in accordance with international standards.

❑ Rajasthan: 'World No Tobacco Day Award 2026'

- ◆ According to a global list released by the World Health Organization (WHO) in May 2026, the Department of Medical and Health of Rajasthan was honored with the prestigious 'World No Tobacco Day Award 2026' for its outstanding and remarkable work in tobacco control during the year 2025-26.
- ◆ The WHO confers this honor across its six distinct regions globally. Rajasthan secured the first position in the South-East Asia Region.
- ◆ **Theme for the 39th World No Tobacco Day (2026)**
 - ✓ English: "Unmasking the appeal – countering tobacco and nicotine addiction"

❑ Megha Soni, Jaipur ◆ Award: Rashtriya Ratna Samman 2026 ◆ Field of Work: For her outstanding contributions in the 'Luxury Silver Jewelry Brand' category. ◆ Event: Presented at a national ceremony held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. ◆ Chief Guest: Lok Sabha MP and renowned actress Kangana Ranaut honored Megha Soni.
❑ Anita Chaudhary, Jhunjhunu (Machhli National Award) ◆ A female Forest Guard posted at the Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Baran. ◆ Awarded the prestigious Machhli National Award by the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) in March 2026. ◆ Contribution: Saved the lives of over 500 endangered wild animals from 2021 to the present. ◆ Tigress Machhli (T-16): Presented in memory of Ranthambore's world-famous tigress, also known as the 'Queen of Ranthambore.'
❑ HUDCO Jaipur Office: 'Excellent Performance in Running Business' Award ◆ HUDCO: Housing and Urban Development Corporation ◆ Award: Received by Regional Chief Sudhir Bhatnagar on April 25, 2026, at the 56th HUDCO Foundation Day celebrations held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. ◆ Contribution: Sanctioned loans worth ₹21,099 crore and contributed ₹3.05 crore towards CSR initiatives during the financial year 2025-26.

Science & Technology

Soilification Technique: (CURAJ), Ajmer

- ❑ **Institution:** Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer
- ❑ **Researchers:** Dr. Akhil Agarwal (Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology) and his team.
- ❑ **Objective:** To transform sandy and barren land—such as that found in the Thar Desert—into arable land capable of yielding higher crop production.
- ❑ **Key Features:**
 - ◆ **Innovation:** An indigenous technique based on a 'bioformulation.' It is a polymer-enriched bio-product that is eco-friendly.
 - ◆ **Mechanism:** It binds the loose, scattered sand particles together, transforming them into a solid and stable structure resembling soil.
 - ◆ **Water Management:** Aims to enhance 'water retention capacity.' This prevents irrigation water from seeping down through the sand, thereby ensuring that moisture remains available near the plant roots for extended periods.
 - ◆ **Successful Trials:** Demonstrated by successfully cultivating a wheat crop on sand in the desert regions of Jaisalmer and Pushkar.

Siwana Ring Complex: Strategic and Economic Significance

- ❑ **Location:** Balotra District, Western Rajasthan
- ❑ **Geography:** A volcanic caldera spanning an area of 750 square kilometers.
- ❑ **Mineral Discovery:** Vast reserves of Rare Earth Elements (REE), Heavy Rare Earth Elements (HREE), and Critical Rare Metals have been discovered.
- ❑ **Key Minerals:** Niobium, Zirconium, Hafnium.
- ❑ **Applications of the Minerals –**
 - ◆ **Defense & Space:** Missile technology, rockets, aerospace engines (utilized as superalloys).
 - ◆ **Energy & Technology:** Nuclear reactors, Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries, robotics, micro-electronics.
 - ◆ **Medicine:** Superconducting magnets.
- ❑ **Assessment:** The Union Ministry of Mines has allocated the technical evaluation of three blocks within the complex to three different companies.
- ❑ **Nodal Officer:** The Chief Minister has issued directives for the appointment of a nodal officer within the state to ensure effective implementation of the project.
- ❑ **Rare Earth Excellence Center:** The State Government is establishing this center to

facilitate Research and Development (R&D) activities.

- ❑ **Partnership:** The Government of Rajasthan is collaborating with the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the Atomic Minerals Directorate (AMD), IIT Hyderabad, and IIT (ISM) Dhanbad.
- ❑ **National Context:** This discovery will bolster the objectives of the Central Government's 'National Critical Mineral Mission' (NCMM).

Rajasthan's First Semiconductor Cluster: Established in Bhiwadi (Khushkhera-Salarpur Industrial Area), Khairthal-Tijara.

- ❑ **Inauguration:** May 15, 2026 (Virtually, by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw).
- ❑ The Government of Rajasthan implemented the first '**Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy**' in March 2026.
- ❑ **Cluster:** ELCINA Electronics Manufacturing Cluster.
- ❑ **Infrastructure:** Developed over 50.3 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 46.09 crore.
- ❑ **Central Assistance:** Financial assistance of Rs. 20.24 crore provided under the Government of India's EMC (**E**lectronics **M**anufacturing **C**luster) scheme.

Sahasra Semiconductors Plant

- ❑ **Distinction:** India's first **SME** (Small and Medium Enterprise) to commence the commercial production of semiconductor chips.
- ❑ **Scheme:** An investment of Rs. 150 crore under the Ministry of Electronics (**MeitY**)'s 'SPECS' scheme.
- ❑ **Products:** Memory chips (Micro SD/Flash Storage), LED Driver ICs, eSIMs, and RFID.
- ❑ **Capacity:** The current annual packaging capacity stands at 60 million units, with a target to scale it up to 400–600 million units over the next 2–3 years.
- ❑ **Global Exports:** Accounts for over 60% of the product output
- ❑ Exported to markets such as the USA, Germany, France, China, and Eastern Europe.

Protection Against Digital Arrest: CBI's 'Abhay'

- ❑ The Cyber Crime Branch of the Rajasthan Police has issued a special advisory regarding the use of the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) 'ABHAY' chatbot to protect citizens from high-tech cybercrimes, such as 'Digital Arrest'.
- ❑ What is '**ABHAY**'?
 - ◆ **Name:** Artificial Intelligence Based Help-ful Assistant for You
 - ◆ **Nature:** It is a modern AI-powered notice verification chatbot that functions as a digital security guard, operating 24/7.
 - ◆ **Objective:** To quickly verify the authenticity of fake notices and arrest warrants sent in the name of the CBI or other government agencies.
 - ◆ **Technical Features:**
 - Real-time updates
 - No-panic guidance
 - Auto-routing facility
 - Multilingual support
 - For Assistance and Complaints

'Build with AI' Workshop

- ❑ **Venue:** Rajasthan Center of Advanced Technology (R-CAT), Jaipur – May 21
- ❑ **Collaborator:** Google India
- ❑ **Objective:** To build a robust AI ecosystem within the state and to nurture the next generation of AI developers and innovators.
- ❑ **Policy Context:** Towards the implementation of the 'Rajasthan AI/ML Policy 2026'.

Brahmastra' Exercise

- Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer April 10
- Conducted by the Southern Command of the Indian Army.
- Objective: To validate real-time data sharing and enhanced coordination between ground and air assets.

Significant Agreements (MoUs) in the Context of Rajasthan

S.No.	(MoUs) Project, Objective, and Details
1.	☐ Digitization of AYUSH Manuscripts. ◆ Parties to the Agreement: Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Ayurveda University, Jodhpur, and Bikaner Technical University (BTU), Bikaner. ◆ Signatories: Ayurveda University Vice-Chancellor – Prof. Govind Sahay Shukla; and BTU Vice-Chancellor – Prof. Akhil Ranjan Garg. ◆ Objective: To digitize ancient AYUSH manuscripts and to integrate modern technology into the field of Ayurveda.
2.	☐ Rajasthan Agriculture Department: Technical Agreement with 'Wadhvani AI'. ◆ A non-financial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was executed on May 25, 2026, between the Agriculture Department of the Government of Rajasthan and the 'Lords Education and Health Society' (Wadhvani AI Foundation). ◆ Budget Announcement for the Year 2026-27: Establishment of AI-based models and a 'Center of Excellence'. ◆ Objective: To modernize agriculture using Artificial Intelligence, enhance farmers' income, and introduce transparency into the agricultural distribution system. ◆ Financial Provision: 'Free-of-cost technical partnership' (imposing no financial burden on the State exchequer). ◆ Agri-Stack Achievement: Rajasthan ranks among the leading states in the country; digital 'Farmer IDs' (including *Khasra* details, land records, and identity information) have been generated for 9.5 million farmers across the state. ◆ Goal: To introduce transparency in upcoming crop insurance schemes and integrated fertilizer management (Urea distribution). ◆ 4 Key AI Solutions Transforming the Landscape of Agriculture: 1. Agrivani: A multilingual chatbot; enables farmers to resolve agricultural issues using voice or text inputs in their own language. 2. Crops: Computer Vision-based monitoring – facilitates rapid remedial advice from experts by simply capturing photographs of crops. 3. Soybean Grain Analyzer: A smartphone application – enables real-time assessment of soybean quality, grading, and protein content prior to visiting the *Mandi* (market). 4. Agri AI Collect & News Monitoring: Facilitates the recording of field activities and administrative monitoring of agricultural operations.
3.	☐ Sariska Digital NIC Center – ◆ Parties to the Agreement: Jaipur, May 26. Presided over by the Minister of State for Forests, Sanjay Sharma, an agreement was signed at Aranya Bhawan in Jaipur between the Forest Department (Government of Rajasthan) and 'The Animal Care Organization' (TACO) – the flagship animal welfare initiative of the Anil Agarwal Foundation, the social impact arm of the Vedanta Group. ◆ Signatories: Sanjay Sharma (Minister of State for Forests, Government of Rajasthan) and Mrs. Priya Agarwal Hebbar. ◆ Objective: To establish the 'Agnivesh Agarwal Nature Interpretation Center' (NIC) within the Sariska Tiger Reserve (Alwar); to provide multi-lingual audio guide facilities for tourists; and to utilize 3D technology and modern digital screens to provide information regarding the history and wildlife of the region. ◆ Total Cost: A financial provision of ₹5 crore. ◆ TACO (The Animal Care Organization) – • Established in 2022, this organization operates based on the 'One Health' approach. • The organization is active in the fields of animal shelters, hospitals, academies, wildlife conservation, disaster relief, and sector engagement. • In addition to its wildlife conservation initiatives, TACO currently operates integrated animal welfare and ABC (Animal Birth Control) centers in Faridabad, Gurugram, Goa, and Varanasi.

4.	❑ Sariska Convention Center, Alwar ◆ Agreement Between: Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan, and Shine Foundation. ◆ Total Cost: A ₹1.04 Crore Project. ◆ Focus Area: Eco-tourism and state-of-the-art infrastructure development. ◆ Objective: To establish a modern platform for hosting national and international-level wildlife conferences, environmental seminars, and training programs for forest personnel.
5.	❑ Agreement Between MNIT, Jaipur, and the ISHRAE Foundation ◆ Date: March 27, 2026 (Chennai, Tamil Nadu) ◆ Institutions: MNIT (Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur) and ISHRAE (Indian Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers). ◆ Objective: To modernize and make the HVAC&R (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration) industry eco-friendly, while emphasizing environmental conservation.

Famous Festivals/Celebrations/Conferences/Fairs

Major Conferences	Key Details/Information
JOINT COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE JAIPUR – 07-08 MAY 2026 	◆ Event Dates: May 7–8, 2026 (Sapta Shakti Command, Jaipur) ◆ Theme: 'Military Capability in New Domains' ◆ Chief Guests: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan ◆ Organized on the occasion of the first anniversary of 'Operation Sindoor'. ◆ Modern Warfare Systems: Discussions focused on Artificial Intelligence, unmanned systems, and emerging threats (Cyber, Space, and Cognitive Warfare).
Official Language Seminar: Udaipur 	◆ Organizers: Entities under the administrative control of the Department of Financial Services. ◆ Date: April 9–10, 2026 ◆ Presided by: Chanddeep Kumar Jha (Statistical Advisor and Official Language Officer) ◆ Theme: "The Contribution of Indian Languages to National Growth" ◆ Awards for Outstanding Implementation of Official Language Policy (Financial Year 2025–26) (i) Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) – First Prize (ii) Central Bank of India – Linguistic Region 'B' – First Prize (iii) Bank of India – Linguistic Region 'B' – Second Prize (iv) IOB's In-house Magazine, 'Vaani' – Second Prize
'National Technology Day 2026' State-Level Ceremony 	◆ Event: May 11, Birla Institute of Scientific Research, Jaipur ◆ Organizer: Department of Science and Technology, Government of Rajasthan ◆ Theme: Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Development ◆ Innovation: Announcement of the Brahmagupta Award for Research in the Field of Science ◆ Chief Guest: Chief Minister, Rajasthan (Bhajanlal Sharma) ◆ Objective: To promote scientific temper, technological self-reliance, and the innovation ecosystem.

Miscellaneous

Nirbhaya Fund: 'Kota District' Included Among the Country's 10 'Inclusive Cities'

- ❑ Under the "Inclusive Cities for Women and Girls" project of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (Government of India), **Kota (Rajasthan)** was selected in April 2026 as one of the country's 10 pilot cities.
- ❑ **Funding:** Under the Nirbhaya Fund (launched by the Government of India in 2013).
- ❑ **Budget Provision:** Rs. 10 crore (Non-Lapsable) allocated for each city selected for the pilot project.
- ❑ **Objective:** To make the city safe, sensitive, and inclusive for women and girls.
- ❑ **Benefits:** Expansion of facilities such as AIs, women's police patrols, call boxes, 'Pink Toilets', etc.
- ❑ The other 09 cities selected under this project are:
 - ◆ Dhar (Madhya Pradesh), Dibrugarh (Assam), Koderma (Jharkhand), Mandi (Himachal Pradesh), Mehsana (Gujarat), Mulugu (Telangana), Sambalpur (Odisha), Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh), Varanasi (UP).

43rd Sarus Crane Census: Keoladeo Ghana National Park

- ❑ **Organized by:** The 'Keoladeo Natural History Society' in Bharatpur (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) on April 21, 2026.
- ❑ **Sarus Crane Census in Keoladeo (Annual)**
 - ◆ In the year 2026, the Sarus crane count was recorded at 22.
 - ◆ In the year 2025, only 14 Sarus cranes were found.
- ❑ **Bharatpur and Deeg Wetlands:** The Sarus crane population increased from 79 to 81.
- ❑ **Book Launch:** "Ecology and Environmental Biology"
 - ◆ Authors: Dr. M.M. Trigunayat and Dr. Kritika
 - ◆ Released by: Minister of State for Home Affairs, Jawahar Singh Bedham

Fit India - Cycle Sunday (2026)

- ❑ **Venue:** SMS Stadium, Jaipur (May 24)
- ❑ **Theme:** "Commonwealth Day 2030"
- ❑ 5-kilometer cycling rally around the stadium complex. Energetic Zumba session organized.
- ❑ **Participants:** Chief Secretary V. Srinivas, Secretary of the Rajasthan State Sports Council Praveen Gupta, and officers from Central Security Forces (CRPF, CISF).

Behavioral Psychology and Youth Mental Health (2025-26) Survey Report - Rajasthan

- ❑ **Study Area:** 4 major cities of Rajasthan—Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, and Udaipur.
- ❑ **Target Group:** 'Gen-Z' Youth (Born between the years 1997 and 2012).
- ❑ **Survey:** Based on a sample of over 5,000 young individuals.
- ❑ **Key Stress Factors:**
 1. Career and Job Security (Fear of paper leaks, employment uncertainty).
 2. Financial Independence (Bank balance, influence of 'Reel culture' on social media).
- ❑ **Key Survey Statistics: 'Analysis Paralysis' (Overthinking)**
 - ◆ According to the report, young people spend 22% of their active time (an average of 3.5 hours per day) solely on overthinking.
 - ◆ **Impact:** An individual loses approximately 8.5 years of their life exclusively to overthinking.
 - ◆ **Prominent Psychological Terms:**
 - **Analysis Paralysis:** (Overthinking): The complete loss of decision-making ability resulting from excessive thinking.
 - **FOMO (Fear of Missing Out):** The fear of falling behind or missing out, triggered by observing the online lifestyles of others.
 - **Situationship:** Modern romantic relationships characterized by a lack of clear commitment.

Archaeological Discovery: Amidst the Ancient Rocks of Amer

- Discovery Site: Ambikeshwar Mahadev Temple, Amer (Jaipur)

- Discoverers:** Dr. Tamegh Panwar – Assistant Professor at the University of Rajasthan and Archaeologist – and his research student, Kanishka Solanki.

S.No	Artwork	Estimated Age	Location	Artistic Details
1.	Rock Painting of the Rama-Ravana War	9th-10th Century (Approximately 1,000 years old)	Temple Complex (On a stone block)	- Lord Rama, Lakshmana, and Ravana are depicted in a combat stance, with their bows drawn against one another. - Ravana is portrayed in an aggressive posture, featuring his ten heads and wielding the supernatural 'Chandrahasta Khadga' (sword) bestowed upon him by Lord Shiva.
2.	Rock Painting of the Deeds of Lord Krishna	7th Century (Approximately 1,400 years old)	Temple Assembly Hall	The vivid mythological episode of the child Krishna subduing the serpent Kaliya is intricately carved in stone.
3.	Statue of Goddess Ambika	Ancient Period	Upper part of the Main Entrance (Lalatabimba)	A magnificent idol of Goddess Ambika is enshrined upon the Lalatabimba (central lintel) of the temple.

Permanent 'Jaipur Foot' Center in Trinidad and Tobago

- A new permanent center for the 'Jaipur Foot' was inaugurated in the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago, where it was accorded the status of a national institute.
- Location:** Port of Spain (the capital of Trinidad and Tobago).
- Inaugurator:** Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Name/Status:** Officially designated as the 'National Prosthetic Center' (a national institute).
- Technical Training:** BMVS technician Gajanand Lamba will provide training to local residents on the fabrication of artificial limbs, thereby facilitating the permanent rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

High-Protein Paneer from Camel Milk (Bikaner)

- Institute:** National Research Centre on Camel (NRCC), Bikaner.
- Innovation:** Scientists have developed a 'high-protein and mineral-rich paneer' (cottage cheese) possessing medicinal properties, using a blend of camel and cow milk.
- Mixing Ratio:** A blend of 70% camel milk and 30% cow milk was used (specifically to enhance the relatively low coagulation capacity of camel milk).

- Key Feature:** This cheese will remain fresh for 5-7 days and possesses a mildly salty taste; citric acid was utilized during its preparation.
- Scientists:** Dr. Mitul Bumbadiya and Dr. Rajendra Kumar

Goat Milk Soap and Shampoo Manufacturing Plant (Sojat, Pali)

- Rajasthan's first organized (goat milk-based) soap and shampoo manufacturing plant is set to be established.
- Implementation:**
- By the Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Development Council (RRLDC/Rajeevika), under the aegis of the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee District Upliftment Program.
- Cost:** Approximately Rs. 15 lakh will be invested in this project.
- The milk from a special breed of goats – specifically the 'Hyderabadi breed' found in Sojat – will be utilized for this purpose.

Book: 'India@100-2047: Roadmap for an Emerging India'

- Venue:** Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur
- Author/Key Speaker:** Sitaram Gupta (Director, Samridh Bharat Abhiyan Trust)
- Subject of Discussion/Book:** 'India@100-2047: Roadmap for an Emerging India'
- Central Theme:** The vision for 2047 is not merely to become an economic powerhouse, but to build

an India in which every section of society moves forward together and participates actively.

'Nakshatra Vatika' & 'Herbal Vatika' – Rajasthan Legislative Assembly

- ❑ **Inauguration: May 5, 2026 (Jointly)**
- ❑ Initiator: Dr. Devnani, Speaker of the 16th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

Features of the 'Nakshatra Vatika'

- Designed as a crescent-shaped garden spanning a total area of 5,000 square meters, situated in the southern wing of the Legislative Assembly building, between the two parking areas.
- 27 distinct plant species have been planted to represent all 27 Nakshatras (lunar constellations).

- ❑ The joint inauguration was performed by the Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of five Indian states:

1. Narendra Singh Tomar (Madhya Pradesh)
2. Satish Mahana (Uttar Pradesh)
3. Kuldeep Singh Pathania (Himachal Pradesh)
4. Surama Padhy (Odisha)
5. Mingma Norbu Sakshi / Mingma Norbu Sherpa (Sikkim)

'Features of the Herbal Vatika'

- Establishment: To facilitate the conservation of medicinal plants and to raise awareness regarding their health benefits.
- A total of 38 distinct varieties of medicinal plants have been planted in the garden—plants that are utilized in Ayurveda and traditional systems of medicine.

Launch of the Book: 'Pancham Ved - Natyashastra Par Ekagra'

- ❑ **Launch:** Performed by the Governor of Rajasthan, Haribhau Kishanrao Bagde, at the Lokbhavan in Jaipur.
- ❑ **Publisher:** North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala (Ministry of Culture, Government of India).
- ❑ **Editor:** Dr. Rajesh Kumar Vyas (A connoisseur of the arts and Sahitya Akademi awardee).
- ❑ **Significance of the Book (Why is it important?)**
- ❑ UNESCO Recognition: The **Natyashastra** was included in UNESCO's prestigious '**Memory of the World**' Register in April 2025.
- ❑ **Encyclopedic Text:** It comprises 37 chapters (covering performing arts, theater, acting, Rasa [aesthetics/emotions], Bhava [moods/expressions], costumes, and music).
- ❑ **Historical Context:** It highlights the significance of the historical commentary (Tika) by Abhinavagupta. It also incorporates elements from the Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda.

8th Poshan Pakhwada (Nutrition Fortnight) 2026 – Rajasthan

- ❑ **Duration:** April 9 – 23, 2026.
- ❑ **Organized by:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❑ **Theme:** 'Maximum Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life'.

- ❑ **National Level:** Rajasthan secured the first position across the entire country.
- ❑ **Top 3:** 2nd – Andhra Pradesh; 3rd – Chandigarh (UT).
- ❑ **District-wise Rankings:** 1st – Jodhpur; 2nd – Bikaner; 3rd – Churu.

'Vidya Kunj': Rajasthan's First Park Library

- ❑ Inaugurated by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, in Alwar.
- ❑ **Innovation:** This is the state's first-of-its-kind library, established amidst the open air within the tranquil environment of a public park, enabling local students and citizens to study in close proximity to nature.

State Bird: The Great Indian Bustard (Godawan) – May 21st observed as 'Godawan Day'

- ❑ **State-Level Godawan Day Celebration:**
 - ◆ **Edition:** 1st
 - ◆ **Venue:** Utkarsh Jain Bhawan, Jaisalmer
 - ◆ **Statue Unveiling:** A life-size statue of the Great Indian Bustard
 - ◆ **Occasion:** To commemorate the declaration of the Great Indian Bustard as the State Bird on May 21, 1982.
 - ◆ **Chief Guest:** Sanjay Sharma, Minister of State for Forest and Environment (Independent Charge)

- ❑ **Scientific Name:** *Ardeotis nigriceps*
- ❑ **Primary Natural Habitat:** The Desert National Park (DNP), which spans across the districts of Jaisalmer and Barmer; it is also found in the grasslands of Sorsan (Baran) and Sonkhliya (Ajmer).
- ❑ **IUCN Red List Status:** 'Critically Endangered' category
- ❑ **Legal Protection:** Included in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❑ **Project Great Indian Bustard:** Rajasthan is the first state in the country to launch 'Project Great Indian Bustard' in 2013 for the conservation of the Great Indian Bustard (Godawan).
- ❑ **In-vitro/Artificial Breeding Centers:** 'Great Indian Bustard Conservation and Artificial Breeding Centers' are operational in Ramdevra (Jaisalmer) and Sam (Jaisalmer), functioning in coordination with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the Forest Department. Scientists are working to boost the population by hatching eggs into 'hatchlings' using incubators.

Recently Approved Panoramas: Rajasthan

- ❑ **Purpose:** To digitally and artistically showcase the biographies of Rajasthan's eminent personalities and folk deities.
- ❑ **Main Objective:** 'To bring history to life through visual mediums, rather than confining it solely to books.'
- ❑ **Conservation/Management:** By the 'Rajasthan Heritage Conservation and Promotion Authority' and the Rajasthan Department of Tourism.
 - ◆ Shri Mahavir Ji Panorama: Karauli
 - ◆ Shri Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj Panorama: Ajmer
 - ◆ Shri Jasnath Ji Panorama: Bikaner (Katariyasar)
 - ◆ Shri Khema Baba Panorama: Balotra (Baytu)
 - ◆ Shri Bhamashah Panorama: Chittorgarh
 - ◆ Shri Rao Chandrasen Panorama: Jodhpur
 - ◆ Sant Shri Durbalnath Panorama: Bandikui (Dausa)
 - ◆ Veer Durgadas Rathore Panorama: Siwana (Balotra)
 - ◆ Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Panorama: Ajmer
 - ◆ Veer Tejaji Panorama: Kharnal (Nagaur)
 - ◆ Bhakta Shiromani Karma Bai Panorama: Didwana
 - ◆ Hadi Rani Panorama: Salumber

NITI Aayog Water Budgeting Report: Rajasthan

- ❑ **Rajasthan's 3 Selected Pilot Blocks:** This study was conducted across 18 blocks nationwide characterized by the highest levels of groundwater exploitation; among these, three blocks from Rajasthan ranked at the very top, falling into the 'highly critical' category.
 1. **Bhim Block (Rajsamand):** Recorded the highest level of groundwater exploitation in the country, at 145.24%.
 2. **Kotri Block (Bhilwara):** The rate of groundwater extraction was recorded at 132.50%.
 3. **Abu Road Block (Sirohi):** The level of groundwater exploitation was recorded at 113.98%.
- ❑ **Mismanagement of Surface Water –**
 - ◆ **Wastage in Runoff:** According to the report, during the monsoon season, 12,522.8 hectare-meters of rainwater in Kotri Block and 15,888.0 hectare-meters in Abu Road flow away as runoff every year, going to waste.
 - ◆ **Minimal Utilization of Capacity:** Abu Road is able to utilize merely 5% of its total installed surface water capacity, while Kotri Block utilizes only 9.6%.

NITI Aayog Report: Rajasthan's Educational Innovations

- ❑ **Report Title:** 'School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement' (May 6, 2026)
- ❑ **Issuer:** NITI Aayog, Government of India
- ❑ NITI Aayog has designated two key flagship initiatives – representing the unprecedented educational innovations being undertaken by the Government of Rajasthan in the education sector – as '**Good State Practices**' (i.e., exemplary best systems) for the nation.
 1. **Shala Swasthya Abhiyan**
 2. **AI-based Assessment System**
- ❑ In the year 2024-25, integrated education for Grades 1 through 12 was available in only 5.4% of schools across the entire country, whereas in Rajasthan, **this figure was recorded at approximately 35% of the national total.**
- ❑ Rajasthan is the only state in the country where students have access to primary, upper primary, secondary, and senior secondary level education – covering the

entire spectrum—at a single location. (Across 27,889 schools in the state)

- ❑ One in every three schools in the country providing integrated education from grades 1 through 12 is operational in Rajasthan.
- ❑ According to a report, the 'Chief Minister's Educated Rajasthan Campaign'—utilizing OCR technology and an AI-based assessment system—helped lift over 400,000 students out of 'learning poverty' and recorded an annual improvement of 8-10% in learning levels.

Tobacco Control: Rajasthan's Global Model

- ❑ **Statewide Special Campaign:** May 22-30, 2026
- ❑ Under COTPA (Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003).
- ❑ **Strict Action:** A total of 2,137 challans (fines) were issued for violations of the COTPA Act.
- ❑ **Districts with the highest number of challans:** Jaipur (290), Bharatpur (216), Jodhpur (202), Alwar (149), and Nagaur (130).
- ❑ **Achievement for the Year 2025-26:** Over 136,000 challans were issued under COTPA during the year 2025-26.
- ❑ **World No Tobacco Day Award 2026:** Rajasthan's Department of Medical and Health was conferred a world-class honor by the World Health Organization (WHO) within the 'South-East Asia Region' for its outstanding work in the tobacco control program.
- ❑ **Counseling Centers:** Over 500 tobacco de-addiction treatment centers are operational across the state, extending down to the block level.
- ❑ **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs:** On May 31 (World No Tobacco Day), special counseling sessions were organized at all Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across the state.
- ❑ **Community Participation:** Under the 'Ayushman Adarsh Gram Yojana' (Ayushman Ideal Village Scheme), proposals for tobacco control were passed in 13,744 villages during the year 2025-26, and 32,380 'Tobacco Monitors/Ambassadors' were deployed.
- ❑ **Legal Framework:** Along with COTPA 2003, effective action is being taken under the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2019, as well as regarding the ban on hookah bars.

'PRASAR' - State-Level Public Relations Honors Ceremony

- ❑ **Organized by:** The Public Relations and Allied Services Association of Rajasthan (PRASAR) in Bikaner on May 30, 2026.
- ❑ **Chief Guest:** Union Minister of Law and Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal
- ❑ **Presided over by:** PRASAR President, Dr. Hari Shankar Acharya
- ❑ **Key Award Recipients:**
 - ◆ Ghanshyam Goswami Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award
 - **Gopal Sharma** (Retired Additional Director, DIPR)
 - ◆ Kishankumar Vyas 'Azad' Memorial 'Jan Sampark Ratna' Award
 - **Mrs. Veena Karamchandani** (Former Assistant Director)
 - ◆ Dinesh Chand Saxena Memorial Young Public Relations Professional Award
 - **Surendra Samariya (Bagwara)**
 - ◆ On the occasion of Bikaner Foundation Day, the winners of the 'Harakh Bikana' Insta-video competition—organized jointly by the Department of Information and Public Relations and the Nirvikalp Foundation—were also felicitated.

Organization: 'PRASAR'

- **Full Name:** Public Relations and Allied Services Association of Rajasthan
- **Nature:** An official and registered state-level service organization comprising officers and employees of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Rajasthan.
- **Established:** Year 1971
- **Objective:** To strengthen the Rajasthan Information Service (RIS) cadre and to safeguard the welfare and interests of public relations professionals.
- Since 2019, the organization has been conferring annual awards in memory of deceased public relations officers.

