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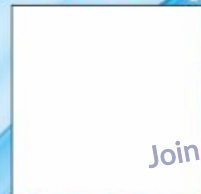
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P.T.R.

Points to Remember

NATIONAL

- ➔ Which country was elected Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Vice-President for the first time in June 2026?
- **India**
- ➔ Who was appointed as FATF Vice-President from India? - **Vivek Aggarwal** (July 2026 to June 2027)
- ➔ Who will become the next FATF President from July 1, 2026? - **Giles Thomson**
- ➔ India's first digital repository of space-sector capabilities is called what? - **Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue**
- ➔ Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue was launched at which event? - **5th Indian Space Congress 2026**
- ➔ ISC 2026 was held in which city? - **New Delhi**
- ➔ Which university became India's first to receive four ISO certifications simultaneously?
- **Osmania University, Hyderabad**
- ➔ Which body granted ISO certifications to Osmania University? - **BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards)**
- ➔ Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi participate in the 12th International Day of Yoga celebrations? (21 June 2026) - **Kolkata (West Bengal)**
- ➔ Where was Bharat Buildcon 2026 organised? (18–21 June 2026) - **New Delhi**
- ➔ Phase (2A) of which metro rail project was approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi? (10 June 2026)
- **Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project**
- ➔ Who was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Karnataka? (3 June 2026) - **D. K. Shivakumar**
- ➔ Who was the Chief Minister of Karnataka before D. K. Shivakumar? - **Siddaramaiah**
- ➔ Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary, designated India's 100th Ramsar site, is located in which state? (June 2026)
- **Uttar Pradesh (Ballia district)**
- ➔ By what other name is Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary known? - **Surha Tal**
- ➔ Which ministry recently released the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0 guidelines? (May 2026) - **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- ➔ Which state was declared to have India's first fully paperless judiciary? (1 May 2026) - **Sikkim**
- ➔ Who was sworn in as the New Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu? (10 May 2026) - **C. Joseph Vijay**
- ➔ Who was recently sworn in as the Chief Minister of Assam for a second consecutive term? (12 May 2026)
- **Himanta Biswa Sarma**
- ➔ Who is the new Chief Minister of Kerala? (18 May 2026) - **V. D. Satheesan**
- ➔ Who took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar on 15 April 2026? - **Samrat Choudhary**
- ➔ Samrat Choudhary succeeded whom as Bihar Chief Minister? - **Nitish Kumar**
- ➔ Who took oath as Chief Minister of West Bengal on 9 May 2026? - **Suvendu Adhikari**
- ➔ Who administered oath to Suvendu Adhikari?
- **R. N. Ravi (Governor of West Bengal)**
- ➔ By how many judges did the Union Cabinet approve a proposal to increase the strength of the Supreme Court of India? (May 2026) - **4**
- ➔ Under the proposal, what will be the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges, excluding the Chief Justice of India? - **37**
- ➔ Which mission did the Union Cabinet recently approve? (5 May 2026) - **Mission for Cotton Productivity**
- ➔ What is the total outlay for the Mission for Cotton Productivity? - **₹5,659.22 crore**
- ➔ Which state did Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit on 31 March to inaugurate and lay foundation stones for several projects? (31 March 2026) - **Gujarat**
- ➔ Which museum was inaugurated during the Prime Minister's visit to Gujarat?
- **Samrat Samprati Museum, Gandhinagar**
- ➔ Where was the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting held? (May 2026)
- **Indore (Madhya Pradesh)**
- ➔ What did the Union Government recently notify? (26 May 2026) - **National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules, 2026, and National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules, 2026**
- ➔ How many members will the National Sports Board have under the 2026 Rules?
- **Three: one Chairperson and two members**
- ➔ For what purpose was the continuation of the SARTHAK-PDS Scheme approved? (27 May 2026)
- **To strengthen and modernise the Public Distribution System (PDS)**
- ➔ What is the Central Government's outlay for SARTHAK-PDS over the next five years?
- **₹25,530 crore**
- ➔ Which body approved the continuation of the SARTHAK-PDS Scheme? - **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**

- ➔ On which section has India's first indigenous Hydrogen train been approved to operate? (May 2026)
– **Jind-Sonipat**
- ➔ What was Assam's position among Indian states after it passed the Uniform Civil Code, Assam, Bill, 2026? (May 2026)
– **Third**
- ➔ How many Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHAs) had been created under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission? (30 May 2026)
– **Over 90 crore**
- ➔ What proportion of all ABHA holders are women?
– **Nearly half**
- ➔ Where was India's first National AI & Digital Water Summit 2026 held? (27 May 2026)
– **Bengaluru**
- ➔ Where was the Northern Region Agriculture Conference organised? (24 April 2026)
– **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**
- ➔ Which ministry organised the conference? – **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**
- ➔ What is the national toll-free helpline number for Census 2027?
– **1855**
- ➔ Where was India's first Alkaline battery manufacturing facility commissioned? (April 2026)
– **Jammu**
- ➔ Which Vice President of India paid an official bilateral visit to Sri Lanka? (19–20 April 2026)
– **C. P. Radhakrishnan**
- ➔ Where was the grand finale of Femina Miss India 2026 held? (18 April 2026)
– **Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, Odisha**
- ➔ Who won the Femina Miss India World 2026 title?
– **Sadhvi Satish Sail**
- ➔ Who launched the 'Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana'? (2 March 2026)
– **President Droupadi Murmu**
- ➔ Which post did Nitish Kumar resign from? (April 2026)
– **The post of Chief Minister of Bihar**
- ➔ In which district will North India's first glass bridge be constructed? (March 2026)
– **Ropar, Punjab**
- ➔ Over which lake will North India's first glass bridge be constructed?
– **Sutlej Lake**
- ➔ Who approved the Regional Connectivity Scheme Modified UDAN? (25 March 2026)
– **The Union Cabinet**
- ➔ How many airports are proposed to be developed under the scheme?
– **100**
- ➔ What total outlay was approved for the Modified UDAN Scheme?
– **₹28,840 crore**
- ➔ Whom did Prime Minister Narendra Modi surpass to become the longest-serving head of a government in India? (22 March 2026)
– **Pawan Kumar Chamling**
- ➔ For how many days did Pawan Kumar Chamling serve as the Chief Minister of Sikkim?
– **8,930 days**
- ➔ Which development scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet? (18 March 2026)
– **Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme**
- ➔ For whom did the Supreme Court permit the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment under the passive-euthanasia framework for the first time? (11 March 2026)
– **Harish Rana**
- ➔ What is the total outlay for this scheme?
– **₹2,584.60 crore**
- ➔ What are the names of the mascots for Census 2027? (5 March 2026)
– **Pragati (female enumerator) and Vikas (male enumerator)**
- ➔ Where was 'Bharat Taxi', India's first cooperative-based ride-hailing platform, launched? (February 2026)
– **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi**
- ➔ Who launched Bharat Taxi? – **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah**
- ➔ Where was PLASTINDIA 2026 inaugurated? (5–10 February 2026)
– **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**
- ➔ What was the theme of PLASTINDIA 2026?
– **"Bharat Next"**
- ➔ Who was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra? (31 January 2026)
– **Sunetra Pawar**
- ➔ What is the total outlay for Biopharma SHAKTI? (2 February 2026)
– **₹10,000 crore**
- ➔ What is the duration of the initiative?
– **Five years**
- ➔ Who was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Manipur? (4 February 2026)
– **Yumnam Khemchand Singh**
- ➔ How many persons were sworn in as deputy chief ministers of Manipur?
– **Two (Nemcha Kipgen and Losii Dikho)**
- ➔ What milestone was achieved in the Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project? (2 January 2026)
– **Breakthrough of Maharashtra's first mountain tunnel**
- ➔ Where is this tunnel located? – **Palghar, Maharashtra**
- ➔ Between which two stations is this tunnel located?
– **Between Virar and Boisar stations (1.48 kilometres long)**
- ➔ Where was the 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) held? (19–21 January 2026)
– **Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**
- ➔ Who addressed the inaugural session of the conference?
– **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla**
- ➔ Where was the 'India-AI Impact Summit 2026' held?
– **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (16–21 February, 2026)**
- ➔ Which ministry organised the summit? – **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**
- ➔ What are the three guiding principles, or Sutras, of the summit?
– **People, Planet and Progress**
- ➔ What are the summit's seven thematic areas collectively called?
– **The Seven Chakras**
- ➔ Which scheme did Union Home Minister Amit Shah launch and which scheme did he inaugurate on Uttar Pradesh Statehood Day? (24 January 2026)
– **The 'One District, One Cuisine' Scheme and the Sardar Patel Industrial Area Scheme, respectively**
- ➔ Where was the Uttar Pradesh Statehood Day celebration held?
– **Rashtra Prerna Sthal, Lucknow**
- ➔ What was the theme of Uttar Pradesh's tableau at the Republic Day Parade 2026?
– **"Culture of Bundelkhand"**

- ➔ What was the theme of the Ministry of Culture's Tableau? – **"150 Years of Vande Mataram"**
- ➔ Which scheme did the Union Cabinet approve for continuation up to FY 2030–31? (21 January 2026) – **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**
- ➔ On which sector was the Learjet 45 aircraft of M/s VSR Ventures Pvt. Ltd. operating when it crashed at Baramati? (28 January 2026) – **The Mumbai–Baramati sector**
- ➔ How many people were on board the aircraft? – **Five**
- ➔ Ajit Pawar, who was among the passengers, was the Deputy Chief Minister of which state? – **Maharashtra**
- ➔ What is the name of the new Aadhaar mascot launched by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)? (January 2026) – **Udai**
- ➔ Where was the 20th session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held? (8–13 December 2025) – **Red Fort, New Delhi**
- ➔ Who chaired the session? – **Vishal V. Sharma (Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of India to UNESCO)**
- ➔ Which Indian festival was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the session? – **Deepavali**
- ➔ After the inscription of Deepavali, how many intangible cultural heritage elements from India are inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists? – **16**
- ➔ Where did commercial operations of India's first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell-powered passenger vessel begin? (11 December 2025) – **Varanasi**
- ➔ Which special squad did Bihar Police announce it would form? (December 2025) – **'Abhaya Brigade'**
- ➔ Where was the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit held? (4–5 December 2025) – **New Delhi**
- ➔ Where was the India International Science Festival 2025 held? (6–9 December 2025) – **Panchkula, Haryana**
- ➔ What was the main theme of the India International Science Festival 2025? – **Science for Prosperity: For a Self-Reliant India**
- ➔ According to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), which city was the most polluted in India in November 2025? (December 2025) – **Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh**
- ➔ Who inaugurated the Bio-CNG and Fertilizer Plant? (6 December 2025) – **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah**
- ➔ Where was the Bio-CNG and Fertilizer Plant inaugurated? – **Vav–Tharad district, Gujarat**
- ➔ Which state set a Guinness World Record for installing the highest number of solar pumps in one month? (December 2025) – **Maharashtra**
- ➔ How many solar irrigation pumps were installed in one month? – **45,911**
- ➔ Where was the World Summit on Disaster Management (WSDM) 2025 held? (28–30 November 2025) – **Dehradun**
- ➔ Where was the India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2025 held? (27–28 November 2025) – **New Delhi**
- ➔ Which edition of IIGF was held in 2025? – **The fifth**
- ➔ Where was the 4th edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam held? – **Varanasi**
- ➔ Whose 150th birth anniversary did the nationwide Sardar@150 Unity March commemorate? (26 November – 6 December 2025) – **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**
- ➔ To whom did the Sixteenth Finance Commission submit its report? (17 November 2025) – **The President of India**
- ➔ For which period is this report? – **2026–27 to 2030–31**
- ➔ Who is the Chairman of the Sixteenth Finance Commission? – **Dr. Arvind Panagariya**
- ➔ How many times did Nitish Kumar take oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar? (20 November 2025) – **Ten times**
- ➔ For which disease did India launch its first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy? (19 November 2025) – **Sickle cell disease**
- ➔ Where was the International Arya Mahasammelan 2025 held? (30 October–2 November 2025) – **New Delhi**
- ➔ On what occasion was this Mahasammelan organised? – **On the 150th anniversary of the Arya Samaj and the 200th birth anniversary of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati**
- ➔ Where was the Eighth Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly held? (27–30 October 2025) – **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**
- ➔ What was the theme of this session? – **"One Sun, One World, One Grid"**
- ➔ Where was the Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS) initiative launched? (30 October 2025) – **New Delhi**
- ➔ Which ministries jointly launched this initiative? – **Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Education (Department of School Education and Literacy), and Ministry of Tribal Affairs**
- ➔ How many oil lamps (diyas) were lit during Deepotsav 2025 to set a world record? (19 October 2025) – **26,17,215**
- ➔ Deepotsav 2025 was held on the banks of which river? – **Saryu**
- ➔ Which edition of Deepotsav was held in Ayodhya in 2025? – **The ninth**
- ➔ Which project, described as India's largest greenfield airport project, was inaugurated by the Prime Minister? (8 October 2025) – **Navi Mumbai International Airport (Phase 1)**
- ➔ With the launch of metro services in Patna, what position did Bihar attain among Indian states with an operational metro system? (6 October 2025) – **12th**
- ➔ Who approved the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses? (1 October 2025) – **The Union Cabinet**
- ➔ What is the implementation period of this mission? – **2025–26 to 2030–31**
- ➔ What is the total financial outlay for the mission? – **₹11,440 crore**
- ➔ Where was the MY Bharat Mobile Application launched? (1 October 2025) – **New Delhi**

- ➔ Which railway line section in Bihar did the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently approve for doubling? (24 September 2025)
 - **Bakhtiyarpur–Rajgir–Tilaiya**
- ➔ What is the total length of the Bakhtiyarpur–Rajgir–Tilaiya railway line section?
 - **104 km**
- ➔ What is the total estimated cost of the Bakhtiyarpur–Rajgir–Tilaiya railway project?
 - **₹2,192 crore**
- ➔ Which major religious and tourist destinations does this railway route connect?
 - **Rajgir, Nalanda and Pawapuri**
- ➔ How many new natural heritage sites from India were included in UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites? (September 2025)
 - **Seven**
- ➔ After the inclusion of these seven new sites, how many Indian properties were there in total on UNESCO's Tentative List?
 - **69**
- ➔ Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the PM MITRA Park? (17 September 2025)
 - **Dhar, Madhya Pradesh**
- ➔ Where was India's first Swastik-shaped 'Lotus Garden' inaugurated? (15 September 2025)
 - **CSIR–National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow**
- ➔ Who inaugurated this garden?
 - **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh (in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath)**
- ➔ What is the total area of the Swastik Lotus Garden?
 - **930 square metres**
- ➔ Who was sworn in as the 15th Vice-President of India? (September 12, 2025)
 - **C. P. Radhakrishnan**
- ➔ Who administered the oath of office to the Vice-President?
 - **President Droupadi Murmu**
- ➔ How many votes did C. P. Radhakrishnan receive?–452
- ➔ Who was his opponent?
 - **B. Sudershan Reddy**
- ➔ What is the full name of C. P. Radhakrishnan?
 - **Chandrapuram Ponnusami Radhakrishnan**
- ➔ Of which states has he served as Governor?
 - **Jharkhand, Telangana and Maharashtra**
- ➔ Of which Union Territory did he also serve as Lieutenant Governor?
 - **Puducherry**
- ➔ In which district of Bihar did Prime Minister Narendra Modi lay the foundation stones for and inaugurate development projects worth approximately ₹40,000 crore?
 - **Purnea**
- ➔ Which board did the Prime Minister launch?
 - **National Makhana Board**
- ➔ What is Bihar's approximate share in the country's total makhana production?
 - **90 per cent**
- ➔ Which new structure at Purnea Airport did the Prime Minister inaugurate?
 - **The Interim Terminal Building at the New Civil Enclave**
- ➔ Where in Bihar did the Prime Minister lay the foundation stone of a 3×800 MW thermal power project?
 - **Pirpainti (Bhagalpur)**
- ➔ What type of technology is the Bhagalpur Thermal Power Project based on?
 - **Ultra-supercritical, low-emission technology**
- ➔ The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the first phase of which river-linking project?
 - **Kosi-Mechi Intra-State River Link Project**
- ➔ What is the estimated cost of the Kosi-Mechi Intra-State River Link Project?
 - **More than ₹2,680 crore**
- ➔ From how many cusecs to how many cusecs will the discharge capacity of this project be increased?
 - **From 15,000 to 20,000 cusecs**
- ➔ The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of which infrastructure project between Bikramshila and Katareah?
 - **A railway line**
- ➔ What is the estimated cost of the Bikramshila–Katareah Rail Line Project?
 - **More than ₹2,170 crore**
- ➔ At what cost did the Prime Minister inaugurate the new railway line between Araria and Galgalia (Thakurganj)?
 - **More than ₹4,410 crore**
- ➔ The Araria–Galgalia (Thakurganj) railway section will establish direct rail connectivity between which two districts?
 - **Araria and Kishanganj**
- ➔ On which route did the Prime Minister flag off the Vande Bharat Express train?
 - **Jogbani–Danapur**
- ➔ Which special facility did the Prime Minister inaugurate in Purnea?
 - **A sex-sorted semen facility**
- ➔ Under which mission was the sex-sorted semen facility at Purnea established?
 - **Rashtriya Gokul Mission**
- ➔ How many doses of sex-sorted semen can this facility produce annually?
 - **5 lakh doses**
- ➔ Where was the first-of-its-kind sex-sorted semen facility in eastern and north-eastern India established?
 - **Purnea**
- ➔ Under which programme was Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2025 conducted? (September 9, 2025)
 - **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**
- ➔ Which ministry organised the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards 2025?
 - **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**
- ➔ In 2025, which city ranked first in the million-plus (10 lakh) population category?
 - **Indore**
- ➔ (200/200 points, prize money of ₹1.5 crore)
- ➔ Which achievement of Indore earned a Guinness World Record?
 - **Planting 16 lakh trees in a year**
- ➔ Which city ranked second in the million-plus category?
 - **Jabalpur (199/200 points, prize money of ₹1 crore)**
- ➔ Which cities jointly ranked third in the million-plus category?
 - **Agra and Surat**
- ➔ (jointly, 196/200 points, ₹25 lakh each)
- ➔ Which city ranked first in the 3–10 lakh population category?
 - **Amravati**
- ➔ (200/200 points, prize money of ₹75 lakh)
- ➔ Which cities jointly ranked second in the 3–10 lakh population category?
 - **Jhansi and Moradabad**
- ➔ (198.5/200 points, ₹25 lakh each)
- ➔ Which city ranked third in the 3–10 lakh population category?
 - **Alwar**
- ➔ (197.6/200 points, prize money of ₹25 lakh)
- ➔ Which city ranked first in the population category of less than 3 lakh?
 - **Dewas**
- ➔ (193/200 points, prize money of ₹37.5 lakh)

- ➔ Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of development projects worth more than ₹9,000 crore on September 13, 2025?
– **Aizawl (Mizoram)**
- ➔ Which new rail line, built at a cost of more than ₹8,070 crore, did he inaugurate there?
– **Bairabi–Sairang New Rail Line**
- ➔ On this historic occasion, when Aizawl was connected to the Indian Railways network for the first time, how many new express trains did he flag off? – **3**

INTERNATIONAL

- ➔ Where was the 52nd G7 Summit held in 2026? (June 15–17, 2026) – **Évian-les-Bains, France**
- ➔ Who led France's G7 Presidency in 2026?
– **Emmanuel Macron**
- ➔ What was the theme of G7 Summit 2026? – **Working Together to Address Major International Challenges**
- ➔ Who represented India at the G7 Summit 2026?
– **PM Narendra Modi**
- ➔ What declaration was adopted at the G7 Summit 2026 to curb migrant smuggling? – **Leaders' Declaration on Tackling Migrant Smuggling**
- ➔ Which initiative was introduced by Japanese PM Takaichi at G7 Summit 2026? – **POWERR Asia**
- ➔ Where was the 16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting held? (June 12–13, 2026)
– **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**
- ➔ Under whose BRICS Presidency was the 16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting held? – **India**
- ➔ What declaration was adopted at the 16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting? – **Indore Declaration**
- ➔ Which is Slovakia's highest national award given to PM Modi? (June 14–16, 2026)
– **Order of the White Double Cross**
- ➔ Slovakia's highest national award was presented to PM Modi in which city? – **Bratislava**
- ➔ Which country became the 10th member of New Development Bank (NDB) in June 2026? (May 21, 2026)
– **Uzbekistan**
- ➔ Who was elected President of the UN General Assembly's 81st session? – **Khalilur Rahman (Bangladesh)**
- ➔ Khalilur Rahman defeated whom in the UNGA election? – **Andreas Kakouris (Cyprus)**
- ➔ When will Khalilur Rahman's UNGA term start?
– **8 September 2026**
- ➔ Which institute topped India in Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2027? – **IIT Delhi**
- ➔ What was IIT Delhi's global rank in QS World University Rankings 2027? – **118th**
- ➔ Which university retained the global top spot in QS World University Rankings 2027?
– **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**
- ➔ How many Indian universities were included in QS World University Rankings 2027? – **52**
- ➔ Who assumed office as the Prime Minister of Slovenia? (4 June 2026)
– **Janez Janša**

- ➔ Who assumed office as the new Prime Minister of Senegal? (25 May 2026) – **Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo**
- ➔ To combat which deadly epidemic in Africa did the Government of India recently send a 45.5-tonne consignment of medical aid? (2 June 2026) – **Ebola**
- ➔ Reporters Without Borders (RSF) classifies countries into five categories in the World Press Freedom Index. In which category has India been placed?
– **Difficult situation**
- ➔ What is India's rank? – **157th**
- ➔ Which international organisation released the 'Global Hepatitis Report 2026'?
– **World Health Organization (WHO)**
- ➔ According to the latest WHO report, which two types of hepatitis together account for more than 95 per cent of deaths related to viral hepatitis worldwide?
– **Hepatitis B and C**
- ➔ Who recently became the Prime Minister of Iraq? (14 May 2026)
– **Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi**
- ➔ India signed a 'bilateral accession protocol' in support of which African country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO)? – **Ethiopia**
- ➔ Where in South Korea did India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurate the 'Indian War Memorial'? (21 May 2026)
– **Imjingak Park**
- ➔ Where was the 8th India–France Maritime Cooperation Dialogue held? (22 May 2026)
– **Paris (France)**
- ➔ Which country joined the India-led 'International Big Cat Alliance' (IBCA) as its 26th member country? (May 2026)
– **Saudi Arabia**
- ➔ Which two countries announced the establishment of a new NATO 'tactical headquarters' in the Baltic region? (May 2026)
– **Germany and the Netherlands**
- ➔ Where was the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA) held? (18–23 May 2026)
– **Geneva (Switzerland)**
- ➔ Which major Gulf country decided to formally withdraw from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) with effect from 1 May 2026? (April 2026)
– **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**
- ➔ In which city was the meeting of the defence ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held? (28 April 2026)
– **Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)**
- ➔ According to the 'Global Report on Food Crises 2026 (GRFC)', which country was included among the top 10 countries with the largest number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity? (April 2026)
– **Pakistan**
- ➔ Which country hosted the first meeting of the 'BRICS Health Working Group' in 2026? (April 2026) – **India**
- ➔ Where was the first meeting of the BRICS Health Working Group in 2026 held? – **New Delhi**
- ➔ Who is the current President of South Korea who paid a state visit to India? (19–21 April 2026)
– **Lee Jae Myung**
- ➔ During the meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Lee Jae Myung, which two major emerging sectors were specifically highlighted for cooperation?
– **Semiconductors and shipbuilding**

- ➔ Which country hosted the 9th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)? (10–12 April 2026) – **Mauritius**
- ➔ What was the main theme of the 9th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC 2026)? – **“Collective Stewardship for Indian Ocean Governance”**
- ➔ Who assumed office as the Prime Minister of Mongolia? (30 March 2026) – **Uchral Nyam-Osor**
- ➔ Which annual edition of the ‘QS World University Rankings by Subject’ was released? – **16th**
- ➔ Where is the headquarters of QS, the prestigious organisation that releases this annual global ranking? – **London, United Kingdom**
- ➔ Who released the 13th edition of the ‘Global Terrorism Index’ (GTI)? (21 March 2026) – **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**
- ➔ Which country was the most affected by terrorism worldwide? – **Pakistan**
- ➔ What was India’s rank among the 163 countries in the Global Terrorism Index 2026? – **13th**
- ➔ Which country ranked first in the ‘World Happiness Report 2026’ for the ninth consecutive year? (March 2026) – **Finland**
- ➔ Which countries ranked second and third, respectively? – **Iceland and Denmark**
- ➔ What was India’s rank among the 147 countries in the World Happiness Report 2026? – **116th**
- ➔ Where was the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2026 held? (2–5 March 2026) – **Barcelona, Spain**
- ➔ Which organisation released the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025? (February 2026) – **Transparency International**
- ➔ Where is the headquarters of Transparency International, the organisation that releases this index? – **Berlin, Germany**
- ➔ What was India’s rank among the 182 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025? – **91st**
- ➔ Where was the fourth meeting of the India–Tanzania Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) held? (February 2026) – **Zanzibar, Tanzania**
- ➔ Who led the Indian delegation? – **Amitabh Prasad [Joint Secretary (Defence Cooperation)]**
- ➔ Who led the Tanzanian delegation? – **Ibrahim Mhona**
- ➔ Where was the World Governments Summit (WGS) 2026 held? (3–5 February 2026) – **Dubai, UAE**
- ➔ What was the main theme of the summit? – **“Shaping Future Governments”**
- ➔ Which country did Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently visit? (7–8 February 2026) – **Malaysia**
- ➔ Which Prime Minister of Japan did Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulate on her historic victory in the elections to Japan’s House of Representatives? – **Sanae Takaichi**
- ➔ What distinction does Sanae Takaichi hold? – **She is Japan’s first woman prime minister.**
- ➔ Which party does Sanae Takaichi lead? – **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)**
- ➔ Patrick Herminie, the President of which country, visited India? (5–10 February 2026) – **Seychelles**
- ➔ What was India’s rank in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025? – **38th**
- ➔ Where was the first meeting of the India–US Drug Policy Executive Working Group held? (20–21 January 2026) – **Washington, D.C.**
- ➔ Who led the Indian delegation? – **Monika Ashish Batra**
- ➔ In which index was Abu Dhabi ranked as the world’s safest city in 2026? (20 January 2026) – **Numbeo Crime Index by City 2026**
- ➔ What was India’s rank in the Asia Manufacturing Index (AMI) 2026? – **Sixth (6th)**
- ➔ Which country topped the index? – **China**
- ➔ Which country legalised cryptocurrency mining and trading? (January 2026) – **Turkmenistan**
- ➔ Where was Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro arrested during the US military operation? (3 January 2026) – **Caracas**
- ➔ For how much was the 400-year-old painting ‘Christ on the Cross’ auctioned? – **2.3 million euros (\$2.7 million)**
- ➔ Who painted it? – **Peter Paul Rubens**
- ➔ Which think tank released the ‘Asia Power Index 2025’? (November 2025) – **Lowy Institute (Australia)**
- ➔ What rank did India secure in the index? – **Third**
- ➔ Which countries occupied the first two positions? – **(1) USA (2) China**
- ➔ In which country is the first campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in West Africa proposed to be established? – **Nigeria**
- ➔ In which country did the World Health Organization (WHO) declare a polio outbreak over? (November 2025) – **Indonesia**
- ➔ Who won Miss Universe 2025? (21 November 2025) – **Fátima Bosch of Mexico**
- ➔ Which word did Cambridge Dictionary select as its Word of the Year 2025? – **‘parasocial’**
- ➔ Where was the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25) held? (17–28 November 2025) – **Baku, Azerbaijan**
- ➔ Where was the third International Ayurveda Conference held? (14–15 November 2025) – **São Paulo, Brazil**
- ➔ What rank did India secure in the Climate Change Performance Index 2026? (November 2025) – **23rd**
- ➔ Where was the 2025 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders’ Meeting held? (31 October – 1 November 2025) – **Gyeongju, South Korea**
- ➔ What was the theme of the APEC Summit 2025? – **“Building a Sustainable Tomorrow”; the three priorities were “Connect, Innovate, Prosper”.**
- ➔ Where is the APEC Secretariat located? – **Singapore**
- ➔ Which Indian city was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy? (October 2025) – **Lucknow**
- ➔ Which American scientists were announced as the recipients of the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics? (7 October 2025) – **John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis**

- ➔ For achievements in which field was the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics awarded? – **Research on quantum mechanics and electrical circuits**
- ➔ For what discovery did these scientists receive the 2025 Nobel Prize? – **The discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit**
- ➔ Which institution announced the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics? – **The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**
- ➔ Who won the Nobel Prize 2025 in Chemistry? – **Omar M. Yaghi, Susumu Kitagawa and Richard Robson**
- ➔ The 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded for developing what? – **Metal–organic frameworks (MoF)**
- ➔ Who won the Nobel Prize 2025 in Physiology or Medicine? – **Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi**
- ➔ Who won the Nobel Prize 2025 in Literature? – **László Krasznahorkai**
- ➔ Who won the Nobel Peace Prize 2025? – **María Corina Machado (Venezuela)**
- ➔ Who won the Nobel Prize 2025 in Economic Sciences? – **Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt**

ECONOMY

- ➔ What is the name of India's first Saatvik Index launched by BSE? – **BSE Saatvik 100**
- ➔ Which company became India's 28th Navratna CPSE? – **Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)**
- ➔ Which department upgraded CPCL to Navratna status? – **Department of Public Enterprises**
- ➔ CPCL recorded how much turnover in FY26? – **Rs. 59,400 crore**
- ➔ Which country topped the Energy Transition Index 2026? – **Sweden followed by Finland and Denmark**
- ➔ What was India's rank in Energy Transition Index 2026? – **70th**
- ➔ Which organization released the Energy Transition Index 2026? – **World Economic Forum**
- ➔ Which country ranked last in ETI 2026? – **Democratic Republic of the Congo (120th)**
- ➔ Which Indian city ranked 15th in Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026? – **Bengaluru**
- ➔ Who released GSER 2026? – **Startup Genome**
- ➔ Which city was Asia's top AI-native cluster? – **Beijing**
- ➔ Which ecosystem ranked first in GSER 2026? – **Silicon Valley**
- ➔ Where is India's first integrated Basmati and Organic Training Centre-cum-Demonstration Farm being established? – **Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh**
- ➔ Who launched the Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) for FY 2024–25? (29 May 2026) – **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal**
- ➔ Who released the Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin 2024? – **Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India (ORGI)**
- ➔ Under which ministry does ORGI function? – **Ministry of Home Affairs**
- ➔ What type of survey is the SRS? – **A large-scale demographic survey**
- ➔ What was India's birth rate in 2014? – **21 per 1,000 population**
- ➔ What was India's birth rate in 2024? – **18.3 per 1,000 population**
- ➔ What was India's death rate in 2014? – **6.7 per 1,000 population**
- ➔ What was India's death rate in 2024? – **6.4 per 1,000 population**
- ➔ Which scheme for the development of industrial parks was approved by the Union Cabinet? (March 2026) – **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA)**
- ➔ Who issued the operational guidelines for BHAVYA? – **The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**
- ➔ What is the total outlay for BHAVYA? – **₹33,660 crore**
- ➔ Who presented the Bihar Budget 2026–27? (3 February 2026) – **Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Finance Minister**
- ➔ What is the total size of the Bihar Budget 2026–27? – **₹3,47,589.76 crore**
- ➔ By how much did it increase compared with the 2025–26 Budget Estimates? – **₹30,694.74 crore**
- ➔ What does the Bihar Economic Survey 2025–26 provide a comprehensive assessment of? – **The state's economic development, public finances and development priorities**
- ➔ What was Bihar's GSDP growth rate at constant prices (2011–12) in 2024–25? – **8.6 per cent**
- ➔ When was the Uttar Pradesh Economic Review 2025–26 presented? – **9 February 2026**
- ➔ What was Uttar Pradesh's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2016–17? – **Approximately ₹13.30 lakh crore**
- ➔ What was the GSDP according to the quick estimates for 2024–25? – **Approximately ₹30.25 lakh crore**
- ➔ What did the Union Cabinet recently approve? (18 April 2026) – **The creation of the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)**
- ➔ What amount of sovereign guarantee has the government provided for the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool? – **₹12,980 crore**
- ➔ Up to when did the Union Cabinet approve the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III)? (18 April 2026) – **March 2028**
- ➔ What is the completion deadline for bridges in hilly areas? – **March 2029**
- ➔ What is the revised outlay of the scheme? – **₹83,977 crore**
- ➔ Who tabled the Economic Survey 2025–26 in Parliament? (29 January 2026) – **Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman**
- ➔ Which ministry prepares the Economic Survey? – **The Ministry of Finance, through the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs**

- ➔ Who presented the Union Budget 2026–27 in Parliament? (1 February 2026) – **Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman**
- ➔ What is the estimated total expenditure in the 2026–27 Budget? – **₹53,47,315 crore**
- ➔ What is the estimated fiscal deficit for FY 2026–27? – **4.3 per cent of GDP**
- ➔ What nominal GDP growth rate has been estimated for India in the 2026–27 Budget? – **10 per cent**
- ➔ What revenue deficit target, as a percentage of GDP, has been set for 2026–27? – **1.5 per cent**
- ➔ What amount of effective capital expenditure is estimated in the 2026–27 Budget? – **₹17,14,523 crore**
- ➔ How many high-speed rail corridors were announced in the 2026–27 Budget? (1 February 2026) – **7**
- ➔ What is the total estimated length of these seven high-speed rail corridors? – **Nearly 4,000 km**
- ➔ Which organisation recently set Guinness World Records during the construction of a six-lane national highway project? (6 January 2026) – **The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**
- ➔ On which economic corridor were these records set? – **Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor (NH-544G)**
- ➔ Which state became the first to constitute its Eighth Pay Commission? (February 2026) – **Assam**
- ➔ Who was appointed Chairman of the commission? – **Subhash Chandra Das**
- ➔ Under which mission did the government recently launch two key interventions? (January 2026) – **Export Promotion Mission**
- ➔ When was the Export Promotion Mission approved? – **November 2025**
- ➔ As part of the initial rollout of the Export Promotion Mission, two key interventions were launched under the niryat protsahan sub-scheme to strengthen the exports of which category of enterprises? – **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**
- ➔ What is the total outlay for the Export Promotion Mission? – **₹25,060 crore**
- ➔ What is the duration of the mission? – **From 2025–26 to 2030–31**
- ➔ For what achievement did Lucknow become the first city in Uttar Pradesh? (21 January 2026) – **Zero Fresh Waste Dump City**
- ➔ For which bank did the Union Cabinet approve equity support of ₹5,000 crore? (21 January 2026) – **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**
- ➔ Which bank was recognised as the ‘Best Bank in India’ at The Banker’s Bank of the Year Awards 2025? (December 2025) – **Bank of Baroda**
- ➔ Which publication presented this award? – **The Banker**
- ➔ What financial outlay was approved for conducting Census 2027 in India? (December 2025) – **₹11,718.24 crore**
- ➔ In how many phases will Census 2027 be conducted? – **Two phases**

SCIENCE

- ➔ Which force inducted its first indigenous Air Cushion Vehicle (Hovercraft) in Goa? – **Indian Coast Guard**
- ➔ What is the name/number of the first indigenous ACV inducted by ICG? – **H-561**
- ➔ Where was ICG’s first indigenous ACV inducted? – **Rassaim, Goa**
- ➔ Who became the first person of Indian origin to receive the Wolf Prize in Physics? – **Jainendra K. Jain**
- ➔ With whom did Jainendra K. Jain share the 2025 Wolf Prize in Physics? – **James P. Eisenstein and Mordehai Heiblum**
- ➔ Jainendra K. Jain was honoured for discovering what? – **Composite Fermions**
- ➔ Who presented the Wolf Prize to Jainendra K. Jain? – **Isaac Herzog (Israel)**
- ➔ Where was India’s seventh Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) established? (5 June 2026) – **Jammu**
- ➔ Where was E85 fuel officially launched in India? (June 2026) – **New Delhi**
- ➔ Which Union Minister launched it? – **Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri**
- ➔ At an outlet of which company was it launched? – **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IndianOil)**
- ➔ Which space agency operated the recently concluded MAVEN mission? (June 2026) – **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States**
- ➔ What does MAVEN stand for? – **Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution**
- ➔ What is the name of India’s first indigenous stratospheric super-pressure balloon (SPB)? (May 2026) – **VISTA**
- ➔ Which company developed and launched the ‘VISTA’ balloon? – **Red Balloon Aerospace**
- ➔ Where was this balloon launched? – **Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh)**
- ➔ Which organisations successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II missile? (2 June 2026) – **The Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Indian Air Force**
- ➔ What type of missile is RudraM-II? – **An air-to-surface missile**
- ➔ Where was the two-day National Conference on Rare Diseases organised? (5–6 May 2026) – **New Delhi**
- ➔ Where will India’s first commercial Mini/Micro-LED display facility be established? – **Dholera, Gujarat**
- ➔ According to the ‘World Health Statistics 2026’ report, what was the estimated number of COVID-19-associated ‘excess deaths’ worldwide between 2020 and 2023? (15 May 2026) – **22.1 million**
- ➔ The SMILE space mission is a joint project of which two organisations? (May 2026) – **The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the European Space Agency (ESA)**
- ➔ What does SMILE stand for? – **Solar wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer**

- ➔ In which country has ISRO begun assessing the launch site for the joint Chandrayaan-5 mission? (28 April 2026)
– **Japan**
- ➔ What is the official name of the Chandrayaan-5 mission?
– **Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission**
- ➔ In which state was India's first anode material plant commissioned? (April 2026) – **West Bengal**
- ➔ Which Indian company established this plant?
– **Himadri Speciality Chemical Limited**
- ➔ Which state police force launched India's first AI-based narcotics investigation tool? (April 2026)
– **Gujarat Police**
- ➔ What is the name of the AI-based narcotics investigation tool?
– **'NARIT-AI'**
- ➔ What does NARIT-AI stand for? – **Narcotics Analysis & RAG-based Investigation Tool**
- ➔ Where was the first meeting of the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council–Research Advisory Board (BRIC-RAB) held? (28 March 2026)
– **Faridabad (Haryana)**
- ➔ In which city was CALM-Brain, India's first digital repository of data on major psychiatric disorders, launched? (March 2026) – **Bengaluru**
- ➔ Which project has the Indian Air Force (IAF) launched to develop India's first indigenous helicopter-launched drone system? (March 2026) – **Project 'Vayu Baan'**
- ➔ What is the name of the joint military exercise conducted between India and Seychelles? (March 2026)
– **Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2026**
- ➔ Which airport is set to become the first in India to operate hydrogen-powered buses for passenger transport? – **Cochin International Airport**
- ➔ What is scheduled to become the world's first commercial, privately operated space station?
– **Haven-1**
- ➔ Which aerospace company is developing Haven-1?
– **Vast**
- ➔ Which organisation successfully demonstrated Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology? (3 February 2026)
– **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**
- ➔ Where was the demonstration conducted? – **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur (Odisha)**
- ➔ Which two wetlands have recently been added to India's Ramsar List?
– **Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand**
- ➔ In which district is Patna Bird Sanctuary located?
– **Etah district, Uttar Pradesh**
- ➔ Where is Chhari-Dhand located?
– **Kutch district, Gujarat**
- ➔ Which was India's 99th Ramsar site?
– **Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary (Aligarh, U.P.)**
- ➔ After 100 Ramsar sites, India ranked which globally?
– **Third**
- ➔ After 100 Ramsar sites, India ranked which in Asia?
– **First**
- ➔ In which document was India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0 formally announced?
– **Union Budget 2026–27**
- ➔ What initial provision was made for ISM 2.0 in the Union Budget 2026–27?
– **₹1,000 crore (financial year 2026–27)**
- ➔ Where was the Agni-3 missile test-fired? (6 February 2026)
– **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur (Odisha)**
- ➔ What type of missile is Agni-3?
– **Intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM)**
- ➔ What is the range of this missile?
– **3,000 to 3,500 kilometres**
- ➔ Which organisation developed the Agni-3 missile?
– **DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation)**
- ➔ Which Indian port became the first to initiate the implementation of an advanced 'Anti-Drone System'? (February 2026)
– **V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority**
- ➔ In which Indian state is V.O. Chidambaranar Port located?
– **Tamil Nadu**
- ➔ Which state became the first in India to launch dedicated menopause clinics?
– **Maharashtra**
- ➔ On which date is World Menopause Day observed every year?
– **18 October**
- ➔ Where was the 17th edition of Exercise DOSTI conducted? (January 2026) – **Malé, Maldives**
- ➔ Exercise DOSTI is a trilateral exercise among the coast guard forces of which three countries?
– **India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives**
- ➔ Where were the world's second National Environmental Standard Laboratory and the world's fifth National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration inaugurated? (5 January 2026) – **CSIR–National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi**
- ➔ Which Union Minister inaugurated these facilities?
– **Dr Jitendra Singh**
- ➔ Where was the Consumer Electronics Show (CES 2026) held? (6–9 January 2026) – **Las Vegas**
- ➔ Where has it been announced that India's first indigenously developed commercial quantum computer will be deployed? (January 2026) – **IIIT Dharwad**
- ➔ What is the name of India's first indigenous 64-bit dual-core microprocessor? (15 December 2025)
– **DHRUV64**
- ➔ Which agency developed the DHRUV64 microprocessor?
– **C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing)**
- ➔ Where is India's first Green Hydrogen Production Plant for trains being established? (December 2025)
– **Jind, Haryana**
- ➔ Where is Siliserh Lake, which was recently designated a Ramsar Site, located? (December 2025)
– **Alwar, Rajasthan**
- ➔ Where is Kopra Jalashay, which was designated a Ramsar Site at the same time, located?
– **Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh**
- ➔ What is the name of the spiral galaxy discovered by Indian astronomers? (December 2025) – **Alaknanda**

- ➔ Scientists from which institution discovered it?
– **National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (NCRA-TIFR), Pune**
- ➔ Where was the 'Regional Conference on Environment – 2025' held? (6–7 December 2025)
– **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**
- ➔ Which renowned Indian space scientist passed away at the age of 100? (22 October 2025)
– **Dr Eknath Vasant Chitnis**
- ➔ What is India's first indigenous developed antibiotic?
– **Nafithromycin**
- ➔ Which country became the 26th to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem? (October 2025) – **Fiji**
- ➔ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed an MoU with which Russian company for the production of the SJ-100 civil commuter aircraft? (27 October 2025)
– **Public Joint Stock Company United Aircraft Corporation (PJSC-UAC)**
- ➔ Where was this MoU signed? – **Moscow, Russia**
- ➔ What type of civil aircraft is the SJ-100?
– **A twin-engine, narrow-body aircraft**
- ➔ What is the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier?
– **INS Vikrant**
- ➔ What are the names of the two recently launched advanced Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)? (24 October 2025)
– **ICGS Ajit and ICGS Aparajit**
- ➔ In which state is the 1,000 MW Naying Hydro Electric Project proposed? (October 2025)
– **Arunachal Pradesh**
- ➔ On which river in Arunachal Pradesh is this project proposed? – **Siyom River**
- ➔ Where was Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Akshar recently commissioned? (4 October 2025)
– **Karaikal, Puducherry**
- ➔ ICGS Akshar belongs to which class of Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)? – **The Adamya class; ICGS Akshar is the second vessel in the series**
- ➔ What does the name 'Akshar' mean, reflecting the resolve of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)?
– **'Indestructible' or 'imperishable'**
- ➔ Which three 16-year-old Indian teenagers formed the team named the Global Winner of The Earth Prize 2026?
– **Vivaan Chhawchharia, Ariana Agarwal and Avyana Mehta**
- ➔ President Droupadi Murmu presented the 'President of India's Police Colour' to the police force of which state? (May 28, 2026) – **Sikkim Police**
- ➔ Which Indian peacekeepers were selected to receive the United Nations' Dag Hammarskjöld Medal posthumously? (May 2026) – **Lance Havildar Harbhajan Singh and Naib Subedar Sujit Kumar Pradhan**
- ➔ When is the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers observed? – **May 29**
- ➔ When is International Workers' Day observed? – **May 1**
- ➔ Lily Das Malik, who passed away in Bengaluru at the age of 90, was the first woman from which state to serve as a newsreader at All India Radio? (May 3, 2026) – **B**
- ➔ Which two Indian contributors were among the winners of the 2026 Pulitzer Prize for Illustrated Reporting and Commentary? – **Anand RK and Suparna Sharma**
- ➔ Who received the 2026 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize? (May 4, 2026)
– **Sudanese Journalists Syndicate**
- ➔ When is World Press Freedom Day observed? – **May 3**
- ➔ When is International Thalassaemia Day observed every year? – **May 8**
- ➔ Who became the first Indian woman to be elected a Fellow of The Meteoritical Society in 2026? (May 2026)
– **Prof. Kuljeet Kaur Marhas**
- ➔ Under whose chairmanship did Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant constitute the Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee to modernise courts across the country? (May 2026) – **Justice Aravind Kumar**
- ➔ By how long was the tenure of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Praveen Sood extended? (May 13, 2026) – **One year**
- ➔ Which honour, Sweden's highest for foreign heads of government, was recently conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi? (May 2026) – **Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross**
- ➔ Which honour was conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Norway? (May 2026) – **Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit**
- ➔ Who assumed charge as the new CEO of UIDAI? (18 May 2026) – **Saurabh Vijay**
- ➔ What is the full form of UIDAI?
– **Unique Identification Authority of India**
- ➔ Where has India's first private medical museum been established? (25 May 2026)
– **Ulloor, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**
- ➔ Who received the 'Business Reformer of the Year' Award for 2025? (25 April 2026)
– **N. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh**
- ➔ When is Ayushman Bharat Day observed? – **30 April**

NEWS IN SHORT

- ➔ What is the theme of the International Day of Yoga 2026? (June 21, 2026) – **Yoga for Healthy Ageing**
- ➔ Where was a strict ban on single-use plastics and littering recently ordered? (June 19, 2026) – **Across Ladakh**
- ➔ When is World Environment Day observed every year?
– **June 5**
- ➔ Which constitutional expert and former Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha passed away at the age of 97? (June 4, 2026) – **Subhash C. Kashyap**
- ➔ Which veteran Indian film producer passed away in Mumbai at the age of 76? (June 4, 2026)
– **Pahlaj Nihalani**
- ➔ Pahlaj Nihalani served as the Chairperson of which institution? – **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), 2015–2017**

- ➔ How many women were honoured with the 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize? – **6: Iroro Tanshi (Nigeria), Borim Kim (South Korea), Sarah Finch (United Kingdom), Theonila Roka Matbob (Papua New Guinea), Alannah Acaq Hurley (United States), and Yuvelis Morales Blanco (Colombia)**
- ➔ Which legendary photographer passed away at the age of 83? (26 April 2026) – **Raghu Rai**
- ➔ When is World Malaria Day observed? – **25 April**
- ➔ Which 594-kilometre-long, access-controlled greenfield expressway connecting Meerut and Prayagraj was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi? (29 April 2026) – **Ganga Expressway**
- ➔ Where was the expressway inaugurated? – **Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh**
- ➔ How many lanes does the Ganga Expressway have initially? – **6 lanes**
- ➔ Up to how many lanes can this expressway be expanded? – **8 lanes**
- ➔ Ganga Expressway starts and end between which cities? – **Meerut and Prayagraj**
- ➔ What is the Starting Point of the Ganga expressway? – **Bijauli village in Meerut (connecting to NH-334)**
- ➔ What is the Ending Point of the Ganga expressway? – **Judapur Dandu village in Prayagraj (connecting to NH-19 near the bypass)**
- ➔ What is the total length of Ganga Expressway? – **594 km**
- ➔ Ganga Expressway passes through how many districts? – **12 districts**
- ➔ These 12 districts are – **Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj**
- ➔ Which famous singer passed away at the age of 92? (12 April 2026) – **Asha Bhosle**
- ➔ Which renowned singer was Asha Bhosle's sister? – **Lata Mangeshkar**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book 'Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood'? – **Mohar Basu**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book 'Sab Par Ram Tapasvi Raja'? – **Ashutosh Agnihotri**
- ➔ Who assumed charge as the new Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)? (March 2026) – **Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti**
- ➔ Who was awarded the 2026 Abel Prize? (March 2026) – **Gerd Faltings (Germany)**
- ➔ Who was selected for the 35th Saraswati Samman for 2025? – **Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay**
- ➔ Which work earned Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay this honour? – **'Hara Parbati Katha'**
- ➔ The Uttar Pradesh Government announced that the prize money for the Laxman Award and the Rani Lakshmibai Award would be increased from ₹3.11 lakh to what amount? (24 March 2026) – **₹10 lakh each**
- ➔ According to Forbes' World's Billionaires List 2026, who is the richest person in the world? – **Elon Musk**
- ➔ Who was named the 2026 Stockholm Water Prize laureate? – **Kaveh Madani (Iran)**
- ➔ When is Bihar Day observed? – **22 March**
- ➔ What was the theme of Bihar Day 2026? – **"Unnat Bihar, Ujjwal Bihar" ("Progressive Bihar, Bright Bihar")**
- ➔ In how many Indian languages did the Sahitya Akademi announce its annual awards for 2025? (16 March 2026) – **24**
- ➔ Who received the Sahitya Akademi Award in Hindi? – **Mamta Kalia ['Jeete Jee Allahabad' (memoir)]**
- ➔ Where were the 98th Academy Awards (the 2026 Oscars) held? (15 March 2026) – **Los Angeles, USA**
- ➔ Which film won Best Picture at the 2026 Oscars? – **'One Battle After Another'**
- ➔ Who won Best Actor at the 2026 Oscars? – **Michael B. Jordan ('Sinners')**
- ➔ Who won Best Actress? – **Jessie Buckley ('Hamnet')**
- ➔ Who won Best Director? – **Paul Thomas Anderson ('One Battle after Another')**
- ➔ When was National Productivity Week observed? – **12–18 February 2026**
- ➔ What was the theme of the 68th National Productivity Week? – **"Clusters as Growth Engine: Maximizing Productivity in MSMEs"**
- ➔ When is World Pulses Day observed? – **10 February**
- ➔ What was the theme of World Pulses Day 2026? – **"Pulses of the World: from Modesty to Excellence"**
- ➔ Which visually impaired woman from Kerala was set to become the state's first visually impaired civil judge after clearing the Kerala Judicial Service Examination? (10 February 2026) – **Thanya C. Nathan**
- ➔ When is World Wetlands Day observed? – **2 February**
- ➔ What was the theme of World Wetlands Day 2026? – **"Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage"**
- ➔ Where was the 68th Grammy Awards ceremony held? (1 February 2026) – **Los Angeles**
- ➔ Which song won Song of the Year? – **'Wildflower'**
- ➔ Which song won Record of the Year? – **'Luther' (Kendrick Lamar and SZA)**
- ➔ Which award did Indian teacher Rouble Nagi receive? (February 2026) – **GEMS Education Global Teacher Prize 2026**
- ➔ How much is the prize money for the Global Teacher Prize? – **US\$1 million**
- ➔ Which award did Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev launch on the occasion of Mahashivratri? (February 2026) – **'Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Award'**
- ➔ Which Odia singer passed away at the age of 73? (February 2026) – **Geeta Patnaik**
- ➔ Where was the National Textiles Ministers' Conference held? (8–9 January 2026) – **Guwahati, Assam**
- ➔ Who organised the conference? – **The Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with the Government of Assam**
- ➔ What was the theme of the conference? – **"India's Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation"**
- ➔ Who is the original author of 'The Land and the Shadows'? – **Perumal Murugan**

- ➔ Who translated 'The Land and the Shadows' into English? – **Gita Subramanian**
- ➔ When is 'Lokpal Day' observed? – **16 January**
- ➔ Which American evolutionary biologist was awarded the 2026 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement? (January 2026) – **Toby Kiers**
- ➔ What is the new name of the official residence of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh? – **Jan Bhavan**
- ➔ In which district of Bihar was the world's largest monolithic Shivling installed? (17 January 2026) – **East Champaran**
- ➔ For 2026, how many Padma Awards did the President approve for conferment? (January 2026) – **131**
- ➔ In how many categories are the Padma Awards conferred? – **Three (Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri)**
- ➔ How many Padma Vibhushan awards were announced in 2026? – **5**
- ➔ How many women are included in the 2026 Padma Awards list? – **19**
- ➔ How many posthumous awards are included in the 2026 Padma Awards list? – **16**
- ➔ How many people from the Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI category are included in the list? – **6**
- ➔ Who will be posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan in the field of art? – **Dharmendra Singh Deol, Maharashtra**
- ➔ How many Padma Vibhushan awards were announced posthumously in 2026? – **2**
- ➔ How did 27-year-old Captain Hansja Sharma make history? (26 January 2026) – **By becoming the Indian Army's first woman pilot qualified to fly the Rudra armed helicopter**
- ➔ On which date was 'World Leprosy Day' observed in 2026? – **25 January**
- ➔ What was the theme of World Leprosy Day 2026? – **"Leprosy is curable, the real challenge is stigma"**
- ➔ When is National Youth Day observed? – **12 January**
- ➔ When is Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) observed? – **9 January**
- ➔ Which renowned ecologist passed away at the age of 83? (7 January 2026) – **Madhav Gadgil**
- ➔ Who was appointed Chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)? (1 January 2026) – **A. K. Balasubrahmanian**
- ➔ When is Global Family Day observed? – **1 January**
- ➔ Which work was released by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan at Bharat Mandapam? – **Mahamana Vangmay**
- ➔ Who received the 2025 IFFCO Sahitya Samman? (30 December 2025) – **Maitreyi Pushpa**
- ➔ Which Indian was also honoured with UNEP's 2025 Champions of the Earth award? (December 2025) – **Supriya Sahu**
- ➔ At which film festival was Alia Bhatt honoured with the 'Golden Globe Horizon Award'? – **5th Red Sea International Film Festival (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia)**
- ➔ Who was named TIME's 2025 Person of the Year? (December 2025) – **The Architects of AI**
- ➔ Who was named TIME's 'CEO of the Year 2025'? (December 2025) – **Neal Mohan**
- ➔ Neal Mohan is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which company? – **YouTube**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book 'The Great Sanctions Hack'? – **Urjit Patel**
- ➔ Who was named PETA India's 2025 'Person of the Year'? (December 2025) – **Raveena Tandon**
- ➔ Who received the 2025 Dr. Paulos Mar Gregorios Award? (30 November 2025) – **Dr. Tessa Thomas**
- ➔ When is National Pollution Control Day observed? – **2 December**
- ➔ What was the theme of 'National Pollution Control Day 2025'? – **"Sustainable Living for a Greener Future"**
- ➔ Which former Governor of Mizoram and senior advocate passed away at the age of 73? (4 December 2025) – **Swaraj Kaushal**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book 'Bharat: That Is India – Reclaiming Our Real Identity'? – **Abhijit Joag**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book 'The Eleventh Hour: A Quintet of Stories'? – **Salman Rushdie**
- ➔ Which award was presented to Shubhangi Dutt? (December 2025) – **Best Actress Award**
- ➔ At which film festival did Shubhangi Dutt receive the Best Actress Award? – **International Film Festival of Australia**
- ➔ For which film did Shubhangi Dutt receive the Best Actress Award? – **Tanvi The Great**
- ➔ When is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women observed? – **25 November**
- ➔ Who won Best Performance by an Actor at the 2025 International Emmy Awards? (24 November 2025) – **Oriol Pla**
- ➔ Who won Best Performance by an Actress? – **Anna Maxwell Martin**
- ➔ Who assumed office as the 53rd Chief Justice of India? (24 November 2025) – **Justice Surya Kant**
- ➔ Who won the Miss Universe 2025 title? (November 2025) – **Fátima Bosch (Mexico)**
- ➔ When is National Unity Day celebrated? – **31 October**
- ➔ National Unity Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of which leader? – **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**
- ➔ Which award was announced to be conferred posthumously on Professor Jayant Vishnu Narlikar? (October 2025) – **Vigyan Ratna Award (Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025)**
- ➔ Which team received the 2025 Vigyan Team Award? – **The Aroma Mission Team of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**
- ➔ How many categories are there under the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar? – **Four (Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and Vigyan Team)**
- ➔ When was Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 observed? – **27 October–2 November 2025**
- ➔ What was the theme of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025? – **"Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility"**