Janjati gaurav samman samaroh- May 29, 2026

- **Organized by:** The Department of Tribal Area Development, under the 'Janajati Garima Utsav' .
- **Venue:** Manikya Lal Verma Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRI), Udaipur
- **Chief Guest:** Babulal Kharadi (Minister of Tribal Area Development)

Sector	Names of Honorees
Sports (Lacrosse)	• Sunita Meena: Captain of the Women's Team and International Gold Medalist • Mohanlal Gameti (Men's Team)
Agriculture and Horticulture	• Gainaram - Sirohi • Santosh Kumar, Shantibai - Pratapgarh
Entrepreneurship	• Mamta Meena - Pratapgarh
Livelihoods	• Somaram - Sirohi • Surendra Meena - Udaipur
Social Reform (Eradication of Social Evils)	• Dr. Devilal - Udaipur • Roopji Baria - Banswara • Thavaram Garasiya - Sirohi • Manilal Devtara - Dungarpur
Promoting Blood Donation	• Bhurilal Kharadi
Education	• Bheraram (Rajasthan Tehsildar Service) • Ganesh Katara (95% in Class 12, Arts Stream) • Jitendra Ninama (95.40% in Science Stream)
Bhamashah Honor	• Om Prakash Bhil: Donor of Land for Hostel Construction

Important One-Liner

Oran Land - Jaisalmer

- The Government of Rajasthan has decided to designate 3,666.2139 hectares of land in the Jaisalmer district as 'Oran Land' (**sacred grove**), in furtherance of environmental conservation and local religious beliefs.

Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM: 2026)

- **Main Event:** Originally scheduled to be held from May 23-25, 2026, at the JECC, Sitapura, Jaipur; subsequently postponed by the Government of Rajasthan.
- **Promotional Activities and Roadshows**
- April 23 (New Delhi): Led by the Chief Minister, alongside entrepreneurs.
- April 26 (Bengaluru): Roadshow.

Selection of the Film 'Maine Kabhi Chidiya Nahi Dekhi'.

- Filmmaker and Director from Jaipur: Usha Dashora.
- **Selection:** Featured at the 15th Delhi International Film Festival, 2026, held in New Delhi from May 4-8, 2026.
- **Theme:** Child Psychology and Environmental Awareness.

Bhogishail Parikrama - 2026: Jodhpur

- **Inauguration:** May 25, at the Clock Tower (Ghantaghar), Jodhpur.
- **Special Occasion:** Vikram Samvat 2083, Jyeshtha Shukla Dashami (Adhik Maas).

National Workshop on 'Heatwave Preparedness and Mitigation'

- **Organized by:** Department of Civil Engineering, Poornima University, Jaipur (May 24-25, 2026)
- **Theme:** 'Heatwave Preparedness and Mitigation'
- **Collaborating Institutions:**
 - MoES: (Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India)
 - IMD: (India Meteorological Department)
 - SAMA: (South Asian Meteorological Association)
 - IMS Jaipur Chapter: (Indian Meteorological Society - Jaipur Branch)

Supreme Court Verdict: Rajasthani Language

- ❑ **Date of Verdict:** May 12, 2026
- ❑ **Bench:** Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta
- ❑ **Key Directive:** An order to the Government of Rajasthan to make the teaching of the Rajasthani language mandatory in all government and private schools across the state.

- ❑ **Implementation:** To be implemented in a phased manner – commencing with the primary classes.
- ❑ **Reference:** Padam Mehta and Others vs. State of Rajasthan (Case 2026)
- ❑ **Compliance Report:** The State Government has been directed to submit a compliance report by September 30, 2026.

Padma Shri Awards 2026: Three Personalities from Rajasthan

- ❑ On May 25, 2026, President Smt. Droupadi Murmu conferred the Padma Shri Awards for the year 2026 upon three distinguished personalities from Rajasthan during the first phase of the '**Padma Awards Investiture Ceremony 2026,**' held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ❑ Gaffaruddin Mewati Jogi and Tagaram Bhil were honored in the field of Art, while Swami Brahmadev Ji Maharaj was conferred with the Padma Shri – **the country's fourth-highest civilian award** – in the field of Social Service.

Gram Rath Abhiyan (Village Chariot Campaign)

- ❑ **Launch:** April 27, 2026, in Jaipur, by BJP National President Nitin Navin and Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.
- ❑ **Duration:** 15 days (April 27 – May 11, 2026)
- ❑ **Associated Departments:** 13 departments of the Government of Rajasthan
- ❑ Gram Rath (Village Chariots) reached 183 rural-majority Assembly constituencies.
- ❑ **Objective:** To conduct public awareness programs and enhance easy access to government schemes in 4-5 Gram Panchayats daily.
- ❑ **Nodal Department:** Department of Information and Public Relations
- ❑ **Conclusion:** Thikariya Village, Bagru (Jaipur)

Rajasthan's First Dual-Source Power Supply Data Center: Sitapura Industrial Area, Jaipur

- ❑ **Load Capacity:** 6 Megawatts
- ❑ In a dual-source supply system, an uninterrupted supply of electricity is

provided simultaneously from two distinct and independent grid substations.

- ❑ Spans an area of approximately 953,000 square feet.

Key Appointments

- ❑ **Prof. Kailash Daga**
 - ◆ Appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Mohanlal Sukhadia University (MLSU), Udaipur.
 - ◆ Tenure: 3 years or until attaining the age of 70 (whichever occurs earlier).
- ❑ **Prof. Madan Singh Rathore**
 - ◆ Appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Maharaja Surajmal Brij University, Bharatpur.
 - ◆ Tenure: 3 years or until attaining the age of 70 (whichever occurs earlier).

Mokalwas-Jodhpur: Panchgavya Therapy

- ❑ Joraram Kumawat, the Minister of Animal Husbandry (Government of Rajasthan), inaugurated '**India's first Panchgavya Therapy Course**' at the Gau-Samvardhan Ashram (Cow Conservation Center) located in Mokalwas, Jodhpur district.
- ❑ **Joint Initiative:** By Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Rajasthan Ayurveda University, Jodhpur, and the Lakshya Environment and Public Welfare Institute (a center recognized by the University).
- ❑ **Panchgavya Therapy:** Developing scientific methodologies for the medicinal and therapeutic application of the five key 'nectar' elements derived from cows (milk, curd, ghee, cow urine, and cow dung).

Rajasthan's First State-of-the-Art 'Arbitration and Mediation Center' – Located at the Vidhik Sewa Sadan Complex, Jaipur.

- ❑ **Inauguration:** On May 10, 2026, by Supreme Court Judge Justice Sandeep Mehta and the Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma.
- ❑ **Development:** Undertaken by the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority, in accordance with the Arbitration Act, 2023, enacted by the Government of India.
- ❑ **Key Feature/Objective:** To ensure speedy justice and to strengthen the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

- ❑ The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Election Commission's of India (ECI) power and process to conduct a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in *Association for Democratic Reforms(ADR) vs. Election Commission of India, 2025*.
- ❑ The purpose of SIR is to safeguard the constitutional obligation of free and fair elections and to ensure that the electoral rolls used for conducting elections are accurate and reliable.
- ❑ SIR does not violate the **Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950, or the 1960 Rules**; rather, it upholds the constitutional mandate of Article 324 (free and fair elections) through Section 21(3) of the RPA, 1950.
- ❑ The Court clarified that if the ECI is not satisfied with the documents submitted by a person and removes his or her name from the electoral roll, it does not mean that the person is no longer a citizen of India.
 - ◆ The ECI makes decisions solely for electoral purposes. Actual citizenship can only be determined by a competent authority under the Citizenship Act, 1955.
 - ◆ If the individuals concerned are ultimately found to be Indian citizens, their names must be reinstated in the electoral rolls.
- ❑ Test of proportionality: The Supreme Court has upheld the SIR on the standard of proportionality.
- ❑ It is a participatory process involving all stakeholders, including voters, political parties, and election officials.
- ❑ **Constitutional and Statutory Framework**
 - ◆ **Article 324(1)** empowers the Election Commission to superintendence, direction, and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for the conduct of elections.
 - ◆ **Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950** empowers the Election Commission to conduct a special revision of the electoral rolls for any constituency at any time, for reasons to be recorded.
 - ◆ **Electoral Registration Rules, 1960 (Rule 21A)**: This rule makes it mandatory that names already entered in the electoral roll can not be deleted without giving prior notice and opportunity of being heard to the voter concerned.
- ❑ **Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls - Phase 3**
 - ◆ The Election Commission announced on May 14 to conduct SIR in **16 States and 3 Union Territories under Article 324** of the Constitution and Section 21 of the RPA 1950. This process will run from May 30 to December 23, 2026.
 - ◆ Along with this, in the third phase, special intensive revision of voter lists will be implemented in the entire country except **Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh**.
 - ◆ The Election Commission had announced to conduct SIR in the entire country on 24 June 2025. By May 2026, 10 states and 3 union territories had been covered.
 - ◆ Under the first phase, SIR was conducted **first in Bihar**.

What is a Special Intensive Revision (SIR)?

- ❑ It is a comprehensive process of updating the electoral rolls and removing the names of deceased, transferred, or ineligible/fake voters and adding new eligible voters.

- ◆ Under the second phase, SIR was conducted in 12 states and union territories from 28 October 2025.
- ◆ SIR is being conducted in India after about 21 years. Before this, such a big exercise was conducted across the country between 2002-2005.
- ◆ The SIR process is being conducted for the 8th time in the country.

Assembly Elections in 5 States/UTs

- ❑ The Election Commission of India (ECI) conducted Assembly elections for 4 states (Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal) and 1 Union Territory (Puducherry) in April-May 2026.
- ❑ **Counting of votes:** On 4 May 2026.

State	Majority Party/Alliance	Opposition	Appointed Chief Minister
West Bengal (Assembly Seat- 294) Governor: R.N. Ravi	Bharatiya Janata Party (207 + 1) (Falta seat). BJP formed the government in West Bengal for the first time.	All India Trinamool Congress - 80	Suvendu Adhikari (BJP): 9th Chief Minister of West Bengal.
Tamil Nadu (Assembly Seat- 234) Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) won 108 seats. TVK formed the government with the support of VCK and IUML.	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) - 59 seats AIADMK: 47 seats	C. Joseph Vijay (TVK): 9th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
Assam (Assembly Seat- 126) Governor: Laxman Prasad Acharya	National Democratic Alliance (NDA) - 102 seats. BJP - 82 seats. Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People's Front (BPF) - 10 seats each.	Congress: 21 seats All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF): 2 seats	Himanta Biswa Sarma: 15th Chief Minister, became the first non-Congress leader to hold the Chief Minister-ship of Assam for two consecutive terms.
Kerala (Assembly seats- 140) Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Congress-led UDF (United Democratic Front) won 102 seats (Congress - 63 seats).	With the defeat of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Left Democratic Front (LDF) led by Pinarayi Vijayan, there is currently no Left government in any state in India.	V.D. Satheesan: 13th Chief Minister.
Puducherry (Assembly seats - 30)	National Democratic Alliance (NDA) - 17 seats. All India NR Congress (AINRC) - 12. • BJP - 4 seats.	Congress-DMK alliance - 6 seats	N. Rangaswamy (AINRC) became the Chief Minister of Puducherry for the 5th time.

- ❑ Assam (85.38%), Tamil Nadu (84.69%), Puducherry (89.83%) and West Bengal (92.47%) recorded the highest voter turnout since independence.
- ❑ The percentage of voters who opted for 'None of the Above' (NOTA) was highest in Assam at 1.23% and lowest in Tamil Nadu at 0.4%.
- ❑ The Returning Officer (RO) will publish the list of contesting candidates in the Official Gazette as per the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.

- ❑ Section 126(1)(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 prohibits the conduct of exit polls and the display of election material on television or any other medium during the silence period, beginning 48 hours before the scheduled time of completion of poll in any polling station.
- ❑ West Bengal Governor R. N. Ravi, exercising his powers under Article 174 of the Constitution, issued an order dissolving the existing Legislative Assembly.
- ❑ **International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP)-2026**
 - ◆ Inaugurated by: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, Election Commission of India.
 - ◆ In the first phase of the programme, the delegates visited Assam, Kerala and Puducherry on April 8-9, 2026.
 - ◆ In the second phase, the delegates visited the states of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu from April 20, 2026.

Sunetra Pawar

- ❑ **National Record:** Sunetra Pawar of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has won the Baramati Assembly seat by-election by a huge margin of 2,18,034 votes (about 97.8% of the total valid votes).
 - ◆ She has created a new national record for the largest margin of victory in Assembly elections.

Formation of High Level Committee on Unnatural Demographic Change

- ❑ **Formation by:** by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 26 May 2026.
- ❑ **Function:** To analyze the unnatural demographic changes taking place in India and present effective solutions to them.
- ❑ **Chairman:** Retired Supreme Court Judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar.
- ❑ **Members:** Census Commissioner and 3 experts- Durga Shankar Mishra (Retd IAS),

Balaji Srivastava (Retd IPS), Dr. Shamika Ravi (Economist).

- ❑ **Unnatural demographic change?** When the population structure changes due to external interference or infiltration rather than natural factors like birth and death, the socio-religious fabric of the country is affected.

Madhya Pradesh High Court's Decision on Bhojshala

- ❑ The Madhya Pradesh High Court has declared the disputed '**Bhojshala Kamal Maula Mosque Complex**', located in Dhar district is primarily a Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati.
- ❑ This decision annulled the 2003 order issued by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which allowed both communities (Hindu and Muslim) to pray on specific days.
- ❑ The site is designated a nationally "**Protected Monument**" under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904.
- ❑ The Bhojshala Complex
 - ◆ She has created a new national record Establishment: **By Raja Bhoj (1000-1055 AD)**, a ruler of the Parmar dynasty.
 - ◆ She has created a new national record In ancient times, it was a major center of Sanskrit learning and a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati.
 - ◆ She has created a new national record The original idol of **Goddess Saraswati** is currently preserved in the British Museum in London.
 - ◆ She has created a new national record Two hymns to the **Kurma Avatar** (tortoise incarnation) of Lord Vishnu and classical poetry are engraved on the stones in ancient Prakrit.
 - ◆ She has created a new national record During the Malwa Sultanate, parts of this center of learning and religion were converted into mosques. The site is also associated with the memory of the Sufi saint **Sheikh Kamal Maula**.

In Re: Phalodi Accident vs. National Highways Authority of India & Ors. (2025)

- ❑ In this case, the Supreme Court of India recognized the right to safe travel on National Highways as a fundamental right, declaring it an integral part of the 'right to life' under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ❑ According to the Court, safe, well-maintained and motorable roads are no longer limited to a mere policy objective but are a constitutional obligation of the State.
- ❑ Using its inherent powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, the apex court took suo motu cognizance of two road accidents that occurred in November 2025.

Increase in the number of Supreme Court Judges

- ❑ **Approval:** The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, and the President issued an ordinance to this effect.
- ❑ **Provision:** To increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court of India (excluding the Chief Justice of India) from the current 33 to 37.
- ❑ **Current Status:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) + 33 judges.
- ❑ The number of judges was increased from 31 to 33 in 2019 through an amendment to Section 2 of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.
- ❑ This is the seventh time the number of Supreme Court judges has been increased so far.
- ❑ **Constitutional provision:** Article 124(1) of the Constitution empowers only Parliament to increase the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court.

National Song to be given equal status to the National Anthem

- ❑ The Union Cabinet has approved an amendment to Section 3 of the 'Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971' to give the national song equal status to the national anthem.
- ❑ Amended provisions:
 - ◆ The duration of the national anthem will be fixed at 3 minutes 10 seconds and singing of all its 6 stanzas will be compulsory.
 - ◆ **Punishment:** Willful obstruction in singing of the national anthem will be punishable with imprisonment up to 3 years, fine or both. There is a provision of imprisonment of minimum one year for repeat offences.
- ❑ Under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, there is a provision of imprisonment, fine or both for insulting the Constitution, National Flag and National Anthem.

Global Launch of "Padma Dori"

- ❑ **Launched By:** Northeast Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation (NEHHDC), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDONER).
- ❑ **Padma Dori:** It is a unique cross-cultural textile initiative that combines the Eri silk traditions of Northeast India with the rich heritage of Chanderi weaving from Madhya Pradesh.
- ❑ **Objective:** To promote a sustainable and artisan-centric textile ecosystem.
- ❑ **Eri silk (Ahimsa Silk):** Produced without killing silkworms. Produced in India's northeastern states (Assam and Meghalaya).

Return of 3 Historic Bronze Statues to India

- ❑ **Why in the news?** Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced the return of 3 bronze statues from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art to India.
- ❑ These statues originally belonged to temples in Tamil Nadu.

S.No.	Name of the Statue	Period/Dynasty	Original Location
1.	Shiva Nataraja	Chola Period (Around 990 CE)	Sri Bhava Oushadeeswara Temple, Thanjavur District (Tamil Nadu)
2.	Somaskanda (Shiva and Uma)	Chola Period (12th Century)	Vishwanath Temple, Alathur Village (Tamil Nadu)
3.	Saint Sundarar with Paravai	Vijayanagara Period (16th Century)	Shiva Temple , Veerasolapuram Village (Tamil Nadu)

Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) Tolling System

- ❑ **Launched By:** Union Minister Nitin Gadkari at the Choryasi toll plaza on the Surat Bharuch section of NH-48 in Gujarat.
- ❑ India's first MLFF barrier-free tolling system.
- ❑ **Implementation:** By the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- ❑ This state-of-the-art system uses advanced technologies such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and FASTag electronic toll collection, allowing seamless toll collection without stopping vehicles.

Operation RAGEPILL

- ❑ **Why in the news?** A special and secret operation conducted by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- ❑ NCB seized around 227.7 kg of Captagon tablets/powder synthetic drugs in the operation.
- ❑ Captagon mainly contains fenetylline and amphetamine, which fall under the category of Narcotic substances under the Narcotic Drugs Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1995.

Places in News

Vagheri Hill and Sao Jorge Island

- ❑ The Goa government has declared Vagheri Hill and Sao Jorge Island as 'No Development Zone' (NDZ) to prevent construction activities.
- ❑ **Vagheri Hill:** Located in the Western Ghats near the Maharashtra-Goa border.
- ❑ **Sao Jorge Island:** Located in the Mormugao region of South Goa.

Warangal (Telangana)

- ❑ The Prime Minister inaugurated the country's first operational PM MITRA Park (brownfield) in Warangal (Telangana).
- ❑ Under the Prime Minister's Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Yojana : The Ministry of Textiles approved the development of these parks in the states of Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh (7) in March 2023

Pichhore

- ❑ Recent studies on the rare 'spherical granite' rock formation located in Pichhore, Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh, have confirmed its historical and geological significance.
- ❑ Significance: This formation is linked to the Neoproterozoic magmatic history of the Bundelkhand Craton, estimated to be approximately 2.5 billion years old.
- ❑ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has declared this unique formation a National Geo-Heritage Site.

Assam

- ❑ The Assam Legislative Assembly has passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026 in the state. With this, Assam becomes the third state in the country to pass such a bill, after Uttarakhand and Gujarat.
- ❑ The "AI Educator Series" program: will be implemented in Assam in collaboration with Google and UNICEF.
 - ◆ Under this initiative, teachers will be trained in the use of AI-based tools to improve classroom teaching and learning.

Persons in News

Baba Banda Singh Bahadur (1670-1716)

- ❑ Sirhind Fateh Diwas is celebrated on 12 May to commemorate the historic victory of Sirhind by Baba Banda Singh Bahadur in 1710.
- ❑ Baba Banda Singh Bahadur: he was the commander-in-chief of the Khalsa Army.
 - ◆ He became a disciple of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who gave him the name 'Banda Singh Bahadur'.
 - ◆ He was taken prisoner by the Mughal Emperor Farrukhsiyar

Kuljit Kaur Marhas

- ❑ **Why in the news?** Kuljit Kaur Marhas, a scientist at the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad, has been elected a 'Fellow' by The Meteorological Society for the year 2026.
- ❑ She has become the first Indian woman and the third scientist (after Devendra Lal and J.N. Goswami) to receive the highest international honour in planetary and meteorite science.

- ❑ **The Meteoritical Society:** Founded in 1933, it is a leading international scientific organization dedicated to the study of meteorites, planetary materials, and the solar system.

Shaheed Veer Gundadhur

- ❑ Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Shaheed Veer Gundadhur Seva Dera Suvidha Kendra in Bastar, Chhattisgarh.
- ❑ Shaheed Veer Gundadhur: Born in Netanar village in Bastar into the Dhurva tribal community, the tribal leader led the **Bhumkal rebellion in 1910.**

Death

Major General B.C. Khanduri (Retd.)

- ❑ **Former Chief Minister:** 2 times Chief Minister of Uttarakhand (2007-09 and 2011-12).
- ❑ **Union Minister:** Also served as Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

Appointment

Ashutosh Gowariker	◆ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has appointed a Festival Director for the 57th International Film Festival of India (to be held in Goa in November 2026).
Prasoon Joshi	◆ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has appointed the Chairman of Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster.
Shashi Shekhar Vempati	◆ Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). ◆ He has succeeded Prasoon Joshi.
Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda	◆ Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
Dr. R. Balasubramaniam and Dr. Joram Anya (Arunachal Pradesh)	◆ Appointed as a Full-time Member of NITI Aayog ◆ The total number of members in the Commission's core team (full-time members) has now reached 7.
Rohit Jain	◆ Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Appointed
Saurabh Vijay	◆ CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

Conference

Healthcare and Social Welfare

National Conference on Rare Diseases:

- ❑ **Organizer:** Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at New Delhi (5-6 May)
- ❑ **Financial assistance:** The one-time assistance amount given under the National Rare Disease Policy has been increased from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.
- ❑ **Initiative:** Expansion of Genetic Counseling (UMMID - Unique methods for Management and Treatment of Inherited Disorders UMMID) through (NIDAN Centre - National Inherited Diseases Administration).

Efforts for diagnosis of rare diseases in Rajasthan.

- ◆ Mukhyamantri Ayushman Bal Sambal Yojana: A state-level initiative that provides free medical treatment up to Rs 50 lakh to children below 18 years of age suffering from diseases listed under the National Rare Disease Policy.

- ◆ Centre of Excellence at AIIMS Jodhpur: A formally designated Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Rajasthan under the National Policy on Rare Diseases (NPRD) 2021. It serves as a major tertiary referral centre for advanced genetic, cytogenetic and molecular diagnostics.
- ◆ JK Lon Hospital (SMS Medical College, Jaipur): Serving as the state's primary nodal centre, this hospital has Rajasthan's first hospital-based newborn screening lab and a highly trained multidisciplinary rare disease team.

10th National Health Summit

- ❑ **Event:** April 30, 2026, Chandigarh, Haryana
- ❑ **Organiser:** Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ❑ **Theme :** Innovation and Inclusivity: Best Practices Shaping India's Health Future
- ❑ **Objective:** To promote inclusive, accessible and affordable healthcare services across the country.

Initiative	Description
Swastha bharat Portal	An integrated digital platform for all national health programmes to reduce administrative burden.
Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0	Updated guidelines for child health check-ups, expanding the '4D' approach (defects, diseases, deficiencies and developmental delays).
Integrated Training Module	A competency-based framework to empower the primary healthcare workforce, including 70% women.
Guidance document on diabetes in children	Universal screening: Aims to screen all children from birth to 18 years, free care packages, '4T' awareness framework - toileting, thirst, fatigue and wasting (sudden weight loss).

Janani Portal

- ❑ **Digital Upgrade:** An upgraded version of the RCH portal for long-term health tracking.
- ❑ **Continuous care:** Health monitoring from pregnancy through postpartum and the newborn period.
- ❑ **QR-enabled MCH Card:** Digital cards providing instant, portable access to health records
- ❑ **Smart Monitoring:** Automated alerts for high-risk pregnancies and scheduled vaccinations.
- ❑ **Seamless integration:** Interoperable with national platforms like U-WIN and Poshan.
- ❑ **Verified Access:** Use of ABHA and Aadhaar (biometric/OTP) for secure beneficiary registration.

- ❑ **Empowered self-care:** Allows mothers to self-register and track their health milestones digitally.

Economy, trade and aviation

India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0 (IALFS 2.0)

- ❑ **Event:** 8 May 2026, GIFT City, Gandhinagar
- ❑ **Organisers:** Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
- ❑ **Objective:** To develop GIFT IFSC (International Financial Services Centre) as an emerging global hub, strengthening India's role in aircraft leasing and aviation finance.

CII Annual Business Summ

- ❑ **Organised:** New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Commerce Minister Shri Piyush Goyal.
- ❑ **Theme:** The Future-Global Economy, Industry, Society

Conefederation of Indian Industry (CII)

- ◆ is a non-profit, industry-led organization founded in 1895 which provides advice to the government on tax and business reforms.
- ◆ It accelerates economic growth by providing consultancy to MSMEs and managing 12 Centres of Excellence.

DEFENCE

Steel Cutting Ceremony (5th Fleet Support Ship)

- ❑ **Steel Cutting:** Official start of shipbuilding: 8 May 2026
- ❑ **Organiser:** Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL), Visakhapatnam.
- ❑ **Contract:** Signed between the Navy and

Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam in August 2023.

- ❑ **Objective:** To build a total of 5 Fleet Support Ships (FSS).

Fleet Support Ship (FSS)

- ◆ The 40,000-tonne FSS enhances 'blue water' capabilities by supplying fuel, ammunition and stores at sea.
- ◆ Apart from logistics services, it is also useful for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) and non-combatant evacuation operations (NEO).

52nd All India Sainik School Principals' Conference

- ❑ **Venue:** Kazhakootam, Kerala
- ❑ **Organiser:** Ministry of Defence , Sainik Schools Society, Sainik School Kazhakootam
- ❑ **Defence Minister Trophy:** Sainik School Nagrota (Jammu & Kashmir) (Most entries in NDA/INA).
- ❑ **Certificate of Academic Excellence:** Sainik School Satara (Class 10) and Sainik School Kazhakootam (Class 12).

First ICMR Annual Clinical Trials Conference

- ❑ **Event:** May 20, 2026, New Delhi
- ❑ **Organiser:** Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- ❑ **Theme:** 'International Clinical Trials Day: Focus on Integrative Medicine Clinical Trials'.
- ❑ **Ayurvedic Treatment of Anaemia Study:** This study compared traditional Ayurvedic medicine - Punarnavadi Mandura (alone and in combination with Drakshavaleha) - with standard iron folic acid (IFA) tablets

Technology, Science and Environment

CERT-In SAMVAAD 2026

- ❑ **Event:** Three-day National Annual Conference, BITS PILANI K.K. Birla Goa Campus
- ❑ **Organized by:** Indian Computer Response Team (CERT-In)
- ❑ **Theme:** 'Securing Digital India through Future Ready Audits: Adapt, Assure, Progress'

National Technical Conference 'WISE-2026'

- ❑ **WISE-2026:** Weather and climate Innovation meet for Startups and Entrepreneurs
- ❑ **Organiser:** Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)-Pune, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
- ❑ **Objective:** To promote commercial innovations, forecasting technologies and entrepreneurial solutions to combat climate instability.

Meeting of the ISO International Subcommittee on Space Systems and Operations

- ❑ 35th Plenary Meeting and Working Group Meeting, hosted by India for the first time.
- ❑ **Host:** Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), New Delhi.
- ❑ 131 international delegates from 13 countries participated in the event.
- ❑ The meeting reflects India's active role in shaping global standards in emerging areas such as space stability, debris mitigation and mission operations.
- ❑ **ISOTC 20/SC 14:** A specialized international subcommittee within the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) dedicated to the development of technical standards for space systems and operations.

Fourth Governance Summit 2026

- ❑ **Organisers:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Indian School of Business (ISB)
- ❑ **Topic:** Inclusive AI for Viksit Bharat
- ❑ **Key focus areas:** Role of AI in digital commerce, online safety for women and children, access and affordability of healthcare, and job creation and digital entrepreneurship.

Agriculture and Regional Development

Fruit Horizon 2026

- ❑ **Organiser:** ICAR- Central Institute of Subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow.
- ❑ **Objective:** Focusing on 'zero rejection' standards to make India a top fruit exporter.
- ❑ **Clean Plant Centre:** A modern Clean Plant Centre inaugurated at ICAR-CISH.
- ❑ **Objective:** To produce disease-free and genetically pure planting material for mango, guava, litchi and avocado.

7th Sujal Gram Samvad

- ❑ **Organiser:** Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❑ It is an online, multilingual dialogue focused on water management at the village level.
- ❑ Dialogues were conducted between 6 specific Gram Panchayats (Rajasthan-Khandwa belt) using regional languages (including Rajasthani).

Village Panchayat- Khandwa Patta (Churu District, Rajasthan)

- ◆ Why in the news? Revival and use of traditional rainwater harvesting structures like kunds and tankas.
- ◆ Women Empowerment: Special emphasis on training rural women to conduct water quality testing at household and school levels.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launches nationwide awareness campaign on balanced use of fertilizers

- ❑ **Objective:** To make farmers aware about balanced use of fertilizers, soil health promotion, green manure and natural and organic farming methods.
- ❑ Bharatpur Farmers Conference(bharatpur kisaan sangoshthi)- Randhirpura Village, organised by ICAR-Indian Institute of Mustard Seed Research (IIRMR), Bharatpur.

68th Governing Body Meeting (GBM) of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO)

- ❑ **Organiser:** National Productivity Council (NPC) under Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- ❑ **Asian Productivity Organization (APO):** Established in 1961; Members: 21 countries
 - ◆ It is a leading inter-governmental organization committed to improving productivity for sustainable socio-economic development in the Asia-Pacific region through mutual cooperation and policy support.

Tribal Affairs

Seminar on 'Role of Artificial Intelligence and Technology in Strengthening Sustainable Tribal Development'

- ❑ **Event:** Organised under the theme week 'Technology as a Development driver' observed from 11th to 17th May, 2026.
- ❑ **Organised by:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with Bhagwan Birsa Munda Cell (BBMC) under Janjatiya Garima Utsav 2026 at IIT, Delhi.
- ❑ **Topic:** 'Role of Artificial Intelligence and Technology in Strengthening Sustainable Tribal Development'

Adi Vani Platform

- ◆ It is an artificial intelligence powered multilingual platform launched to bridge language barriers and improve governance at the grassroots level.

- ◆ It currently supports tribal languages including Gondi, Mundari, Bhili and Santhali.
- ◆ It uses artificial intelligence for data visualization, data-driven policy decision making and increasing access to education, healthcare and government schemes.

Janjati Sanskritik Samagam

- ◆ **Event:** May 24, 2026 New Delhi, India
- ◆ **Occasion:** Commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of bhagwan Birsa Munda

Celebrations/Festivals/Parvas

Exhibition of the sacred relics of Tathagata Buddha

- ❑ **Inaugurated by:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah.
- ❑ **Event:** 1-15 May 2026 ('Jivestal' venue- Leh, Zaskar Valley) Ladakh.
- ❑ **Organisers:** Ministry of Culture, Union Territory Administration of Ladakh and International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).
- ❑ **Theme:** "Peace in Times of Conflict".
- ❑ These relics are part of the most revered 'Piprahahwa Relics' of the Buddha, currently preserved in the National Museum, New Delhi.
- ❑ The closing ceremony was held with the sacred 'Monlam Chenmo', the annual 'Great Prayer Festival' of Ladakh.
- ❑ **Meaning of Tathagata:** The state of Gautam Buddha after attaining enlightenment, in which he attained complete liberation from the cycle of life and death.

National Intellectual Property Festival (RBSM) 2026

- ❑ **Event:** May 8, 2026 at CSIR-IIP, Dehradun.
- ❑ **Objective:** To promote Intellectual Property (IIP) awareness in India.
- ❑ It is a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Pratham and was first organised in July 2023.

PMFME Festival

- ❑ **Inauguration:** Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan inaugurated an exhibition under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme in Leh, Ladakh on May 14, 2026.
- ❑ **Organised by:** Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) and Department of Industries & Commerce, Union Territory Administration of Ladakh.
- ❑ **Objective:** To showcase products manufactured by PMFME beneficiaries, promote local entrepreneurship, increase awareness about the scheme and establish market linkages for regional micro enterprises.
- ❑ **Global potential of Ladakh:** Sea buckthorn and apricot were showcased as unique local products.

Major awards

Fellowship of the Royal Society (FRS)

- ❑ Former WHO Chief Scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur Director Prof. Manindra Aggarwal have been elected as Fellows of the prestigious Royal Society of London.
- ❑ This fellowship is awarded to distinguished scientists, engineers and technical experts from around the world who have made revolutionary contributions in the fields of natural sciences, mathematics, engineering and medicine.
- ❑ Dr. Soumya Swaminathan is the second Indian woman scientist to receive this honour. (First: Professor Gagandeep Kang)
 - ◆ Along with her father, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, she has become the first Indian father-daughter duo to be elected by the Society.

National Panchayat Awards 2025

- ❑ **Context:** The award ceremony will be held on June 3, 2026, in New Delhi, for which 42 Panchayats have been selected.
- ❑ The awards are based on the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 score.

Major Categories:

1. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat satat vikas Award (DDUPSVP): Best performer in 9 Local Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) 34 Awards will be given to Gram Panchayats.

Theme of development	Top ranked Gram Panchayat
Poverty-free and better livelihood	Mudradi (Karnataka)
Healthy Panchayat	Kanchanbari (Tripura)
Child-friendly Panchayat	Itgaon (Maharashtra)
Water-sufficient Panchayat	Kharivali (Maharashtra)
Clean and Green Panchayat	Kawartha North (Mizoram)
Self-sufficient infrastructure	Melukavu (Kerala)
Socially just and secured Panchayat	Shansha (Himachal Pradesh)
Good governance	Shringavaram (Andhra Pradesh)
Women-friendly Panchayat	Bokkasam Palem (Andhra Pradesh)

2. Nanaji Deshmukh sarvottam Panchayat satat vikas puruskar (NDSPSVP) to 8 Panchayats

Award Levels	Winner (state)	Prize money
Best District Panchayat	Sepahijala (Tripura)	₹ 5 crore
Best Blocks Panchayat	Harippad (Kerala)	₹ 2 crore
Best Gram Panchayat	New Napam (Assam)	₹ 1.5 crore

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) - Silver Jubilee Ceremony

- ❑ **Venue:** Held at Bhairunda, Sehore district (Madhya Pradesh), May 10, 2026
- ❑ PMGSY-IV (national allocation Rs 18,907 crore) and PM-JANMAN were launched at the national level during the ceremony.
- ❑ Performance Ranking: Large States and Northeast, Hilly Areas and Union Territories.

Category	Large States	Northeast, Hills and Union Territories (1st place)
Longest road	1. Madhya Pradesh (90,766 km) 2. Rajasthan (75,868 km)	Assam (32,169 km)
Habitation Connected	1. Bihar(31,287) 2. Madhya Pradesh(17,493)	Assam (13,720 km)
Quality Control	1. Madhya Pradesh 2. Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu jointly	Andaman and Nicobar, Ladakh, Puducherry
Use of green technology	1. Gujarat (98.42%) 2. Tamil Nadu (98.39%)	Uttarakhand (75%)

National Florence Nightingale Award 2026

- ❑ **Context:** Presented by the President of India on 12 May (International Nurses Day).
- ❑ **Recipient:** For Community Welfare, 15 nursing professionals [Dr. Shravan Kumar Dhaka (Delhi) and Major General Lisamma P V (Army)] were honoured.
- ❑ **Origin:** Instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 1973 to recognize the exemplary service, dedication and outstanding commitment of nursing professionals towards community welfare.
- ❑ **Awards:** Certificate of Merit, A cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000 and a medal.
- ❑ **Winner of Rajasthan in 2024:** Shri Radhey Lal Sharma

President's Colour Award/ President's Mark

- ❑ **Context:** The award was officially presented to the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at a ceremony held in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (announced January 19, 2026).
- ❑ **Significance:** The highest ceremonial honour for armed forces, paramilitary forces and police units in India, symbolising long-term professionalism and sacrifice.
- ❑ The **Sikkim Police** was awarded the President's colour on May 28, 2026 in Gangtok.
- ❑ **Announcements (awards accepted, but ceremony pending):** Meghalaya Police, Odisha Police.

Outstanding Contribution in DigiLocker Integration and Usage

- ❑ 5 states including Rajasthan were recognized for their outstanding contribution in wide scale integration and usage of DigiLocker in state government services.

State	Major achievements and accomplishments
Gujarat	For over 1.9 crore citizens, 65% Services linked to DigiLocker.
Karnataka	Highest number of DigiLocker accounts, 73% E-services and 3 crore electricity bill records were made available on the digital platform.
Keralam	Over 117 services were integrated in less than 7 days.
Nagaland	Achieved 'Digital Rising State' status; 32 services integrated in one month.
Rajasthan	Jan Aadhaar family registers were linked to DigiLocker for over 7.5 crore citizens; electricity bills and other services were increasingly made available on digital platforms.

Logistics Excellence, Advancement and Performance Shield (LEAPS)-2025 Award

- ❑ Union Minister Piyush Goyal felicitated the LEAPS 2025 awardees and released the LEADS 2025 report in New Delhi.
- ❑ **Conferred By:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Category Groups (5)	Award Category	Winner
A. Core Logistics	• Air Freight Service Provider	• FedEx Express
	• Maritime Freight Service Provider	• MSC Agency India
	• Road Freight Service Provider	• Safexpress Pvt Ltd
	• Rail freight service provider	• DP World Rail Logistics Pvt Ltd
	• Multimodal Transport Operators (MTOs)	• Paradip Transport Limited
	• Warehouse Service Provider (Industrial & Consumables)	• TVS Industrial and Logistics Parks
	• Warehouse Service Provider (Agriculture)	• Indicold Pvt Ltd
B. MSME	• MSME Logistics Service Provider	• Shipwaves Online Ltd.
C. Startup	• Logistics technology service provider	• Matchlog Solutions Pvt Ltd
	• Logistics Operations Service Provider	• Yellowwings Delivery Services Pvt Ltd
D. Institute	• Educational institution promoting the logistics sector	• IIM Mumbai
E. Special categories	• Logistics service delivery for e-commerce operations	• Deliveries Limited
	• Multimodal Logistics Service Provider (3PL / Freight Forwarder)	• Indev Infra Pvt Ltd

Portal

'One Case One Data' initiative and 'Su Sahay' chatbot

- ❑ **Why in the news?** Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant launched two digital initiatives.
- ❑ **Objective:** To modernise judicial administration and improve access to justice.
- ❑ **One Case One Data:** It is a digital infrastructure platform that integrates information from the following levels -
 - Supreme Court • High Court • District Court • Taluka Court
 - ◆ Objective: To improve public access to court services and develop a modern case management system.
- ❑ **'Su Sahay':** An Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered assistance chatbot.
 - ◆ It has been developed by the National Informatics Centre in collaboration with

the Supreme Court Registry.

- ◆ It has been integrated into the Supreme Court website.
- ◆ Functions: It will help users access the following court services -
 - Case information • Court services,
 - Judicial processes • Digital support services.

AYUSH ANUDAN PORTAL

- ❑ **Launched:** Ministry of AYUSH (under the AYUSH Grid initiative).
- ❑ **Objective:** To ensure complete transparency, efficiency, accountability and easy access in the grant management process.
- ❑ **Integration:** Linkage with NITI Aayog's 'NGO Darpan Portal' will make authentication and verification of applicant organizations faster, automated, reliable and error-free.

- ❑ **AYUSH Grid:** It is a digital initiative of the Government of India, which aims to create an integrated, transparent and citizen-centric digital ecosystem for the AYUSH sector through modern technology.

"JEEVAN" Mobile Application and 'SHATAYU' Geriatric Caregiver Dashboard

- ❑ **Launched by:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❑ **Objective:** To create a robust geriatric care ecosystem in India.

JEEVAN Mobile Application

- ❑ **Full form:** Joint Elderly Empowerment & Virtual Assistance Network.
- ❑ **Objective:** To enhance the safety, well-being, easy access to healthcare and social inclusion of senior citizens.
 - ◆ To provide accurate information on government schemes and welfare programs.

'SHATAYU' Dashboard

- ❑ **Full form:** Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility.
- ❑ This dashboard provides real-time availability of geriatric caregivers in a particular state and district.

Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY) portal and mobile application

- ❑ **Launched by:** Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❑ **Objective:** To establish better coordination among various stakeholders and provide prompt, transparent, and accountable services to beneficiaries.
- ❑ Ground-level work for the 3 key components of the scheme: Adarsh Gram, grants for skill development and employment, and hostels in educational institutions will be fully digitized.

Environment

Hasdeo-Arand Forests

- ❑ Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) has proposed to use 1,742.6 hectares of land in the Hasdeo Arand Forest and cut down 4.48 lakh trees for the Cante Extension coal mine.
 - ◆ **Location:** Hasdeo Arand Coalfield, Surguja district, Chhattisgarh.
 - ◆ **Allocation:** In 2015, the coal block was allocated to RVUNL by the Ministry of Coal for use in the Chhabra and Suratgarh coal plants.
- ❑ **Hasdeo Arand Forests:** The forest area covers 1.7-1.75 lakh hectares, spread across Korba, Surguja, and Surajpur districts of Chhattisgarh.
 - ◆ In addition to dense Sal forests, it is home to 9 scheduled species, including leopards, bears, and elephants.
 - ◆ It is the catchment area of the Hasdeo River and the Bango Dam, and a migration corridor for tigers.

Ethanol Blended Fuel Standards (IS 19850:2026)

- ❑ **Released By:** Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- ❑ New fuel standards for ethanol blending up to 30% in petrol.
- ❑ This standard defines specifications for E22, E25, E27, and E30 fuels produced by combining motor gasoline and completely dehydrated (anhydrous) ethanol.

IMD's AI-Enabled Hyperlocal Weather Forecasting Systems

- ❑ Recently, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), launched advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based systems to

provide hyper-local weather forecasts in the country.

- ❑ **Developed By:** Jointly by three premier institutions of the Ministry of Earth Sciences:
 - ◆ India Meteorological Department (IMD),
 - ◆ Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM, Pune),
 - ◆ National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF).
- ❑ **Objective:** To provide hyper-local, impact-based, and AI-powered weather services across the country.
- ❑ The 'Forecasting Monsoon Progress in Different Parts of the Country'
 - ◆ Monsoon Advance Forecasting System will now provide granular forecasts of monsoon progress down to the district level.
 - ◆ The platform covers 16 states and over 3,000 sub-districts.
 - ◆ It integrates AI-based forecasting models, extended range forecasting systems, and statistical techniques.
- ❑ High Spatial Resolution Rainfall Forecasting for Uttar Pradesh
 - ◆ The capability to provide rainfall forecasts at a spatial resolution of 1 kilometer has been developed for Uttar Pradesh.
 - ◆ Advance Warning: This system can provide accurate rainfall forecasts up to 10 days in advance.

Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

- ❑ 5 tigers have died due to Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) infection in Kanha Tiger Reserve.
- ❑ Canine Distemper Virus (CDV): It is a highly contagious and fatal, airborne paramyxovirus disease that primarily affects dogs.
 - ◆ Effects: The virus attacks and severely damages the respiratory, gastrointestinal (digestive) and central nervous systems of the animal.
- ❑ Kanha Tiger Reserve: Located in the Maikal

range of the Satpura mountain range, part of the Central India highlands, it was established as a national park in 1955 and was included in Project Tiger in 1973.

Amur Falcon

- ❑ Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav informed that two satellite-tagged Amur Falcons began their return journey (migration) from Southern Africa to Far East Asia via India.
- ❑ The birds were fitted with satellite tags in Chiuluan (Tamenglong district), Manipur in November 2025 under the community-led conservation initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ❑ It is a small migratory bird of prey. It is world-renowned for its annual migration of approximately 22,000 km (South Asia, Africa).
- ❑ **Scientific name:** *Falco amurensis*. The Amur Falcon is named after the Amur River in the Russia-China border region, its main breeding ground.
- ❑ **IUCN status:** 'Least Concern' on the Red List.
- ❑ It enjoys the highest protection under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❑ In India, it migrates mainly in the northeastern states (Nagaland, Manipur, Assam).

MOUs

Agreement between the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)

- ◆ **Objective:** Strengthen fraud-risk intelligence sharing, analytical support, and operational coordination to combat cyber-enabled financial frauds.
- ◆ Data from the I4C's Suspect Registry will be fed into an AI-powered fraud detection system.

- ◆ It will rapidly detect and eliminate concealed mule accounts.
- ◆ This will further strengthen AI-driven fraud detection systems implemented by banks, such as Mule Hunter.ai™.
- ◆ RBIH will utilize these datasets to train and refine AI-driven fraud-risk assessment models.

Mule accounts – often used to facilitate money laundering and cybercrime – have consistently posed challenges for traditional detection methods.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signs MoU with Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI)

- ❑ **Objective:** To leverage advanced international expertise in the areas of tunnel construction, slope stability analysis, slope monitoring and institutional capacity building for collaboration in planning, design, appraisal and monitoring of critical infrastructure projects

MoU between Department of Posts (DoP), Ministry of Communications and Flipkart India Private Limited

- ❑ **Objective:** To provide efficient, reliable and customer-centric parcel delivery solutions across the country by leveraging the reach and reliable delivery network of the Department of Posts as well as Flipkart's strong presence in India's e-commerce sector

MoU between Ministry of Rural Development signs MoU with HelpAge India

- ❑ To strengthen the care and well-being of senior citizens under the Food, Nutrition, Health and Sanitation (WASH) (FNHW) framework of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

Important One Liners

- ❑ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the tenure of the three-member Commission of Inquiry (CoI) constituted to probe the 2023 ethnic violence in Manipur for the fifth time.
 - ◆ **Chaired by:** Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan, former Supreme Court judge
- ❑ The 26th meeting of the Central Zonal Council, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, was held in Bastar (Chhattisgarh) hosted by the Inter-State Council Secretariat (functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs) in collaboration with the Government of Chhattisgarh.
- ❑ Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Million Minds Tech Park', 'GREMI City Campus' (Ganesh Real Estate Management Institute) and the Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIC) at the National Institute of Design (NID) in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
- ❑ India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle has been released in the 1,302 square kilometer Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam.
- ❑ A 'Lion' Species Spotlight event was organised at Sasan Gir (Gujarat) as a pre-series to the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit.
- ❑ The Eastern Regional Agriculture Conference was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under the chairmanship of Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on May 19, 2026 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❑ A canopy bridge has been constructed over a railway track for the Western Hoolock Gibbon at the Hologapar Gibbon Sanctuary in Assam.
- ❑ The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) is setting up 46 new Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) in Delhi-

- NCR, one of which will be located in Rajasthan.
- ❑ **The 100th N-Gen (New Generation) post office** was inaugurated in Shillong, Meghalaya.
 - ❑ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organised a nationwide Fire Safety Week (4-10 May 2026).
 - ❑ The Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CCSEA), Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Government of India organised a National Conference on 'Laboratory Animal Welfare: Policies and Best Practices' in New Delhi on 11 May 2026.
 - ❑ A virtual National Departmental Summit on "Institutionalization of Capacity Building: From Training to Performance-Based Governance" was organized on May 15, 2026, jointly by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and the Capacity Development Commission (CBC).
 - ❑ A National Conference on "Minority Welfare and Inclusive Growth through Artificial Intelligence for a Developed India" was held in New Delhi on May 14, under the "**Bhagidari se Bhagyodaya**" approach.
 - ❑ The 138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee meeting was held in Ahmedabad on May 21, 2026.
 - ❑ The first Global Peace Meditation Session was held at The Art of Living International Centre, Bengaluru.
 - ❑ CDS General Anil Chauhan inaugurated a conference on Brain Computer Interface (BCI) in New Delhi, exploring its strategic and neurological implications.
 - ❑ The National Institute of Grape Research, part of the ICAR, is located in Pune, Maharashtra.
 - ❑ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) a national brainstorming summit on "Harmonizing Administrative Data for Governance" with states/union territories and other stakeholders on April 29-30, 2026, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
 - ❑ **Bharat Tex 2026** will be organized by the Bharat Tex Trade Federation in New Delhi on July 14-17. The Ministry of Textiles launched the Bharat Tex 2026 event app for this event.
 - ❑ The Union Home Ministry will launch the "Smart Border Project," which will equip the 6,000-kilometer-long border with Pakistan and Bangladesh with modern technology such as drones, radars, and smart cameras. Under this project, a roadmap is being developed to create a "technology-based smart security grid" along the borders.
 - ❑ Chief Justice Surya Kant constituted the Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee, headed by Justice Arvind Kumar, to prepare a roadmap for the modernization of courts across the country.
 - ❑ Justice Alok Kumar Verma, Judge of the Uttarakhand High Court, has resigned from his post **under Article 217 (1) (a) of the Constitution.**
 - ❑ The Judges Inquiry Committee (Chairman: Justice Arvind Kumar, Judge, Supreme Court of India), which was investigating the allegations against Justice Yashwant Verma under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, has submitted its final report to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
 - ❑ The Sikkim judiciary has become the first 'paperless' state judiciary in the country. The judiciary has successfully implemented the complete digitization of judicial processes and the e-court system.
 - ❑ Recently, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the country's first AI-powered "physical" banking branch of Guwahati-based Slice Small Finance Bank.
 - ❑ The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) organised the TEXPROCIL Export Awards 2023-24 event in Mumbai to honour the best performers in India's cotton textile export sector. During the event, the Finance Minister also launched Texprocil's 'Advanced Certificate

Programme in International Trade' (ACPIT)

- ◆ Objective: To strengthen India's export ecosystem and improve global trade competitiveness
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) organized a workshop on "Birs-101", India's first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy for sickle cell disease, on 14th May 2026 at CSIR-IGIB, New Delhi, under the Janjati Garima Utsav 2026.

Mekedatu Reservoir Project, Karnataka

- The Supreme Court recently dismissed the review petition filed by the Tamil Nadu government against the Mekedatu Project.
- **Location:** The project is a multipurpose project located on the Kaveri River, on the border of Ramanagara and Chamarajanagar districts of Karnataka, near the confluence of the Arkavati tributary.
- **Objective:** To supply 4.75 TMC of drinking water to the city of Bengaluru and to generate 400 megawatts (MW) of hydroelectric power.

Economy Current Affairs

Schemes

Mission for Cotton Productivity

- ❑ **Approval:** The Union Cabinet approved this Mission with an outlay of Rs. 5,659.22 crore.
- ❑ **Implementation Period:** 2026-27 to 2030-31 (5 years).
- ❑ **Announcement:** In the Union Budget 2025-26
- ❑ The Mission is in line with the Government of India's '5-F' Vision (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign).
- ❑ **Objectives:** Develop disease and pest resistant high-yielding varieties (HYV) seeds.
 - ◆ Expand advanced cotton production technologies (such as high density planting systems (HDPS).
 - ◆ Promote extra long staple cotton (ELS).
 - ◆ Diversification with natural fibres (linseed, bamboo, banana, etc.).
- ❑ **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
 - ◆ Collaboration: Ministry of Textiles.
 - ◆ Initial focus will be on 140 districts in 14 states.
- ❑ **Target (by 2031):**

Parameters	Current	Target (2031)
Productivity (kg/hectare)	~ 440	755
Total Production	29.7 million bales	49.8 million bales

- ◆ Parameters Current Target (2031)
Productivity (kg/hectare) 440 755
Total Production 297 lakh bales 498 lakh bales
- ◆ Promote Kasturi Cotton India Initiative.
- ◆ Reduce wastage to less than 2%. Establish 2000 ginning/processing factories.

- ◆ To benefit and make them self-reliant about 32 lakh farmers.

'SARTHAK-PDS' Scheme

- ❑ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved 'Sarthak PDS' Scheme as an umbrella scheme.
- ❑ **Full form:** Support for Ration Transportation and management - income with automation in public distribution.
- ❑ **Consolidation of the scheme:** It has been formulated by integrating two ongoing schemes:
 - ◆ Assistance to state agencies for inter-state movement of food grains and margin to Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers under the National Food Security Act (NFSA)-2013.
 - ◆ Scheme for Modernisation and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART PDS).
- ❑ **Financial Outlay:** Rs. 25,530 crore (by the Central Government).
- ❑ **Duration:** Until March 31, 2031 (till the term of the 16th Finance Commission)
- ❑ **Objective:** To provide assured financial support for interstate movement, handling, and FPS dealer margins.
 - ◆ To create an integrated, citizen-centric, intelligent, and interoperable Public Distribution System (PDS) framework to ensure last-mile service delivery.
 - ◆ To strengthen the nation's commitment to food security under the NFSA by reducing corruption and ration black marketing.
- ❑ The scheme will seek to modernize, integrate, and make PDS operations more efficient through the use of advanced

- technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), natural language processing (NLP), and blockchain.
- ❑ Standardized frameworks and integrated databases will be created, enabling real-time monitoring, AI-based grievance redressal and analysis systems, state command control centers for data-driven monitoring, and ISO-certified process frameworks.
- ❑ **Beneficiaries:** Approximately 813.5 million beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) will benefit.

Digitization of PDS: The government has implemented several digitization initiatives, such as end-to-end computerization of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Integrated Management of PDS (IM-PDS), and SMART-PDS.

- ◆ Citizen-centric platforms such as Mera Ration, Anna Mitra, Rightful Targeting Dashboard, and Anna Sahayata have also been launched.

Bharat Industrial Development Scheme (BHAVYA)

- ❑ Recently, the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** released detailed operational guidelines for the 'BHAVYA' scheme, aimed at developing world-class industrial infrastructure across the country that is ready for investment.
- ❑ **Objective:** To develop 100 industrial parks across the country on a competitive basis.
 - ◆ **Phase I:** A **maximum of 50 industrial parks** will be selected through a 'Challenge-based Selection Process' (Challenge Mode).
- ❑ **Allocated Budget:** Rs. 33,660 Crore.
 - ◆ **Financial Assistance:** Financial assistance will be provided through the National Industrial Corridor Development and Investment Trust (NICDIT).

- ❑ **Duration:** 6 years (from Financial Year 2026-27 to 2031-32).
- ❑ **Type:** Central Sector Scheme.
- ❑ **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
 - ◆ **Project Management Agency (PMA) for Implementation/Monitoring:** National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP).
 - ◆ This scheme is based on the success of the '**Industrial Smart City Model**' developed under the NICDP.
- ❑ According to the guidelines
 - ◆ the development of both Greenfield and eligible Brownfield industrial parks will be permitted under this scheme.
 - ◆ **Minimum Land Requirement for Parks:**

Category of States	Minimum Land Requirement
General/Non-Hill States	100 acres
Hilly States, North-Eastern States, Union Territories, and Small States	25 acres

- ◆ **Note:** Under this scheme, the development of 'Mega Parks' (large parks) spanning up to 1,000 acres may also be considered.
- ❑ **Financial Assistance:** Financial assistance of up to Rs. 1 Crore per acre will be provided for the development of basic infrastructure, value-added infrastructure, and social infrastructure.
 - ◆ Support of up to **25%** of the project cost will also be provided for **external infrastructure**.

Scheme for Promoting Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects

- ❑ **Approval:** The Union Cabinet has approved an incentive scheme aimed at promoting surface coal/lignite gasification projects.
- ❑ **Financial Outlay:** Rs. 37,500 crore.
- ❑ **Immediate Objective:** Approximately 75 million (7.5 crore) tonnes of coal/lignite are to be gasified.

- ❑ **Technology:** The scheme is based on a technology-agnostic approach, though it places primary emphasis on the adoption of indigenous technologies.
- ❑ **Structure of Financial Incentives**
 - ◆ Financial incentives amounting to a maximum of **20%** of the total cost of Plant and Machinery will be provided.
 - ◆ Maximum Limits for Incentives:
 - For any single specific project: Rs. 5,000 crore.
 - For any single product (excluding Synthetic Natural Gas and Urea): Rs. 9,000 crore.
 - Overall limit for all projects belonging to a single group of entities: Rs. 12,000 crore.
- ❑ **Key Policy Reform:** The government has extended the tenure of coal linkages (a long-term supply agreement between a coal

producer and a consumer) to 30 years for the 'Coal Gasification' production process sub-sector under the Non-Regulated Sector (NRS) Linkage Auction Framework.

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0

- ❑ **Approval:** By the Union Cabinet.
- ❑ **Objective:** To address the short-term liquidity issues arising from the West Asia crisis.
 - ◆ **Provision:** To provide guarantee coverage for defaulted amounts to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC).
- ❑ **Features:**
 - ◆ **Tenure:** Applicable to all loans sanctioned from the date of issuance of NCGTC guidelines up to March 31, 2027.

Parameters	MSME and non-MSME	Scheduled Passenger Airlines
Eligibility (accounts must be standard).	With existing working capital limits as of March 31, 2026	Airlines with outstanding debt.
Guarantee Coverage	MSME: 100% Non-MSME: 90%	90%
Guarantee Fee	Zero	Zero
Maximum Limit of Assistance (Fourth Quarter of FY 2026)	Additional loan up to 20% of working capital (Maximum ₹100 crore)	Additional debt up to 100% (maximum ₹1,500 crore)
Loan Tenure	5 years (Includes 1 year moratorium)	7 years (Including a 2-year moratorium)
Guarantee Cover Period	Same as the loan tenure	Same as the loan tenure

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7th Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Report 2025

- ❑ **Released by:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❑ **Prepared by:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- ❑ **Initiation:** It was formulated in 2018, modeled after the **World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI)**.
- ❑ The report serves as a crucial benchmark for improving logistics efficiency across the

country.

❑ Key Features

- ◆ To enhance the robustness of the assessment, measurable and objective indicators have been assigned a weightage of approximately 59%.
- ◆ **Four-Tier Classification System:** LEADS 2025 has transitioned from its previous 3-tier system to a 4-tier performance framework.
 1. **Exemplars:** The states included in this category are the top performers, consistently demonstrating excellence.

Coastal States	Landlocked States	North-Eastern States	Union Territories
Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	Mizoram	Delhi

2. **High Performers:** These states exhibit strong and consistent results.
 3. **Accelerators:** These states have demonstrated remarkable progress and a clear trajectory of improvement in recent years.
 4. **Growth-Seekers:** These states are in the nascent stages of developing their logistics systems and undergoing institutional strengthening.
- ◆ Rajasthan (among the landlocked states) falls under this category.

Miscellaneous

Vikas Bharat Guaranteed Employment and Livelihood Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act 2025

- ❑ **Notification:** Issued by Government of India on 11 May 2026.
- ❑ **Comes into Force:** From 1 July 2026
 - ◆ The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005 will be repealed from the same date (1 July).
- ❑ **Financial Provision:** The Central Government has allocated an amount of Rs 95,692.31 crore for the financial year 2026-27.
- ❑ **Employment Guarantee:** Every adult member of a rural household willing to do unskilled manual labour will be guaranteed 125 days of paid employment in every financial year.

All India Index of Industrial Production (TAC-IIP)

- ❑ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the report of the Technical Advisory Committee on Base Year Revision of IIP.
- ❑ **Constituted:** In September 2024 under the chairmanship of Professor **Dr. Mridul K. Sagar**.

Key changes in the new IIP series with base year 2022-23:

- ◆ **Expansion of scope:** Minor minerals, rare earth minerals, gas supply, water supply, and sewerage and waste management.
- ◆ The Electricity Index includes separate indices for electricity generated from renewable and non-renewable energy sources.
- ◆ The mining and quarrying sector is now divided into three sub-indices: fuel minerals, metallic minerals (including rare earth minerals), and non-metallic minerals (including minor minerals).
- ◆ The revised list includes 1,042 products, classified into 463 commodity groups.
- ❑ The first official publication of the new series will be on June 1, 2026.

Dividend Transfer by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- ❑ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the transfer of a record surplus of Rs 2,86,588.46 crore to the Central Government for the financial year 2025-26.
- ❑ This is the largest ever annual dividend paid by the central bank to the government, which is about 7% higher than Rs 2.68 lakh crore paid in the previous financial year (2024-25).
- ❑ **Budgetary Target:** The Finance Minister had set a total dividend target of Rs 3.16 lakh crore from RBI, Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and other financial institutions in Budget 2026-27.
- ❑ The surplus is transferred to the Central Government only after maintaining the required Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB) as per **Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934 and the recommendations of the Bimal Jalan Committee**.

Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation (SEHAT) Mission

- ❑ **Launched:** 11 May 2026, in New Delhi by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda in the presence of Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

- ❑ **Implementation:** Jointly by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ❑ **Objective:** Integrate agriculture with improved nutrition, disease prevention, farmer welfare and scientific policy-making.
- ❑ To advance the vision of Healthy Food, Healthy Farms and Healthy India. The Mission will focus on improving nutritional quality, reducing micronutrient deficiencies, preventing non-communicable diseases and developing sustainable food systems.