- ➔ Who was appointed Chairperson of the Eighth Central Pay Commission (8th Pay Commission)? (October 2025)
– **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai**
- ➔ Which famous actor passed away at the age of 74? (25 October 2025)
– **Satish Shah**
- ➔ Who were announced as the joint recipients of the 2025 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought? (October 2025)
– **Belarusian journalist Andrzej Poczobut and Georgian journalist Mzia Amaglobeli**
- ➔ When is World Polio Day observed?
– **24 October**
- ➔ Which veteran actor and comedian passed away at the age of 84? (20 October 2025)
– **Asrani**
- ➔ Which actor passed away at the age of 68? (15 October 2025)
– **Pankaj Dheer**
- ➔ In which famous television serial did Pankaj Dheer play the role of 'Karna'?
– **Mahabharat**
- ➔ When is World Food Day observed?
– **16 October**
- ➔ Who was awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize?
– **Maria Corina Machado (Venezuela)**
- ➔ Where were the 70th Filmfare Awards 2025 held? (11 October 2025)
– **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**
- ➔ Which film won the highest number of awards at the 70th Filmfare Awards 2025?
– **Laapataa Ladies (13)**
- ➔ Who was announced as the recipient of the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature? (October 2025)
– **László Krasznahorkai (Hungary)**
- ➔ Who will receive the 2025 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize? (October 2025)
– **Alexander Smith**
- ➔ Alexander Smith is associated with which university?
– **Northwestern University**
- ➔ When is World Cotton Day observed?
– **7 October**
- ➔ Where was the World Cotton Day 2025 celebration held in India?
– **New Delhi**
- ➔ Which organisations jointly organised the event?
– **The Ministry of Textiles and the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI)**
- ➔ What was the theme of the event?
– **Cotton 2040: Technology, Climate & Competitiveness**
- ➔ When is Air Force Day celebrated in India?
– **8 October**
- ➔ Which actress passed away recently? (4 October 2025)
– **Sandhya Shantaram**
- ➔ Sandhya Shantaram was the wife of which famous filmmaker?
– **V. Shantaram**
- ➔ For which art form was Sandhya Shantaram known?
– **Dance**
- ➔ When is World Cerebral Palsy Day (WCPD) observed?
– **6 October**
- ➔ What was the theme of World Cerebral Palsy Day 2025?
– **Unique and United**
- ➔ Which award was conferred on India for outstanding achievement in social security? (October 2025)
– **International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025 for Outstanding Achievement in Social Security**
- ➔ The ISSA Award 2025 was presented at the ISSA World Social Security Forum held in which country?
– **Malaysia**
- ➔ Who received the ISSA Award 2025 on behalf of India?
– **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**
- ➔ What is the full form of ISSA?
– **International Social Security Association**
- ➔ When is World Teachers' Day observed?
– **5 October**
- ➔ Who presented the MY Bharat–National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for 2022–23? (6 October 2025)
– **President Droupadi Murmu**
- ➔ Which famous Hindustani classical vocalist passed away at the age of 89? (2 October 2025)
– **Pandit Chhannulal Mishra**
- ➔ In which year was Pandit Chhannulal Mishra honoured with the Padma Bhushan?
– **2010**
- ➔ Which honour was conferred on Pandit Chhannulal Mishra by the Government of Uttar Pradesh?
– **Yash Bharti Award**
- ➔ For which forms of singing was Pandit Chhannulal Mishra famous? – **Khayal, thumri, dadra and bhajan**
- ➔ What role did Pandit Chhannulal Mishra play during Narendra Modi's nomination from the Varanasi constituency in 2014?
– **He was one of Narendra Modi's proposers**
- ➔ When is the International Day of Non-Violence observed?
– **2 October**
- ➔ Who became the new Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)?
– **Praveer Ranjan**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book "The CEO Mindset"?
– **Shiv Shivakumar**
- ➔ Who are the authors of the book "Missing from the House: Muslim Women in the Lok Sabha"?
– **Rasheed Kidwai and Ambar Kumar Ghosh**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book "Mujib's Blunders: The Powers and the Plot Behind His Killing"?
– **Manash Ghosh**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book "107 Days"?
– **Kamala Harris**
- ➔ Where did President Droupadi Murmu recently present the 71st National Film Awards? (September 23, 2025)
– **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**
- ➔ Which Malayalam film actor was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2023? (September 23, 2025)
– **Mohanlal**
- ➔ At which award ceremony was the award presented?
– **At the 71st National Film Awards ceremony**
- ➔ When is the International Day of Peace observed?
– **September 21**
- ➔ What was the theme for this day in 2025?
– **"Act Now for a Peaceful World"**
- ➔ Who is the author of the book "Mother Mary Comes to Me"?
– **Arundhati Roy**

SPORTS

- ➔ ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 is being held in which countries? (June 12, 2026 - July 5, 2026)
– **England and Wales**
- ➔ Who scored the fastest-ever List A half-century?
– **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi**

- ➔ Vaibhav Sooryavanshi scored a List A fifty in how many balls against Sri Lanka A? - **11 balls**
- ➔ Whose previous record did Vaibhav Sooryavanshi break? - **Kaushalya Weeraratne (50 runs in 12 balls)**
- ➔ Where was the Grand Slam tennis tournament '2026 French Open' held? (May 24–June 7, 2026)
- **Stade Roland-Garros, Paris, France**
- ➔ Who won the men's singles title at the 2026 French Open?
- **Alexander Zverev (Germany; his first Grand Slam title)**
- ➔ Who won the women's singles title?
- **Mirra Andreeva (Russia)**
- ➔ How many teams participated in the 19th Indian Premier League (IPL 2026)? (March 28–May 31, 2026) - **10**
- ➔ Where was the IPL 2026 final played?
- **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad**
- ➔ Which team emerged as the winner?
- **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (second consecutive title)**
- ➔ Which team finished as the runner-up?
- **Gujarat Titans**
- ➔ Who was named Player of the Match in the final?
- **Virat Kohli (Royal Challengers Bengaluru)**
- ➔ Who was named the Most Valuable Player of the season?
- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (Rajasthan Royals)**
- ➔ Who won the Orange Cap for scoring the most runs?
- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (Rajasthan Royals), 776 runs**
- ➔ Who won the Purple Cap for taking the most wickets?
- **Kagiso Rabada (Gujarat Titans), 29 wickets**
- ➔ Who received the Emerging Player of the Season award?
- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (Rajasthan Royals)**
- ➔ Which team won the title in the football tournament 'Indian Super League (ISL) 2025–26'? (14 February–21 May 2026)
- **East Bengal FC (first title)**
- ➔ Which team finished as the runner-up?
- **Mohun Bagan Super Giant**
- ➔ Where were the 'BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2026' held? (24 April–3 May 2026) - **Horsens (Denmark)**
- ➔ Who won the 2026 Thomas Cup (men's event)?
- **China**
- ➔ Which team finished as the runner-up? - **France**
- ➔ Which country won the 2026 Uber Cup (women's event)?
- **South Korea**
- ➔ Whom did South Korea defeat in the final? - **China**
- ➔ Where was the ISSF Junior World Cup Rifle / Pistol / Shotgun 2026 held? (19–27 April 2026)
- **Cairo, Egypt**
- ➔ Where did India finish in the medal standings? - **First**
- ➔ Who is Ishank Singh? (30 April 2026) - **A seven-year-old swimmer from Ranchi, Jharkhand**
- ➔ What feat did Ishank Singh accomplish?
- **He set a record by becoming the youngest swimmer to cross the Palk Strait**
- ➔ Where were the Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 held? (20 April 2026) - **Madrid, Spain**
- ➔ Who was named the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year?
- **Carlos Alcaraz (Tennis/Spain)**
- ➔ Who received the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award? - **Aryna Sabalenka (Tennis/Belarus)**
- ➔ Who was named Wisden's Leading Men's Cricketer in the World in the 2026 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack? (16 April 2026) - **Mitchell Starc (Australia)**
- ➔ Where were the Badminton Asia Championships 2026 held? (7–12 April 2026) - **Ningbo, China**
- ➔ Who won the gold medal in men's singles?
- **Shi Yu Qi (China)**
- ➔ Who had to settle for the silver medal after losing the final?
- **Ayush Shetty (India)**
- ➔ Which team won the Col. C. K. Nayudu Trophy Elite 2025–26? (16 October–12 March 2026)
- **Tamil Nadu**
- ➔ Which team finished as the runner-up? - **Maharashtra**
- ➔ Who won the Ranji Trophy 2025–26? (15 October 2025–28 February 2026)
- **Jammu and Kashmir (first title)**
- ➔ Which team finished as the runner-up? - **Karnataka**
- ➔ Where was the SAFF U-19 Women's Championship 2026 held? (31 January–7 February 2026)
- **Pokhara (Nepal)**
- ➔ Which team emerged as the winner?
- **India (third title)**
- ➔ Which team finished as the runner-up? - **Bangladesh**
- ➔ Which countries hosted the 10th edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup? (7 February–8 March 2026)
- **India and Sri Lanka**
- ➔ How many teams participated in the 10th edition? - **20**
- ➔ Which team participated in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup for the first time? - **Italy**
- ➔ Which team became the champion? - **India**
- ➔ Who was named Player of the Tournament?
- **Sanju Samson (India)**
- ➔ Who was named Player of the Match in the final?
- **Jasprit Bumrah (India)**
- ➔ Which player from the Indian hockey team that won the gold medal at the Moscow 1980 Olympic Games passed away? (January 2026) - **Davinder Singh Garcha**
- ➔ For which event was Mahendra Singh Dhoni appointed as the goodwill ambassador?
- **Bajaj Pune Grand Tour 2026**
- ➔ Which sport is the Bajaj Pune Grand Tour 2026 associated with? - **Road cycling**
- ➔ When was the Bajaj Pune Grand Tour 2026 held?
- **19–23 January 2026**
- ➔ Who organised the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026? (9 January–5 February 2026)
- **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**
- ➔ How many teams competed in this season? - **5**
- ➔ Which team became the champion?
- **Royal Challengers Bengaluru**
- ➔ Which team finished as the runner-up?
- **Delhi Capitals**
- ➔ Who was named the Most Valuable Player of the season?
- **Sophie Devine (Gujarat Giants)**
- ➔ Where was the FIDE World Cup 2025 held? (30 October–27 November 2025) - **Goa (India)**
- ➔ Which chess player won the title?
- **Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan)**



Political / National Affairs

12th International Yoga Day 2026

- ➔ The 12th International Yoga Day was officially celebrated in Kolkata on **June 21, 2026**.
- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the main event at Red Road in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ➔ Around 35,000 people joined the yoga session with the Prime Minister.
- ➔ He said that June 21 has become the day of the **world's largest collective celebration** because of International Yoga Day.
- ➔ He highlighted that yoga represents **Connection, Unity and Harmony**.
- ➔ The theme of International Yoga Day 2026 was **"Yoga for Healthy Ageing."**

☐ Preparations for IDY 2026

- ➔ The **100-day countdown** began at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on **March 13, 2026**.
- ➔ The **75-day countdown** was held at Lonar in Maharashtra.
- ➔ The **50-day countdown** was held at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Hyderabad.
- ➔ The **25-day countdown** was held at the Khajuraho Group of Monuments.
- ➔ A nationwide live yoga session on 14 June 2026 saw more than four lakh people joining simultaneously.
- ➔ This event created a **new Guinness World Record**.
- ➔ The campaign **"100 Days, 100 Cities, 100 Organisations"** encouraged regular yoga practice across India.
- ➔ **Yoga 365** encourages people to practise yoga every day, not only on 21 June.

☐ Yoga Day Initiative

- ➔ International Yoga Day was first proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the United Nations in **September 2014**.
- ➔ The United Nations declared **June 21 as International Yoga Day on 11 December 2014**.
- ➔ The proposal received support from 193 member states and 173 co-sponsors.

- ➔ Since then, International Yoga Day has been celebrated worldwide every year.
- ➔ The first International Day of Yoga was held at Rajpath, New Delhi, in 2015.
- ➔ The first edition had 35,985 participants from 84 countries.
- ➔ It then created Guinness World Records for the largest yoga lesson at a single venue and the largest number of nationalities in a yoga lesson.

Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase 2A

- ➔ The Union Cabinet approved Phase 2A of the Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project on 10 June 2026.
- ➔ The Cabinet meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ➔ Phase 2A will connect Koteswar Road to the Airport corridor.
- ➔ The total length of the new metro corridor will be **6.032 km**.
- ➔ The corridor will have 5 stations. Out of these 5 stations, 4 will be elevated and 1 will be underground.
- ➔ The stations under Phase 2A are Ashram Road, Koteswar Prachin Mandir, Sabarmati River, Sardar Nagar and Airport.
- ➔ The total project cost, including Interest During Construction, is **₹2,169.04 crore**.
- ➔ After Phase 2A becomes operational, Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar will have 77.63 km of active metro rail network.
- ➔ It will also connect important residential and commercial areas with the existing Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar metro corridor.
- ➔ The project is expected to support future sports facilities for the World Police Games 2029 and Commonwealth Games 2030.
- ➔ The metro expansion will help reduce road traffic and travel time.
- ➔ The project is expected to improve urban mobility and quality of life in Ahmedabad.

Inauguration of Noida International Airport (Phase-1)

Commercial operation at Jewar Airport officially started on June 15, 2026. The first commercial flight, operated by IndiGO arrived from Lucknow.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Noida International Airport (Phase-1) on 28 March 2026 at Jewar in district Gautam Buddha Nagar.

- ➔ The airport has been constructed at a cost of ₹11,200 crore, and along with its inauguration, the cargo terminal was also inaugurated. He also laid the foundation stone of the **Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility**.
- ➔ With the inauguration of Noida International Airport (Phase-1), Uttar Pradesh has become one of the states with the highest number of international airports in the country.
- ➔ It is noteworthy that recently the Central Government has approved approximately **₹29,000 crore (~ ₹28,840 crore)** to further expand the **UDAN Scheme**.
- ➔ Under this scheme, **100 new airports and 200 new helipads** will be developed in smaller cities.
- ➔ Along with this, the foundation stone for the **Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility** has also been laid here.
- ➔ On **13 March 2026**, Noida International Airport (NIA) and Akasa Air announced a strategic partnership to establish the first MRO facility of Akasa Air at Noida International Airport.
- ➔ It is noteworthy that the project for this airport was approved in **2003** during the government of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ➔ **Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL)**, a 100% subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG, has been entrusted with the responsibility of **development, construction, and operation** of the greenfield Noida International Airport project.
- ➔ Through close cooperation with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Government of India, YIAPL is responsible for implementing this **public-private partnership (PPP) initiative**.

Sikkim Declared Fully Literate State

- ➔ Sikkim on May 27, 2026 declared India's fifth fully literate state after achieving the literacy benchmarks prescribed under the 'Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) programme.
- ➔ **Himachal Pradesh** was declared to be a 'fully literate' state (September, 2025), becoming the fifth such State/Union Territory in India (fourth

among states) after Goa, Ladakh (UT), Mizoram, and Tripura. Himachal claims to have a literacy rate of 99.3% as per ULLAS Programme. According to the Census of India 2011, the total literacy rate for Himachal Pradesh was 82.80%.

- ➔ On **June 23, 2025** Tripura was declared fully literate state under the **ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**. Tripura became **3rd State** after **Goa & Mizoram**.
- ➔ Earlier on **May 30, 2025**, Chief Minister **Dr. Pramod Sawant** officially declared State of **Goa as full functional literacy** under the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Programme).
- ➔ This achievement marks a major milestone in India's pursuit of **full literacy by 2030**, as envisioned in the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- ➔ According to census 2011, **Goa's literacy rate was 88.7%**.
- ➔ The literacy rate in Tripura, according to the 2011 census, is 87.22%.
- ➔ Goa has become the **second state in the country** to surpass the nationally prescribed 95% functional literacy benchmark.
- ➔ Earlier on **May 20, 2025**, Chief Minister of Mizoram, Lalduhoma, officially declared **Mizoram** as a fully literate state.
- ➔ Mizoram becomes the first state in India to attain the status of full literacy.
- ➔ As per the 2011 Census, the state had a literacy rate of 91.33%, ranking third in India.
- ➔ Prior to Mizoram, on **June 24, 2024**, **Ladakh** became the first administrative unit (non-state) to declare full literacy.

❑ Sikkim Declared India's First Paperless Judiciary

- ➔ Sikkim marked an important milestone in India's judicial digitalisation when it was officially declared the first paperless State judiciary in the country on May 1, 2026. The declaration was made by Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, during the **Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education** held in **Gangtok**.
- ➔ The event was held at **Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok**, with Chief Minister **Prem Singh Tamang** as the Guest of Honour.
- ➔ Sikkim's judiciary has achieved the distinction of becoming the first State judiciary in the country to move fully towards a paperless system.
- ➔ The paperless judiciary model aims to make courts more efficient, transparent, accessible, and citizen-centric.

Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2024 Report

Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2024 (ADSI 2024) is an annual report published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) on May 7, 2026 under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

❑ Key Findings of the Report

○ Accidental Deaths in India

- ➔ In 2023, the total number of accidental deaths in India was 4,44,104.
- ➔ In 2024, the total number of accidental deaths in India increased to 4,67,857.
- ➔ The rate of accidental deaths was 31.9 in 2023.
- ➔ The rate of accidental deaths increased to 33.3 in 2024.
- ➔ The maximum number of casualties in 2024 was reported in the age group of 30 years to below 45 years.
- ➔ This age group accounted for 1,46,370 deaths, which was 31.3% of total accidental deaths.
- ➔ A total of 7,903 deaths were reported in the country due to causes attributable to forces of nature.

○ Major Causes of Deaths Due to Forces of Nature

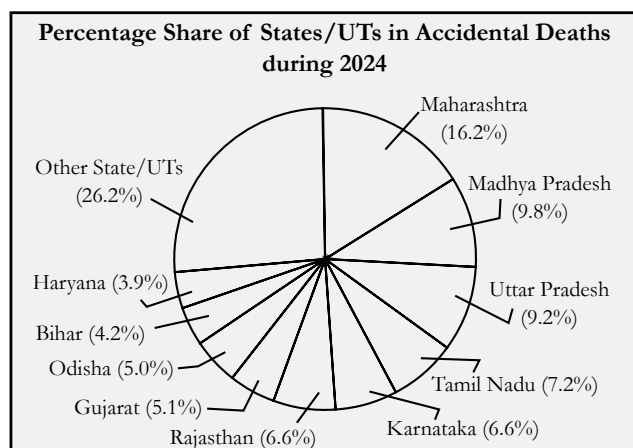
- ➔ Out of the 7,903 accidental deaths attributable to forces of nature, 35.7% were due to lightning.
- ➔ Out of the 7,903 accidental deaths attributable to forces of nature, 23.2% were due to heat or sunstroke.
- ➔ Out of the 7,903 accidental deaths attributable to forces of nature, 10.5% were due to exposure to cold.

○ Age Group-wise Victims of Accidents Due to Forces of Nature

- ➔ The majority of victims who died due to accidents caused by forces of nature belonged to the age groups of 45 years to 60 years and 30 years to 45 years together.

○ States and Union Territories with the Highest Lightning Deaths

- ➔ Under the category of lightning, Madhya Pradesh reported 577 deaths.



○ Cases, Deaths, and Injuries Due to Other Causes

- ➔ A total of 7,54,441 cases were reported under accidents due to other causes.

- ➔ These cases resulted in 4,59,954 deaths.
- ➔ These cases also resulted in injuries to 4,53,331 persons.
- ➔ The male-female ratio in fatalities during 2024 was 82.4:17.6.
- ➔ Traffic accidents were the leading cause of accidental deaths due to other causes and accounted for 43.4% of such deaths.

❑ Fire Accidents

- ➔ A total of 5,971 cases of fire accidents were reported in the country during 2024.
- ➔ These fire accidents resulted in 5,888 deaths.
- ➔ Drowning caused 40,044 deaths during 2024.
- ➔ Drowning accounted for 8.7% of deaths under accidents due to other causes.

○ Total Traffic Accidents

- ➔ A total of 4,95,256 traffic accidents were reported during 2024.
- ➔ These traffic accidents included 4,67,967 road accidents.
- ➔ Traffic accidents caused injuries to 4,51,597 persons.

○ Deaths by Type of Traffic Accident

- ➔ Road accidents accounted for 87.8% of deaths in traffic accidents.
- ➔ Road accidents caused 1,75,142 deaths.
- ➔ Railway accidents accounted for 0.0% of deaths in traffic accidents.

○ Total Road Accidents, Injuries, and Deaths

- ➔ During 2024, a total of 4,67,967 cases of road accidents were reported.
- ➔ Road accidents injured 4,48,365 persons.
- ➔ Road accidents caused 1,75,142 deaths.

○ Rural and Urban Road Accidents

- ➔ Rural areas reported 59.7% of road accidents.
- ➔ Rural areas reported 2,79,412 road accident cases.
- ➔ Urban areas reported 40.3% of road accidents.
- ➔ Urban areas reported 1,88,555 road accident cases.

❑ Suicides in India

○ Total Suicides and Suicide Rate

- ➔ In 2023, the total number of suicides in India was 1,71,418.
- ➔ In 2024, the total number of suicides in India decreased to 1,70,746.
- ➔ The suicide rate was 12.3 in 2023.
- ➔ The suicide rate decreased to 12.2 in 2024.
- ➔ The suicide rate refers to suicides per lakh population.

○ Change in Suicides from 2023 to 2024

- ➔ A decrease was observed in suicides during 2024.
- ➔ The number of suicides decreased from 1,71,418 in 2023 to 1,70,746 in 2024.

○ Suicide Rate in Cities

- ➔ The suicide rate in cities was 16.3.
- ➔ The suicide rate in cities was higher than the all-India suicide rate of 12.2.

○ Major Causes of Suicides

- ➔ Family problems, other than marriage-related problems, accounted for 33.5% of total suicides in the country during 2024.
- ➔ Illness accounted for 18.0% of total suicides in the country during 2024.
- ➔ Drug abuse or addiction accounted for 7.6% of total suicides in the country during 2024.
- ➔ Family problems other than marriage-related problems, illness, and drug abuse or addiction together accounted for 59.0% of total suicides in the country during 2024.
- ➔ The overall male-female ratio of suicide victims was 73.5:26.5.
- ➔ A total of 10.1% of suicide victims were illiterate.
- ➔ A total of 14.4% of suicide victims were educated up to the primary level.
- ➔ A total of 17.7% of suicide victims were educated up to the middle level.
- ➔ A total of 25.6% of suicide victims were educated up to the matric level.
- ➔ Only 5.6% of total suicide victims were graduates and above.

Election Commission Announces Special Intensive Revision Phase III

The Election Commission of India has announced Phase III of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in a phased manner (on May 14, 2026), beginning from May 30, 2026.

- ➔ This phase covers 16 States and 3 Union Territories and is a major exercise for updating and verifying electoral rolls through field-level enumeration.
- ➔ The ECI has stated that the main objective of SIR is to ensure that no eligible citizen is left out and no ineligible person is included in the electoral roll.

□ Constitutional and Legal Basis

- ➔ The SIR exercise is based on the Election Commission's constitutional and statutory powers. **Article 324 of the Constitution** gives the Election Commission superintendence, direction and control over the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections.

□ Key Highlights

- ➔ Special Intensive Revision Phase III will be conducted in a phased manner in 16 States and 3 Union Territories.
- ➔ The exercise will involve large-scale house-to-house verification of electors.

- ➔ More than **3.94 lakh Booth Level Officers** will participate in the revision process during Phase III.
- ➔ These Booth Level Officers will visit households covering **36.73 crore electors**.
- ➔ They will be assisted by **3.42 lakh Booth Level Agents** appointed by political parties during the Enumeration Phase.

□ Coverage of Phase III

- ➔ The Special Intensive Revision Phase III will not cover **Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh**.
- ➔ The schedule for Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh will be announced later.
- ➔ Booth Level Officers will conduct house-to-house verification during the Enumeration Phase.
- ➔ More than 3.94 lakh BLOs will be deployed for the Phase III exercise.
- ➔ BLOs will verify elector details and help in improving the accuracy of electoral rolls.

Coverage and Timeline			
Group	States/UTs	House-to-house visits by BLOs	Final electoral roll publication
1	Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur	30 May–28 June 2026	6 September 2026
2	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	4 June–3 July 2026	11 September 2026
3	Uttarakhand	8 June–7 July 2026	15 September 2026
4	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh	15 June–14 July 2026	22 September 2026
5	Telangana, Punjab	25 June–24 July 2026	1 October 2026
6	Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Delhi	30 June–29 July 2026	7 October 2026
7	Nagaland	16 August–14 September 2026	22 November 2026
8	Tripura	15 September–14 October 2026	23 December 2026

□ Progress in Earlier Phases

- ➔ In the first two phases, the Special Intensive Revision covered **13 States and Union Territories**.
- ➔ These two phases covered nearly **59 crore electors** as on the date of the SIR order in the respective States and Union Territories.
- ➔ More than **6.3 lakh Booth Level Officers** were involved in various stages of the SIR process during the first two phases.

- ➔ Around 9.2 lakh Booth Level Agents appointed by political parties also participated in the earlier phases.
- ➔ This shows the large scale and institutional depth of the revision exercise.

Assembly Election Results 2026

The 2026 Assembly elections in **West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and the Union Territory of Puducherry** became one of the most important state-level electoral exercises after the 2024 General Election.

- ➔ The results showed high voter participation, a major change of power in West Bengal, the rise of **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)** in Tamil Nadu, the return of the Congress-led UDF in Kerala, the consolidation of the NDA in Assam, and the continuation of alliance politics in Puducherry.
- ➔ The Election Commission of India announced the schedule on March 15, 2026. Polling was held in April, and counting for all five Assemblies was scheduled for May 4, 2026.
- ➔ The Election Commission announced elections for Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal on March 15, 2026.

State / UT	Polling Date / Phase	Key Point
Assam	April 9, 2026	Single-phase polling
Kerala	April 9, 2026	Single-phase polling
Puducherry	April 9, 2026	Single-phase polling
Tamil Nadu	April 23, 2026	Single-phase polling
West Bengal	April 23 and April 29, 2026	Two-phase polling
Counting	May 4, 2026	Common counting day

State / UT	Officially Reported Poll Participation	Important Note
West Bengal	Phase I: 93.19%; Phase II: 91.66%; combined provisional figure: 92.47%	Highest-ever participation in the State according to official update; previous highest was 84.72% in 2011
Tamil Nadu	84.69%	Highest-ever poll participation since Independence in the official update
Assam	85.38%	Crossed its previous highest of 84.67% recorded in 2016
Kerala	78.03%	Steady participation, lower than Assam, West Bengal and Puducherry
Puducherry	89.83%	Crossed its previous highest of 86.19% recorded in 2011

West Bengal Assembly Elections 2026

- ➔ **Suvendu Adhikari** took oath as the first BJP Chief Minister of West Bengal on May 9, 2026.
- ➔ Governor R.N. Ravi administered the oath of office and secrecy at Brigade Parade Grounds in Kolkata.
- ➔ The ceremony was held on Pochishe Boishakh, the 165th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.
- ➔ BJP won 208 seats in the 294-member Assembly. The result ended the 15-year rule of the Trinamool Congress, which was reduced to 80 seats.
- ➔ In the constituency Falta, the re-polling result was announced on May 24, 2026 and the seat was won by BJP candidate with tallying of seats to 208.
- ➔ The **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** successfully crossed the halfway mark in the Assembly and secured a clear majority.
- ➔ The BJP maintained a **substantial lead over the incumbent All India Trinamool Congress (TMC)**, marking a major political shift in the State.

Major Party Results	
Party	Won
Bharatiya Janata Party - BJP	208
All India Trinamool Congress - AITC	80
Indian National Congress - INC	2
Aam Janata Unnayan party-AJUP	2
Communist Party of India (Marxist) - CPI(M)	1
All India Secular Front AISF	1
Total	294

Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections 2026

- ➔ **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)** founder **C. Joseph Vijay** was sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The oath ceremony was held at Nehru Indoor Stadium on May 10, 2026.
- ➔ Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Vijay.
- ➔ Along with him, **nine Ministers** were also sworn in.
- ➔ Vijay secured the support of 120 MLAs-elect in the 234-member Assembly. He formed the government with the support of Congress, CPI, CPI(M), VCK and IUML.
- ➔ Vijay became the first Tamil Nadu Chief Minister since 1967 who does not belong to either the DMK or AIADMK.
- ➔ Karuppaiah, elected from Sholavandan, has been appointed as Pro Tem Speaker.
- ➔ The Tamil Nadu elections witnessed a major political transformation, primarily due to the emergence of a new political force led by actor-turned-politician C. Joseph Vijay.
- ➔ The **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)** contested its **first-ever Assembly election**, marking its formal entry into electoral politics.

Major Party Results	
Party	Won
Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam TVK	108
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam - DMK	59
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam - ADMK	47
Indian National Congress-INC	5
Pattali Makkal Katchi-PMK	4
Total	234

- ➔ The party delivered an impressive performance and emerged as the **single-largest party** won **108 out of 234 constituencies**.

○ Kerala Assembly Elections 2026

- ➔ V.D. Satheesan (INC) took the oath of office on May 18, 2026. The swearing-in ceremony was administered by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ➔ The **United Democratic Front (UDF)** successfully capitalised on strong anti-incumbency sentiments against the ruling government and emerged as the dominant alliance in the State.
- ➔ The UDF was leading in **104 out of the 140 seats in the Kerala Legislative Assembly**, which is well above the required majority mark of 71 seats, thereby indicating a decisive mandate in its favour.
- ➔ The **Indian National Congress**, which is the principal party within the UDF alliance, won in **63 constituencies**, thereby forming the backbone of the alliance's performance.

Major Party Results	
Party	Won
Indian National Congress - INC	63
Communist Party of India (Marxist) - CPI(M)	26
Indian Union Muslim League - IUML	22
Communist Party of India - CPI	8
Kerala Congress - KEC	7
Total	140

- ➔ The **Indian Union Muslim League (IUML)** contributed significantly to the alliance's success by leading in **22 seats**, especially in regions where it traditionally holds influence.
- ➔ The **Kerala Congress (KEC)** won in **7 constituencies**, strengthening the UDF's overall tally.
- ➔ In contrast, the ruling **Left Democratic Front (LDF)** was trailing considerably, indicating a major electoral setback after being in power for a decade.

○ Assam Assembly Elections 2026

- ➔ In Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma took oath on May 12, 2026 as a Chief Minister for consecutive term.

- ➔ In Assam, the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** achieved a significant political milestone by moving towards a **third consecutive term in power**, thereby consolidating its dominance in the State.
- ➔ The NDA crossed the majority mark of **64 seats in the 126-member Assembly**, indicating a strong mandate from the electorate.

Major Party Results	
Party	Won
Bharatiya Janata Party - BJP	82
Indian National Congress - INC	19
Bodoland People's Front BOPF	10
Asom Gana Parishad AGP	10
Total	126

□ Seat Distribution and Trends

- ➔ The NDA, led by the BJP won **102 seats**, which represents a substantial increase compared to previous elections.
- ➔ The **Indian National Congress** got around **19 seats**, thereby remaining the principal opposition party.
- ➔ The NDA secured **over 50 percent of the total vote share**, indicating a high level of voter consolidation in its favour.

○ Puducherry Assembly Elections 2026

- ➔ In the Union Territory of Puducherry, the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** emerged as the leading alliance, although the contest remained competitive due to the presence of multiple smaller parties and independents.
- ➔ N. Rangasamy took oath as Puducherry Chief Minister on May 13, 2026.
- ➔ The majority mark in the **30-member Assembly is 16 seats**, making coalition dynamics crucial.
- ➔ The NDA, consisting of the **All India N.R. Congress (AINRC)** and the BJP with two independents won **18 seats**, thereby crossing the majority mark.
- ➔ Chief Minister **N. Rangasamy**, who represents the AINRC, won the **Thattanchavady constituency** by a margin of **4,441 votes**, reaffirming his political influence in the region.

Major Party Results	
Party	Won
All India N.R. Congress - AINRC	12
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam - DMK	5
Bharatiya Janata Party - BJP	4
Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam TVK	2
Indian National Congress - INC	1
Total	30

Crime in India Report 2024

The National Crime Records Bureau released the Crime in India Report 2024 on May 6, 2026. The report is important because it gives the national picture of registered cognisable crimes. It is also significant because 2024 was the year when the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was used along with the Indian Penal Code framework.

Key Highlights

- ➔ According to the report, India recorded **58.85 lakh criminal cases in 2024**.
- ➔ This was a **6 percent decline** from **62.41 lakh cases recorded in 2023**.
- ➔ The overall crime rate declined from **448.3 cases per lakh population in 2023** to **418.9 cases per lakh population in 2024**.

Overall Crime Scenario

- ➔ India registered **58.85 lakh criminal cases** in 2024.
- ➔ Out of these, **35.44 lakh cases** were registered under the **Indian Penal Code and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**.
- ➔ **23.41 lakh cases** were registered under **Special and Local Laws**.
- ➔ The overall number of cases declined by **6 percent** compared to 2023.
- ➔ The decline in the crime rate from **448.3 to 418.9 per lakh population** suggests an apparent improvement in recorded crime levels.

Impact of Legal Reclassification

- ➔ Cases under the **hurt category** declined sharply by **30.58 percent**.
- ➔ The number of cases under IPC Sections **325, 326 and 329–335** declined from **6.36 lakh in 2023** to **4.41 lakh in 2024**.
- ➔ The NCRB clarified that this decline may be linked to changes introduced under the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**.

Rise in Cybercrime

- ➔ Cybercrime continued to rise sharply in 2024.
- ➔ India recorded **1,01,928 cybercrime cases** in 2024.
- ➔ This was a **17.9 percent increase** over **86,420 cases in 2023**.
- ➔ Cybercrime cases had already increased by **31.2 percent** in 2023 over **65,893 cases in 2022**.
- ➔ The cybercrime rate increased from **6.2 per lakh population in 2023** to **7.3 per lakh population in 2024**.

Nature of Cybercrime

- ➔ Out of **1,01,928 cybercrime cases**, **73,987 cases** were related to financial fraud.
- ➔ Financial fraud accounted for **72.6 percent** of all cybercrime cases in 2024.
- ➔ Sexual exploitation accounted for **3.1 percent**, with **3,190 cases**.

- ➔ Extortion accounted for **2.5 percent** of cybercrime cases.

- ➔ The trend is consistent with previous years, as fraud made up **68.9 percent** of cybercrime cases in 2023.

Cybercrime in Delhi

- ➔ Delhi recorded **404 cybercrime cases** in 2024.
- ➔ This was a marginal decline from **407 cases in 2023**.
- ➔ Out of the 404 cases, **196 cases** were related to transmission or publication of explicit content in electronic form.

Economic Offences

- ➔ Economic offences increased by **4.6 percent** in 2024.
- ➔ India reported **2,14,379 economic offence cases** in 2024.
- ➔ In 2023, the number of economic offence cases stood at **2,04,973**.
- ➔ Forgery, cheating and fraud formed the largest category under economic offences.
- ➔ **1,92,382 cases** were related to forgery, cheating and fraud.
- ➔ This category accounted for nearly **90 percent** of total economic offences.
- ➔ Criminal breach of trust accounted for **21,251 cases**.
- ➔ Counterfeiting accounted for **746 cases**.

Fake Currency Seizure

- ➔ Authorities seized **8,21,100 fake currency notes** in 2024.
- ➔ The total face value of these seized fake currency notes was **₹54.61 crore**.
- ➔ This reflects the continued threat of counterfeiting and illegal financial activity.

Crimes Against Women

- ➔ Crimes against women declined slightly by **1.5 percent** in 2024.
- ➔ The crime rate under this category fell from **66.2 to 64.6 per lakh women population**.
- ➔ However, the total number of cases remained very high at **4.41 lakh cases**.
- ➔ **Domestic violence** and family-related abuse continued to be a major concern.
- ➔ "Cruelty by husband or relatives" accounted for **1,20,227 cases**.
- ➔ This category formed **27.2 percent** of total crimes against women.

Major Categories of Crimes Against Women

- ➔ Kidnapping and abduction of women accounted for **67,829 cases**.
- ➔ This formed **15.4 percent** of total crimes against women.
- ➔ Cases registered under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act** stood at **67,809** within this classification.
- ➔ "Assault with intent to outrage modesty" constituted **10.9 percent** of crimes against women.

- ➔ These figures show that domestic abuse, kidnapping, sexual offences and assault remain major areas of concern.

❑ State-Wise Crimes Against Women

- ➔ **Uttar Pradesh** reported the highest number of crimes against women with **66,398 cases**.
- ➔ **Maharashtra** reported **47,954 cases**.
- ➔ **West Bengal** reported **34,360 cases**.
- ➔ **Nagaland, Sikkim and Manipur** recorded the lowest number of such cases.
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh also recorded the highest number of dowry deaths cases (2038) with **2,057 victims**.
- ➔ **Bihar** recorded **1,078 dowry death cases**.

❑ Crimes Against Children

- ➔ Crimes against children increased by **5.9 percent** in 2024.
- ➔ India recorded **1,87,702 cases** of crimes against children.
- ➔ The crime rate stood at **42.3 per lakh children population**.
- ➔ Kidnapping and abduction was the largest sub-category with **75,108 cases**.
- ➔ Cases under the **POCSO Act** stood at **69,191**.
- ➔ The rise in crimes against children is a major concern for child protection, policing and social welfare policy.

❑ Atrocities Against Scheduled Tribes

- ➔ Crimes against Scheduled Tribe communities declined by **23.1 percent** in 2024.
- ➔ Cases fell from **12,960 in 2023** to **9,966 in 2024**.
- ➔ The crime rate declined from **12.4** to **9.5**.
- ➔ The highest number of ST-related cases was registered under the **SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act**.
- ➔ This category accounted for **1,375 cases**, or **13.8 percent**.
- ➔ Rape accounted for **1,268 cases**.
- ➔ Assault with intent to outrage modesty accounted for **613 cases**.
- ➔ **Madhya Pradesh** recorded the highest number of crimes against ST communities with **3,165 cases**.

❑ Atrocities Against Scheduled Castes

- ➔ Crimes against Scheduled Caste communities declined by **3.6 percent** in 2024.
- ➔ Cases fell from **57,789 in 2023** to **55,698 in 2024**.
- ➔ The crime rate for crimes against Scheduled Castes stood at **27.7**.
- ➔ The SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act accounted for the highest share of cases at **12.5 percent**.
- ➔ Grievous hurt accounted for **7.7 percent** of cases.
- ➔ Rape accounted for **7.6 percent** of cases.
- ➔ **Uttar Pradesh** recorded the highest number of crimes against Scheduled Castes with **14,642 incidents**.

❑ Murder Cases

- ➔ India recorded **27,049 murder cases** in 2024.
- ➔ This was a marginal decline of **2.4 percent** from 2023.
- ➔ Murder cases had also declined by **2.8 percent** in 2023 compared to 2022.
- ➔ Disputes remained the leading motive for murder.
- ➔ **9,607 murder cases** were linked to disputes.
- ➔ Personal vendetta or enmity accounted for **3,638 cases**.
- ➔ Gain or financial motive accounted for **1,460 cases**.

❑ Deaths by Suicide

- ➔ The NCRB's companion report, **Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2024**, recorded **1,70,746 deaths by suicide**.
- ➔ Persons engaged in agriculture, unemployed persons and daily wage workers formed a significant share of suicide deaths.
- ➔ The farming sector recorded **10,546 suicide deaths**.
- ➔ This included **4,633 farmers or cultivators**.
- ➔ It also included **5,913 agricultural labourers**.
- ➔ People from the farming sector accounted for **6.2 percent** of total suicide deaths.
- ➔ Daily wage earners accounted for around **31 percent** of total suicide deaths (agriculture labourers are counted separately).

❑ Drug Overdose Deaths

- ➔ Deaths due to drug overdose increased sharply by **50 percent** in 2024.
- ➔ The report recorded **978 deaths** due to drug overdose.
- ➔ **Tamil Nadu** recorded the highest number of drug overdose deaths with **313 cases**.
- ➔ **Punjab** recorded **106 drug overdose deaths**.

❑ Crimes Against the State

- ➔ Cases under offences against the State increased by **6.6 percent** in 2024.
- ➔ These cases rose from **4,873 in 2023** to a higher level in 2024.
- ➔ About **84.6 percent** of these cases were registered under the **Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act**.
- ➔ **649 cases**, or **12.5 percent**, were registered under the **Unlawful Activities Prevention Act**.

❑ Charge-Sheet Efficiency

- ➔ Kerala recorded the highest charge-sheeting rate among States.
- ➔ Kerala filed charge-sheets in **94.5 percent** of cases.
- ➔ Puducherry followed with **91 percent** charge-sheet efficiency.
- ➔ West Bengal recorded **90.6 percent** charge-sheet efficiency.

❑ Arrests and Convictions

- ➔ More than **26.72 lakh people** were arrested under the IPC and BNS.

- ➔ Out of these, more than **10.71 lakh people** were convicted.
- ➔ These figures reflect the scale of criminal justice enforcement in India.
- ➔ However, arrest and conviction data must be analysed along with investigation quality, trial delays, pendency and acquittal rates.

BCCI Is Not a Public Authority Under RTI Act

The **Central Information Commission** has held that the Board of Control for Cricket in India is not a “public authority” under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

- ➔ The order was passed on May 18, 2026 in a second appeal connected with information sought through the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ➔ The CIC dismissed the appeal after holding that the RTI Act is not applicable to the BCCI in the facts of the case.
- ➔ The CIC held that the BCCI is not covered under the definition of “public authority” under **Section 2(h) of the RTI Act**.
- ➔ The Commission observed that the BCCI is registered as a private association under the **Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975**.
- ➔ It held that mere registration under a statute does not make an organisation a public authority.
- ➔ The CIC also held that the BCCI is not substantially financed by the government.
- ➔ The order means that citizens cannot seek information directly from the BCCI under the RTI Act.
- ➔ The BCCI has consistently argued that it is a private and autonomous body.
- ➔ It claims that it does not fall within the meaning of “public authority” under the RTI Act.
- ➔ The BCCI is registered as an autonomous society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.
- ➔ It has argued that it is **not “State” under Article 12 of the Constitution**.

❑ Recommendations of Expert Bodies

- ➔ The **Justice R.M. Lodha Committee**, constituted by the Supreme Court in 2015, had recommended reforms in the BCCI.
- ➔ The Lodha Committee described BCCI’s functioning as a “closed-door and back-room affair”.
- ➔ It urged Parliament to seriously consider bringing the BCCI under the RTI Act.
- ➔ The **Law Commission of India** also recommended in 2018 that sports bodies performing public functions should be brought under the RTI regime.
- ➔ However, these recommendations were not converted into law.

- ➔ As a result, the BCCI remains outside the RTI framework unless Parliament changes the law.
- ➔ Later, Parliament enacted ‘National Sports Governance Act, 2025’ that provides limited RTI coverage for recognised sports.

Assam Tables Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026

The Uniform Civil Code, Assam, Bill, 2026 is a major civil-law reform proposal of the Assam government. It seeks to create a common legal framework for matters such as marriage, divorce, succession, inheritance and live-in relationships.

- ➔ The Bill was introduced in the Assam Legislative Assembly on May 25, 2026 by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Atul Bora on behalf of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma
- ➔ The Assam Legislative Assembly passed the Bill by voice vote on 27 May 2026.
- ➔ With this, Assam will become the first state in the North East and the third state in India after Uttarakhand and Gujarat to adopt such UCC legislation at the state level.
- ➔ The idea of a Uniform Civil Code is linked to **Article 44** of the Constitution, which directs the State to endeavour to secure a uniform civil code for citizens throughout India.
- ➔ It also repeals the **Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Act, 2024**.

❑ Marriage-Related Provisions

- ➔ The Bill mandates **monogamy** as the legal rule for marriage.
- ➔ Bigamy and polygamy shall invite imprisonment of up to **seven years**.
- ➔ The Bill fixes the legal age of marriage at **21 years for grooms** and **18 years for brides**.
- ➔ It allows marriages to be solemnised through existing religious ceremonies or customs.
- ➔ This provision seeks to balance legal uniformity with cultural and religious diversity.

❑ Compulsory Registration of Marriage and Divorce

- ➔ The Bill makes registration of all marriages and divorces compulsory.
- ➔ Couples must submit a marriage memorandum to the Sub-Registrar within **60 days** of the marriage ceremony.

❑ Divorce-Related Provisions

- ➔ The Bill codifies uniform grounds for divorce.
- ➔ Grounds for divorce include **cruelty, desertion, and mutual consent**.
- ➔ The Bill ensures that custody of children below five years of age remains with the mother (still the Court remain free to consider the best child’s interest).
- ➔ Violation of lawful divorce procedure and illegal dissolution of marriage shall invite imprisonment of up to **three years** and a fine.

- ➔ Compelling a divorced person to fulfill unlawful conditions before remarriage shall attract imprisonment of up to **three years** and a penalty of **₹1 lakh**.

❑ Gender-Equal Inheritance

- ➔ Class-1 heirs will include the **spouse, children, and parents** of the deceased.
- ➔ For testamentary succession, any adult of sound mind will have the legal right to execute a written and witnessed will.

❑ Live-In Relationship Provisions

- ➔ The Bill makes registration of live-in relationships mandatory within **one month**.
- ➔ Failure to register a live-in relationship within one month may attract imprisonment of up to **three months** or a fine of up to **₹10,000** (and continued failure may attract six months of imprisonment with **₹25,000** of fine).
- ➔ Concealment of material facts or furnishing false information in live-in relationship declarations may result in imprisonment of up to **three months** and a fine of up to **₹25,000**.
- ➔ Any child born out of a live-in relationship will be considered fully legitimate.

❑ Penalties Under the Bill

- ➔ Child marriage and marriage without valid consent shall attract imprisonment of up to **two years**, or a fine, or both.
- ➔ Marriage within prohibited relationships, unless protected by valid customs, shall be punishable with imprisonment of up to **six months** and a fine of up to **₹50,000**.
- ➔ Illegal divorce or violation of lawful divorce procedure shall invite imprisonment of up to **three years** and a fine.
- ➔ Non-registration of marriage or divorce within the prescribed period shall attract a penalty of **₹10,000**.
- ➔ Forged documents in registration matters may lead to imprisonment of up to **three months**, or a fine of up to **₹25,000**, or both.
- ➔ The Assam government also moved a resolution supporting **33 percent reservation for women** in Parliament and State legislatures after the completion of the delimitation process.
- ➔ In his maiden speech as an MLA, Tuliram Ronghang demanded the implementation of **Article 244(A)** of the Constitution.
- ➔ Article 244(A) relates to the creation of Autonomous States within Assam.
- ➔ The demand was raised for three hill districts: **Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong, and Dima Hasao**.

Vande Mataram Under National Honour Law

- ➔ The Union Cabinet gave approval on **May 5, 2026** to amend **The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**.
- ➔ The proposed amendment seeks to make insult to, or obstruction in the singing of, the National Song **Vande Mataram** a punishable offence.
- ➔ At present, the 1971 Act protects the **National Flag**, the **Constitution of India**, and the **National Anthem Jana Gana Mana** from insult or intentional obstruction.
- ➔ The Cabinet decision aims to give statutory backing to the protection of Vande Mataram.
- ➔ Any insult to Vande Mataram or intentional obstruction to its singing is proposed to be made punishable.
- ➔ The punishment is expected to be similar to the existing punishment for preventing the singing of the National Anthem.
- ➔ Under Section 3 of the existing Act, intentionally preventing the singing of the Indian National Anthem or disturbing an assembly engaged in such singing is punishable with imprisonment up to **three years**, or fine, or both.
- ➔ The proposed amendment would convert the existing advisory framework around Vande Mataram into a legally enforceable provision.
- ➔ The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 was enacted to prevent insults to national honour.
- ➔ The Act currently covers insults to the National Flag and the Constitution of India.
- ➔ It also penalises intentional prevention of the singing of the National Anthem.
- ➔ The existing law does not expressly mention Vande Mataram as a protected National Song.
- ➔ The Cabinet-approved amendment seeks to fill this legal gap by extending protection to Vande Mataram.

❑ Vande Mataram: National Song and Freedom Struggle

- ➔ **Vande Mataram** was composed by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee** and first published in **Bangadarshan (1875)**, later included in **Anandamath (1882)**.
- ➔ The song was set to music by **Rabindranath Tagore** and emerged as a powerful symbol of **unity, sacrifice and devotion to the motherland**.
- ➔ On **January 24, 1950**, **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** announced that while **Jana Gana Mana** would be the **National Anthem**, **Vande Mataram** would be honoured equally as the **National Song**.
- ➔ The song played a major role in the freedom struggle:
 - ⌚ It was sung by **Rabindranath Tagore** at the **INC session of 1896**.
 - ⌚ It became the rallying cry of the **Swadeshi and anti-partition movements (1905)**.
 - ⌚ It inspired revolutionaries such as **Madam Bhikaji Cama** and **Madan Lal Dhingra**, symbolising resistance and nationalism.

Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj released the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report for FY 2023–24 on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day, 24 April 2026.

- ➔ The **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)** is a nationwide framework developed by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** to measure the performance of rural local government institutions.
- ➔ It evaluates the progress of **Gram Panchayats and Traditional Local Bodies** through objective, measurable, and verifiable indicators.

State-wise performance snapshot	
Category	Leading States/UTs
States with highest absolute number of A-grade / Front Runner Panchayats	Tripura: 943; Telangana: 624; Andhra Pradesh: 591; Odisha: 555; Maharashtra: 315; Tamil Nadu: 197; Kerala: 95
States with highest absolute number of B-grade / Performer Panchayats	Uttar Pradesh: 18,905; Gujarat: 11,963; Madhya Pradesh: 11,154; Tamil Nadu: 10,520; Andhra Pradesh: 10,178; Telangana: 10,056; Maharashtra: 10,049
States with highest absolute number of D-grade / Beginner Panchayats	Uttar Pradesh: 6,124; Manipur: 1,753; Chhattisgarh: 1,736; Meghalaya: 759; Maharashtra: 621; Punjab: 493
Special note	Tripura had 943 Front Runner Panchayats out of 1,176; Kerala had 95 A-grade, 840 B-grade, only 6 C-grade and 0 D-grade Panchayats
Non-onboarded State	West Bengal submitted no data in PAI 2.0

Theme of Panchayat
➔ Theme 1 : Poverty-free and Enhanced Livelihoods in Panchayat ➔ Theme 2 : Healthy Panchayat ➔ Theme 3 : Child-Friendly Panchayat ➔ Theme 4 : Water Sufficient Panchayat ➔ Theme 5 : Clean and Green Panchayat ➔ Theme 6 : Panchayat with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure ➔ Theme 7 : Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat ➔ Theme 8 : Panchayat with Good Governance ➔ Theme 9 : Women-Friendly Panchayat

❑ Coverage and Participation under PAI 2.0

- ➔ PAI 2.0 recorded participation from 33 out of 36 States and Union Territories.

- ➔ It included **27 out of 28 States**, with West Bengal being the only State that did not participate.
- ➔ It also included **6 out of 8 Union Territories**, excluding Delhi and Chandigarh because they do not have Gram Panchayats.
- ➔ A total of **2,59,867 Gram Panchayats and equivalent local bodies** submitted validated data on the PAI portal.
- ➔ These Panchayats represent **97.30 percent** of the total **2,66,999 Panchayats** across participating States and Union Territories.
- ➔ This is a significant improvement over PAI 1.0, which had recorded **80.79 percent participation**.
- ➔ Panchayats are classified into five grades on the basis of their overall performance score.

Grade	Category	Score Range	Number of Panchayats
A+	Achiever	90 and above	0
A	Front Runner	75 to below 90	3,635
B	Performer	60 to below 75	1,18,824
C	Aspirant	40 to below 60	1,23,719
D	Beginner	Below 40	13,689

Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026

The **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026** came into force on **1 May 2026**. These Rules operationalise the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025**, which was enacted to regulate India's rapidly expanding online gaming sector.

❑ Overview of the PROG Act, 2025

- ➔ The **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025** provides a national legal framework for online gaming.
- ➔ The Act seeks to promote and regulate e-sports, educational games and social gaming.
- ➔ It also prohibits the offering, operation, facilitation, advertisement, promotion and participation in online money games.
- ➔ The Act aims to protect users, especially youth and vulnerable groups, from social, economic, psychological and privacy-related harms.
- ➔ It also seeks to protect public order, public health, financial systems and national security.

❑ Key Highlights of the Rules, 2026

- ➔ The Rules create a transparent system to classify online games.
- ➔ They distinguish prohibited **online money games** from permissible **e-sports and online social games**.

- ➔ They establish the **Online Gaming Authority of India** as a unified and digital-first regulator.
- ➔ They create a statutory registration system for notified games.
- ➔ They introduce mandatory user safety features for online game service providers.
- ➔ They provide a two-tier grievance redressal and appellate mechanism.
- ➔ They enable time-bound enforcement and proportionate penalties.
- ➔ Every provider offering an online game service provider must maintain a functional grievance redressal system.
- ➔ Users can approach the Online Gaming Authority within **30 days** if they are dissatisfied with the provider's response or if their grievance remains unresolved.
- ➔ The Authority should try to dispose of appeals within a further **30 days**.
- ➔ Enforcement proceedings will generally be conducted in digital mode.
- ➔ Cases should be concluded within **90 days** from receipt of a complaint subject to the procedure in Rule 11.

8th Poshan Pakhwada 2026

Poshan Pakhwada 2026 is a nationwide campaign of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to strengthen nutrition awareness, early childhood care and development and community participation under Mission Poshan 2.0.

□ Key Highlights

- ➔ The Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated the **8th Poshan Pakhwada from 9th to 23rd April 2026**.
- ➔ The initiative reaffirms the Government's commitment to improving nutritional outcomes across the country.
- ➔ The national launch took place on **9 April 2026 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi** under the leadership of Union Minister **Annpurna Devi** and Minister of State **Savitri Thakur** and Secretary Anil Malik.
- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized that **a well-nourished child is the foundation of a strong nation**, and highlighted that Poshan Abhiyaan has evolved into a **people's movement (Jan Andolan)**.
- ➔ The theme for 2026 is **"Maximizing Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life."**
- ➔ It recognizes that early childhood, especially the first 1,000 days, is critical for brain development, physical growth, and overall well-being.

Passive Euthanasia in India

The Supreme Court's judgment of **11 March 2026** in **Harish Rana v. Union of India** is a major turning point in India's end-of-life jurisprudence.

- ➔ The Court allowed the withdrawal or withholding of life-sustaining medical treatment for Harish Rana, a 32-year-old man who had remained in a persistent vegetative state for about 13 years after a 2013 accident.

□ Case Background

- ➔ **Harish Rana** suffered severe head injuries after falling from a balcony in **2013**.
- ➔ He remained in Permanent Vegetative State (PVS) with quadriplegia and 100% Permanent Physical disability.
- ➔ His father had first approached the **Delhi High Court** in **2024**, but relief was denied.
- ➔ Later, the matter reached the **Supreme Court**.
- ➔ A Bench of **Justice J. B. Pardiwala** and **Justice K. V. Viswanathan** directed the constitution of **two medical boards**.
- ➔ Both boards found that the possibility of recovery was **negligible**, after which the Court allowed withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment.
- ➔ **Euthanasia** means intentional termination of a patient's life to relieve intractable sufferings. Passive euthanasia means withdrawal of life support system to end the life.

□ Constitutional Basis

- ➔ The legal basis of passive euthanasia lies in **Article 21** of the Constitution, which guarantees the **Right to Life and Personal Liberty**.
- The Supreme Court has interpreted Article 21 to include the right to live with **dignity**.
- In end-of-life care cases, this has been extended to include the **right to die with dignity**, though **not an unrestricted right to die**.

□ Procedure for Passive Euthanasia in India

- ➔ The process is regulated through medical board safeguards.
- ➔ A **Primary Medical Board** must be constituted at the treating hospital.
- ➔ A **Secondary Medical Board** consisting of one registered medical practitioner and at least two subject experts.
- ➔ Both boards must confirm that the patient's condition is **irreversible** and recovery is not possible.
- ➔ If the patient cannot decide, **family members or legal guardians** must provide consent.
- ➔ After approval, life support may be withdrawn in a humane manner and the patient may be shifted to **palliative care**.
- ➔ All opinions, records, and consent documents must be **properly documented**.
- Earlier, the process involved greater **judicial or magistrate-level intervention**.

- In 2023, the Supreme Court simplified the process by reducing direct judicial involvement while keeping safeguards intact.

❑ Major Judgments on Euthanasia

○ Maruti Shripati Dubal v. State of Maharashtra

- The **Bombay High Court** had held that the right to life may include a **right to die**, especially in cases of extreme suffering.

○ Gian Kaur v. State of Punjab

- The **Supreme Court** held that **Article 21** does not include a **general right to die**.
- However, it left space for the idea of a **dignified death** in terminal situations.

○ Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug v. Union of India (2011)

- This case gave the **first judicial recognition to passive euthanasia** in India.
- The Supreme Court allowed passive euthanasia in exceptional circumstances, subject to **High Court approval** and safeguards.

○ Common Cause v. Union of India (2018)

- A **five-judge Constitution Bench** held that the **right to die with dignity** is part of **Article 21**.
- It legally recognised **passive euthanasia**.
- It also recognised the concept of a **living will** or **advance directive**.

❑ Global Position

- Countries follow different models:
- **Netherlands:** Euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide are legal under strict conditions.
- **Belgium:** Legalised euthanasia and later extended it to minors under safeguards.
- **Canada:** Allows **Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)** for grievous and irremediable conditions.
- **Switzerland:** Allows assisted suicide if not motivated by selfish interests.
- **United States:** Some states allow **Medical Aid in Dying** under “Death with Dignity” laws.
- **Japan:** No specific euthanasia law, but withdrawal of life support is allowed in limited situations.
- **Australia:** Voluntary Assisted Dying has been legalised across all six states under eligibility safeguards.

School Education System in India: NITI Aayog Report

The report titled “**School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement**” reviews the present state of India’s school education system, released by NITI Aayog in May 2026.

❑ Data Sources Used in the Report

- The report draws on data from **UDISE 2014–15 to UDISE+ 2024–25**.
- It uses findings from **PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024**.
- It also refers to the **National Achievement Survey 2017 and 2021**.
- The report includes evidence from the **Annual Status of Education Report 2024**.

❑ Key Highlights

- India has **14.71 lakh schools** serving more than **24.69 crore students**.
- Near-universal access has been achieved at the primary stage.
- The national Gross Enrolment Ratio at the higher secondary level is **58.4 percent**, showing a major opportunity to expand participation.
- The report highlights the need to strengthen transition rates at each stage of schooling, especially after the upper primary level.
- Learning outcomes show signs of recovery across grades.
- Foundational literacy and numeracy have improved after the pandemic.
- National surveys indicate that students are increasingly able to perform foundational tasks.
- The report highlights the need to expand digital access in schools.
- Smaller and remote schools require special attention in digital infrastructure.
- Technology can support learning, assessment, teacher training, and school governance.

‘One Case One Data’ and ‘Su Sahayak’

The Supreme Court of India has taken another step towards technology-enabled justice delivery through two digital initiatives: ‘One Case One Data’ and ‘Su-Sahayak’.

- Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant announced the move on **May 11, 2026**, with the stated purpose of improving judicial data integration, case management and public access to court services.
- ‘**One Case One Data**’ is a digital initiative to streamline case management across different levels of the judiciary.
- It seeks to integrate judicial administration from **taluka courts to the Supreme Court** into a unified digital system.
- ‘**Su Sahayak**’ is an Artificial Intelligence-powered chatbot integrated with the Supreme Court website.
- The chatbot will help litigants access court-related services more easily.
- The chatbot has been developed by the **National Informatics Centre** in collaboration with the **Supreme Court Registry**.

JANANI Platform

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched **JANANI - Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care** - to strengthen maternal and child healthcare services in India through digital tracking, interoperable health records and real-time monitoring.

- ➔ It was launched at the **National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity - Best Practices Shaping India's Health Future**.
- ➔ The platform is an upgraded version of the existing **Reproductive and Child Health portal** and is designed to create a longitudinal health record by capturing service delivery events across the continuum of care.
- ➔ JANANI is a service-oriented digital platform for maternal and child healthcare.
- ➔ It creates a longitudinal health record by capturing key service delivery events across the continuum of care.
- ➔ The platform covers antenatal care, delivery preparedness, delivery, postnatal care, newborn care, home-based newborn and young child care, and family planning.
- ➔ JANANI aims to improve service delivery, accountability and health outcomes for mothers and children.
- ➔ JANANI helps maintain digital health records for better continuity of care.
- ➔ A key feature of JANANI is the introduction of QR-enabled digital Mother and Child Health cards.
- ➔ These digital MCH cards allow easy access to health records.
- ➔ JANANI has strong interoperability features.
- ➔ It can integrate with national platforms such as **U-WIN** and **POSHAN**.