Trade Enablement and Access to Market (TEAM) Initiative

- ❑ It is a sub-scheme under the 'Rising and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP) programme.
- ❑ **Implementing Agency:** National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)

- ❑ **Objective:** To provide end-to-end e-commerce support to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) to enable them to participate effectively in the digital commerce ecosystem through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

Promoting State-Specific USPs in the North-Eastern Region

- ❑ **Launched By:** Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (MDoNER).
- ❑ **Objective:** To establish the North-Eastern Region (NER) as a distinctive and high-value contributor to India's growth story.
 - ◆ Promote through special missions, value addition, branding, marketing, and exports.
- ❑ Under this initiative, MDoNER has identified one key USP for each of the **eight states of the North-East**.

States	Distinctive USP	Features
Arunachal Pradesh	Kiwi	◆ India's largest kiwi-producing state; has obtained organic certification for kiwi. ◆ Arunachal Kiwi: A mission highlighting this USP of Arunachal Pradesh was launched.
Assam	Muga silk	◆ World-famous silk with a 'golden sheen' that enhances over time.
Meghalaya	Lakadong turmeric	◆ Turmeric with the world's highest Curcumin content (7-9%); holds GI tag status.
Tripura	Queen Pineapple	◆ Exceptionally sweet and juicy pineapple; the state fruit, holding GI tag status. ◆ 'Mission Queen Pineapple' was launched.
Nagaland	Specialty coffee	◆ High-quality organic and specialty coffee. ◆ 'Coffee of Nagaland' mission launched; two pilot clusters to be established under the mission: ✓ Tuophema Village (Kohima): For Arabica coffee. ✓ Ghotovi Village (Niuland): For Robusta coffee.
Mizoram	Mizo ginger	◆ This ginger contains 6-8% oleoresin, whereas the global average is only 3%.
Sikkim	Organic farming	◆ India's first fully organic state.
Manipur	Polo legacy	◆ It is also known as 'Sagol Kangjei'.

Self-Help Group Savings Account

- ❑ **Launched By:** India Post Payments Bank (IIPB).
- ❑ **Objective:** To enhance financial inclusion in rural areas across the country and provide reliable and affordable banking solutions to women-led self-help groups.

- ❑ **Key Features:** No minimum initial deposit or monthly average balance requirement.
 - ◆ Maximum deposit limit: Rs. 2 lakh.

India Post Payments Bank (IIPB):

- ◆ Established on September 1, 2018.
- ◆ Ownership: 100% Government of India (fully owned) under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications.

South Coast Railway (SCoR) Zone

- ❑ As per the recent gazette notification, India's **18th railway zone will be fully operational from June 1.**
- ❑ **Headquarter:** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- ❑ After the formation of 'South Coast Railway' as the 18th railway zone in the country, Indian Railways also released **the new railway logo with 18 stars.**

'Namo Green Rail': India's First Indigenous Hydrogen Train

- ❑ Indian Railways has approved the operation of a 10-coach, hydrogen fuel cell-based train on the Jind-Sonipat section of the Northern Railway.
- ❑ **Propulsion System:** Instead of traditional diesel or electric traction systems, it will be powered by a 1200 kW hydrogen fuel cell propulsion system.
- ❑ The new train will also utilize **Distributed Power Rolling Stock (DPRS)** technology.
- ❑ **Speed:** Maximum 75 km/h
- ❑ **Manufacturing:** At the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai
- ❑ **Design:** By the Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow
- ❑ This is part of the **'Hydrogen for Heritage' initiative**, under which Indian Railways plans to operate 35 hydrogen trains across its heritage sites and hill routes.
- ❑ A green hydrogen production plant (electrolysis-based), along with indigenous hydrogen storage and refueling facilities, has been established in Jind.

State-of-the-art ship repair centre approved

- ❑ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a Rs. 1,570 crore brownfield project in Vadinar, Gujarat.
- ❑ **Implementing agencies:** Jointly by Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) and Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).

India's First Mega Greenfield Shipyard in Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu)

- ❑ A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between India and

South Korea for the development of India's greenfield shipyard in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.

- ❑ Key parties involved in the agreement:
 - ◆ National Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries Park, Tamil Nadu Limited (NSHIP-TN)
 - ◆ HD Korea Shipbuilding and Offshore Engineering Company Limited (HD KSOE)
 - ◆ Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited
- ❑ This agreement was concluded on April 20, 2026, during the visit of South Korean President Lee Jae-myung to India.
- ❑ The shipyard will be developed under the VOYAGES framework (Shared Vision for Operation of Yard Assisted Growth with Efficiency and Scale).
- ❑ **Shipbuilding capacity:** 2.5 million gross tons (GT) annually.

'Country Strategic Opportunities Programme' (COSOP) 2026-2033

- ❑ **Launch:** Government of India and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the period 2026-2033 (8 Years)
- ❑ **Announcement:** During the 'IFAD-India Partnership for Rural Prosperity' event held in New Delhi.
- ❑ **Objective:** To increase rural incomes across the country, build resilience in the face of crises, reduce poverty through positive initiatives, and significantly expand sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- ❑ The programme focuses on two strategic priorities:
 - ◆ Enhancing the social, economic, and climate-related resilience of rural communities;
 - ◆ Strengthening knowledge systems for the widespread implementation of proven development models in India and other countries of the Global South.
- ❑ A strategic partnership agreement was signed between IFAD and NABARD on this occasion.
 - ◆ **Objective:** To foster innovation in agriculture and allied sectors and strengthen rural finance systems.

- ❑ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): A specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) and an international financial institution.
 - ◆ **Established:** 1977; Headquarters: Rome (Italy).
 - ◆ **Member countries:** 180 (India is a founding member).

NSIC Technology cum Common Facility Centre (TCFC)

- ❑ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi laid the foundation stone of the centre in **Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru**.
- ❑ **Established By:** National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- ❑ **Objective:** To strengthen access to technology, testing facilities, skill development, innovation and enterprise competitiveness for micro, small and medium enterprises in the region.
- ❑ **Common Facility Centre (CFC):** A centre where small units share access to machines or facilities that they cannot afford to purchase individually.
- ❑ **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC):** A Mini-Ratna public sector undertaking established in 1955 that provides marketing, finance and technology support to MSMEs.

Nationwide Free Annual Health Check-up Initiative

- ❑ **Launched By:** Union Minister of Labour & Employment Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on 7th May 2026 at ESIC Medical College & Hospital, Basai Darapur, New Delhi.
- ❑ **Objective:** To facilitate annual health check-up for workers aged 40 years and above as per the provisions of the Code on Social Security, 2020.

IS 18698:2026-New Standard for DME Blended LPG

- ❑ The Bureau of Indian Standards has prescribed a new standard IS 18698:2026 for Dimethyl Ether (DME) blended Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), which will replace the earlier standard of 2024.

Dimethyl ether (DME)

- ❑ It is produced domestically using coal, biomass (agricultural waste), and methanol.
- ❑ **Nature:** It is a clean-burning synthetic fuel with properties similar to LPG.
- ❑ Currently, a pilot project is underway by scientists at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune, producing 250 kg of DME per day.

Ahmedabad (Sarkhej) Dholera Semi-High-Speed Rail Corridor:

- ❑ The Union Cabinet has approved Indian Railways' first indigenous semi-high-speed railway corridor between Ahmedabad (Sarkhej) and Dholera in Gujarat.
- ❑ **Total Estimated Cost:** approximately ₹20,667 crore.
- ❑ **Total Length:** 134 km.
- ❑ **Design speed:** 220 km/h

Urtan and Dhirauli Coal Mines, Madhya Pradesh

- ❑ The Ministry of Coal has successfully commenced coal production from the Dhirauli (Singrauli district) and Urtan (Anuppur district) mines located in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❑ **Urtan Mine:** It has become the first underground coal mine in the country to commence production under the commercial coal auction system.

'CHIRAG'

- ❑ **Full Form:** Center for HR Information Systems, Research and Analytics in Governance (CHIRAG)
- ❑ **Inauguration:** Indian Railways at Moula Ali, Hyderabad.
- ❑ It is a Centre of Excellence (CoE) focused on human resource management, training, research, and digital transformation in Indian Railways.
- ❑ **Objective:** To enhance the capabilities of manpower working across the Indian Railways network and to make administrative processes more responsive and modern.

Significant Visits

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook an official five-nation tour covering the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Italy from May 15 to May 20, 2026.

The Prime Minister's Visit to the UAE

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the United Arab Emirates on May 15, 2026.
- He held talks with the President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Formal diplomatic relations were established in 1972.
- Prime Minister Modi has visited the UAE seven times since 2014, while the UAE President, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has visited India five times.
- **Trade and Investment Relations:**
 - ◆ Bilateral trade stands at US\$ 101.25 billion.
 - ◆ The goal is to double bilateral trade to US\$ 200 billion by 2032.
 - ◆ From April 2000 to March 2025, the total FDI inflow from the UAE into India amounted to US\$ 25.19 billion.
 - ◆ The United Arab Emirates has emerged as the 7th largest foreign investor in India.
- **Energy Trade: (In FY 2024-25)**
 - ◆ The fourth-largest source of crude oil.
 - ◆ The third-largest source of LNG.
 - ◆ The largest supplier of LPG.
 - ◆ It was the second-largest export destination for India's refined petroleum products.
 - ◆ Currently, the UAE is the only country participating in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves Programme.

□ Key Agreements

1. **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Strategic Cooperation between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC):** Under this agreement, ADNOC will be able to store up to 30 million barrels of crude oil in India's strategic petroleum reserve facilities – at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and in the new facility being constructed at Chandikhol (Odisha). Additionally, a consensus was reached regarding the prospects for commercial-scale crude oil storage in Fujairah, UAE.
2. **On the supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG):** Between Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).
3. **Framework for Strategic Defense Partnership**
4. **Establishment of a Ship Repair Cluster:** At Vadinar, Gujarat- between Cochin Shipyard Limited and Drydocks World.
5. **On Skill Development in Ship Repair:** Between Cochin Shipyard Limited, Drydocks World, and the Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding.
6. **Establishment of an 8-Exaflop Supercomputing Cluster:** Between India's C-DAC and the UAE's G-42.

□ Announcements:

- i. The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) and India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) will be designated to explore investment opportunities of up to US\$ 1 billion in India's infrastructure sector.
- ii. Emirates NBD will invest US\$ 3 billion in India's RBL Bank.

- iii. An international holding company will invest US\$ 1 billion in India's equity capital.

Prime Minister's Visit to the Netherlands

- ❑ The Prime Minister held talks with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mr. Rob Jetten, at his official residence (Catshuis) in the Hague on 16 May 2026.
- ❑ **Key Agreements:**
 1. India-Netherlands Strategic Partnership Roadmap [2026-2030]
 2. Repatriation of Chola Dynasty Copper Plates
 3. Between Tata Electronics and ASML to provide support for the **Semiconductor Fab in Dholera**.
 4. Between the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands regarding **Critical Minerals**.
 5. **Gujarat's Kalpasar Project:** Between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands for technical cooperation.
 6. Establishment of an **Indo-Dutch Centre** of Excellence for Floriculture in West Tripura.
 7. Establishment of an Indo-Dutch Centre of Excellence for **Dairy Training at the Centre** of Excellence for Animal Husbandry (CEAH), Bengaluru.
 8. **Animal Husbandry and Dairying:** Between the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature of the Netherlands.
 9. **Health Sector:** Between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare- and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) of the Netherlands.
 10. On cooperation in the field of Higher Education.

11. Academic Cooperation: Nalanda University (India) and the University of Groningen (Netherlands).

12. Between Leiden University Libraries and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
 13. India-Netherlands Roadmap on the Development of Green Hydrogen Cooperation (Renewable Energy).
 14. Establishment of a Joint Working Group in the field of Renewable Energy.
 15. Between NITI Aayog and the Netherlands for cooperation on projects in the energy sector and energy transition.
 16. On Mobility and Migration
 17. On Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters.
- ❑ During this visit, the Prime Minister toured the Afsluitdijk Dam.

Visit to Sweden

- ❑ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held talks with Prime Minister Mr Ulf Kristersson in Gothenburg, Sweden, on May 17.
- ❑ **Highest Honour:** 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross'.
 - ◆ Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden conferred this honour upon Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This award is Sweden's highest honour.
 - ◆ Prime Minister Modi is the first Asian leader to receive this award.
- ❑ **Key Agreements:**
 - ◆ Target to double bilateral trade by 2030.
 - ◆ Agreement to boost investment in green technology, semiconductors, and advanced manufacturing.
 - ◆ Launch of the India-Sweden Innovation Partnership 2.0.
 - ◆ Establishment of the India-Sweden AI and Technology Corridor.
 - ◆ Cooperation in 6G, Quantum Computing, Space, and Sustainable Mining.

- ◆ Cooperation in renewable energy, battery storage, smart grids, and carbon emission reduction.
- ◆ Emphasis on cooperation regarding UN reforms, multilateralism, and counter-terrorism efforts.
- ◆ **LeadIT 3.0:** This platform is dedicated to the Green Industrial Transition. A proposal has been put forward to launch its new four-year phase, 'LeadIT 3.0'.
- ◆ **"India-Sweden: Together Towards a Stronger 2047":** A bilateral trade and investment summit will be organized in 2027 based on this theme.
- ◆ **Tagore-Sweden Lecture Series:** This series will be launched to commemorate the centenary of Rabindranath Tagore's visit to Sweden in 2026.
- ◆ **Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM) / Shukrayaan:** Sweden is an official partner in this mission. The Swedish Institute of Space Physics (IRF) is providing the 'Venusian Neutrals Analyzer' (VNA) - a highly advanced energetic neutral atom detector.
- ◆ **Chandrayaan-1 Mission (2008):** Sweden's SARA payload was flown aboard this historic Indian mission.
- ◆ **SAAB Defence Plant:** SAAB- Sweden's leading defense company- is establishing a wholly-owned manufacturing facility in Haryana. This facility will produce the Carl-Gustaf M4 shoulder-launched weapon system.
- Consensus was reached on elevating India-Sweden relations to the level of a **Strategic Partnership**.
 - ◆ A Joint Action Plan (2026–30) was adopted.
 - ◆ Four Key Pillars of the Strategic Partnership:
 1. Strategic Dialogue for Stability and Security;
 2. Next-Generation Economic Partnership;
 3. Emerging Technologies and Trusted Connectivity;
 4. **Building the Future Together:** People, Planet, Health, and Resilience.

Visit to Norway

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with the Prime Minister of Norway, Mr Jonas Gahr Store, in Oslo on May 18.
- **Highest Honor:** King Harald V of Norway conferred the 'Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit' upon him.
- Prime Minister Modi invited Norway to participate in 'India Innovates 2026,' scheduled to be held in France in June 2026.
- Participated in the **3rd India-Norway Business and Research Summit** held in Oslo.
- Both countries agreed to elevate their relationship to a '**Green Strategic Partnership**.'
- Set a target to double the value of current trade by the year 2030.
- To fulfil the commitment of US\$ 100 billion in investments under the TEPA and to create one million job opportunities in India.
- Welcomed Norway's inclusion in the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).
- The Prime Minister of Norway reiterated Norway's support for India's **permanent membership** in the **United Nations Security Council**.
- **Key Agreements:**
 1. **CSIR-Research Council of Norway (RCN) Agreement:** For research and innovation in the fields of climate change, clean energy, ocean science, and health.
 2. **CSIR-SINTEF Collaboration (2026-29):** For carbon capture, offshore wind energy, bio-based materials, waste management, and the circular economy.

3. Marine and Offshore Wind Energy Project:

A joint project aimed at achieving green energy and carbon-neutral goals through the development and implementation of floating offshore wind technology.

4. CSIR-Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research and Norwegian University of Science and Technology – Declaration of Intent: For cooperation in green transition, ocean sciences, and healthcare.

5. CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute – Emerald Geomodelling Agreement: To develop advanced geophysical surveys, precise data analysis, and geological solutions for mega infrastructure projects.

6. Discussion on the concept of a 'Sovereign Investment Corridor,' under which Norway's Sovereign Wealth Fund will invest in India's green infrastructure projects.

☐ Gifts Given by Prime Minister Mr. Kristersson

1. facsimiles of two handwritten epigrams by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.
2. A brief explanatory note; and
3. A photograph of Gurudev Tagore taken during his visit to Uppsala University in 1921.

☐ Gifts Given by Prime Minister Mr. Modi

1. A collection of the compiled works of Rabindranath Tagore.
2. A bag specially handcrafted at Shantiniketan.

Visit to Italy

- ☐ The Prime Minister visited Italy on May 20, 2026.

☐ Key Agreements:

1. Diplomatic and Security Relations

- ◆ Strategic Level: Bilateral relations were elevated to the status of a "Special Strategic Partnership."
- ◆ **Review Mechanism:** A new mechanism, led by the Foreign Ministers, will be established to monitor the 'Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029.'

- ◆ Defence Roadmap: Agreement on the co-production and co-development of defence systems.

- ◆ Security Dialogue: Consensus reached on initiating a Maritime Security Dialogue and an annual high-level military dialogue.

- ◆ Agency Cooperation: Between India's Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Italy's 'Guardia di Finanza.'

2. Trade, Connectivity, and Investment

- ◆ **Trade Target:** To reach a bilateral trade volume of 20 billion Euros by the year 2029.

- ◆ **Critical Minerals:** Focus on supply chains and mineral recovery from e-waste.

- ◆ **Connectivity:** Commitment to the IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe) corridor, along with agreements on shipping and ports.

- ◆ **Agriculture:** Cooperation between ministries in the fields of agriculture and agricultural research.

3. Science, Technology, and AI

- ◆ **INNOVIT India:** Establishment of an innovation hub in India to promote Fintech, Semiconductors, Quantum Computing, and AI.

- ◆ **Research Access:** Granting Indian researchers access to Italy's 'Elettra Sincrotrone Radiation center'.

4. Migration, Education, and Culture

- ◆ **Healthcare Mobility:** A 'Joint Declaration of Intent' to facilitate the movement of Indian nurses to Italy.

- ◆ **Talent Bridge:** The "ICI – Italy Calls India" initiative to connect Indian students with employment opportunities in Italian companies.

- ◆ **Campus Invitation:** An invitation to Italian universities to establish their campuses in India.

- ◆ **Year 2027:** To be celebrated as the "India-Italy Year of Culture and Tourism."

- ◆ **Lothal Project:** Italy to partner in the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat.

5. Global Issues and Trilateral Cooperation

- ◆ **Africa Partnership:** Trilateral collaboration in Africa focusing on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), agriculture, and energy, by combining India's development partnership initiatives with Italy's 'Mattei Plan'.

PM Modi's Foreign Visits: Cultural and GI-tagged products presented to world leaders

1. Italy:

- ◆ Assam's Muga and Eri Silk
- ◆ Manipur's Shirui Lily Shawl
- ◆ Agra's Marble Inlay Box

2. United Arab Emirates (UAE):

- ◆ Udaipur's Koftgiri Dagger
- ◆ Kutch (Gujarat)'s Rogan Painting
- ◆ Gujarat's Kesar Mangoes and Meghalaya's Premium Pineapples
- ◆ Manipur's Chak-hao Rice
- ◆ Karimnagar's Filigree Box (Silver Craft)
- ◆ Madhya Pradesh's Maheshwari Silk

3. Sweden:

- ◆ Ladakh Stole
- ◆ Manipur's Loktak Tea
- ◆ West Bengal's Shantiniketan Leather Bag
- ◆ Madhya Pradesh's Gond Art
- ◆ Book, 'Convenient Action'- written by PM

4. Netherlands:

- ◆ Jaipur Blue Pottery
- ◆ Bihar's Madhubani Painting

5. Norway:

- ◆ Odisha's Silver Filigree Sailboat
- ◆ Odisha's Palm Leaf Pattachitra

6. Prime Minister of Denmark:

- ◆ Deccan Region's Bidri Silver Work

7. Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

- ◆ Assam's Joha Rice
- ◆ West Bengal's Gobindobhog Rice
- ◆ Uttar Pradesh's Kala Namak Rice
- ◆ Basmati Rice from seven states

Visit of the President of Vietnam to India

- Mr. To Lam paid an official visit to India from 5-7 May 2026.

□ Key Agreements:

1. Cooperation on Rare Minerals:

Collaboration between IREL (India) and Institute for Technology of Radioactive and Rare Elements (ITRRE), Vietnam-regarding Rare Earth Elements and advanced technologies.

2. Cultural Exchange Programme (2026-30):

Promotion of the exchange of art, culture, and cultural activities.

3. Digital Payments Cooperation:

RBI and the State Bank of Vietnam.

4. Cooperation in Pharmaceutical and Medical Regulation.

5. Mumbai-Ho Chi Minh City Cooperation:

Sharing of experiences in urban management and economic development.

6. ICCR Chair of India Studies (University of Da Nang): To promote India Studies.

7. Agreement between Nalanda University and the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics:

Capacity building and training.

8. Digital Technology Cooperation.

9. Cross-border QR Payments:

Between NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and the National Payment Corporation of Vietnam (NAPAS).

10. Cooperation in Public Auditing between Audit Institutions.

11. Tourism Cooperation.

12. Digitization of Cham Manuscripts:

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts will provide assistance.

13. Medical Products Regulation: Between India's CDSCO and Vietnam's DAV.

❑ **Announcements-**

1. Elevating bilateral relations to the level of an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
2. A new trade target of US\$ 25 billion by the year 2030.
3. Vietnam joining the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).
4. Announcement regarding the export of Indian grapes to Vietnam and Vietnamese Durian to India.
5. Establishment of a Site Interpretation Centre at the UNESCO World Heritage Site in My Son.

Visit of the President of the Republic of Cyprus to India

- ❑ The President of the Republic of Cyprus, **Mr. Nikos Christodoulides**, paid a State Visit to India from May 20 to 23, 2026.

❑ **Key Agreements-**

1. Establishment of a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.
2. **Diplomatic Training:** Between the Sushma Swaraj Foreign Service Institute of India and the Diplomatic Academy of Cyprus.
3. **Innovation and Technology:** Between the Deputy Ministry for Research, Innovation and Digital Policy of Cyprus and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India.
4. **Official Coordination and Cooperation on Search and Rescue (SAR) Matters:** Between the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre of Larnaca, Cyprus and the Ministry of Defence of India.
5. **Higher Education and Research:** Between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth of the Government of Cyprus.
6. **Cultural Cooperation (2026-2030):** Between the Ministry of Culture and the Deputy Ministry of Culture of Cyprus.

Declarations:

1. Upgrading bilateral relations to the level of a Strategic Partnership

2. Roadmap for Defence Cooperation for the period 2026-2031.

3. Establishment of Cyber Security Dialogue
4. Establishment of Consular Dialogue
5. Cyprus joining the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative
6. Gift of the Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri (BHISM) cube to Cyprus
7. Celebration of the first India-Cyprus Space Day on May 18, 2026
8. Cyprus announces intention to open a Cyprus Business Centre in Mumbai.

Trinidad and Tobago

- ❑ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar paid a two-day visit to Trinidad and Tobago on May 8-9.

- ❑ Met with Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

❑ **8 Key Agreements:**

- ◆ **Cooperation on Historical Archives:** Exchange of historical documents to assist migrants of Indian origin in tracing their ancestors and family roots.
- ◆ **Establishment of an Ayurveda Chair:** To promote the study, research, and academic collaboration in Ayurveda at the University of the West Indies.
- ◆ **Solar Electrification of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building in Trinidad and Tobago.**
- ◆ **Development of Nelson Island:** Upgradation of infrastructure on the island associated with indentured laborers.
- ◆ **Vector-borne Disease Control:** Joint cooperation for the prevention of diseases such as Dengue, Zika, etc.
- ◆ **Tourism Cooperation**
- ◆ **Digital Education Cooperation**
- ◆ **Health and Pharmaceutical Cooperation**

- ❑ Dr. Jaishankar handed over the first batch of 2,000 laptops to selected school students.

- ❑ **Inauguration of an Agro-processing Facility:** For this project, India had provided machinery worth one million dollars last year.
- ❑ **Inauguration of the National Artificial Limb Centre:** Located in Penal; inaugurated by Ms. Prasad-Bissessar and Dr. Jaishankar.

- ❑ External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** inaugurated a special exhibition titled 'From Shunya to Ananta: The Indian Civilization's Contribution to Mathematics' at the United Nations Headquarters in **New York**.
- ❑ Union Minister **Shri Jayant Chaudhary** represented India at the swearing-in ceremony of the President of Uganda, **General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni**.
- ❑ A high-level delegation led by **Francisco Pérez Mackenna, the Foreign Minister** of the Republic of **Chile**, visited India for bilateral talks aimed at strengthening economic and commercial cooperation between the two nations.
- ❑ Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Shri Piyush Goyal**, visited Canada.

Events/Conferences/Meetings

India-Nordic Summit 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Oslo, Norway
- ❑ **Participants:** The Prime Minister of India and the leaders of the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden).
- ❑ **Key Outcomes:**
 1. **Strategic Partnership**
 - ◆ Relations between India and the Nordic countries (Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland, and Sweden) were elevated to a strategic partnership based on green technology and innovation.

2. Trade and Investment

- ◆ Consensus reached on advancing the India-EFTA TEPA and the India-EU Free Trade Agreement.
- ◆ A target was set to attract \$100 billion in investment to India and create approximately one million jobs under the TEPA framework.

3. Climate and Blue Economy

- ◆ Iceland was inducted into LeadIT 2.0.
- ◆ Decision taken to enhance cooperation on green shipping, a low-carbon economy, and safe ship recycling.

4. Technology, Space, and Defence

- ◆ Cooperation in AI, 5G/6G, quantum technology, and digital infrastructure.
- ◆ New agreement between ISRO and the Norwegian Space Agency.
- ◆ Nordic defense companies encouraged to leverage India's 100% FDI policy.

5. Global and Security Cooperation

- ◆ Support reiterated for India's permanent membership in the UNSC and membership in the NSG.
- ◆ Joint commitment expressed against cross-border terrorism and terror financing.

Other Key Bilateral Outcomes

❑ Finland

- ◆ Agreement reached to enhance cooperation in AI, 5G/6G, quantum technology, renewable energy, and the circular economy.
- ◆ Target set to double bilateral trade by 2030.

❑ Denmark

- ◆ Review of the progress of the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership.
- ◆ Agreement reached to strengthen cooperation in climate change, green energy, AI, defense, research, and startups.

India's Return to the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

- ❑ **Venue:** Venice, Italy. (May 9 to November 22)
- ❑ India's Last Participation: Year 2019
- ❑ **Collaborating Institutions:**
 - ◆ Ministry of Culture, Government of India
 - ◆ Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre
 - ◆ Serendipity Arts
- ❑ **Inauguration:** At the Arsenale venue in Venice by the Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- ❑ **Title of India's National Pavilion:** Geographies of Distance: remembering home.
- ❑ **Key Artists and Their Artworks:**
 1. Sumakshi Singh: 'Permanent Address'
 2. Ranjani Shettar: 'Under the Same Sky'
 3. Asim Waqif: 'Chaal'
 4. Alwar Balasubramaniam: 'Not Just for Us'
 5. Skarma Sonam Tashi: 'Echoes of Home'.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council Meeting 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Geneva, Switzerland. (April 28 to May 8, 2026)
- ❑ **Representation:** Shri Mukesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, Department of Telecommunications.
- ❑ India submitted a proposal to host the 'ITU Plenipotentiary Conference' (PP-2030) in the year 2030.

10th Indian Ocean Dialogue

- ❑ **Venue:** New Delhi, 7–8 May 2026.
- ❑ **Theme:** "Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World"

- ❑ **Organizer:** Ministry of External Affairs.
- ❑ **Collaboration:** Indian Council of World Affairs and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat.
- ❑ India assumed the Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for the 2025–27 term.

India Appointed as Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)

- ❑ **Period:** April 2026 – April 2028
- ❑ **CCDB:** It manages global IT security standards and evaluation processes.
- ❑ **Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA):** An arrangement ensuring the international mutual recognition of IT security certificates.

First International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit

- ❑ **Venue:** New Delhi (1–2 June, 2026)
- ❑ **Inauguration:** Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the summit's website and logo.
- ❑ **Theme:** 'Save Big Cats, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystems'.
- ❑ **Key Objectives:**
 - ◆ Adoption of the 'Delhi Declaration' on the conservation of big cats.
 - ◆ Strengthening South-South cooperation and international partnerships.
 - ◆ Bringing together representatives, scientists, and policymakers from 95 countries on a single platform.
 - ◆ Significance of the Logo: 7 big cats at the center (symbolizing unity), surrounded by the 5 elements of nature depicted within a lotus design.
- ❑ **26th Member Country:** Saudi Arabia.

5th BRICS Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) Leaders' Summit

- ❑ **Venue:** Bengaluru
- ❑ **Chairmanship:** India's CAG, Mr. K. Sanjay Murthy.

- ❑ **Theme:** "Ease of Living, with a focus on Urban Mobility."
- ❑ **Participants:** 38 representatives participated, including the heads of SAIs (Supreme Audit Institutions) from 9 BRICS nations, as well as experts in urban finance and mobility.

Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Mumbai (11-14 May)
- ❑ **Chairmanship:** India
- ❑ **Theme:** 3Cs- Credibility, Compliance, and Consumer Confidence.
- ❑ **Participants:** 60 participants and representatives from 86 countries (including the European Union), industry bodies (such as the World Diamond Council), and civil society organizations took part.
- ❑ Extensive deliberations were held regarding strengthening monitoring mechanisms within the natural diamond value chain, compliance tools, statistical tracking, and modernizing the definition of 'conflict diamonds.'

79th World Health Assembly

- ❑ **Venue:** Geneva, Switzerland
- ❑ **Main Theme:** 'Reshaping Global Health: A Shared Responsibility'
- ❑ **India's Representation:** Health Minister J.P. Nadda
- ❑ **Launch of the 2nd Global Action Plan on AMR (GAP-AMR 2026-2036)**
- ❑ **Key Targets (by the year 2030):**
 - ◆ To achieve a 10% reduction in deaths caused by bacterial AMR in humans.
 - ◆ To reduce the use of antimicrobial drugs in agri-food systems.
- ❑ **Technical Collaboration:** Led by the FAO, UNEP, and WOAAH in collaboration with the World Health Organization (the Quadripartite Alliance).

- ❑ **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):** This is a condition in which medicines (such as antibiotics) become ineffective against bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites. It is estimated that, as a result, 39 million deaths could occur annually by the year 2050.

Other Efforts to Combat AMR:

- ◆ **India:** National Action Plan (NAP-AMR) and 'Red Line Awareness' Campaign.
- ◆ **Global:** WHO's 'Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System' (GLASS).
- ◆ **First Resolution on Radiation and Health:** Strengthening national systems for protection against ionizing and non-ionizing radiation.
- ◆ **Economics of Health for All Strategy (2026-2030):** Making healthcare a core component of the country's economic, fiscal, and industrial policies.