❑ Achievements So Far

- ➔ JANANI has achieved **1.34 crore beneficiary registrations** so far.
- ➔ More than **30 lakh pregnant women** have been registered on the platform.
- ➔ More than **30 lakh digital MCH cards** have been generated.
- ➔ The platform has completed more than **1 lakh biometric verifications**.

The Constitution (One Hundred & Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026

The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on **16 April 2026**, but on **17 April 2026**, it failed in the Lok Sabha as it could not secure the required special majority.

- ➔ In the voting, **298 members voted in favour and 230 members voted against**.

- ➔ A total of **528 members were present and voting**, therefore **352 votes were required for its passage**.
- ➔ As the required number was not achieved, the bill failed by **54 votes**.
- ➔ This bill, in its nature, was a proposal for a comprehensive constitutional restructuring.
- ➔ The central idea of this bill was to bring representation closer to population.
- ➔ If the population of a state has increased significantly, then the representation of its voters should increase proportionately.
- ➔ On one hand, it strengthened the idea of **“one person, one vote, one value”**, and on the other hand, it raised concerns among those states which had made serious efforts towards population control.

❑ Main Objectives of the Bill

- ➔ The bill was based on four major objectives:
 - To increase the strength of the Lok Sabha
 - To restart delimitation on a new basis
 - To give Parliament the power to decide which census would be used
 - To implement 33% reservation for women at an earlier stage
- ➔ An amendment to **Article 81** was proposed.
- ➔ The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha was proposed to be increased from **550 to 850**.
- ➔ Out of this, a maximum of **815 members would be from the states and 35 members from Union Territories**.
- ➔ A new definition of “population” was proposed in **Articles 55, 81, 170, 330, 332 and 334A etc.**
- ➔ Population would mean the census determined by Parliament through law.
- ➔ An amendment to **Article 82** was proposed.
- ➔ Earlier, delimitation had a **constitutional basis after every census**.
- ➔ Under the new proposal, delimitation would be done based on the **census determined by Parliament**.
- ➔ This work would be carried out by the **Delimitation Commission**.
- ➔ An amendment to **Article 170** was proposed.
- ➔ The total number of seats and constituencies in **State Legislative Assemblies** would be re-determined.
- ➔ This would also be based on the **census decided by Parliament**.

❑ Provision for Early Implementation of 33% Reservation for Women

- ➔ A proposal was made to **replace Article 334A**.
- ➔ Under the **106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023**, women's reservation was linked to a future census.
- ➔ This bill removed that waiting condition and created a path to implement reservation through **delimitation**.
- ➔ It was to be implemented in Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, UTs of Delhi, Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir.

- ➔ Seats reserved for women would **not be permanent**.
- ➔ They would be allocated on a rotational basis among different constituencies.
- ➔ The reservation was proposed to remain effective for **15 years**.
- ➔ Parliament was also given the power to **extend this period if required**.
- ➔ The implementation of delimitation or reservation would **not immediately dissolve the existing Lok Sabha or Assemblies**.
- ➔ The new system would come into effect **after the next dissolution/election**.
- ➔ The new definition of “population” in **Article 55** could affect the **calculation of vote value in Presidential elections**.
- ➔ This is because the **value of votes of MLAs is linked to population**.

NCERT Granted Status of an Institution Deemed to be University (2026)

The Union Government on 30 March 2026 has granted **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** the status of an “**Institution Deemed to be University under distinct category**”.

- ➔ The decision aligns with the vision of **National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)** to strengthen teacher education and research.
- ➔ NCERT is now empowered to **independently offer degree programmes** and diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral, and specialised courses etc.
- ➔ It will continue its core role in school curriculum development, including NCERT textbooks.
- ➔ The “distinct category” status recognises NCERT’s **specialised national role**, differentiating it from conventional universities.

Process Timeline

- ➔ **September, 2022** : NCERT applied for deemed university status
- ➔ **August, 2023** : Letter of intent issued with conditions.
- ➔ **November, 2025** : Compliance report submitted.
- ➔ **January, 2026** : Approved by UGC.
- ➔ **March 30, 2026** : Final notification issued.

Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026

The Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026 are an important step in India’s plastic-waste governance. They do not replace the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016; rather, they further amend them.

- ➔ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the amendment on **March 31, 2026**. The draft was earlier published on 3 June 2025, objections and suggestions were invited for sixty days, and the final rules came into force on the date of publication in the Official Gazette.
- ➔ The notification has been issued under sections 3, 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

○ Revised Definitions and Scope

- ➔ The definition of **End-of-Life Disposal** has been expanded to include **energy recovery methods** such as co-processing, waste-to-energy, waste-to-oil, and road construction.
- ➔ Processes converting plastic into feedstock or new plastic are now **classified strictly as recycling**, not disposal.
- ➔ The definition of **Plastic Waste Processors** has been broadened to include both **recyclers and end-of-life disposal entities**.
- ➔ New terms such as **Registered Environment Auditor, Reuse, and Seller** have been introduced to improve regulatory clarity.
- ➔ The scope of local governance has been widened to include **all relevant authorities beyond traditional local bodies**.

□ Standards for Recycled Plastic

- ➔ All recycled plastic packaging must comply with **Indian Standard IS 14534:2023**.
- ➔ Packaging must carry **mandatory labeling indicating recycled content**.
- ➔ Recycled content in imported packaging will not count towards EPR obligations.
- ➔ Importers must meet obligations via a credit mechanism (EPR certificates).
- ➔ The mechanism will be developed by the Central Pollution Control Board through a centralized portal.
- ➔ For rigid plastic packaging (0.9–4.9 L/kg), reuse targets start at **10% (2025-26)** and rise to **25% (2028-29 onwards)**.
- ➔ For drinking water packaging (≥4.9 L/kg), reuse targets increase from **70% to 85%**.
- ➔ For other high-density packaging, targets rise from **10% to 15%**.

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 27 March 2026. It was passed in the Lok Sabha on 1 April 2026 and in the Rajya Sabha on 2 April 2026. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 received the assent of the President of India on April 7, 2026.

- ➔ The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 proposes amendments to 79 central Acts administered by 23 ministries, covering 784 provisions across various sectors.

- ➔ This act removes criminal penalties for minor procedural lapses and replaces them with civil penalties or administrative mechanisms.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ This act, based on four pillars, attempts to create a regulatory environment that encourages compliance and simplifies everyday interactions with the law.
 1. Warning before penalty
 2. Proportionate penalties
 3. Faster and fair resolution
 4. Dynamic penalty framework
- ➔ The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 reimagines the legal landscape by replacing a strict penal system with a more balanced and humane framework.

❑ Key Provisions

- ➔ The act decriminalises several offences and replaces imprisonment with civil penalties in many cases.
- ➔ **Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**, illegal manufacture or sale of cosmetics will attract a civil penalty of ₹1 lakh or three times the value of confiscated cosmetics, whichever is higher.
- ➔ **Under the National Highways Act, 1956**, making a highway unsafe or impassable will attract a civil penalty of ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore, instead of imprisonment.
- ➔ **The Act removes imprisonment terms in some offences.** For example, under the Indian Succession Act, 1925 and the Electricity Act, 2003, certain offences will now attract only fines.
- ➔ **The Act introduces warnings for first and second offences** under some laws.
- ➔ The Act introduces improvement notices under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 for first-time non-compliance related to weights and measures.
- ➔ The Act provides for appellate authorities to hear appeals against the decisions of adjudicating officers.
- ➔ The Act **sets up a Municipal Valuation Committee** to recommend the base value of buildings and vacant lands for property tax.
- ➔ The Act creates a **Hardship and Anomaly Committee** to address grievances related to property tax.

India - AI Impact Summit 2026

The India - AI Impact Summit 2026 was held from **February 16 - 21, 2026** (with the main Leaders' summit on 19 - 20 February and the technology expo running from 16 - 21 February). It was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi and organised under the IndiaAI Mission in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

- ➔ It was described as the world's largest and most historic AI summit.

- ➔ **Theme:** The Summit's guiding theme was **"Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya"** (Welfare for all, Happiness for all).

- ➔ **Official Logo and Identity:** The official logo for the Summit was unveiled in September 2025 by the **Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)**.

❑ Other Key Outcomes of AI Impact Summit 2026

- ➔ The Summit recorded over **5 lakh participants**, including **2.5 lakh students**, strengthening India's global technology diplomacy profile.
- ➔ Around **\$250 billion in infrastructure pledges** and \$20 billion in deep-tech funding were announced.

❑ India and Pax Silica Declaration

- ➔ India joined the **U.S.-led Pax Silica Initiative** to secure semiconductor and advanced computing supply chains.
- ➔ A **Joint Statement on the India-U.S. AI Opportunity Partnership** was also signed to promote regulatory cooperation, joint R&D, enhanced compute access, and data centre collaboration.

❑ India-linked AI tools/platforms that were launched/formally unveiled/or presented with updates during the India AI Impact Summit

- ➔ **Sarvam AI** and its application, models were showcased at the India AI Impact Summit (18 Feb 2026). It is India's open-source foundational AI model suite.
- ➔ Sarvam AI includes **Large Language and Multimodal Models (LLMs)** for **speech, vision, and text** tasks.
- ➔ This marked India's transition from an AI consumer to a creator of foundational AI models, strengthening technological sovereignty.
- ➔ **Gnani.ai Inya VoiceOS** was unveiled on 17 February 2026. It is a 5 billion-parameter voice AI model for Indian languages.
- ➔ **BODH Health** (Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health) was launched at the summit. It enables privacy-preserving AI evaluation in healthcare.
- ➔ **Sutra AI** news anchor was introduced during the summit. It is an AI-driven news summarisation anchor.

- ➔ The government announced over **\$250 billion in infrastructure commitments** during the summit.
- ➔ It also reported nearly **\$20 billion in venture capital investments** in deep-tech sectors.
- ➔ Strategic partnerships were formed between **OpenAI, AMD, and the Tata Group** to strengthen AI and semiconductor capabilities.

The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026

The main objective of the **Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026** was to bring the existing laws related to **Puducherry, National Capital Territory of Delhi, and Jammu & Kashmir** in line with the new

delimitation framework and the proposed structure of women's reservation.

- ➔ This bill proposed amendments in:
 - ⊖ The Government of Union Territories Act, 1963
 - ⊖ The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991
 - ⊖ The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019
- ➔ For this purpose, the relevant section was proposed to be amended and the old updating-related provision was proposed to be removed.
- ➔ It was also provided as a transitional safeguard that until the new delimitation is implemented, the **existing Assembly representation would remain unaffected**, and elections could continue on the basis of **existing constituencies**.
- ➔ It proposed that the total number of **elected seats in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly** would be determined by the **Delimitation Commission**, but it would **not be less than 114**.
- ➔ The **24 seats related to Pakistan-occupied areas** would remain vacant and would not be included in the calculation of the total strength.
- ➔ For **SC/ST reservation**, the definition of “population” would be linked to the **applicable law on delimitation**.
- ➔ It was proposed to increase the number of **nominated members** for the representation of **women and Kashmiri migrants to 3 each**, after the implementation of delimitation.

❑ The Delimitation Bill, 2026

- ➔ The main objective of the **Delimitation Bill, 2026** was to restart the process of delimitation across the country on a new basis (it was proposed to replace the 2002 framework with a new 2026 Act.)
- ➔ According to this bill, the basis of delimitation would be the latest published census available up to the date of constitution of the Delimitation Commission.
- ➔ Practically, this meant using the **2011 Census** as the basis for the next delimitation.
- ➔ This bill was part of a broader framework aiming to bring the **allocation of seats in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies** closer to **population-based representation**.

Composition of Delimitation Commission

- ➔ The bill proposed the formation of a **Delimitation Commission**, which would consist of:
 - ⊖ A **Chairperson**, who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court
 - ⊖ The **Chief Election Commissioner** or a **Election Commissioner** as a member
 - ⊖ The **State Election Commissioner of the concerned state or Union Territory** as a member
- ➔ The **Central Government** was to be given the power to constitute this Commission and appoint its Chairperson.

India's First National Counter Terrorism Policy

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has released **India's first national counter-terrorism policy**, and the strategy **PRAHAAR**, on **23 February 2026**.

- ➔ The policy comes after the government had announced in **November 2024** that a comprehensive national counter-terrorism strategy would be framed, and it follows recent security concerns including the **April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack**.
- ➔ It seeks to provide a **uniform, coordinated and technology-aware framework** to deal with terrorism, terror financing, radicalisation, cyber-attacks, drone-based threats, and attacks on critical infrastructure.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ The policy states that India faces terrorist threats across **land, air and water**, along with growing risks in the **cyber domain**.
- ➔ It specifically warns that **criminal hackers and nation-states** are targeting India through cyber-attacks.
- ➔ The document underlines that India continues to face **sponsored terrorism from across the border**.
- ➔ It mentions the role of **jihadi terror outfits**, their frontal organisations, and foreign handlers in facilitating attacks in India.
- ➔ The policy identifies groups such as **Al-Qaeda** and **ISIS** as entities trying to incite violence in India through **sleeper cells and extremist propaganda**.
- ➔ **PRAHAAR** notes the use of **drones, encrypted messaging apps, social media, dark web platforms, and crypto wallets** by terrorist groups for communication, propaganda, recruitment and financing.
- ➔ It also flags the danger of misuse of **CBRNED materials—Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive and Digital**—as well as robotics and drone systems.
- ➔ The policy says capacities have been developed to protect strategic sectors such as **power, railways, aviation, ports, defence, space and atomic energy** from state and non-state actors.
- ➔ **PRAHAAR** clearly states that India does **not link terrorism to any specific religion, ethnicity, nationality or civilisation**.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana at 25

The **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** is one of India's most important rural infrastructure programmes. It was launched on **25 December 2000** with the objective of providing **all-weather road connectivity** to previously unconnected rural habitations.

- ➔ In **2025**, PMGSY completed **25 years**, marking a major milestone in India's rural development journey.
- ➔ The scheme has played a significant role in improving access to **markets, schools, hospitals, employment opportunities and public services** in rural India.

❑ Key Achievements of PMGSY

- ➔ Since its inception, a total of **8,25,114 km of rural roads** have been sanctioned under PMGSY.
- ➔ Out of this, **7,87,520 km of roads** have been completed, showing nearly **95% physical progress** as of December 2025.
- ➔ The scheme has helped connect rural habitations with **markets, health centres, educational institutions and administrative services**.
- ➔ For the financial year **2025–26**, PMGSY received a budgetary allocation of **₹19,000 crore**, reflecting the continued importance of rural road development in government policy.
- ➔ **PMGSY Phase-I** was launched in **2000** as the flagship phase of the programme.
- ➔ Under Phase-I, road connectivity projects for **1,63,339 rural habitations** were sanctioned across the country.
- ➔ **PMGSY Phase-II** was introduced in **2013**.
- ➔ This phase focused on strengthening and upgrading the existing rural road network.
- ➔ **PMGSY Phase-III** was launched in **2019**.
- ➔ It focuses on upgrading **1,25,000 km** of Through Routes and Major Rural Links.
- ➔ The phase aims to improve connectivity between rural habitations and key institutions such as **Gramin Agricultural Markets, higher secondary schools and healthcare facilities**.
- ➔ As of December 2025, **1,22,393 km** of roads had been sanctioned under PMGSY-III.
- ➔ Out of the sanctioned road length, **1,01,623 km**, or about **83%**, had been constructed.
- ➔ **PMGSY Phase-IV** covers the implementation period from **2024–25 to 2028–29**.
- ➔ Under this phase, **62,500 km** of roads are proposed to be constructed.
- ➔ The total financial outlay for PMGSY-IV is **₹70,125 crore**.

❑ Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana–III (PMGSY–III)

- ➔ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana–III from March, 2025 up to **March 2028**.
- ➔ The scheme aims to strengthen rural connectivity by consolidating Through Routes and Major Rural Links connecting habitations with **Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools, and Hospitals**.
- ➔ The total outlay of the scheme has been revised from **₹80,250 crore to ₹83,977 crore**.

Objective of PMGSY–III

- ➔ PMGSY-III was launched for consolidation/ upgradation of **1,25,000 kms** of Through Routes and Major Rural Links. PMGSY–III aims to consolidate Through Routes and Major Rural Links so that rural habitations are better connected with important social and economic facilities.
- ➔ These include Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.
- ➔ The timeline for completion of projects has been extended to **March 2028** for roads and bridges in plain areas and roads in hilly areas, and to **March 2029** for bridges in hilly areas.

Age-Based Social Media Restrictions for Children

On March 6, 2026, **Karnataka** announced in its Budget speech that social media use would be banned for children below 16. On the same day, **Andhra Pradesh** said it would prohibit access for children below 13 within 90 days and was also considering rules for the 13–16 age group.

- ➔ At the Union level, the Economic Survey 2025–26 recommended age-based access limits and stronger platform responsibility, and an NHRC discussion on 18 March 2026 showed that the matter is now being treated as a serious governance issue.

❑ Global Context

- ➔ The strongest global precedent has come from **Australia**.
- ➔ Australia enacted the **Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act, 2024**.
- ➔ Under this law, from **10 December 2025**, age-restricted platforms must take **reasonable steps** to prevent children **under 16** from creating or retaining accounts.
- ➔ The Australian eSafety regulator has indicated that platforms such as **Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, Twitch, X, YouTube, Kick and Reddit** fall within the age-restricted category, though the list may change.

❑ Quick Facts

- ➔ **Constitutional provisions central to debate:** Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2), Article 21A
- ➔ **Benchmark country:** Australia
- ➔ **ASER rural household survey 2024 smartphone-use familiarity among 14–16 age group:** 82.2%
- ➔ **Share using smartphones for educational activity in previous week:** 57%
- ➔ **Share using smartphones for social media:** 76%
- ➔ **Gender gap in social media use:** Boys 78.8%, girls 73.4%
- ➔ **Global health reference linked to digital-addiction debate:** WHO recognition of Gaming Disorder in ICD-11

ASI Approval for Excavations at 8 Sites in Tamil Nadu

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has approved excavations at **eight sites in Tamil Nadu**, including the **11th phase of Keeladi excavations**. The approval was issued on **13 March 2026** under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959, after several months of delay.

- ➔ The **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA)** had sought ASI permission in **July 2025** after these sites were announced in the **Tamil Nadu Budget 2025–26**.
- ➔ Since the excavation season in Tamil Nadu broadly runs from **January to July**, the State government had pressed for timely approval to avoid monsoon disruption.
- ➔ The **Tamil Nadu Budget 2025–26** also allocated **₹7 crore** for archaeological excavations and scientific research.
- ➔ The approval covers **Keeladi and its clusters in Sivaganga district, Pattinamarudhur in Thoothukudi, Karivalamvanthanallur in Tenkasi, Manikollai in Cuddalore, Adichanur in Villupuram/Kallakurichi region, Vellalore in Coimbatore, Telunganur-Mangadu in Salem, and Nagapattinam**.
- ➔ These sites together represent a long civilisational span ranging from the **Iron Age to early urban and maritime settlements** in Tamil Nadu. This is an inference drawn from the identified site profiles and their archaeological significance.

Defence Forces Vision 2047

The **Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh**, released “**Defence Forces Vision 2047: A Roadmap for a Future-Ready Indian Military**” on **10 March 2026** in **South Block, New Delhi**. Prepared by the **Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)**, the document presents a long-term blueprint for transforming India’s armed forces into a modern, integrated, technologically advanced, and self-reliant military by the centenary of Independence.

- ➔ In 2025, the Ministry of Defence declared the year as the “**Year of Reforms**” to push jointness, integration and future-readiness.
- ➔ The **Ministry’s Year End Review 2025** had also said that the **Armed Forces Vision 2047** was prepared in two parts and that Part I would be released publicly soon.

☐ Phased Roadmap to 2047

One of the major strengths of the document is that it sets out a calibrated timeline for transformation.

1. Era of Transition (till 2030)

- ➔ This phase focuses on restructuring the military and strengthening deterrence.
- ➔ It gives importance to rapid adoption of indigenous technologies, especially in areas such as drones and surveillance.
- ➔ It lays the foundation for larger institutional reform.

2. Era of Consolidation (2030–2040)

- ➔ This phase aims to deepen integration of cyber and space capabilities.
- ➔ It seeks to operationalise layered air and missile defence systems.
- ➔ It focuses on embedding reforms so that jointness becomes functional rather than merely aspirational.

3. Era of Excellence (2040–2047)

- ➔ This final phase envisions a fully integrated, self-reliant, all-domain military force.
- ➔ It aims to make India’s armed forces globally respected, technologically advanced, and combat ready.
- ➔ It aligns military excellence with the national vision of a developed India by 2047.

Gyan Bharatam National Manuscript Survey

The **Ministry of Culture** launched the **Gyan Bharatam National Manuscript Survey** on **16 March 2026** under the broader **Gyan Bharatam initiative** (announced in the **Union Budget 2025-26**).

- ➔ It is being described as India’s **first comprehensive national mapping of manuscript repository drive** to identify, document, and prepare for the preservation and digitisation of manuscript collections across the country.
- ➔ The survey is a nationwide exercise aimed at identifying manuscript repositories across India and preparing a **geo-tagged national inventory** of manuscript presence.
- ☉ The survey seeks to map manuscripts located in **private homes, temples, monasteries, libraries, and institutions**.
- ☉ It will help create a national “**Manuscript Presence Map**” across districts and states.
- ☉ The exercise is intended to support **systematic preservation, digitisation, and scholarly access**.
- ☉ The data collected will contribute to a broader **national digital repository** under the **Gyan Bharatam Mission**.

☐ Four-Stage Survey Framework

The survey has been designed through a structured four-stage framework.

- ➔ **Stage 1: Identification** – Creation of the initial **national manuscript presence map**.
- ➔ **Stage 2: Physical Verification** – Physically verification the reported manuscript locations and collections.

- ➔ **Stage 3: Cataloguing and Metadata Creation** – Metadata such as **language, script, subject, and related basic classification details** will be prepared.
- ➔ **Stage 4: Conservation and Digitisation** – The final stage focuses on **preservation support** and **high-quality digitisation**.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0

Under the chairmanship of Narendra Modi, the Union Cabinet approved **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0** on **10 March 2026**. Its objective is to transform Jal Jeevan Mission from being limited to infrastructure creation into a **service-based model**.

□ Key Facts

- ➔ The Cabinet has approved an increase in the total expenditure for this restructuring to **₹8.69 lakh crore**, of which the central government's contribution will be **₹3.59 lakh crore**.
- ➔ This amount is higher than the earlier approved **₹2.08 lakh crore** by the Centre in 2019–20, meaning that an additional **₹1.51 lakh crore of central assistance** has been included.
- In this direction, an integrated national digital platform named **"Sujalam Bharat"** will be developed.
- Under this, each village will be assigned a **unique Sujal village/service area ID**, through which a complete digital mapping of the supply system from water source to household tap will be prepared.
- ➔ To enhance transparency and accountability, active participation of Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees will be ensured through the **"Jal Arpan"** initiative.
- ➔ Gram Panchayats will certify project completion only when adequate arrangements for **operation and maintenance** have been ensured by the state government; only thereafter will a village be declared as **"Har Ghar Jal"**.
- ➔ To strengthen community participation, **"Jal Utsav"** will be developed as an annual programme.

□ Progress and Coverage

- ➔ It is noteworthy that in 2019, only **3.23 crore (about 17%) rural households** had tap water connections, whereas now more than **12.56 crore additional households** have been provided this facility.
- ➔ At present, out of a total of **19.36 crore rural households**, approximately **15.80 crore (about 81.61%) households** have access to tap water.
- ➔ According to estimates by the government, this scheme has resulted in a saving of approximately **5.5 crore hours of labour per day**, prevented about **4 lakh deaths due to diarrhoea**, and saved nearly **14 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)**, whereas WHO estimates of about 6.6 million.

- ➔ According to estimates by the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore and the International Labour Organization, this scheme could generate **59.9 lakh direct and 2.2 crore indirect employment opportunities**.

□ Targets and Implementation

- ➔ Under JJM 2.0, the target is to provide **tap water connections to all 19.36 crore rural households by December 2028** and to ensure that all Gram Panchayats receive **"Har Ghar Jal" certification**.
- ➔ This mission is now moving beyond an infrastructure-based approach towards a **utility-based service delivery model**, which will ensure **24×7 rural drinking water supply** and strengthen the goal of **"Viksit Bharat @2047"**.

□ Quick Facts

- ➔ Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched by Narendra Modi on **15 August 2019**.
- ➔ It had an ambitious target of providing **tap water supply to every rural household by 2024**.
- ➔ At the time of its launch, only **3.23 crore (17%) rural households** had access to tap water connections.

PM-RAHAT Scheme

To curb the accidental deaths, the scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **13 February 2026**, and it was officially named **"Prime Minister – Road Accident Victims' Hospitalisation and Assured Treatment (PM-RAHAT) Scheme"** through a notification issued on **February 19, 2026**.

□ Key Facts

- ➔ As per the statutory provisions provided under **Section 162 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**, this scheme was notified on **5 May 2025**.
- ➔ In addition, detailed guidelines related to the scheme's workflow, roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, and the **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** for its implementation were issued on **4 June 2025**.
- ➔ Under this scheme, each eligible victim will be provided treatment cover up to **₹1.5 lakh**, which will be applicable for a maximum period of **7 days** from the date of the accident, and it will apply to all types of roads.
- ➔ This scheme is integrated with the **112 Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)**, through which the victim or a **good Samaritan (RAH-VEER)** can obtain information about the nearest designated hospital, request an ambulance, or avail both services.

AI-based Bharat VISTAAR' Scheme

Bharat-VISTAAR is a farmer-centric, AI-powered agricultural Digital Public Infrastructure launched on **February 17, 2026** in Jaipur by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in the presence of Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.

- ➔ The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has rolled out Phase-I of this platform as a nationwide, voice-first, multilingual system to provide farmers with reliable, real-time and location-specific advisory and access to agricultural services. It was also announced in the Union Budget 2026-27.
- ➔ Bharat-VISTAAR has been designed as a single digital gateway so that farmers can get all such information in their own language through text and voice, without depending on multiple portals or middlemen.
- ➔ In Phase-1, this facility will start in Hindi and English and will reach lakhs of farmers in several states including Maharashtra, Bihar, Gujarat.
- ➔ Bharat-VISTAAR is a single digital gateway for farmers.

Regional Connectivity Scheme – Modified UDAN Approved

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on **March 25, 2026** approved the launch and implementation of the Regional Connectivity Scheme – Revised UDAN for a period of ten years from FY 2026–27 to 2035–36.

- ➔ The total cost of the scheme is ₹28,840 crore, which will be borne through budgetary support from the Government of India.
- ➔ The major components of the scheme are as follows:

○ Development of Aerodromes (CAPEX)

- ➔ Under the Revised UDAN scheme, it is proposed to develop 100 airports from existing unserved airstrips to enhance regional connectivity.
- ➔ This aligns with the infrastructure expansion vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, aiming to transform India into a globally competitive aviation ecosystem.
- ➔ A total provision of ₹12,159 crore has been made for this over the next eight years.

○ Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Aerodromes

- ➔ Considering the high recurring O&M costs and limited revenue of airports operated under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), the scheme proposes O&M support for three years.
- ➔ This support will be up to ₹3.06 crore per airport per year and ₹0.90 crore per heliport/water aerodrome. An estimated total of ₹2,577 crore is proposed for approximately 441 aerodromes.

○ Development of Modern Helipads

- ➔ To address connectivity challenges in hilly, remote, island, and aspirational regions, 200 modern helipads are proposed to be developed at a cost of ₹15 crore per helipad.
- ➔ Over the next eight years (inflation-adjusted), a total requirement of ₹3,661 crore is estimated.

□ Major Facts

- ➔ The UDAN scheme was launched in October 2016 with the objective of making air travel affordable and strengthening connectivity to Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- ➔ During nine years of implementation, as of June, 2026, operations have been conducted on **665 routes across 95 airports, heliports, and water aerodromes.**
- ➔ More than **3.5 lakh flights** have been operated, carrying **1.64 crore passengers.**

Motion Against Om Birla and Gyanesh Kumar

The motion against Om Birla highlights concerns over impartiality and has sparked debate on the Speaker's neutrality, the opposition's role, and constitutional accountability.

- ➔ The Lok Sabha rejected the no-confidence motion against Speaker **Om Birla** by a **voice vote** after an extensive debate.
- A total of **42 Members of Parliament** participated in the debate from both treasury and opposition benches.
- ➔ The notice of impeachment motion against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) **Gyanesh Kumar** were refused for admission by the Lok Sabha speaker and Rajya Sabha chairman.
- ➔ The decision was taken after evaluation by Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** and Rajya Sabha Chairman **C. P. Radhakrishnan**.

□ Key Facts

- ➔ The parliamentary process against Om Birla began on **10 February 2026**, when opposition members submitted a notice against him.
- ➔ The primary allegation behind this was that the **proceedings of the House were not being conducted in accordance with the standards of impartiality** and that the opposition was not being given adequate opportunities.
- ➔ The constitutional provision for the removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is contained in **Article 94**.
- According to **Article 94(c)**, the Speaker may be removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Lok Sabha, but such a resolution can be moved only after giving at least **14 days' notice** of the intention to move it.
- ➔ During this period, the Speaker himself did not preside, as under Article 96, he cannot preside when a removal motion against him is under consideration.
- ➔ On **10 and 11 March 2026**, detailed discussions were held on the motion, and ultimately, on **March 11, 2026**, the Lok Sabha rejected it by a voice vote.

SHANTI Act, 2025

The SHANTI Act, 2025 (got President assent in December, 2025) seeks to consolidate and modernise India's nuclear legal framework into a single, comprehensive structure.

- ➔ The Act aims to support India's clean-energy transition and the long-term objective of 100 GW nuclear energy capacity by 2047. The act enables limited private participation in the nuclear sector while ensuring regulatory oversight and strategic control.

❑ Current Status of India's Nuclear Power

- ➔ Nuclear power has maintained a stable role and contributes around **3%** of total electricity generation, with **3.1% in 2024–25**.
- ➔ India's installed nuclear capacity is **8.78 GW**.
- ➔ Capacity is projected to rise to **22.38 GW by 2031–32** through indigenous reactor programmes and international cooperation.
- ➔ The long-term target is **100 GW by 2047**, aligned with clean energy goals.

❑ Key Highlights of the SHANTI Act, 2025

- ➔ The act permits private companies to participate in selected nuclear sector activities such as **plant operations, power generation, and equipment manufacturing**.
- ➔ The act allows private participation in selected fuel-fabrication related activities, including **conversion, refining, and enrichment of uranium-235 up to a notified threshold**, and other prescribed substances.
- ➔ The act reserves sensitive fuel-cycle and strategic activities for the **Central Government or wholly owned institutions**, including:
 - ⌚ **Enrichment or isotopic separation** of prescribed/radioactive substances (unless otherwise notified).
 - ⌚ **Spent fuel management**, including **reprocessing, recycling, radionuclide separation**, and **high-level waste handling**.
 - ⌚ **Production and upgradation of heavy water**.
 - ⌚ Any other facilities or activities specifically **notified by the Government**.
- ➔ The act establishes a structured system for granting, suspending, and cancelling **licences and safety authorisations** for nuclear energy production and use.
- ➔ The act introduces a detailed **graded liability structure** instead of a single uniform statutory cap.
- ➔ The act provides a regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation technologies used in **health care, agriculture, industry, research, and other peaceful applications**.
- ➔ The act allows exemptions from licensing for limited activities such as **research, development, and innovation-related work**, as prescribed.

- ➔ The act provides for a **Nuclear Damage Claims Commission** for cases involving severe nuclear damage and timely adjudication.
- ➔ The act establishes an **Atomic Energy Redressal Advisory Council** to facilitate dispute redressal.
- ➔ The act vests exclusive acquisition rights with the **Central Government** in specific notified cases related to nuclear activities.
- ➔ The Government retains exclusive authority over critical functions like specified sensitive **fuel-cycle control, waste management, and security-related operations**.

Republic Day 2026

Republic Day is observed on 26 January to mark the day the Constitution of India came into force (January 26, 1950). In 2026, India celebrated its 77th Republic Day at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, with the theme “150 years of Vande Mataram”, blending constitutional values, cultural heritage, and a large military-civil ceremony.

- ➔ In **December 1929**, the **Indian National Congress** adopted the Purna Swaraj (Complete Independence) Resolution at its Lahore Session, presided over by Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ➔ The INC decided to observe **26 January 1930** as **Purna Swaraj Day**, when Indians pledged to reject British dominion status and strive for complete self-rule.
- ➔ Between **1930 and 1947**, **26 January** was celebrated annually as **Independence Day or Purna Swaraj Day**.

❑ Theme and Key Features of Republic Day 2026

- ➔ The theme “**150 Years of Vande Mataram**” commemorated the enduring role of the national song in India's freedom struggle (November 7, 2025 marks the 150th anniversary of the National song).
- ➔ The Republic Day Parade featured **30 tableaux** from **States, Union Territories and Union Ministries**.
- ➔ The tableaux were organised under the sub-themes:
 - ⌚ Swatantrata ka Mantra – Vande Mataram, and
 - ⌚ Samriddhi ka Mantra – Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- ➔ **Chief Guests:** Mr. Antonio Costa (President of the European Council) and Ms. Ursula von der Leyen (President of the European Commission).

❑ Results of the Best Marching Contingents

- ➔ The **three panels of judges** constituted for assessing the performance of the contingents and tableaux have chosen the following:
 - ⌚ Best Marching Contingent among three Services – Indian Navy
 - ⌚ Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/other auxiliary Forces – Delhi Police

- ➔ **Top three tableaux (States/UTs):**
 - ☉ Maharashtra (Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta)
 - ☉ Jammu & Kashmir (Handicrafts and Folk Dances of Jammu & Kashmir)
 - ☉ Kerala (Water Metro & 100% Digital Literacy: Aatmanirbhar Kerala for Aatmanirbhar Bharat)
- ➔ Best tableau from Central Ministries/Departments - Ministry of Culture (Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation)
- ➔ **Special Prize:**
 - ☉ Central Public Works Department (Vande Mataram – Commemoration of 150 Years)
 - ☉ 'Vande Mataram: The Eternal Resonance of India' Dance Group
- ➔ The results of the 'Popular Choice' category based on the online poll conducted on the **MyGov** portal for the citizens to vote for their favorite Tableau and Marching Contingents are as follows:
 - ☉ Best Marching Contingent among three Services - Assam Regiment
 - ☉ Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/other auxiliary Forces – CRPF
- ➔ **Top three tableaux (States/UTs):**
 - ☉ Gujarat (Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance – Freedom: Vande Mataram)
 - ☉ Uttar Pradesh (Culture of Bundelkhand)
 - ☉ Rajasthan (Golden Touch of the Desert: Bikaner Gold Art (Usta Art))
- ➔ Best tableau from Central Ministries/Departments – Department of School Education & Literacy (National Education Policy 2020: Rocketing Indian School Education on the Path to Viksit Bharat)

- ➔ **Uttar Pradesh highlighted Bundelkhand's cultural heritage** alongside modern development initiatives.

BHASHINI and Voice-First Multilingual AI

The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) showcased its voice-first multilingual Artificial Intelligence platform at the AI-Led Innovation and Capacity Building Conference held on 20 January 2026 in Lucknow.

- ➔ The conference was organised by the Centre for e-Governance (CeG), IT and Electronics Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, and focused on strengthening AI adoption, digital skilling, and innovation capacity at the State level.
- ➔ The conference brought together senior officials from the **Government of Uttar Pradesh**, representatives from the **Government of India**, industry partners, and academic institutions.

☐ Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Initiatives in India

1. Aadhaar – Digital Identity Backbone

- ➔ Aadhaar is India's unique digital identity system based on biometric and demographic data.

- ➔ As of mid-2024 (July, 2024), approximately **138.34 crore Aadhaar numbers** have been issued.

2. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) – Digital Payments Revolution

- ➔ UPI has transformed India into a global leader in real-time digital payments.
- ➔ By October 2025, UPI recorded a monthly transaction value of **₹27.28 lakh crore**.

3. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) – Financial Inclusion Backbone

- ➔ PMJDY has enabled large-scale financial inclusion.
- ➔ As on February, 2026 more than **57.78 crore Jan Dhan accounts** have been opened.
- ➔ Over **56% of these accounts belong to women**, strengthening gender inclusion (August, 2025).
- ➔ Deposits in Jan Dhan accounts have crossed **₹3 lakh crore**.

☐ About the BHASHINI Platform

- ➔ BHASHINI is a national initiative aimed at enabling **multilingual, voice-enabled digital public services** across India.
- ➔ The platform supports **more than 36 languages in text** and **over 22 languages in voice**.
- ➔ It has deployed **over 350 AI language models** to facilitate translation, speech recognition, and conversational AI services.

Supreme Court stays 2026 UGC Equity Regulations

In a significant order affecting India's higher education governance, the Supreme Court on 29 January 2026 has kept in abeyance the newly notified **UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026**.

- ➔ These Regulations were designed to create a time-bound, enforceable anti-discrimination framework on campuses. The Court has raised concerns about vagueness, possible misuse, and exclusion, and has directed that the older 2012 UGC Equity Regulations will continue to operate for now.
- ➔ The **UGC Equity Regulations, 2026** were framed pursuant to the Supreme Court's directions in **Abeda Salim Tadvi v. Union of India (2019)**.
- ➔ A Bench of **Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan** had directed the **UGC to notify enforceable regulations** to:
 - ☉ Address caste-based discrimination
 - ☉ Prevent student suicides
 - ☉ Rectify the ineffective implementation of the **2012 regulations**.

☐ Key Provisions of the UGC Regulations, 2026

- ➔ **Broad Coverage of Caste-Based Discrimination:** The regulations define caste-based discrimination as any unfair or biased treatment against Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), thereby explicitly extending

legal protection to OBCs and correcting a major omission in the earlier draft framework.

- ➔ **Mandatory Equal Opportunity Centres (EOCs):** Every higher education institution is required to establish an **Equal Opportunity Centre (EOC)** to promote equity, social inclusion, and equal access, and to address complaints related to discrimination on campus.
- ➔ Each institution must form an **Equity Committee** under the EOC, chaired by the head of the institution, with mandatory representation from **SCs, STs, OBCs, persons with disabilities, and women**, ensuring inclusive decision-making.
- ➔ The **Equity Committee** is required to meet within **24 hours** of receiving a complaint and submit its report within **15 working days**, after which the **head of the institution must initiate action within 7 days**.
- ➔ **National-level Monitoring Mechanism:** UGC will establish a national monitoring committee comprising representatives from statutory bodies and civil society to oversee implementation, review complaints, and suggest preventive measures, meeting at least twice a year.
- ➔ **Penalties for Non-compliance:** Institutions violating the regulations may face debarment from UGC schemes, prohibition on offering degree, distance, or online programmes, or even removal from UGC recognition, making the rules enforceable rather than advisory.

❑ Core Legal Controversy

- ➔ Clause 3(c) of the 2026 Regulations defines “**caste-based discrimination**” as discrimination only against members of: Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs)
- ➔ Clause 3(e) defines “**discrimination**” broadly to include unfair treatment on grounds of: Religion, Race, Caste, Gender, Place of birth, Disability

Uttar Pradesh “Gharauni Act” 2025

The Uttar Pradesh Rural Population (Abadi) Records Act (popularly called the “**Gharauni Act**”) was taken up and passed by the Uttar Pradesh Legislature (assented to by the Governor on January 2, 2026), to provide a clear legal framework for rural residential (“**abadi**”) property records created under the SVAMITVA programme.

- ➔ The law is designed to institutionalise rural property cards/records prepared through **drone-based surveys** under the **SVAMITVA Scheme** (Ministry of Panchayati Raj).
- ➔ SVAMITVA status in Uttar Pradesh
- ➔ As per a Lok Sabha annexure (answer dated 29 July 2025), Uttar Pradesh shows:

- ➔ Targeted villages: 90,573
- ➔ Drone flying completed: 90,573
- ➔ Property cards prepared (villages): 68,377
- ➔ Number of property cards prepared: 10,486,961
- ➔ As on January 2026, 3.06 crore property cards have been prepared across 1.86 lakh villages under SVAMITVA (all-India).

❑ Key Provisions

- ➔ **Legal recognition of existing SVAMITVA-based records:** Records (Gharauni) prepared through survey and record operations under earlier state regulations are deemed to have been made under this Act, ensuring continuity and legal backing.
- ➔ The Act lays down procedures for survey operations, record preparation, notifications, and record maintenance, specifying roles such as survey officers/record officers for implementation.

Pennaiyar River Water Dispute

On February 2, 2026, the Supreme Court directed the Union Government to notify (in the Official Gazette) and constitute a Water Disputes Tribunal within one month to adjudicate the Pennaiyar river dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka (along with the Union Territory of Puducherry).

❑ How the Dispute Reached the Present Stage

- ➔ The **Pennaiyar River** originates in **Karnataka** and flows through **Tamil Nadu**; being an **inter-State river** its adjudication of disputes relating to waters lies under **Article 262 of the Constitution**.
- ➔ **1892:** An agreement was executed between the erstwhile States of **Madras and Mysore** regulating rights over inter-State river waters, which later became central to the legal pleadings.
- ➔ **2013:** In its reply cited in the case history, **Karnataka contended** that the 1892 agreement was merely a political arrangement and had ceased to operate after Independence.
- ➔ **18 May 2018:** The State of **Tamil Nadu filed Original Suit** before the Supreme Court under **Article 131 of the Constitution**, invoking the Court’s original jurisdiction in an inter-State dispute.
- ➔ **14 November 2019:** The Supreme Court dismissed Tamil Nadu’s interim application but permitted the State to pursue the statutory mechanism by making an appropriate request for the constitution of a Tribunal.
- ➔ **30 November 2019:** Tamil Nadu formally lodged a complaint under **Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**, seeking the constitution of a Water Disputes Tribunal.
- ➔ **2024–2025:** Although negotiations continued between the concerned parties, the Union Government later informed the Supreme Court that ministerial-level discussions had been postponed indefinitely, as Tamil Nadu insisted on adjudication through a Tribunal.

Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026

India has notified the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026 to overhaul the decade-old waste governance framework and push waste systems towards source segregation, decentralised processing, and a circular economy. The rules are issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and they supersede the SWM Rules, 2016.

□ Key Highlights

- ➔ The Rules **broaden responsibilities**, strengthen **reuse linkages** (including use of waste as fuel in **boilers and cement kilns**) to promote a **circular economy**, and introduce **clear penalties** for non-compliance.
- ➔ A key shift is the stringent onus on **bulk generators** stated to account for **30%** of waste to **process solid waste at source**, aiming to reduce the burden on urban local bodies.
- ➔ The Rules make **four-way segregation** mandatory: **wet waste, dry waste, sanitary waste, and special care waste**.
- ➔ This covers everything from paper and kitchen waste to sanitary towels and diapers, as well as items like **tube lights** and **waste batteries**, reflecting clearer recognition of health and environmental risks linked to sanitary and household hazardous fractions.
- ➔ Bulk generators are defined as entities meeting **any one** of these criteria:
 - I. floor area of 20,000 sq m or more,
 - II. water consumption of 40,000 litres/day or more, or
 - III. waste generation of 100 kg/day or more.
- ➔ This category includes **central and state government departments, local bodies, commercial establishments, residential societies, universities, and hostels**, among others.
- ➔ Under the “extended responsibility” approach, they will be accountable through **centralised monitoring**, and are required to **process wet waste on-site as far as possible** or obtain an **Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR) certificate** where on-site processing is not feasible.
- ➔ **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) 2023–24 data** stating that about **1.85 lakh tonnes/day** of solid waste is generated in India, of which **1.79 lakh tonnes/day** is collected, **1.14 lakh tonnes/day** is processed/treated, and **39,629 tonnes/day** is landfilled.
- ➔ It also notes that **EBWGR** is intended to target about **30-40% of city waste**, promoting reduction at the source.
- ➔ For the first time, local authorities in **hilly and island areas** are empowered to levy **fees from visitors or tourists** for solid waste handling and management, and to adopt measures to **regulate visitor numbers** in line with local waste-handling capacity.

- ➔ The Rules emphasise a **waste hierarchy** that prioritises **prevention and reduction**, followed by **reuse, recycling, recovery, and disposal**, with prevention as the most preferred option.

□ Biopharma SHAKTI

- ➔ In the Union Budget 2026–27, the Government of India has placed biopharma and biologic medicines at the centre of its healthcare and manufacturing strategy.
- ➔ Biopharma SHAKTI, a dedicated national initiative with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crores over five years, aimed at strengthening India’s end-to-end ecosystem for biologics and biosimilars.
- ➔ Expansion and strengthening of the Biopharma-focused network through the establishment of three new **National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs)** and the upgradation of seven existing NIPERs.

Aravalli Hills

A vacation bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices J.K. Maheshwari and A.G. Masih stayed the implementation of both the Committee’s recommendations (submitted via MoEF&CC on October 3, 2025) and the Court’s own directions from the November 20, 2025, judgment.

- ➔ On June 3, 2026 the Supreme Court formed a five member High powered Expert Committee (HPC) chaired by ICFRE DG Kanchan Devi with the task to define the contentious definition of Aravalli Hills and submit its report by August 31, 2026.

□ Background/Timeline

- ➔ In its **2010 status report**, the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** defined the **Aravalli region** using slope-based scientific parameters, including **slope greater than 3 degrees**, a **foothill buffer of 100 metres**, and an inter-hill distance or valley width of up to 500 metres.
- ➔ The **Supreme Court**, while monitoring the matter, constituted a **committee** through its order dated May 09, 2024.
- Six of the committee’s nine members were bureaucrats – its **chair and MoEF secretary Tanmay Kumar**, the MoEF joint secretary, and the four forest secretaries of Aravalli states Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- ➔ The **Committee’s report** was formally submitted to the Supreme Court through the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** on **October 3, 2025**.
- ➔ In a judgment dated November 20, 2025, the Supreme Court accepted an MoEF&CC led Committee’s operational definitions of “Aravalli Hills” and “Aravalli Range” (mainly for regulating mining) and directed the preparation of a **Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM)** through **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)**.

- ➔ Subsequently, on **29 December 2025**, the Supreme Court kept the judgment in abeyance, imposed new interim restrictions, and listed the matter for further hearing on 21 January 2026.

VB-G RAM G Act, 2025

In December 2025, Parliament enacted the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025; the President's assent on December 20, 2025, and the act is positioned as a statutory replacement of MGNREGA (2005) (on July 1, 2026).

Parliament has passed the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB-G RAM G Bill, 2025, with the Rajya Sabha approving it on December 18, 2025. The Lok Sabha passed the Bill earlier on December 18, 2025.

❑ Objective of the Act

- ➔ VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 proposes to replace the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, 2005 with a new statutory rural employment-and-assets framework.
- ➔ The government frames the overhaul as an update aligned with **Viksit Bharat @2047**, with stronger convergence across schemes and a sharper focus on durable rural infrastructure.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ The act increases the legal guarantee from **at least 100 days** to **125 days** of wage employment per rural household per year, while retaining the unemployment allowance principle if work is not provided.
- ➔ The act changes financing from the earlier wage-heavy central responsibility to a **centrally sponsored scheme (CSS)** model with **60:40 Centre–State sharing** for most states and **90:10** for North-Eastern and Himalayan states (and UT of Jammu & Kashmir) while UTs without legislatures remain **100% centrally funded**.
- ➔ The act introduces a **statewise “normative allocation”** decided by the Centre, and it makes the **State government liable for any spending beyond this allocation**.
- ➔ The act mandates a **pause on scheme works aggregated to 60 days** each year during notified peak agricultural seasons (such as sowing and harvesting).
- ➔ The act strengthens the planning pipeline by requiring works to be drawn from **Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans**, organised around four themes—**water security, rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure, and extreme-weather mitigation**—and integrated with the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan** and aggregated at the national level.

Flag Hoisting at Ram Temple in Ayodhya

On **November 25, 2025**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attended the **Dhwajaroohan Utsav** at **Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir**, hoisted the **Dharma Dhwaja** on the Shikhara. This historic event, accompanied by RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, holds immense cultural, spiritual, and national significance.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ **Flag Design and Symbolism:** The flag is **right-angled triangular**, measuring **10 feet in height** and **20 feet in length**, featuring powerful symbols like:
 - ☉ **Radiant Sun**, representing the brilliance and valour of Lord Ram evokes the Suryavansha tradition.
 - ☉ **Om**, symbolizing the spiritual connection between humanity and the divine.
 - ☉ **Kovidara Tree**, an emblem of ancient wisdom and strength (Ayodhya's ancient flag tradition). The flag's **saffron color** is associated with the **Sun dynasty (Suryavansh)** and reflects the ideals of **Ram Rajya**.
- ➔ **Auspicious Timing:** The flag hoisting took place during the **‘Abhijit Muhurta’**, a **planetary constellation** deemed auspicious by Hindus for such significant rituals.

Water Budgeting in Aspirational Blocks

NITI Aayog, in collaboration with GIZ India, has released a report titled **“Water Budgeting in Aspirational Blocks”**, aimed at enhancing water security at the local level, improving resource planning, and aligning with the vision of **Viksit Bharat@2047**. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of water availability, demand, and sector-specific challenges across 18 Aspirational Blocks in 11 States (and a UT), using a digital platform for water budgeting.

❑ Key Findings

- ➔ **Water Deficits:** Several blocks are facing severe water shortages. Notable examples include:
 - ☉ Namchi (94% deficit)
 - ☉ Gangiri (60% deficit)
 - ☉ Baldeogarh (53% deficit)
- ➔ **Over-extraction of Groundwater:** Blocks like Kotri and Abu Road in Rajasthan are over-extracting groundwater beyond recharge levels, leading to unsustainable water use.
- ➔ **Under-utilization of Runoff:** Some regions, such as Fatehpur in Bihar, generate runoff, but fail to utilize the stored water effectively.

Supreme Court's Opinion on Presidential Reference

India's Centre-State relations are again in the news because the Supreme Court's 5 judges Bench has now answered the 16th Presidential Reference (Special Reference 1 of 2025) on how Governors and the President should deal with State Bills. This opinion, delivered on November 20, 2025, settles the clash between the April 2025 Tamil Nadu Governor judgment and the Union Government over timelines, "pocket veto" and "deemed assent".

□ Background

- ➔ A Bill passed by a State legislature becomes law only after the Governor's assent (except a bill is not reserved for President's assent).
- ➔ In many States, Governors have delayed assent and returned Bills, causing political and federal friction.
- ➔ In April 2025, a two-judge Bench in State of Tamil Nadu vs Governor of Tamil Nadu fixed a three-month limit and granted "deemed assent" to Tamil Nadu Bills.
- ⊖ Governor must act within one month.
- ⊖ Governor must return it with a message within three months.
- ➔ The Union Government viewed this as judicial overreach into the domain of the executive and legislature.
- ⊖ The President then used Article 143 to refer fourteen questions to the Supreme Court – the 16th Presidential Reference – asking how Articles 200, 201 and 142, Articles 361, 143, 145(3) and 131 should really work.
- ⊖ A five-judge Constitution Bench has now given an advisory opinion that largely rejects the April 2025 approach.

○ Constitutional Provision

- ➔ **Article 143** empowers the President to seek the Supreme Court's advisory opinion on questions of law or fact of public importance.

○ Nature of the Advice

- ➔ The opinion under Article 143 is advisory and not binding.
- ⊖ All other courts ought to be bound by this view of the Court even if it is advisory jurisdiction.
- ➔ The President retains constitutional discretion to accept or reject it, maintaining institutional equilibrium.

○ Bench Requirement

- ➔ Under **Article 145(3)**, such references must be heard by at least five judges.

□ Key Highlights of the Judgments

- ➔ The Constitution Bench held that a **Presidential Reference under Article 143** is not an appeal in disguise, even if it relates to issues decided earlier.

- ➔ The President has the constitutional authority to seek the Supreme Court's advisory opinion on previously adjudicated questions.
- ➔ An advisory opinion may clarify, influence, or depart from earlier precedent without amounting to self-appeal by the Court.
- ➔ The Court exercised judicial restraint by declining to answer overly broad questions that were unnecessary to resolve the core issues.
- ➔ Under Article 200, a Governor has only three constitutionally valid options when a State Bill is presented.
- ➔ These options are meant to facilitate institutional dialogue, not to enable silent or indefinite obstruction.
- ➔ A Governor cannot withhold assent by inaction and must return the Bill with reasons if assent is withheld.
- ➔ When a Bill is returned, reconsidered, and repassed, the Governor cannot withhold assent again.
- ➔ In exceptional cases, the Governor may reserve the reconsidered Bill for the President if new provisions raise serious constitutional concerns.
- ➔ The Court clarified that the Governor is not a purely ceremonial authority under Article 200.
- ➔ The Governor possesses limited discretion, particularly to protect constitutional structure and federal interests.
- ➔ This discretion is strictly limited and cannot be used to create a "pocket veto" through delay.
- ➔ The Constitution does not prescribe fixed timelines for the Governor under Article 200 or the President under Article 201.
- ➔ Courts cannot impose rigid deadlines, as constitutional flexibility was intentionally preserved.
- ➔ However, prolonged and unexplained delay is unconstitutional and may attract limited judicial review.
- ➔ Decisions under Articles 200 and 201 form part of the legislative process and are generally non-justiciable before enactment.
- ➔ Courts should not examine the merits of a Bill or dictate the outcome of assent decisions.
- ➔ Limited judicial directions are permissible only to address prolonged inaction, not to control the decision itself.
- ➔ Article 142 cannot be used to impose "deemed assent" on a pending Bill.
- ➔ Judicially assuming assent would violate separation of powers and override constitutional functions.
- ➔ The President's role under Article 201 follows the same constitutional principles as the Governor's role under Article 200.
- ➔ The President is not bound to seek the Supreme Court's opinion under Article 143 for every reserved Bill.

Bihar Legislative Assembly Election Results, 2025

The **Bihar Legislative Assembly Election, 2025** has written a new chapter in the state's politics. Held in **two phases (6 and 11 November)**, the election witnessed a landslide victory for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). In the 243-member Assembly, the NDA secured 202 seats, while the main opposition Mahagathbandhan was reduced to just 35 seats. The results were historic in many ways, including record voter turnout and unprecedented participation of women voters.

- ➔ On **November 20, 2025**, **Nitish Kumar** took oath as the **Chief Minister of Bihar for the 10th time**, becoming the **longest-serving Chief Minister of the state**. Along with him, Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha took oath as Deputy Chief Ministers.
- ➔ Nitish Kumar officially resigned from his post as the Chief Minister of Bihar on April 14, 2026.
- ➔ **Samrat Chaudhary** took the oath of office on April 15, 2026, to become the first Chief Minister of Bihar from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Bihar Governor Syed Ata Hasnain administered the oath of office to Mr. Choudhary at Lok Bhawan in Patna.

Key Highlights

- ➔ The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** successfully conducted the **Bihar Legislative Assembly Election, 2025**, with a **voter turnout of 67.13%**, the **highest since 1951**.
- ➔ This included **71.78% female turnout** and **62.98% male turnout**.
- ➔ The gender gap is about 8.8 percentage points in favour of women.
- ➔ It is noteworthy that during **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)**, the final electoral roll in Bihar included a total of **74,526,858 voters**.
- ➔ SIR is linked to electoral integrity (removing deceased/shifted/untraceable names, and adding eligible voters). ECI also noted zero appeals after SIR (as per official releases).
- ➔ According to the election results, the **National Democratic Alliance** recorded a historic victory with **202 seats**.
- ➔ The NDA comprised the **BJP, Janata Dal (United), Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), and Rashtriya Lok Morcha**.
- ➔ The **BJP emerged as the largest party** in the state by winning **89 seats**, while **JD(U) secured 85 seats**.
- ➔ The RJD won 25 seats (down from 75 in 2020), while the Congress was reduced to just 6 seats.
- ➔ **Folk singer Maithili Thakur (BJP)** won from the **Alinagar constituency**.
- ➔ Maithili Thakur (BJP) won with 84,915 votes, defeating Binod Mishra (RJD); margin: 11,730. She became the **youngest MLA in Bihar**.

- ➔ It is noteworthy that Kaladhar Prasad Mandal of Janata Dal (United) registered the **highest winning margin (73,572 votes)** from the Rupauli seat.
- ➔ Whereas, Radha Charan Sah of Janata Dal (United) won from the Sandesh seat with the lowest margin (27 votes).
- ➔ According to the election results, the **Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) secured the highest vote share at 23%**.
- ➔ The **Bharatiya Janata Party** received **20.08%**, while the **Janata Dal (United)** secured **19.25% of the votes**.

Important Dates

Phase	I	II
Number of constituencies	121 seats	122 seats
Date of notification	October 10, 2025	October 13, 2025
Date of polling	November 6, 2025	November 11, 2025
Date of counting	November 14, 2025	

Bihar Legislative Assembly Election Results: Party-wise Position

Party Name	Seats Won
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	89
Janata Dal (United)	85
Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)	25
Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas)	19
Indian National Congress	6
All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul Muslimeen	5
Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular)	5
Rashtriya Lok Morcha	4
Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) (Liberation)	2
Indian Inclusive Party	1
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1
Bahujan Samaj Party	1
Total	243

Union Cabinet Approves 2027 Census

India has officially moved to restart its decennial population count after the long gap since 2011. India will conduct the 16th Census of India in 2027 (and 8th after Independence) through a two-phase nationwide exercise. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the scheme on 12 December 2025, with an estimated outlay of ₹11,718.24 crore. It will be India's first fully digital Census and will also include caste enumeration.

Legal basis

- ➔ The Census is conducted under the Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990.

- ➔ A notification under Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948 was issued.
- ➔ The notification declared Census 2027 and specified region-wise reference dates.
- ➔ The Ministry of Home Affairs issued the notification for Census 2027 on June 16, 2025.

❑ Key Features of Census 2027

- ➔ The Indian Census is the world's largest administrative and statistical exercise.
- ➔ The Census will collect data on housing conditions and household amenities.
- ➔ It will capture demographic, literacy and educational details.
- ➔ It will record religion, language, and SC/ST data.
- ➔ It will cover economic activity, migration and fertility indicators.
- ➔ **Phase I** (House-listing and Housing Census) will be conducted from April to September 2026.
- ➔ **Phase II** (Population Enumeration) will be conducted in February 2027.
- ➔ In Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas, PE will be conducted in September 2026.