First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

- ❑ **Co-hosts:** Colombia and the Netherlands; April 24-29, 2026
- ❑ **Venue:** Santa Marta, Colombia
- ❑ **Objective:** To serve as a 'Coalition of Willing Countries' for a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.
- ❑ **Participants:** Over 50 countries.

21st Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF21)

- ❑ **Venue:** May 11-15, 2026, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- ❑ The Global Forest Goals (GFG) Report 2026 was officially launched during this session.

11th Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** New York

- ❑ **Organizer:** United Nations
- ❑ This reviewed the progress made regarding the three pillars of the NPT: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

79th Cannes Film Festival 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Palais des Festivals et des Congrès, Cannes, France (May 12 to 23, 2026)
- ❑ Ruchi Gurjar (Jhunjhunu) made her entry on the Red Carpet dressed in traditional Rajput attire.
- ❑ **Screening of the following Indian films:**
 - ◆ 'Balan: The Boy' ◆ Gudgudi
 - ◆ Amma Ariyan ◆ September 21
 - ◆ Spirit of the Wildflower
 - ◆ Shadows of a Moonlit Night
 - ◆ Chardikala
- ❑ **Major Winners:**
 1. **Palme d'Or Award:** Film 'Fjord' - Director: Cristian Mungiu
 2. **Grand Prix Award:** Film 'Minotaur'- Director: Andrey Zvyagintsev
 3. **Best Director:** Javier Calvo & Javier Ambrossi (Film: The Black Ball), and Paweł Pawlikowski (Film: Fatherland)
 4. **Best Actress:** Virginie Efira and Tao Okamoto (Film: All of a Sudden)
 5. **Best Actor:** Emmanuel Macchia and Valentin Campgne (Film: Coward)
- ❑ **Jury President:** South Korean director Park Chan-wook
- ❑ **'Un Certain Regard Jury Prize':** 'Elephants in the Fog' (A feature film from Nepal)

11th Meeting of QUAD Foreign Ministers

- ❑ **Venue:** Delhi
- ❑ **Participants:** India, United States (Marco Rubio), Japan (Toshimitsu Motegi), and Australia (Penny Wong)

❑ Key Outcomes:

1. Maritime Security and Surveillance

- ◆ **Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Cooperation (IPMSC):** QUAD nations will share information in real-time through joint surveillance capabilities. In its initial phase, its primary focus will be the Indian Ocean Region.
- ◆ **Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission:** India will host the next edition of this Coast Guard mission, aimed at enhancing the monitoring of maritime activities.
- ◆ **Support for UNCLOS:** Emphasis was placed on adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to ensure freedom of navigation in critical waterways such as the South China Sea, the Red Sea, and the Strait of Hormuz.

2. Infrastructure and Connectivity:

- ◆ **Undersea Cable Network:** The objective is to connect Pacific Island nations via undersea cables by the year 2026.
- ◆ **Port Development:** Under the 'Quad Ports of the Future Partnership,' port infrastructure in Fiji will be modernized.

3. Minerals, Energy, and Future Technologies

- ◆ **Critical Minerals Initiative:** A framework worth \$20 billion has been established to strengthen global supply chains for critical minerals; this initiative will promote investment in mining, processing, and recycling.

4. 6G Communication:

To gain a competitive edge in the telecommunications sector, the four nations will collaborate to develop global standards for next-generation 6G technology.

5. Energy Security Initiative:

To foster a stable and open energy market, partner nations will enhance cooperation in areas such as policy, technology, market analysis, and emergency response.

Reports

World Health Index Report

- ❑ **Issued by:** World Health Organization
- ❑ Actual deaths from COVID-19 were more than three times the official figures.
- ❑ New HIV infections decreased by 40% between 2010-2024.
- ❑ Tobacco and alcohol consumption decreased.
- ❑ People needing treatment for neglected tropical diseases decreased by 36%.
- ❑ Millions of people gained access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and clean cooking.
- ❑ HIV decreased by 70% and tuberculosis by 28% in the WHO African Region.
- ❑ Malaria cases increased by 8.5% since 2015.
- ❑ 30.7% of women of reproductive age are affected by anemia, but there has been no improvement.
- ❑ The number of overweight children under 5 years of age increased by 5.5%.
- ❑ 1 in 4 women globally is a victim of intimate partner violence (IPV).
- ❑ The Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Index increased from 68 to 71, but progress remained slow.
- ❑ Health expenditures caused economic hardship for one-fourth of the population.
- ❑ Health expenditures pushed 1.6 billion people into poverty or worsened poverty in 2022.
- ❑ Maternal mortality decreased by 40% since 2000, but remains far from the target.
- ❑ Mortality among children under 5 years of age decreased by 51%.
- ❑ The pace of reducing premature deaths from non-communicable diseases (such as heart disease, diabetes) slowed.
- ❑ Air pollution caused approximately 6.6 million deaths in 2021.
- ❑ Poor water and sanitation caused 1.4 million deaths in 2019.

- ❑ By 2025, only 18% of countries were reporting timely mortality data to WHO.
- ❑ Nearly 1/3 of countries never reported data on causes of death.

Special 301 Report

- ❑ **Published By:** US Trade Representative (USTR)
- ❑ **US Priority Watch List for Intellectual Property Protection:** 6 countries (Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, and Venezuela), including India
- ❑ **Areas of Concern:** Concerns have been raised about Indian intellectual property laws, patent and copyright enforcement, as well as market access barriers for US companies in pharmaceuticals, solar energy, and digital products.
- ❑ **Action on Vietnam:** For the first time in 13 years, the US has designated Vietnam as a 'Priority Foreign Country,' the strictest category.

World Press Freedom Index 2026

- ❑ **Issued by:** Reporters Without Borders
- ❑ **India's Performance**
 - ◆ **Rank:** 157th (out of 180 countries) [31.96]
 - ◆ **Previous Rank (2025):** 151st
 - ◆ **Situation:** India is categorized as 'Difficult or Very Serious' in terms of press freedom.
- ❑ **Five key indicators:** Economic, legal, political, social and security conditions
- ❑ **Global ranking and regional pattern**
 1. Norway (top for the tenth consecutive year) [92.72]
 2. Netherlands 3. Estonia
 4. Denmark 5. Sweden
- ❑ **Last place:** Eritrea (180th), North Korea, China, Iran and Saudi Arabia.
- ❑ **Neighbouring Countries' Ranks:**

87 Nepal	108 Maldives	130 Sri Lanka
150 Bhutan	152 Bangladesh	153 Pakistan
178 China		

- ❑ Syria recorded the biggest improvement, jumping 36 places in the rankings following the country's post-Assad transition
- ❑ For the first time in history, more than half of the world's countries now fall into the 'severe' or 'very severe' categories for press freedom.

Asia University Rankings 2026

- ❑ **Issued by:** Times Higher Education (THE)
- ❑ It assessed 929 universities across 36 countries and regions
- ❑ Five of the top 10 places are Chinese institutions.
- ❑ Tsinghua University holds the top spot for the eighth consecutive year, and Peking University is in second place.

Rank	Institution	Country/Region	Score
1.	Tsinghua University	China	93.6
2.	Peking University	China	93.1
3.	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Singapore	91.1
4.	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Singapore	85.1
5.	The University of Tokyo	Japan	

- ❑ India is the most represented country in this ranking. (128 institutions)
- ❑ India has 12 institutions in the top 200 universities.
- ❑ **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru is the only Indian institution to feature in the top 50, having been ranked 38th last year.**

Rank	Institution	Region	Score
43	Indian Institute of Science (IISc)	Bengaluru	65.1
128	Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences	Chennai	52.0
158	Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences	Indore	49.4
160	Jamia Millia Islamia	Aligarh	49.3

World Migration Report 2026

- ❑ **Issued By:** International Organization for Migration.

- ❑ India is projected to witness inflows of \$137.67 billion in 2024.
- ❑ India became the first country to cross the \$100 billion mark in annual remittances.
- ❑ Growth in 2024= 11.8%.

Key Findings

1. India \$137.67 billion
2. Mexico \$67.64 billion
3. Philippines \$40.28 billion
4. France \$38.78 billion
5. Pakistan \$34.91 billion.

World's Largest Migration Corridors

1. Mexico-USA
5. India-UAE
6. India-USA

Awards

Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards 2026

- ❑ **Winner:** Soma Mandal (Science teacher at GD Goenka Public School, Delhi).
- ❑ **Category:** South Asia Regional Winner
- ❑ **Given by:** Columbia University
- ❑ **Field:** Soma Mandal has been honored for her development of a climate-focused science curriculum and for inspiring students to actively fight environmental issues.

Pulitzer Prize 2026

- ❑ **Winner:** Indian journalists Anand R.K. and Suparna Sharma
- ❑ **Category:** Illustrated Reporting and Commentary
- ❑ Awarded for "trAPPed," an investigative reporting project co-authored with Natalie Obiko Pearson for Bloomberg, which exposed cybercrimes in India
- ❑ **Aniruddha Ghosal:** a Hanoi-based reporter, was a winner in the International Reporting category for an investigation into the US Border Patrol's secret use of mass-surveillance tools originally created in Silicon Valley and further developed in China.

Whitley Award 2026

- ❑ **Winner:** Parveen Sheikh
 - ❑ **Conferred By:** Whitley Fund for Nature
 - ❑ **Focus Areas:** Community-based conservation of the Indian Skimmer along the Ganges River and expanding efforts to Prayagraj.
- ❑ Their community-led 'Guardian Model' increased nest survival rates from 14% to 27%.
 - ❑ Under their project, the Indian Skimmer population increased from 400 to nearly 1,000.
 - ❑ Also known as the Green Oscar.
 - ❑ Previously awarded to Purnima Devi Burman and Charudutta Mishra.

"University Innovator Award" at the Texas Innovation Conference and Awards

- ❑ **Venue:** Dallas and Fort Worth, USA
- ❑ **Winner:** Young Scientist Dr. Shekhar Suman Bora (Tezpur, Assam)
- ❑ Research scientist at the University of Texas.
- ❑ He received this award for their contribution to research and innovation

South Africa's highest civilian honour

- ❑ 'Order of Mapungubwe: Gold'- Prof. Salim Abdool Karim (for his groundbreaking research towards AIDS prevention)
- ❑ 'Order of Mapungubwe: Silver'- Prof. Kirtan Dedha (for outstanding research on tuberculosis (TB) and contribution to medicine).
- ❑ Given by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award 2025

- ❑ **Winner:** Indian peacekeeper Major Abhilasha Barak

- ❑ **Given By:** United Nations
- ❑ Served as a peacekeeper in the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Lebanon
- ❑ She is the first female combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army.
- ❑ She became the third Indian officer to receive this award. Earlier, Major Suman Gawani and Major Radhika Sen

Agricola Medal-2026

- ❑ **Winner:** Narendra Modi, in Rome
- ❑ **Conferred By:** Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- ❑ This award is given in recognition of his exceptional leadership in the field of food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development in India and globally.

International Booker Prize

- ❑ **Winner:** 'Taiwan Travelogue'
- ❑ **Author:** Yáng Shung-zi
- ❑ **Translator:** Lin King
- ❑ Originally written in Mandarin Chinese,
- ❑ This novel succeeds as both 'both a romance and an incisive postcolonial novel'.

2025 "Outstanding Postdoctoral Performance Awards"

- ❑ **Institution:** The prestigious Argonne National Laboratory in the US.
 - ❑ **Areas:** For research in national missions like energy, security and AI.
1. **Kiran Kumar Yalamanchi:** Developed 'Multimodal Foundation Models'. Creating fuels of the future through 'Inverse Molecular Design'.
 2. **Shilpika:** Created a digital twin of the supercomputer 'Aurora'. Focused on 'Explainable AI' and predicting system failures.
 3. **Krishna Teja Chitthy-Venkata:** Made AI cost-effective using techniques like 'Pruning and Quantization'.

Malcolm Adiseshiah Prize 2026

- ❑ **Winner:** Raghava Das Gaiha.
- ❑ Elizabeth Adiseshiah Prize
- ❑ **Winner:** to Kanika Mahajan, Associate Professor, Ashoka University

Goddard Astronautics Award

- ❑ **Winner:** Chandrayaan-3
- ❑ **Given By:** American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
- ❑ The award was received by US Ambassador to India, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, on behalf of ISRO at the AIAA ASCEND 2026 conference.

Global Schools Prize 2026

- ❑ **Organised By:** Varkey Foundation
- ❑ Two Indian schools in the top 50 shortlisted
- ❑ **Katha Lab School (Delhi):**
 - ♦ **Category:** Arts and Culture (Founded by Padma Shri awardee Geeta Dharmarajan)
- ❑ **Delhi Public School, Bangalore North:**
 - ♦ **Category:** Inclusive Education
- ❑ A total prize of US\$ 1 million is awarded.

Agreements

- ❑ **NTPC Limited and Électricité de France (EDF):** To explore the company's development of large-scale nuclear power plants in India.
- ❑ **India-US 'Mineral Security' Agreement -** 'Securing supplies in the mining and processing of critical minerals and rare earth elements
- ❑ **UNESCO and the Government of Sikkim:** Partnered to document the indigenous engineering techniques of traditional and disaster-resilient bamboo-cane bridges (Ru-Soam) of the Lepcha community.

- ♦ This project focuses on bringing global recognition to the resilience and climate-friendly sustainability of these bridges located in the Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve.

Miscellaneous

Electric Vehicle (EV) Battery Recycling Initiatives

- ❑ **Launch:** India and the European Union under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) Working Group-2
- ❑ **Budget:** €15.2 million Euro (approximately 169 crore Rs)
- ❑ **Funding:** EU's Horizon Europe Programme
- ❑ **Indian component supported:** Ministry of Heavy Industries.

Five Principles of India's Diplomacy

- ❑ Given by international affairs expert Prof. C. Raja Mohan:
 1. Reciprocity
 2. Diversification
 3. Strategic Flexibility
 4. Strategic Expansion
 5. Domestic Renewal

'Gabi', a Humanoid Robot

- ❑ It is South Korea's first robot to be ordained as a **Buddhist monk** at the Jogye Temple in Seoul.
- ❑ **The initiation ceremony:** The Jogye sect formally initiated Gabi into a disciple by dressing him in traditional Buddhist robes (chola) and placing a 108-bead rosary around his neck.

'North Star' platform

- ❑ It is a project to support India's clean energy transition.
- ❑ **Launched by:** British International Investments of the UK and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners of Denmark
- ❑ **Budget:** \$300 million USD
- ❑ The platform seeks to invest in solar, wind, hybrid and energy storage.

- ❑ India has set a target of 500 gigawatts of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030 and net-zero by 2070.

Indian War Memorial

- ❑ **Inauguration:** By Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and South Korea's Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Shri Kwon Oh-eul, on May 21, 2026.
- ❑ **Location:** Imjingak Park, Seoul.
- ❑ An MoU has been signed to honor the soldiers who participated in the Korean War and to strengthen exchanges between the two nations.
- ❑ **'Maroon Angels':** During the Korean War, the 60 Para Field Ambulance-led by Lt. Col. Dr. A.G. Rangaraj (a Maha Vir Chakra recipient)-provided exemplary medical care to thousands of wounded soldiers and civilians amidst intense gunfire. Consequently, he was bestowed with the title 'Maroon Angels' by the wounded soldiers and civilians they aided.

Formation of the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA)

- ❑ **Announcement:** By Iran.
- ❑ **Objective:** To monitor and manage operations within the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.
- ❑ Under the new system, vessels must adhere to directives issued by the Authority and obtain a transit permit before entering the Strait of Hormuz.

The U.S. Returned 657 Antiquities to India

- ❑ **Announcement:** Made by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg.
- ❑ **Total Value:** Approximately \$14 million USD.
- ❑ **Artifacts:**
 - ◆ A bronze statue of Avalokiteshvara.
 - ◆ A red stone statue of the Buddha.
 - ◆ A sandstone sculpture of a dancing Ganesha, stolen from Madhya Pradesh.
- ❑ **Handover:** These items were handed over to India's Consul General in New York, Rajlaxmi Kadam.

Return of 11 Antiquities from Australia

- ❑ A winged deity (Terracotta; Shunga period).
- ❑ Two brackets from a temple chariot.
- ❑ Figure of a family patriarch.
- ❑ Head of a Buddha statue.
- ❑ Woman playing a drum.
- ❑ Woman playing cymbals (Manjira).
- ❑ Bhudevi (Goddess of the Earth).
- ❑ A Deity. ❑ A Bodhisattva.
- ❑ Head of an Apsara.

Places in News

China	◆ China has developed the world's first Zero-Carbon emission Direct Coal Fuel Cell (ZC-DCFC) battery. ◆ Development: Led by Xie Heping of Shenzhen University
Finland	◆ The world's first permanent nuclear waste repository will be commissioned in 2026 at Olkiluoto Island
Ethiopia	◆ India signed the document regarding Ethiopia's accession to the World Economic Forum in Geneva on May 22, 2026.
Dukono Volcano	◆ Located in Indonesia's North Maluku province, erupted.
Mayon Volcano	◆ The Philippines' most active volcano, has experienced a major eruption.
Pratas Island	◆ A Chinese coast guard ship was spotted near the strategically important Taiwan Strait at the top of the South China Sea.

Agarwood

- ❑ Assam legally exported agarwood pieces to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for the first time.
- ❑ This opens up an industrial potential of ₹50,000 crore.
- ❑ **Value:** ₹2.35 crore.

Persons In News

Q. Manivannan	◆ Indian-origin transgender person elected as MP of Scotland ◆ He does not have a permanent visa in the UK.
Vikas Khanna	◆ New York Governor Kathy Hochul has honoured Indian-American chef Vikas Khanna
Kami Rita Sherpa (Nepal)	◆ He has broken his own world record by climbing Mount Everest for the 32nd time. He is known worldwide as the 'Everest Man'
Tushar Kumar-Parveen Rani (mother-son)	◆ He became the youngest Indian-origin Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council in Hertfordshire, East England. ◆ His mother Parveen Rani was elected mayor of Hertsmer Borough Council
Jim Whittaker	◆ The first American to reach the summit of Mount Everest, has passed away at the age of 97
Janez Jansa	◆ Slovenia's Prime Minister
Laura Virginia Fernández Delgado	◆ He was sworn in as Costa Rica's second female president.
Chiranjeevi Kolla	◆ A 37-year-old Indian tech professional died in California due to a rare fungal disease called 'Valley Fever'.
Kevin Warsh	◆ He has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Federal Reserve by the US Senate.
Evica Silina	◆ Latvian Prime Minister has announced her resignation, expressing disagreement with the government's handling of several incidents related to suspected drone attacks from Ukraine.
Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi	◆ He became the new Prime Minister of Iraq.

Important One-Liners

- ❑ The London-based Wellcome Collection will return over 2,000 rare Jain manuscripts to the Jain community.
- ❑ A 59,000-year-old Neanderthal tooth discovered in the Chagyrskaya Cave in Siberia, Russia, features an artificial hole made with a stone tool- a finding that scientists consider to be the world's oldest dental procedure.
- ❑ By how much did the government increase the import duty on gold and silver?
From 6% to 15%.
- ❑ The government has, with immediate effect, banned the export of sugar-including raw sugar, white sugar, and refined sugar- until September 2026 or until further orders.
- ❑ Miners from which country discovered the nation's second-largest ruby gemstone by weight?
Myanmar.

- ❑ Google's 'Information Agents' is a new built-in tool for its search engine that gathers essential information for users by constantly monitoring the internet (web).
- ❑ Three agreements- ART, ACSA, and GSOMIA- were concluded between Bangladesh and the United States.
- ❑ Where was the 12th round of negotiations for the upgradation of the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement ('India-Korea CEPA') held?
New Delhi
- ❑ Project Freedom: Launched by the U.S. to extract ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz.
- ❑ Where was the 10th round of the India-Australia Defence Policy Talks held?
New Delhi.
- ❑ Which bank has become the first Taiwanese bank to open a branch in Gujarat's GIFT City (International Financial Services Centre)?
CTBC Bank

Space Technology

India's First State-Led Space Technology Centre of Excellence

- ❑ **Launch:** By the Government of Karnataka on May 1, 2026.
- ❑ **Location:** Situated within the Aerospace Park in Bengaluru.
- ❑ **Establishment:** Established by the State Government through the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, in collaboration with SIA-India.

Mission Drishti

- ❑ **Development:** Developed by GalaxEye, a Bengaluru-based space startup.
- ❑ **Launch Site:** Mission Drishti was successfully launched on May 3, 2026, from Vandenberg, California.
- ❑ **Launch:** By SpaceX, aboard a Falcon 9 rocket.
- ❑ **Orbit:** In a Sun-Synchronous Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- ❑ **Key Highlights**
 - ◆ The largest Earth observation satellite developed by an Indian private company (weighing approximately 190 kg).
 - ◆ The world's first OptoSAR satellite.
 - ◆ Integrates two imaging technologies – Optical Imaging and
 - ◆ Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) – into a single platform.
 - ◆ Optical sensors capture images in the visible spectrum, while SAR utilizes microwave signals to capture images.
 - ◆ Capable of observing the Earth day and night, in all weather conditions.
 - ◆ Applications: Designed for use in defense, disaster management, agriculture, and urban planning.

Common Technical Facilities (CTFs)

- ❑ **Why in the News?:** To expand space infrastructure within the country, the Department of Space has approved the establishment of 'Common Technical Facilities' in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- ❑ **Initiated by:** The Department of Space (DoS) and IN-SPACE, with the aim of fostering the private space manufacturing ecosystem in India.
- ❑ **Locations:** Gujarat and Tamil Nadu
- ❑ **Space Manufacturing Park:** Khoraj, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- ❑ This facility will focus on spacecraft manufacturing, satellite electronics, and complex payload systems.
- ❑ **Space Vehicle Cluster:** Thoothukudi (Tuticorin), Tamil Nadu
- ❑ This cluster is dedicated to the manufacturing, integration, and advanced testing infrastructure for launch vehicles.

Mysteries of the Lunar South Pole Unveiled by Chandrayaan-3's "Hop Experiment"

- ❑ ISRO scientists have released findings related to the "Hop Experiment" conducted by Chandrayaan-3's Vikram Lander, as well as data from the ChaSTE instrument.
- ❑ **ChaSTE Experiment:** This instrument penetrated the lunar surface to study its thermal properties.
- ❑ **Hop Experiment:** The Vikram Lander executed a "hop" of approximately 50 centimeters to analyze the surface at a different location.
- ❑ **Key Findings:**
 - ◆ The study recorded surface erosion, a layered structure, and thermal variations.
 - ◆ **Lunar Regolith:** This is the surface layer composed of broken rocks and fine, glass-like particles.
 - ◆ **Bi-layered Structure:** A "cake-like" dual-layer structure was observed within the uppermost few centimeters.

- ◆ **Density Variation:** A few centimeters below the surface, the density was observed to increase from 750 to 1600 kg/m³.

- ❑ **Significance:** Crucial for future Lunar Bases, the search for water-ice, and human lunar missions.

Successful Trial of India's First Super-Pressure Balloon

- ❑ **Trial Conducted by:** Red Balloon Aerospace, Hyderabad, in Vijayawada.
- ❑ This balloon is capable of floating in the 'stratosphere' – 25 km above the Earth's surface – for extended periods without deflating.
- ❑ Compared to satellites, it will facilitate the delivery of internet services to rural areas, enable accurate weather forecasting, and aid in the rapid restoration of communication networks during disasters, all at a significantly lower cost.

SMILE Mission

- ❑ **Full Form:** Solar wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer
- ❑ **Why in the News?**
- ❑ Successfully launched via a Vega-C rocket from Europe's spaceport located in French Guiana (South America).
- ❑ **Joint Mission:** Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the European Space Agency (ESA).

Shenzhou-23

- ❑ **Launch Vehicle:** Long March 2F rocket; May 24, 2026.
- ❑ **Launch Site:** Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, Gobi Desert (near Beijing).
- ❑ **Destination:** The radial port of the Tianhe core module of China's Tiangong Space Station.
- ❑ **Crew:** Hong Kong's first female astronaut, Li Jiaying, accompanied by two male crewmates, Zhu Yangzhu and Zhang Zhiyuan.
- ❑ **Objective:** This long-duration space mission aligns with China's goal of reaching the Moon by 2030.

Defense Technology

'Kautilya' and the 'Q-Force' Platform

- ❑ **Launch:** By the Indian Army.
- ❑ **Objective:** To enhance real-time decision-making, logistics management, and battlefield support.
- ❑ **'Kautilya':** Focuses on interfaces powered by structured data generation, AI-based analytics, and Natural Language Processing.
- ❑ **'Q-Force':** This platform will streamline logistics, inventory, and maintenance management across various operational domains.

ICGS (Indian Coast Guard Ship) 'Achal'

- ❑ **Why in the News?:** Handed over to the Indian Coast Guard by Goa Shipyard Limited on May 9, 2026.
- ❑ **Meaning:** 'Achal' signifies 'unwavering' – that which never falters – reflecting a strong and steadfast spirit of service.
- ❑ **Category:** It is the newest vessel in the 'Adanya Class' series of Fast Patrol Vessels.
- ❑ **Design and Construction:** Goa Shipyard Limited.
- ❑ This ship is capable of undertaking critical tasks such as coastal surveillance, anti-smuggling operations, search and rescue missions, and combating marine pollution.
- ❑ It has been constructed using over 50 percent indigenous technology.

Mahendragiri (Yard 12654)

- ❑ 'Mahendragiri' – the sixth ship of the Nilgiri Class (Project 17) – was delivered to the Indian Navy on April 30, 2026, at MDL, Mumbai.
- ❑ It is an indigenously developed advanced stealth frigate.
- ❑ **Construction:** By Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.
- ❑ **Design:** By the Warship Design Bureau (WDB).
- ❑ **Propulsion:** Combined Diesel and Gas (CODAG) propulsion plant, comprising a diesel engine and a gas turbine that drive a Controllable Pitch Propeller (CPP) on each

shaft, along with a state-of-the-art Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS).

- ❑ Its powerful weapon and sensor systems include anti-surface, anti-air, and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

State-of-the-Art Offshore Patrol Vessel Yard 3039 (Sanghamitra)

- ❑ **Launch:** May 20, 2026, at M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata.
- ❑ **Naming:** Named 'Sanghamitra', after the daughter of King Ashoka.
- ❑ **Construction:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata.
- ❑ The ship's emblem features the Ursa Major constellation and depicts a red and white lighthouse.
- ❑ Construction of 11 Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) is currently underway simultaneously at two shipyards (GSL, Goa, and GRSE, Kolkata).

DSC A 23 (Yard 328)

- ❑ **Launch:** April 19, 2026, at Titagarh in Kolkata (West Bengal).
- ❑ **Construction:** M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited, Kolkata.
- ❑ Model Testing and Hydrodynamic Analysis: Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, Visakhapatnam.
- ❑ **Design:** 30-meter-long catamaran hull.
- ❑ **Displacement Capacity:** Approximately 380 tons.
- ❑ The fourth vessel in a series of five Diving Support Craft (DSC) projects.
- ❑ Constructed using 70% indigenous equipment.

14 FPV Project (Yards 16501-14)

- ❑ Under this project, the Keel Laying Ceremony for Fast Patrol Vessel-4 (FPV-4) (Yard 16504) and the Plate Cutting Ceremony for FPV-7 (Yard 16507) were conducted.
- ❑ **Location:** April 6, 2026, at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL) in Mumbai.
- ❑ It incorporates an AI-based predictive maintenance system and multi-purpose drones.

- ❑ These vessels are equipped with indigenous components, as well as gearboxes manufactured by the Mysore-based Triveni company and water jets manufactured by MJP India.

- ❑ **Displacement Capacity:** Approximately 340 tons

Scramjet Combustor

- ❑ **Why is it in the news?** DRDL – a laboratory of the DRDO – conducted a successful 20-minute test in Hyderabad on May 9, 2026.
- ❑ Prior to this, in January 2026, the same test was successfully conducted for a duration exceeding 700 seconds.
- ❑ **Test Site:** Scramjet Connected Pipe Test Facility, Hyderabad.
- ❑ It has been developed using entirely indigenous technology.
- ❑ It is a supersonic air-breathing engine; that is, it operates by drawing oxygen from the air and is capable of flying at extremely high speeds.
- ❑ With this success, India has joined the select group of nations at the forefront of hypersonic technology.

Indigenous Glide Weapon System 'TARA'

- ❑ **Full Name:** Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation
- ❑ **Test:** Conducted on May 7 by the DRDO and the Indian Air Force off the coast of Odisha.
- ❑ **Development:** Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad.
- ❑ This is India's first indigenous glide weapon system.
- ❑ **Function:** It transforms unguided conventional bombs into precision-guided 'smart weapons.'
- ❑ **Capability:** Once released from an aircraft, it can travel a greater distance compared to standard bombs and is capable of executing 'stand-off attacks' from a safe distance.

Naval Anti-Ship Missile - Short Range (NASR)

- ❑ **Why is it in the news?:** The DRDO and the Indian Navy conducted the first successful salvo launch off the coast of Odisha in the Bay of Bengal on April 29, 2026 (approximate date).

- ❑ **Development:** Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad.
- ❑ **Collaboration:** DRDL (Hyderabad), High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (Pune), and Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (Chandigarh).
- ❑ **Salvo Launch:** This marked the first instance where two missiles were fired simultaneously from a single helicopter platform.

Divyastra / Agni-5

- ❑ This is an advanced missile equipped with **MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle)** technology.
- ❑ A successful test was conducted on May 8, 2026, from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- ❑ **Strike Range:** 5,000 km
- ❑ This missile is capable of targeting multiple distinct objectives simultaneously.
- ❑ It is a surface-to-surface ballistic missile.

RayStrike-9

- ❑ This is an indigenous and state-of-the-art laser-guided directed energy system developed by India.
- ❑ **Development:** By DRDO and **Paras Defence**.
- ❑ **Laser Technology:** It is available in laser power configurations ranging from 3 kW to 9 kW.
- ❑ **Range:** 1.2 - 2.5 kilometers.
- ❑ It is equipped with AI-driven targeting algorithms.
- ❑ It features high-resolution electro-optical sensors that function with pinpoint accuracy even in pitch darkness, adverse weather conditions, or smoke-filled battlefields.
- ❑ It is both portable and mobile-operable.
- ❑ Key Feature: '**Infinite Magazine**'

Agni-1

- ❑ **Why in the News?** A successful test-launch was conducted on May 22, 2026, from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) located at Chandipur, Odisha.
- ❑ This is a **short-range** ballistic missile.
- ❑ **Strike Range:** 700 - 1,200 km
- ❑ **Fuel:** Single-stage solid fuel
- ❑ This test was conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.