○ Reference dates

- ➔ The reference date for most of India is 00:00 hours, 1 March 2027.
- ➔ The reference date for Ladakh and snow-bound areas is 00:00 hours, 1 October 2026.
- ➔ Census 2027 will be India's first fully digital Census.
- ➔ A Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) will enable real-time monitoring.
- ➔ A **Houselisting Block (HLB)** Creator web map will assist Charge Officers.
- ➔ The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs approved caste enumeration.
- ➔ The decision was taken on 30 April 2025.
- ➔ Caste data will be collected digitally during the Population Enumeration phase.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0

Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS) 4.0 is a Government-led cultural and educational exchange that deepens the civilisational connect between Tamil Nadu and Kashi (Varanasi). The 4th edition was held in Varanasi from 2 to 15 December 2025, and it put a special focus on Tamil language learning and youth engagement under the theme **"Let Us Learn Tamil – Tamil Karkalam."** The valedictory ceremony of Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0 was held on December 30, 2025, graced by the Vice President of India C.P. Radhakrishnan.

❑ About Kashi Tamil Sangamam?

- ➔ KTS is designed as a "knowledge bridge" and people-to-people platform to celebrate the long-standing movement of ideas, spirituality, learning and culture between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.
- ➔ It is aligned with the spirit of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB)**.

- ➔ KTS is anchored by the **Ministry of Education**, with **IIT Madras** and **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** as principal knowledge partners, and participation from multiple ministries (including Railways, Culture, Tourism, Textiles, Youth Affairs & Sports) along with the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

❑ Kashi Tamil Sangamam

- ➔ **KTS 1.0 (2022):** Held from 16 Nov–15 Dec 2022; large-scale cultural immersion with curated tours and academic-cultural interactions.
- ➔ **KTS 2.0 (Dec 2023):** Held 17–30 Dec 2023 at Namo Ghat, Varanasi; included real-time Tamil translation of the PM's address; exhibition sales and high public footfall were reported.
- ➔ **KTS 3.0 (Feb 2025):** Held 15–24 Feb 2025; thematic focus on Sage Agastya; workshops connected ancient knowledge systems with contemporary education aligned with NEP 2020 emphasis on Indian knowledge traditions.

PM-SETU Initiative

As a historic initiative for youth development, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **4 October 2025**, at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi**, unveiled a series of youth-centric projects worth over ₹62,000 crore aimed at accelerating education, skilling, and entrepreneurship across India.

The event also included the **4th edition of the National Skill Convocation**, where **46 All-India Toppers** from **Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** were felicitated.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ The Prime Minister launched PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs).
- ➔ It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** with a **total investment of ₹60,000 crore**.
- ➔ The scheme envisions upgrading **1,000 Government ITIs** across the country under a **hub-and-spoke model**, consisting of **200 hub ITIs** and **800 spoke ITIs**.

❑ Example: Bharatpur Cluster (Rajasthan)

- ➔ Under PM-SETU's Phase I, the **ITI at Bharatpur** will serve as the **hub**, while **ITIs at Dholpur, Karauli, Kaman (Deeg) and Bayana** will be developed as **spoke institutions**.
- ➔ The cluster will focus on **key sectors** such as **manufacturing, agriculture, and hospitality**.

India's First Dugong Conservation Reserve

The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** has formally recognized India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve located in the **Palk Bay**, marking a major international acknowledgment of India's marine conservation efforts.

- ➔ The proposal for IUCN recognition was submitted by the OMCAR Foundation (India) and was adopted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 held in Abu Dhabi.
- ➔ The **Dugong Conservation Reserve** was established by the Tamil Nadu Government on September 21, 2022 under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- ➔ The reserve is located in the **northern Palk Bay** and covers an area of **448.34 square kilometers**.
- ➔ It encompasses over **12,250 hectares of seagrass meadows**, which serve as critical **feeding grounds for Dugongs (Dugong dugon)** — gentle marine herbivores often referred to as sea cows.
- ➔ According to the **IUCN Red List**, the **Dugong** is classified as “**Vulnerable to Extinction**.”

DNA-Based Assessment of Asian Elephants: SAIEE 2021–25

- ➔ The **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, under the aegis of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** and its **Project Elephant**, has conducted **India’s first DNA-based population assessment of Asian elephants** as part of the **All India Synchronized Elephant Estimation (SAIEE) 2023**.
- ➔ The **Synchronous All India Elephant Estimation (SAIEE 2021–25)** was launched to systematically monitor elephant populations and population trends, modeled on frameworks previously used for monitoring **tigers, co-predators, and prey species**.
- ❑ **Estimated Population of Asian Elephants in India**
 - ➔ According to **SAIEE 2021–25**, the **total estimated population of Asian elephants in India** is **22,446** wild elephants (Confidence Interval: 18,255–26,645).
 - ➔ These estimates are based on improved methodology and **should not be directly compared** with previous census figures. They serve as a **new scientific baseline** for future monitoring.

Landscape Region	Estimated Population (CI)	Major States
Western Ghats	11,934 (9,857–14,012)	Karnataka (6,013), Tamil Nadu (3,136), Kerala (2,785)
Northeast Hills & Brahmaputra	6,559 (5,444–7,680)	Assam (4,159), Meghalaya (677), Arunachal Pradesh (617)
Shivalik Hills & Gangetic Plains	2,062 (1,700–2,425)	Uttarakhand (1,792)
Central India & Eastern Ghats	1,891 (1,254–2,528)	Odisha (912), Chhattisgarh (451)

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings 2025

- ➔ Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, on September 4, 2025 released the **India Rankings 2025** based on the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), first introduced in 2015.
- ➔ The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), launched in 2015, evaluates institutions based on five broad parameters:
 1. **Teaching, Learning & Resources** – Weightage: 30%
 2. **Research and Professional Practice** – Weightage: 30%
 3. **Graduation Outcome** – Weightage: 20%
 4. **Outreach and Inclusivity** – Weightage: 10%
 5. **Perception** – Weightage: 10%
- ➔ Each parameter includes 2 to 5 sub-parameters, with **19 sub-parameters in total** used for ranking.
- ➔ Data sources include **institution submissions** and third-party sources like **Scopus (Elsevier)**, **Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics)** for publications/citations, and **Derwent Innovation** for patents.
- ➔ A record **7,692 unique institutions** participated in India Rankings 2025, submitting **14,163 applications** across categories.
- ➔ Compared to 2016, this reflects a **217% increase in institutions** (2,426 in 2016 → 7,692 in 2025) and a **297.3% increase in applications** (3,565 in 2016 → 14,163 in 2025).
- ➔ This rising participation demonstrates **widespread acceptance of NIRF** as a fair and transparent ranking framework.
- ❑ **Key Results**
 - ➔ **IIT Madras**: Ranked 1st in Overall category for the seventh consecutive year (2019–2025) and 1st in Engineering for the tenth consecutive year (2016–2025).
 - ➔ **IISc Bengaluru**: Ranked 1st in Universities category for the tenth consecutive year (2016–2025) and 1st in Research Institutions for the fifth consecutive year (2021–2025).
 - ➔ **IIM Ahmedabad**: Ranked 1st in Management for the sixth consecutive year (2020–2025) and consistently among the top two from 2016–2019.
 - ➔ **AIIMS New Delhi**: Ranked 1st in Medical for the eighth consecutive year (2018–2025); also ranked 8th in Overall category.
 - ➔ **Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi**: Ranked 1st in Pharmacy for the second consecutive year; previously topped 2019–2022.
 - ➔ **Hindu College, Delhi**: Ranked 1st among Colleges for the second consecutive year, replacing Miranda House which held the top spot from 2017–2023.
 - ➔ **IIT Roorkee**: Ranked 1st in Architecture & Planning for the fifth consecutive year (2021–2025).
 - ➔ **National Law School of India University, Bengaluru**: Ranked 1st in Law for the eighth consecutive year (2018–2025).

- ➔ **AIIMS New Delhi:** Ranked 1st in Dental for the first time in 2025, replacing Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai.
- ➔ **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi:** Ranked 1st in Agriculture & Allied Sectors for the third consecutive year (2023–2025).
- ➔ **Jadavpur University, Kolkata:** Ranked 1st in State Public Universities (introduced in 2024).
- ➔ **IGNOU, New Delhi:** Ranked 1st in Open Universities for the second consecutive year (2024–2025).
- ➔ **Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU), Pune:** Ranked 1st in Skill Universities for the second consecutive year (2024–2025).
- ➔ **IIT Madras:** Ranked 1st in Innovation category and also 1st in the newly introduced Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) category (2025).

Election of the Vice President of India

On September 9, 2025, the election for the Vice President of India was held. In this election, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate **C.P. Radhakrishnan** was elected as the 15th Vice President of the country. He defeated the opposition INDIA bloc's candidate, **Justice B. Sudershan Reddy** (former Supreme Court judge). On September 12, 2025, C. P. Radhakrishnan took the oath of office as Vice President.

Memorable Facts

- ➔ In the election results, C.P. Radhakrishnan secured 452 first-preference votes, while B. Sudershan Reddy received 300 votes.
- ➔ A total of 15 votes were declared invalid.
- ➔ Out of 781 eligible voters, 767 members exercised their right to vote.

Constitutional Provisions Related to the Vice President

- ➔ The Vice President of India holds the **second highest constitutional office** in the country.
- ➔ Their **term is for 5 years**.
- ➔ The Vice President may resign from office by submitting a resignation to the President of India.
- ➔ The Vice President may be removed by a resolution of the Rajya Sabha, passed by a majority of its then members, and agreed to by the Lok Sabha.
- ➔ Such a resolution can be moved only with 14 days' prior notice.
- ➔ The Vice President is the **ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**.
- ➔ In the event of a casual vacancy in the office of the President (due to death, resignation, removal, or otherwise), the Vice President discharges the functions of the President until a new President is elected within a maximum period of six months.
- ➔ If the President is unable to discharge their duties due to absence, illness, or any other reason, the Vice

President performs the functions until the President resumes charge.

- ➔ During this period, the Vice President exercises all powers, immunities, and privileges of the President and is entitled to the President's emoluments and allowances.

Swachh Vayu Survekshan, 2025

In the year 2019, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** launched the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**. Under NCAP, 130 cities have been targeted to improve air quality. The **Swachh Vayu Survekshan** is a initiative of MoEFCC, aimed at ranking the 130 NCAP cities on the basis of air quality and the implementation of activities approved under the city action plan.

Memorable Facts

- ➔ On **September 9, 2025**, the results of the **Swachh Vayu Survekshan, 2025** were announced.
- ➔ The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav**, presented the Swachh Vayu Survekshan Awards, 2025.

Swachh Vayu Survekshan, 2025: Top 3 Cities in Different Categories

Category-1 (Population above 1 million):		
Rank	City	State
1	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
2	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh
3	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
3	Surat	Gujarat

Category-2 (Population between 300,000 and 1 million):		
Rank	City	State
1	Amravati	Maharashtra
2	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh
2	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh
3	Alwar	Rajasthan

Category-3 (Population below 300,000):		
Rank	City	State
1	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh
2	Parwanoo	Himachal Pradesh
3	Angul	Odisha

Swachh Vayu Survekshan, 2025: Status of Uttar Pradesh

Category-1 (Population above 1 million)		
City	Rank	Score
Agra	3	196
Kanpur	5	192.2

Allahabad (Prayagraj)	7	188
Varanasi	11	184
Ghaziabad	12	183
Lucknow	15	179
Meerut	33	156.5

Category-2 (Population between 300,000 and 1 million)		
City	Rank	Score
Moradabad	2	198.5
Jhansi	2	198.5
Gorakhpur	5	195
Firozabad	5	195
Bareilly	7	189.5
Noida	9	184.2

Category-3 (Population below 300,000)		
City	Rank	Score
Anpara	5	187.5
Rae Bareli	7	186.5
Gajraula	23	169.2
Khurja	26	166.5

Angikaar – 2025 Campaign

- ➔ On September 4, 2025, the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, launched the 'Angikaar – 2025' campaign in New Delhi under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0). **Angikaar – 2025** is a mass awareness campaign aimed at accelerating the schemes under PMAY-U 2.0. This campaign has been designed to speed up the process of application verification and to expedite the construction of houses already sanctioned under PMAY-U.
- ➔ Angikaar – 2025 will run in more than 5,000 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country for a period of two months, from 4 September 2025 to 31 October 2025.
- ➔ Another key objective of Angikaar – 2025 is to inform stakeholders about the **Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Trust for Low Income Housing (CRGFTLIH) Scheme**.

UDISE+ 2024–25

On **August 28, 2025**, the Ministry of Education released the **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2024–25** report—India's official, school-level data backbone for evidence-based planning and monitoring of school education.

Key Highlights (UDISE+ 2024–25)

(1) Teacher Strength Crosses 1 Crore

- ➔ The total number of teachers increased to **1,01,22,420** in 2024–25, up from **98,07,600** (2023–24) and **94,83,294** (2022–23)—a rise of **6.7%** over 2022–23.
- ➔ **Pupil–Teacher Ratio (PTR)** has improved at all stages—**10 (Foundational)**, **13 (Preparatory)**, **17 (Middle)**, and **21 (Secondary)**—comfortably better than the **NEP 2020** reference of **≤30:1**. This indicates smaller class sizes and scope for more individual attention.
- ➔ **Dropout rates** declined across stages compared to last year: **Preparatory** from **3.7% to 2.3%**, **Middle** from **5.2% to 3.5%**, and **Secondary** from **10.9% to 8.2%**.
- ➔ **Retention rates** improved: **Foundational 98.0% to 98.9%**, **Preparatory 85.4% to 92.4%**, **Middle 78.0% to 82.8%**, **Secondary 45.6% to 47.2%**.

(2) Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) Inches Up at Middle & Secondary

- ➔ GER improved at crucial stages: **Middle 89.5% to 90.3%**, **Secondary 66.5% to 68.5%**, signalling better progression into higher grades and broader participation.
- ➔ **Digital access** expanded: schools with **computers** rose from **57.2% to 64.7%**; those with **internet** increased from **53.9% to 63.5%**.
- ➔ **Basic facilities** remain near-universal and improved further: **electricity 93.6%**, **drinking water 99.3%**, girls' toilets **97.3%**, boys' toilets **96.2%**, hand wash **95.9%**, alongside gradual gains in playgrounds (**83.0%**), libraries (**89.5%**), and rainwater harvesting (**29.4%**).
- ➔ **Inclusive access** advanced: **ramps with handrails** now in **54.9%** of schools.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025

The Union government has introduced the 130th Constitutional Amendment Bill, under which a Minister will be removed from office if they are arrested and detained for 30 days in relation to a criminal offence.

- ➔ The Bill was introduced in the **Lok Sabha on August 20, 2025** and sent to joint Parliamentary Committee.
- ➔ It seeks to provide for the **removal of the Prime Minister, a Chief Minister of a state, or any other Minister in the central or a state government** if he is arrested and detained in custody on account of serious criminal offences.
- ➔ The bill proposed to amend the constitutional articles – Article 75, Article 164 and Article 239AA.
- ➔ The provisions of the Bill are also extended to the **Union Territory of Delhi**, and two other separate Bills have been introduced to apply similar provisions to the **Union Territories of Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir**.

- ➔ A Minister will be removed from office if he is **accused of an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term of five years or more.**
- ➔ A Minister will be removed if he has been **arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days.**
- ➔ In the case of a **Minister in the central government**, the Minister will be removed by the **President on the advice of the Prime Minister.**
- ➔ As per the bill, if a minister is arrested and detained for 30 consecutive days, if they do not resign, they automatically cease to hold the office. That is, not just removal by someone else but automatic if no action.

National Sports Governance Act, 2025

The National Sports Governance Act, 2025 provides a framework to unify standards of sports administration, transparency, and accountability in India. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on July 23, 2025, passed by the Lok Sabha on August 11, 2025 and by the Rajya Sabha on August 12, 2025, and after receiving the assent of the President on August 18, 2025, it was gazetted as an Act.

□ Key Facts

- ➔ The objective of the Act is the development and promotion of sports, welfare measures for sportspersons, the basic universal principles of good governance, promotion of ethics, and fair play.
- ➔ The Act provides for provisions of grievance redressal in sports in an integrated, uniform, and effective manner.
- ➔ National sports bodies are defined at four levels—
 - ⊖ National Olympic Committee,
 - ⊖ National Paralympic Committee,
 - ⊖ National Sports Federation for each designated sport, and
 - ⊖ Regional Sports Federation.
- ➔ Each national body will have a General Body with ex-officio members in accordance with the Charter.
- ⊖ The Executive Committee will have a maximum of 15 members; at least 2 sportspersons of outstanding merit, 2 elected representatives from the Athletes Committee, and at least 4 women members will be mandatory.
- ⊖ Positions such as President, Secretary General, and Treasurer, including other positions, will be in line with bye-laws/international charters.
- ⊖ The age limit has been set at 70 years (with conditional exemption in some cases between 70–75).
- ➔ A National Sports Board may be constituted by the Central Government through notification.
- ➔ Its functions include granting/withdrawing recognition of national bodies, registration, and issuing guidelines for the Code of Ethics.

- ➔ Along with this, the National Sports Board will issue the framework of a Safe Sports Policy.
- ➔ Every national body will be required to establish an internal grievance redressal mechanism so that complaints of athletes, coaches, and related individuals are resolved in a fair/timely/transparent manner.
- ➔ A National Sports Tribunal will be established—
 - ⊖ **Chairperson:** A sitting/former judge of the Supreme Court or a Chief Justice of a High Court;
 - ⊖ **Two members:** Eminent persons in public life with wide experience in sports/public administration/law.
- ➔ The Act also lays down rules on tenure & cooling-off; President/Secretary General/Treasurer can serve maximum 3 terms (consecutive or combined), then a mandatory cooling off term.
- ➔ A **National Sports Election Panel** is envisaged to oversee elections of national bodies.
- ➔ Use of the word “India/Indian/National” or national symbols/emblems will require NOC (No Objection Certificate) from the Central Government; after suspension/withdrawal, use of such names/events/trials will be prohibited.

Swachh Survekshan 2024–25

To encourage cities to improve urban sanitation, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs conducted ‘**Swachh Survekshan 2016**’ in January 2016, rating 73 cities. This is the **9th edition** of Swachh Survekshan, which serves as a crucial tool for evaluating and comparing sanitation standards in Indian cities, aligning with the goals of ‘**Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0**’. Since its inception, the program has significantly expanded, from an initial coverage of 73 cities to **4,589 urban local bodies** in 2024. This includes **58 cantonment boards** and **88 Ganga towns**, reflecting the widespread acceptance and reach of this initiative.

□ Key Facts

- ➔ On **July 17, 2025**, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, released the results of ‘**Swachh Survekshan 2024-25**’.
- ➔ The main **theme** of Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 is “**Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.**”
- ➔ Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 introduced a special category, the ‘**Super Swachh League,**’ to recognize and rank cities with exceptional performance in sanitation.
- ➔ Several new elements have been added to this year’s assessment, including the introduction of ‘**Cleanliness Target Units**’ (CTU) and the adoption of ‘**Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskar Swachhata**’ (Cleanliness by Nature, Cleanliness through Values).

Rankings

Super Swachh League			
S. No.	Population Category	City	State
1.	More than 10 Lakh	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
2.		Surat	Gujarat
3.		Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra
4.		Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
5.	3-10 Lakh	Noida	Uttar Pradesh
6.		Chandigarh	Chandigarh
7.		Mysuru	Karnataka
8.		Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh
9.		Gandhinagar	Gujarat
10.		Guntur	Andhra Pradesh
11.	50,000-3 Lakh	New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)	Delhi
12.		Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh
13.		Ambikapur	Chhattisgarh
14.		Lonavala	Maharashtra
15.	20,000- 50,000	Vita	Maharashtra
16.		Saswad	Maharashtra
17.		Deolali Pravara	Maharashtra
18.		Dungarpur	Rajasthan
19.	Less than 20,000	Panchgani	Maharashtra
20.		Patan	Chhattisgarh
21.		Panhala	Maharashtra
22.		Bishrampur	Chhattisgarh
23.		Budni	Madhya Pradesh

Presidential Awardees: Swachh Shehar in 5 Population Categories

S. No.	Population Category	City	State
1.	More than 10 Lakh	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
2.		Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
3.		Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
4.	3-10 Lakh	Mira-Bhayandar	Maharashtra
5.		Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh
6.		Jamshedpur	Jharkhand
7.	50,000-3 Lakh	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh
8.		Karhad	Maharashtra
9.		Karnal	Haryana
10.	20,000- 50,000	Panaji	Goa
11.		Aska	Odisha
12.		Kumhari	Chhattisgarh
13.	Less than 20,000	Bilha	Chhattisgarh
14.		Chikiti	Odisha
15.		Shahganj	Madhya Pradesh

Ministerial Awardees: Special Category	
Special Recognition for Swachh Mahakumbh 2025	Prayagraj

Safaimitra Surakshit Shehar		
S. No.	State	City
1.	Andhra Pradesh	GVMC Visakhapatnam
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur
4.	Telangana	Secunderabad Cantt.
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Prayagraj

Uttar Pradesh's Performance in Swachh Survekshan 2024-25

- ➔ In the **Swachh City Award** category, among the top 20 cities with a population of over 10 lakh:
 - ➔ **Lucknow** (Nagar Nigam) secured the **3rd** position.
 - ➔ **Agra** (Nagar Nigam) ranked **10th**.
 - ➔ **Ghaziabad** (Nagar Nigam) was **11th**.
 - ➔ **Prayagraj** (Nagar Nigam) came in **12th**.
 - ➔ **Kanpur** (Nagar Nigam) was **13th**.
 - ➔ And **Varanasi** (Nagar Nigam) achieved the **17th** position.
- ➔ In the same category, among the top 20 cities with a population between 3 and 10 lakh:
 - ➔ **Gorakhpur** (Nagar Nigam) secured the **4th** position.
 - ➔ **Moradabad** (Nagar Nigam) ranked **10th**.
 - ➔ **Mathura-Vrindavan** (Nagar Nigam) was **11th**.
 - ➔ **Firozabad** (Nagar Nigam) came in **12th**.
 - ➔ **Saharanpur** (Nagar Nigam) was **16th**.
 - ➔ **Jhansi** (Nagar Nigam) achieved **17th**.
 - ➔ And **Bareilly** (Nagar Nigam) secured the **20th** position.
- ➔ In this survey, **Prayagraj** has been declared the **Cleanest Ganga City**.
- ➔ Additionally, the **Swachh Mahakumbh 2025 special initiative** received special recognition from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ➔ **Gorakhpur** secured the **3rd** position in the **Safai Mitra Surakshit Shehar** (Sanitation Worker Safe City) category.

"Special Intensive Revision" (SIR) of Electoral Rolls in Bihar

The Election Commission, under Article 324 and Section 21(3) of the 1950 Act, ordered a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar's electoral rolls in 2025. Unlike summary revisions, SIR involves door-to-door verification by Booth Level Officers to prepare a new voters' list. Appeals against ERO decisions are allowed under Section 24 of the 1950 Act and Rule 27 of the 1960 Rules. Bihar, with about 79 million voters and assembly polls due in late 2025, is the first state chosen for this large-scale re-verification.

❑ Key Facts

- ➔ On **June 24, 2025**, the Election Commission of India issued detailed guidelines for the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.
- ➔ Under these guidelines, a timeline has been set to reconstruct the entire voter list, considering **July 1, 2025, as the qualifying date**.
- ➔ The **final voter list was published on September 30, 2025**.
- ➔ The 2025 revision process involves a much more stringent scrutiny. Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) were instructed to ensure **sufficient documentary evidence** before adding or removing any names and to maintain a **digital record of every decision**.
- ⌚ In 2003, names were added/deleted based on BLO reports, and ERO's "satisfaction" was primarily based on local Tehsil/Panchayat certificates. Now, it is **mandatory to upload foundational proofs** (such as birth certificates, residential proofs) behind every change.
- ➔ The 2025 campaign not only includes the adjustment of new/deceased voters but also involves a **re-verification of the eligibility of every existing voter**.
- ➔ The **Booth Level Officer (BLO)** plays a central role in the success of the Bihar SIR.
- ⌚ Migratory voters have been encouraged to submit online forms.
- ➔ For birth certificates or other documents, the Commission has released a **flexible list of 11 types of documents** as alternative proofs.
- ➔ The **Enumeration Form (EF)** is a 6/8-page

form that contains details such as the voter's name, address, age, gender, relation (father's/husband's name), Photo Identity Card Number (EPIC), etc.

- ➔ The Election Commission of India has clarified that based on the guidelines initiated as a pilot project in Bihar, the SIR program will be implemented **phase-wise in other states** across the country.
- ⌚ The program for the rest of India will be released "separately at an appropriate time."

- ➔ According to a press release issued by the Election Commission of India on **July 21, 2025**, Bihar has become the **first state in the country** where every polling station will have **fewer than 1200 voters**.
- ⌚ Previously, this limit was 1500 voters per center.
- ⌚ To achieve this, **12,817 new polling stations** have been added in Bihar, increasing the total number of polling stations from 77,895 to **90,712**.

- ➔ However, on **July 10, 2025**, the Supreme Court asked the Election Commission of India to consider including Aadhaar card, Voter ID, and Ration card as valid documents.
- ➔ The stated objective of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), 2025, is **"no eligible voter is left out, no ineligible person is included."**
- ⌚ This comprehensive exercise in Bihar, after a long interval, has brought to light both positive and negative possibilities.
- ➔ According to the ECI, both summary and intensive revisions have been carried out across the country over the past 75 years, but a **"special" intensive revision is rare**. In Bihar, a comprehensive intensive revision was last conducted in **2003**.

News in Short

○ e-SafeHER: Cybersecurity Awareness Training Programme

- ➔ e-SafeHER is a Cybersecurity Awareness Training Programme launched on **April 13, 2026** to promote safe digital participation among rural women in India.
- ➔ The programme is implemented by C-DAC Hyderabad under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in collaboration with Reliance Foundation.
- ➔ It is anchored under MeitY's **Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Programme**.
- ➔ The initiative aims to train one million women across rural India over a period of three years.

○ Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum

- ➔ The first gallery of the Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum "Time and Timelessness," is expected to open by end-2026.
- ➔ The museum is set to become the largest in the world, replacing the existing National Museum.

- ➔ Announced by the Prime Minister in May 2023 at the International Museum Expo, Delhi.
- ➔ Located in the North and South Blocks, Raisina Hill, under the Central Vista Redevelopment Project.
- ➔ Planned as the world's largest museum, covering about 1.17–1.55 lakh m² with nearly 950 rooms.

○ Jammu and Kashmir's Chrysanthemum Garden

- ➔ Inaugurated on October 25, 2025 by Chief Minister of UT of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah at Nehru Memorial Botanical Garden, Srinagar.
- ➔ Spread over 100 kanals (12.5 ha) at a cost of ₹1.86 crore.
- ➔ It aims to extend tourist season beyond tulip bloom and promote autumn tourism.

○ Defence Procurement Manual 2025 (DPM 2025)

- ➔ Approved on October 23, 2025 by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh; effective from November 1, 2025.
- ➔ Replaces DPM 2009; covers revenue procurement (not capital acquisition).
- ➔ Seeks faster decisions, jointness among Services, and simplified procedures.

- ➔ Promotes indigenous industry, MSMEs, startups under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- ➔ Regulates about ₹1 lakh crore annual defence procurement.
- **Ministry of Mines Reclassifies Limestone as Major Mineral**
 - ➔ Effective from October 10, 2025, all limestone reclassified as “major mineral” under MMDR Act, 1957.
 - ➔ Removes previous distinction between lime (minor) and industrial (major) uses.
 - ➔ Simplifies regulation, improves mining transparency, and enables freer sale and usage.
- **India’s First Gigawatt-Scale Data Centre and AI Hub, Visakhapatnam**
 - ➔ Announced in October 2025 with an investment of US\$15 billion by a global tech company.
 - ➔ India’s first AI hub with gigawatt-scale compute capacity for AI, cloud, and HPC services.
 - ➔ Supported by Andhra Pradesh government with land, utilities, and connectivity incentives.
- **India’s First Cooperative Multi-Feed CBG Plant – Maharashtra**
 - ➔ Inaugurated on 5 October 2025 at Kopergaon, Ahilyanagar district, by the Union Home and Cooperation Minister.
 - ➔ Produces ~12 tonnes of CBG and ~75 tonnes of potash granules daily from sugarcane and molasses waste.
 - ➔ Reduces natural gas and potash imports; promotes circular economy
- **Opium Cultivation License Policy, 2025–26**
 - ➔ The Central Government has recently notified the new **Opium Cultivation License Policy for the crop year 2025–26 (October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026)**. This policy has been framed keeping in view **production, distribution, export, and prevention of misuse**.
 - ➔ The Central Government may grant licenses for the cultivation of opium poppy in any notified area.
- **Approval of Proposal to Rename ‘Kerala’ as ‘Keralam’**
 - ➔ The **Kerala Legislative Assembly** passed a resolution on **24 June 2024** to change the name of the state from “Kerala” to “Keralam.” Under the chairmanship of Narendra Modi, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal on **24 February 2026** to change the name of the state “Kerala” to “Keralam.”
- **Internationalisation of Higher Education in India**
 - ➔ NITI Aayog has released a comprehensive report titled “Internationalisation of Higher Education in India: Prospects, Potential, and Policy Recommendations.”
- ➔ The report identifies internationalisation as a strategic imperative for India’s economic growth, research competitiveness, and global influence.
- ➔ India **inbound–outbound student ratio is 1 : 24 in 2021 and 1 : 19 in 2022**, indicating that for every one international student coming to India, 28 Indian students go abroad.
- ➔ Indian students’ overseas education expenditure is projected to reach **₹6.2 lakh crore by 2025**, which is nearly **2% of India’s GDP** and approximately **75% of India’s trade deficit (FY 2024–25)**.
- ➔ India hosts approximately **47,000 international students (2022 data)**, but this number could potentially increase to **7.89–11 lakh by 2047** with appropriate policy reforms.
- **BSNL Launches VoWiFi Nationwide**
 - ➔ Recently on January 1, 2026 (New Year 2026), BSNL announced a nationwide rollout of Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi)—also called Wi-Fi Calling—across all telecom circles in India. The move aims to improve calling experience in places where mobile signals are weak (e.g., indoor “shadow zones” like basements and high rise buildings) and in underserved/remote areas where Wi-Fi is available.
- **Indian Maritime Doctrine 2025**
 - ➔ On **December 2, 2025**, the **Chief of the Naval Staff** released the updated **Indian Maritime Doctrine 2025**. The Indian Navy Day was celebrated December 4, 2025. The theme for **Indian Navy Day 2025** is “**Combat Ready, Cohesive, Credible, and Aatmanirbhar Force**,” highlighting the Navy’s role in safeguarding the seas for a **Viksit, Samriddha Bharat** (Developed and Prosperous India).
- **150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda**
 - ➔ **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (on November 15, 2025)** was observed to commemorate the **150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda**, a freedom fighter and tribal leader.
 - ➔ Also **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada (1st–15th November, 2025)** celebrated India’s tribal heroes, their culture, and their contributions, culminating in Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.
 - ➔ Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh (JJGV), from 15th November 2024 to 15th November 2025, is led by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to mark 150 years of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- **Centenary Celebration of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)**
 - ➔ On **October 1, 2025**, at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the Centenary Celebration of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) as the Chief Guest. On this occasion, the Prime Minister released a specially designed commemorative **postage stamp and a ₹100 coin**, both highlighting the RSS’s contribution to nation-building.

- ➔ The **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** was founded by **Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar** on the auspicious occasion of **Vijayadashami in 1925** at **Nagpur (Central India)**.

❑ About ₹100 coin and Postage Stamp

- ➔ The coin is **non-circulating** (i.e., not meant for everyday transactions) and primarily targeted at collectors and commemorative purpose.
- ➔ Made of **pure silver**.
- ➔ Reverse side shows the image of **“Bharat Mata”** (Mother India) seated on a lion in Varada Mudra, flanked by three RSS swayamsevak (volunteers).
- ➔ This marks the **first time** in independent India that the image of Bharat Mata has appeared on an Indian coin.

○ Model Youth Gram Sabha

- ➔ Over **6.64 lakh villages** in India are home to **65–70% of the country’s population**. Under **Article 243 of the Constitution**, the **Gram Sabha** is a **constitutional body** and a **symbol of direct democracy**, granting all adult villagers the right to participate in governance, development planning, and accountability. The **Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS)** is an **educational initiative** designed to give students **hands-on experience** of Gram Sabha procedures. It aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and aims to prepare youth for **active citizenship**.

○ Mission Digital Shram Setu

- ➔ In **October 2025**, **NITI Aayog** unveiled Mission Digital Shram Setu as part of its report **“AI for Inclusive Societal Development”**, proposing a national roadmap to harness **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and frontier technologies to transform the lives of India’s **490 million informal workers**.

○ 9th India Mobile Congress, 2025

- ➔ The **9th India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025** was held from **8 to 11 October 2025** at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi**. It is **Asia’s largest telecommunications, media, and technology event**.
- ➔ The event was **jointly organized** by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)**.
- ➔ The **main theme** of IMC 2025 was **“Innovate to Transform.”**

○ ‘We RISE’ Initiative

- ➔ On **October 17, 2025**, the **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** of **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with **DP World**, launched a joint initiative titled **“We RISE – Women Entrepreneurs Reimagining Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises.”**

- ➔ The **Statement of Intent (SoI)** for this initiative was signed by **Ms. Anna Roy**, Mission Director of WEP, in the presence of **Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam**, CEO of NITI Aayog.

○ Dhruva Policy

- ➔ The **Department of Posts**, under the **Ministry of Communications**, has launched a new initiative called **DHRUVA (Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address)**. This policy aims to bring a transformative change in how addresses are created, stored, and used in India.

○ MERITE Scheme

- ➔ Recently on **August 8, 2025** the Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved the implementation of the **Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) Scheme**. The scheme is designed to enhance quality, equity and governance in technical education. It aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- ➔ The scheme will cover **275 technical institutions**, including **175 engineering institutions** and **100 polytechnics** across the country.
- ➔ It will be implemented for a five-year period from **2025–26 to 2029–30**.

○ First fully digitally literate State

- ➔ On **August 21, 2025**, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared Kerala as the first fully digitally literate state in India, marking the successful completion of the programme’s first phase.

○ Inauguration of Green Mobility Initiative

- ➔ On **August 26, 2025**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Green Mobility Initiative** at **Hansalpur, Gujarat**. This is an important effort of the Government towards becoming self-reliant in the field of green energy.
- ➔ The Prime Minister inaugurated and flagged off Suzuki’s **first India-manufactured global strategic battery electric vehicle ‘e-VITARA’**.

○ Lucknow Metro Rail Project Phase-1B

- ➔ Phase 1B (East–West Corridor) of the Lucknow Metro was approved by the Union Cabinet on **August 12, 2025**. This **11.165 km** section with **12 stations** (**7 underground**, **5 elevated**) will extend the city’s metro network by connecting the densely populated areas of old Lucknow. Once operational, the active metro network in Lucknow will become **34 km**.
- ➔ The approved phase is **11.165 km** long and will have a total of **12 stations**; a project expenditure of **₹5,801 crore** has been sanctioned.



A. International Relations

INDIA AND IT'S NEIGHBOURS; OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES

India–Cyprus Strategic Partnership

India and Cyprus elevated their relationship to a **Strategic Partnership** during the State Visit of Cyprus President **Nikos Christodoulides** to India from **20–23 May 2026**.

- ➔ The 2026 visit was the first visit of President Christodoulides to India in his current capacity.
- ➔ He was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including ministers, senior officials and business leaders.
- ➔ During the visit, he held talks with Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi, met President Droupadi Murmu, paid homage at Rajghat, and participated in a Business Forum in Mumbai.
- ➔ The two sides also agreed to commemorate the **65th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2027** through special events.
- ➔ For India, Cyprus is a strategically located partner in the **Eastern Mediterranean**, close to Europe, West Asia and North Africa.
- ➔ They welcomed a five-year roadmap for defence cooperation for **2026–2031**.
- ➔ The two sides welcomed cooperation between the **Cyprus Defence & Space Industries Cluster** and the **Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers**, showing that the relationship is moving from political goodwill to practical defence-sector engagement.
- ➔ The joint statement noted the MoU between **NPCI International Payments Limited** and **Eurobank Cyprus**.
- ➔ It also welcomed a framework for interoperability of India's **Unified Payments Interface** with the **Target Instant Payment Settlement System** of the European Central Bank.
- ➔ The joint statement noted engagement between the **ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence** and **IN-SPACE**.

Myanmar President's Visit to India

- ➔ Myanmar President **U Min Aung Hlaing** paid an official visit to **India** from **May 30 to June 3, 2026**, marking his first foreign trip since assuming office.
- ➔ The high-profile tour focused on reinforcing bilateral, civilizational, economic, and security ties as part of India's Neighbourhood First and Act East policies.
- ➔ He offered prayers at the **Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya**, visited the Mahabodhi Meditation Centre, and paid obeisance at the Sujata Temple to highlight the enduring spiritual ties between the two nations.
- ➔ He also met with President Droupadi Murmu, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.
- ➔ The President toured the **NTPC Energy Technology Research Alliance (NETRA)** complex in **Greater Noida** to observe India's advanced clean energy and renewable energy research.
- ➔ Myanmar gives India a land route to ASEAN.
- ➔ Both sides stressed the need to work closely for the completion of the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** and the **India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway**.
- ➔ Sittwe Port has been developed as part of the Kaladan project and the route connects Sittwe Port with Paletwa through inland waterway and further with Zorinpui in Mizoram through a road component.

India–South Korea

- ❑ **South Korean President Lee Jae-myung visited India**
- ➔ South Korean President **Lee Jae-myung** visited India from **April 19-21, 2026**. PM Narendra Modi and President Lee held talks at Hyderabad House, New Delhi, and agreed to transform India-ROK ties into a “futuristic partnership.”

❑ Key Highlights of the Visit

- ➔ India–South Korea ties became a Special Strategic Partnership in 2015.
- ➔ The visit aimed to build a “futuristic partnership.”
Focus areas: semiconductors, AI, shipbuilding, defence, maritime security, climate action and supply chains.
- ➔ Both sides announced a Joint Strategic Vision Document.
- ➔ They agreed to start an Economic Security Dialogue for critical technologies and resilient supply chains. Bilateral trade is about USD 27 billion, with a target of USD 54 billion by 2030.
- ➔ India–Korea Digital Bridge will support cooperation in AI, semiconductors and digital infrastructure.
- ➔ Defence cooperation includes shipbuilding, naval infrastructure and defence manufacturing.
- ➔ K-9 Vajra howitzer is an example of India–South Korea defence cooperation.
- ➔ The partnership supports Indo-Pacific maritime security and protection of SLOCs. 2028–29 was declared the Year of India–ROK Friendship.

India – Jordan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the **Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan** on **15–16 December 2025** and held talks with King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein in Amman. The visit came as India and Jordan marked **75 years** of diplomatic relations.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ PM Modi's visit was the first full-fledged bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Jordan in 37 years.
- ➔ PM Modi outlined an **8-point vision** for deepening ties, focusing on trade, fertilizers, IT, healthcare, infrastructure, critical minerals, civil nuclear cooperation, and people-to-people links.
- ➔ A proposal was made to collaborate between Jordan's digital payment systems and India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- ➔ Jordan is important for India's food security as it supplies phosphates and potash fertilisers..
- ➔ India and Jordan signed **five MoUs** on renewable energy, water management, cultural exchange, heritage twinning and Digital Public Infrastructure.
- ➔ PM Modi and King Abdullah II addressed the India-Jordan Business Forum, encouraging startups and established industries to explore new partnerships.
- ➔ The Prime Minister interacted with the approximately 17,500-strong Indian community in Jordan, acknowledging their role in strengthening bilateral ties.

India – UAE

❑ PM Modi's UAE Visit 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to the United Arab Emirates in **May 2026**. PM Modi began his five-nation tour from the UAE, followed by visits to the **Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy**.

- ➔ During the visit, Prime Minister Modi held detailed discussions with UAE President **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi**.
- ➔ The two leaders reviewed cooperation in energy, trade, investment, defence, security, fintech, infrastructure, education, culture and people-to-people ties.
- ➔ The major outcome was the **MoU on Strategic Collaboration between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company**.
- ➔ The agreement provides for potential ADNOC crude oil storage in India's strategic petroleum reserves of up to **30 million barrels**, including participation in facilities at **Visakhapatnam** in Andhra Pradesh and development of reserve facilities at **Chandikhol** in Odisha.
- ➔ It also includes potential storage of crude oil in **Fujairah** in the UAE as part of India's strategic petroleum reserve framework.
- ➔ The primary outcome was a **Strategic Collaboration Agreement between Indian Oil Corporation Limited and ADNOC on LPG supplies**.
- ➔ The next outcome was an MoU between **Cochin Shipyard Limited and Drydocks World** to set up a **Ship Repair Cluster at Vadinar**, including offshore fabrication, under the Maritime Development Fund Scheme launched by the Government of India.
- ➔ Vadinar's location on India's western coast gives it strategic importance for maritime services.
- ➔ The other outcome was a tripartite MoU between **Cochin Shipyard Limited, Drydocks World Dubai and the Centre of Excellence in Maritime & Shipbuilding**.
- ➔ The another outcome was a term sheet for setting up an **8-exaflop supercomputing cluster** in partnership between India's C-DAC and the UAE's G42.
- ➔ The two leaders also welcomed the operationalisation of the **Virtual Trade Corridor** using **MAITRI — Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface**.
- ➔ It is a digital framework connecting customs and port authorities on both sides.

❑ UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed's Visit to India

UAE President **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (MBZ)** paid an official visit to India on **19 January 2026**.

- ➔ A Letter of Intent (LoI) was agreed for UAE partnership in developing the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) in Gujarat.
- ➔ India invited UAE sovereign wealth funds to consider participation in the second NIIF Infrastructure Fund, scheduled for launch in 2026.
- ➔ The two leaders welcomed the setting up of DP World and First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) in GIFT City.
- ➔ A LoI was concluded between IN-SPACe (India) and the UAE Space Agency for space industry development and commercial collaboration.
- ➔ India and the UAE signed an LoI to move towards a Strategic Defence Partnership Framework Agreement.
- ➔ A Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) was signed between HPCL and ADNOC Gas for 0.5 MMTPA LNG for 10 years, starting from 2028.
- ➔ The two sides agreed to establish a “House of India” in Abu Dhabi, including a museum of Indian art, heritage and archaeology.
- ➔ The UAE decided to provide artefacts for the **National Maritime Heritage Complex** at Lothal.
- ➔ The leaders recalled IMEC, launched on the margins of the **G20 Summit in Delhi (September 2023)**.
- ➔ India supported the **2026 UN Water Conference**, to be co-hosted by the UAE at the end of 2026, to accelerate **SDG 6** implementation.

India-Afghanistan

- ➔ Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi visited India from **9–16 October 2025**. It was the highest-level Taliban engagement with India since August 2021.
- ➔ India upgraded its technical mission in Kabul to a full-fledged operational embassy. India allowed Taliban-appointed diplomats to work at the Afghan Embassy in New Delhi.
- ➔ Afghanistan assured that its soil would not be used for anti-India activities.
- ➔ India and Afghanistan agreed to relaunch the India–Afghanistan Air Freight Corridor.
- ➔ Afghanistan invited Indian investment in mining and infrastructure.
- ➔ India had closed its Kabul Embassy in August 2021 and reopened it as a technical mission in June, 2022.
- ➔ India remains one of Afghanistan's largest development partners with over \$3 billion in projects.
- ➔ India's engagement helps maintain access to Central Asia, strengthen Chabahar–INSTC linkages, and counter China's BRI influence.

India–Mongolia

On **October 14, 2025**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa held bilateral talks in **New Delhi**.

- ➔ India was among the first nations to establish ties with Mongolia in **1955**.
- ➔ The partnership was elevated to a **Strategic Partnership in 2015**, marked by India's **\$1 billion credit line** for development.
- ➔ The 2025 summit reflects a deepening bond anchored in **Buddhist heritage**, mutual trust, and regional cooperation.
- ➔ **10 MoUs were signed** in areas such as humanitarian aid, digital cooperation, geology, heritage restoration, and immigration.
- ➔ **Regional partnership** established between **Ladakh's Hill Council** and **Mongolia's Arkhangai Province**.
- ➔ **\$1.7 billion oil refinery project** reaffirmed — Mongolia's first major refinery, to process **1.5 million metric tons annually** by 2028, enhancing its energy independence.
- ➔ India to digitise **one million Mongolian manuscripts** and deploy a **Sanskrit teacher** to the Gandan Monastery.
- ➔ **Free e-visas** for Mongolian citizens and annual youth cultural exchange announced.
- ➔ Both nations reaffirmed their **Buddhist heritage link**, announcing the 2026 visit of **Arahant relics** from India to Mongolia.
- ➔ Mongolia joined India's **International Big Cat Alliance**, and a **resident defence attaché** will soon be stationed in Ulaanbaatar.
- ➔ The leaders also released **commemorative stamps** marking the 70-year milestone.

Sri Lankan PM's Maiden Visit to India

Sri Lankan Prime Minister **Dr. Harini Nireka Amarasuriya** visited India from **16–18 October 2025**, marking her **first official visit** after assuming office.

Key Highlights

- ➔ Dr. Amarasuriya held high-level meetings with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar**, focusing on trade, technology, education, and regional stability.
- ➔ The two sides discussed progress under the **Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA)** and expanding cooperation in **infrastructure, tourism, skill development, and artificial intelligence**.
- ➔ At **NITI Aayog**, the Sri Lankan PM explored India's governance models such as **PM Gati Shakti** and the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

- ➔ At **IIT Delhi**, she discussed potential collaborations in technology, innovation, and research.
- ➔ A highlight of the visit was Dr. Amarasuriya's return to her alma mater, **Hindu College (Delhi University)**, where she studied Sociology under a MEA scholarship.

❑ **Bharat–Sri Lanka Sanskrit Mahotsav**

On **November 10, 2025**, India and Sri Lanka inaugurated the **Bharat–Sri Lanka Sanskrit Mahotsav** at the **University of Colombo**.

- ➔ The week-long festival was jointly organised by:
 - **Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Colombo** (cultural wing of the Indian High Commission)
 - **Sri Lanka's Ministry of Education and Higher Education**
 - **Central Sanskrit University (India)**
 - **India–Sri Lanka Foundation**
- ➔ It was inaugurated by **Santosh Jha** (India's High Commissioner) and **Dr. Madhura Senevirathna** (Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister).

India-Vietnam

On **September 18, 2025**, the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** and **Vietnam National University (VNU)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen research and academic collaboration in **AI, smart cities, drone technology, and medical innovation**. The agreement marks a significant milestone in **India–Vietnam educational and technological cooperation**.

- ➔ The MoU aims to facilitate **joint research, student–faculty exchange**, and **capacity-building** in frontier technologies.
- ➔ Key focus areas include **AI-driven healthcare, urban planning, infrastructure monitoring**, and **agri-drone innovation**.
- ➔ A high-level VNU delegation, including Dr. Nguyen Thu Huong (Vice Rector) and Prof. Nguyen Dinh Duc (Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering), visited IIT Kanpur to finalize the agreement and explore facilities.
- ➔ This partnership also supports India's **Act East Policy**, expanding its academic diplomacy in Southeast Asia.
- ➔ The IIT Kanpur–VNU MoU reflects India's commitment to advancing **global R&D networks**.

India–Russia

On **September 1, 2025**, on the sidelines of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit** held in Tianjin (China), Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Russian President **Vladimir Putin** held a bilateral meeting.

- ➔ Both sides stated that cooperation in the **economic, financial, and energy sectors** is continuously increasing.
- ➔ The discussions emphasized the need for an **early ceasefire** in the Ukraine conflict and the search for a **durable peace solution**.
- ➔ Both leaders reiterated their agreement to further strengthen the **“Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership”** between India and Russia.
- ➔ The Prime Minister once again extended an invitation for the Russian President to visit India in 2025 for the **23rd Annual India–Russia Summit**.
- ➔ From the perspective of commerce and energy, **India–Russia trade stood at US\$ 68.72 billion in FY 2024–25**, with **import-based energy trade** being the major determinant of this figure.

India–Maldives

PM Narendra Modi paid a State Visit to the Maldives (**25–26 July 2025**) to mark 60 years of diplomatic ties (1965–2025).

- ➔ He was **Guest of Honour** at Maldives' **60th Independence Day celebrations** — the first-ever by an Indian PM.
- ➔ Discussions with President Mohamed Muizzu reaffirmed ties under Neighbourhood First & Vision SAGAR.
- ➔ Reference to the October, 2024 Joint Vision for a Comprehensive Economic & Maritime Security Partnership.
- ➔ Launch of negotiations for the India–Maldives Free Trade Agreement (IMFTA).
- ➔ Defence cooperation strengthened under the Colombo Security Conclave; India handed over equipment to MNDF.
- ➔ **Financial package:** India announced a Line of Credit (LoC) worth INR 4,850 crore (≈ USD 550 million) and eased debt repayment.
- ➔ **Agreements/MoUs:** Fisheries & aquaculture, meteorology (IITM–MMS), digital solutions, Indian Pharmacopoeia recognition, and UPI–MMA payments linkage.
- ➔ **Development projects:** Handover of 3,300 housing units in Hulhumalé; inauguration of Addu road projects; new Ministry of Defence building; launch of community projects.
- ➔ **Symbolic gesture:** Joint release of commemorative stamps (Indian 'Uru' & Maldivian 'Vadhu Dhoni').

India–Philippines

President **Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.** paid his first State Visit to India from **August 4–8, 2025**, coinciding with 75 years of diplomatic ties (est. 1949).

- ➔ President Marcos held detailed **bilateral talks** with Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- ➔ Ties were elevated to a Strategic Partnership via a formal Declaration in New Delhi.
- ➔ Adoption of the India–Philippines Strategic Partnership Plan of Action (2025–2029) to steer cooperation across sectors.
- ➔ Special emphasis was laid on expanding **defence security and maritime cooperation**, which included agreement on **Terms of Reference (ToR)** for dialogue between the armed forces and coast guards of both countries.
- ➔ Two treaties were signed—Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT) and Transfer of Sentenced Persons (TTSP).
- ➔ In the field of **science, technology, and space cooperation**, a **Program of Cooperation (2025–28)** and a **Statement of Intent** between ISRO and the Philippine Space Agency on the peaceful uses of outer space were signed.
- ➔ Tourism Cooperation Implementation Programme (2025–28) and an MoU on Digital Technologies were finalized.
- ➔ On the economic and trade front, **Terms of Reference** were adopted to begin negotiations for a **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)**.
- ➔ It was also noted that bilateral trade had reached approximately **USD 3.3 billion** in 2024–25.
- ➔ Prime Minister Modi and President Marcos jointly released **commemorative stamps** to symbolize cultural ties, designed with the **national flowers** of both countries — the *Lotus* (India) and *Sampaguita* (a variety of Jasmine, Philippines) — highlighting 75 years of friendship.
- ➔ The most significant commercial outcome was the **CAD 2.6 billion** Cameco–Department of Atomic Energy agreement for long-term uranium supply to India.
- ➔ Beyond uranium, the two sides discussed cooperation in LNG, LPG, crude oil, refined petroleum products, potash and heavy oil.
- ➔ Canada also reaffirmed its target of producing 50 million tonnes of LNG annually by 2030 and up to 100 million tonnes by 2040 for Indo-Pacific markets.
- ➔ The visit produced an MoU on Critical Minerals Cooperation and an MoU on Clean Energy Cooperation.
- ➔ The leaders also referred to India's endorsement of the **G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan** and discussed support for India's mineral stockpiling efforts.
- ➔ The two countries also agreed to hold an **India–Canada Renewable Energy and Storage Summit** in 2026.
- ➔ A particularly important outcome was the proposal to establish a **Canada–India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence** at NIFTEM Kundli.
- ➔ The **AICTE–Mitacs MoU** will allow around 300 Indian undergraduate students every year to undertake funded research internships at Canadian universities, beginning in 2027.
- ➔ In space, they agreed to build on nearly three decades of CSA–ISRO cooperation and pursue an implementation arrangement covering atmospheric sciences, space robotics, human spaceflight and quantum communication.
- ➔ India and Canada signed the Terms of Reference for **CEPA negotiations**, formally launched talks, and committed to conclude them by the end of 2026.
- ➔ The long-term objective is to raise bilateral trade to about CAD 70 billion / INR 4.65 lakh crore by 2030.

INDIA – NORTH AMERICA

India–Canada Relations

- ➔ Canadian Prime Minister **Mark Carney's** official visit to India from **27 February to 2 March 2026** marked a major turning point in India–Canada relations.
- ➔ In 2026, India and Canada completed **79 years** of diplomatic relations.
- ➔ The two leaders also linked **India's Viksit Bharat vision** with **Canada's Build Canada Strong agenda**.
- ➔ India and Canada launched a Strategic Energy Partnership covering clean energy, conventional energy, civil nuclear energy and critical minerals.
- ➔ The relaunch of the **Canada–India Ministerial Energy Dialogue** at India Energy Week 2026, along with a Joint Action Plan, gave this cooperation an institutional base.

INDIA – SOUTH AMERICA

India–Brazil

- Brazilian President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** paid a **State Visit to India from February 18–22, 2026**. During the visit, he attended the **2nd AI Impact Summit (19–20 February)** and held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **New Delhi on 21 February 2026**. This was Lula's **fifth visit to India** and his **second State Visit**, coming soon after Modi's July 2025 visit to Brazil.
- ➔ India and Brazil are among the largest democracies of the developing world.
 - ➔ They have cooperated closely in platforms such as **BRICS, G20, IBSA, G-4, WTO and the United Nations**.

- ➔ Their bilateral relationship was elevated to a **Strategic Partnership in 2006**.
- ➔ The economic outcome was the shared target to raise bilateral trade to **over USD 30 billion by 2030**.
- ➔ This is significant because Brazil is already India's **largest trading partner in Latin America**.
- ➔ The two sides exchanged multiple agreements covering areas such as **critical minerals, digital cooperation, defence, health, agriculture, traditional knowledge, MSMEs and communication**.
- ➔ One confirmed outcome was a **MoU between India's Ministry of Steel and Brazil's Ministry of Mines and Energy** to strengthen cooperation in mining and minerals required for the steel sector.
- ❑ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a State Visit to Brazil**
- ➔ On **July 8, 2025**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a **Bilateral State Visit to Brazil** at the invitation of Brazilian President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**.
- ⊕ PM Modi was conferred **Brazil's highest national honour, "The Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross."**

India–Argentina

- ➔ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** visit to Argentina on **July 4–5, 2025** gave a new direction to bilateral relations.
- ⊕ In **2019**, India–Argentina relations were elevated to the level of a **Strategic Partnership**.
- ➔ This visit was the **first bilateral visit to Argentina** by an Indian Prime Minister in the **past 57 years**.
- ⊕ It is noteworthy that earlier, in **2018**, Prime Minister Modi had visited Argentina to participate in the **G20 Summit**; however, that was **not** a bilateral visit.
- ➔ Prime Minister Modi held talks with President **Javier Milei**, during which the two leaders discussed **comprehensive bilateral cooperation**.
- ⊕ The two leaders discussed ways to further enhance the India–Argentina partnership in key areas, including **defence, agriculture, mining, oil and gas, renewable energy, trade and investment, and people-to-people relations**.
- ➔ During this visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage at the memorial of **General José de San Martín**, the Father of the Nation of Argentina.
- ➔ Argentina is one of the **primary suppliers** to India of **edible oils**, especially **soybean oil**.

India–Trinidad and Tobago

- PM Narendra Modi visited Trinidad & Tobago (July 3–4, 2025), his first as PM.
- ➔ He met **President Christine Carla Kangaloo** and received the nation's **highest honour – the Order of the Republic**, the **first foreign leader** to receive it.

- ➔ He addressed the **Joint Parliament** and held talks with **PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar** on cooperation in **agriculture, health, UPI, culture, sports, and diaspora ties**.
- ➔ **Trinidad and Tobago became the first Caribbean country to adopt UPI** (agreement signed in September, 2024).
- ➔ **Six MoUs** were signed covering **Pharmacopoeia, QIPs, culture, sports, diplomatic training, and ICCR Chairs at UWI**.
- ➔ Modi announced that **OCI card eligibility has been extended to 6th generation diaspora** (earlier 4th).

INDIA – EUROPE

India–Norway Green Strategic Partnership

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to **Oslo** during **18–19 May 2026** marked an important stage in India–Norway relations. The visit was hosted by Norwegian Prime Minister **Jonas Gahr Støre**, and included bilateral talks, an audience with **King Harald V**.
- ➔ India and Norway established bilateral relations in **February 1947**.
 - ➔ Norway is important for India because of its strengths in maritime industries, offshore energy, fisheries, aquaculture, clean technology, Arctic studies and sustainable development.
 - ➔ The both sides elevated the relationship to a **Green Strategic Partnership** to combat climate change, create green industries and jobs, accelerate green energy transition, maintain energy security, strengthen circular economy and encourage investment.
 - ➔ The leaders also encouraged both sides to prepare a **Joint Action Plan** for future cooperation.
 - ➔ Clean energy is the core pillar of the partnership.
 - ➔ India is expanding renewable energy at a large scale and has set targets of **500 GW** of clean energy and **5 million tonnes** of **green hydrogen** by **2030**.
 - ➔ The joint statement mentions the **Norwegian Climate Investment Fund's** investments in renewable energy in India the possibility of bilateral cooperation under **Article 6.2** of the Paris Agreement.
 - ➔ It also mentions Norwegian LNG supplies to India, and cooperation in carbon capture, utilisation and storage.
 - ➔ India also welcomed Norway joining the **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**.
 - ➔ India has a long-standing interest in Arctic and polar research, including the **Himadri** research station at **Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard**.

- ➔ The joint statement also recognises the achievements of the **Norway–India Partnership Initiative** in maternal and child health and its support to India's National Health Mission.
- ❑ **Oslo hosted the 3rd India–Nordic Summit on May 19, 2026.**
- ➔ The summit brought together India with Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden, and elevated India–Nordic relations to a trusted **Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership**.
- ➔ On **September 11, 2025**, India and Norway held their **first Maritime Security, Disarmament, and Non-Proliferation Dialogue** in Oslo, marking a milestone in their strategic engagement.

PM Modi's Italy Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to Italy on **19–20 May 2026** marked an important stage in India-Italy relations. He held talks with Italian Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** in Rome and also called on Italian President **Sergio Mattarella** at the Quirinale Palace.

- ➔ The **India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025–2029** was adopted at the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro in November 2024.
- ➔ The two countries are cooperating in trade, defence, clean energy, technology, space, education, migration, maritime connectivity and counterterrorism.
- ➔ PM Modi's formulation: **"Design and Develop in India and Italy, and Deliver for the World."**
- ➔ The most important diplomatic outcome was the upgrade of the India-Italy Strategic Partnership to a **Special Strategic Partnership**.
- ➔ The two Prime Ministers also agreed to hold **annual meetings of leaders**, including on the sidelines of multilateral events, along with regular ministerial and institutional-level meetings.
- ➔ A **Foreign Ministers-led mechanism** will review the implementation of the India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025–2029.
- ➔ India and Italy agreed to work towards expanding bilateral trade to **€20 billion by 2029**.
- ➔ India and Italy also welcomed the first meeting of the Permanent Task Force on countering terror financing and the MoU between Italy's **Guardia di Finanza** and India's **Directorate of Enforcement**.
- ➔ Italy reaffirmed its commitment to cooperate on the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor**, or IMEC.
- ➔ The leaders announced **INNOVIT India**, an innovation hub in India intended to connect start-ups, universities, industries and research institutions from both countries.
- ➔ Italy's participation in the **AI Impact Summit held in New Delhi on February 19, 2026** was also noted.

- ➔ India and Italy agreed to strengthen cooperation between the **Indian Space Research Organisation** and the **Italian Space Agency**.
- ➔ The leaders welcomed the launch of **"ICI - Italy Calls India: a University-Enterprise Talent Bridge"**, aimed at helping Indian students in Italian universities connect with Italian enterprises through guidance, matching and qualified integration.
- ➔ India and Italy agreed to celebrate **2027 as the Year of Culture and Tourism between Italy and India**.
- ➔ The two leaders also welcomed Italy's participation in the development of the **National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal** and acknowledged the Indian National Pavilion at the **Venice Art Biennale 2026**.

❑ FAO Agricola Medal and Food Security

- ➔ During the visit, PM Modi visited the headquarters of the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** in Rome and received the **FAO Agricola Medal**.
- ➔ FAO described the Agricola Medal as the organisation's highest award and stated that it was conferred in recognition of PM Modi's contribution to food security, sustainable agriculture, rural development and agrifood systems.

India-France

- ➔ President Emmanuel Macron visited India from **17–19 February 2026**, during which India–France relations were upgraded to a **"Special Global Strategic Partnership"** under the Horizon 2047 Roadmap.
- ➔ The visit placed strong emphasis on innovation and technology, with the launch of the India–France Year of Innovation 2026 focusing on AI, science, healthcare, research, and education, along with promoting secure and inclusive artificial intelligence.
- ➔ Defence cooperation advanced further as both countries moved from a buyer–seller model to co-design, co-development, and co-production.
- ➔ This was highlighted by projects such as Rafale-M jets, Scorpène submarines, and helicopter manufacturing in India, along with cooperation in critical minerals and emerging technologies to build resilient supply chains.
- ➔ Energy and climate collaboration also expanded, with France supporting India's target of achieving 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047.
- ➔ Progress was made on the **Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project**, and continued cooperation in renewable energy, the International Solar Alliance, and disaster-resilient infrastructure.

India-Germany

German Chancellor **Friedrich Merz** visited India from **January 12–13, 2026** and held talks with PM Narendra Modi in Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad.

- ➔ The visit strengthened India–Germany strategic and economic partnership.
- ➔ Germany announced visa-free transit for Indian passport holders transiting through Germany.
- ➔ **Focus areas:** legal migration, skilling, defence, clean energy, technology, education and logistics.
- ➔ A Joint Declaration of Intent on Global Skills Partnership was issued.
- ➔ It focuses on fair recruitment, especially of healthcare professionals.
- ➔ Both sides agreed to cooperate against irregular migration, human trafficking and visa and document fraud.
- ➔ Defence cooperation includes joint exercises, training, staff-level talks and defence industrial cooperation.
- ➔ Germany showed interest in MILAN 2026, IONS Conclave of Chiefs and Exercise Tarang Shakti.
- ➔ A Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap was advanced for co-development and co-production.
- ➔ Clean energy cooperation will focus on renewables, green hydrogen, green ammonia and sustainable infrastructure.
- ➔ Both sides proposed an India–Germany Centre of Excellence for green technologies.
- ➔ Technology cooperation includes semiconductors, critical minerals, telecom and digital dialogue.
- ➔ Bilateral trade crossed USD 50 billion. Investment focus areas include manufacturing, MSMEs, startups, AI, pharma, biotech, defence, shipbuilding and energy.

India–United Kingdom (UK)

□ Visit of Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to India

- ➔ The visit of the United Kingdom's Prime Minister **Sir Keir Starmer** to India on **8–9 October 2025**, at the invitation of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, marked his first official visit to India and a major milestone under the '**Vision 2035**' roadmap.
- ➔ A major highlight of the visit was the signing of a **£350 million (\$468 million)** contract for the **supply of lightweight missiles** to India, strengthening bilateral defence and industrial collaboration.
- ➔ Both sides also advanced the **CETA framework**, with the **reconstituted India–U.K. CEO Forum** and **Joint Economic Trade Committee (JETCO)** being tasked to implement trade expansion and job creation initiatives.

- ➔ The visit coincided with the **Global Fintech Fest 2025 in Mumbai**, where both Prime Ministers addressed global industry leaders, showcasing India's growing role as a global fintech and innovation hub.
- ➔ In the technology domain, India and the U.K. launched the **India–U.K. Connectivity & Innovation Centre**, funded by **£24 million over four years**.
- ➔ It will focus on three key pillars—**AI-transformed telecom networks, non-terrestrial networks (NTNs)** like satellite and airborne systems, and **telecom cybersecurity and interoperability**.
- ➔ Additionally, both sides established the **India–U.K. Joint Centre for AI** and initiated **Phase II of the Critical Minerals Supply Chain Observatory**.
- ➔ A **Critical Minerals Industry Guild** was also launched with a new **satellite campus at IIT-ISM Dhanbad** to secure resilient green technology supply chains.
- ➔ Education and research collaboration also took a leap forward.
- ➔ India granted a **Letter of Intent to Lancaster University** to open a campus in **Bengaluru** and **in-principle approval to the University of Surrey** for a campus in **GIFT City**, enhancing higher education and innovation partnerships.
- ➔ The two nations launched **Phase III of the Biomedical Research Career Programme**, formed an **Offshore Wind Taskforce**, and signed a **Letter of Intent between ICMR and the UK's NIHR** for advanced health research collaboration.
- ➔ A new **Climate Technology Startup Fund**, co-funded by the U.K. Government and the **State Bank of India**, was also announced to support entrepreneurs in **climate tech and AI sectors**.
- ➔ Cultural and creative ties were reinforced through an **MoU between the British Film Institute (BFI)** and India's **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** to boost film co-productions and joint projects.

□ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the UK

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the UK officially **July 23–24, 2025**, held meetings with PM **Keir Starmer**.
- ➔ The India-UK **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** was signed, elevating the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.

INDIA – OCEANIA

India–Australia

On **September 24, 2025**, India and Australia signed a **Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)** for **organic products** under the **India–Australia**

Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA). The agreement, inked at **Vanijya Bhavan, New Delhi**, marks a major milestone in promoting **organic trade, certification harmony, and farmer welfare.**

- ➔ The MRA enables **mutual acceptance of organic certification standards**, removing the need for duplicate inspections. It covers:
 - ⊖ **Unprocessed plant products** (excluding greenhouse crops and aquatic plants)
 - ⊖ **Processed plant-based foods**, including mixed ingredients
 - ⊖ **Wine**
- ➔ The implementing agencies are **APEDA (India)** and **DAFF (Australia)**, ensuring regulatory coordination and transparency.
- ➔ India's goal of becoming the **"Organic Food Basket of the World"** gains a strong boost.
- ➔ The MRA aligns with APEDA's mission to:
 - ⊖ Expand **certified organic farming**
 - ⊖ Enhance **global traceability** and **export competitiveness**
 - ⊖ Strengthen **international credibility** of Indian organic certification
- ❑ **Economic and Trade Benefits**
 - ➔ **Boosts exports:** India's organic exports to Australia (USD 8.96 million in FY 2024–25) are expected to rise sharply.
 - ➔ **Farmer empowerment:** Organic farmers can earn **30–40% premium prices** in global markets.
 - ➔ **Regulatory trust:** Mutual recognition builds **consumer confidence** and simplifies **market entry** for producers.
 - ➔ **Market access:** Opens Indian organic products to Australian retailers and allows **Australian wine and cereals** easier access to India.

INDIA – AFRICA

India-Addis Ababa

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Addis Ababa on **16–17 December 2025**, marking his **first bilateral visit** to Ethiopia. He was received by Ethiopian Prime Minister **Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali** and held high-level talks in Addis Ababa.

- ➔ PM Modi held wide-ranging discussions with Ethiopian Prime Minister **Abiy Ahmed Ali**.
- ➔ Prime Minister Modi also addressed a Joint Session of the Ethiopian Parliament during the visit.
- ➔ Prime Minister Modi was conferred Ethiopia's highest award, **"Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia"**, during the Addis Ababa visit.
- ➔ The key MoU were signed, focusing on: Enhancing information sharing; Preventing customs-related

offences; Improving transparency in trade; Facilitating smoother logistics and cross-border commerce; Establishing a data centre at Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy.

- ➔ The two countries agreed to elevate bilateral ties to a **Strategic Partnership**, marking a new phase of cooperation.
- ➔ India–Ethiopia relations date back over 2,000 years: Trade during the Axumite Empire via Adulis port.
- ⊖ Indian soldiers participated in liberation efforts during Italy's occupation (1936–41).
- ⊖ Formal diplomatic relations established in 1950.
- ➔ People-to-people ties remain strong, with around 2,500 Indians residing in Ethiopia.

India–Namibia

PM Narendra Modi's State Visit to Namibia took place on **July 9, 2025** at the invitation of President **Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**.

- ➔ This was **Modi's first visit to Namibia** and the **first bilateral visit by an Indian PM in 27 years**.
- ➔ Discussions covered **defence, maritime security, digital technology (UPI), agriculture, health & pharmaceuticals, energy, and critical minerals**.
- ➔ Both leaders stressed progress on the **India–SACU commercial agreement** (SACU = Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa).
- ➔ **Two MoUs signed:**
 1. Establishment of an **Entrepreneurship Development Centre** in Namibia.
 2. Cooperation in **health and medicine**.
- ➔ Namibia joined two of India's global initiatives:
- ➔ **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.
- ➔ **Global Biofuels Alliance**.
- ➔ Namibia became the **first country to sign a licensing agreement to adopt UPI technology**.
- ➔ **April 2024:** Agreement between **NPCI International Payments Ltd.** and **Bank of Namibia** for launching a UPI-based digital payments system.
- ➔ **Highest Civilian Honour:** Modi became the **first Indian leader to receive Namibia's "Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis."**
- ➔ Modi paid homage at the **Heroes' Acre Memorial**, honouring founding father **Dr. Sam Nujoma**.
- ➔ Modi invited Namibia to join the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**.
- ➔ Modi thanked Namibia for its role in India's **Cheetah Reintroduction Project 2022:**
 - ⊖ Namibia gifted **8 cheetahs** to India, reintroducing the species after **70 years**.
 - ⊖ These were settled in **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**, symbolizing strong conservation partnership.

B. International Events/Indices/Rankings/Reports

US and Iranian Initial Peace Agreement

On **June 17, 2026**, the United States and Iran have signed a historic initial peace agreement—formalised via a **14-point Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**—aimed at ending the four-month West Asia war.

- ➔ The agreement was signed electronically by US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, the interim pact serves primarily as a comprehensive ceasefire to halt active military operations and stave off global economic depression.
- ➔ However, the agreement is facing immense strain, highlighted by Iran's declaration that it is closing the Strait of Hormuz due to ongoing Israeli strikes in Lebanon.

❑ Key Terms of the 14-Point MoU

- ➔ **Termination of Hostilities:** An immediate and permanent end to military operations on all fronts, explicitly including the conflict in Lebanon
- ➔ **Strait of Hormuz Reopening:** Free, toll-free passage through the crucial energy shipping corridor is restored to full capacity within 30 days.
- ➔ **Sanctions Relief:** The US Department of the Treasury must immediately issue waivers allowing Iran to export crude oil, petroleum products, and access associated banking and transportation services.
- ➔ **Reconstruction Fund:** A framework with regional partners to develop an economic development plan for Iran worth at least **\$300 billion**. White House officials noted that Gulf Arab nations are expected to finance the fund, and the US will not contribute directly.
- ➔ **Unfreezing Assets:** The US commits to unblocking restricted Iranian funds and assets abroad, with Tehran seeking the return of approximately \$24 billion. [8, 9]
- ➔ **Nuclear Constraints:** Iran is required to halt further enrichment and “down-blend” (dilute) its existing highly enriched uranium stocks to 3.67% under IAEA monitoring.
- ➔ **The 60-Day Window:** The initial arrangement sets up a 60-day technical negotiation period to secure a final, legally binding nuclear pact endorsed by the UN Security Council.

IRAN-ISRAEL CONFLICT

- ➔ On **February 28, 2026**, joint U.S.-Israeli attacks pushed the conflict into a new phase.

- ➔ The United States called it **Operation Epic Fury**, while Israel called it **Operation Roaring Lion**.
- ➔ After these strikes, Iran presented its missile and drone attacks as successive waves of “**Operation True Promise**.”
- ➔ Earlier, in June 2025, Israel had carried out a 12-day campaign called **Operation Rising Lion** targeting Iranian nuclear and military infrastructures including **Tehran, Natanz, Tabriz, and Kermanshah**.
- ➔ The most inhuman face of the war was seen in the attack on **Shajarah Tayyibeh Girls' School** in Minab, southern Iran, where a large number of girls were killed.
- ➔ Iran targeted over 17 key U.S. sites in the Gulf region, including the 5th Fleet Headquarters in Bahrain.

○ Ali Khamenei

- ➔ **Ali Khamenei**, Iran's Supreme Leader since 1989, was assassinated in Tehran on February 28, 2026, during a joint US-Israeli strike.
- ➔ Following this, his son, **Mojtaba Khamenei**, was announced as the new Supreme Leader on March 9, 2026, selected by the Assembly of Experts.
- ➔ **High-level U.S.-Iran talks** took place in **Islamabad** on April 11–12, 2026, and ended without a deal.

○ Strait of Hormuz and Strait of Malacca:

- ➔ The **Strait of Hormuz**, located between **Iran and Oman**, connects the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea.
- ➔ It is the world's most important oil transit chokepoint.
- ➔ The **Strait of Malacca**, located between **Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore**, connects the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea.
- ➔ It is the shortest sea route between the Middle East and East Asia..

❑ Kharg Island

- ➔ Another important dimension is **Kharg Island**, Iran's principal oil export terminal in the Persian Gulf.
- ➔ Handles nearly **90% of Iran's crude oil exports**.
- ➔ On **17 April 2026**, the **UK and France** co-chaired an international meeting on the **Strait of Hormuz Maritime Navigation / Freedom of Navigation Initiative**, with 51 countries participating to support free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

❑ U.S. Joins the Fray

- ➔ In **June 2025**, in a dramatic escalation of hostilities, **Israel** launched **Operation Rising Lion**, a series of coordinated airstrikes and drone attacks targeting Iran's nuclear and military infrastructure.
- ➔ Key targets included in this operation were the Natanz uranium enrichment facility, a nuclear research center in **Tehran**; Military bases in **Tabriz**; and an underground missile storage site in **Kermanshah**.

- ➔ This pre-emptive operation aimed to halt Iran's progress toward acquiring nuclear weapons.
- ➔ In response, **Iran** launched **Operation True Promise 3**, firing ballistic missiles at Israeli targets, with explosions reported in **Jerusalem** and **Tel Aviv**, marking a major regional escalation.
- ➔ The United States formally entered the conflict with precision airstrikes on Iran's major nuclear installations—**Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan**—using **B-2 stealth bombers** armed with bunker-buster bombs.
- ➔ The official U.S. name for the strike on Iranian nuclear sites was Operation Midnight Hammer.
- ➔ In response to growing tensions, the Government of India launched **Operation Sindhu**.
- ➔ India has a strong track record in such operations, as seen during the **1990–91 Gulf War**, the **Libya crisis**, and **Operation Ganga** in Ukraine (2022).
- ❑ **US and Middle East Leaders Sign Declaration to End Gaza War**
- ➔ In a historic diplomatic breakthrough, **U.S. President Donald Trump**, along with leaders of **Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey**, signed the “**Trump Declaration for Enduring Peace and Prosperity**” at the **Sharm El-Sheikh Summit (October 2025)**, marking a major step toward ending the **two-year Israel– Hamas war**.
- ❑ **Israel's Attack on Syria**
- ➔ In **July-August 2025**, Israel launched a series of airstrikes on military and government sites in and around Damascus, aiming to weaken **Houthi** supporters and enemy forces while presenting its actions as protection of the Druze community.
- ➔ Declaring the 1974 Disengagement Agreement “null and void,” Israel launched **Operation Arrow of Bashan** to weaken the Syrian army.
- ➔ The Houthis (officially Ansar Allah) are an Iran-backed, Zaydi Shia political and military organization that emerged in northern Yemen in the 1990s
- ❑ **Israeli Military Control Plan for Gaza**
- ➔ In **August 2025**, the Israeli security cabinet approved a plan for military control of Gaza City, marking the first phase of its new strategy.
- ➔ The Gaza Strip, a 365 sq. km territory under Hamas control
- ➔ Israel launched **Operation Gideon's Chariots II**, Hamas responded with **Operation Moses' Staff**.

❑ **Modi Becomes First Leader Honoured by Israel and Palestine**

- ➔ PM Narendra Modi became the **first leader to receive top honours from both Israel and Palestine**.
- ➔ He was awarded the **Speaker of the Knesset Medal (Israel's highest parliamentary honour)** on February 25, 2026.

- ➔ The award was presented by **Amir Ohana at the Knesset in Jerusalem**.
- ➔ Earlier, in **2018**, he received the **Grand Collar of the State of Palestine** from Mahmoud Abbas.

Global Peace Index 2026

The 2026 Global Peace Index (GPI), published on **9 June 2026**, by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**, reveals global peacefulness is at its lowest point since the index's inception, primarily driven by escalating armed conflicts and militarization. Iceland remains the world's most peaceful country, while Russia is ranked as the least peaceful.

❑ **Key Global Rankings**

- ➔ **Top 5 Most Peaceful:** Iceland, New Zealand, Switzerland, Slovenia, and Ireland.
- ➔ **Bottom 5 Least Peaceful:** Russia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, and Israel.
- ➔ **United States:** Ranked 134th globally, remaining behind many other nations in the safety and militarization domains.

❑ **India & South Asia**

- ➔ **India:** Ranked 127th (115th in 2025) out of 163 countries.
- ➔ **South Asia Overview:** Bhutan leads the region at 16th globally.
- ➔ It is followed by Sri Lanka (67th), Nepal (111th), Bangladesh (117th), India (127th), Pakistan (152nd), and Afghanistan (157th)

World Competitiveness Ranking 2026

India ranked **44th** out of 70 economies in the **2026 World Competitiveness Ranking** released on June 18, 2026, by the IMD Business School. The assessment measures a nation's ability to create and sustain an environment that fosters enterprise competitiveness.

❑ **Global Leaders**

1. **Singapore** (reclaimed the top spot)
2. **Hong Kong SAR**
3. **Switzerland**
4. **Taiwan**
5. **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

❑ **India's 2026 Standing**

- ➔ India's overall rank settled at **44th**, reflecting slight shifts as global indices emphasize new drivers of competitiveness like credible institutions and reliable governance rather than just cost and scale.
- ➔ The IMD ranks countries based on four core pillars: **Economic Performance, Government Efficiency, Business Efficiency, and Infrastructure**

EIU Democracy Index 2025

In the **EIU Democracy Index 2025** (published by the Economist Intelligence Unit in April 2026), **India fell to the 45th rank** globally.

- ➔ India experienced an overall score decline of **-0.33 points**, cementing its classification as a “**flawed democracy**”.

❑ Overview of Top 5 Leaderboard

2025 Global Rank	Country
1	Norway
2	New Zealand
3	Denmark
4	Iceland
5	Switzerland

- ➔ **Bottom Ranked Country: Afghanistan** anchored the list at the absolute bottom (**167th rank**), remaining the lowest-scoring authoritarian state alongside **North Korea**.

SIPRI Yearbook 2026

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released **57th edition** of SIPRI Yearbook 2026 on 8 June 2026.

❑ Estimated Global Nuclear Warhead Stockpiles

Country	Deployed Warheads	Total Military Stockpile	Total Inventory
United States	1,770	3,700	5,042
Russia	1,796	4,400	5,420
United Kingdom	120	225	225
France	280	290	370
China	34	620	620
India	12	190	190
Pakistan	–	170	170
North Korea	–	60	60
Israel	–	90	90
Total	4,012	9,745	12,187

❑ Military Expenditure

- ➔ SIPRI estimates India’s 2025 military expenditure at US\$92.1 billion, an increase of 8.9% over 2024.

Top 5 military spenders, 2025

Rank	Country	Military Spending (US\$ Billion)	Change (2024–25)
1	United States	954.0	–7.5%
2	China*	336.0	7.4%
3	Russia*	190.0	5.9%
4	Germany	114.0	24.0%
5	India	92.1	8.9%

○ Arms Production and Military Services

- ➔ The United States continued to dominate the ranking with 39 companies in the Top 100 for 2024, with total arms revenues of \$334 billion (3.8 per cent more than in 2023).

Top 5 arms-producing and military services companies in the world, by arms revenues, 2024

Rank	Company	Country	Arms Revenues (US\$ Million, 2024)
1	Lockheed Martin	United States	64,650
2	RTX	United States	43,600
3	Northrop Grumman	United States	37,850
4	BAE Systems	United Kingdom	33,790
5	General Dynamics	United States	33,630

○ International Arms Transfers

- ➔ The 25 largest suppliers accounted for 98 per cent of the total volume of exports, and the top 5—the **USA, France, Russia, Germany and China**—accounted for 70 per cent.
- ➔ **India’s share of global Arm imports is 8.2%.**
- ➔ Pakistan’s arms imports rose by 66% in 2021–25, and China supplied 80% of those imports.

❑ The main suppliers and recipients of major arms, 2021–25

- ➔ **Top 5 Arms Importers** in the World (Global Share of Arms Imports)

Rank	Recipient	Global Share (%)
1	Ukraine	9.7
2	India	8.2
3	Saudi Arabia	6.8
4	Qatar	6.4
5	Pakistan	4.2

- ➔ **Top 5 Arms Exporters** in the World (Global Share of Arms Exports)

Rank	Supplier	Global Share (%)
1	United States	42.0
2	France	9.8
3	Russia	6.8
4	Germany	5.7
5	China	5.6

QS World University Rankings 2027

The QS World University Rankings 2027, released on **June 18, 2026**, evaluated more than 1,500 institutions across 106 countries and territories.

- ➔ The **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** secured the **world's top spot** for the 15th consecutive year, while **Imperial College London** and **Stanford University** tied for second place globally.

Top Indian Universities

- ➔ India is the fifth most represented nation in the rankings with **52 universities featured**. **IIT Delhi** remains the **highest-ranked institution in India**, jumping 5 places to 118th globally.
- ➔ The premier performers in India are highlighted below:
 - ⌚ **IIT Delhi**: Rank 118 (Up from 123)
 - ⌚ **IIT Bombay**: Rank 134 (Down from 129)
 - ⌚ **IIT Madras**: Rank 170 (Up from 180)
 - ⌚ **IIT Kharagpur**: Rank 205 (Up from 215)
 - ⌚ **IISc Bangalore**: Rank 221 (Down from 219)
 - ⌚ **IIT Kanpur**: Rank 222 (Maintained)
 - ⌚ **University of Delhi**: Rank 323 (Up from 328)
 - ⌚ **IIT Roorkee**: Rank 335 (Up from 339)
 - ⌚ **IIT Guwahati**: Rank 350 (Down from 334)
 - ⌚ **Shoolini University**: Rank 454 (Up from 503 — Highest private institution)

World Press Freedom Index 2026

India has been ranked **157th out of 180 countries** in the **World Press Freedom Index 2026**, released by **Reporters Without Borders**, also known as **Reporters Sans Frontières**, or **RSF**.

- ➔ RSF is an international non-profit organization that works to defend press freedom and the rights of journalists.
- ➔ The index compares the level of press freedom enjoyed by journalists and media organizations in **180 countries and territories**.
- ➔ RSF assesses press freedom through five broad indicators:

Indicator	Meaning
Political context	Degree of political interference in media
Legal framework	Laws affecting media freedom and journalist protection
Economic context	Ownership patterns, financial pressure and media viability
Sociocultural context	Social pressures, harassment and public hostility
Safety	Physical, psychological and professional safety of journalists

- ➔ The 2026 World Press Freedom Index presents a worrying global picture.
- ➔ RSF stated that press freedom has reached its **lowest average score in 25 years**.
- ➔ A major reason for this decline is the growing use of laws and legal procedures to restrict journalism.
- ➔ RSF noted that the **legal indicator** saw the sharpest global decline in 2026.
- ➔ This indicator worsened in **110 out of 180 countries**, or more than 60% of the countries assessed.
- ➔ The top five countries are:

Rank	Country
1	Norway
2	Netherlands
3	Estonia
4	Denmark
5	Sweden

- ➔ The bottom five countries are:

Rank	Country
176	Saudi Arabia
177	Iran
178	China
179	North Korea
180	Eritrea

- ➔ These countries are associated with severe restrictions on independent reporting, imprisonment of journalists, censorship and state control over information.

India's Rank in 2026

- ➔ India's rank in the 2026 World Press Freedom Index is **157th (Score : 32.96) out of 180 countries**.
- ➔ In 2025, India was ranked **151st**, which means the country dropped by six positions in the latest index.
- ➔ RSF has placed India in the **"very serious"** category.
- ➔ This category indicates a highly challenging environment for journalists, where media freedom is under significant pressure.
- ➔ India ranked below several of its South Asian neighbours in the 2026 index.

Country	Rank
Nepal	87
Maldives	108
Sri Lanka	134
Bhutan	150
Bangladesh	152
Pakistan	153
India	157

World Happiness Report 2026

The **World Happiness Report 2026** was released on **March 19, 2026**, ahead the **International Day of Happiness**.

- ➔ The World Happiness Report has been published annually since **2012**.
- ➔ It is published by the **Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford**, in partnership with **Gallup**, the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network**, and an independent editorial board.
- ➔ Its global rankings are based primarily on a **life-evaluation question**—often called the **Cantril Ladder**—which asks respondents to rate their lives on a **0 to 10 scale**.
- ➔ These six explanatory variables are used to help explain differences across countries:
 - ⊖ **GDP per capita**
 - ⊖ **Social support**
 - ⊖ **Healthy life expectancy**
 - ⊖ **Freedom to make life choices**
 - ⊖ **Generosity**
 - ⊖ **Perceptions of corruption**
- ➔ The World Happiness Report 2026 focuses on the intersection of **Social Media and Wellbeing**.
- ➔ It examines how digital connectivity, screen time intensity, and platform usage affect global life satisfaction, with a major focus on the decline of youth happiness in Western nations.
- ➔ **Finland** ranked **1st** in the world in 2026 with a life-evaluation score of **7.764**, remaining the world's happiest country for the **ninth consecutive year**.
- ➔ It was followed by **Iceland (2nd)** and **Denmark (3rd)**.
- ➔ **The top 5 in the 2026 rankings were:**
 1. Finland
 2. Iceland
 3. Denmark
 4. Costa Rica
 5. Sweden
- ➔ A notable feature was **Costa Rica's rise to 4th**, making it a standout performer outside the usual Nordic cluster.

Bottom 5 countries in 2026	
Country	Value
147. Afghanistan	1.446
146. Sierra Leone	3.251
145. Malawi	3.284
144. Zimbabwe	3.346
143. Botswana	3.464

- ➔ **India ranked 116th out of 147 countries** in the 2026 report, a slight improvement from its position in 2025 as reflected in public reporting around this year's release.
- ➔ In the 2026 table, India's entry appears at rank **116**.
- ➔ In South Asia, India continued to trail some neighbours such as **Nepal** and **Pakistan**, while ranking above **Bangladesh** and **Sri Lanka**, according to widely cited summaries of the 2026 release.
- ➔ The broader takeaway is that India's relatively modest position points to continuing challenges in **social support, perceived corruption, and overall life evaluation**, despite strong economic growth.
- ➔ Among major emerging powers, **China ranked 65th**, **Russia 79th**, and **Iran 97th**, while India stood at **116th** in the 2026 ranking table.
- ➔ The **International Day of Happiness** is observed every year on **20 March**.

Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2026

The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2026 was released in **March 2026** by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**, headquartered in **Sydney**. It is the **13th** edition of the index and studies the impact of terrorism in 163 countries, covering 99.7 per cent of the world's population.

- ➔ **Score Range: 0 → No impact of terrorism; 10 → Highest impact of terrorism**
- ➔ GTI uses a **composite index** based on four key indicators:
 - ⊖ Number of terrorist incidents
 - ⊖ Number of fatalities
 - ⊖ Number of injuries
 - ⊖ Number of hostages
- ➔ The index shows terrorism deaths declined by 28%
- ➔ **Incidents decreased by 22%** : Indicates an overall improvement in global terrorism trends
- ➔ **Pakistan ranked 1st** (highest impact of terrorism)
- ➔ **India ranked 13th** (score: 6.428)
- ➔ **Top Affected Regions:** Sub-Saharan Africa → Global epicentre; **Sahel region:** Accounts for >50% of global terrorism deaths (2025)
- ➔ Nearly **70% of global terrorism deaths** occurred in just **5 countries:** Pakistan; Burkina Faso; Nigeria; Niger; Democratic Republic of Congo
- ➔ **Islamic State (IS)** remains among the most lethal organisation.
- ➔ Other major groups: JNIM (Sahel region); Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP); Al-Shabaab (Somalia region)

India's Position in GTI 2026

- ➔ **India** ranked at 13th, shows relatively stable/improving.
- ➔ Major threats: Cross-border terrorism; Left-wing extremism (declining trend)

Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025, released by Transparency International on **February 10, 2026**, shows that the world is facing not just a corruption problem, but a wider crisis of governance, accountability and democratic safeguards.

- ➔ The **Corruption Perceptions Index** is the flagship publication of **Transparency International**.
- ➔ It is a global civil society organisation founded in **1993** and headquartered in **Berlin, Germany**.
- ➔ The CPI evaluates countries on the basis of **perceived corruption in the public sector**, using data drawn from **expert assessments and business surveys**.
- ➔ A higher score reflects **cleaner governance**, stronger public institutions, and better accountability mechanisms.

Key Global Findings of CPI 2025

- ➔ The global average score declined to 42, marking the **first drop in more than a decade**.
- ➔ **122 out of 182 countries scored below 50**, indicating that a majority of countries continue to struggle with serious corruption issues.
- ➔ The top-performing countries in CPI 2025 are: Denmark – 89; Finland – 88; Singapore – 84; New Zealand – 81; Norway – 81
- ➔ **Denmark** has retained the top position for the **eighth consecutive year**, reflecting strong institutions, high administrative integrity, low tolerance for abuse of office, and effective accountability mechanisms.
- ➔ At the bottom of the index are: South Sudan and Somalia – 9; Venezuela – 10; Eritrea, Libya and Yemen – 13; Nicaragua and Sudan – 14; Equatorial Guinea, North Korea and Syria – 15.
- ➔ These countries are characterised by: conflict and civil strife; weak state capacity; restricted civil liberties; lack of judicial independence; authoritarian political control; poor enforcement of law.
- ➔ In **CPI 2025, India ranked 91st with a score of 39 out of 100**.
- ➔ This represents a **slight improvement in rank** compared with the previous year, when India was placed lower.
- ➔ However, India's score still remains **below the global average of 42**, indicating that significant governance challenges remain.
- ➔ India performs better than several Asian neighbours, but lags behind some regional peers: Bhutan – 71; China – 43; India – 39; Maldives – 39; Sri Lanka – 35; Nepal – 34; Pakistan – 28; Bangladesh – 24; Afghanistan/Myanmar – 16

International Intellectual Property Index, 2026

The 14th edition of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's International IP Index, **March 2026**, evaluates intellectual property systems across 55 global economies based on 53 unique criteria.

- ➔ The report highlights a concerning erosion of IP leadership among major economies, despite increased focus on helping SMEs leverage IP assets.
- ➔ The **United States, United Kingdom**, several **EU Member States, Japan**, and **South Korea** continue to dominate the top 10 rankings.

Top Nations		
Rank	Economy	Score
1	United States	95.15%
2	UK	93.98%
3	France	93.11%
4	Germany	92.02%
43	India	36.91%

- ➔ **India** ranked 43rd out of 55 economies in 2026, the same rank as in 2025, though its score rose from 36.45% to 36.91%.
- ➔ India's 2026 score is below the Asia average of 54.85 and far below the top 10 average of 90.91.

Network Readiness Index 2025

The **Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025**, released, on **February 4, 2026**, by the **Portulans Institute**, evaluates how effectively countries use digital networks, technology, and governance systems to drive development.

- ➔ The NRI is a global index that measures a country's readiness to leverage **information and communication technologies (ICTs)** for economic growth, governance, and societal transformation.
- ➔ The 2025 edition assesses **127 economies** using **53 indicators** grouped into four broad pillars: **Technology, People, Governance, and Impact**.
- ➔ **Global Top 5** – United States (Score: 79.13); Finland (Score: 75.82); Singapore (Score: 75.46); Denmark (Score: 75.14); Sweden (Score: 75.09)
- ➔ The lowest five ranked economies in NRI 2025 are Lesotho at 123rd, Madagascar at 124th, Angola at 125th, Mauritania at 126th and **Burundi** at 127th.
- ➔ India's performance in **NRI 2025** marks a significant improvement in digital readiness.
- ➔ The theme of NRI 2025 is **"AI Governance in a Global Context: Policy and Regulatory Approaches."**
- ➔ The country rose to the **45th position** globally, while its score increased to **54.43**, compared to **53.63** in 2024.

- ➔ India also ranked **2nd among lower-middle-income countries**, behind **Vietnam**, indicating that its digital performance is stronger than what might be expected from its income level alone.
- ➔ Further, India ranked **3rd** on indicators related to **domestic market scale** and **income inequality**.

Arrest of Venezuelan President

In January 2026, Venezuelan President **Nicolás Maduro** was captured by U.S. forces during **Operation Absolute Resolve**, after which Venezuela's Supreme Court directed Vice President Delcy Rodríguez to assume the role of acting president.

- ➔ Venezuela is located in South America and its capital is Caracas.
- ➔ Nicolás Maduro had been Venezuela's president since 2013.
- ➔ **Delcy Rodríguez** was serving as Venezuela's Vice President since 2018.
- ➔ Rodríguez is associated with the Bolivarian socialist movement linked to Hugo Chávez.
- ➔ The incident raised questions related to state sovereignty, unilateral intervention and international law.
- ➔ The issue was linked to debate over **UN Charter Article 2(4)**, which prohibits the use of force against another state.
- ➔ Opposition groups demanded fresh democratic elections after Maduro's removal.

Responsible Nations Index 2026

The Responsible Nations Index was launched in New Delhi on **January 19, 2026**, by former President **Ram Nath Kovind**. India has secured the **16th rank globally** among 154 countries in the **Responsible Nations Index 2026**, released by the **World Intellectual Foundation**.

- ➔ The Responsible Nations Index (RNI) is a global framework designed to measure responsible national conduct through a multidimensional approach.
- ➔ The index evaluates 154 countries based on data from the World Bank, UN agencies, and the World Justice Project to measure responsibility towards people, the planet, and the international community.
- ➔ Developed by the World Intellectual Foundation (WIF), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and IIM Mumbai, the RNI is designed as an alternative to traditional, Western-normative, and GDP-based indices.
- ➔ India ranked **16th globally** with a score of **0.551513**, placing it among top-performing nations.
- ➔ India's ranking is significant as it surpasses several economically stronger countries, demonstrating balanced development and responsible governance.

Global Rankings – Top Countries

Rank	Country	Score
1	Singapore	0.61945
2	Switzerland	0.58692
3	Denmark	0.58372
4	Cyprus	0.57737
5	Sweden	0.57397
16	India	0.551513

Lowest Ranked Countries

- ➔ Afghanistan; North Korea; Yemen; Syria; Central African Republic
- ➔ This reflects the importance of governance stability and global cooperation in national responsibility.

The Global Risks Report 2026

The Global Risks Report 2026 is the **21st edition** of World Economic Forum's (WEF)'s annual report and was published on January 14, 2026, warns that the world is entering an "Age of Competition"—a phase where geopolitical rivalry, economic weaponization, technology disruption and climate stress are interacting and creating cascading crises.

- ➔ The World Economic Forum defines a global risk as an event or condition that can cause significant negative impact on:
 - ➔ Global GDP
 - ➔ World population
 - ➔ Natural resources and ecosystems
- ➔ Such risks are cross-border, interconnected, and capable of triggering cascading crises.
- ➔ The report is built mainly on:
 - ➔ **Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS)** for global-level risk severity and interconnections.
 - ➔ **Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)** for country-level "national risk perceptions".
- ➔ The report uses three time horizons: **immediate (2026)**, **short-to-medium term (to 2028)**, and **long term (to 2036)**.

Top 5 Global Risks ranked by severity

- ➔ **Short term (2 years):**
 - ➔ Geo-economic confrontation
 - ➔ Misinformation & disinformation
 - ➔ Societal polarization
 - ➔ Extreme weather events
 - ➔ State-based armed conflict
- ➔ **Long term (10 years):**
 - ➔ Extreme weather events
 - ➔ Biodiversity loss & ecosystem collapse
 - ➔ Critical change to Earth systems
 - ➔ Misinformation & disinformation
 - ➔ Adverse outcomes of AI technologies
- ➔ Inequality is shown as the most interconnected global risk (linked strongly with economic and social risks).

India's Risk Outlook

- ➔ For India, the key risks identified include:
 - ⊖ Cybersecurity (Top risk for 2026)
 - ⊖ Income and wealth inequality
 - ⊖ Insufficient public services
 - ⊖ Economic downturn
 - ⊖ State-based armed conflict
- ➔ India's risk profile emphasizes governance capacity, digital resilience, and inclusive growth.

Asia Manufacturing Index, 2026

On January 12, 2026, the Asia Manufacturing Index (AMI) 2026, published by Dezan Shira & Associates, places India at 6th position among 11 Asian economies.

Performance of Other Asian Economies

Rank	Country	Key Strength
1	China	Strong industrial base and integrated supply chains
2	Malaysia	Policy reforms and investor-friendly environment
3	Vietnam	Export-driven manufacturing growth
4	Singapore	Advanced infrastructure and innovation
5	South Korea	High-technology manufacturing
6	India	Market size and workforce strength

The World Inequality Report 2026

In December 2025, the World Inequality Report 2026 (3rd edition), published by the World Inequality Lab and edited by economists like Thomas Piketty and Lucas Chancel, reveals that global economic and environmental disparities remain at an extreme and persistent level.

- ➔ The report highlights unprecedented concentration of wealth at the global level:
 - ⊖ The **top 10% of the global population controls nearly 75% of total wealth**, while the **bottom 50% owns only 2%**.
 - ⊖ The **top 1% holds around 37% of global wealth**, exceeding the combined wealth of the bottom half of the world.
 - ⊖ The **wealthiest 0.001% (about 60,000 individuals) possess three times more wealth than the poorest 50% globally**.
- ⊖ In 1980, economic power was largely concentrated in Europe and North America.
- ⊖ China has experienced major upward mobility, moving large segments of its population into the global middle class.
- ⊖ Sub-Saharan Africa continues to remain highly concentrated in lower income percentiles.
- ⊖ This reflects uneven globalisation and structural disparities in development outcomes.
- ➔ The report identifies India as one of the most unequal countries globally.

- ⊖ The **top 10% earns 58% of national income**.
- ⊖ The **bottom 50% receives only 15% of income**.
- ⊖ The disparity has widened compared to earlier assessments.
- ⊖ The richest 10% owns about 65% of national wealth.
- ⊖ The top 1% alone holds around 40% of total wealth.
- ⊖ Average annual income per capita: €6,200 (PPP).
- ⊖ Average wealth per adult: €28,000 (PPP).
- ➔ These figures highlight that while India has witnessed economic growth, wealth creation remains highly concentrated.
- ➔ Globally, women earn **61% of men's wages** when unpaid work is excluded.
- ➔ When unpaid care work is included, women earn only **32% of male income**.
- ➔ Women receive just **25% of global labour income**, showing minimal progress over decades.
- ➔ Female labour force participation remains extremely low at **15.7%**, reflecting structural barriers such as social norms, skill gaps, and unpaid care responsibilities.
- ➔ The report introduces climate inequality as a major global concern:
 - ⊖ The **top 10% contributes 77% of emissions linked to private capital ownership**.
 - ⊖ The **poorest 50% contributes only 3% of such emissions**.
 - ⊖ The **wealthiest 1% is responsible for 41% of emissions**, almost double that of the bottom 90%.
- ➔ This indicates that those contributing least to climate change face the highest vulnerability, raising issues of climate justice and equity.
- ➔ The report highlights systemic financial imbalances:
 - ⊖ Approximately **1% of global GDP annually flows from poorer to richer nations** through financial and investment mechanisms.
 - ⊖ Developed countries benefit from lower borrowing costs and higher investment returns, reinforcing global economic hierarchy.

Commitment to Development Index (CDI) 2025

The Commitment to Development Index (CDI) 2025, released by the Center for Global Development on November 20, 2025, measures how major economies support or hinder development in poorer countries through policies that go beyond foreign aid.

- ➔ **Top performers:** Sweden (1st), Germany (2nd), Norway (3rd), followed by Finland and the UK.
- ➔ **Major economies underperform:** The **U.S. ranks 28th** and **China 34th**, showing limited development-friendly policies.
- ⊖ India ranks 36th overall and 30th on the income-adjusted rank, not 29th.

- This indicates that India's development policies are more progressive **relative to its resource base**.
- India ranks 8th in Environment among the 38 CDI economies, in Trade and Development Finance (**Both Rank 38th**).

India at UNESCO 2025

In 2025, India was re-elected to UNESCO's Executive Board for the 2025–29 term and **Deepavali** was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

- UNESCO stands for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- UNESCO was established in 1945, and its headquarters is in **Paris**, France. India has been a UNESCO member since 1946.
- The UNESCO Executive Board has 58 member states elected for four-year terms.
- The Executive Board is one of UNESCO's three main organs, along with the General Conference and the Secretariat.
- **Deepavali** was inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) list on 10 December 2025.
- The inscription happened during the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in New Delhi.
- The session was held from 8–13 December 2025 at the Red Fort, New Delhi.
- Deepavali was inscribed under the domain of social practices, rituals and festive events.
- Deepavali became the 16th Indian element on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.
- UNESCO's ICH framework is based on the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- ICH includes living traditions such as oral traditions, rituals, festivals, performing arts, knowledge systems and craftsmanship.
- India's other UNESCO ICH elements include **Kumbh Mela, Durga Puja in Kolkata, Ramlila and Yoga**.
- 47th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee
- ☐ **47th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee**
- The 47th session was held from **6–16 July 2025** in Paris, France.
- The session added 26 new World Heritage Sites, including 21 cultural, 4 natural and 1 mixed site.
- The World Heritage Committee has 21 members elected from State Parties to the 1972 World Heritage Convention.
- The **46th session** of the World Heritage Committee was held in **New Delhi**, India.
- Three African sites were removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger: Rainforests of the Atsinanana, Abu Mena and Old Town of Ghadamès.

- **Maratha Military Landscapes** of India was inscribed on 11 July 2025 as India's 44th World Heritage property.
- It is a serial property of 12 forts located in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- The **12 forts** are Raigad, Shivneri, Pratapgad, Rajgad, Sindhudurg, Lohagad, Vijaydurg, Salher, Suvarnadurg, Khanderi, Panhala and Gingee.
- **Gingee Fort** is located in Tamil Nadu, while the other forts are in Maharashtra.
- India now has 44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including 36 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed site.
- India's recent inscriptions include Dholavira and Ramappa Temple in 2021, Santiniketan and Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas in 2023, Moidams in 2024, and Maratha Military Landscapes in 2025.

UN World Urbanization Prospects 2025

The United Nations (UN) released the World Urbanization Prospects (WUP) 2025 Revision in **November 2025**, published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA):

- **Jakarta (Indonesia)** ranks first with an estimated population of **42 million**.
- **Dhaka (Bangladesh)** follows with **37 million**, while **Tokyo (Japan)** slips to third place with **33 million**.
- **Nine of the world's ten most populous cities** are located in Asia, including Jakarta, Dhaka, Tokyo, New Delhi, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Manila, Kolkata and Seoul.

The Global Hunger Index 2025

The Global Hunger Index 2025 marks the **20th edition** of the report, published by Concern Worldwide, Welthungerhilfe and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV).

- The global average GHI score for 2025 is **18.3**, indicating a “moderate” hunger level overall, but progress has been minimal.
- The report uses four core indicators: **undernourishment** (insufficient dietary energy), **child stunting** (children under 5 with low height for age), **child wasting** (children under 5 with low weight for height), and **child mortality** (children under 5 who die) to calculate a composite GHI score for countries.
- Hunger reduction has **stalled** since about 2016: though the score improved slightly from ~19 in 2016 to 18.3 in 2025, the pace is far too slow.
- The GHI 2025 identifies **seven countries** in the “alarming” hunger category: **Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Yemen, Madagascar, Somalia and South Sudan**.

- ➔ Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the **worst hunger scores**, driven by chronic undernourishment, child mortality, weak food systems.
- ➔ According to the 2025 Global Hunger Index report, **Somalia** occupies the bottom-most position with the worst level of hunger.
- ➔ A cluster of 25 countries share the top tier with the lowest hunger levels globally: Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Costa Rica etc.
- ➔ **India** ranks **102nd** out of 123 countries evaluated, with a score of 25.8. Severity Category: **Serious**.
- ➔ The persistent severity in India is primarily driven by high rates of child malnutrition.
- ➔ Approximately 35% of children under the age of five are stunted, and 18% suffer from child wasting.

Nobel Prize 2025

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025

- ➔ The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025 was awarded to **Susumu Kitagawa (Japan)**, **Richard Robson (Australia)** and **Omar M. Yaghi (USA)** for the development of **metal-organic frameworks (MOFs)**.
- ➔ MOFs are porous crystalline materials made of metal ions and organic linkers.
- ➔ MOFs are useful in gas storage, carbon capture, catalysis, water harvesting and molecular separation.

Nobel Prize in Physics 2025

- ➔ The **2025 Nobel Prize in Physics** was awarded to **John Clarke (UK)**, **Michel H. Devoret (France)**, and **John Martinis (USA)**.
- ➔ The trio was recognized for the discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in electrical circuits.
- ➔ **Macroscopic quantum tunnelling** shows that quantum effects can occur in larger engineered systems such as electric circuits.
- ➔ A **Josephson junction** consists of two superconductors separated by a thin insulating layer.
- ➔ Josephson junctions are important components in qubits, used in quantum computing.

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2025

- ➔ The **2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** was awarded for **groundbreaking discoveries related to peripheral immune tolerance**, a mechanism that prevents the immune system from attacking the body's own tissues.
- ➔ The award recognized the contributions of:
 - ➊ **Shimon Sakaguchi (Japan)** – for discovering **Regulatory T-Cells (Tregs)**, a specialized class of immune cells.
 - ➋ **Mary E. Brunkow and Fred Ramsdell (USA)** – for identifying the **FOXP3 gene**, which regulates immune tolerance.

- ➔ Peripheral immune tolerance prevents the immune system from attacking the body's own tissues.
- ➔ Regulatory T-cells (Tregs) suppress self-reactive immune cells and help prevent autoimmune diseases.
- ➔ The **FOXP3 gene** is important for the development and function of regulatory T-cells.
- ➔ These insights are revolutionizing treatments for **autoimmune diseases, organ transplantation, and cancer immunotherapy**.
- ➔ **Indian-Origin Laureate (1968):** Har Gobind Khorana, for decoding the **genetic code** that guides protein synthesis.

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2025

- ➔ The **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** awarded the **2025 Nobel Prize in Economics** to **Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt** for explaining innovation-driven economic growth.
- ➔ Aghion and Howitt are associated with the theory of growth through creative destruction.
- ➔ Creative destruction refers to the replacement of old technologies and firms by new innovations.
- ➔ The official name of the award is the **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel**, established in **1968** by Sweden's Central Bank..
- ➔ The first prize was awarded in **1969**, marking the beginning of recognition for economic research as a driver of human progress.

Nobel Prize in Literature 2025

- ➔ The **Swedish Academy** awarded the **2025 Nobel Prize in Literature** to **László Krasznahorkai**, a **Hungarian** novelist and screenwriter.
- ➔ Krasznahorkai is renowned for his **distinct, extended sentence style** and **philosophical depth**.
- ➔ His celebrated novels include *Satantango* (1985) and *The Melancholy of Resistance* (1989).
- ➔ **Citation:** The Academy honored him for “an introspective body of work that reaffirms art's enduring humanistic power amid apocalyptic themes.”
- ➔ His writing reflects existential reflection, spiritual endurance, and the human condition in the face of social and moral collapse.

Nobel Peace Prize 2025

- ➔ The **Norwegian Nobel Committee** awarded the **2025 Nobel Peace Prize** to **María Corina Machado**, a Venezuelan opposition leader.
- ➔ She was recognized for her **commitment to democratic rights** and her efforts to enable a peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy in Venezuela.
- ➔ **Political Leadership:** As the head of the **Vente Venezuela** party, Machado has mobilized civil movements.

Global Liveability Index 2025

- ➔ The **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** in **June, 2025** released its much-anticipated **Global Liveability Index 2025**, evaluating **173 cities** around the world.
- ➔ The index is built on 30 qualitative and quantitative indicators across **five key categories**: stability, healthcare, education, infrastructure, and culture & environment.
- ➔ The index reflects how comfortable and liveable a city is, considering both quality of life and availability of essential services.
- ➔ Cities in the **Middle East and Africa** ranked among the **least liveable** due to conflict, poor infrastructure, and instability.
- ➔ **Copenhagen** claimed the **top spot** as the **world's most liveable city**, ending **Vienna's three-year reign**.
 - ☞ The Danish capital earned **perfect scores (100)** in **stability, education, and infrastructure**.
- ➔ **Vienna (Austria)** slipped in the rankings due to a **sharp drop in its stability score**, attributed to **terror threats**.
- ➔ **India's Position**: Both Delhi and Mumbai ranked **141st** out of 173 cities.

Top Cities			Bottom Cities		
Rank	City, Country	Index	Rank	City, Country	Index
1	Copenhagen, Denmark	98	173	Damascus, Syria	30.7
2	Vienna, Austria	97.1	172	Tripoli, Libya	40.1
2	Zurich, Switzerland	97.1	171	Dhaka, Bangladesh	41.7
4	Melbourne, Australia	97	170	Karachi, Pakistan	42.7
5	Geneva, Switzerland	96.8	169	Algiers, Algeria	42.8

Global Gender Gap Report - 2025

The **19th** edition of the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 was released on **June 11, 2025**. This report was released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.

About the Report

- ➔ It was started in 2006.
 - ☞ In this edition, a **total of 148 economies** are included in the list.
- ➔ The report presents a dire picture of the current state and evolution of gender parity across **four key dimensions**:
 - ☞ Economic Participation and Opportunity
 - ☞ Educational Attainment
 - ☞ Health and Survival
 - ☞ Political Empowerment

- ➔ **Score**: The Global Gender Gap Index measures scores on a 0-1 scale.

Top 5 Economies:

Rank 2025	Economy	Score 2025 (0-1, 1 = parity)
1	Iceland	0.926
2	Finland	0.879
3	Norway	0.863
4	United Kingdom	0.838
5	New Zealand	0.827

- ➔ European countries account for eight of the top ten rankings; Iceland, Finland, Norway, and Sweden have all been in the top ten since 2006.

Bottom 5 Countries:

Rank 2025	Economy	Score 2025 (0-1, 1 = parity)
148	Pakistan	0.567
147	Sudan	0.570
146	Chad	0.571
145	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.583
144	Guinea	0.595

- ➔ **India** has dropped to **131st** place among **148 countries in 2025**. In 2024 India's rank was 129th among 146 economies. Although some indicators show modest improvement, India continues to lag behind many of its South Asian neighbours.

☞ **India's Gender Parity Score: 64.4%.**

Political Empowerment – Major Concern

- ➔ India's performance **dropped significantly** in this area.
- ➔ **Women's representation in Parliament declined** from **14.7% (2024)** to **13.8% (2025)**.
- ➔ The percentage of **female ministers also fell**, from **6.5% to 5.6%**.
- ➔ This is a **continued downward trend from the 2019 high of 30%**, making this India's weakest area of performance.

Regional Comparison in South Asia:

- ➔ **Bangladesh** surged 75 places to **24th**, led by strong political empowerment.
- ➔ **Nepal (125)**, **Bhutan (119)**, and **Sri Lanka (130)** all ranked higher than India.
- ➔ Only **Maldives (138)** and **Pakistan (148)** ranked lower in the region.

UN Sustainable Development Report 2025

- ➔ On **June 24, 2025** Sustainable Development Report (SDR), 2025 was released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

- ➔ According to the 2025 Sustainable Development Report (SDR), none of the 17 Global Goals are on track to be fully achieved by 2030, and Only about 17% of SDG targets are on track to be achieved by 2030.
- ➔ 190 out of 193 UN countries have presented national SDG action plans.
- ➔ **Top Regional Progress: East and South Asia** show fastest SDG progress since 2015.
 - Driven by gains in **socioeconomic targets**.
- ➔ **High-Performing Countries:** Notable progress in Benin, Nepal, Peru, UAE, Uzbekistan, Costa Rica, and Saudi Arabia.
- ➔ **Top Rankings:** Finland leads the SDG Index. 19 of the top 20 are European countries (China ranks 49th).
- ➔ **Global SDGs Off-Track:** No SDG is on track to be met by 2030.
- ➔ **Fiscal Constraints in Developing Countries:** Half the world lacks resources for SDG investment due to debt and limited capital access.
- ➔ **Call for Financial Reform:** Global Financial Architecture (GFA) favors rich countries.
 - Capital should shift to **Emerging and Developing Economies (EMDEs)** with higher returns.

Top 3 countries leading in the UN Sustainable Development Goals Index 2025		
Rank 2025	Country	Score 2025
1	Finland	87.0
2	Sweden	85.7
3	Denmark	85.3

Bottom 3 countries lagging in the UN Sustainable Development Goals Index 2025		
Rank	Country	Score
167	South Sudan	41.6
166	Central African Republic	45.2
165	Chad	46.0

- ➔ **India** ranked 99th out of 167 ranked countries in the 2025 SDG Index, with a score of 66.95, approximately 67.0.
- ➔ India has improved steadily over the past four years, rising from 109th in 2024, 112th in 2023, 121st in 2022, and 120th in 2021.
- ➔ In regional comparison, India still trails several of its neighbours.
- ➔ Bhutan is ranked 74th (70.5), Nepal 85th (68.6), and the **Maldives** 53rd. Sri Lanka stands at 93rd, while Bangladesh and Pakistan lag behind at 114th and 140th, respectively.

C. International Conferences/Summits/Organisations

India at G7 Summit

The **52nd G7 Summit** took place in **Évian-les-Bains, France**, from **June 15-17, 2026**. Under the French presidency, the meeting gathered leaders from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, the US, and the EU, alongside invited outreach nations like India and Brazil, to address pressing global challenges.

□ Key Outcomes and Discussions

- ➔ Discussions were heavily centered on the resolution of recent conflicts in West Asia (such as the Iran-US deal) and ongoing efforts to support Ukraine against Russia.
- ➔ Leaders addressed disruptions in vital waterways, focusing on demining operations and escort missions for the Strait of Hormuz to ensure safe energy and trade transit.
- ➔ Indian **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** also specifically emphasized the security of seafarers and maritime trade routes.
- ➔ The G7 reaffirmed the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and called for the complete denuclearization of North Korea.
- ➔ The leaders adopted multiple joint declarations tackling: Public Health & Tech; Migration & Crime;

Economy & Supply Chains. The 2026 G7 Summit in Évian-les-Bains was viewed as a major diplomatic success that solidified New Delhi's role as the indispensable **voice of the Global South** and a central player in global policy making.

- ➔ Marking India's 13th guest invitation and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 7th consecutive appearance, the event highlighted how Western nations increasingly view India as vital for stabilizing supply chains, counterbalancing China, and regulating tech.
- ➔ The **51st G7 Summit** took place in **June 2025** in **Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada**, under the Canadian presidency led by Prime Minister Mark Carney.
- ➔ The 53rd G7 Summit will be hosted by the United States in 2027.

President of the 81st UNGA Session

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister and veteran diplomat **Khalilur Rahman** has been elected President of the **81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** and will begin his one-year term on September 8, 2026.

- ➔ The **United Nations General Assembly** is the most representative forum of the United Nations.
- ➔ It provides a platform where all UN member states can deliberate on major international issues, including peace and security, development, human rights and international law.
- ➔ Khalilur Rahman was elected after a closely contested secret ballot against **Andreas Kakouris of Cyprus**.
- ➔ The presidency for the 81st session fell to the **Asia-Pacific Group** under the UN's regional rotation practice, which made Bangladesh eligible to field its candidate.
- ➔ **Humayun Rasheed Choudhury of Bangladesh** was President of the **41st Session** of the General Assembly in 1986.
- ➔ **Theme of the 81st Session: "Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations that Delivers for All."**

BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting 2026

India hosted the **BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting** in **New Delhi on 14–15 May 2026** under its BRICS Chairship.

- ➔ **BRICS** is a grouping of major emerging markets and developing economies.
- ➔ It was formalised during the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in **2006**.
- ➔ The first BRIC Summit was held in **Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009**. South Africa joined in 2010 and attended the 3rd Summit in Sanya, China, turning BRIC into BRICS.
- ➔ BRICS has expanded significantly in recent years.
- ➔ According to the official BRICS India 2026 website, the grouping now includes **eleven member countries**: Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

□ India's BRICS Chairship 2026

- ➔ India is chairing BRICS for the **fourth time in 2026**, after having earlier chaired the grouping in **2012, 2016 and 2021**.
- ➔ The theme of India's 2026 Chairship is **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"**.
- ➔ The BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting was held in **New Delhi on 14–15 May 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam**.
- ➔ The meeting was chaired by India's External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar**.