Ultra-Light Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3

- ❑ **Why in the News?:** The DRDO successfully test-fired the (ULPGM)-V3 at the DRDO test range located near Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❑ This is a precision-guided missile launched from an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), possessing both **air-to-surface** and **air-to-air strike capabilities**.
- ❑ **Range:** 10 km.
- ❑ **Development and Production:** DRDO
 - ◆ Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad
 - ◆ Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited, Hyderabad
 - ◆ Nodal Laboratory: Building Research Centre, Hyderabad
 - ◆ Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad
 - ◆ Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh
 - ◆ High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune
- ❑ It has been integrated into a UAV developed by NewSpace Research and Technologies, Bengaluru.
- ❑ These tests were conducted using an integrated **Ground Control System (GCS)**.
- ❑ **Production:** Bharat Dynamics Limited and Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited.

Sarmat

- ❑ Russia's new Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), '**Sarmat**', has been successfully test-fired.
- ❑ Vladimir Putin has described it as the world's most powerful missile.
- ❑ **Strike Range:** Over 35,000 km.
- ❑ In Western countries, it is also known by the name '**Satan-2**'.

Kalam and Kavach 3.0: Defence strategic dialogue

- ❑ **Inauguration:** On May 14, 2026, at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, by the Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth.

- ❑ **Objective:** To provide a strategic platform for discussing India's defense transformation, indigenous capability development, and future war preparedness.
- ❑ **Key Focus:** Taking JAI Forward with I² (Jointness, Atmanirbharta, and Innovation, along with Indigenization and International Cooperation)

Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Program Centre

- ❑ **Location:** Puttaparthi, in the Sri Sathya Sai district of Andhra Pradesh
- ❑ **Inauguration:** By Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu
- ❑ **Development:** By the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under the DRDO
- ❑ It will serve as the integration, development, and flight testing centre for India's indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft program.

- ❑ Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for **Bharat Dynamics Limited's** state-of-the-art **naval systems manufacturing facility** in T. Sirasapalli village, Anakapalli district.
- ❑ Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the **Defense Energetics Facility** of Agneya Systems Limited (a subsidiary of Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited); HFCL Limited's ammunition and electric fuse plant in Madakasira, Sri Sathya Sai district; and the Drone City in Kurnool.

ULPGM and Agnika VTOL 1 FPV

- ❑ To further bolster the Indian Army's firepower, it has been equipped with two new indigenous, state-of-the-art lethal weapon systems.

1. ULPGM (UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition)

- ❑ This is a Guided Loitering Munition—the ULPGM—designed to be launched from a drone (UAV).
- ❑ **Development:** Jointly undertaken by DRDO and Adani Defence & Aerospace.

- ❑ These have been procured under the Army's Emergency Procurement (EP-6) initiative.
- ❑ **Warhead Capacity:** 2 kg
- ❑ **Operational Range:** 20 kilometers
- ❑ **Engagement Range:** 2 km (at night), 4 km (during the day)
- ❑ It will prove particularly useful in scenarios where the enemy attempts to jam GPS or communication networks.
- ❑ Equipped with anti-jamming and anti-spoofing technologies, this system will provide the Army with a significant tactical advantage in border areas, inaccessible mountainous fronts, and electronic warfare environments.

2. Agnika VTOL 1 FPV

- ❑ This is the country's first FPV Kamikaze drone.
- ❑ It is a Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) drone that does not require a runway to take flight.
- ❑ Thanks to FPV (First Person View) technology, the operator can view the enemy's position in real-time.
- ❑ It is extremely useful in urban warfare, narrow alleys, border outposts, and rugged mountainous terrains.
- ❑ **Range:** 5 km
- ❑ **Speed:** 60 km/h
- ❑ **Endurance:** 30 minutes
- ❑ Its **strike accuracy** is within five meters.

Dhanush Howitzer

- ❑ **Manufacturer:** Gun Carriage Factory (GCF), Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- ❑ **Range:** 40 to 42 kilometers.
- ❑ **Testing:** Conducted at the Proof and Experimental Establishment, Itarsi, and the Pokhran Range.
- ❑ This is a 155mm, 52-caliber howitzer, developed using indigenous technology as an upgraded version of the Bofors guns.
- ❑ It is capable of striking targets with precision, even during nighttime operations.

Apache Choppers and Howitzer Guns

- Why in the News?: Approval granted for a defense deal worth \$428.2 million (approximately Rs. 3,500 crore) between India and the USA.

1. Apache Helicopters

- ◆ Capable of flying up to an altitude of 21,000 feet.
- ◆ Speed: 280 km/h.

2. Howitzer Guns

- ◆ Range: 25–40 km.
- ◆ Weight: 4,200 kg.
- ◆ Company: BAE Systems.

Defense Manufacturing Complex

- **Inaugurated by:** Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis.
- **Location:** Shirdi, Maharashtra, on May 23, 2026.
- **Manufacturing Company:** NIBE Group.
- **Primary Objective:** Manufacturing of advanced artillery systems, missile and space technology, rocket systems, energetic materials, and autonomous defense platforms.

Key Technologies and Unveilings

- **‘Suryastra’:** India’s first 300-kilometer Universal Rocket Launching System was flagged off. The foundation stone for a missile complex for it was also laid at the same complex.
- **Indigenous Plant Technologies:** During the event, indigenous TNT (INT) plant technology, RDX plant technology, and a renewable bioenergy compressed biogas (CBG) plant were unveiled.
- **Space Sector Agreement:** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between NIBE Group and Black Sky in the field of satellite assembly.

Vayu Astra-1

- **Why in the news?** NIBE Limited, a defense technology company

- Pune has successfully completed trials in Pokhran (Rajasthan) and Joshimath (Maharashtra, Uttarakhand).
- **Range:** 100 kilometers with a 10-kilogram warhead.
- It is a loitering munition; it is also referred to as a Kamikaze or suicide drone.
- It is capable of hovering in the air, conducting surveillance, and executing precision strikes.

Unveiling of Advanced Armored Vehicles (Tracked and Wheeled)

- **Location:** At the DRDO laboratory complex in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra.
- **Manufacture:** Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Bharat Forge Limited.
- **Design and Development:** Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (VRDE).
- Both vehicles are equipped with an indigenously designed and developed 30mm crewless turret.
- The 30mm crewless turret is integrated with a 7.62mm PKT gun.
- It is also configured for the launch of Anti-Tank Guided Missiles.
- The indigenous content share in these vehicles currently stands at approximately
- 65 percent.

Vikram VT 21 Project

- This is DRDO’s new combat platform.
- It has been launched as a Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV) to replace the Army’s aging BMP-2 vehicles.
- **Development:** By DRDO’s Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (VRDE), in collaboration with Tata Advanced Systems and Bharat Forge.
- **Features:**
 - ◆ **Variants:** It is available in both Tracked (chain-driven) and Wheeled variants.
 - ◆ **Combat Capability:** It features a 30mm crewless turret, which can be operated remotely from inside the vehicle.

- ◆ **Protection:** It features STANAG Level 4-5 protection, safeguarding against mines and blasts.
- ◆ **Amphibious:** It is capable of operating (swimming) in water as well.

Biotechnology

India's First Drug for Alzheimer's Treatment

- ❑ **Launch:** Pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly has launched the drug under the brand name 'Lormalzi'.
- ❑ **Name of the Original Drug:** Donanemab
- ❑ **Mechanism:** This is a monoclonal antibody treatment that slows down cognitive decline in early-stage patients by approximately 30% by clearing 'amyloid beta protein plaques' accumulated in the brain.
- ❑ **Dosage:** It involves a 350 mg dose administered intravenously once a month. The treatment course lasts for 18 months.
- ❑ **Approval:** This is the third disease-modifying drug approved by the US regulator (USFDA) and the first to be launched in India.

CAR-T Cell Therapy

- ❑ **Agreement:** To develop a dual-targeting CAR-T cell therapy for the treatment of Multiple Myeloma.
- ❑ **Parties Involved:** The Technology Development Board (under the Department of Science and Technology) has signed an agreement with Hyderabad-based Helix Cell Therapeutics Pvt. Ltd. This project will be implemented under the framework of India-Singapore cooperation.
- ❑ This therapy will target both the BCMA and CD19 markers present on cancer cells.
- ❑ The project will also include the conduct of Phase I clinical trials.

- ❑ **CAR-T Cell Therapy:** In this procedure, the patient's T-cells are genetically modified. These modified cells identify and destroy cancer cells.
- ❑ **Multiple Myeloma:** This is a blood cancer that affects the plasma cells within the bone marrow and is currently considered difficult to cure completely.
- ❑ **BCMA (B-cell maturation antigen):** This protein is found in high abundance on the surface of multiple myeloma cells. Targeting this protein leads to the destruction of myeloma cells.
- ❑ **CD19:** This marker is present on both normal and cancerous B-cells. When cancer cells attempt to evade this therapy by masking or downregulating BCMA, the CD19 marker assists the therapy in identifying and destroying the cancer cells.

Cleavable Light-Erased Antibody Reporter (CLEAR) Imaging Platform

- ❑ **Development:** Developed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru.
- ❑ **Mechanism:** This technique allows researchers to map a large number of proteins within a single biological sample using just one fluorescent marker.
- ❑ **Advantages:** It overcomes the limitations of traditional imaging methods, as the latter typically require distinct fluorescent colors to visualize multiple proteins simultaneously.
- ❑ **Utility:** It provides high-resolution protein mapping, thereby facilitating the accurate diagnosis and study of diseases in the fields of oncology (cancer), neurological disorders, and immunology.

VERVE-102

- ❑ This is an in **vivo** (acting within the body) base-editing gene therapy.
- ❑ It is a novel gene therapy capable of reducing levels of “**bad cholesterol**” – specifically LDL (Low-Density Lipoprotein) – by approximately 62% in patients following a single administration.
- ❑ It is particularly beneficial for individuals who suffer from elevated cholesterol levels due to genetic factors and are at risk of developing heart disease at an early age.

Base-Editing Technology

- ❑ Base editing is an advanced technique for genome editing.
- ❑ It enables the direct conversion of a single DNA base (A, T, G, C) into another specific base.
- ❑ This technology is considered capable of making highly precise modifications to genes.
- ❑ **Key Components of VERVE-102:**
 1. **mRNA (Messenger RNA):**
 - ◆ It provides instructions to cells for the production of specific proteins.
 - ◆ In the context of VERVE-102, it serves to generate an adenine base editor.
 2. **Guide RNA (gRNA):**
 - ◆ It targets the PCSK9 (Proprotein Convertase Subtilisin/Kexin Type 9) gene.
 - ◆ PCSK9 is an enzyme that regulates the amount of cholesterol present in the bloodstream.
 - ◆ Why is PCSK9 important?: This gene is associated with a protein produced in the liver.
 - ◆ When the activity of PCSK9 is reduced, the body begins to remove a greater amount of LDL cholesterol from the bloodstream.

Major Exercises

SINBEX-II 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** May 04 to 17, 2026, Techo Sen Phnom Thom Preah Prov Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Center (Camp Basil), Kampong Speu Province, Kingdom of Cambodia.
- ❑ **Participants:** Indian Army and Royal Cambodian Army (The Indian contingent comprises 120 military personnel, the majority of whom belong to a battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment. The Cambodian contingent consists of 160 personnel.)

Exercise ‘PRAGATI’

- ❑ Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region
- ❑ **Venue:** Foreign Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya
- ❑ **Participating Nations:** 11 friendly foreign countries
- ❑ **Participating Countries (11):** Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, the Maldives, and Seychelles.
- ❑ This deepens India’s strategic engagement under the ‘Act East Policy’.

Conferences

Northern Technology Seminar

- ❑ **Venue:** May 4, 2026, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh
- ❑ **Organizers:** Jointly organized by the Northern Command and Central Command of the Indian Army, and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).
- ❑ **Theme:** ‘Raksha Triveni Sangam’ (Defense Confluence) – A confluence of Technology, Industry, and Military Capability.

Aerospace Power Seminar

- ❑ **Venue:** May 11, 2026, in Nagpur
- ❑ **Organizers:** Headquarters Maintenance Command of the Indian Air Force

- ❑ **Collaboration:** Autonomous Defence Think Tank, Centre for Air Power and Strategic Studies
- ❑ **Theme:** 'Efficient Maintenance and Self-Reliance: Enablers of Air Power'

Vigyan-Tech 2026

- ❑ **Event:** Held on May 11, on the occasion of National Technology Day 2026, at BRIC-National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi.
- ❑ **Organizers:** The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- ❑ **Participation:** 14 scientific Ministries and Departments.
- ❑ **Inauguration:** By Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences (Independent Charge).
- ❑ Transfer of three technologies developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to industry partners:
 1. **Prostate Cancer Screening Technology (PSP-94 ELISA)**
 - ◆ Helps determine the necessity of a biopsy in patients with prostate cancer.
 - ◆ Licensee: Krishgen Labs Pvt. Ltd.
 2. **Blood Coagulation Disorder Screening Kit**
 - ◆ For the rapid detection of blood-related disorders such as Hemophilia.
 - ◆ Licensee: Meril Life Sciences
 3. **Dengue-Chikungunya-Zika Screening Kit**
 - ◆ Capable of detecting Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika viruses in a single test.
 - ◆ Licensee: Vanguard Life Sciences

India's First International Ophthalmology Research Conference

- ❑ **Event:** Held on May 9-10 at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment.
- ❑ Organized by the Department of Ophthalmology at the Army Hospital (Research and Referral), New Delhi, in collaboration with the All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS).
- ❑ **Inauguration:** By Sanjay Seth, Minister of State for Defence.

Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect

- ❑ **Venue:** New Delhi
- ❑ **Organizer:** Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- ❑ ICMR launched the 'Medical Innovation Patent Mitra' platform.
- ❑ 41 public health technologies were transferred to industry partners by ICMR institutes and innovators.

Global Water Summit 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Madrid, Spain (May 18-20)
- ❑ The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) was ranked among the world's top five water utility entities in the 'Utility of the Year' category.
- ❑ **Utility of the Year:** The Board received this global honor for its 'Five Pillars' model, which focuses on water conservation, wastewater recycling, the use of advanced technology, and sustainable urban water management.
- ❑ **'Water Project of the Year':** BWSSB's flagship 'Cauvery Stage V' drinking water project was also included among the top 5 global projects in this category.

1st National AI and Digital Water Summit

- ❑ **Venue:** May 27, Bengaluru
- ❑ **Organizers:** Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bengaluru, and Elets Technomedia

Key Agreements

- ❑ **CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)** has been recognized by the India Book of Records and the Asia Book of Records—in collaboration with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)—for setting a record **titled** 'Construction of the First Road Stretch Using Technical Textile **Geocells** Made from Repurposed Plastic.'
- ❑ **India AI** and the **Indian Council of Medical Research**

- ❑ **(ICMR):** To ensure the responsible and widespread use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve healthcare outcomes.
- ❑ Bengaluru-based space startup **Pixxel** has secured a contract from the U.S. intelligence agency, the **National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)**, to provide advanced **hyperspectral imagery data** through its 'Firefly' satellites.
- ❑ The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** of the Department of Science and Technology has entered into an agreement with Delhi-based M/s NTF Energy Solutions Pvt. Ltd. for a project titled 'Establishment of a manufacturing facility for the commercialization of **Type-IV CNG** cylinders.'
- ❑ **Norway's** space agency has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **ISRO** to give a new dimension to space cooperation between the two nations.
- ❑ **CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NISPR)**, New Delhi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, on May 25, 2026. The objective of this MoU is to strengthen collaboration in science communication, public engagement, and science and technology policy research.
- ❑ **The Indian Air Force and the U.S.-based GE Aerospace** have entered into a **contract** to establish a depot within India for the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) of 'F404-IN20' engines, which are utilized in the indigenous Tejas fighter aircraft (Mk1 and Mk11).

Miscellaneous

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Field Training and Demonstration Centre

- ❑ **Location:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) today, at the Burari Grounds in Delhi...
- ❑ **Objective:** To further strengthen preparedness for radiological and nuclear emergencies.

Kaal Bhairav

- ❑ India's first AI-powered autonomous combat aircraft.
- ❑ **Manufacture:** In Portugal.
- ❑ **Partnership:** 'Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace' (FWDA), Bengaluru, has partnered with the Portuguese technology company 'SketchPixel'.
- ❑ **Operational Range:** 3,000 km and 30 hours.

SARAL AI

- ❑ A revolutionary AI-powered platform that translates complex scientific research into podcasts, short videos, and social media posts across 18 Indian languages, making it accessible to the general public.
- ❑ **Development:** National Research Foundation.

Silicon Photonics Technology Solutions

- ❑ **Launch:** Two Silicon Photonics technology solutions were launched in Chennai:
 - (a) Silicon Photonics Process Design Kit for photonics chip manufacturing
 - (b) Universal Packaged PPIC (Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuit) Test Engine
- ❑ **Development:** Indigenously developed at the COE-CPPICS, IIT Madras, sponsored by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❑ Silicon Photonics significantly boosts data transfer speeds while reducing energy consumption.

India's First Full-Stack Quantum Computer: 'Indus'

- ❑ **Development:** By the Bengaluru-based company, QpiAI.
- ❑ This is the first quantum computing system built entirely in India.
- ❑ This system features 25 qubits.

PLANT OpenCRISPR-1 (POC-1) Platform

- ❑ **Development:** ICMR - National Rice Research Institute (CRRRI), Cuttack
- ❑ This is an AI-powered genome editing platform designed for plants.

Prosopis juliflora

- ❑ This is an exotic acacia species that acts as an invasive weed.
- ❑ India's first green methanol plant will convert the weeds of Kutch into marine fuel.
- ❑ For decades, it has posed a threat to biodiversity in the Banni grasslands of Kutch.
- ❑ Native to Mexico, the shrub **Prosopis juliflora** is known in this region as **Gando Baval**, in North India as **Vilayati Kikar**, and in Tamil as **Velikathan**.

The Dawn of the Wi-Fi 7 Era in India:

- ❑ TP-Link India has announced the local manufacturing of its Wi-Fi 7 product portfolio within India.
- ❑ **The First 'Made-in-India' Wi-Fi 7 Device:** The company has commenced the manufacturing of Wi-Fi 7 devices in India, starting with the 'Omada EAP770' enterprise access point.

Urban Testbed and Aerosol Observatory

- ❑ **Location:** SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Ramapuram, Chennai
- ❑ **Inauguration:** By Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, on May 6, 2026
- ❑ **Established by:** The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune (an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences)
- ❑ It operates under the '**Mission Mausam**' initiative.
- ❑ This is the first observatory of its kind to be established in India.

Indigenous Cell Broadcast System (CBS)

- ❑ This is an indigenous Cell Broadcast System designed for disaster management.
- ❑ **Launch:** On May 2, by the Union Minister for Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia
- ❑ **Developed by:** The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)

- ❑ **Collaboration:** National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❑ **Objective:** To alert people **before** a disaster strikes, rather than **after** the disaster.
- ❑ This is a telecom-based public warning system that enables authorities to simultaneously send precise, geo-targeted alerts to all mobile devices within a specific area.
- ❑ It facilitates the delivery of alerts in near real-time and in multiple languages.
- ❑ This technology remains unaffected by network congestion.
- ❑ It operates across all networks, ranging from **2G to 5G**.

AI-Enabled Weather Forecasting System

- ❑ On May 12th, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology, launched two advanced weather forecasting products developed under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❑ **Development:**
 - ◆ Jointly developed by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF).
- 1. **AI-Enabled Monsoon Advance Forecasting Methodology:**
 - ◆ This model provides probabilistic forecasts of the monsoon's progress over various parts of the country.
 - ◆ **Updates:** It provides forecasts of the monsoon's progress up to four weeks in advance, which are updated every Wednesday.
 - ◆ **Benefits to Farmers:** It has been integrated with the dissemination infrastructure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
 - ◆ Currently, the system is deployed in **16 states** and over 3,000 villages.
 - ◆ It provides accurate information to farmers across numerous sub-districts for agricultural planning and preparation.

2. AI-Enabled Weather and Climate Forecasting

- ◆ It performs highly accurate and rapid analysis of weather patterns using AI technologies.
- ◆ Compared to traditional forecasting models, this system is capable of detecting complex weather shifts in a shorter timeframe, thereby enabling better advance preparation for storms, excessive rainfall, and other weather-related disasters.

Sakura Science Program 2026

- ❑ **Organizers:** The Governments of Japan and India; specifically, the Department of School Education and Literacy under India's Ministry of Education (MoE).
- ❑ **Profile of the Indian Delegation:** A total of 56 students (24 boys and 32 girls) from government schools across 15 Indian states/ Union Territories, accompanied by 4 supervisors, will undertake a visit to Japan.
- ❑ **Key Highlight:** All 56 of these students are beneficiaries of the Government of India's 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship' (NMMS) scheme.
- ❑ **Participating Countries:** In addition to India, participants from Ghana, Nigeria, and South Africa are also taking part.

Thermal Energy Storage Materials

- ❑ **Development:** International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ❑ **Leadership:** This research was led by Dr. Mani Karthik.
- ❑ **Material:** Researchers developed a spinel nanocomposite phase change material.
- ❑ **Process:** For its production, a simple and cost-effective co-precipitation method was utilized to synthesize spinel-type metal oxide nanoparticles with controlled particle size.

The Technology Development Board (TDB) has signed agreements with five key companies under the National RDI Initiative:

- ❑ **M/s e-TRNL Energy Private Limited (Maharashtra):** To develop and indigenously manufacture advanced and affordable lithium-ion battery cells based on their patented 3D Electrode Architecture (3DEA) technology.
- ❑ **M/s Dhruva Space Private Limited (Hyderabad):** To develop an indigenous, modular 500 kg-class satellite platform under 'Project Garuda,' capable of supporting mass production as well as strategic and commercial communication networks.
- ❑ **M/s Eyestem Research Private Limited (Bengaluru):** To develop a 'first-in-class' cell therapy for the treatment of two incurable diseases: Geographic Atrophy and Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. (As the first installment under this scheme, an amount of ₹ 50 crore has been electronically transferred for this project).
- ❑ **M/s Noccarc Robotics Private Limited (Uttar Pradesh):** To develop an Intelligent Mobile Life Support System (iMLSS) – a portable, ICU-grade critical care platform equipped with AI assistance and multilingual voice support – for use in rural and emergency healthcare services.
- ❑ **M/s Endure Air Systems Pvt. Ltd. (Noida):** To develop an indigenous unmanned helicopter platform under 'Project Sabal-200' capable of carrying a payload exceeding 200 kg in high-altitude regions.

Loktak Akasganga

- ❑ **Discovery:** Indian scientist Dr. Ronaldo Laishram (Manipur) in Japan
- ❑ Discovered a massive structure (protocluster) of galaxies – 12.6 billion years old – in the universe.

CHIRAG Centre

- ❑ Full Form: CHIRAG (Centre for HR Information Systems, Research and Analytics in Governance)
- ❑ **Location:** Moula Ali, Hyderabad (established by Indian Railways)
- ❑ This centre will focus on digital human resource systems, AI-based analytics, workforce planning, and skill development.
- ❑ **Objective:** To enhance efficiency in managing one of the world's largest workforces through advanced HRMS, machine learning, and data-driven governance.

Important One-Liners

- ❑ Which Indian Navy sailing training ship arrived at the Port of Mindelo, located on the island of São Vicente in Cape Verde?
INS Sudarshini
- ❑ Which of India's oceanographic research vessels arrived at Cam Ranh in Vietnam?
INS Sagardhwani
- ❑ Where did the Indian Navy inaugurate a Naval Sailing Centre?
Bhojtal Lake, Bhopal
- ❑ An investigation by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) revealed that TATP—a highly sensitive **organic peroxide explosive** also known as the "**Mother of Satan**"—was used in the 2025 Delhi Red Fort blast.
- ❑ The Indian Biogas Association has called for a **mandatory blending** of what percentage of fermented organic manure into chemical fertilizers by 2030? **10%**
- ❑ Under what name has **SEBI** constituted a **task force** to examine cybersecurity risks arising from advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and to strengthen the securities market ecosystem? **'cyber.suraksha-ai'**
- ❑ The Indian Army successfully concluded a 4-day 'Advanced Surgical Eye Camp (Operation Netra 1.0)' at the 153 General Hospital in Leh, held from April 27 to April 30, 2026.
- ❑ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the North Tech Symposium 2026.
In Prayagraj.
- ❑ A ceremonial parade of the **Maroon Berets** was organized at the Garud Regimental Training Centre, Air Force Station, **Chandinagar**.
- ❑ The states of **Kerala and Tamil Nadu** have established a **Ministry of AI**.
- ❑ The **48th Flight Test Course** was conducted at the Air Force Test Pilot School located in **Bengaluru**.
- ❑ A new study on wave-driven disturbances generated by **Alfvénic/kink waves** may explain why the Sun's corona possesses an extremely high temperature compared to its surface.
- ❑ Researchers from France, Britain, and the USA have discovered evidence of the '**Joan-Wolf effect**' on Mars using NASA's MAVEN spacecraft.
- ❑ Scientists at the **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST)** have developed a highly efficient, ultra-thin, and flexible film using **gold nanoparticles**.
- ❑ India's **first Geothermal Energy Plant**
Ladakh.
- ❑ Which drug has the Union Health Ministry included in the strict '**Schedule H1**' category under the Drugs Rules to curb its rising misuse and illicit trafficking among the youth?
'Pregabalin'
- ❑ Which **joint military exercise** between the **United States** and the **Philippines** was conducted across various islands of the Philippines?
The 41st 'Balikatan'
- ❑ Where did the IIT Madras Global Research Foundation announce the establishment of its first U.S. center during the **SelectUSA Investment Summit**?
In Menlo Park, California
- ❑ India's first Space-Tech Unicorn is:
Skyroot Aerospace

- ❑ Establishment of the **country's third** National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM)
 - In Hajipur, Vaishali District, Bihar**
- ❑ Who deployed a **humanoid robot** named 'Neela' to welcome and guide voters at polling stations during the 2026 Assembly elections?
 - The Puducherry Election Commission**
- ❑ Which planet's images – including a crescent-shaped view – were captured by NASA's spacecraft named Psyche?
 - Mars**
- ❑ According to NASA's GRACE (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment) satellites, which **river could completely dry** up by the year 2040?
 - The Euphrates**
- ❑ Who has unveiled a **3-phase plan** to establish a permanent human base at the **Moon's South Pole**, involving an investment of \$20 billion (₹ 1.7 lakh crore)?
 - NASA**
- ❑ The **Royal Netherlands Navy ship** HNLMS De Ruyter (F 804) arrived in Kochi on May 4, 2026. It is a De Zeven Provinciën-class warship.
- ❑ The Indian **Army** successfully concluded a **4-day 'Advanced Surgical Eye Camp** (Operation Netra 1.0)' at the 153 General Hospital in **Leh**.
- ❑ The **138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee** meeting concluded in **Ahmedabad**.
- ❑ The Indian Navy celebrated the successful conclusion of the historic IOS Sagar (**INS Sunayna**) voyage in **Kochi** on May 20, 2026.
- ❑ Open Observatory of the Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART)
 - Andhra University, Visakhapatnam**
- ❑ Spring Term 2026 – Passing Out Parade at the Indian Naval Academy (INA), **Ezhimala**
- ❑ Where did the **World Health Organization** declare the **Ebola outbreak** a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern'?
 - Congo and Uganda**
- ❑ What did the World Health Assembly recognize as a **public health priority** for the first time?
 - Stroke**

International Tournaments

Athletics

29th National Senior Athletics Federation Competition 2026/ Federation Cup 2026 Athletics Meet

- ❑ Popularly known as the Federation Cup.
- ❑ **Venue:** Birsa Munda stadium, Morabadi, Ranchi, Jharkhand, 22- 25 May 2026.
- ❑ It will serve as the only selection trial for the Commonwealth Games 2026.
 - ◆ However, the Athletics Federation of India clarified that exemptions may be granted for athletes not competing in Ranchi, provided they receive prior written approval from the federation.
 - ◆ Each country is restricted to a maximum of 32 track and field athletes at CWG 2026.
- ❑ Key Event Highlights:
 - ◆ **Men's Pole Vault: Dev Meena (Gold) and Kuldeep Kumar (Silver)** jointly set a new National Record by clearing 5.45m (Previous: 5.41m).
 - Meena gold- on the basis of registering fewer total misses.
 - Both qualified for the Commonwealth Games (CWG Q-mark: 5.25m).
 - ◆ **Men's 100m race:** The National Record (NR) was broken multiple times in this championship- first by Gurindervir Singh (10.17s), then immediately by Animesh Kujur (10.15s). Subsequently, Gurindervir Singh established a new national benchmark in the final by recording a historic time of 10.09 seconds.
 - He is officially the first Indian in history to complete a 100m race under 10.10 seconds.
 - He is from Jalandhar, Punjab.
 - ◆ Note: In the women's category, Dutee

Chand holds the 100m national record with a timing of 11.17 seconds, which she achieved at the Indian Grand Prix IV at Patiala in 2021.

- ◆ **Men's 400 m Race:** Vishal T.K. (Tamilnadu) crossed the 400m finish line in 44.98 seconds at Ranchi, becoming the first Indian in history to run a sub-45 second 400m race.
- ◆ **Men's High Jump (Meet Record Equaled): Sarvesh Kushare (Maharashtra)** won Gold by clearing 2.28m, equaling **Tejaswin Shankar's meet record** and securing a CWG berth.
- ◆ **Men's Long Jump:** M. Sreeshankar won Gold with an 8.08m leap, breaching the CWG qualification mark (8.05m).
- ◆ **Men's 110m Hurdles (New Meet Record):** Tejas Shirse clocked 13.50 seconds for Gold, setting a new Meet Record (Previous: 13.61s).
- ◆ **Men's 10,000m Race Walk:** Olympian Sandeep Kumar (Haryana) won Gold (39:51.95) after initial winner Nitin Gupta was disqualified under World Athletics Rule 6.2.
- ◆ **Men's 1500 m event: Gold Medal: Rahul Baloda (Jhunjhunu)** timing of 3:40.06. Silver: Sakir, Bronze: Ajay Kumar Saroj
- ◆ **Decathlon:** Tejaswin Shankar became first Indian to cross 8,000 points (8,057) in decathlon (the 10th Asian ever to score over 8,000 points)

International Association of Ultrarunners 24-Hour Asia and Oceania Championships 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Hirosaki City, Japan. 23-24 May 2026.
- ❑ **Participations:** with 81 athletes from nine countries.
- ❑ **India's Performance:** Team India registered a historic performance, winning a total of 5 medals and completely dominating the men's segment with a clean podium sweep.