□ 17th BRICS Summit, 2025

The **17th BRICS Summit** was held from July 6–7, 2025, in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**.

- ➔ The organization expanded from its five original members—Brazil, China, India, Russia, and South Africa (2010)—by adding Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia during 2024–2025, though Saudi Arabia has not yet formally confirmed its membership
- The main theme of the summit was **"Strengthening Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance."**
- **Indonesia** also participated as the newest full member of BRICS.
- ➔ The details of the leaders from the BRICS countries who participated in the 2025 BRICS Summit are as follows:

Country	Participant
Brazil	Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (President)
Russia	Sergey Lavrov (Foreign Minister); Vladimir Putin (President - virtual participation)
India	Narendra Modi (Prime Minister)
China	Li Qiang (Prime Minister)
South Africa	Cyril Ramaphosa (President)
Egypt	Mostafa Madbouly (Prime Minister)
Ethiopia	Abiy Ahmed (Prime Minister)
Iran	Abbas Araghchi (Foreign Minister)
UAE	Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Al Nahyan (Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi)
Indonesia	Prabowo Subianto (President)

- ➔ The previous **16th BRICS Summit** was held in October 2024 in **Kazan, Russia**, while the **18th BRICS Summit** will be held in **India in 2026**.

Non-Permanent Members of UNSC

On **3 June 2026**, the United Nations General Assembly elected **Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe** as non-permanent members of the **United Nations Security Council** for the **2027–2028 term**. Their term will begin on **1 January 2027** and end on **31 December 2028**.

- ➔ The United Nations Security Council is one of the main organs of the United Nations and has the **primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security**.
- ➔ Unlike many other UN bodies, Security Council decisions can have legal force for UN member states.

○ Newly Elected Members for 2027–2028

Region / Group	Newly Elected Member
Western European and Others Group	Austria Join @Apnapdfs

Western European and Others Group	Portugal
Asia-Pacific Group	Kyrgyzstan
Latin America and Caribbean Group	Trinidad and Tobago
African Group	Zimbabwe

- ➔ Germany received **104 votes** and failed to win either of the two available seats.
- ➔ Kyrgyzstan's election is historically significant because it will serve on the Security Council for the **first time since joining the United Nations in 1992**.
- ➔ It defeated the Philippines after **four rounds of voting**.
- ➔ This result brings renewed attention to **Central Asia**, a region located between Russia, China, South Asia and West Asia.

Common Criteria Development Board

India's chairmanship of the Common Criteria Development Board marks an important step in its role in global cybersecurity governance.

- ➔ India has been nominated to chair the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) for a two-year term.
- ➔ This development is linked to three important ideas: secure digital products, global recognition of cybersecurity certificates, and international standard-setting for information technology security.
- ➔ **Common Criteria** is a global framework used to evaluate the security properties of **IT products**.
- ➔ It provides a common method through which security claims made by a product developer can be assessed by independent evaluators.
- ➔ In simple terms, it helps answer whether a digital product has been tested against defined security requirements.
- ➔ ISO identifies ISO/IEC 15408 as the international standard dealing with "evaluation criteria for IT security."
- ➔ The current ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026 establishes the general concepts and model for evaluating the security properties of IT products.

Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting 2026

The Quad, or the Quadrilateral grouping of **India, the United States, Japan and Australia** the **11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting** was held in **New Delhi on May 26, 2026**, hosted by India.

- ➔ The Quad's origins are linked to cooperation among these countries during the **December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami relief operations**.
- ➔ **First Quad Officials Meeting** : 2007 (Manila, Philippines); Quad Foreign Ministers first met in September, 2019; elevated to leader-level in 2021.
- ➔ The 2026 meeting was held amid conflicts, geopolitical tensions and stress on global supply chains.
- ➔ The 2026 joint statement grouped Quad cooperation into four major pillars:
 1. Maritime and transnational security
 2. Economic prosperity and security
 3. Critical and emerging technologies
 4. Humanitarian assistance and emergency response
- ➔ A major outcome was the decision to coordinate maritime surveillance through the **Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC)**.
- ➔ The Quad also welcomed India's operationalisation of the Indian Ocean Region programme of the **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)** through the **Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region in Gurugram**.
- ➔ The Quad launched the **Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security**.
- ➔ The Quad announced the **Quad Critical Minerals Framework** to build fair, diversified and reliable critical minerals markets.
- ➔ The International Energy Agency, China controls approximately 91% of global refined output for rare earth elements.
- ➔ The Quad announced that the four countries would work with the **Government of Fiji** to advance port infrastructure and related activities.
- ➔ This followed the **Quad Ports of the Future Partnership Conference** hosted by India in October 2025.
- ➔ The Quad reaffirmed cooperation in **5G, 6G, artificial intelligence, secure digital ecosystems, digital identity standards and next-generation communication standards**.
- ➔ The statement also welcomed **Pax Silica** as a pillar of the Quad's economic security agenda.
- ➔ It connected artificial intelligence with reliable supply chains across the full technology stack, including critical minerals, advanced manufacturing, compute, semiconductors and trusted networks.

French G7 Presidency: One Health Summit 2026

From **April 5–7, 2026**, the One Health Summit 2026 was held in **Lyon, France**, under the French G7 Presidency, with the high-level summit coinciding with World Health Day on 7 April.

- ➔ One Health is an integrated approach linking the health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems.
- ➔ The summit brought together governments, international organisations, scientists, civil society, youth and local actors.
- ➔ The summit highlighted links between pandemics, antimicrobial resistance, climate change and biodiversity loss.
- ➔ The official theme focused on better health for all life and the planet.
- ➔ WHO notes that more than 60% of emerging infectious diseases reported globally come from animals.
- ➔ The One Health approach is supported by the Quadripartite, comprising WHO, FAO, UNEP and WOAHA.

WTO 14th Ministerial Conference (MC-14), 2026

In **March 2026**, the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC-14) was held in **Yaoundé, Cameroon**, where members failed to reach a broad consensus package, mainly due to differences over WTO reform and the e-commerce moratorium.

- ➔ The WTO Ministerial Conference is the highest decision-making body of the WTO.
- ➔ The WTO currently has 166 members.
- ➔ India's delegation was led by Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- ➔ Major agenda items included WTO reform, agriculture, fisheries subsidies, e-commerce, Investment Facilitation for Development and TRIPS issues.
- ➔ The e-commerce moratorium means WTO members do not impose customs duties on electronic transmissions.
- ➔ The e-commerce moratorium began in 1998 and became a major flashpoint at MC-14.
- ➔ Members failed to agree on extending the e-commerce moratorium.
- ➔ The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies entered into force on 15 September 2025.
- ➔ Fisheries subsidies talks continued at MC-14 for more comprehensive disciplines.
- ➔ TRIPS non-violation complaints allow a member to claim loss of expected IP benefits even without violation of a specific TRIPS rule.
- ➔ India's stand focused on food security, small farmers, traditional fishers, development concerns and policy space.

Raisina Dialogue 2026

From **5–7 March 2026**, the **11th Raisina Dialogue** was held in New Delhi under the **theme “Samskāra: Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement”**, the

President of Finland **Alexander Stubb** was the chief guest/keynote speaker.

- ➔ The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics.
- ➔ It is organised by **the Observer Research Foundation (ORF)** in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- ➔ The Raisina Dialogue was launched in 2016 and is held annually in New Delhi.
- ➔ The 2026 edition was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ➔ Around 2,700 delegates from about 110 countries participated in the 2026 edition.
- ➔ The Dialogue brings together heads of state, ministers, diplomats, military leaders, industry experts, academics and journalists.
- ➔ The Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (SDI) was launched during the 2026 edition by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and ORF.
- ➔ SDI aims to integrate science, technology and innovation with foreign policy and diplomacy.
- ➔ Important focus areas included AI governance, semiconductor supply chains, Digital Public Infrastructure and emerging technologies.
- ➔ The six thematic pillars included power and polarity, global commons, Agenda 2030, climate, technology and trade.

India–EU Summit 2026

On **27 January 2026**, the **16th India–EU Summit** was held in New Delhi, where India and the European Union adopted the “Towards 2030” strategic agenda and announced major outcomes in trade, security, mobility, climate and technology cooperation.

- ➔ The summit was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.
- ➔ The EU leaders visited India from 25–27 January 2026 as Chief Guests for India's 77th Republic Day.
- ➔ India and the EU announced the successful conclusion of negotiations on the India–EU Free Trade Agreement.
- ➔ India–EU FTA negotiations began in 2007, stalled in 2013, and resumed in June 2022.
- ➔ The FTA aims to improve market access, reduce tariffs, promote investments and strengthen supply chains.
- ➔ Key trade sectors include automobiles, wines and spirits, steel, textiles and services.
- ➔ The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) remains an important concern for India.
- ➔ India and the EU launched a Security and Defence Partnership covering maritime security, cybersecurity, counter-terrorism and defence industry cooperation.

- ➔ Talks were launched on a Security of Information Agreement for sharing classified information.
- ➔ A Comprehensive Mobility Framework was adopted to support legal mobility of skilled workers, students and researchers.
- ➔ India and the EU agreed to strengthen cooperation on green hydrogen, clean energy and climate action.
- ➔ The India–EU Science and Technology Agreement was renewed for 2025–2030.
- ➔ India and the EU discussed India's association with the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme.
- ➔ An agreement between India's NDMA and the EU's DG-ECHO focused on disaster risk reduction and emergency response.
- ➔ The "Towards 2030" agenda focuses on five pillars: prosperity and sustainability, technology and innovation, security and defence, connectivity and global challenges, and mobility and people-to-people ties.

2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

From **December 17-19, 2025**, the **2nd WHO Global Summit** on Traditional Medicine began at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, co-hosted by the WHO and India's Ministry of Ayush under the theme "Restoring balance: **The science and practice of health and well-being.**"

- ➔ The first WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was held in 2023 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ➔ The summit brought together policymakers, scientists, practitioners, Indigenous knowledge holders and civil society leaders from across the world.
- ➔ Traditional medicine refers to culture-based knowledge, skills and practices used to maintain health and treat illness.
- ➔ In India, traditional medicine systems are promoted under AYUSH.
- ➔ AYUSH includes Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy.
- ➔ Traditional medicine is used in 170 out of 194 WHO Member States.
- ➔ The **WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC)** is the first and only outpost global centre of the World Health Organization, headquartered in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

G20 Johannesburg Summit 2025

On **22–23 November 2025**, the 20th G20 Leaders' Summit was held in **Johannesburg, South Africa**, becoming the first G20 Summit hosted on African soil under the theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability."

- ➔ The Johannesburg Leaders' Declaration was adopted at the summit.

- ➔ The declaration used the African **philosophy of Ubuntu**, meaning shared humanity and interdependence.
- ➔ The summit focused on Global South priorities, development finance, climate action, debt reform and multilateral reform.
- ➔ G20 leaders supported reforms in the global financial architecture.
- ➔ The summit discussed debt relief, climate finance, food security and energy transition.
- ➔ The declaration reaffirmed commitment to the Paris Agreement and sustainable development.
- ➔ The summit welcomed initiatives on critical minerals, energy access, AI governance and social inclusion.
- ➔ **Mission 300** aims to provide electricity access to 300 million people in Africa by 2030.
- ➔ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** attended the summit, his 12th G20 Summit.
- ➔ India highlighted Global South concerns, climate finance, disaster resilience, food security and human-centric AI.
- ➔ India referred to the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as an example of disaster-resilient development.
- ➔ **India** proposed **six global initiatives**: Traditional Knowledge Repository, Africa Skills Multiplier, Global Healthcare Response Team, Open Satellite Data Partnership, Critical Minerals Circularity Initiative and Drug–Terror Nexus Initiative.
- ➔ The G20–Africa Skills Multiplier Initiative aims to train African youth through a train-the-trainer model.
- ➔ An **India Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA)** Meeting was held on the sidelines of the summit.
- ➔ At the IBSA meeting, India proposed cooperation in digital public infrastructure and climate-resilient agriculture.
- ➔ The **21st G20 Leaders' Summit** will take place in Miami, Florida, United States, the United Kingdom for 2027 and the Republic of Korea for 2028.

❑ ACITI Partnership

On **22 November 2025**, India, Australia and Canada launched the **Australia–Canada–India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership** on the sidelines of the **G20 Summit in Johannesburg** to deepen cooperation in critical and emerging technologies.

- ➔ ACITI is a trilateral technology and innovation partnership among India, Australia and Canada.
- ➔ It focuses on cooperation in critical and emerging technologies.
- ➔ Key areas include green energy innovation, responsible AI and critical mineral supply chains.

G20 Report on Global Inequality

In **November 2025**, the **first G20 Global Inequality Report** was released under South Africa's G20 Presidency.

- ➔ The report was prepared by the G20 Extraordinary Committee of Independent Experts on Global Inequality.
- ➔ The committee was chaired by Nobel laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz.
- ➔ Other members included **Jayati Ghosh**, Winnie Byanyima, Adriana Abdenur, Imraan Valodia and Wanga Zembe-Mkabile.
- ➔ Around 83% of countries have high income inequality with a Gini coefficient above 0.4.
- ➔ The **Gini coefficient** (or Gini index) is a statistical measure developed by **Italian statistician Corrado Gini** in 1912, commonly used to measure income or wealth inequality within a population.
- ➔ These high-inequality countries cover about 90% of the world's population.
- ➔ Between 2000 and 2024, the world's top 1% captured 41% of all new wealth.
- ➔ During the same period, the bottom 50% received only 1% of new global wealth.
- ➔ The richest 10% own about 74% of global wealth.
- ➔ About 2.3 billion people face moderate or severe food insecurity.
- ➔ The report proposed creating an International Panel on Inequality, similar to the IPCC model.
- ➔ In India, the wealth of the richest 1% increased by about 62% over the period discussed in the report.
- ➔ India's consumption-based Gini declined, but the report notes that wealth inequality remains high.
- ➔ The report links inequality with risks to democracy, food security, debt sustainability and development.

The 22nd ASEAN–India Summit

The 22nd ASEAN–India Summit and the 20th East Asia Summit were important regional meetings held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October, 2025**.

- ➔ The summit was chaired by Malaysian Prime Minister **Anwar Ibrahim**, as **Malaysia** held the **ASEAN Chairship in 2025**.
- ➔ Malaysia's ASEAN Chairship theme for 2025 was **"Inclusivity and Sustainability."**
- ➔ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** participated virtually in the summit.
- ➔ The summit reviewed the ASEAN–India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which was established in 2022.
- ➔ ASEAN–India relations began as a sectoral dialogue partnership in 1992.
- ➔ The ASEAN–India Plan of Action 2026–2030 focuses on trade, connectivity, digital economy, energy, education and culture.

- ➔ India declared **2026** as the **ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation**.
- ➔ India proposed the Second ASEAN–India Defence Ministers' Meeting and the Second ASEAN–India Maritime Exercise.
- ➔ India announced training for 400 ASEAN professionals in renewable energy to support the ASEAN Power Grid.
- ➔ India proposed a Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at **Nalanda University**.
- ➔ India announced the **East Asia Summit Maritime Heritage Festival** at **Lothal, Gujarat**.
- ➔ The ASEAN–India Joint Leaders' Statement on Sustainable Tourism was endorsed.
- ➔ India participates in ASEAN-led forums such as East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum and ADMM-Plus.
- ➔ **Timor-Leste** was admitted as the **11th member** of ASEAN on 26 October 2025 during the ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur.
- ➔ Timor-Leste, also called East Timor, became the first new ASEAN member since the 1990s.
- ➔ The **48th ASEAN Summit** was held in Cebu, the Philippines, on **8 May 2026** under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship.
- ➔ The Philippines' ASEAN Chairship theme for 2026 is **"Navigating Our Future, Together."**

☐ 20th East Asia Summit (EAS) - 2025

- ➔ On October 27 2025, the 20th East Asia Summit (EAS) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, marking 20 years of the EAS as a leaders-led forum for strategic dialogue in the Indo-Pacific.
- ➔ The summit was chaired by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.
- ➔ The East Asia Summit was established in 2005 through the Kuala Lumpur Declaration.

World Food India (WFI) 2025

From 25–28 September 2025, India hosted the **4th edition** of **World Food India 2025** at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries to promote investment and innovation in India's food processing sector.

- ➔ World Food India 2025 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 September 2025.
- ➔ It is a flagship international event of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- ➔ The event aimed to position India as a global food processing and value-added food manufacturing hub.
- ➔ **New Zealand** and **Saudi Arabia** participated as Partner Countries.
- ➔ Japan, UAE, Vietnam and Russia participated as Focus Countries.
- ➔ The event witnessed participation from over 90 countries and more than 2,000 exhibitors.

- ➔ WFI connects farmers, processors, exporters, investors, startups and policymakers.
- ➔ Key focus areas included food processing, packaging, logistics, technology, sustainability and investment promotion.
- ➔ India aims to reduce post-harvest losses and strengthen the food value chain through such initiatives.
- ❑ **The 7th Future Food Forum 2025**
- ➔ In **September 2025**, the 7th Future Food Forum 2025 opened in Dubai, focusing on food security, trade, agri-tech innovation and resilient food ecosystems.

India Elected to Interpol Asian Committee

On **September 19, 2025**, India was elected as a member of the INTERPOL Asian Committee during the **25th Asian Regional Conference** held in **Singapore** for a four-year term from 2025 to 2029.

- ➔ The INTERPOL Asian Committee is an advisory body to the Asian Regional Conference.
- ➔ The Committee helps identify regional priorities in fighting crime and improving police cooperation.
- ➔ India's election took place through a multi-stage voting process.
- ➔ India was represented by a delegation from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ➔ The CBI functions as India's National Central Bureau (NCB) for INTERPOL coordination.
- ➔ Key focus areas include organised crime, cybercrime, terrorism, human trafficking and drug trafficking.
- ➔ India's election strengthens its role in regional law enforcement cooperation.
- ➔ It can help India improve cooperation on fugitive tracking, Red Notices, cybercrime and terror financing.
- ➔ In 2021, India's **Praveen Sinha** was elected as Delegate for Asia on INTERPOL's Executive Committee.

- ➔ The eight color-coded notices by INTERPOL:
 - ⌚ **Red:** Locates/arrests wanted persons.
 - ⌚ **Yellow:** Locates and missing persons.
 - ⌚ **Blue:** Gathers information on suspects.
 - ⌚ **Green:** Alerts on criminal threats.
 - ⌚ **Orange:** Warns of imminent danger.
 - ⌚ **Purple:** Shares criminal modus operandi.
 - ⌚ **Black:** Identifies bodies.
 - ⌚ **Silver:** Tracks criminal assets (launched in January 2025)

25th SCO Summit 2025

The **25th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit** was held in **Tianjin, China (31 Aug–1 Sept 2025)**, attended by **PM Narendra Modi** and other leaders.

- ➔ The **Tianjin Declaration** condemned terrorism and, for the first time, **mentioned the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack in India**, a diplomatic win for New Delhi.
- ➔ Other incidents like the **Jaffer Express hijacking** and **Khuzdar school bus bombing** were also condemned.
- ➔ SCO structural reforms merged **observers and dialogue partners into 17 partners + 10 members**, with **Laos** joining as the newest partner.
- ➔ Four new **SCO centres** were launched for **security, organized crime, cyber threats, and drug trafficking**, and a decision was taken to set up an **SCO Development Bank**.
- ➔ Strategic documents included the **Development Strategy 2026–2035**, **Cooperation Programme 2026–2030**, and a **Roadmap for Energy Cooperation till 2030**.
- ➔ PM Modi's vision rested on **Security, Connectivity, and Opportunity**, stressing strong action against terrorism, backing **Chabahar Port** and **INSTC**, and promoting **startups, youth, and cultural exchange**.
- ➔ The declaration introduced a **Global Governance Initiative (GGI)** for sovereign equality and multilateralism, aligned with India's G20 vision.
- ➔ Member states opposed **unilateral sanctions**, condemned violence in **Gaza and Iran**, and called for **inclusive governance in Afghanistan**.
- ➔ India officially became a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on **June 9, 2017**.
- ➔ This induction took place during the historic Heads of State Council summit held in **Astana, Kazakhstan**, alongside Pakistan
- ➔ Modi's first China visit in seven years showed tentative thaw in ties, though the declaration **avoided naming Pakistan directly**, reflecting both **progress and limits** of India's diplomatic push.

- ➔ Chinese FM **Wang Yi** visited India (**August 18–19, 2025**), co-chaired the 24th SR talks with EAM Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval and met PM Modi.
- ➔ Both sides stressed peace on the border and continued dialogue.
- ➔ Agreed on resuming flights, easing visas, boosting trade/investment, expanding Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra (2026), and mutual support in SCO/BRICS.
- ➔ Cooperation areas: green energy, electronics, agriculture, supply chains, tech sharing.
- ➔ Special focus on Brahmaputra data, hydropower projects, and resolving agri-trade issues.
- ➔ Decided to resume border trade via Nathu La, Shipki La, and Lipulekh.

India signed an MoU with the ILO

On **16 September 2025**, India signed an MoU with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva to develop the International Reference Classification of Occupations (IRCO) for improving global recognition of skills and labour mobility.

- ➔ The MoU was signed by Arindam Bagchi, India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative in Geneva, and Gilbert F. Hounbo, Director-General of the ILO.
- ➔ Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya attended the signing virtually.

- ➔ The ILO is not only a UN specialised agency; it is also the only tripartite UN agency, bringing together governments, employers and workers of 187 Member States.
- ➔ IRCO aims to create a common global reference system for occupations based on skills and qualifications.
- ➔ It will improve skill comparability, cross-border job matching and recognition of Indian workers' skills.
- ➔ The initiative will help Indian youth access global employment opportunities.
- ➔ **N.M. Joshi** was India's first representative of labour at the International Labour Organization, attending the founding Washington Summit in 1919.

D. International Elections/Change in Governments

Balendra Shah Becomes Nepal's Youngest PM

On **March 27, 2026**, Balendra Shah, popularly known as Balen, became Nepal's youngest Prime Minister after the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) secured a strong mandate in the 2026 parliamentary election.

- ➔ Balendra Shah is a rapper, engineer and former Mayor of Kathmandu.
- ➔ He later joined the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP).
- ➔ The 2026 election followed the 2025 youth-led protests against corruption and poor governance.
- ➔ The protests led to the fall of the K. P. Sharma Oli-led government.
- ➔ Shah's rise reflected the growing role of young voters, anti-corruption politics and anti-establishment sentiment in Nepal.
- ➔ His campaign focused on clean governance, accountability, jobs and public service delivery.
- ➔ The RSP's victory weakened the dominance of Nepal's older political parties.
- ➔ Nepal is a landlocked Himalayan country located between India and China.
- ➔ Nepal's capital is Kathmandu.
- ➔ India and Nepal share an open border and close ties in trade, migration, culture, hydropower and security.

□ Nepal Gen Z Movement

- ➔ The Nepal Gen Z movement erupted in **September 2025** after the government **banned 26 social media platforms** (including Facebook, X, YouTube), a step widely seen as silencing dissent.
- ➔ The protests drew strength from anger over **systemic corruption and nepotism**, with "**Nepo Kids**" symbolism highlighting elite impunity.
- ➔ **Youth unemployment above 20%** and limited opportunities fuelled economic frustration and accelerated **brain drain** concerns.

- ➔ The upheaval led to the **resignation of PM K.P. Sharma Oli**, restoration of social media access, and the creation of a **political vacuum**.
- ➔ Protesters rejected traditional leaders and eventually rallied behind **Kulman Ghising** as a **technocratic, apolitical figure** associated with integrity and results.
- ➔ The **Nepal Army enforced a nationwide curfew**, maintained order, and engaged youth representatives to **facilitate a peaceful transition**.

- ➔ **Sushila Karki**, a former Chief Justice, was sworn in as the interim Prime Minister of Nepal.
- ➔ She is the first woman to hold the position of Prime Minister in Nepal.

○ World's First AI Minister

- ➔ In **September 2025**, **Albania** appointed Diella, an AI-powered virtual minister, to oversee public procurement and reduce corruption in government tendering.
- ➔ Diella means "sun" in the Albanian language.
- ➔ Diella functions through Albania's e-Albania digital governance portal.

○ France's New Prime Minister

- ➔ On **September 10, 2025**, **Sebastien Lecornu** took charge as the new Prime Minister of France.
- ➔ He was appointed by President Emmanuel Macron.
- ➔ His predecessor, François Bayrou, resigned after a vote of no confidence was passed in the National Assembly.

○ General Elections in Guyana, 2025

- ➔ In the general elections held on **September 1, 2025**, in the South American country of Guyana, President **Irfaan Ali** won and was re-elected for a second term.
- ➔ He became the first Muslim president of Guyana in 2020.

○ Anthony Albanese

- ➔ Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** sworn in as the Prime Minister of Australia for a second term on May 13, 2025.

○ Karol Nawrocki – Elected President of Poland

- ➔ Karol Nawrocki was elected as the President of Poland in **June 2025**.
- ➔ He will assume office in **August 2025**.
- ➔ He will succeed the incumbent President **Andrzej Duda**.

- ➔ He defeated the ruling Civic Coalition's candidate and Mayor of Warsaw, **Rafal Trzaskowski**, in the presidential election.

□ First Female Prime Minister of Japan

- ➔ On **October 21, 2025**, **Sanae Takaichi** became Japan's first female Prime Minister and was designated as the 104th Prime Minister of Japan by the National Diet.
- ➔ Sanae Takaichi is the first woman to become both Prime Minister of Japan and President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

E. International Disasters

Cyclone Ditwah and Hayli Gubbi Eruption

- ➔ Cyclone Ditwah affected Sri Lanka in the last week of **November 2025**.
 - ➔ The cyclone caused heavy rainfall, floods, landslides, casualties and displacement in Sri Lanka.
 - ➔ India launched Operation Sagar Bandhu as a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief mission for Sri Lanka.
 - ➔ Sagar Bandhu means Ocean Friend.
 - ➔ India deployed INS Vikrant, INS Udaygiri, INS Sukanya and an IAF C-130J aircraft for relief support.
 - ➔ Relief supplies included food, medicines, tents, blankets, hygiene kits and emergency stores.
 - ➔ The operation reflects India's role as a first responder in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Eruption of Ethiopia's Hayli Gubbi Volcano
- ➔ Hayli Gubbi is a volcano located in Ethiopia's Afar region near the Erta Ale volcanic range.
 - ➔ Hayli Gubbi erupted on 23 November 2025, marking its first documented explosive eruption in around 12,000 years.
 - ➔ The eruption released ash and volcanic gases up to about 15 km into the atmosphere.
 - ➔ Volcanic ash clouds affected aviation over the Arabian Peninsula, Pakistan and parts of India.
 - ➔ Volcanic ash is dangerous for aircraft because it can damage jet engines, avionics and visibility.
 - ➔ Ethiopia's Afar region lies in the East African Rift system, a tectonically active zone.

Hurricane Melissa

- In **October 2025**, Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Jamaica as a Category 5 hurricane, becoming the strongest hurricane recorded to strike the country.
- ➔ Hurricane Melissa formed in the central Caribbean in October 2025.

- ➔ It struck Jamaica as a Category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of about 295 km/h.
- ➔ Warm sea-surface temperatures, high moisture and low wind shear supported the storm's rapid intensification.

Super Typhoon Ragasa

- ➔ Ragasa formed over the western North Pacific around **September 18, 2025**.
- ➔ It rapidly intensified into a super typhoon on 21 September 2025.
- ➔ At peak intensity, Ragasa had estimated maximum sustained winds of about 230–265 km/h.
- ➔ It moved westwards across the Luzon Strait and the South China Sea.
- ➔ Ragasa affected the northern Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Guangdong in China and Vietnam.
- ➔ In the Philippines, Ragasa was locally named Nando.
- ➔ A super typhoon is a very intense tropical cyclone in the western Pacific with extremely high sustained winds.
- ➔ Tropical cyclones are called typhoons in the western Pacific and hurricanes in the Atlantic and eastern Pacific.

Earthquake in Kamchatka, Russia

- On **July 30, 2025**, a powerful 8.8 Mw earthquake struck off the eastern coast of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula.
- ➔ It recorded Intensity IX (Violent) on the Mercalli scale, with its epicenter 119 km east-southeast of Kamchatka at a depth of about 35 km.
 - ➔ The nearest major city was Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.
 - ➔ This was the most powerful global earthquake since the 2011 Tohoku disaster and tied as the sixth strongest in recorded history, along with the 1906 Ecuador-Colombia and 2010 Chile earthquakes.

News in Shorts

○ Scotland Legalises Water Cremation:

- ➔ Scotland has become the **first UK nation to legalise water cremation (alkaline hydrolysis)**.
- ➔ It introduces a **third funeral option** alongside burial and traditional cremation.
- ➔ The process is considered a **major reform since the cremation laws of 1902**.
- ➔ **Alkaline hydrolysis** uses water, heat, and **potassium hydroxide** to decompose the body.
- ➔ It produces **significantly lower carbon emissions (about 7 times less CO₂)** than traditional cremation.
- ➔ The method is seen as an **eco-friendly alternative with reduced pollution and energy use**.

○ Spain Becomes First European Country to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16

- ➔ Spain became the **first European country to ban social media for children under 16**.
- ➔ It is the **second country globally after Australia (December, 2025)** to take such a step.
- ➔ The announcement was made by **Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez** at the **World Government Summit, Dubai**.

○ India Gifts the Maldives Its First High-Speed Ferry

- ➔ India gifted **Maldives its first high-speed ferry** under the **HICDP Phase III agreement**.
- ➔ The ferry launches **Raajje Transport Link (RTL) services in Faafu and Dhaalu Atolls**.
- ➔ A total of **12 high-speed ferries** are planned under the project.

○ India Hosts First BRICS Sherpas Meeting 2026

- ➔ India hosted the first **BRICS Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas meeting** under its 2026 Chairship in New Delhi from February 9–10, 2026, setting the agenda for its fourth presidency.
- ➔ The meeting, led by India's BRICS Sherpa **Sudhakar Dalela**, centered on the theme **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,"** focusing on strengthening economic ties, innovation, and people-centric initiatives within the expanded BRICS bloc.

○ Pakistan–Afghanistan Escalation

- ➔ In late **February 2026**, Pakistan–Afghanistan tensions escalated.
- ➔ **Operation "Ghazab lil-Haq"** refers to Pakistan's military operation against targets it claimed were linked to Afghan-based militant threats.
- ➔ Pakistan accused the Afghan Taliban of sheltering or failing to act against the **Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**.

- ➔ The conflict is linked to the disputed **Durand Line**, the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- ➔ The **Durand Line** is about **2,640 km** long and was drawn in 1893.

○ Cyclone Gezani Hits Madagascar

- ➔ **Cyclone Gezani** hit **Madagascar** causing major destruction.
- ➔ It made landfall at **Toamasina (eastern port city)**.
- ➔ Wind speeds exceeded **195 km/h**, Gezani was an Intense Tropical Cyclone.
- ➔ At least **20 people were killed** and **33 injured**.
- ➔ Over **2,700 people were displaced**.
- ➔ Around **75% of infrastructure in Toamasina** was affected with power outages.

○ India Named Country of the Year at BIOFACH 2026, Leading in Organic Farming

- ➔ India was named **"Country of the Year"** at **BIOFACH 2026** held in **Nuremberg, Germany (10–13 Feb 2026)**.
- ➔ **BIOFACH** is the **world's largest organic trade fair**.
- ➔ India's participation is led by **APEDA (Ministry of Commerce & Industry)**.
- ➔ The **India Pavilion (1,074 sq. m.)** hosted **67 exhibitors** including **FPOs, exporters, and state bodies**.
- ➔ Products showcased include **organic rice, spices, oilseeds, pulses, herbs, and value-added products**.
- ➔ Participation from **20+ States/UTs** highlights India's agricultural diversity.
- ➔ "Five GI-tagged rice varieties were highlighted: **Indrayani, Navara, Gobindbhog, Red rice, and Chak Hao (Black rice)**."
- ➔ The recognition highlights India's **growing leadership in global organic farming and exports**.
- ➔ Globally, **Australia** leads the world in terms of total land area under organic farming, dedicating over 53 million hectares to it.
- ➔ **India** ranks second globally in organic agricultural land and is the worldwide leader in the sheer number of organic producers.
- ➔ **Madhya Pradesh** leads in total certified organic farming area.

○ India Launches e-B-4 Business Visa

- ➔ In **January, 2026** India introduced a new **e-Production Investment Business Visa (e-B-4)** for Chinese nationals.
- ➔ The new system allows eligible professionals to complete the entire visa process online – eliminating the need to visit Indian embassies or consulates.

○ The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Index 2025/26

- ➔ The WPS Index 2025/26 (by Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and PRIO) ranks 181 countries on Inclusion, Justice, and Security (scores 0–1, higher is better).
- ➔ 676 million women were exposed to conflict in 2024, a 74% rise since 2010.
- ➔ Women's well being has largely stagnated or declined globally, including in high-income countries.
- ➔ **Top 5:** Denmark (0.939), Iceland (0.932), Norway (0.924), Sweden (0.924), Finland (0.921).
- ➔ **Bottom 5:** Afghanistan (0.279), Yemen (0.323), Central African Republic (0.362), Syria (0.364), Sudan (0.397).
- ➔ **India** ranks 131 with a score of 0.607, with challenges in women's safety, labour force participation, and political leadership.
- ➔ Regionally, East Asia & Pacific improves steadily, while high-income countries stagnate.

○ Operation Hawkeye Strike

- ➔ On **December 19 2025**, Operation Hawkeye Strike was a joint **U.S.–Jordan operation** in **Syria**.
- ➔ It followed an ISIS attack in Palmyra on December 13, 2025.
- ➔ Two Iowa National Guard soldiers were killed, and three U.S. soldiers were injured.

○ Russia to establish its first naval base in Africa, in Sudan

- ➔ Sudan has approved an agreement allowing Russia to establish its first naval base in Africa, near Port Sudan on the Red Sea, after talks between Sudan's FM Ali Youssef Ahmed al-Sharif and Russia's FM Sergei Lavrov in Moscow.
- ➔ The move strengthens Russia's presence in a crowded theatre where other major powers already operate.
- ➔ It is also discussed as a hedge against uncertainty around Russia's naval access in Tartus, Syria.

○ 2,000-Year-Old Kushan Coins from King Vasudeva's Era Found in Pakistan's Rawalpindi

- ➔ Archaeologists found bronze Kushan coins of King Vasudeva I at Bhir Mound (near Taxi-la, Rawalpindi, Pakistan), along with lapis lazuli fragments.
- ➔ The coins date to the 2nd century CE, while the lapis lazuli fragments date to ~6th century BCE, pointing to long-standing trade activity.
- ➔ Numismatic analysis notes coin imagery of the king on the obverse and a female deity on the reverse, indicating religious pluralism.
- ➔ The find reinforces Taxila's role as a key Kushan-era hub linked to wider Silk Route trade networks across Central and South Asia.

○ Finke River: the world's oldest surviving river system

- ➔ Australia's Finke River is recognised as the world's oldest surviving river system, with studies dating it to 300–400 million years.
- ➔ It lies across the Northern Territory and South Australia, is about 640 km long, and is called Lhere-pirnte, meaning 'salty river' by the Arrernte people.
- ➔ It flows through the MacDonnell Ranges and is an antecedent river, meaning it maintained its course during mountain uplift by eroding downward, cutting gorges through the ranges.

○ India, Netherlands Join Hands to Promote Lothal Maritime Heritage

- ➔ India and the Netherlands signed an MoU (December 2025) to strengthen maritime heritage cooperation for the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.
- ➔ The NMHC is being developed under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- ➔ The MoU was exchanged during talks between EAM S. Jaishankar and Dutch FM David van Weel.
- ➔ The NMHC will collaborate with the National Maritime Museum, Amsterdam on museum planning/design, curation, conservation, plus joint exhibitions, research and cultural exchanges.

○ India hosted the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth

- ➔ India hosted the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in New Delhi (**14–16 January 2026**).
- ➔ It brought 61 Speakers/Presiding Officers from 42 Commonwealth countries and 4 semi-autonomous parliaments, making it one of the largest editions.
- ➔ CSPOC was created in 1969 on the initiative of Lucien Lamoureux (Canada) and functions as an independent body, with secretariat support provided by Canada.
- ➔ India has hosted CSPOC in 1970–71, 1986, 2010, and 2026, and the 29th CSPOC is scheduled in London (2028).
- ➔ Key themes in 2026 included AI/digital tools in parliamentary work, social media's impact on legislative discourse, strengthening democratic institutions/public engagement, and security, health and wellbeing of MPs.
- ➔ The conference was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi at Samvidhan Sadan and chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

○ CEC Gyanesh Kumar to Chair International IDEA Council for 2026

- ➔ On **December 3, 2025**, India assumed the Chairship of the **Council of Member States of International IDEA** for 2026, with Chief Election Commissioner **Gyanesh Kumar** representing India as Chair in **Stockholm, Sweden**.

- ➔ International IDEA stands for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.
- ➔ It is an intergovernmental organisation working to support democracy and electoral processes.
- ➔ India is a founding member of International IDEA.
- ➔ Gyanesh Kumar will chair the Council of Member States for 2026.
- ➔ Mauritius and Mexico will serve as Vice-Chairs along with India.
- ➔ The 2026 chairship theme is “Democracy for an Inclusive, Peaceful, Resilient and Sustainable World.”
- ➔ International IDEA’s Council has 35 Member States and two Observers.
- ➔ Gyanesh Kumar is the **26th Chief Election Commissioner of India**.

○ India-Singapore

- ➔ India and Singapore came together in New Delhi for the **3rd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)** on **August 13, 2025**, reaffirming their strong and growing ties.
- ➔ The Indian side was represented by key leaders, including:
 - Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**
 - External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar**
 - Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal**
 - Railways and Information & Broadcasting Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**
- ➔ From Singapore, the delegation was led by **Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister Gan Kim Yong**.

○ California Declares Diwali a State Holiday (2025)

- ➔ In a historic step celebrating Indian culture, **California** has officially declared **Diwali** a **state holiday**, becoming the **third U.S. state** — after **Pennsylvania** and **Connecticut** — to do so.
- ➔ California Governor **Gavin Newsom** signed a bill introduced by **Assembly Member Ash Kalra**, officially recognizing Diwali as a paid state holiday.

○ China Launches K Visa

- ➔ From **October 1, 2025**, **China** introduced the **K Visa** to attract **global STEM professionals and researchers**.
- ➔ The visa allows work and research **without local sponsorship**, offering **multiple entries**, **long validity**, and **flexible stays**.
- ➔ It comes amid U.S. **H-1B visa restrictions**, positioning China as a new hub for global innovation.

○ Paul Biya Becomes World’s Oldest President at 92 (2025)

- ➔ **Cameroon’s Paul Biya**, in October, 2025, aged 92, has been **re-elected for his eighth consecutive term**, becoming the **world’s oldest serving head of state**.

○ UN Cybercrime Convention Signed

- ➔ At **Hanoi**, **countries** signed the **first-ever UN Cybercrime Convention**, creating a global legal framework to combat **ransomware**, **online fraud**, and **digital exploitation**.
- It defines and criminalizes hacking, online fraud, and child exploitation.
- Enables **real-time evidence sharing** and **24/7 law enforcement cooperation**.
- Managed by the **UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**.

○ Tuvalu Joins IUCN as 90th Member

- ➔ In **October 2025**, **Tuvalu** officially became the **90th State Member** of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, reinforcing its commitment to global environmental protection.
- ➔ Tuvalu comprises nine islands, generally described as a mix of reef islands and coral atolls and just **26 sq km** of land, but with a **900,000 sq km EEZ** rich in marine biodiversity.

○ China’s CR450: World’s Fastest Bullet Train Unveiled

- ➔ China has unveiled the **CR450**, the world’s **fastest bullet train**, reaching a **record speed of 453 km/h** during testing.
- ➔ With this, China surpassed all global competitors in both **speed and efficiency**.
- ➔ China operates the **world’s largest high-speed rail network**, spanning **45,000 km**, linking almost all major cities.
- ➔ The CR450 strengthens China’s leadership in **rail innovation and export**, supporting global projects under the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.

○ Bulgaria Joins the Eurozone

- ➔ Bulgaria officially joined the eurozone on January 1, 2026, replacing the Bulgarian lev and becoming the 21st member of the euro area.

○ India-FAO Blue Ports Initiative

- ➔ Launched on September 18, 2025, this partnership aims to modernise fishing harbours into smart, climate-resilient Blue Ports.
- ➔ Under PMMSY and FIDF, Rs. 369.80 crore is being used to develop harbours at Vanakbara, Jakhau and Karaikal, with **Vanakbara** and **Jakhau** as pilot sites for smart port integration.

○ India & UNHRC

- ➔ In October 2025, India was elected unopposed to the UN Human Rights Council for 2026–2028, marking its 7th term.
- ➔ UNHRC, established in 2006, has 47 members elected for 3-year terms and conducts the Universal Periodic Review.

Rankings/Indices/Reports (International)

Index/Report	Released by	India's Rank	Top Rankings
Global Hunger Index, 2025	Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe	102 nd (out of 123)	Tier of countries scoring less than 5 are tied at 1st; Somalia at bottom.
Human Development Report 2025	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	130 th (out of 193)	1. Iceland; South Sudan at bottom.
Global Innovation Index 2025	The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	38 th (out of 139)	1. Switzerland
The Global Gender Gap Index 2025	World Economic Forum (WEF)	131 st (out of 148)	1. Iceland; Pakistan at 148 th .
Henley Passport Index 2026 (January, 2026)	Henley & Partners	80 th (55 visa-free options)	1. Singapore
World Competitiveness Ranking 2026	Institute for Management Development (IMD)	41 st	1. Singapore (Dethroned Switzerland)
Climate Risk Index 2026	Germanwatch	9 th (Long-term 30-year span)	Highest risk: Dominica, Myanmar, Honduras.
Corruption Perceptions Index-2025	Transparency International	91 st (out of 182)	1. Denmark; Somalia & South Sudan at bottom.
Climate Change Performance Index 2026	Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, and CAN	10 th	4. Denmark (No countries allocated ranks 1, 2, or 3).
World Happiness Report 2026	Wellbeing Research Centre, University of Oxford	116 th (out of 147)	1. Finland (9 th consecutive year), 2. Denmark, 3. Iceland.
Global Fire Power Ranking 2026	GlobalFirepower	4 th	1. USA, 2. China, 3. Russia,
Global Peace Index 2026	Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)	127 th (Dropped 12 spots)	1. Iceland, 2. New Zealand, 3. Switzerland; Russia at bottom.
Global Terrorism Index 2026	Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)	13 th (Highest impact tier)	Worst Impact: 1. Pakistan
The Global Liveability Index 2025	The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)	141 th —Delhi; and Mumbai	1. Copenhagen Denmark Damascus (Syria) - Lowest
Global Arms Transfer Report 2026	SIPRI	2 nd Largest Importer (8.2% share)	Top Importers: Ukraine, India, Qatar. Top Exporter: USA.
World Press Freedom Index 2026	Reporters Without Borders (RSF)	157 th (out of 180)	1. Norway Eritrea (bottom)
Democracy Index, 2025	The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)	45 th Flawed Democracy	1. Norway, 2. New Zealand, 3. Denmark. Afghanistan (Bottom)
Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025	The United Nations (UN SDSN)	99 th (First time in top 100)	1. Finland, 2. Sweden, 3. Denmark



A. Fiscal & Monetary Affairs

Provisional Estimates of Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2025–26

On June 5, 2026, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the Provisional Estimates of Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the Financial Year 2025–26.

- ➔ Along with this, the Ministry also released the Quarterly GDP Estimates for the fourth quarter, January–March 2025–26.
- ➔ According to the release, India's **Real GDP growth for 2025–26 is estimated at 7.7%**. In the fourth quarter of the financial year, India's **Real GDP is estimated to grow by 7.8%**.
- ➔ India's **Real GDP**, or GDP at constant prices, is estimated at **₹323.12 lakh crore** in 2025–26. In 2024–25, it was **₹299.89 lakh crore**.
- ➔ This means India's Real GDP is estimated to grow by **7.7%** in 2025–26.

Indicator	2024–25	2025–26	Growth
Real GDP	₹299.89 lakh crore	₹323.12 lakh crore	7.7%
Nominal GDP	₹318.07 lakh crore	₹346.36 lakh crore	8.9%
Real GVA	₹273.36 lakh crore	₹294.91 lakh crore	7.9%
Nominal GVA	₹288.54 lakh crore	₹314.87 lakh crore	9.1%

- ➔ The data shows that both GDP and GVA increased in 2025–26.

Quarterly GDP Estimates: Q4 2025–26

- ➔ For the fourth quarter, January–March 2026, India's **Real GDP** is estimated at **₹87.77 lakh crore**. In Q4 of 2024–25, it was **₹81.40 lakh crore**.
- ➔ This means Real GDP grew by **7.8%** in Q4 of 2025–26.

Indicator	Q4 2024–25	Q4 2025–26	Growth
Real GDP	₹81.40 lakh crore	₹87.77 lakh crore	7.8%
Nominal GDP	₹86.75 lakh crore	₹94.65 lakh crore	9.1%
Real GVA	₹74.32 lakh crore	₹80.18 lakh crore	7.9%
Nominal GVA	₹78.68 lakh crore	₹86.46 lakh crore	9.9%

Sector	Growth at Constant Prices
Manufacturing	10.7%
Construction	7.4%
Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication and Services related to Broadcasting	10.9%
Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fishing	3.0%

Composition of Nominal GVA in 2025–26

Sector	Share in Nominal GVA
Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fishing	18%
Manufacturing	15%
Construction	8%
Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication and Services related to Broadcasting	14%

- ➔ Per capita indicators help us understand average income and consumption levels.

Indicator	2025–26 at Constant Prices
Per Capita GDP	₹2,27,447
Per Capita GNI	₹2,24,307
Per Capita NNI	₹1,93,480
Per Capita PFCE	₹1,26,660

➔ At current prices:

Indicator	2025–26 at Current Prices
Per Capita GDP	₹2,43,803
Per Capita GNI	₹2,40,769
Per Capita NNI	₹2,08,090
Per Capita GNDI	₹2,49,195
Per Capita PFCE	₹1,38,324

➔ Share in GDP at Constant Prices

Component	Share in GDP in 2025–26
Private Final Consumption Expenditure	55.7%
Government Final Consumption Expenditure	10.1%
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	32.3%
Changes in Stocks	1.3%
Valuables	0.9%
Exports	22.2%
Imports	23.7%
Discrepancies	1.2%

National Health Accounts Estimates 2022–23

The National Health Accounts Estimates 2022–23 provide a detailed picture of health expenditure in India. These estimates are prepared according to the global framework called the System of Health Accounts 2011.

□ Key Highlights

- ➔ Total Health Expenditure in India for 2022–23 was estimated at ₹8,81,359 crore.
- ➔ Total Health Expenditure was 3.37% of GDP.
- ➔ Per capita Total Health Expenditure was ₹6,373.
- ➔ Current Health Expenditure was ₹7,66,814 crore.
- ➔ Current Health Expenditure formed 87.00% of Total Health Expenditure.
- ➔ Capital Expenditure was ₹1,14,545 crore.
- ➔ Capital Expenditure formed 13.00% of Total Health Expenditure.
- ➔ Government Health Expenditure was ₹3,85,332 crore.
- ➔ Government Health Expenditure formed 43.72% of Total Health Expenditure.
- ➔ Government Health Expenditure was 1.48% of GDP.
- ➔ Per capita Government Health Expenditure was ₹2,786.
- ➔ Household Out-of-Pocket Expenditure was ₹3,82,629 crore.
- ➔ Out-of-Pocket Expenditure formed 43.41% of Total Health Expenditure.
- ➔ Per capita Out-of-Pocket Expenditure was ₹2,767.
- ➔ Private Health Insurance Expenditure was ₹81,012 crore.

➔ Private Health Insurance formed 9.19% of Total Health Expenditure.

➔ In 2022–23, India's Total Health Expenditure was ₹8,81,359 crore.

➔ This was equal to 3.37% of India's GDP.

➔ The per capita Total Health Expenditure was ₹6,373.

➔ Expenditure on Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Health Department was ₹40,640 crore.

➔ Total Pharmaceutical Expenditure was 29.6% of Current Health Expenditure.

➔ Expenditure on Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine was 3.5% of Current Health Expenditure.

□ Spending by Level of Care

➔ Current Health Expenditure on Primary Care was around 46%.

➔ Current Health Expenditure on Secondary Care was around 34%.

➔ Current Health Expenditure on Tertiary Care was around 15%.

➔ Current Health Expenditure on governance and supervision was around 4%.

➔ In Government Current Health Expenditure, Primary Care accounted for 51%.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Completes 10 Years

The insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 completed ten years milestone in 2026. Over the last decade, the IBC has moved India's insolvency regime away from delay-based liquidation towards corporate revival and preservation of enterprise value. The government has described it not merely as a legislative reform, but as an institutional transformation with major implications for credit markets, corporate behaviour, investor confidence and economic efficiency.

□ Resolution and Recovery Performance

- ➔ As of March 31, 2026, a total of 1,419 cases had resulted in approved resolution plans under the IBC.
- ➔ The IBC resolution process has facilitated realisation of more than ₹4 lakh crore for creditors.
- ➔ The amount realised by creditors was around 95 percent of the fair value of the assets.
- ➔ The amount realised was also around 167 percent of the liquidation value, showing that resolution under the IBC helped preserve enterprise value.
- ➔ This indicates that the Code has helped creditors recover significantly higher value compared to liquidation-based outcomes.
- ➔ Till March 31, 2026, a total of 8,987 cases had been admitted under the IBC framework.
- ➔ Out of these admitted cases, 7,102 cases had reached closure.
- ➔ Among the closed cases, 4,099 companies were successfully rescued.

- ➔ Rescued companies accounted for around 58 percent of total closures.
- ➔ Another 3,003 cases ended in liquidation.
- ➔ Among the rescued entities, 1,388 cases were closed due to appeal, review or settlement.
- ➔ Another 1,292 cases were withdrawn.
- ➔ The IBC has contributed to reducing stress in the banking sector by improving recovery and settlement mechanisms.
- ➔ The gross NPA ratio of the banking sector stood at 2.15 percent as of September 2025.
- ➔ Scheduled Commercial Banks recovered a total of ₹1.04 lakh crore through various recovery channels.
- ➔ Out of this, nearly ₹0.54 lakh crore was realised through the IBC process.
- ➔ This means that about 52.4 percent of total recoveries by Scheduled Commercial Banks came through the IBC route.

New Labour Codes 2025

The New Labour Codes 2025 mark a major transformation in India's labour governance system. These reforms consolidate 29 old and scattered labour laws into four simplified labour codes. The four labour codes are the Code on Wages, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020; and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. The implementation of these labour codes started on 21 November 2025.

❑ Need for New Labour Codes

- ➔ India's earlier labour laws were spread across many different Acts.
- ➔ Many of these laws were old, complex and difficult to implement.
- ➔ Employers often faced compliance difficulties due to multiple laws and procedures.
- ➔ Workers also faced challenges in getting uniform protection and welfare benefits.
- ➔ The new labour codes simplify the legal framework by bringing 29 laws under four broad codes.
- ➔ These reforms aim to create a more transparent, efficient and modern labour system.

❑ Four New Labour Codes

Labour Code	Key Focus Area	Major Benefit
Code on Wages, 2019	Wages, minimum wages and payment of wages	It ensures statutory minimum wages for all workers.
Industrial Relations Code, 2020	Hiring, firing, dispute resolution and trade unions	It supports faster dispute resolution and provides flexibility in employment.

Labour Code	Key Focus Area	Major Benefit
Code on Social Security, 2020	Provident Fund, ESIC, maternity benefits, gig workers and unorganised workers	It aims to provide wider and more universal social security coverage.
Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020	Workplace safety, health and working conditions	It promotes safer workplaces across industries.

❑ Code on Wages, 2019

- ➔ The Code on Wages deals with wages, minimum wages and payment of wages.
- ➔ It aims to ensure that all workers receive statutory minimum wages.
- ➔ The Code is important for ensuring fair payment and income security for workers.

❑ Industrial Relations Code, 2020

- ➔ The Industrial Relations Code focuses on industrial relations between employers and workers.
- ➔ It covers areas such as hiring, firing, dispute resolution and trade unions.
- ➔ It aims to make dispute resolution faster and more efficient.

❑ Code on Social Security, 2020

- ➔ The Code on Social Security aims to expand social security coverage in India.
- ➔ It covers benefits such as Provident Fund, ESIC, maternity benefits and other welfare measures.

❑ Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020

- ➔ This Code focuses on occupational safety, health and working conditions.
- ➔ It aims to provide safer and healthier workplaces across industries.

10 Years of UPI (Unified Payments Interface) – 2026

On **April 11, 2026**, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) completed 10 years since its pilot launch in 2016. UPI has evolved from a **digital payment experiment into the backbone of India's digital economy**. It recorded an all-time high of **22.64 billion transactions in March 2026** (It accounted for more than 81% of India's volume of total retail payment transaction in FY 2024-25).

- ➔ UPI recorded 23.20 billion transactions worth about ₹29.90 lakh crore in May, 2026.

Fact Sheet	
Pilot launch	11 April 2016
FY 2025–26 transaction volume	24,161.69 crore transactions
FY 2025–26 transaction value	About ₹314 lakh crore

Record monthly volume	2,264 crore transactions in March 2026
Share in India's digital payments in FY 2025–26	Around 85%
Share in global real-time payment volume	Around 49%
April 2026 performance	22.35 billion transactions worth ₹29.03 lakh crore

Income-tax Act, 2025

The **Income-tax Act, 2025** has come into force from **1 April 2026**, replacing the **six-decade-old Income-tax Act, 1961**. The reform aims to **modernise India's tax system** and make it more aligned with current economic realities. It also seeks to **reduce the tax burden** while improving the efficiency of tax administration.

Key Highlights

Operational and Structural Changes

- ➔ The Central Board of Direct Taxes has notified the **Income-tax Rules, 2026** to implement the provisions of the new Act.
- ➔ A major procedural reform is the introduction of **Form 130**, which replaces the traditional **Form 16 (TDS certificate issued by employers)**.
- ➔ The act replaces the concepts of 'Assessment Year (AY)' and 'Previous Year' with 'Tax Year'. The Financial Year (FY) continues to remain relevant in the Act.
- ➔ A single unified concept called the **"Tax Year"** has been introduced for simplification.

Income Tax Act 2025 vs Income Tax Act 1961		
Feature	Income Tax Act, 1961	Income Tax Act, 2025
Complexity	819+ sections and 298 Chapters	536 Sections and 23 Chapters
Language	Archaic, legalistic and dense	Modern, plain English and simplified
Timeline Concept	Dual concept of 'Previous Year and 'Assessment Year'	Only a Single 'Tax Year'
TDS/TCS Structure	Scattered across dozens of sections	Consolidated sections 393 and 394
Effective Zero Tax	Up to ₹7 Lakh	Up to ₹12 Lakh as per new regime
Standard Deduction	₹50,000	₹75,000
Digital Powers	Limited statutory definitions	Statutory access to cloud, email and social media

Revenue Data

- ➔ According to the Central Board of Direct Taxes, India's **gross direct tax collection for 2025–26** stood at **₹7.99 lakh crore**.

Report of the 16th Finance Commission (2026–31)

The **Finance Commission** is a **constitutional body under Article 280** of the Constitution, constituted by the President every five years (or earlier) to recommend the principles governing **Centre–State fiscal relations**.

Key Highlights

- ➔ The 16th Finance Commission covers the period **2026–27 to 2030–31**. It submitted its report on **17 November 2025**, and it was tabled in Parliament on **1 February 2026**.
- ➔ The Commission has **not recommended three grant categories** recommended by the 15th Finance Commission, namely revenue deficit grants, sector-specific grants, and state-specific grants.
- ➔ The Commission has recommended that the **States' vertical share remain 41%** of the divisible pool of Union taxes.
- ➔ The weights are 42.5% for per-capita income distance (GSDP), 17.5% for population (2011), 10% for demographic performance, 10% for area, 10% for forest, and 10% for contribution to GDP.
- ➔ The Commission has recommended total grants of about **₹9.47 lakh crore** for 2026–31. Of this, about **₹7.91 lakh crore** is for local bodies and **₹1.56 lakh crore** is the Union share for disaster management grants.
- ➔ Of this, Rural Local Bodies will receive **₹4.35 lakh crore** and Urban Local Bodies will receive **₹3.56 lakh crore**.
- ➔ The Commission has recommended a **Special Infrastructure Component of ₹56,100 crore** for selected urban local bodies for comprehensive wastewater management in urban growth centres.
- ➔ It has also recommended an **Urbanisation Premium of ₹10,000 crore** for the full award period.
- ➔ The Commission has recommended a total disaster management corpus of **₹2,04,401 crore** for **SDRF and SDMF together** for 2026–31.
- ➔ The Commission has recommended that the Centre reduce its fiscal deficit to 3.5% of GDP by 2030–31.
- ➔ It has recommended that the States' annual fiscal deficit ceiling remain 3% of GSDP.
- ➔ The Commission projects that combined debt of the Centre and States will decline from **77.3% of GDP in 2026–27 to 73.1% in 2030–31**.

Selected State Shares

State	15 th FC	16 th FC
Uttar Pradesh	17.94	17.62
Bihar	10.06	9.95
Maharashtra	6.32	6.44
Rajasthan	6.03	5.93

New GDP Series (Base Year 2022–23)

On 27 February 2026, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released India's new series of GDP estimates with base year 2022–23, replacing the earlier 2011–12 base year series.

MoSPI selected 2022–23 as the new base year because it is a recent normal post-COVID year with robust data availability across sectors.

□ Key Highlights of the New Series

- ➔ The new GDP series presents a picture of sustained economic growth after rebasing.
- ☉ Real GDP growth for 2025–26 has been estimated at 7.6%.
- ☉ Nominal GDP growth for 2025–26 has been estimated at 8.6%.
- ☉ The economy recorded real GDP growth of 7.2% in 2023–24 and 7.1% in 2024–25.
- ☉ Nominal GDP growth stood at 11.0% in 2023–24 and 9.7% in 2024–25.
- ☉ For Q3 of 2025–26, real GDP growth is estimated at 7.8%, while nominal GDP growth is estimated at 8.9%.
- ☉ Manufacturing emerges as a major growth driver and has recorded double-digit growth in 2023–24 and 2025–26.
- ☉ The secondary and tertiary sectors both recorded above 9% growth in 2025–26.
- ☉ The sector “Trade, Repair, Hotels, Transport, Communication & Services related to Broadcasting, Storage” posted 10.1% growth at constant prices in 2025–26.
- ☉ On the expenditure side, both Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) and Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) grew by more than 7% in 2025–26.
- Why 2022–23 Was Chosen as Base Year
- ➔ MoSPI has clearly stated why 2022–23 was selected.
- ☉ It is a recent normal year after COVID disruption.

2025: A Defining Year for India's Growth

- ➔ India's real GDP growth accelerated to 8.2% in Q2 FY 2025–26, rising steadily from 7.4% in Q4 FY 2024–25 and 7.8% in Q1 FY 2025–26, signalling sustained economic momentum.
- ➔ Real Gross Value Added (GVA) expanded by 8.1% in Q2 FY 2025–26, reflecting broad-based strength led by industry and services sectors.
- ➔ The Reserve Bank of India revised its FY 2025–26 GDP growth forecast upward to 7.3%, citing resilient domestic demand and easing inflationary pressures.

- ➔ CPI inflation followed a clear disinflation trajectory in 2025, falling from 4.26% in January to 2.10% in June, before dropping sharply in the second half of the year.
- ➔ Wholesale inflation (WPI) remained negative at –0.32% in November 2025, indicating subdued price pressures at the producer level.
- ➔ Merchandise exports reached US\$ 38.13 billion in November 2025, driven by engineering goods, electronics, pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, and petroleum products.
- ➔ Total exports (merchandise and services) were estimated at US\$ 73.99 billion, with services exports alone contributing US\$ 35.86 billion in November 2025.
- ➔ During April–November 2025, services exports reached US\$ 270.06 billion, underlining India's growing strength in globally traded services.
- ➔ Foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$ 686.2 billion (end-November 2025), providing import cover of more than 11 months.
- ➔ The current account deficit moderated to 1.3% of GDP in Q2 FY 2025–26, supported by a 10.7% year-on-year rise in remittances.
- ➔ Gross FDI inflows increased by 19.4% to US\$ 51.8 billion, while net FDI rose to US\$ 7.7 billion during April–September 2025–26.

Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025

For making India's banking system modern and transparent, the Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 has been passed by Parliament. This Act brings timely amendments to various banking laws, including the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934; the Banking Regulation Act, 1949; the State Bank of India Act, 1955; and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts, 1970 and 1980. Several key provisions of this Amendment Act have been made effective from 1 August 2025.

□ Key Facts

- ➔ Under the Act, sections in original laws are to be implemented in a phased manner.
- ➔ The Central Government, through notification enforced Sections 3, 4, 5, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 from 1 August 2025.
- ➔ The limit of ‘substantial interest’ in banks has been raised from ₹5 lakh to ₹2 crore, which has been changed for the first time since 1968.
- ☉ ‘Substantial interest’ refers to a person or his/her spouse or minor child, alone or jointly, holding beneficial interest in the shares of a company, exceeding 10 percent of the paid-up capital of the company or ₹2 crore (whichever is lower).

- ➔ In cooperative banks, the maximum continuous **tenure of directors** (excluding chairperson/whole-time director) has been increased to 10 years; earlier this limit was 8 years.
- ➔ This will allow better board stability in the cooperative sector and improved compliance with the spirit of the 97th Constitutional Amendment.
- ➔ In public sector banks, the **remuneration of auditors** will now be decided by the banks themselves; for this, the earlier provision of “determination by RBI/Government” has been amended.
- ➔ For deposit accounts, a **maximum of four nominees**—either successively or simultaneously—may be nominated; for lockers, a maximum of four nominees—only successively—will be possible.
- ➔ A new definition of ‘fortnight’ in RBI Act is proposed as “1–15” and “16–last day of the month”; this amendment came into force on December 15, 2025.
- ➔ The current definition “Saturday to the second following Friday (both inclusive)” will continue to apply.

B. Key Policy Document/Events

National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6)

The fact sheets for the sixth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) were released on **May 29, 2026** by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Conducted during 2023–24 by the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)** in Mumbai, the survey covered nearly 6.79 lakh households across 715 districts in India.

- ➔ NFHS-6 provides data on population, health, nutrition and family welfare. The survey gives estimates at the national, State/Union Territory and district levels. NFHS-6 provides information for India and each State/Union Territory except Manipur. NFHS-6 also includes new topics such as Direct Benefit Transfer, Self-Help Group coverage, digital literacy and financial transactions.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ Institutional deliveries increased from 88.6% in NFHS-5 to 90.6% in NFHS-6.
- ➔ Births attended by skilled health personnel increased from 89.4% to 91.3%.
- ➔ Full vaccination coverage among children aged 12–23 months increased from 83.8% to 87.1%.
- ➔ India’s Total Fertility Rate remained at 2.0.
- ➔ Contraceptive Prevalence Rate increased from 66.7% to 69.1%.
- ➔ Health insurance or financing scheme coverage increased from 41.0% to 60.2% at the household level.
- ➔ Women who had ever used the internet increased from 33.3% to 64.3%.
- ➔ Women having a bank or savings account that they themselves use increased from 78.6% to 89.0%.
- ➔ Women having a mobile phone that they themselves use increased from 53.9% to 63.6%.
- ➔ Stunting among children under five declined from 35.5% to 29.3%.

- ➔ Severe wasting among children under five declined from 7.7% to 5.2%.

- ➔ Spousal violence among ever-married women aged 18–49 declined from 29.2% to 22.3%.

❑ Maternal and Child Healthcare

- ➔ NFHS-6 shows improvement in maternal and child healthcare services.
- ➔ A total of 95.9% of pregnant women received antenatal care.
- ➔ Mothers receiving antenatal care in the first trimester increased from 70.0% to 76.2%.
- ➔ Mothers receiving at least four antenatal care visits increased from 58.5% to 65.2%.
- ➔ Institutional deliveries increased from 88.6% to 90.6%.
- ➔ Births attended by skilled health personnel increased from 89.4% to 91.3%.
- ➔ Postnatal care for newborns within two days of delivery increased from 79.1% to 85.3%.

❑ Family Planning

- ➔ India’s Total Fertility Rate remained at 2.0.
- ➔ The Total Fertility Rate was 1.6 in urban areas and 2.1 in rural areas.
- ➔ The Contraceptive Prevalence Rate increased from 66.7% to 69.1%.

❑ Child Immunization and Child Health

- ➔ Full vaccination coverage among children aged 12–23 months increased from 83.8% to 87.1%.
- ➔ A total of 95.6% of children received most vaccinations through public health facilities.
- ➔ The share of children aged 12–23 months receiving any vaccine remained above 96%.
- ➔ Rotavirus vaccination coverage increased sharply from 36.4% to 85.4%.

❑ Child Nutrition

- ➔ A total of 95.6% of children under six months were breastfed during the survey period.

- ➔ Children under three years breastfed within one hour of birth increased from 41.8% to 50.1%.
- ➔ Stunting among children under five declined from 35.5% to 29.3%.
- ➔ Severe wasting among children under five declined from 7.7% to 5.2%.
- ➔ Underweight prevalence among children under five declined slightly from 32.1% to 31.8%.

❑ Population and Household Profile

- ➔ The share of population below age 5 was 8.0% in NFHS-6.
- ➔ The share of population below age 15 was 25.5%.
- ➔ The share of population aged 60 years and above was 12.9%.
- ➔ Population living in households with electricity increased from 96.8% to 98.3%.

❑ Marriage and Fertility

- ➔ Women aged 20–24 years married before age 18 declined from 23.3% to 20.1%.
- ➔ Men aged 25–29 years married before age 21 declined from 17.7% to 15.9%.
- ➔ Women aged 15–19 years who were already mothers or pregnant declined slightly from 6.8% to 6.7%.

○ Population and Household Profile

Indicator	NFHS-6 (2023–24) Urban (%)	NFHS-6 (2023–24) Rural (%)	NFHS-6 (2023–24) Total (%)	NFHS-5 (2019–21) Total (%)
Population below age 5 years	6.6	8.6	8.0	8.2
Population below age 15 years	22.0	27.0	25.5	26.5
Population age 60 years and above	12.7	13.0	12.9	11.8
Population living in households with electricity	99.5	97.8	98.3	96.8
Population living in households with an improved drinking-water source	99.1	95.4	96.5	95.9

○ Marriage and Fertility

Indicator	NFHS-6 (2023–24) Urban (%)	NFHS-6 (2023–24) Rural (%)	NFHS-6 (2023–24) Total (%)	NFHS-5 (2019–21) Total (%)
Women age 20–24 years married before age 18 years	11.4	23.3	20.1	23.3
Men age 25–29 years married before age 21 years	9.7	19.0	15.9	17.7
Total fertility rate, children per woman	1.6	2.1	2.0	2.0
Women age 15–19 years who were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey	3.4	7.9	6.7	6.8

❑ Adult Nutrition

- ➔ Women aged 15–49 years with below-normal BMI increased from 18.7% to 19.7%.
- ➔ Men aged 15–49 years with below-normal BMI increased from 16.2% to 19.7%.
- ➔ Women who were overweight or obese increased from 24.0% to 30.7%.
- ➔ Health insurance or financing scheme coverage increased from 41.0% to 60.2% at the household level.

❑ Women's Empowerment and Financial Inclusion

- ➔ Women who had ever used the internet increased from 33.3% to 64.3%.
- ➔ Women having a bank or savings account that they themselves use increased from 78.6% to 89.0%.
- ➔ Women having a mobile phone that they themselves use increased from 53.9% to 63.6%.

❑ Gender-Based Violence

- ➔ Ever-married women aged 18–49 who experienced spousal violence declined from 29.2% to 22.3%.
- ➔ Women aged 18–49 who experienced physical violence during pregnancy declined from 3.1% to 2.7%.

Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin 2024

The Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin for 2024 (Volume 59-I) and the Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality (2022-24) were officially released by the Registrar General of India on May 20, 2026. The SRS Bulletin 2024 was released by the Office of the Registrar General of India.

- ➔ SRS provides annual estimates of important demographic indicators in India.
- ➔ It gives data on Birth Rate, Death Rate, Natural Growth Rate and Infant Mortality Rate.

Key Highlights

- ➔ **Birth Rate** means the number of live births per thousand population in a year.
- ➔ Birth Rate is an important indicator of fertility and population growth.
- ➔ India's Birth Rate declined from 36.9 in 1971 to 18.3 in 2024.
- ➔ During the last decade, India's Birth Rate declined from 21.0 in 2014 to 18.3 in 2024.
- ➔ This shows a decline of about 13% in the last ten years.
- ➔ The rural Birth Rate declined from 22.7 in 2014 to 20.2 in 2024.
- ➔ The urban Birth Rate declined from 17.4 in 2014 to 14.7 in 2024.
- ➔ In 2024, the Birth Rate was 20.2 in rural areas and 14.7 in urban areas.
- ➔ **Bihar** had the highest Birth Rate at 26.8.
- ➔ **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** had the lowest Birth Rate at 9.9.
- ➔ **Death Rate** means the number of deaths per thousand population in a year.
- ➔ India's Death Rate declined from 14.9 in 1971 to 6.4 in 2024.
- ➔ In 2024, India's total Death Rate was 6.4.
- ➔ The rural Death Rate was 6.8 in 2024.
- ➔ The urban Death Rate was 5.6 in 2024.
- ➔ The rural Death Rate remained the same in 2023 and 2024 at 6.8.
- ➔ The urban Death Rate declined slightly from 5.7 in 2023 to 5.6 in 2024.
- ➔ **Chhattisgarh** recorded the highest Death Rate at 8.4.
- ➔ **Chandigarh** recorded the lowest Death Rate at 3.9.
- ➔ The male Death Rate was 7.1.
- ➔ The female Death Rate was 5.6.
- ➔ The data shows that the male Death Rate was higher than the female Death Rate.
- ➔ Male IMR was 24 and female IMR was 25.
- ➔ Rural IMR was 27 and urban IMR was 17.
- ➔ In rural areas, male IMR was 27 and female IMR was 28.

- ➔ In urban areas, male IMR was 17 and female IMR was 16.
- ➔ **Natural Growth Rate** is the difference between Birth Rate and Death Rate.
- ➔ India's Natural Growth Rate in 2024 was 11.9.
- ➔ The rural Natural Growth Rate was 13.5.
- ➔ The urban Natural Growth Rate was 9.0.
- ➔ **Bihar** had a high Natural Growth Rate of 20.8.
- ➔ **Kerala** had a low Natural Growth Rate of 3.9.
- ➔ **Infant Mortality Rate** is commonly called IMR.
- ➔ India's IMR in 2024 was 24 infant deaths per thousand live births.
- ➔ India's IMR declined from 129 in 1971 to 24 in 2024.
- ➔ India's IMR declined from 39 in 2014 to 24 in 2024.
- ➔ This shows a decline of about 38% in the last decade.
- ➔ Rural IMR declined from 43 in 2014 to 27 in 2024.
- ➔ Urban IMR declined from 26 in 2014 to 17 in 2024.
- ➔ In 2024, rural IMR was 27 and urban IMR was 17.
- ➔ **Chhattisgarh** recorded the highest IMR at 36.
- ➔ **Manipur** recorded the lowest IMR at 2.
- ➔ At the national level, about one in every 42 infants died before completing one year of life.

Sample Coverage

- ➔ The SRS Bulletin 2024 covered 8,839 sample units across India.
- ➔ Out of these, 4,960 sample units were rural and 3,879 were urban.
- ➔ The total population covered was about 8.981 million.

Reforming India's R&D Ecosystem (2026)

NITI Aayog released two reports - "Ease of Doing Research & Development in India" and "Survey Report on Ease of Doing R&D in India"- on 9 April 2026 in New Delhi.

- ➔ Released by Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, and Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology, the reports aim to build a more efficient, facilitative and innovation-driven R&D ecosystem.
- ➔ The reports highlight India's progress in innovation rankings and patent filings, while also identifying challenges such as low funding, bureaucratic delays, weak industry-academia linkages and the gap between laboratory research and market-ready technologies.
- ➔ **The ROPE Framework is the central idea of NITI Aayog's initiative.** ROPE means **Removing Obstacles and Promoting Enablers**.
- ➔ The framework aims to make India's R&D system more efficient.

❑ Status of India's R&D Ecosystem

- ➔ **India's R&D investment remains low.** Gross Expenditure on R&D was only **0.66% of GDP in 2018–19, 0.66% in 2019–20 and 0.64% in 2020–21.**
- ➔ **India's GERD has increased in absolute terms.** It rose from **₹60,196.75 crore in 2010–11 to ₹1,27,380.96 crore in 2020–21**, but GDP grew faster, keeping R&D spending in the **0.6–0.7% of GDP range.**
- ➔ **Private-sector participation is weak.** The private sector contributes only around **36% of GERD** in India, while in leading innovation economies such as the **US, China, Japan and South Korea**, private financing is generally above **70%.**
- ➔ **India has improved in the Global Innovation Index.** India ranked **38th among 139 economies in GII 2025**, compared to **48th in GII 2020.**
- ➔ **India remains a regional innovation leader.** In GII 2025, India ranked **first in Central and Southern Asia** and remained the top-performing lower-middle-income economy.
- ➔ **India's innovation strengths are visible.** WIPO highlights India's strengths in **ICT services exports, venture capital activity, unicorn valuation and intangible asset intensity.**
- ➔ **India still lags in key innovation inputs.** Weaknesses remain in **infrastructure and R&D spending**, which limit the conversion of ideas into market-ready technologies.
- ➔ **India is emerging strongly in intellectual property filings.** The Economic Survey 2025–26 states that India ranked **4th in trademarks, 6th in patents and 7th in industrial designs** in global filings in 2024.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Extension

On 21 January 2026, the Union Cabinet approved: Continuation of APY up to FY 2030–31, and Extension of Government funding support for specific activities to strengthen the scheme.

- ➔ **Implementation Strategy:** The scheme will continue up to 2030–31 with Government support for:
 - I. Promotional and Developmental activities to expand outreach among unorganised workers including awareness, capacity building.
 - II. Gap funding to meet viability requirements and ensure sustainability of the scheme.

❑ Background

- ➔ APY was launched on May 9, 2015, with the objective of providing old-age income security to workers in the unorganised sector.
- ➔ APY offers a guaranteed minimum pension of Rs.1,000 to Rs.5,000 per month starting at age 60, based on contributions.

- ➔ As of January 19, 2026, over 8.66 crore subscribers have been enrolled, making APY a cornerstone of India's inclusive social security framework.
- ➔ Sustained government support is essential for continued awareness, capacity building, and bridging of viability gaps to ensure the scheme's sustainability.

MoSPI Launches New Logo and Mascot

- ➔ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) unveiled its new logo and new mascot on 1 January 2026 to modernise its institutional identity, strengthen public outreach, and reinforce the role of official statistics in nation-building.
- ➔ The **Ashoka Chakra** in the logo represents **truth, transparency, and good governance.**
- ➔ The **Rupee symbol (₹)** at the centre underlines the role of statistics in economic planning, policy design, and national growth.
- ➔ The design uses numbers and statistical symbols to indicate modern data systems and statistical science.
- ➔ The upward growth bar conveys progress and explains how credible data supports sustainable economic growth.
- ➔ The colour scheme—saffron, white, green, and deep blue—is used to represent national values such as growth, truth, sustainability, stability, and knowledge, strengthening the credibility of official statistics.

❑ New Mascot

- ➔ MoSPI introduced a mascot named **“सांख्यिकी”** as a citizen-centric character to make statistics simple, relatable, and engaging for the public.
- ➔ **“सांख्यिकी”** will be used across **National Sample Surveys in the NSS wing of NSO (earlier called NSSO) for its** outreach, awareness campaigns, educational content, digital platforms, and public events to encourage participation and trust in official data.

❑ New Logo for Regional Rural Banks

- ➔ The Ministry of Finance (Government of India) unveiled a new common logo for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on **18 December 2025**. The main purpose is to create a single, unified brand identity for all RRBs across the country, especially after the recent restructuring of the RRB system.
- ➔ A single unified logo has been introduced to reinforce the common identity of Regional Rural Banks nationwide.
- ➔ The design of the new logo uses specific colours to symbolically represent the objectives of RRBs.
- ➔ The dark blue colour in the logo represents finance, and trust.
- ➔ The green colour in the logo symbolizes life and growth.

M S Sahoo Committee for NPS Reforms

- ➔ Recently on 13 January 2026 The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has constituted a high-level committee to formulate guidelines and regulations to enable a framework for assured payouts under the National Pension System (NPS).
- ➔ The move is in line with provisions of the PFRDA Act, and aims to strengthen retirement income security for subscribers.
- ➔ The committee will be chaired by Dr. M. S. Sahoo, Founder of Dr. Sahoo Regulatory Chambers and former Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- ➔ The 15-member panel includes a diverse group of experts.

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)

The government on **October 3, 2025** has announced **100 Aspirational Agriculture Districts (AADs)** under the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), aiming to boost farm productivity and rural prosperity.

The initiative will be implemented across **29 States and Union Territories (UTs)**.

Earlier on **July 16, 2025**, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved PMDDKY for a period of six years. This scheme will commence from financial year 2025-26 and will run for the next six years, i.e., until 2030-31.

- ➔ The **PMDDKY** aims to transform low-performing agricultural districts into **growth engines of rural prosperity**.
- ➔ The scheme builds on the success of the **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)** and aligns with the government's broader vision of **"Viksit Bharat @2047."**

❑ State-wise Distribution of Selected Districts

- ➔ The 100 districts have been identified across **29 States and Union Territories** as follows:
 - ⊙ **Uttar Pradesh (UP):** 12 districts — the highest among all states.
 - ⊙ **Maharashtra:** 9 districts.
 - ⊙ **Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan:** 8 districts each.
 - ⊙ **Bihar:** 7 districts (notably selected ahead of the upcoming state elections).
 - ⊙ **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and West Bengal:** 4 districts each.
 - ⊙ **Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Kerala:** 3 districts each.
 - ⊙ **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand:** 2 districts each.

- ⊙ **Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, and Tripura:** 1 district each.

Vital Statistics of India based on Civil Registration System (CRS)

Vital Statistics and Registration of Births and Deaths, related to the Civil Registration System (CRS) in India was released by **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India (ORGI)** on **October 10, 2025**.

This is a **Concurrent List** subject (**Entry 30, List III, Seventh Schedule**) of the Indian Constitution. Legally, it is governed by the **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (amended in 2023)**, which makes the registration of births and deaths compulsory throughout India.

❑ Key Highlights of the CRS 2023 Report

○ Birth Registration

- ➔ The total number of registered births decreased from **254.4 lakh in 2022** to **252.1 lakh in 2023**.
- ➔ Of the total registered births:
 - ⊙ **Male births:** 52.4%
 - ⊙ **Female births:** 47.6%
- ➔ The **rural-urban distribution** of registered births:
 - ⊙ **Rural:** 41.7%
 - ⊙ **Urban:** 58.3%
- ➔ **Institutional births** accounted for **74.7%** of total registered births (data from Sikkim not included).
- ➔ The **overall level of registration of births** in 2023 stood at **98.4%**.
- ➔ **21 States/UTs** achieved **100% birth registration**.
- ➔ Among the **19 major States (population > 1 crore as per Census 2011):**
 - ⊙ **13 States** — Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat — have **crossed 90%** level of birth registration.
- ➔ For registration of births within the prescribed time period of 21 days:
 - ⊙ **11 States/UTs** — Gujarat, Puducherry, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, and Punjab — achieved **more than 90%** timely registration.
 - ⊙ **5 States** — Odisha, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh — achieved **80–90%** timely registration.
 - ⊙ **14 States/UTs** — Assam, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Bihar, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, West

Bengal, Meghalaya, and Uttar Pradesh — achieved 50–80% timely registration.

- **5 States/UT** — Uttarakhand, Manipur, Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland — recorded $\leq 50\%$ registration within 21 days. (Sikkim provided only partial data and was not considered.)

○ Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)

- The **highest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)** (based on registered events) was recorded in:
 - Arunachal Pradesh (1085), followed by Nagaland (1007), Goa (973), Ladakh (972), Tripura (972), and Kerala (967).
- The **lowest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)** was recorded in:
 - Jharkhand (899), followed by Bihar (900) and Telangana (906).

○ Stillbirth Registration

- The total number of **registered stillbirths** decreased from **1.15 lakh in 2022** to **1.01 lakh in 2023**.
- The **rural-urban share** of stillbirths:
 - **Rural:** 35.7%
 - **Urban:** 64.3%

○ Death Registration

- The **number of registered deaths** increased slightly from **86.5 lakh in 2022** to **86.6 lakh in 2023**.
- Among total registered deaths, the **share of males** was **60.6%**, while **females** accounted for **39.4%**.
- The **rural–urban distribution** of registered deaths was as follows:
 - **Rural:** 57.7%
 - **Urban:** 42.3%
- The **share of institutional deaths** (deaths occurring in hospitals or health institutions) stood at **24.0%**. (This figure excludes data from Sikkim.)
- The **overall level of death registration** for 2023 stood at **97.2%**.
- A total of **19 States/Union Territories** achieved **100% death registration** in 2023.

□ Timely Registration (Within 21 Days)

- **More than 90% registration** of deaths within 21 days was achieved by **9 States/UTs** — Chandigarh, Punjab, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Haryana, Mizoram, Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- The **3 States** — Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh — recorded **50% or less** timely registration of deaths.

□ Infant Death Registration

- In the case of **infant deaths**, the **urban share** was significantly higher at **85.7%**, while the **rural share** stood at **14.3%**.

Civil Registration System: At a Glance		
Demographic features of India as per the Civil Registration System (CRS)		
Years	2022	2023
Number of Registered Births	2,54,39,164	2,52,07,070
Number of Registered Deaths	86,49,930	86,59,679
Number of Registered Infant Deaths	1,42,771	1,45,992
Percentage of infant death to total deaths	1.7	1.7
Gross Natural Addition to Population	1,67,89,234	1,65,47,391

□ Facts Related to Uttar Pradesh

- The **level of birth registration** in Uttar Pradesh was **89.1%** in 2023.
- The **level of death registration** in the state was **80.0%** in 2023.
- This shows that birth registration in Uttar Pradesh is nearing completeness, whereas death registration still lags behind the national average of 97.2%.
- The **number of registered births** in Uttar Pradesh **decreased** in 2023 as compared to 2022.
- The **number of registered deaths** in Uttar Pradesh **increased** in 2023 as compared to 2022.
- The total **number of registered births** in Uttar Pradesh during 2023 was approximately **49.7 lakh**.
- **Male births:** 26,14,500
- **Female births:** 23,56,100
- The total **number of registered deaths** in the state during 2023 was approximately **12.3 lakh**.
- Based on registered events, Uttar Pradesh recorded a **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)** of about **902 females per 1,000 males**, which reflects a **continued gender imbalance at birth**.

□ Updated Poverty Estimates Using Rangarajan Methodology (2025)

- In 2025, economists from the **Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR)** of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published a new research paper revisiting the Rangarajan methodology. Using data from the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022–23**, they updated the poverty lines for **20 major Indian states**. The results revealed significant declines in poverty between **2011–12** and **2022–23**, especially in **Odisha** and **Bihar**.
- **Rural poverty in Odisha** declined dramatically from **47.8% in 2011–12** to **8.6% in 2022–23**, marking the **largest drop** among all states.
- **Urban poverty in Bihar** also witnessed a sharp fall — from **50.8% in 2011–12** to **9.1% in 2022–23**, the **biggest reduction** on the urban front.
- The decline in poverty was **lowest in Kerala and Himachal Pradesh**, though both already had low baseline poverty levels.

Nutritional Intake in India

The National Statistical Office (NSO) released a report on 'Nutrient Intake in India', based on two consecutive Household Consumption Expenditure Surveys (HCES 2022-23 and 2023-24) conducted during August 2022 to July 2024. This report provides detailed estimates of the daily calorie, protein, and fat intake of the Indian population.

Key Facts

- ➔ During HCES 2022-23 and 2023-24, the pattern of **average daily calorie intake per person remained almost stable** in both rural and urban India.
- ➔ In **2022-23**, it was recorded as **2233 kcal in rural areas** and **2250 kcal in urban areas**. In **2023-24**, it slightly decreased to **2212 kcal for rural areas** and **2240 kcal for urban areas**.
- ➔ This indicates that the **rural-urban average energy intake remained stable at approximately the same level (2200-2250 kcal per day)** in both years.
- ➔ An increase in calorie intake was noted for the bottom five fractile classes in rural India and for the bottom six fractile classes in urban India in 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23.
- ➔ Calorie intake increases with higher MPCE levels in both rural and urban sectors.
- ➔ In **2023-24**, per capita calorie intake in the top 5% fractile class was **2941 kcal (rural)** and **3092 Kcal (urban)**, while in the bottom 5% it was **1688 Kcal (rural)** and **1696 kcal (urban)**.
- ➔ The gap between the bottom and top fractile classes has narrowed in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23.
- ➔ Protein intake rose from about 59.3 g (rural) and 58.8 g (urban) in 2009-10 to 61.8 g and 63.4 g in 2023-24 respectively.
- ➔ In 2023-24, cereals remained the main source of protein, contributing about **46% in rural** and **39% in urban** India.
- ➔ However, the share of cereals in protein intake declined significantly since 2009-10 — by **14% in rural** and **12% in urban** India.
- ➔ The fall in cereal contribution was offset by an increase in the share of egg/fish/meat, other foods, and milk products.
- ➔ Between 2009-10 and 2023-24:
 - ➔ **Cereals**: declined from 60.2% to 45.9% in rural and from 51.3% to 38.7% in urban.
 - ➔ **Egg, fish and meat**: rose from 5.9% to 12.4% in rural and from 7.6% to 14.1% in urban.
 - ➔ **Other foods**: increased from 16.3% to 22.0% (rural) and 18.5% to 25.3% (urban).
- ➔ Adjustments account for food consumed by non-household members and meals prepared/purchased for guests.
- ➔ Adjusted calorie, protein, and fat intake figures are **slightly lower** than unadjusted figures.
- ➔ **Adjusted calorie intake in 2023-24**: 2191 kcal (rural) and 2225 kcal (urban).

- ➔ **Adjusted protein intake in 2023-24**: 61.2 gm (rural) and 62.9 g (urban).
- ➔ **Adjusted fat intake in 2023-24**: 59.7 g (rural) and 69.3 g (urban).

Status of Tourist Inflow

India's tourism sector has recovered rapidly after the pandemic. Recent official data show a sustained increase in both **Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTA)** and **International Tourist Arrivals (ITA)**; alongside this, **Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEE)** from tourism and the sector's contribution to the economy have also strengthened.

- ➔ The Government of India's tourism promotion abroad is now carried out with the support of Indian Missions, since the Ministry currently does not have dedicated tourism offices overseas.
- ➔ On **11 August 2025**, the **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India** released important statistics related to the **"Status of Tourist Inflow."**

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTA): Last Three Years and the Current Year (Figures in lakh)

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals
2022	64.37
2023	95.21
2024	99.52

Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEE) from Tourism: Last Three Years and the Current Year (₹ crore)

Year	Foreign Exchange Earnings
2022	1,69,917
2023	2,66,045
2024 (Revised Estimate)	2,93,033

Tourism Sector's Contribution to India's GDP (from 2021-22 to 2023-24; in percent)

Year	Share in GDP (%)
2021-22	1.75
2022-23 (Revised Estimate)	5.09
2023-24 (Provisional Estimate)	5.22

Country-wise FTA: Top 5 Countries (with reference to 2024) (Figures are counts of arrivals)

S. N.	Country	2022	2023	2024
1	United States of America	14,03,399	16,91,498	18,04,586
2	Bangladesh	12,77,557	21,19,826	17,50,165
3	United Kingdom	6,41,051	9,20,591	10,22,587
4	Australia	3,76,898	4,56,167	5,18,205
5	Canada	2,89,259	3,85,938	4,76,273

In **2021-22**, tourism's total share in GDP was **1.75%**, which rose to **5.09%** in **2022-23** (revised estimate) and to **5.22%** in **2023-24** (provisional estimate).

C. Agriculture and Allied Sectors

National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign 2026

- ➔ The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, organised the National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign 2026 on May 28–29, 2026, at the NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.
- ➔ The conference was held under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Fact Sheet

Chair	Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
Participation	Agriculture Ministers from 22 States participated, which is described as a historic first for Indian agriculture.
Major themes	Atmanirbharta, Diversification and Production Growth; Sustainability and Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Khet Bachao; Infrastructure, Financing and Risk Management.
Immediate follow-up	Khet Bachao Abhiyan was launched on 1 June 2026 and will run till 30 June 2026.

Cabinet Approves MSP for 14 Kharif Crops for 2026–27

On May 13, 2026, the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved the new **Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** for **14 Kharif crops** for the **Marketing Season 2026–27**. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The highest increase in MSP has been given to **Sunflower Seed**, followed by **Cotton**, **Nigerseed**, and **Sesamum**.

❑ What is MSP?

- ➔ It is the minimum price fixed by the government for buying crops from farmers. If market prices fall, farmers can still sell their crops at the MSP. In this way, MSP gives price protection to farmers.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ The government increased MSP for all 14 Kharif crops. The biggest increase has been given to these crops:

Highest Increase in MSP	
Crop	Increase in MSP
Sunflower Seed	₹622 per quintal
Cotton	₹557 per quintal
Nigerseed	₹515 per quintal
Sesamum	₹500 per quintal

- ➔ This shows that the government is giving special focus to oilseeds, pulses, and commercial crops.

MSP of Major Kharif Crops for 2026–27	
Crop	MSP for 2026–27
Paddy Common	₹2,441 per quintal
Paddy Grade A	₹2,461 per quintal
Jowar Hybrid	₹4,023 per quintal
Jowar Maldandi	₹4,073 per quintal
Bajra	₹2,900 per quintal
Ragi	₹5,205 per quintal
Maize	₹2,410 per quintal
Tur / Arhar	₹8,450 per quintal
Moong	₹8,780 per quintal
Urad	₹8,200 per quintal
Groundnut	₹7,517 per quintal
Sunflower Seed	₹8,343 per quintal
Soybean Yellow	₹5,708 per quintal
Sesamum	₹10,346 per quintal
Nigerseed	₹10,052 per quintal
Cotton Medium Staple	₹8,267 per quintal
Cotton Long Staple	₹8,667 per quintal

- ➔ Among the listed crops, **Sesamum** has the highest MSP at **₹10,346 per quintal**. It is followed by **Nigerseed**, with an MSP of **₹10,052 per quintal**.

Crops with Highest MSP		
Rank	Crop	MSP
1	Sesamum	₹10,346 per quintal
2	Nigerseed	₹10,052 per quintal
3	Moong	₹8,780 per quintal
4	Cotton Long Staple	₹8,667 per quintal
5	Tur / Arhar	₹8,450 per quintal

- ➔ The government follows the rule announced in the **Union Budget 2018–19**. According to this rule, MSP should be at least **1.5 times the cost of production**.
- ➔ For 2026–27, the highest profit margin over cost is for **Moong (61%)**, followed by **Bajra (56%)** and **Maize (56%)**.

Third Advance Estimates of Production of Major Agricultural Crops for 2025–26

On May 27, 2026, the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** released the **Third Advance Estimates of production of major agricultural crops**

for 2025–26. The estimates were released by **Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.

- ➔ According to the estimates, India's total foodgrain production is expected to reach **376.563 million tonnes**, the highest-ever foodgrain production in the country's history.
- ➔ This is about **18.8 million tonnes more** than last year's production of **357.732 million tonnes**, showing a growth of **5.3%**.
- ➔ This is a major achievement because it is the **highest foodgrain production ever recorded in India**.

Year	Foodgrain Production
2024–25	357.732 million tonnes
2025–26	376.563 million tonnes
Increase	Nearly 18.8 million tonnes
Growth	5.3%

❑ Production of Major Food Crops

Crop	Estimated Production 2025–26
Rice	154.024 million tonnes
Wheat	120.657 million tonnes
Maize	55.093 million tonnes
Shree Anna	17.584 million tonnes
Nutri and Coarse Cereals	74.472 million tonnes

- ➔ Rice production is estimated at a record **154.024 million tonnes**, compared to **150.184 million tonnes** last year. This means rice production has increased by **3.84 million tonnes**.
- ➔ Wheat production is estimated at **120.657 million tonnes**, which is **2.712 million tonnes more** than last year's production of **117.945 million tonnes**.
- ➔ Pulses are important for food security and nutrition. The estimates show good production of major pulses such as tur, gram and lentil.

Strong Growth in Pulses	
Pulse Crop	Estimated Production 2025–26
Tur	3.592 million tonnes
Gram	12.514 million tonnes
Lentil	1.762 million tonnes

- ➔ According to the Third Advance Estimates, total oilseeds production is estimated at **43.059 million tonnes**.
- ➔ Groundnut production is estimated at a record **13.074 million tonnes**, which is **1.132 million tonnes higher** than last year's production of **11.942 million tonnes**.
- ➔ Soybean production is estimated at **12.596 million tonnes**.
- ➔ Sugarcane production is estimated at a record **500.063 million tonnes**. This is **45.452 million tonnes higher** than last year's production of **454.611 million tonnes**.

- ➔ Cotton production is estimated at **29.024 million bales**. Each cotton bale weighs **170 kg**.
- ➔ Jute production is estimated at **9.176 million bales**. Each jute bale weighs **180 kg**.

Major Crops and Top 3 Producing States (Based on 2025–26 Third Advance Estimates)			
Crop / Crop Group	Rank	State	Production
Rice	1	Uttar Pradesh	198.05 lakh tonnes
	2	Telangana	185.29 lakh tonnes
	3	West Bengal	171.36 lakh tonnes
Wheat	1	Uttar Pradesh	358.77 lakh tonnes
	2	Madhya Pradesh	264.43 lakh tonnes
	3	Punjab	170.79 lakh tonnes
Maize / Corn	1	Madhya Pradesh	100.49 lakh tonnes
	2	Karnataka	65.51 lakh tonnes
	3	Maharashtra	56.97 lakh tonnes
Total Pulses	1	Madhya Pradesh	53.48 lakh tonnes
	2	Maharashtra	50.79 lakh tonnes
	3	Rajasthan	44.73 lakh tonnes
Total Oilseeds	1	Rajasthan	105.96 lakh tonnes
	2	Gujarat	89.35 lakh tonnes
	3	Madhya Pradesh	82.40 lakh tonnes
Sugarcane	1	Uttar Pradesh	2,296.99 lakh tonnes
	2	Maharashtra	1,316.49 lakh tonnes
	3	Karnataka	572.88 lakh tonnes
Cotton	1	Maharashtra	77.55 lakh bales
	2	Gujarat	67.93 lakh bales
	3	Telangana	55.54 lakh bales
Jute	1	West Bengal	75.93 lakh bales
	2	Bihar	7.59 lakh bales
	3	Assam	6.93 lakh bales

Final estimates of crop production for 2024-25

- ➔ The Union Agriculture Minister also presented crop-wise details as follows:
Total foodgrains – 3,577.32 lakh tonnes (Record)
 - ➔ Rice – 1,501.84 lakh tonnes (Record)
 - ➔ Wheat – 1,179.45 lakh tonnes (Record)
 - ➔ Nutri/Coarse Cereals – 639.21 lakh tonnes
 - ➔ Maize – 434.09 lakh tonnes
 - ➔ Total Pulses – 256.83 lakh tonnes
 - ➔ Shri Anna (millet) – 185.92 lakh tonnes
 - ➔ Chickpea – 111.14 lakh tonnes
 - ➔ Moong – 42.44 lakh tonnes
 - ➔ Tur – 36.24 lakh tonnes

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Total Oilseeds – 429.89 lakh tonnes

- ➔ Soybean – 152.68 lakh tonnes (Record)
- ➔ Groundnut – 119.42 lakh tonnes (Record)
- ➔ Rapeseed & Mustard – 126.67 lakh tonnes
- ➔ Sugarcane – 4,546.11 lakh tonnes
- ➔ Cotton – 297.24 lakh bales (170 kg each)
- ➔ Jute and Mesta – 88.02 lakh bales (180 kg each)

Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) 2025

On **November 26, 2025**, in celebration of National Milk Day, the Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, ceremoniously released the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025.

Key Highlights of the Event

- ➔ The **Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) 2025** is based on the results of the **Integrated Sample Survey (ISS)** conducted from **March 1, 2024, to February 28, 2025**.
- ➔ The estimated number of animals involved in **milk production, egg-laying birds, animals slaughtered, and sheep shorn**.

Key Facts and Data from BAHS 2025

- ➔ The livestock sector's Gross Value Added (GVA) increased by nearly **195%** from 2014–15 to 2023–24, and it contributed **31%** of total Agricultural GVA in 2023–24 and **5.5%** of national GVA (current prices).
- ➔ The total value of livestock product exports reached **₹66,249 crore** in 2024–25, with exports driven largely by the meat industry (including bovine meat and edible offal).

1. Milk Production:

- ➔ **India ranks 1st globally** in milk production, with an estimated **247.87 million tonnes** for 2024-25, showing a **3.58% increase** from the previous year (239.30 million tonnes in 2023-24).
- ➔ **Per Capita Availability:** The availability has risen from **319 g/day** in 2014-15 to **485 g/day** in 2024-25.

- ➔ Top 5 states together contribute **54.09%** of India's total milk production.

2. Egg Production:

- ➔ **India ranks 2nd globally** in egg production, with an estimated **149.11 billion eggs** for 2024-25, showing a **4.44% increase** from the previous year.
- ➔ **Per Capita Availability:** Eggs have increased from **62 eggs/annum** in 2014-15 to **106 eggs/annum** in 2024-25.
- ➔ Commercial poultry contributes **84.49%** of the total egg production.

3. Meat Production:

- ➔ **India ranks 4th globally** in meat production, with an estimated **10.50 million tonnes** for 2024-25, reflecting a **2.46% increase**.
- ➔ Poultry accounts for **about 50%** of total meat production.

4. Wool Production:

- ➔ **Total wool production** in India is estimated at **34.57 million kg** for 2024-25, showing a **2.63% increase**.
- ➔ These states together contribute **85.98%** of the country's wool output.

Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) 2025

Sector	Top Producing States (Share %)
Milk	Uttar Pradesh (15.66%), Rajasthan (14.82%), Madhya Pradesh (9.12%), Gujarat (7.78%), Maharashtra (6.71%)
Eggs	Andhra Pradesh (18.37%), Tamil Nadu (15.63%), Telangana (12.98%), West Bengal (10.72%), Karnataka (6.67%)
Meat	West Bengal (12.46%), Uttar Pradesh (12.20%), Maharashtra (11.57%), Andhra Pradesh (10.84%), Telangana (10.49%)
Wool	Rajasthan (47.85%), Jammu & Kashmir (22.88%), Gujarat (6.22%), Maharashtra (4.75%), Himachal Pradesh (4.30%)

D. Industrial Sector

Startup India Completes 10 Years

- ➔ Startup India completed 10 years on 16 January 2026. The initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 16 January 2016.
- ➔ The aim of Startup India is to make India a nation of job creators instead of job seekers. India is now the world's third-largest startup ecosystem.
- ➔ The number of startups increased from fewer than 500 in 2014 to more than 2 lakh in 2026.
- ➔ The number of unicorns increased from 4 to nearly

125. Around 44,000 startups were registered in 2025 alone.

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared 16 January as National Startup Day in 2022.

National Startup Awards 5.0

- ➔ DPIIT announced the results of the fifth National Startup Awards.
- ➔ The fifth edition included 20 award categories.
- ➔ The awards also recognised startups from Tier-II and Tier-III cities, deep-tech innovation and emerging sectors.

States' Startup Ranking Framework 5.0

- ➔ DPIIT also announced the results of the fifth States' Startup Ranking Framework.
- ➔ The framework evaluates how States and Union Territories support startup growth.
- ➔ A total of 34 States and Union Territories participated.

SRF 5.0 Key Results

- ➔ Gujarat was the Best Performer in Category A.
- ➔ Arunachal Pradesh and Goa were the Best Performers in Category B.
- ➔ Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh were Top Performers in Category A.
- ➔ Himachal Pradesh was a Top Performer in Category B.
- ➔ Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttarakhand were Leaders in Category A.
- ➔ Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland were Leaders in Category B.

Semiconductor Manufacturing Units

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved two more semiconductor projects under the India Semiconductor Mission on 5 May 2026. These projects will be set up in Gujarat with a cumulative investment of around ₹3,936 crore and are expected to generate employment for 2,230 skilled professionals. The approval includes India's first commercial Mini/Micro-LED display facility based on Gallium Nitride technology and a semiconductor packaging facility.

- ➔ The projects have been approved under the India Semiconductor Mission.
- ➔ The other project will focus on semiconductor assembly and testing for discrete semiconductors.
- ➔ With these approvals, the total number of approved projects under the India Semiconductor Mission has reached 12.
- ➔ The cumulative investment under approved semiconductor projects has reached around ₹1.64 lakh crore.

S. No.	Company	Location	Type of Facility	Proposed Investment/ Output	Employment/Capacity
1	Crystal Matrix Limited	Dholera, Gujarat	Integrated compound semiconductor fabrication and ATMP facility	Mini/Micro-LED display modules and GaN foundry services	Annual capacity of 72,000 sq. metres Mini/Micro-LED display panels and 24,000 sets of RGB wafers
2	Suchi Semicon Private Limited	Surat, Gujarat	Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test facility	Discrete semiconductor manufacturing	Annual capacity of 1,033.20 million chips

Government Notifies Two New SEZs in Puducherry

The Government of India has notified two new Special Economic Zones in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The notification was issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on May 27, 2026, after the proposals were approved by the Board of Approval for SEZs under the Department of Commerce in its 137th

meeting held on 27 February 2026. These two SEZs are aimed at accelerating investment, manufacturing activity and job creation in Puducherry.

- ➔ The two SEZs include one IT/ITES SEZ and one Multi-Sector SEZ.
- ➔ The IT/ITES SEZ will be developed by M/s Oulgaret Municipality at Thattanchavady village in Oulgaret Taluk.

Details of the Two SEZs						
S. No.	Developer Entity	Location	Land Area	Proposed Investment	Proposed Employment	Sector
1	M/s Oulgaret Municipality	Thattanchavady village, Oulgaret Taluk, Puducherry	8.6230 hectares	₹725 crore	3,500 direct/ indirect jobs	IT/ITES
2	M/s Pondicherry Industrial Promotion Development and Investment Corporation	Karasur village, Villianur Taluk, Puducherry	86.2457 hectares	₹1,250 crore	5,000 direct/ indirect jobs	Multi-Sector

India's First Chip Fabrication Plant at Dholera SEZ

Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited's SEZ at **Dholera, Gujarat** is a major milestone, as PIB described it as **India's first chip fabrication plant/first commercial fab**. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued the PIB release on **April 16, 2026**, while the official table records **April 9, 2026** as the notification date.

- ➔ The SEZ will be spread over **66.166 hectares** of land.
- ➔ It planned capacity is 50,000 wafer starts per month.
- ➔ It will support **electronic hardware, software, and IT/ITES services**.
- ➔ The project is expected to generate employment for about **21,000 persons**.
- ➔ It will be an **AI-enabled semiconductor fabrication facility**, marking a major step in India's semiconductor manufacturing capability.

SEZs Approved After 2025 Regulatory Easing					
Entity	Notification date	Area	Proposed investment	Proposed employment	Type of operation
Micron Semiconductor Technology India Pvt. Ltd., Sanand, Gujarat	23 June 2025	37.64 ha	₹13,000 crore	20,786	Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging
Hubballi Durable Goods Cluster Pvt. Ltd., Dharwad, Karnataka	23 June 2025	11.549 ha	₹100 crore	4,360	Electronics components manufacturing and services
CG Semi Pvt. Ltd., Sanand, Gujarat	23 September 2025	11.541 ha	₹2,150 crore	1,911	Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Testing
Kaynes Semicon Pvt. Ltd., Sanand, Gujarat	26 September 2025	18.44 ha	₹681 crore	2,020	OSAT Unit
Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd., Dholera, Gujarat	9 April 2026	66.166 ha	₹91,000 crore	21,000	AI-enabled semiconductor fabrication facility

Employment and Social Trend 2026

The International Labour Organization (ILO) released its flagship report "Employment and Social Trend 2026" in **Geneva on 14 January 2026**, warning that despite global economic resilience, improvements in job quality, income security, and decent work have stalled worldwide.

Key Highlights

- ➔ Between 2015 and 2025, the share of workers living in extreme poverty declined by only 3.1 percentage points, reaching 7.9%.
- ➔ This decline contrasts sharply with the **15 percentage point** reduction recorded between **2005 and 2015**.
- ➔ As a result, around **284 million workers** still earn less than **USD 3 per day**.
- ➔ In **low-income countries**, nearly **68% of workers** lived in **extreme or moderate poverty** in **2025**.
- ➔ The global informality rate increased by **0.3 percentage points** between **2015 and 2025**, reversing earlier improvements.
- ➔ By **2026**, around **2.1 billion workers** are projected to be in informal employment.
- ➔ The global labour force participation rate is projected to decline by **0.2 percentage points annually** and reach **60.5% by 2027**.
- ➔ The global youth unemployment rate in **2025** was **12.4%**.

- ➔ For **2026**, labour productivity growth is projected at **1.0% in Latin America & the Caribbean** and **3.9% in Southern Asia**.
- ➔ The global labour income share in **2025** was **52.6%**, which is below the **2019** level of **53.0%**.
- ➔ **India** is projected to remain one of the fastest-growing economies in the **Asia-Pacific** region.
- ➔ India is expected to sustain high GDP growth within **Southern Asia**, and it is likely to function as the primary growth engine of the sub-region.

Rapid Growth in Exports: India's Rising Global Influence

According to **World Bank data**, while global exports are growing at a rate of **2.5%**, India's exports have surged ahead at **7.1% (2024)** — a clear indicator of the country's growing strength in international trade. The **share of exports in India's GDP** has increased from **19.8% in 2015** to **21.2% in 2024**, underscoring the rising significance of exports in India's economic structure.

Key Highlights

- ➔ As per data released by the Government of India in October 2025, total exports (merchandise + services) grew by 5.19% during April–August 2025, compared to the same period in 2024.
- ➔ The **total export value** for April–August 2025 stood at USD 346.10 billion, up from USD 329.03 billion in April–August 2024.

- ➔ In April–August 2025, merchandise exports accounted for 53.09%, while services exports made up 46.91% of total exports.
- ⌚ In August 2025, exports rose by 4.77% over August 2024.
- ➔ Acknowledging this strong performance, the government set an ambitious **USD 1 trillion export target for FY 2025-26**, of which 34.61% has already been achieved in the **first five months**.
- ➔ **Merchandise exports** rose 2.31%, from **USD 179.60 billion (April–August 2024)** to **USD 183.74 billion (April–August 2025)**.
- ➔ **Non-petroleum, non-gems and jewellery exports** increased 7.76%, reaching **USD 146.70 billion (April–August 2025)** compared to **USD 136.13 billion** a year earlier.
- ➔ **Top grain export destinations:** Nepal, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, and Bhutan.
- ⌚ In 2024, India overtook Sri Lanka to become the **world's second-largest tea exporter**.

India's Progress in the Electronics Sector

- ➔ According to data released by the Government of India in October 2025, electronics production

increased almost six times — from **₹1.9 lakh crore in 2014–15** to **₹11.3 lakh crore in 2024–25**.

- ⌚ During the same period, **exports** grew **eightfold**, from **₹38,000 crore** to **₹3.27 lakh crore**.
- ➔ In the last 10 years, electronics manufacturing in India has **generated 2.5 million (25 lakh) jobs**.
- ➔ Since **FY 2020–21**, India has attracted **over USD 4 billion in FDI** in the electronics manufacturing sector.
- ➔ The top five export destinations for Indian electronic goods in FY 2024–25 were: **United States, United Arab Emirates, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Italy**.
- ➔ **Mobile phone production** has surged 28 times, from **₹18,000 crore in 2014–15** to **₹5.45 lakh crore in 2024–25**.
- ⌚ India is now the **world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer**, the **largest gaming market by downloads**, and home to **over 950 million internet users**.
- ⌚ Annually, around **330 million mobile phones** are produced in India.
- ➔ **Mobile exports** have shown exponential growth — from **₹1,500 crore in 2014–15** to **₹2 lakh crore in 2024–25**, a **127-fold increase**.

E. National/Global Indices

WEF Energy Transition Index 2026

The World Economic Forum (WEF) Energy Transition Index (ETI) was released on June 18, 2026. Titled **“Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2026,”** the report analyzes the energy systems of 120 countries and was produced in collaboration with Accenture.

- ➔ The Energy Transition Index 2026 was prepared by the **World Economic Forum** in collaboration with **Accenture**.
- ➔ The index tracks the progress of energy transition across **120 countries**.
- ➔ The index used 44 indicators to measure current performance and future preparedness.
- ➔ Global energy investment reached a record level of **USD 3.3 trillion**.

❑ Key Highlights

Rank	Country	2026 ETI score
1	Sweden	75.3
2	Finland	74.1
3	Denmark	72.6
4	Estonia	70.9

5	Norway	70.5
70	India	54.9

- ➔ India improved its position in the World Economic Forum's Energy Transition Index 2026.
- ➔ India climbed two places and ranked 70th in the index.

Performance Grading Index for Districts 2024–25

The Performance Grading Index for Districts is also called PGI-D. PGI-D 2024–25 was released by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. It evaluates the performance of school education at the district level. The index covers 782 districts across India. It assesses districts on 600 points. It uses 70 indicators grouped under 6 major categories. PGI-D is important for planning under Samagra Shiksha and monitoring the National Education Policy 2020.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ PGI-D 2024–25 assessed 782 districts.
- ➔ A total of 653 districts improved their PGI scores compared to 2023–24.
- ➔ A total of 251 districts improved their grade level.
- ➔ No district reached the highest grade, Utkarsh.

- ➔ No district reached Uttam-1.
- ➔ The number of Uttam-2 districts increased from 1 to 16.
- ➔ The number of Uttam-3 districts increased from 40 to 75.
- ➔ The number of Prachesta-1 districts increased from 281 to 332.
- ➔ A total of 508 districts remained in the same grade.
- ➔ A total of 20 districts slipped by one grade level.

❑ Grade-wise Performance

Grade	Score Band	Districts in 2023–24	Districts in 2024–25
Utkarsh	Above 90%	0	0
Uttam-1	81–90%	0	0
Uttam-2	71–80%	1	16
Uttam-3	61–70%	40	75
Prachesta-1	51–60%	281	332
Prachesta-2	41–50%	355	313
Prachesta-3	31–40%	110	43
Akankshi-1	21–30%	1	3

❑ Top Performing Districts

- ➔ Diu scored 469 and ranked among the best-performing districts.
- ➔ Kolhapur in Maharashtra scored 463.
- ➔ Barnala in Punjab scored 461.
- ➔ Muktsar in Punjab scored 456.
- ➔ Nawanshahr in Punjab scored 453.
- ➔ Ernakulam in Kerala scored 438.
- ➔ Punjab and Kerala had strong district-level performance.
- ➔ Kerala stood out because all its 14 districts were placed in Uttam-2 or Uttam-3.

❑ Low Performing Districts

- ➔ Some of the lowest-performing districts were from Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.
- ➔ South West Garo Hills in Meghalaya scored 173.
- ➔ West Khasi Hills in Meghalaya scored 176.
- ➔ South Garo Hills in Meghalaya scored 179.
- ➔ North Garo Hills in Meghalaya scored 181.
- ➔ Longding in Arunachal Pradesh scored 182.
- ➔ Lawngtlai in Mizoram scored 210.

State Energy Efficiency Index 2024

The State Energy Efficiency Index 2024 was released by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency. It was developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency in association with the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy. The index assesses the energy efficiency performance of 36 States and Union Territories. It covers the financial year 2023–24.

- ➔ SEEI 2024 is the sixth edition of the index.

- ➔ It helps in monitoring energy efficiency performance at the state level.
- ➔ It promotes data-based planning, sharing of best practices and healthy competition among states.
- ➔ The 2024 index uses a new implementation-focused framework.
- ➔ It has 66 indicators.
- ➔ States and Union Territories are classified into four categories.
- ➔ Front Runners are those scoring more than 60%.
- ➔ Achievers are those scoring between 50% and 60%.
- ➔ Contenders are those scoring between 30% and 50%.
- ➔ Aspirants are those scoring below 30%.

❑ Top Performers

- ➔ Maharashtra was the top performer in Group 1, which includes states with energy consumption above 15 MToE.
- ➔ Andhra Pradesh was the top performer in Group 2, which includes states with energy consumption between 5 and 15 MToE.
- ➔ Assam was the top performer in Group 3, which includes states with energy consumption between 1 and 5 MToE.
- ➔ Tripura was the top performer in Group 4, which includes states with energy consumption below 1 MToE.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ A total of 24 states have notified the Energy Conservation Building Code 2017.
- ➔ A total of 10 states have MSME energy efficiency policies.
- ➔ A total of 31 states have adopted electric mobility policies.
- ➔ A total of 13 states are promoting solar-powered agricultural pumps.
- ➔ Kerala has achieved 74% adoption of solar-powered agricultural pumps.
- ➔ All 36 States and Union Territories have prepared State Energy Efficiency Action Plans.

“From Borrowers to Builders: Women and India’s Evolving Credit Market”

- ➔ NITI Aayog released the **second edition of the report** titled “From Borrowers to Builders: Women and India’s Evolving Credit Market” on **7 April 2026 in New Delhi**.
- ➔ The report was prepared in collaboration with the **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**, TransUnion CIBIL, and MicroSave Consulting.
- ➔ The report highlights that **women in India hold a credit portfolio of ₹76 lakh crore**, which accounts for **26% of the total system credit**.

- ➔ The number of **credit-active women borrowers** grew at a **compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9% between 2017 and 2025**.
- ➔ Credit penetration among women increased from **19% in 2017 to 36% in 2025**.
- ➔ Total credit outstanding to women rose from **₹16 lakh crore in 2017 to ₹76 lakh crore in 2025**.
- ➔ India has around **45 crore credit-eligible women**, indicating significant scope for further expansion.

Fiscal Health Index 2026

NITI Aayog released the second annual edition of the Fiscal Health Index (FHI 2026) in New Delhi on 11 March 2026. The report assumes importance at a time when, as noted in the report, global public debt had risen to USD 102 trillion in 2024.

- ➔ The **Fiscal Health Index (FHI)** is a framework developed by **NITI Aayog** to assess and compare the fiscal performance of Indian States through a data-driven and evidence-based approach.

○ Key features

- ➔ It evaluates States on the basis of **five pillars**: Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilisation, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, and Debt Sustainability.

Major States: Category-wise Position

Category	States
Achievers	Odisha, Goa, Jharkhand
Front-Runners	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka
Performers	Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan
Aspirational	West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab

State/Trend	Observation
Bihar	Performer state due to better deficit management
Tamil Nadu	Slipped because of rising fiscal pressure

- ➔ Punjab, Kerala, and West Bengal are the most debt-stressed and interest-burdened States.

□ North-Eastern and Himalayan States Category-wise Position

Category	States
Achievers	Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand
Performers	Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura
Aspirational	Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland

Performer States: Key Points

State	Observation
Tripura	Stronger debt sustainability
Mizoram	Weakness in debt sustainability
Sikkim	Weaker fiscal prudence

Innovators Business Environment Index (IBEI) 2026

The StartupBlink released the Innovators Business Environment Index (IBEI) 2026 in January 2026. The index covers 125 countries, uses 30+ measurable indicators, and gives each country a 0–100 score.

- ➔ The **United States (1st)** combines a large market size with a conducive business environment.
- ➔ **Singapore (2nd)** scores highest on the eight parameters, more than any other country in the Index.
- ➔ **United Arab Emirates (5th)** and **Saudi Arabia (9th)** rank **2nd and 6th globally in taxation**, standing out within the Top 20 where most countries perform weakly in this area.
- ➔ India ranks globally at 54th position in IBEI 2026 index; and is placed at 1st in South Asia and 10th in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- ➔ The **StartupBlink Innovators Business Environment Index (IBEI)** is a global benchmark dedicated to evaluating how easily innovators can start and operate a business across the world.

Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024

NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024 on 14 January 2026 to assess export readiness across India's States and Union Territories (UTs).