❑ **Men's Category:**

◆ **Individual Results:**

- **Gold Medal:** Amar Singh Devanda – Covered an outstanding distance of 282.881 km (226 laps), shattering his own previous Indian national record of 272.537 km.

He is from Chithwadi, Chomu, Jaipur

- **Silver Medal:** Geeno Antony
- **Bronze Medal:** Saurav Kumar Ranjan

◆ **Men's Team:**

- **India (Gold):** Combined distance of 815.833 km
- Japan (Silver)
- Australia (Bronze)

❑ **Women's Category**

◆ **Women's Team**

- Gold: Japan
- Silver: Australia
- Bronze: India.

◆ **Individual Results:**

- Top Indian Performer: Tenzin Dolma finished 4th individually.
- Miho Nakata of Japan secured the individual gold

World Athletics Relays Gaborone 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Gaborone, Botswana (2-3 May)
- ❑ **India's Participation:** 21 Member Squad will compete in 5 events (Exception- Women's 4x400m).
- ❑ The Indian mixed 4x100m relay team of Ragul Kumar, Nithya Gandhe, Animesh Kujur and Sneha Sathyanarayana Shanuvalli clocked 41.35 - a new national record time in the event - to finish sixth.
- ◆ Winner: Botswana
- ◆ Runner Up: South Africa

Weightlifting

Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Mahatma Mandir Exhibition and convention center, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. 11-17 May 2026.
- ◆ India is hosting this event after 44 years (New Delhi hosted it in 1982).

- ❑ **Participants:** around 180 athletes from 28 countries.

- ◆ India, China and Sri Lanka = largest squad with 16 lifters each.

- ❑ A total of 27 Asian records and 25 world records – including Senior and Junior categories – were set during the championships.

❑ **Medal Tally**

Rank	Teams	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	21	12	8	41
2	DPR Korea	18	11	1	30
3	Chinese Taipei	3	7	3	13
11.	India	0	1	9	10

◆ **Silver Medal: 1**

- Gyaneshwari Yadav (53kg) in the snatch event.

◆ **Bronze Medal: 9**

- Sanjana (77kg) won three bronze medals,
→ Overall, clean and jerk and snatch.
- Ajith Narayana (71kg) won two bronze medals,
→ Overall, clean and jerk.
- Gyaneshwari Yadav (53kg),
- Komal Kohar (48kg) won 2 bronze medals- one in clean and jerk and another for overall performance. This was the first medal in this championship for India.

❖ **Note:** Komal Kohar competing in place of injured Olympic medallist Mirabai Chanu.

- Harjinder Kaur (69kg) in the snatch event.

- ❑ The championships awarded separate medals for snatch, clean and jerk, and overall totals.

Badminton

34th BWF Thomas Cup - Men's Championship

- ❑ **Venue:** Horsens, Denmark, 24 April- 3 May.

- ❑ **Nature:** Biennial international badminton team championships organized by the Badminton World Federation (BWF)
- ❑ **Winner:**
 - ◆ **Gold:** China (China defeated France 3-1).
 - ◆ **Silver:** France
 - ◆ **Bronze:** India (defeated by France by 0-3) and Denmark
 - ◆ India won bronze medal by defeating Chinese Taipei (3-0)
- ❑ **Note:** India's historic first-ever title was won in 2022 in Bangkok.
- ❑ **Team India:** Hariharan A. , M.R. Arjun , Kiran George, Dhruv Kapila, K. Srikanth, H.S. Prannoy , Satwiksairaj R. , Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty, Chirag Shetty.

31st BWF Uber Cup 2026- Women's Championship

- ❑ **Venue:** Forum Horsens 24 April- 3 May 2026.
- ❑ **Winner**
 - ◆ **Gold:** South Korea (3rd Title).
 - ◆ **Silver:** China (Defending champions). (South Korea defeated China 3-1).
 - ◆ **Bronze Medalists:** Indonesia and Japan
- ❑ **India's Performance**
 - ◆ **Outcome:** Group Stage Exit.
 - ◆ **Note:** For the first time since 2018, the Indian Women's team failed to reach the Quarter-finals.

Thailand Open

- ❑ **Venue:** Nimibutr Stadium, Thailand, May 12-17, 2026
- ❑ **Prize Money:** USD 500,000
- ❑ **Men's Single**
 - ◆ **Gold:** Anders Antonsen (Denmark)
 - ◆ **Silver:** Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand)
- ❑ **Women's Single**
 - ◆ **Gold:** Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
 - ◆ **Silver:** Chen Yufei (China)
- ❑ **Men's Double**
 - ◆ Indonesia's Leo Rolly Carnando and

Daniel Marthin won Gold Medal by defeating **India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** by 12-21, 23-25 .

- ◆ They have won gold in this tournament in 2019 and 2024.
- ◆ Defeated Malaysia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin in the semifinal

Women's Double

- ◆ **Bao Lijing and Cao Zihan (China)**

Mixed Double

- ◆ Alexandra Boje, Mathias Christiansen (Denmark)

Tennis

Italian Open

- ❑ Also known as the Internazionali D'Italia.
- ❑ **Venue:** Foro Italico, Rome, 6-17 May, 2026
- ❑ **Men's Singles**
 - ◆ **Jannik Sinner defeated Casper Ruud (Norway) 6-4, 6-4** to win the men's singles title.
 - ◆ **Sinner became the 2nd Italian man after Adriano Panatta (1976) to win the tournament.**
 - ◆ He also became only the second player after Novak Djokovic to complete the **Career Golden Masters (all nine ATP Masters 1000 titles)**.
 - ◆ This was Sinner's 6th straight Masters 1000 title and his 10th overall.
- ❑ **Women's Singles**
 - ◆ **Elina Svitolina (Ukraine) won the Italian Open title**, defeating Coco Gauff 6-4, 6-7(3), 6-2 in the final.
 - ◆ Svitolina also defeated World No. 2 Elena Rybakina and World No. 3 Iga Swiatek during the tournament.
 - ◆ It was her third Italian Open title and **first clay-court title of the season** ahead of the French Open.

Mutua Madrid Open 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Madrid, Spain (21 April- 3 May 2026)
- ❑ **Men's Singles**
 - ◆ Winner: Jannik Sinner (Italy) defeating Germany's Alexander Zverev in the final.
 - ◆ It was Sinner's maiden Madrid Open Title.
 - ◆ He became the first player to win 5 consecutive ATP Masters 1000 titles.
- ❑ **Women's Single:**
 - ◆ Marta Kostyk (Ukraine) defeated Mirra Andreeva and won this title.
 - ◆ This was her first WTA 1000 title.

ATP 250 Geneva Open 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Geneva, Switzerland. (17-23 May 2026)
- ❑ **Men's Doubles category**
 - ◆ **Gold:** Romain Arneodo (Monaco) & Marc Polmans (Australia).
 - ◆ **Silver:** Yuki Bhambri (India) & Michael Venus (New Zealand)

Ice Hockey

IIHF U18 Asia Cup 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 27 April- 3 May, 2026.
- ❑ **Winners: Gold-** Uzbekistan, **Silver-** Kyrgyzstan, **Bronze-** Mongolia
- ❑ **India's Performance:**
 - ◆ India finished 5th, with notable wins including an 8-1 victory over Macau.
 - ◆ **Gurtej Bhatti** finished the tournament as the leading goal scorer with 13 goals and **was named India's best player.**

Soft Hockey

South Asian Soft Hockey Championship

- ❑ **Venue:** Kathmandu, Nepal. (20-22 May 2026)
- ❑ **Men's Final:** India defeated Pakistan by 7-0 in the final to become champion.
 - ❑ Captain: Lakhan More (Maharashtra)

- ❑ Sahil Sakpal- Hattrick, Vijai Rai- 2 goals
- ❑ **Women's Final:** India defeat Nepal with a 6-0 scoreline to become champions.
 - ◆ Captain: D. Keerthiga (Puducherry)
 - ◆ Nandita Sharma- 4 goals.
 - ◆ Highest scorer of the tournament= 8 goals.
- ❑ **Rajasthan's Player**
 - ◆ Krishna Swami from Suratgarh, Rajasthan
 - ◆ **Team Coach:** Kapil Sharma from Raisinghnagar, Rajasthan.
 - ◆ The Indian team's pre-tournament preparation and training camp was organized at the Dronacharya Academy in Jaipur.

Hockey

India-Australia Under-18 Bilateral Hockey Series 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Udhav Das Mehta (Bhai Ji) Central SAI Centre, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❑ **Men's Category**
 - ◆ Series Tied (1-1)
 - ◆ Series Scoreline: 4 matches (1 Win, 2 Draws, 1 Loss).
 - ◆ **Captain:** Ketan Kushwaha
- ❑ **Women's Category**
 - ◆ Australia won (3-1)
 - ◆ Captain: Sweetie Kujur

Chess

Super Rapid and Blitz Tournament 2026, Poland

- ❑ **Venue:** Warsaw, Poland, 5-10 May, 2026.
- ❑ **Tournament Prize Fund:** 2,00,000 USD
- ❑ **Total Players:** 5 Tour Players + 5 Wildcards (D Gukesh; Wildcard)
- ❑ **Winners:** 1st Hans Niemann, 2nd Fabiano Caruana 3rd. Wesley So.
- ❑ **India's Performance:** Gukesh Dommaraju secured 6th place.

2026 Super Chess Classic Romania

- ❑ **Venue:** Bucharest, Romania (12-24 May 2026)

- ❑ **Participants:** 10 Players featuring nine full Tour players and one wildcard
- ❑ **Winners**
 1. Vincent Keymer (Germany)
 2. Fabiano Caruana
 3. Javokhir Sundarov
 7. Anish Giri
 8. R. Praggnanandhaa

Commonwealth Chess Championship 2026-27

- ❑ Host Venue: Kalutara, Sri Lanka
- ❑ Date: 16-26 May, 2026.
- ❑ Organised by: Chess Federation of India.
- ❑ Member Nations of CCA: 53 Countries

Format	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
Classical	GM Mitrabha Guha (India)	GM Ranindu Liyanage (Sri Lanka)	GM Srihari L R (India)
Rapid	GM P. Iniyan (India)	GM Srihari L R (India)	GM Mitrabha Guha (India)
Blitz	GM P. Iniyan (India)	GM Rohith Krishna (India)	GM Srihari L R (India)

Archery

Archery World Cup Stage-2

- ❑ **Venue:** Shanghai, China, 5-10 May 2026.
- ❑ Indian Women Recurve Team:
 - ◆ **Gold:** Ankita Bhakat, Deepika Kumari, Kumkum Anil Mohod
 - Won gold by defeating China
 - ◆ **Silver:** Yuwei Huang, Qi Yu. Jingyi Zhu, China
 - ◆ **Bronze:** Chaeyoung Kang, Yunji Lee, Yejin Oh, South Korea
 - ◆ **Note:** India defeated South Korea, 10 times Champion, in the semifinal.
- ❑ **Sahil Jadhav (Maharashtra) Men's Individual Compound Event**
 - ◆ Won Bronze Medal.
 - ◆ Defeated Martin Damsbo (Denmark) in the bronze medal playoff to secure India's first medal of the ongoing tournament.
 - ◆ **Gold:** Sebastian F Garcia, Mexico
 - ◆ **Silver:** Nicolas G Girard, France
- ❑ **Simarnjeet Kaur- Individual Recurve Event**
 - ◆ In the contest for the bronze medal, she was defeated by Korean Player Jang Minhee Jang.
 - ◆ She finished 4th.

ISSF World Cup Shotgun, 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Almaty, Kazakhstan, 02 - 11 May 2026

- ❑ **Ranking:** 1. Italy 2. Australia 3. Kazakhstan 10. India

India's Performance

- ❑ Bronze: Neeru Dhanda and Vivaan Kapoor in the Trap Mixed Event with score of 24/30.
 - ◆ **Gold:** Chinese Taipei's Kun-Pi Yang and Wan-Yu Liu with a world record score of 36/40 in the final.
 - ◆ **Silver:** Italian duo Mauro De Filippis and Silvana Maria Stanco (33)

Cricket

ICC Men's T20I rankings

- ❑ India retained top position; 275 rating points
 - ◆ India is no 1 for consecutively 3 years.
- ❑ 2. England; 262
- ❑ 3. Australia; 258 rating points.
- ❑ The latest rankings evaluate matches played from May 2025 at full value, while those from the past two years carry a 50% weight.

Squash

Asian Junior Individual Squash Champion 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Panzhihua, China.
- ❑ **India: 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 4 Bronze.**
- ❑ **Boys' U-19 category:** Aryaveer Dewan won the Gold medal by defeating South Korea's Jonghyeok Lee in the final.
 - ◆ He became only the 4th Indian to win the Asian Boys's U-19 Gold Medal.

- ❑ **Silver:**
 - ◆ **Shiven Agarwal (Boys' U-17)** Anika Dubey (**Girls' U-17**) – Amarya Bajaj (Boys' U-13)
- ❑ **Bronze:** Lokesh Subramani (boys' U17), Abhyuday Arora (boys' U13), and Shanaya Parasrampur and **Divyanshi Jain (Jaipur)**, defeated by Japan's Riyo Yoshino) [Girls Under-13]
- ❑ **Dhairyya Gogia (Jaipur)** in Junior Men's category came 5th Place and was defeated by Amarya Bajaj in quarter finals.
- ❑ **Note:** Squash will be in the Olympics for the first time at the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles.

3rd HCL National Doubles Championships 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Chennai, 13-16 May 2026
- ❑ **Organised by:** Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) in association with HCL Technologies,
- ❑ **Women's Team**
 - ◆ Joshna Chinappa and Rathika Seelan
- ❑ **Men's Team**
 - ◆ Abhay Singh and V. Senthilikumar
- ❑ **Mixed team**
 - ◆ V. Senthilikumar and Joshna Chinappa
- ❑ The tournament served as the National selection event for the second Asian doubles championships, scheduled in Malaysia from June 18 to 21.

Wushu

11th Sanda (Wushu) World Cup

- ❑ **Venue:** Macau, China (11-16 May)
- ❑ **India's Performance:** 2 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze.
- ❑ **Gold:** 1. Shivani (75kg) (BSF) 2. Aparna (52kg)
- ❑ **Silver:** Kushal Kumar from Indian Air Force (48kg).
- ❑ **Bronze:** 1. Kareena Kaushik (SSB), 2. Sagar Dhaiya (ITBP).

Table Tennis

World Table Tennis Contender Tournament 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Lagos, Nigeria
- ❑ **Date:** 19-24 May 2026.
- ❑ **Prize Money:** 1,00,000 USD

Category Event	Winner Name(s)
Men's Singles	Anders Lind (Denmark)
Women's Singles	Satsuki Odo (Japan)
Men's Doubles	Manav Thakkar & Manush Shah (India) defeated Iulian Chirita and Andrei Istrate (Romania)
Women's Doubles	Reina Aso (Japan) & Joo Cheonhui (Korea)
Mixed Doubles	Manush Shah & Diya Chitale (India) defeated Leo de Nodrest and Camille Lutz (France)

ITTF World Table Tennis Championships 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Wembley Arena in London (28 April- 10 May 2026)
- ❑ **Winner:**
 - ◆ Men's Team - China defeated Japan in final
 - ◆ Women's Team: China defeated Japan in final
 - ◆ China has secured both gold medals for the seventh straight ITTF World Team Championships.
 - ◆ The Swaythling Cup (Men's team) and Corbillon Cup (Women's team) have been reclaimed by China for the 24th occasion.
- ❑ India's campaign came to an end after both the men's (by Austria) and women's (by USA) teams lost their respective round of 32 matches.

Wrestling

U23 Asian Championships 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Da Nang, Vietnam.
- ❑ **Date:** 23-26 May 2026

❑ India's Performance:

- ◆ Total- 27 medal;
- ◆ **Women's Wrestling:** Total- 10; Gold(6), Silver (2), Bronze (2).
 - **Gold:** Muskan (53kg), Tapasya (57kg), Bhagyashree (62kg), Pulkit (67kg), Mansi (68kg), and Kajal (76kg)
- ◆ **Men's Freestyle:** 9 total Medal= Gold(4), Silver(3), Bronze (2)
 - Akshay T Dhere (57kg) and Vicky (97kg), Kumar Mohit (65kg) and Chandermohan (79kg)
- ◆ Greco-Roman Wrestling: Total- 8: Gold (1), Silver(2), Bronze(5)
 - Gold: Sumit (63kg)

Boxing

Asian Boxing Championship U-15 and U-17 (2026)

- ❑ **Venue:** Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 1-16 May, 2026

U-15 Team

- ❑ Team India concludes a highly successful campaign with an impressive 27 medals:
 - ◆ **Gold:** 9, Silver: 6, Bronze: 12.
- ❑ U-15 Girls' team
Gold: 7, Silver: 2, Bronze: 5
- ❑ U-15 Boys' team
Gold: 2, Silver: 4, Bronze: 7
- ❑ **Rajasthan Performance:**
 - ◆ Yash Kumar (Bharatpur Dhanshoti village, 14 year age) 33 kg weight category
 - Won Gold Medal,
 - Defeated Sayat Rakhymberdi (Kazakhstan), by 4-1.
 - Became 1st Boxer from Rajasthan to win gold medal in Asian Boxing in the junior category.

U-17 Team

- ❑ **Total Medal:** 17= Gold: 2, Silver: 7, Bronze: 8
 - ◆ Gold: Rakhi (46kg) and Navya (57kg)
- ❑ The U-17 girls
 - ◆ **12-medal**= Gold: 2, Silver: 6, Bronze: 4
- ❑ U-17 Boys
 - ◆ **5 Medals**= Silver: 1, Bronze: 4.

Golf

PGA Championship

- ❑ **Venue:** Aronimink, Pennsylvania, USA (11-17 May 2026).
- ❑ Aaron Rai became the 2nd ever Indian origin golfer to win the PGA Championship. The Rodman Wanamaker Trophy is awarded to the winner.
 - ◆ The first was Vijay Singh (Fiji).
 - ◆ Runner up: Jon Rahm (Spain), Alex Smalley (USA).
- ❑ Rai became the first British golfer in 107 years to win the title. (First- Jim Barnes) With this victory, he jumped to 15th position in the world rankings (previously 44th).
- ❑ **The four Men's Major Championships**
 - ◆ The Masters Tournament: 9-12 April
 - ◆ PGA Championship
 - ◆ US Open: 18-21 June
 - ◆ The Open Championship: 16-19 July.

Football

AFC Under-17 Women's Asia Cup

- ❑ **Venue:** Suzhou, China.
- ❑ **Champion:** North Korea (DPR Korea) defeated Japan in the final.
- ❑ India qualified for the quarterfinals of this for the first time by defeating Lebanon by 4-nil.
 - ◆ **Goals:** Pritika Barman, Alva Devi Senjam, Joya
- ❑ India was defeated by China in the quarter final by 0-3.
 - ◆ With this China secured their place in FIFA U-17 WC Morocco 2026.
- ❑ **Head Coach:** Pamela Conti
- ❑ **Captain:** Elizabed Lakra.
- ❑ **Note:** India marked their first appearance in the knockout at the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup since 2005.
- ❑ **Munni Bhambhu**
 - ◆ She was the goalkeeper of this team.
 - ◆ She is from Dhingsari, Nokha Tehsil, Bikaner, Rajasthan.

Indian Women's League 2025-26

- ❑ **Phase-2 Date:** 27 April- 18 May
- ❑ **Winner:** East Bengal Football Club (FC)
 - ◆ The team defeated Nita Football Academy in the final by 2-0 and both goals were scored by Soumya Guguloth (Player of the Match).
 - ◆ East Bengal won this 2nd consecutive title.
 - ◆ Final Match: East Bengal Ground, Kolkata
- ❑ **Runner Up:** Sethu FC
- ❑ **Top Scorer**

Rank	Player	Team	Score
1.	Fazila Ikwaput	East Bengal FC	20
2.	Pyari XAXA	Nita Football Academy	13
3.	Soumya Guguloth	East Bengal FC	10

Indian Super League 2025-26

- ❑ **Date:** 14 February- 21 May 2026
- ❑ **Final Match Venue:** Kishore Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata
- ❑ **Winner:** East Bengal FC by defeating Inter Kashi (2-1)
 - ◆ First ever ISL Championship Title.
- ❑ **Golden Boot Winner:** Yusuf Ajezari (East Bengal)= highest Goal (11)
- ❑ **Golden Ball:** Miguel Figuera (East Bengal FC)
- ❑ **Golden Glove:** Hrithik Tiwari (FC Goa)
- ❑ This marks the 4th time East Bengal has been crowned the top-flight football champions of India.
- ❑ **Total Participating Teams: 14**
- ❑ This was the first time that the ISL did not feature playoffs or a final to decide the champions. The table toppers after the league stage were crowned champions.

Swami Vivekanand U-20 National Men's Football Tournament 2026

- ❑ **Date:** 2-27 May 2026
- ❑ **Venue:** Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh.
- ❑ **Champion:** Mizoram
- ❑ **Runner Up:** Kerala
- ❑ **Note:** Meghalaya defeated Rajasthan team by 3-0 in Rajasthan's 4th match in this tournament..
- ❑ **Captain:** Shivam. Vice Captain: Jitendra Kumar.

Coppa Italia 2025-26 (Italian Football Cup)

- ❑ **Champions:** Inter Milan (10th time), Runner-Up: S.S. Lazio

Spanish La Liga

- ❑ **Winner:** Barcelona (29th time)
 - ◆ **Coach:** Hansi Flick.
- ❑ **Runner up:** Real Madrid
- ❑ **Player of the Season:** Lamine Yamal, Barcelona

DFB-Pokal 2025-26 (German Cup)

- ❑ **Final Match Venue:** Olympiastadion, Berlin
- ❑ **Champions:** Bayern Munich won the tournament for a record-extending 21st time.
 - ◆ England national team captain Harry Kane scored a second-half hat-trick.
- ❑ **Runner-Up:** VfB Stuttgart (The defending champions of the tournament).

English Premier League (EPL) 2025-26

- ❑ **Champion:** Arsenal FC
 - ◆ Arsenal have won this for the 4th time. (Last in 2001-02)
- ❑ **Runner Up:** Manchester City.
- ❑ **Golden Boot Award:** Erling Haaland, Manchester City (27 Goals)
 - ◆ He won this for the 3rd time (2022-23 and 2023-24).

Miscellaneous Games

2nd Petanque Transplant Asian Open Championship 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Bangkok, Thailand (29 April- 3 May 2026)
- ❑ **Participating Nations:** 9 countries
- ❑ **India's Performance-** won 6 Medal
- ❑ **Participants:** 12 Players.
- ❑ **Rajasthan's Performance**
 - ◆ **Bhavani Singh-** Silver Medal in Petanque Doubles (Nation Category)
 - ◆ **Harshvardhan Singh-** Bronze in Asian Category.
 - ◆ **Mujahid Naqvi-** Bronze in Nation Category.

National & Regional Tournaments

24th Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial National Shooting Championship

- ❑ **Pistol Event:** Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, new Delhi (28 April 14 May)
- Rifle Event:** Mdhy Pradesh State shooting Range, Bhopal (2-15 May)
- ❑ **Venue:** New Delhi (28 April - 14 May 2026).
 - ◆ Bhopal (2-15 May 2026)
- ❑ **Organisers:** National Rifle Association of India. (NRAI)
- ❑ **Rajasthan's Performance**
 - ◆ **Anjali Shekhawat** claimed the gold medal in the 10m air pistol women's event
 - ◆ **50m Rifle 3 Positions Women Team**
 - Bronze Medal- Manini Kaushik, Monika Jhakar (Jaipur) and Kritiraj Rathore
 - ◆ **Abhishek Saini** clinched the junior men's title with a score of 241.1 in the final.
 - ◆ **Yogesh Kumar Khichad won 5 medals** with the same score of 241.1
 - ◆ Rajasthan's Devendra Farswal emerged victorious in the youth men's even
 - ◆ **10m Pistol Men Team**

- Silver Medal-Yogesh Kumar, Sandeep Bishnoi

◆ **10m Pistol Sub Youth Men**

- Silver Medal - Devendra Farswal

Cricket

5th Elite National Physical Disability T20 Cricket Championship 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Sports Garden Cricket Ground, Bangalore, Karnataka (17 – 24 May 2026)
- ❑ **Organiser:** The Karnataka State Divyang Cricket Association (KSDCA), in collaboration with the Physically Challenged Cricket Association of India, (Founder Member Association of DCCI)
- ❑ **Participation:** 12 state teams.
- ❑ **Winner:** Uttar Pradesh (Captain: Rahul Singh) defeated defending champions Mumbai by four wickets in the final.

Journalist Premier League 2026

- ❑ **Organiser:** Journalist Welfare Trust and Union Press Club. (10 April-3 May, 2026)
- ❑ **Final Match Venue:** Tau Devilal Stadium, Panchkula, Haryana.
- ❑ **Winner:** Rajasthan (Captain: Mukesh Meena).
 - ◆ Rajasthan became the winner by defeating Himachal Pradesh.
- ❑ **Player of the Match and Series:** Satish Kumawat

KM Rungta Trophy Cricket Tournament 2026

- ❑ **Organizing Body:** Jaipur District Cricket Association (JDCA).
- ❑ **Champion:** Jaipur A
- ❑ **Runner-up:** Jaipur B
- ❑ **Individual Awards & Honours:**
 - ◆ Best Batsman: Aditya Jhala
 - ◆ Best Bowler: Aditya Tank
 - ◆ Man of the Series: Gaurav Salvi
- ❑ Organized in memory of the late Kishan Rungta, former Chairman of the BCCI Selection Committee

31st Rajasthan State Sub-Junior Handball Championship

- ❑ **Venue:** Patel Stadium, Ajmer (23-26 May 2026).
- ❑ **Inaugurated by:** Vasudev Devnani, Speaker Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.
- ❑ **Organised by:** Ajmer District Handball Association.
- ❑ **Participations:** 40 teams. [24 Boy's category, 16 Girl's]
- ❑ **Winner**
 - ◆ **Boy's Final:** Gold- Sri Ganganagar, Silver- Bikaner, Bronze- Jaipur
 - ◆ **Girl's Final:** Gold- Sri Ganganagar, Silver- Bhilwara, Bronze- Jaipur.
 - ◆ **Best Player (Boys' Category):** Yash Yadav (Jaipur)
 - ◆ **Best Player (Girls' Category):** Ashnoor (Sri Ganganagar)
 - Both were honored with Rs. 1,500 cash prizes by the State Handball Association in memory of Late Amrit Kumar Nata and Late Irfan Ali Gaur.

8th Indian Open Para Athletics Championships 2026

- ❑ **Host Venue:** Kanteerava Stadium Bangalore, Bengaluru (25-28 May 2026)

Athlete Name/ State	Event & Category	Winning Performance
Mohammed Basil (Kerala)	Men's 100m (T47)	10.63 seconds
Haney (Haryana)	Men's Discus Throw (F37)	54.03 meters
Sharmila (Haryana)	Women's Shot Put (F57)	9.86 meters

Rajasthan State Under-7 Chess Championship 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Jhalawar
- ❑ **Prize Money:** Winner: Rs. 2,100. Runner-up: Rs. 1,500, Third Prize: Rs. 1,000

Open Boy's Category	
Medal	Champion
Gold	Charvik Sharma (Jaipur)
silver	Ramnik Singh Saluja (Udaipur)
Bronze	Samarith Maheshwari (Bhilwara)
Girl's category	
Gold	Ekanshi Chandel (Jaipur)
Silver	Vihana Gokhry (Udaipur)
Bronze	Vinya Agrawal (Alwar)

Panch Gaurav Yojana (One District One Sport) Kabaddi Tournament

- ❑ **Final match Venue:** Chaugan Stadium, Jaipur.

Category	Segment	Winner (Block)	Runner-up (Block)
Under-15	Boys Girls	Jamwa Ramgarh Chaksu	Jobner Madhorajpura
Under-19	Boys Girls	Jaipur Rampura Dabri	Bassi Jaipur
Under-25	Boys Girls	Shahpura Chomu	Dudu Madhorajpura
Above 25 Years	Boys Girls	Chomu Rampura Dabri	Bassi

45th Sub-Junior National Shooting Ball Championship (Under-17)

- ❑ **Venue:** NTR Stadium, Mahbubabad, Telangana (May 12 to 14, 2026).
- ❑ The team was selected on the basis of performance in the State Level Championship held in Jodhpur .
- ❑ **Girl's Category:**
 - ◆ Gold: Haryana
 - ◆ Silver: Rajasthan (Captain: Chanchal Jangid)
 - ◆ Bronze: Maharashtra
- ❑ **Boy's Category**
 - ◆ Gold: Uttar Pradesh
 - ◆ Silver: Gujarat
 - ◆ Bronze: West Bengal.
- ❑ Rajasthan (Captain- Khushalsingh Sherawat)- knocked out by UP in quarterfinals.

45th Rajasthan Sub Junior State Shooting Ball Championship 2026 (U-17)

- ❑ **Venue:** Veena Bharati Senior Secondary School Sursagar, Jodhpur.
- ❑ **Girls's Category**
1. Jaipur 2. Ajmer 3. Bhilwara
- ❑ **Boy's Category**
1. Jaipur 2. Ganganagar 3. Bhilwara

5th Junior & Senior West Zone Rollball Championship 2025-26

- ❑ **Venue:** Ryann International School, Udaipur, Rajasthan
- ❑ **Date:** 2-3 May 2026

Category	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Junior Boys	Rajasthan	Gujarat	Maharashtra
Junior Girls	Maharashtra	Rajasthan	Gujarat
Senior Men	Gujarat	Rajasthan	
Senior Women	Gujarat	Maharashtra	Rajasthan

S.M. Krishna Memorial Open ATP Challenger 50 (2026)

- ❑ **Venue:** S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium, Bengaluru.(18-23 May)
- ❑ **Singles Champion:** Russian player Petr Bar Biryukov won his maiden Challenger singles title.
- ❑ **Doubles Champions:** The Indian pair of Mukund Sasikumar and Adil Kalyanpur won.

47th All India Electricity Basketball, Wrestling, Kabaddi and Kho-Kho Competition

- ❑ **Venue:** Balewadi Stadium, Pune (Maharashtra) (6 – 10 May, 2026)
- ❑ **Host:** Maharashtra Power
- ❑ **Sports Categories:** Basketball, Wrestling, Kabaddi (Men & Women), and Kho-Kho (Men & Women)
- ❑ **Rajasthan's Participation:**
 - ◆ **Contingent:** Rajasthan is represented by its largest-ever delegation to date, consisting of 47 players across 6 teams.

- ◆ **Best March Past:** During the opening ceremony, the Rajasthan contingent was awarded the 'Best March Past Trophy' under the leadership of Pawan Sharma.
- ◆ **Debut Appearances:** This marks the first time Rajasthan has fielded teams in Basketball and Kho-Kho (Men), as well as Kabaddi and Kho-Kho (Women) for this competition.

- ❑ **All over Results**

Kho-Kho (Men & Women):

- **Women's Team**
1. Maharashtra 2. Rajasthan 3. Gujarat
- **Best Defender- Poonam Pania (Raj)** (Captain)
- ◆ **Men's Team**
1. Maharashtra 2. Haryana 3. Rajasthan

Basket Ball

- ◆ **Men's Team** 1. Punjab 2. Haryana 3. Maharashtra

Wrestling

- ◆ 1. Maharashtra 2. Haryana 3. Himachal
- ◆ **Deepak Kumar (86kg):** Gold - Jaipur Discom

Kabaddi

- ◆ **Men's Team** 1. Maharashtra 2. Himachal 3. Haryana
- ◆ **Women's Team:** 1. Himachal 2. Maharashtra (MahaDISCOM) 3. Maharashtra (Mahagenco)

All India Inter University Wushu Championship 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Kashmir University, Srinagar, JK {4-9 May, 2026}.
- ❑ **Rajasthan Performance:**
 - ◆ Rajasthan University won a total of 8 medals {5 silver & 3 Bronze}.
 - ◆ **Silver Medal:** Bhanu Pratap Pareek (Kiyanshu), Tanisha Mahavar (Changquan), Mahima Choudhary (Traditional non type), Gorang Saini (wing chun), Vaidehi Pareek (flexible weapon)

- ◆ Bronze: Vaidehi Pareek (traditional non type), Peeyush Mehra (Taijiquan) and Pooja (Sanda, 70kg weight category).

Rajasthan State Fencing Championship 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Kekri, Ajmer, 7-10 May 2026.
- ❑ **Organiser:** Rajasthan State Fencing Association
- ❑ **Category:** Senior, Junior, Junior U 20, Cadet U17, Sub Junior U14 in Boys and Girls category.
Jaipur won 6 gold medals.
- ❑ Almost 100 players honored with Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals.
- ❑ **Category:** Foil, Epee, and Sabre.
- ❑ Fencing is one of five sports which have been permanent fixtures at the Olympic Games since the first modern Games were held in 1896.

Rajasthan First State Ranking Table Tennis Tournament 2026

- ❑ **Host:** Ajmer (20-24 May 2026)
- ❑ Top Two (First & Second) Position Holders by Category:
 - ◆ Men's Doubles: Harshvardhan-Bhavit, Rahul-Tushar.
 - ◆ Women's Doubles: Manisha-Aarna, Radhika-Samriddhi.
 - ◆ Mixed Doubles: Saurabh-Nandini, Rahul-Khyati.
 - ◆ Men's Singles: Aarav Acharya (Silver Medal).
 - ◆ Women's Singles: Radhika Soni (Silver Medal).
 - ◆ Under-19 Boys: Arijay Kuchhal, Harshvardhan Kuchhal.
 - ◆ Under-19 Girls: Samriddhi Vyas, Radhika Soni.
 - ◆ Under-17 Boys: Aarav Acharya, Tushar Ramchandani.
 - ◆ Under-17 Girls: Radhika Soni, Aarna Sahni.
 - ◆ Under-15 Boys: Samruddh Bagda (Gold Medal).
 - ◆ Under-15 Girls: Aarna Sahni, Manvika Singh.
 - ◆ Under-13 Boys: Daksh Soni, Aarav Sahni.

- ◆ Under-13 Girls: Aarna Sahni (Gold Medal).
- ◆ Under-11 Boys: Tarun Sharma, Manvik Sharma.

5th Rajasthan State Sub Junior (U15) Boxing Championship 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Alwar, Rajasthan (22-24 May 2026)
- ❑ **Chief Guest:** State Minister for Forests, Shri Sanjay Sharma
- ❑ **Girls Division**
 - ◆ Winner: 1. Alwar 2. Kota
 - ◆ Best Boxer: Aarika Singh (Kota)
 - ◆ Best Challenger Boxer: Priyanshi (Hanumangarh)
 - ◆ Best Promising Boxer: Taslima (Alwar)
- ❑ **Boys's Division**
 - ◆ Winner: 1. Bharatpur 2. Alwar
 - ◆ Best Boxer: Yash Kumar (Bharatpur)
 - ◆ Best Challenger Boxer: Veer Maritunjay (Jaipur)
 - ◆ Best Promising Boxer: Yuvraj Kumawat (Alwar)

Government Initiative

Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026

- ❑ **Implementation:** 1 May 2026.
- ❑ **Objective:** The focus is on user safety and industry growth.
- ❑ **Legal Basis:** The Rules flow from the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming (PROG) Act, 2025, enacted by Parliament in August 2025.

Key Pillars of the Regulatory Framework

- ❑ The Rules are built around six key pillars.
 1. Online Gaming Authority of India
 - b. attached office of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - c. Head Office: National Capital Territory of Delhi.
 2. Determination of an Online Game
 3. Registration of Online Games
 4. User Safety Features



5. Two-Tier Grievance Redressal and Appellate Mechanism
6. Penalties and Enforcement

FIBA U18 Asia Cup 2026

- ❑ The FIBA Regional Office-Asia on May 13, 2026 announced that the FIBA U18 Asia Cup 2026 will be played in Ahmedabad, India from Aug 13-23, 2026.
- ❑ This will be only the third time India hosts the biennial continental youth tournament.
- ❑ Previous Edition: Bengaluru (2004), Kolkata (1998)

3rd Asian Para Throwball Championship

- ❑ **Context:** Rajasthan has been selected to host the prestigious international sporting event next year.
- ❑ **Host:** Singhania University, Rajasthan, India.
- ❑ **Dates:** 18- 21 March 2027.
- ❑ **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):**
 - ◆ Special Inclusion for Disabled Personnel: BL Soni (former DGP of Rajasthan and current Chairman of the World Police and Fire Games, India Chapter) highlighted that police personnel who became disabled due to injuries sustained during active duty or sports to participate in police games.
- ❑ 2nd Asian Para Throwball Championship, Malaysia
 - ◆ Arun Kumar and Nirmala Kumari will lead the Indian Team in this championship.
 - ◆ They are from Jaipur, Rajasthan.
 - ◆ They are studying in Singhania University, Jhunjhunu.

India Secures Hosting Rights for Major Asian Athletics Events

- ❑ **News:** During the 106th Executive Council meeting of the Asian Athletics Association (AAA) held in Hong Kong (May 27, 2026), India was officially awarded the hosting rights for two major upcoming championships.

3rd Asian Relay Championships (2027)

- ❑ Host City: Chandigarh (UT), India.
- ❑ Chandigarh will host the first major international championship since 1989.
- ❑ 2nd Edition: Shaoxing, China (June 2026)

Asian Indoor Athletics Championships (2028)

Scheduled Venue: State-of-the-art Indoor Athletics Centre at the Kalinga Stadium complex, Bhubaneswar (Odisha), India.

Important One Liners

- ❑ India qualified for Junior Davis Cup (u-16) Finals after finishing 4th in Shymkent, Kazakhstan.
 - ◆ India lost the semifinal to Kazakhstan and third-place playoff to Japan.
 - ◆ Team: Coach- Rana Banerjee, Player: Tavish Pahwa, Hruthik Katakam and Ribhav Saroha.
 - ◆ The 16-team Junior Davis Cup Finals will be hosted in Egypt later this year.
- ❑ Rajasthan Royals was acquired by the Mittal Family (Lakshmi Niwas Mittal and Aditya Mittal) alongside Adar Poonawalla at around Rs 15,600 crore (1.65 bn USD).
 - ◆ One of the eight original IPL franchises, RR was bought by UK-based Emerging Media, owned by Manoj Badale, for US \$67 million in 2008.
 - ◆ Original promoter Manoj Badale continues to retain a minority stake in the franchise.
- ❑ In Badminton, India's Shriyanshi Valishetty clinched the silver medal in women's singles at the Super 100 event at Baoji China Masters in China. She was defeated by An Qi Yuan (China) in the finals.
- ❑ The Indo-Bulgarian duo of Siddhant Banthia and Alexander Donski clinched the Oeiras 4 ATP Challenger 100 doubles title in Portugal by defeating Tiago Pereira and David Vega Hernandez in straight sets.
- ❑ Bikaner clinched the Bari Premier League cricket title by defeating team Renwal by

- 13 runs in the final match, while Surendra Bari (Pink City Royals) was named Man of the Series.
- ❑ The Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) Ad-hoc Committee has unanimously approved a 100% increase in Traveling Allowance (TA) and Daily Allowance (DA) for all male and female players of the state across all age categories.
 - ◆ Committee Members Involved: Convener Dr. Mohit Jaswant Yadav, and members Dhananjay Singh Khimsar, Ashish Tiwari, Arjun Meghwal, and Arisht Singhvi.
 - ❑ What is the 'Steroid Olympic'? It is a term for the 'Enhanced Games' (recently held in Las Vegas), where athletes are openly allowed to use performance-enhancing drugs under medical supervision.
 - ❑ The Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Denmark to establish a first-of-its-kind international cricket exchange program.
 - ◆ Rajasthan's Under-19 (Men/Women) teams will tour Denmark, while Danish teams will train in Jaipur.
 - ❑ Rajasthan has so far appointed 186 medal winners to state government services under out-of-turn appointments.
 - ◆ The state government has approved grants totaling over Rs. 40.12 crore to 1,786 athletes who have achieved national and international recognition.
 - ❑ The International Olympic Committee has removed all restrictions imposed on Belarus. Now they can participate in the qualifying round of Los Angeles with their own national Flag and National Song. Ban on Russia will continue to be in force.
 - ❑ The Central Information Commission ruled that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is not a “public authority” under the Right to Information Act. Hence, BCCI will remain outside the ambit of the RTI Act.
 - ◆ The ruling was passed by Information Commissioner P R Ramesh.
 - ❑ English football club Aston Villa defeated German club SC Freiburg 3-0 in the final held in Istanbul to become the Europa League champions; this is their first major trophy since 1996.
 - ❑ Al Nassr won the Saudi Pro League by defeating Damac. In the final match, Ronaldo scored 2 goals.

Famous Personalities

Persons	Descriptions
Raja Randhir Singh 	• Recently, he passed away at the age of 79. • He was India's first shooting gold medalist in the Asian Games, winning the trap gold at the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games. ○ Arjun Award (1979) • Represented India in trap shooting at five consecutive Olympic Games from 1968 (Mexico) to 1984 (Los Angeles). • First Indian to be elected as the president of Olympic Council of Asia. • International Olympic Committee (IOC): member (2001 - 2014) • Indian Olympic Association (IOA): Secretary General (1987 to 2010)

Gulveer Singh (Uttar Pradesh) 	• He won a silver medal with a 2nd-place finish at the World Athletics Continental Tour in Los Angeles. • He clocked an impressive 13:03.93 (New National Record) in the men's 5000m. • Eritrea's Habtom Samuel won the gold medal with a world-leading time of 12:57.23.
Pranati Nayak (Odisha)	• She won the Silver medal (Score- 13.025) in the Women's Vault event at the "Artistic Gymnastics FIG World Challenge Cup 2026". ▪ Gold: Thi Quynh Nhu Nguyen (Vietnam) ▪ Bronze: Shakhinabonu (Uzbekistan) • Protistha Samanta (West Bengal) finished sixth in the event with a score of 12.850.
Kuldeep Kumar (Madhya Pradesh)	• Won Gold at the Indian Indoor Open Combined Events and Pole Vault Competition in Bhubaneswar. • Set a national men's pole vault record of 5.41m to win gold (Previous record by Dev kumar Meena - 5.40m) • Silver- Reegan G; 5.25 m, Bronze: Dev Meena; 5.20m
Tejaswin Shankar (New Delhi)	• Tejaswin Shankar clears 2.24m to finish second in high jump at the Ward Haylett Invitational in Manhattan, Kansas. • 1st Romaine Beckford (Jamaica) 2.30m, 3rd Brian Raats: (South Africa)
Katie Archibald (Scotland)	• 3 time olympic medallist announced retirement from Cycling • In her 13 year long career she won 51 major medals including 7 world Titles etc.
Rahul Dravid	• He became owner of Dublin Guardian in European T20 Premier League (ETPL) • Co-owner: Abhishek Bachhan
Swapan Bose (Tutu Babu), West Bengal	• He recently died. • Former President of FC Mohun Bagan. • One of the most influential football administrators in Indian football history • The signing of Nigerian striker Chima Okorie, who went on to become one of the most iconic foreign footballers to play in India, also took place under his administration. Okorie was poached from East Bengal. • This was after Bose changed a 100-year-old club rule of hiring only Indian players. • Bose had risen to control Mohun Bagan after defeating seasoned administrator Dhiren De.
Frederic Soye (France)	• New Chief Coach of National Junior Men's hockey team • Replaced P Sreejesh, a celebrated Goalkeeper • Under his guidance HILH Junior WC = won Bronze. • He made 196 appearances for France, has coached at 3 olympics, having guided Spain at Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 before helming France at the 2024 Olympics.
Sakshi Choudhary (Haryana)	• She defeated Nikaht Zarin, World Champion, in National Boxing Trials in Patiala. • She also defeated current world Champion Minakshi Hudda. • She secured her place in Commonwealth Games, Glasgow and Asian Games, Japan.

Parul Choudhary	- She finished 7th place in 3000 meter steeplechase competition in Diamond League in Shanghai. - She became the 2nd Indian athlete to finish with the second best time of 9 minutes 12.84 seconds. (1st- Parul herself: 9 minutes 12.46 seconds)
Apaar Saxena (Karnataka) Age: 12 Years	- Recently earned the title International Master from FIDE - IM: 2nd highest title in Chess after Grand Master (GM) - He achieved all three IM norms and the required rating gains within 5 weeks' time frame.
Faustino Oro (Buenos Aires, Argentina)	2nd Youngest Player to earn the GM Title at the age of 12 years 6 months and 26 days. [First: Abhimanyu Mishra ,USA] - Nickname: Messi of Chess
Harnaaz Kaur (Jhalandhar, Punjab) Age: 8 Years	- She has registered her name in the India Book of Records 2026. The Record: She successfully completed 50 hula hoop spins in 25 seconds while hanging from a bar.
Tulasi Reddy Palapunuri (Bormapet village, Hyderabad, Telangana)	- Successfully scaled Mount Everest on May 21, 2026. - With his ascent, a total of 620 Indians have climbed Mount Everest to date. - Reddy has successfully climbed around 8 major peaks. (Mount Everest, Aconcagua, Kilimanjaro , Elbrus etc.)
Manasvi Agrawal (Udaipur, Rajasthan)	- Successfully summited Mount Everest, the highest peak on the globe. - With this achievement, Manasvi has now scaled the highest summits across 5 of the 7 continents. - Amita Shrivastava, hailing from Chhattisgarh, also successfully completed the ascent.
Aravindh Chithambaram (Tamil Nadu) 	- He has become the first Indian chess player to qualify for the E-Sports World Cup. How did he Qualify? : Secured his spot by winning the Road to EWC Qualifier at DreamHack Atlanta. This victory guaranteed his team, S8UL, its third spot at the Esports World Cup (EWC) 2026. - E-Sports World Cup 2026 (Chess Event). - Schedule: July 6 to August 23, 2026. - Venue: Paris, France. - The venue for the event was recently relocated to Paris from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia amid war concerns.
Priyanka Goswami (Uttar Pradesh)	Priyanka won gold at the Berlin Race Walking Championships with a timing of 43:49s. - The race walker received the medal from Peter Frenkel, the 1972 Berlin Olympics champion in the 20km race walk event.
Billie Jean King (USA)	- Billie Jean King graduated (in History) at the age of 82 from California State University after returning to college 61 years later. - Winner of 39 Grand Slam titles: 12 Women's Singles, 16 Women's Doubles, 11 Mixed Doubles

Vijay Shankar Known widely as the '3D' All-Rounder in the 2019 World Cup.	- Indian all-rounder Vijay Shankar has announced his retirement from all forms of domestic cricket and the Indian Premier League (IPL). - He debuted for Tamil Nadu in 2012. He made 4253 runs and took 43 wickets in 77 first class matches. - Currently he is participating in the Lanka Premier League.
Ankit and Jayesh Patil	- They have been banned by the National Doping Agency for 3 years. - Reason: they had tested positive for the banned substance Meldonium. - Ankit of Service Sports Control Board had finished 3rd at the 69th National Cross Country Championships. - Jayesh Patil finished 5th in the event.
Stan Wawrinka , Tennis Player, Switzerland	- He has retired from international tennis. - His last match was in the French Open in which he was defeated by Dutch player Jesper De Jong. - Three-time Grand Slam Champion
Tadej Pogačar (Slovenia)	- He captured his third consecutive and fourth overall Liège-Bastogne-Liège cycling title in Belgium, - He completed the grueling 260 km race in 5 hours and 50 minutes to defeat runner-up Paul Seixas of France by 45 seconds.
Virendra Sachdeva	- He has been nominated as a member of the Commonwealth Games Committee by the World Archery. - The committee works towards archery's inclusion in the CWG programme. - Currently he is Secretary General of Archery Association of India (AAI) and Delhi BJP President.
Baldev Singh (Punjab)	- Recently, He was conferred with Padma Shri. - Architect of Haryana's famous Shahabad Markanda hockey nursery that produced over 80 international players and 8 national captains - Conferred with Dronacharya Award in 2009.
Sumit Antil , Para Athlete (Haryana)	- Set a new world record with the throw of 74.82 m (broke his own record of 73.29 m) in 8th Indian Open Para Athletics International Championship in Bengaluru. - He won Gold in this Championship in F64 Category Javeline Throw. Silver: Sandip Sargar (Maharashtra)
Rohit Rajpal	- Indian Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal has been appointed as India's Chef de Mission for the upcoming Commonwealth Games. - Ravi Bengani will serve as the Deputy Chef de Mission.
Manav Shah	Indian-American golfer Manav Shah secured a spot at the upcoming U.S. Open in New York, marking his Major championship debut.
Aafreen Jabi (Midnapur, West Bengal)	- Became the fastest to cross Palk Strait in 7 hours and 5 minutes. - Earlier she has crossed the English Channel also.
Dave Cousins (American)	The Archery Association of India (AAI) has appointed multiple-time former World Champion Dave Cousins as the national chief compound coach.
Rustam Nabiev (Russian)	He has become the first person in the world to scale Mount Everest using only his arms/hands after having lost both of his legs.

Rajasthan		
Shyam Swami (Bikaner)	Sundar	• He was selected for Asian Para Games 2026 • He will represent India at Asian level for the 3rd time. ▪ Venue: Aichi and Nagoya, Japan (Scheduled: October 18-24, 2026). • Secured second place in the national selection trials
Rajkesh Meena		• 2019 batch RAS appointed as the new RSSC Secretary. • He is the youngest ever secretary of Rajasthan State Sports Council.
Aarti (Chandurwali, Hanumangarh)	Bishnoi	• She has been selected for the Under-15 Women's High-Performance Training Camp organized by the BCCI. • The training camp will be held at the BCCI Center of Excellence in Bengaluru
Shyamlal Meena (Kevadia, Rajasthan.)	Banswara,	• Passed away on 25 May 2026. • He was a member of India's first-ever Olympic archery team at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. • Shyam Lal Meena along with Limba Ram and Rajat Halder (Indian men's recurve archery team) won the bronze medal at the 1987 Asian Archery Championships in Kolkata. • It is regarded as the first-ever major international medal for Indian archery. • Arjuna Award in 1989
Ekakshi Chandel (Jaipur)		• Secured the Under-7 State Championship title with one round still remaining in the tournament. • Host Location: Jhalawar, Rajasthan.
Vandana (Sahuwala, Ganganagar)	Sharma	• Will represent India in International Kurash Championship in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
Ojaswini Saraswat (Jaipur)		• Secured her 12th national title at IGU Pune Ladies & Junior Girls Golf Championship. • She represented Rajasthan and Rambagh Golf Club. • Her final score was 216. • She finished runner up in the overall ladies A & B Combined standings. • She also grabbed 2nd position in the A&B combined categories
Manav Suthar, Cricketer (Sri Ganganagar)		• Left arm spin bowler • IPL: Gujarat Titans.
Arshaan Bodybuilder (Jodhpur)	Khan,	• Arshan Khan from Rajasthan won the Champion of Champions title at the 37th "Mister Saraighat" National Bodybuilding Championship held in Guwahati, Assam. • Organised by: Indian Bodybuilders Federation (IBBF). • In this competition another bodybuilder from Rajasthan, Praveen Kumar secured 6th place.

Arundhati Choudhary, Boxer (Kota) 	- selected to represent India at the Commonwealth Games 2026 to be held in Glasgow from 22 July to 4 August. - She will compete in the women's 70 kg category in Boxing. - She is the first boxer from Rajasthan to represent India in the Commonwealth Games. - She secured selection on the basis of winning the gold medal at the Asian Weightlifting Championship held in April.
Lemet Tangwah (Manipur)	- Rajasthan United Football Club Lemet Tangwah was selected for India Under-20 Camp. - He has previously been part of the U-17 national team and the Indian U-20 national team.
Rajashree Karnot (Balotara): Sukhman Singh (Jaipur) He is deaf and mute.	- Karnot Won the Silver Medal in the 10-Meter Air Rifle (Senior Women's category) with a score of 395/400 in the above championship and qualified for the National Shooting Championship. - Sukhman Singh qualified for the 10 meter air pistol (deaf) event in the National Shooting Championship. - Qualifying Tournament: The selection was secured through his performance at the 0135 India Open Shooting Championship held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
Tulip Ojha (Jaipur) and Manjeet Choudhary (Alwar)	- They have been selected to represent India at the upcoming Senior Asian Taekwondo Championship in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. - Tulip Ojha- Under 46 weight category. - Manjeet Choudhary- Under- 87 weight Category.
Manvi Kumar (Jaipur)	- won the gold medal in the State-Level Goju-Ryu Karate Championship held at Jaipur. - The championship was organised by the Karate Association of Rajasthan.
Rajat Kumar Saini (Amer, Jaipur)	News: Recently he was made captain of the Indian team for IKF Beach Korfball World Cup (Asia) 2026. - IKF Beach Korfball World Cup (Asia) 2026 was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 2-3 May. - Winner: 1. Hungary 2.Chinese Taipei 5. India.
Dhriti Sharma (Jaipur)	- She won the Bronze medal in NTPC Khelo India Women's national ranking tournament 2026. - She won this medal by defeating Khurshi Kumari of Jharkhand.
Pawan Kumawat (Jaipur)	Won gold in 76 weight category (Incline Bench Press) by lifting 110 kg at State -level Strength Lifting Championship in Bhilwara. - By this he has secured his selection for the upcoming West Zone Championship (19-21 June) in Chhattisgarh.
Inaya Khan (Jaipur)	- She won the 2026 Robofest World Championship in Michigan, USA, by securing first place in the Junior 'Building Bridges' robotics category while representing Ghana - She is the Brand Ambassador for the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign by the Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development, Jaipur.

Anshu Jain (Jaipur)	• He has been appointed by the BCCI center of excellence as the Head Coach and Batting Coach for the Under-19 Elite Boys Camp scheduled in Rangpo, Sikkim. • He is the current Head Coach of the Rajasthan Ranji Team
Manju Choudhary [Khokhsar, Balotra]	• She won 1 Gold and 1 Bronze medal in the Khelo India Women's League National Cycling Championship, Rudrapur, Uttarakhand.
Ashish Badgoti (Jaipur)	• Successfully completed the Ironman 70.3 Championship (Shanghai, China) triathlon on May 17, 2026, recording a time of 6 hours and 39 minutes. • Triathlon includes 1.9 Kilometers of Swimming, 90 Kilometers of Cycling, 21.1 Kilometers of Running (Half-Marathon).
Rishabh Daga	• 18-year-old Rishabh Daga has become Rajasthan's youngest "Ironman". • The Ironman Vietnam competition was held in Da Nang, Vietnam. • Completed the challenge in 13 hours, 46 minutes, and 02 seconds.

Date	Days/Events	Subject/Description
1 May	International Labor Day	◆ Theme: "Ensuring a healthy psychosocial work environment." ◆ ICAR (Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute) celebrated International Labour Day 2026 on 1st May as Shramik Samman Diwas.
2 May	World Tuna Day	◆ Theme: Sustaining Tuna, Sustaining Nations ◆ In India, tuna fish is locally known as sorai, kerai or chura.
3 May	World Press Freedom Day	◆ Theme: "Shaping a Future at peace: Promoting Press Freedom for Human Rights, Development and Security." ◆ World Press Freedom Index - 2026 ◆ India - 157/180
	International Sun Day	◆ "Run for Sun" marathon by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
4 May	International Firefighters Day	◆ Sound off Ritual: First Sunday in May at noon
	Nationwide Fire Safety Week (May 4-10)	◆ By the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare ◆ Theme of Safety Week: "Safe Schools, Safe Hospitals and Fire Safety Conscious Society: United for Fire Prevention" ◆ Pledge theme: 'Health Facility Fire Safety'
5 May	World Asthma Day	◆ Theme: "Availability of anti-inflammatory inhalers for all people with asthma - still an urgent need."
8 May	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	◆ Theme: "Unity in Humanity"
	International Thalassemia Day	◆ Theme: "Hidden No More: Finding the Undiagnosed, Supporting the Unseen".
11 May	National Technology Day	◆ Theme: "Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Development" ◆ 28th anniversary of the historic 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests.
12 May	International Nurses Day	◆ Theme: "Our Nurses. Our Future." Empowered nurses save lives.
15th May	International Family Day	◆ Theme: "Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing"
	Endangered Species Day	◆ Theme: 'Celebrating America's Wildlife Comeback Stories. Championing the Endangered Species Act.' ◆ Celebrated every year on the third Friday of May. ◆ This day started in 2006.

16 May	National Dengue Day	♦ Theme: "Community Participation for Dengue Control: Check, Clean and Cover"
17 May	World Hypertension Day	♦ Theme: "Tackle Hypertension Together: Check Your Blood Pressure Regularly, Beat This Silent Killer"
	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	♦ Theme: "Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World"
18 May	International Museum Day 2026	♦ Theme: "Museums Uniting a Divided World."
20 May	World Metrology Day 2026	♦ Theme: Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making
	International Clinical Trials Day	♦ Theme: 'Stronger Together: Advanced Therapy Clinical Trials Without Borders' ♦ The first annual clinical trials meeting of ICMR was held on May 20, 2026. ♦ National Theme of ICMR Conference: International Clinical Trials Day: Focus on Integrative Medicine Clinical Trials
21 May	International Tea Day	♦ Theme: Sustaining Tea, Supporting Communities.
	National Anti-Terrorism Day	♦ Celebrated to commemorate the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity	♦ Theme: Acting Locally for Global Impact
24 May	Commonwealth Day	♦ Theme: 'Unlocking opportunities together for a prosperous Commonwealth.'
31 May	World No Tobacco Day	♦ Theme Unmasking the Appeal - Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction ♦ Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI) Pilot Project : Rajasthan , Meghalaya and Maharashtra

Military and Internal Security

- ❑ **A Soldier's Diary (1943-71):** This is the authentic diary of the Honorable Captain Mohar Singh Bainsla, edited and published by **Sunita Bainsla**. It offers a firsthand account of Indian military life during those crucial decades.
- ❑ **Naxal Terror Vanquished: The Long War Against Maoism, and the Doctrine That Ended It**
 - ◆ **Author: Tuhin A. Sinha** (Prominent Indian author and BJP national spokesperson)
 - ◆ This book documents the historical decline of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in India, from the beginning of the Naxalbari uprising of 1967 to the rapid elimination of the 'Red Corridor' by 2026.
- ❑ **From Sea to Space: India's Defence Revolution**
 - ◆ **Author: Yogesh Kumar Goyal** (Senior journalist and author)
 - ◆ Main themes: It covers all dimensions of India's strategic development, from maritime security (Navy) to cutting-edge aerospace and missile technologies.
- ❑ **Commemorative Book on Operation Sindoor**
 - ◆ **Compilation:** Prepared under the guidance of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General **Anil Chauhan**, this edition compiles personal experiences/memoirs of 100 soldiers.

Legal and Judicial

- ❑ **The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre**
- ❑ **The Lawful and the Awful**
 - ◆ These two books by Solicitor General **Tushar Mehta** offer a unique glimpse into the legal world.

Political

- ❑ **Apnapan:** Written by Union Minister **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, this book presents an in-depth analysis of his 35-year journey with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❑ **Dravidian Politics: From Periyar to Jayalalithaa**
 - ◆ **Author: Praveen Kumar Jha.**
 - ◆ This book explains complex topics like the rise of Dravida Kazhagam, the formation of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the Tamil Eelam issue and the North-South polarization in simple Hindi language.

Education

- ❑ **The Library Man of India: The Story of P.N. Panikkar**
 - ◆ **Author: Mr. P.P. Sathyan**
 - ◆ "Father of Kerala's cultural renaissance" who started the library and literacy movement in Kerala.
 - ◆ 19 June (death anniversary of P.N. Panikkar) is celebrated as National Reading Day.

Sports

- ❑ **'India's First Olympic Gold'**
 - ◆ **Author: K. Arumugam** (Noted hockey historian)
 - ◆ **Main Theme:** The book traces the journey of the Indian hockey team in 1928, from the selection controversies, financial crises and internal differences within the hockey fraternity at that time, to the final historic victory against the host nation in Amsterdam on 26 May.

Miscellaneous

- ❑ **All-Time Favorite Friendship Stories**
Author: Ruskin Bond
- ❑ **The Opening Act:** This poetry collection is the first book by 14-year-old **Kiara Gwala** from Jaipur.