- ➔ The **EPI 2024** is a composite, evidence-based assessment that evaluates how prepared **States/UTs** are to build competitive export ecosystems through infrastructure, business conditions, governance support, and export outcomes.
- ➔ The **first EPI** was published in **August 2020**, and **EPI 2024 is the 4th edition**.
- ➔ The index is aligned with India's objective of **USD 1 trillion in merchandise exports by 2030** and the vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047**.
- ➔ The four pillars and 13 Sub-pillars are –

Export Infrastructure (20%)	Utilities; Logistics
Business Ecosystem (40%)	Macro-economy; Cost competitiveness; Human capital; Finance and credit accessibility; MSME ecosystem; Industrial and innovation environment
Policy & Governance (20%)	State-level policy support and governance; Regulatory environment & compliance
Export Performance (20%)	State-level exports and trends; Export promotion and facilitation; Export portfolio and market access

□ Top performers in EPI 2024

- ➔ **Large States (Top 5)** – (1) Maharashtra; (2) Tamil Nadu; (3) Gujarat; (4) Uttar Pradesh; (5) Andhra Pradesh

- ➔ **Small States/North East States/UTs (Top 5)** – (1) Uttarakhand; (2) Jammu and Kashmir; (3) Nagaland; (4) Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu; (5) Goa
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh's overall rank at **4th in EPI 2024** and highlights it as the top landlocked State, also listing initiatives such as ODOP, logistics reforms, road-connectivity and dry ports, and exporter support measures.

Index of Economic Freedom, 2026

The Index of Economic Freedom (IEF), first published in 1995, is an annual report released by the Washington,

D.C.-based think tank The Heritage Foundation. This index measures the level of economic freedom across countries based on **12 quantitative and qualitative indicators**, which are grouped into **four broad policy areas**.

Key Highlights

- ➔ The Index of Economic Freedom 2026 was released in **March, 2026**.
- ➔ This is the **32nd edition** of the index.
- ➔ The report presents a comparative assessment of **176 independent countries** based on their economic policies and conditions.

Categories of Economic Freedom			
1. Economically Free (Score: 80 and above) Only four countries fall in this category: ☞ Singapore ☞ Switzerland ☞ Ireland ☞ Australia Among them, Singapore has been ranked as the most economically free economy in the world.	2. Mostly Free (Score: 70–79.9) ➔ 27 economies fall under this category. ➔ Major countries include: ☞ Luxembourg (6th) ☞ Denmark (7th) ☞ Norway (8th) ☞ New Zealand (12th) ☞ Chile (17th) ☞ South Korea (19th) ☞ Mauritius (21st) ☞ USA (22nd) ☞ UAE (23rd) ☞ Germany (24th) ☞ UK (29th) ☞ Japan (30th)	3. Moderately Free (Score: 60–69.9) ➔ 58 economies fall in this category. ➔ Examples: ☞ Austria (33rd) ☞ Belgium (36th) ☞ Oman (39th) ☞ Israel (41st) ☞ Spain (53rd) ☞ Saudi Arabia (59th) ☞ Indonesia (60th) ☞ France (65th) ☞ Italy (73rd)	4. Mostly Unfree (Score: 50–59.9) ➔ 57 economies fall under this category. ➔ Major countries include: ☞ India (132nd) (Score: 52.5) ☞ Mexico (92nd) ☞ South Africa (100th) ☞ Argentina (106th) ☞ Turkey (117th) ☞ Bangladesh (120th) ☞ Nepal (129th) ☞ Brazil (134th) ☞ Sri Lanka (144th) ☞ Russia (145th)

* There is a fifth category named **'Repressed'** (0 – 49.9) North Korea falls under this category.

Top 5 Countries (2026)

Rank	Country	Score
1	Singapore	84.4
2	Switzerland	83.7
3	Ireland	83.3
4	Australia	80.1
5	Taiwan	79.8

Lowest Ranked Country

- ➔ **North Korea (176th)** with a score of **3.1**
- ➔ Categorized as a **"Repressed Economy"**

Neighbourhood Comparison (Repressed Category)

- ➔ Countries with score below 50:
 - ☞ Pakistan (152nd)
 - ☞ China (154th)
 - ☞ Maldives (158th)
 - ☞ Myanmar (Burma) (164th)

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2025

The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2025, released on **October 17, 2025**, is jointly published by the **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**.

For the **first time**, the 2025 MPI overlays data on **climate hazards** with **multidimensional poverty**, assessing how environmental shocks exacerbate poverty levels.

Key Findings of the Report

- ➔ The report finds that **1.1 billion people (18.3%)** worldwide live in **acute multidimensional poverty**, with **over half being children**.
- ➔ **Children are disproportionately affected**, with **27.8%** living in multidimensional poverty compared to **13.5% of adults**.
- ➔ A majority of the poor (**83.5%**) reside in **rural areas**, reflecting persistent rural deprivation.

- ➔ Poverty remains concentrated in **Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia**, which together account for **83.2% of all multidimensionally poor people**.
- ➔ Globally, **970 million** people lack **clean cooking fuel**, **878 million** live in **inadequate housing**, and **830 million** lack **basic sanitation**.
- ➔ About **635 million** people live in **undernourished households**, and **581 million** live where **no one has completed six years of schooling** — underscoring the multidimensional nature of poverty.
- ➔ Among **88 countries** with trend data, **76 have reduced MPI values** at least once, showing progress in poverty alleviation.
- ➔ However, only **16 of 26 countries** with the latest data showed **significant reductions**, suggesting uneven progress.
- ➔ **Benin, Cambodia, and Tanzania** recorded the **fastest absolute reductions** in multidimensional poverty.
- ➔ Conversely, countries like **Afghanistan** witnessed an **increase in MPI**, rising from **0.270 (2020–21)** to **0.363 (2022–23)**.
- ➔ **Lower-middle-income countries** face the highest exposure: **71.7% of their poor** experience **high heat**, and **52.1% face floods**.

○ Findings Related to India

- ➔ India has made remarkable progress in reducing multidimensional poverty, with its **poverty rate declining from 55.1% (2005–06) to 16.4% (2019–21)**.
- ➔ This decline represents **≈ 414 million people** moving out of multidimensional poverty in a span of 15 years.

About Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)	
Aspect	Description
About	The MPI is a comprehensive measure that goes beyond income to capture the multiple and overlapping deprivations faced by individuals. It complements income-based poverty measures (like the USD 3.00/day threshold) by including non-monetary dimensions of poverty for better policy targeting.
Structure	3 Dimensions → 10 Indicators (covering health, education, and living standards).
Weighting System	- Each dimension has equal weight (1/3 each). - Health (2 indicators) → 1/6 weight each. - Education (2 indicators) → 1/6 weight each. - Standard of Living (6 indicators) → 1/18 weight each.
Range	MPI values range from 0 to 1 . Higher values indicate greater poverty.
Identification of Poor	A person is considered multidimensionally poor if their deprivation score ≥ 33.3% (1/3) .

Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025

The Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 was released on **September 16, 2025**. The **18th edition** of the report was published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**. It was launched at the Hybrid launch event held in Geneva, Switzerland.

The report provides a global innovation ranking of economies and discusses the theme “Innovation at a Crossroads”.

The Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 assesses **139 economies** and identifies both **innovation leaders** and **overperformers** across regions and income groups, using data primarily from **2023–2025** (~80% of indicators).

□ Key Findings

- ➔ Global Research and Development growth declined to 2.9% in 2024, with a projection of 2.3% in 2025, marking the weakest research expansion since 2010.
- ➔ **Switzerland** is the world’s innovation leader for a 15th consecutive year, ranking 1st in Creative outputs and placing in the top five of all pillars except Human capital & research (6th).
- ➔ **Sweden (2nd)** and the **United States (3rd)** retain their positions for the **third straight year**, underscoring stability at the very top of the index.
- ➔ United States (3rd) leads the Market and Business sophistication pillars, ranks 1st in Global corporate R&D investors, and benefits from a large domestic market (2nd) and strong private credit (4th), although Infrastructure (32nd) remains a relative weak spot.
- ➔ **China enters the top 10 for the first time**, leading globally in **Knowledge & technology outputs** and standing out as the **only middle-income economy in the top 30**.
- ➔ **Finland (7th)**, **Netherlands (8th)**, and **Denmark (9th)** maintain strong top-10 credentials, each bolstered by distinct pillar strengths.
- ➔ **India rose from 81st (2015) to 38th (2025)**, ranking 1st among lower-middle-income economies and in Central & Southern Asia economy.
- ➔ India’s position in Innovation Input is 52nd and in Innovation Outputs in 32nd.
- ➔ Its strengths are Knowledge & Technology Outputs (22) and Market Sophistication (38); weaknesses lie in Business Sophistication (64), Infrastructure (61), and Institutions (58).

Global Unicorn Index 2025

The **Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2025**, released on **June 26, 2025**, highlights this rising trend with a record 1,523 unicorns worldwide, signaling the growing strength and global spread of the startup ecosystem. The index was released by “The Hurun Research Institute”.

- ➔ Collectively, these unicorns have amassed a combined valuation of **\$5.6 trillion**, reflecting the robust expansion of high-value startups worldwide.

- ➔ These unicorns are now present in **52 countries (2025)**, representing a **117% increase** in geographical presence since 2019.
- ➔ Moreover, they operate across **307 cities**, showcasing a remarkable **154% year-on-year increase** in urban dispersion.
- ➔ 359 unicorns saw their valuation increase, of which 203 were new unicorns. The valuation increases and new unicorns came to US\$1.4 trillion, of which new unicorns made up US\$565 billion.
- ➔ 143 unicorns from last year saw their valuation drop, losing US\$135 billion.
- ➔ Over 55% of the unicorns in the Global Unicorn Index 2025 were founded in the last 10 years, contributing a combined valuation of US\$2.8 trillion.

Human Development Report 2025

On May 06, 2025, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released the Human Development Report (HDR) for 2025, highlighting India's progress in life expectancy, education, and income levels.

While HDR 2025 is released in 2025; it primarily reports data from 2023.

Key Highlights

- ➔ **Title:** A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI
- ➔ The global **Human Development Index (HDI)** saw its **smallest increase since 1990**, excluding the crisis years of 2020-2021.
- ➔ **Iceland** topped the list with an **HDI of 0.972**, making it the highest-ranked country in the Human Development Index for 2025.
- ➔ At the opposite end of the spectrum, **South Sudan** recorded the lowest HDI, standing at **0.388**, reflecting severe developmental challenges.

Rank	Country	Human Development Index (HDI) Value	HDI rank
HDI		2023	2022
1	Iceland	0.972	3

2	Norway	0.970	1
2	Switzerland	0.970	2
4	Denmark	0.962	4
5	Germany	0.959	6
5	Sweden	0.959	4
130	India	0.685	133

India's Human Development Index (HDI) Ranking

- ➔ India improved its HDI ranking from **133rd in 2022 to 130th in 2023**, with its HDI value increasing from **0.676 to 0.685**.
- ➔ Despite being categorized under “medium human development,” India is steadily progressing towards the threshold for “high human development” (HDI ≥ 0.700).
- ➔ Comparison among India's neighboring countries:
 - ⦿ **China** ranks **78th**, reflecting significant developmental progress.
 - ⦿ **Sri Lanka** is placed at **89th**, and **Bhutan** at **125th**, both ahead of India.
 - ⦿ **Bangladesh** shares the **130th position** with India, showing comparable progress.
 - ⦿ **Nepal (145th)**, **Myanmar (150th)**, and **Pakistan (168th)** are positioned below India in HDI rankings.
- ➔ India's **life expectancy** surged from **58.6 years in 1990 to 72 years in 2023**, marking the highest ever recorded.
- ➔ The **mean years of schooling** in India have significantly increased, with children now expected to stay in school for **13 years**, up from **8.2 years in 1990**.
- ➔ India's **Gross National Income (GNI) per capita** increased over fourfold, from **USD 2,167 in 1990 to USD 9,046 in 2023**, measured using 2021 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).

F. International Economic Developments

Forbes World's Billionaires List: The Richest in 2026

Richest People In The World						
Rank	Name	Net Worth	Age	Country/Territory	Source	Industry
1	Elon Musk	\$839 B	54	United States	Tesla, SpaceX	Technology
2	Larry Page	\$257 B	52	United States	Google	Technology
3	Sergey Brin	\$237 B	52	United States	Google	Technology
4	Jeff Bezos	\$224 B	62	United States	Amazon	Technology
5	Mark Zuckerberg	\$222 B	41	United States	Facebook	Technology

Richest People in The World: India in Top 100						
Global Rank	Name	Net Worth	Age	Country/Territory	Source	Industry
21	Mukesh Ambani	\$99.7 B	68	India	Diversified	Diversified
31	Gautam Adani	\$63.8 B	63	India	Infrastructure, commodities	Diversified
51	Savitri Jindal & family	\$39.1 B	75	India	Steel	Metals & Mining
70	Lakshmi Mittal	\$31 B	75	India	Steel	Metals & Mining
71	Shiv Nadar	\$30.9 B	80	India	Software services	Technology
95	Cyrus Poonawalla	\$27 B	84	India	Vaccines	Healthcare
100	Dilip Shanghvi	\$25.6 B	70	India	Pharmaceuticals	Healthcare

India-EFTA Trade Agreement (TEPA)

The India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) was signed on March 10, 2024 in New Delhi and came into force on October 1, 2025.

The agreement marks a landmark milestone in India's foreign trade policy, as it is India's first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the four developed EFTA countries — **Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein**.

Economically, TEPA stands out as **one of India's most ambitious trade agreements**, both in scope and intent, aiming to deepen India's integration with advanced European economies through **mutual market access, investment promotion, and sustainable trade cooperation**.

- ➔ The **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** is an intergovernmental organization comprising Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. It was established in 1960 by seven founding members to promote free trade and economic integration among its members outside the European Union (EU).
- ⊖ It is effective from **1 October 2025**, TEPA comprises **14 chapters** covering key areas such as: Market access for goods, Rules of origin, Trade facilitation, Sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, Technical barriers to trade, Investment promotion, Services trade, Intellectual property rights (IPR), Trade and sustainable development, Legal and competition-related provisions.
- ➔ **EFTA** has offered tariff concessions on **92.2% of product lines**, covering **99.6% of India's exports**, benefiting **non-agricultural goods** and **processed food products**.
- ➔ In return, **India** has granted access on **82.7% of product lines**, representing **95.3% of EFTA's exports**, with **stringent safeguard clauses** to protect sensitive domestic sectors.

- ➔ Notably, **over 80% of India's imports from EFTA consist of gold**, which remains unaffected by tariff changes.

Hurun Global Rich List 2026

The Hurun Global Rich List 2026 was released by the Hurun Research Institute on 10 March 2026. The report highlights a sharp rise in the number of billionaires in India.

Key Highlights

- ➔ The report shows that India added 57 new billionaires during the year (2025–26).
- ➔ With this, the total number of Indian billionaires increased to 308.
- ➔ India remains the **third-largest billionaire hub** in the world.
- ➔ The **United States** and **China** are ahead of India in the global billionaire ranking.
- ➔ India is now one of the fastest-growing hubs of wealth creation globally.
- ➔ The combined wealth of Indian billionaires rose by 10%.
- ➔ The total wealth of Indian billionaires reached around ₹112.6 trillion.
- ➔ The average wealth of Indian billionaires stood at ₹36,570 crore.
- ➔ The average wealth of Indian billionaires is now higher than the average wealth of billionaires in China.
- ➔ Mumbai remains India's top billionaire hub (95 billionaires).
- ➔ Mumbai added 15 new billionaires during the year.
- ⊖ This growth was higher than New York, which added 14 new billionaires.
- ➔ **Shenzhen** became Asia's billionaire capital with 132 billionaires.
- ➔ **Mukesh Ambani** (Chairman of Reliance Industries) remains the richest person in India.

G. Miscellaneous

Income Mobility in India (2014–2025)

- ➔ The study is based on **real per capita income data** from the **CMIE Consumer Pyramids Household Survey** using a balanced panel of households observed from **2014 to 2025**.
- ➔ The analysis classifies households according to their **2014 per capita income rank** into three groups: Top 10%; Next 40%; and Bottom 50%.
- ➔ A household is considered:
 - ⊖ **Upwardly mobile** if it moves to a higher group,
 - ⊖ **Downwardly mobile** if it moves to a lower group,
 - ⊖ **Stable** if it remains in the same group.
- ➔ The share of households facing **downward mobility** rose from **14% in 2015** to **26.8% in 2025**.
- ➔ The share of households with **no change** fell sharply from over **70%** to below **50%**.
- ➔ **Upward mobility** also increased, from **14.1%** to **23.5%**, but remained below downward movement.
- ➔ **Rural India** shows the sharpest stress. By **2025**, nearly **29% of rural households** were worse off than in 2014.
- ➔ By **2025**, around **one-fourth or more** of households in these groups were worse off than in 2014.

BHARATI Initiative

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) on September 2, 2025 has launched a new initiative called **BHARATI**.

- ➔ The launch took place during the “Food & Beverages Sector Stakeholders Meeting”.
- ➔ BHARATI stands for **Bharat’s Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement**.
- ➔ It is designed to support 100 agri-food and agri-tech startups.
- ➔ The primary objectives is to empower startups in agriculture and food processing.
- ⊖ Promote innovation and create new export opportunities.
- ⊖ Contribute to the goal of **\$50 billion agri-food exports by 2030**.
- ➔ The first batch will include 100 startups.

8th Rural Economic Conditions and Sentiments Survey

According to the **8th Rural Economic Conditions and Sentiments Survey (RECSS) (November, 2025)** conducted by **NABARD**, there are clear indications of a notable improvement in demand, rise in incomes, and better living standards in rural areas over the past one year. RECSS is a high-frequency, bi-monthly assessment being conducted by NABARD since September 2024.

❑ Important Facts

- ➔ **Conducting institution:** NABARD
- ➔ **Survey frequency:** Bi-monthly (every two months)
- ➔ **Survey start:** August/September 2024
- ➔ **Survey coverage:** 6,000 households from 600 villages across 28 states & 1 UTs
- ➔ **Households reporting higher consumption:** 79.2%
- ➔ **Share of income spent on consumption:** 67.30% (highest since Sept 2024)
- ➔ **Households reporting income increase:** 42.2%
- ➔ **Households reporting income decline:** 15.7%
- ➔ **Households expecting income rise (next 1 year):** 75.9%
- ➔ **Households reporting increased capital investment:** 29.3% (highest across rounds)
- ➔ **Households using only formal credit sources:** 58.30%
- ➔ **Households using only informal credit:** 20.82%
- ➔ **Average informal interest rate:** ~17.8%
- ➔ **Income share from government transfers:** ~10% (mean)
- ➔ **Rural inflation perception (mean):** 3.77%
- ➔ **Households perceiving inflation ≤5%:** 84.2%
- ➔ **CPI Rural inflation (Sept 2025):** 1.07%
- ➔ **Households reporting improvement in rural infrastructure:** 75.7%
- ➔ **Top perceived infrastructure improvement:** Rural roads (42.4%)

India's FDI Inflow in FY 2024–25

- ➔ According to government estimates, FDI inflows have seen a steady rise—from USD 36.05 billion in FY 2013–14 to USD 81.04 billion (provisional) in FY 2024–25, marking a 14% increase from USD 71.28 billion in FY 2023–24.
- ➔ The **services sector emerged as the top recipient of FDI equity in FY 2024–25**, attracting 19% of total inflows, followed by computer software and hardware (16%) and trading (8%).
 - ⊖ FDI into the services sector rose by 40.77% to USD 9.35 billion from USD 6.64 billion in the previous year.
- ➔ India is also becoming a hub for manufacturing FDI, which grew by 18% in FY 2024–25, reaching USD 19.04 billion compared to USD 16.12 billion in FY 2023–24.
- ➔ **Maharashtra accounted for the highest share (39%) of total FDI equity inflows** in FY 2024–25, followed by Karnataka (13%) and Delhi (12%).
- ➔ Among source countries, **Singapore** led with 30% share, followed by **Mauritius** (17%) and the **United States** (11%).
- ➔ Over the last eleven financial years (2014–25), India attracted FDI worth USD 748.78 billion, reflecting a 143% increase over the previous eleven years (2003–14), which saw USD 308.38 billion in inflows.

News in Shorts

○ India Bans Sugar Exports

- ➔ India has prohibited the export of sugar with immediate effect till September 30, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade's officially notified an "Amendment in export policy of sugar" on May 13, 2026.
- ➔ The decision changes sugar exports from the "Restricted" category to the "Prohibited" category. Its main purpose is to protect domestic availability, control retail prices, and reduce food-security risks during a period of inflationary and geopolitical uncertainty.
- ➔ Earlier, sugar exports were allowed under the restricted category, where exporters required a licence for outbound shipments.
- ➔ The latest order will remain effective till September 30, 2026, or until the government issues further directions.

○ India's First Mega Greenfield Shipyard

- ➔ India has taken an important step towards becoming a major global shipbuilding nation with the proposed development of India's first mega Greenfield shipyard at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 20 April 2026 for this project between HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering Co. Ltd., National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park, Tamil Nadu Limited, and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- ➔ HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering is a global leader in shipbuilding and offshore engineering.
- ➔ National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park Tamil Nadu Limited is a Special Purpose Vehicle jointly promoted by V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority and SIPCOT Tamil Nadu.
- ➔ V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority is a major port under the Government of India.

○ India's First Digital Grievance Redressal System for Gig Workers

- ➔ Karnataka has become the first State in India to launch a government-backed digital grievance redressal system for gig workers (Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board).
- ➔ Gig workers can now lodge complaints through the **Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System portal**.
- ➔ The grievances may relate to pay, working conditions, platform-specific disputes and other employment-related concerns.

○ Cabinet Approves Technology-Driven SARTHAK-PDS Scheme

- ➔ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the continuation and integration of the SARTHAK-PDS Scheme on 27 May 2026. The scheme has a central outlay of ₹25,530 crore and will be implemented during the 16th Finance Commission award cycle, up to 31 March 2031.

○ Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

- ➔ The Government of India notified the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0) on **April 13, 2026** with a total corpus of ₹10,000 crore. The scheme has been launched to mobilise venture capital and growth capital for India's startup ecosystem and strengthen innovation-led economic growth.
- ➔ Startup India FoF 2.0 has been introduced as the second phase of the earlier Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS 1.0), which was launched in 2016 under the Startup India Action Plan.
- ➔ The total corpus of the scheme has been fixed at ₹10,000 crore.

○ e-Rupee Enters the Public Distribution System

- ➔ India has moved into a new phase of digital welfare delivery with the launch of a **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** - based Digital Food Currency pilot under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** in Puducherry on **26 February 2026**. The first official CBDC-based PDS pilot was launched in **Gujarat on 15 February 2026**, initiated by Home Minister Amit Shah. Both pilots use RBI's digital rupee (to transfer food subsidies via digital wallets, reducing leakages). Puducherry project was launched by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi.

○ Kerala: Declared an 'Extreme Poverty-Free' State

- ➔ Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan**, on **1 November 2025**, on the occasion of '**Kerala Piravi**', declared the state '**extreme poverty-free**' in a **special session of the Legislative Assembly**. With this declaration, **Kerala became the first state in India** to achieve this status. Pinarayi Vijayan described this year's **Kerala Piravi** as "the birth of a new era" for Kerala.

○ India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement Expansion

- ➔ Announced on October 16, 2025 in New Delhi during a meeting between Brazil's Vice-President and India's Commerce Minister.

- ➔ Aims to expand the 2009 PTA (currently 450 tariff lines) into a wider trade agreement covering tariff and non-tariff issues.
- ➔ Negotiations to conclude within one year.
- ➔ India–MERCOSUR trade in FY 2024–25: around US\$17.9 billion (exports: US\$8.19 billion; imports: US\$9.73 billion).
- ➔ Target: Raise trade volume to about US\$20 billion by 2030.

○ India Post Payments Bank Wins Digital Payments Award 2024–25

- ➔ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a government-owned digital banking institution under the Ministry of Communications, has been honoured with the prestigious Digital Payments Award 2024–25 by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
- ➔ IPPB secured the 1st position among all Payments Banks in India in the DFS Performance Index and received a Special Mention for its outstanding performance during FY 2023–24.

○ S&P Upgrades India's Sovereign Rating to 'BBB'

- ➔ S&P Global Ratings on August 14, 2025 upgraded India's sovereign credit rating from 'BBB-' to 'BBB', and raised the short-term rating from 'A-3' to 'A-2', while keeping the long-term outlook "Stable." This is the first upgrade in 18 years since January 2007.
- ➔ According to the agency, India's **average real GDP growth in FY2022–FY2024 was 8.8%, the highest in Asia-Pacific;**

○ India's Co-Chair Role: UN-GGIM-AP 2025–28

- ➔ India elected Co-Chair of UN-GGIM-AP at its 14th Plenary (September 24–26, 2025, South Korea).
- ➔ Announced by the Government of India on October 16, 2025.
- ➔ Committee represents 56 Asia-Pacific members for advancing geospatial data governance.
- ➔ Aligns with India's PM GatiShakti, National Master Plan, and digital governance agenda.

Union Budget 2026–27

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Union Budget 2026–27 in the Parliament on February 01, 2026.

The highlights of the budget are as follows:

□ Core Theme: 3 Kartavyas

- ➔ The Budget targets **faster and resilient growth** by raising **productivity and competitiveness** amid global volatility.
- ➔ The Budget aims to **build people's capacities** so citizens become partners in prosperity.
- ➔ The Budget seeks **inclusive access** to resources and opportunities for every region and section under **Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas**.

□ Macro & Fiscal Snapshot (BE 2026–27)

- ➔ **Non-debt receipts** are estimated at ₹36.5 lakh crore, and **total expenditure** is estimated at ₹53.5 lakh crore.
- ➔ **Centre's net tax receipts** are estimated at ₹28.7 lakh crore.
- ➔ **Gross market borrowings** are estimated at ₹17.2 lakh crore, and **net borrowings (dated securities)** are estimated at ₹11.7 lakh crore.
- ➔ **Fiscal deficit** is estimated at 4.3% of GDP, while **RE 2025–26** keeps fiscal deficit at 4.4% of GDP.
- ➔ **Debt-to-GDP** is estimated at 55.6% (BE 2026–27) versus 56.1% (RE 2025–26).

PART-A: Interventions

□ Kartavya 1: Growth Push (6 Interventions)

- (1) Scale manufacturing in 7 strategic/frontier sectors
- ➔ The Budget launches **Biopharma SHAKTI** with

₹10,000 crore (5 years) to build India as a global biopharma hub.

- ➔ The Budget expands biopharma capacity via **3 new NIPERs, upgrading 7 NIPERs, and 1,000+ accredited clinical trial sites**.
- ➔ The Budget announces **India Semiconductor Mission 2.0** for equipment/materials, full-stack IP, and supply-chain strengthening with industry-led R&D and training.
- ➔ The Budget raises **Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme** outlay to ₹40,000 crore.
- ➔ The Budget proposes **Rare Earth Corridors** in Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu for mining to manufacturing.
- ➔ The Budget supports **3 Chemical Parks** via a **challenge-mode, cluster-based plug-and-play model**.
- ➔ The Budget strengthens capital goods via **Hi-Tech Tool Rooms, CIE equipment scheme, and a Container Manufacturing scheme** with ₹10,000+ crore (5 years).
- ➔ The Budget announces an **Integrated Textile Programme** including **National Fibre Scheme, cluster modernisation, challenge-mode Mega Textile Parks, and Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj** for khadi/handloom/handicrafts.

(2) Rejuvenate legacy industrial sectors

- ➔ The Budget announces a scheme to revive **200 legacy industrial clusters** through tech and infrastructure upgrades.

(3) Create "Champion SMEs"

- ➔ The Budget introduces an **SME Growth Fund** of ₹10,000 crore to build future champion firms.

- ➔ The Budget tops up the **Self-Reliant India Fund** by **₹2,000 crore** for micro-enterprise risk capital.
- ➔ The Budget proposes '**Corporate Mitras**' training through professional institutes for Tier-II/III support.

(4) Infrastructure push

- ➔ Public capex is raised to **₹12.2 lakh crore** in FY 2026–27.
- ➔ An **Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund** is proposed to improve private developer confidence.
- ➔ CPSE real-estate recycling is proposed through dedicated REITs.
- ➔ A new **Dedicated Freight Corridor** are proposed from **Dankuni to Surat**.
- ➔ **20 new National Waterways** are to be operationalised in 5 years, starting with **NW-5 (Odisha)**.
- ➔ Regional training centres and ship repair ecosystems at **Varanasi and Patna** are proposed.
- ➔ A **Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme** targets raising waterways/coastal shipping share from **6% to 12% by 2047**.
- ➔ A **Seaplane VGF Scheme** is proposed for tourism and remote connectivity.

(5) Energy security

- ➔ **₹20,000 crore (5 years)** is allocated for **Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS)** technologies.

(6) City Economic Regions (CERs)

- ➔ **₹5,000 crore per CER (5 years)** is announced via challenge-mode, reform-cum-results financing.
- ➔ **Seven High-Speed Rail corridors** are proposed: **Mumbai–Pune, Pune–Hyderabad, Hyderabad–Bengaluru, Hyderabad–Chennai, Chennai–Bengaluru, Delhi–Varanasi, Varanasi–Siliguri**.

❑ Banking & Investment Ecosystem

- ➔ A High-Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat is proposed.
- ➔ **PFC and REC** restructuring is proposed to improve scale and efficiency.
- ➔ A review of **FEMA (Non-debt Instruments) Rules** is proposed for a user-friendly FDI framework.
- ➔ A **₹100 crore incentive** is announced for a single municipal bond issuance above **₹1,000 crore**.

❑ Kartavya 2: Aspirations and Capacity

- ➔ A high-powered **Education to Employment and Enterprise** standing committee is proposed with a services-sector focus.
- ➔ Allied health capacity is expanded through new/upgraded institutions and **1,00,000 Allied Health Professionals (AHP) in 5 years**.
- ➔ **Five Regional Medical Hubs** are proposed for medical tourism.
- ➔ **Three All India Institutes of Ayurveda** are proposed.

- ➔ Veterinary capacity is expanded by **20,000+ professionals**, and a loan-linked subsidy supports private veterinary colleges/hospitals/labs.

- ➔ **AVGC labs** are planned via **IICT Mumbai** in **15,000 schools** and **500 colleges**.

- ➔ **Five University Townships** are proposed near industrial/logistics corridors.

- ➔ A girls' hostel in every district is proposed via VGF/capital support.

- ➔ Tourism measures include upgrading NCHMCT, training **10,000 guides**, and a **National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid**.

- ➔ **15 archaeological sites** are proposed for experiential cultural tourism, and **Khelo India Mission** is proposed for sports transformation.

❑ Kartavya 3: Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas (Targeted Areas)

- ➔ Farmer incomes are targeted through **500 reservoirs/Amrit Sarovars** and support for high-value crops including **coconut, sandalwood, cocoa, cashew**, plus a **Coconut Promotion Scheme**.

- ➔ **Bharat-VISTAAR** is proposed as a multilingual AI tool integrating **AgriStack** and **ICAR** practice packages.

- ➔ **Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana** is proposed for job-ready roles in IT, AVGC, hospitality, and Food & Beverage.

- ➔ **NIMHANS-2** is proposed in North India, and mental health institutes in **Ranchi and Tezpur** are to be upgraded.

- ➔ Purvodaya/NER focus includes an East Coast Industrial Corridor, 5 tourism destinations, 4,000 e-buses, and a **Buddhist Circuits** scheme in NE states.

- ➔ **₹1.4 lakh crore** is provided as **Finance Commission grants** for states in **FY 2026–27** (as per 16th FC).

PART –B : Overall Fiscal Framework

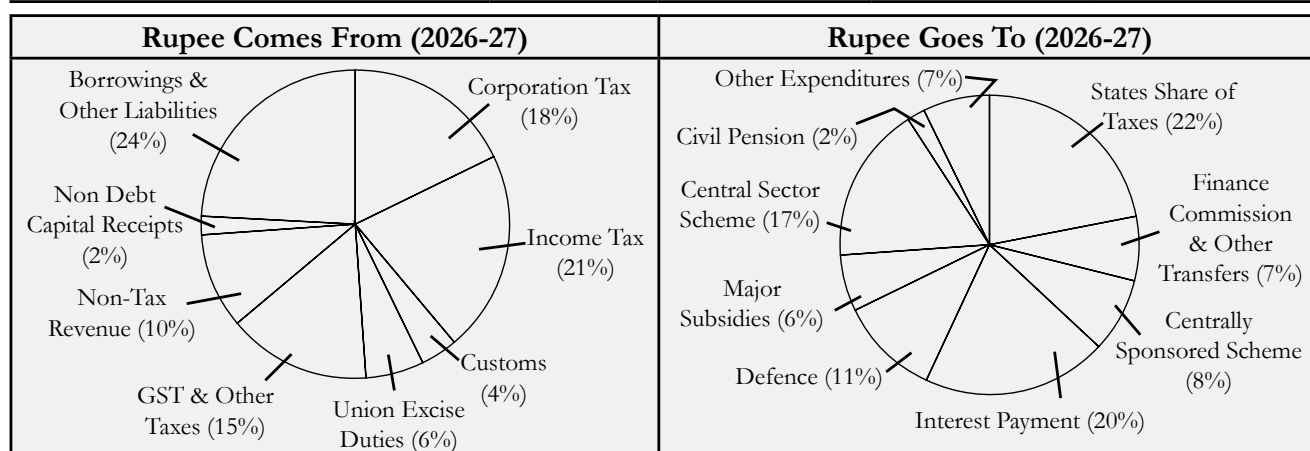
- ➔ The Union Government is estimated to spend **₹53.47 lakh crore in 2026–27**, representing a **7.7% increase** over the Revised Estimates (RE) of 2025–26.

- ➔ **Interest payments** constitute about **26% of total expenditure** and absorb nearly **40% of revenue receipts**, highlighting persistent debt servicing pressures.

- ➔ **Total receipts (excluding borrowings)** are estimated at **₹36.51 lakh crore**, marking a **7.2% increase** over the RE of 2025–26, with **tax revenue** expected to grow by **8%**.

- ➔ The government has projected **nominal GDP growth at 10%** for **2026–27**, reflecting expectations of sustained real growth and moderate inflation.

Budget at a Glance				
	2024-2025	2025-2026	2025-2026	2026-2027
	Actuals	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Budget Estimates
1. Revenue Receipts	3036619	3420409	3342323	3533150
2. Tax Revenue (Net to Centre)	2500039	2837409	2674661	2866922
3. Non-tax Revenue	536580	583000	667662	666228
4. Capital Receipts	1616249	1644936	1622519	1814165
5. Recovery of Loans	24617	29000	30190	38397
6. Other Receipts	17202	47000	33837	80000
7. Borrowings and Other Liabilities	1574431	1568936	1558492	1695768
8. Total Receipts	4652867	5065345	4964842	5347315
9. Total Expenditure	4652867	5065345	4964842	5347315
10. On Revenue Account	3600914	3944255	3869087	4125494
11. Interest Payments	1115575	1276338	1274338	1403972
12. Grants in Aid for creation of Capital Assets	272656	427192	308151	492702
13. On Capital Account	1051953	1121090	1095755	1221821
14. Effective Capital Expenditure	1324609	1548282	1403906	1714523
15. Revenue Deficit	564296 (1.7)	523846 (1.5)	526764 (1.5)	592344 (1.5)
16. Effective Revenue Deficit	291640 (0.9)	96654 (0.3)	218613 (0.6)	99642 (0.3)
17. Fiscal Deficit	1574431 (4.8)	1568936 (4.4)	1558492 (4.4)	1695768 (4.3)
18. Primary Deficit	458856 (1.4)	292598 (0.8)	284154 (0.8)	291796 (0.7)



❑ Deficit and Debt Targets

- ➔ The **revenue deficit** is targeted at **1.5% of GDP**, unchanged from the revised estimate of **2025–26**, indicating continued emphasis on fiscal consolidation.
- ➔ The **fiscal deficit** is targeted at **4.3% of GDP**, marginally lower than **4.4% of GDP in 2025–26 (RE)**.
- ➔ The Centre has reiterated its commitment to reducing **outstanding liabilities to around 50% of GDP by March 2031**, with liabilities estimated at **55.6% of GDP in 2026–27**.

❑ Taxation Proposals

- ➔ **Income tax slabs remain unchanged** for Assessment Year **2026–27**, maintaining stability in the personal tax regime.

- ➔ A **tax holiday until 2047** has been granted to **foreign companies providing global cloud services using Indian data centres**, subject to routing services to Indian customers through Indian resellers.
- ➔ The **tax holiday for IFSC units and Offshore Banking Units** has been extended from **10 years to 20 years**, with income taxed at **15% thereafter**.
- ➔ All **share buybacks** are proposed to be taxed as **capital gains**, with an additional buyback tax on promoters, raising the effective tax rate to **22% for corporate promoters** and **30% for non-corporate promoters**.
- ➔ **Securities Transaction Tax (STT)** rates have been increased for **options and futures**, signalling a calibrated tightening in capital market taxation.

- ➔ **Interest expenditure deductions** against dividend income or mutual fund income have been withdrawn.
- ➔ **Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT)** rate has been reduced from **15% to 14%**, while **MAT credit accumulation is discontinued from April 2026**.
- ➔ A **Foreign Assets Disclosure Scheme, 2026** has been introduced for small taxpayers, offering graded relief and immunity subject to compliance.
- ➔ **TCS rates** on education, medical remittances, and overseas tour packages have been reduced to **2%**, easing the burden on households.
- ❑ **Finance and Financial Sector Reforms**
 - ➔ A **High-Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat** will be constituted to review the banking sector.
 - ➔ The **FEMA Non-Debt Instruments Rules** will be simplified to facilitate foreign investment.
 - ➔ **Persons Resident Outside India (PROI)** will be allowed to invest up to **10%** in listed Indian companies under the Portfolio Investment Scheme.
 - ➔ A **market-making framework** for corporate bonds and incentives for **municipal bond issuance** have been announced to deepen debt markets.
- ❑ **Industry, MSMEs, and Commerce**
 - ➔ A scheme will be launched to **revive 200 legacy industrial clusters** through modern technology and infrastructure.
 - ➔ To create **Champion SMEs**, the government announced a **₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund**, top-up of the **Self-Reliant India Fund**, and liquidity support.
- ❑ **Infrastructure and Connectivity**
 - ➔ **Public capital expenditure** has been increased to **₹12.2 lakh crore**, up from **₹11.2 lakh crore** in 2025–26.
 - ➔ An **Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund** will be established to crowd-in private investment.
 - ➔ New initiatives include **five tourism destinations in Purvodaya States**, **4,000 electric buses**, **20 new national waterways**, and a **Surat–Dankuni freight corridor**.
 - ➔ **Seven high-speed rail corridors** and **City Economic Regions (CERs)** will be developed to support urban-industrial growth.
- ❑ **Education, Labour, and Human Capital**
 - ➔ Five **university townships** will be created along industrial and logistics corridors.
 - ➔ A **Standing Committee on Education to Employment and Enterprise** will assess skill gaps and the impact of **artificial intelligence on jobs**.
 - ➔ Support will be extended to creative technologies through **AVGC labs** in **15,000 schools** and **500 colleges**.
- ❑ **Energy, Technology, and Strategic Sectors**
 - ➔ The **Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme** outlay has been increased to **₹40,000 crore**.

- ➔ **Rare Earth Corridors** will be established in **Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu**.
- ➔ **₹20,000 crore** has been allocated over five years for **carbon capture, utilisation, and storage**, and **Semiconductor Mission 2.0** will be launched.
- ❑ **Health, Pharmaceuticals, and Agriculture**
 - ➔ New **Allied Health Professional institutions**, **five medical tourism hubs**, and **three All India Institutes of Ayurveda** will be established.
 - ➔ The **Biopharma SHAKTI Scheme** with an outlay of **₹10,000 crore** will promote domestic production of biologics and biosimilars.
 - ➔ Agricultural measures include incentives for **cooperative members**, support for **animal husbandry**, and a **coconut promotion scheme**.
- ❑ **Federal Transfers and Expenditure Composition**
 - ➔ Transfers to States will increase to **₹26.21 lakh crore**, including **₹15.26 lakh crore as tax devolution** and **₹10.94 lakh crore as grants and loans**.
 - ➔ **Capital expenditure loans to States** amount to **₹1.85 lakh crore**.
- ❑ **Overall Assessment**
 - ➔ The Union Budget 2026–27 reflects a **continuation of fiscal consolidation, capex-led growth, and structural reforms**, while aligning macroeconomic stability with the long-term vision of **Viksit Bharat**.
- ❑ **Expenditure Pattern: Revenue vs Capital**
 - ➔ **Capital expenditure**, which creates government assets or reduces liabilities, is projected to grow by **11.5% in 2026–27** over the Revised Estimates (RE) of 2025–26, reinforcing the capex-led growth strategy.
 - ➔ **Revenue expenditure**, which includes salaries, subsidies, and interest payments, is expected to rise by **6.6%**, indicating relatively tighter control over consumption-oriented spending.
 - ➔ **Interest payments** alone account for **26% of total expenditure**, underlining the structural challenge of high debt servicing costs.

Growth in Expenditure Components (2026–27)	
Component	Growth over 2025–26 (RE)
Capital Expenditure	11.5%
Revenue Expenditure	6.6%
Interest Payments	~10%

- ❑ **Receipts Structure for 2026–27**
 - ➔ **Total receipts excluding borrowings** are estimated at **₹36.51 lakh crore**, reflecting a **7.2% increase over 2025–26 (RE)**, mainly driven by higher net tax revenue.
 - ➔ **Gross tax revenue** is budgeted to grow by **8%**, which is **lower than the nominal GDP growth estimate of 10%**, suggesting conservative tax buoyancy assumptions.

❑ Tax Revenue Trends

- ➔ **Corporation tax** collections are expected to grow by **11%**, reflecting stable corporate profitability.
- ➔ **Income tax** collections are projected to grow by **11.7%**, despite a revenue shortfall in **2025–26**, following tax rate rationalisation.
- ➔ **CGST revenue** is expected to grow by **6.3%**, lower than overall tax growth, indicating moderate consumption expansion.

❑ Expenditure Composition for 2026–27

- ➔ **Total expenditure** is estimated at **₹53.47 lakh crore**, an increase of **7.7%** over **2025–26 (RE)**.
- ➔ **Central Sector Schemes** account for **₹17.72 lakh crore**, while **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)** account for **₹9.90 lakh crore**, with CSS showing a higher growth rate of **17.1%**.

❑ Committed Expenditure and Transfers

- ➔ **Pension expenditure** in **2026–27** is estimated at **₹2.96 lakh crore**, rising modestly by **3%**.
- ➔ **Interest payments** are projected at **₹14.04 lakh crore**, consuming over **one-fourth** of total expenditure.
- ➔ **Special loans to States for capital expenditure** amount to **₹1.85 lakh crore**, supporting state-level capex.
- ➔ **Finance Commission grants** for **2026–27** are estimated at **₹1.29 lakh crore**, about **15% lower** than **2025–26 (RE)**, as per **16th Finance Commission** recommendations.

❑ Expenditure by Major Ministries

- ➔ The **top 13 ministries** account for **54%** of total Union expenditure in **2026–27**.
- ➔ The **Ministry of Defence** has the highest allocation at **₹7.85 lakh crore**, constituting **15%** of total expenditure.
- ➔ Other major allocations include **Road Transport and Highways**, **Railways**, and **Home Affairs**, reflecting emphasis on infrastructure, logistics, and internal security.

Major Ministerial Allocations (2026–27)	
Ministry	Share of Total Expenditure
Defence	15%

Road Transport & Highways	6%
Railways	5%
Home Affairs	5%

❑ Ministry-wise Expenditure Priorities

- ➔ The **Ministry of Defence** allocation increases by **₹52,166 crore (7%)** in **2026–27** over **2025–26 (RE)**, reflecting sustained focus on national security.
- ➔ **Capital outlay for defence services** rises sharply to **₹2,19,306 crore**, marking a **17.6% increase**, reinforcing indigenisation and modernisation of armed forces.

❑ Subsidy Expenditure

- ➔ Total **subsidy expenditure** in **2026–27** is estimated at **₹4,54,773 crore**, representing a **3.1% decline** over **2025–26 (RE)**.
- ➔ **Food subsidy** (**₹2,27,629 crore**) and **fertiliser subsidy** (**₹1,70,799 crore**) together constitute **87%** of the total subsidy bill.

❑ Flagship Schemes and Sectoral Allocations

- ➔ **VB-G RAM G** receives the **highest allocation** of **₹95,692 crore** in **2026–27**, following the replacement of **MGNREGA** by the **VB-G RAM G Act** in December 2025.
- ➔ Despite replacement, **MGNREGS** is also allocated **₹30,000 crore** in **2026–27**, indicating a transition phase.

❑ Loans to States for Capital Expenditure

- ➔ **₹1,85,000 crore** has been budgeted as **interest-free loans to States for capital expenditure** in **2026–27**, up from **₹1,44,000 crore (RE)** in **2025–26**.

❑ Deficits and Public Debt

- ➔ The **fiscal deficit** for **2026–27** is estimated at **4.3%** of **GDP**, marginally lower than **4.4%** in **2025–26**, signalling continued fiscal consolidation.
- ➔ The **revenue deficit** remains unchanged at **1.5%** of **GDP**, indicating continued borrowing for recurring expenditure.
- ➔ **Outstanding liabilities** of the Centre are estimated at **55.6%** of **GDP**, down from the pandemic peak of **61%** in **2020–21**.
- ➔ The government aims to reduce liabilities to **around 50% ±1%** of **GDP** by **March 2031**.

Deficit Statistics					
(In ₹ crore)					
		2024-2025 Actuals	2025-2026 Budget Estimates	2025-2026 Revised Estimates	2026-2027 Budget Estimates
1.	Fiscal Deficit	1574431 (4.8)	1568936 (4.4)	1558492 (4.4)	1695768 (4.3)
2.	Revenue Deficit	564296 (1.7)	523846 (1.5)	526764 (1.5)	592344 (1.5)
3.	Effective Revenue Deficit	291640 (0.9)	96654 (0.3)	218613 (0.6)	99642 (0.3)
4.	Primary Deficit	458856 (1.4)	292598 (0.8)	284154 (0.8)	291796 (0.7)

Economic Survey 2025–26

- ➔ The **Economic Survey 2025–26** urges a shift to **entrepreneurial policymaking under uncertainty**, where the State acts early, structures risk, learns through experimentation, and adapts without paralysis.
 - ➔ The Survey says governance is moving from **compliance-driven regulation** to **capability-driven state capacity**, signalling an emerging **entrepreneurial State**.
 - ➔ Despite post-COVID shocks, including global trade disruption and **US tariffs in April 2025**, the **Indian economy** has shown strong **macroeconomic resilience**.
 - ➔ The Survey anticipates **real GDP growth above 7% in FY 2025–26** and expects growth to stay near this level next year.
 - ➔ It highlights a paradox where India's best macro performance in decades comes amid a global system that no longer reliably rewards discipline with currency stability, capital inflows, or insulation.
 - ➔ The Survey argues India's **scale, 145 crore population**, and **democracy** make it unrealistic to copy external development templates in a geopolitically uncertain world.
 - ➔ It states global headwinds can become tailwinds if the **State, private sector, and households** align and sustain a national effort.
 - ➔ The Survey outlines **three global scenarios for 2026**: managed disorder, disorderly multipolar breakdown, and a low-probability high-impact shock cascade worse than **2008**.
 - ➔ Across scenarios, it says India is relatively better placed due to a large domestic market, a less financialised growth model, strong reserves, and credible strategic autonomy, though insulation is not complete.
 - ➔ It warns of a common risk of disrupted capital flows and sustained **rupee pressure** that could last beyond one year.
 - ➔ The Survey says India must strengthen **foreign currency earnings** through exports and investor confidence to finance a rising import bill with rising incomes.
 - ➔ It recommends supply stability, strategic buffers, diversified trade routes, and alternative payment systems, calling for strategic sobriety over defensive pessimism.
 - ➔ It stresses India must balance long-term growth with short-term shock absorption, captured in its “**marathon and sprint**” framing.
 - ➔ The Survey emphasises **process reforms** alongside policy reforms because administrative processes shape citizen-state interaction and reform outcomes.
 - ➔ It notes that recent **deregulation and smart regulation** by States show the State can shift from controller to enabler of growth.
 - ➔ It links **State capacity, society, and deregulation** as key pillars for **Viksit Bharat** and greater global influence.
 - ➔ It urges the State to upskill and mentally prepare for a harsher global environment where rules are changing.
 - ➔ It concludes that long-term success requires resilience, innovation, and delayed gratification rather than quick fixes.
 - ➔ The Survey has been reorganised into **17 chapters** by depth and time-relevance, making it broader and longer than earlier editions.
 - ➔ It includes special essays on **AI, quality of life in Indian cities**, and how **State capacity** and the **private sector** can build strategic resilience and indispensability.
- ❑ **Key Highlights of Economic Survey 2025–26**
- **State of the Economy**
- ➔ The **global economic environment** remains fragile, with elevated risks from **geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation, and financial vulnerabilities**, and some shocks may appear with a time lag.
 - ➔ The **First Advance Estimates** project **real GDP growth at 7.4%** and **GVA growth at 7.3%** for **FY26**, sustaining India's position as the **fastest-growing major economy** for the **fourth consecutive year**.
 - ➔ **Potential growth** for India is assessed at around **7%**, while **FY27 real GDP growth** is projected at **6.8%–7.2%**.
 - ➔ **Private Final Consumption Expenditure** rises by **7.0%** in **FY26** and reaches **61.5% of GDP**, the highest share since **2012** (also seen in **FY23**), supported by **low inflation, stable employment**, and rising real purchasing power.
 - ➔ **Gross Fixed Capital Formation** grows by **7.8%** in **FY26**, with investment's share steady at about **30% of GDP**, aided by sustained **public capex** and revival in **private investment** signals.
 - ➔ The **services sector** remains the main growth engine, with **services GVA** rising **9.3%** in **H1 FY26** and estimated at **9.1%** for the full year.
- ❑ **Fiscal Developments**
- ➔ The Survey states that credible fiscal consolidation has reinforced macro-fiscal confidence and is linked with three sovereign credit rating upgrades in 2025 by Morningstar DBRS, S&P Global Ratings, and R&I.

- ➔ The Centre's **revenue receipts** strengthen to **9.2% of GDP in FY25 (PA)**, up from an average of about **8.5% of GDP** during **FY16–FY20**.
- ➔ **Non-corporate tax collections** rise structurally, from about **2.4% of GDP pre-pandemic** to around **3.3% post-pandemic**.
- ➔ The **direct tax base** expands, with **income tax returns filed** increasing from **6.9 crore (FY22)** to **9.2 crore (FY25)**, reflecting higher compliance and technology-enabled administration.
- ➔ **Gross GST collections** during **April–December 2025** stand at **₹17.4 lakh crore**, recording **6.7% YoY** growth, while **e-way bill volumes** grow **21% YoY** in the same period, indicating robust transactions.
- ➔ The Centre's **effective capital expenditure** increases to about **4.0% of GDP in FY25**, up from a pre-pandemic average of **2.7%** and post-pandemic level of about **3.9%**.
- ➔ Through **Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure (SASCI)**, states are incentivised to maintain capital spending at around **2.4% of GDP in FY25**.
- ➔ The combined **State fiscal deficit** edges up to **3.2% of GDP in FY25**, from about **2.8%** in the post-pandemic period, reflecting emerging pressures.
- ➔ India reduces its **general government debt-to-GDP ratio** by about **7.1 percentage points** since **2020**, while maintaining high public investment.
- ❑ **Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation**
 - ➔ The Survey reports robust monetary-financial performance in **FY26 (April–December 2025)**, supported by policy actions and structural resilience.
 - ➔ Scheduled commercial banks' asset quality improves sharply, with **GNPA at 2.2% (September 2025)** and **net NPA at 0.5% (September 2025)**, both at multi-decadal/record-low levels.
 - ➔ Outstanding credit growth of SCBs rises to **14.5% YoY (as of 31 December 2025)** compared to **11.2% (December 2024)**.
- ❑ **Financial Inclusion and Market Deepening**
 - ➔ Under **PMJDY**, **55.02 crore** bank accounts are opened as of **March 2025**, including **36.63 crore** in rural and semi-urban areas.
 - ➔ Financial participation broadens as **unique investors cross 12 crore** in **September 2025**, with nearly **25% being women**.
 - ➔ During **FY26 (till December 2025)**, **235 lakh demat accounts** are added, taking total demat accounts beyond **21.6 crore**.
 - ➔ The mutual fund investor base expands to **5.9 crore unique investors (December 2025)**, with significant participation from **non-tier I and tier II** locations.
 - ➔ The Survey highlights the role of **GIFT City** as an enabling ecosystem to attract and channel global capital.
- ➔ The Survey notes international validation of regulatory quality through the **IMF–World Bank FSAP (2025)**, which finds the system resilient and diversified with adequate buffers under stress scenarios.
- ❑ **External Sector**
 - ➔ India's share of global merchandise exports nearly doubles from **1.0% (2005)** to **1.8% (2024)**, while its share of global commercial services exports rises from **2.0% to 4.3%** over the same period.
 - ➔ India's **total exports** reach a record **USD 825.3 billion in FY25**, growing **6.1% YoY**, driven mainly by services.
 - ➔ **Services exports** touch an all-time high of **USD 387.6 billion in FY25**, growing **13.6%**, reinforcing India's strength in technology and business services.
 - ➔ India remains the world's largest recipient of remittances, with inflows of **USD 135.4 billion in FY25**, helping offset the merchandise trade deficit.
 - ➔ The **current account deficit** remains moderate, with **CAD around 1.3% of GDP in Q2 FY26**, supported by services and remittances.
 - ➔ **Forex reserves** rise to **USD 701.4 billion (as of 16 January 2026)**, providing about **11 months** of import cover and covering **over 94%** of external debt.
 - ➔ **Gross FDI inflows** reach **USD 64.7 billion (April–November 2025)** despite subdued global investment conditions.
 - ➔ India ranks **4th globally in Greenfield investment announcements (2024)** and emerges as the largest destination for **Greenfield digital investments (2020–24)**.
- ❑ **Inflation: Tamed and Anchored**
 - ➔ India recorded the **lowest headline CPI inflation** since the inception of the CPI series, with **average inflation at 1.7% during April–December 2025**.
 - ➔ The moderation in inflation is primarily driven by **declining food and fuel prices**, which together constitute **52.7% of the CPI basket**.
 - ➔ Among major **Emerging Markets and Developing Economies**, India achieved one of the **sharpest disinflations**, with headline inflation declining by **1.8 percentage points in 2025 over 2024**.
- ❑ **Agriculture and Food Management**
 - ➔ The **livestock sector** recorded strong structural growth, with its **GVA rising by nearly 195% between FY15 and FY24**, while **fish production** increased by over **140% during 2014–2024**.
 - ➔ Benefiting from a **good monsoon**, India's **foodgrain production** is estimated at **3,577.3 LMT in AY 2024–25**, an increase of **254.3 LMT** over the previous year, led by rice, wheat, maize, and coarse cereals.
 - ➔ **Horticulture**, contributing about **33% of agricultural GVA**, emerged as a major growth driver, with production reaching **362.08 MT in 2024–25**, surpassing foodgrain output.

- ➔ Agricultural marketing efficiency improved through **AMI under ISAM** and the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**, while **e-NAM** enhanced price discovery by onboarding **1.79 crore farmers, 2.72 crore traders**, and **4,698 FPOs** across **1,522 mandis** by **December 31, 2025**.
- ➔ Farmers' incomes were supported through **assured MSP, PM-KISAN**, and **PM-Kisan Maandhan Yojana**, with **₹4.09 lakh crore** disbursed under **PM-KISAN** and **24.92 lakh farmers** enrolled in **PMKMY**.
- ❑ **Services Sector: From Stability to New Frontiers**
 - ➔ The **services sector's share** rose to **53.6% of GDP** in **H1 FY26**, while its share in **GVA** reached a **record 56.4%**, reflecting the rising role of modern and digitally delivered services.
 - ➔ India became the **world's seventh-largest services exporter**, with its share in global services trade rising from **2% in 2005** to **4.3% in 2024**.
 - ➔ Services accounted for **over 80% of total FDI inflows** during **FY23–FY25**, reinforcing India's attractiveness in globally tradable services.
- ❑ **Industry: Structural Transformation and Global Integration**
 - ➔ **Industrial GVA** grew by **7.0% in H1 FY26**, despite persistent global headwinds.
 - ➔ **Manufacturing GVA** accelerated to **7.72% in Q1** and **9.13% in Q2 FY26**, indicating a structural recovery.
 - ➔ **PLI Schemes** across **14 sectors** attracted over **₹2.0 lakh crore investment**, generated **₹18.7 lakh crore of incremental production**, and created over **12.6 lakh jobs**.
 - ➔ India's **Global Innovation Index** rank improved to **38th in 2025**, up from **66th in 2019**.
 - ➔ The **India Semiconductor Mission** advanced domestic capabilities with **10 approved projects** involving **₹1.60 lakh crore investment** across **6 States**.
- ❑ **Investment and Infrastructure**
 - ➔ Central government **capital expenditure** increased **4.2 times**, from **₹2.63 lakh crore in FY18** to **₹11.21 lakh crore in FY26 (BE)**, with effective capex at **₹15.48 lakh crore**.
 - ➔ The **national highway network** expanded by about **60%**, while **high-speed corridors** increased nearly **ten-fold** since **FY14**.
 - ➔ The **rail network** reached **69,439 route km**, achieved **99.1% electrification**, and targeted **3,500 km addition in FY26**.
 - ➔ India emerged as the **world's third-largest domestic aviation market**, with airports increasing from **74 (2014)** to **164 (2025)**.
- ➔ Power sector reforms delivered a historic turnaround, with **DISCOMs** posting a **positive PAT of ₹2,701 crore in FY25**, while **renewable energy** accounts for nearly **50% of installed capacity**.
- ➔ **5G services** now cover **99.9% of districts**, tele-density reached **86.76%**, and **over 81% of rural households** have tap water under **Jal Jeevan Mission**.
- ➔ India became the **fourth nation** to achieve **autonomous satellite docking (SpaDeX)**, strengthening space infrastructure.
- ❑ **Environment and Climate Action**
 - ➔ During **FY26 (till December 2025)**, India added **38.61 GW of renewable energy capacity**, led by **30.16 GW of solar power**, reinforcing climate-aligned growth.
- ❑ **Education and Health**
 - ➔ India operates one of the world's largest school systems, serving **24.69 crore students** across **14.71 lakh schools**.
 - ➔ **Gross Enrolment Ratios** improved across stages, with **90.9% at primary**, **90.3% at upper primary**, and **78.7% at secondary level**.
 - ➔ Higher education expanded to **70,018 institutions**, including **23 IITs**, **21 IIMs**, and **20 AIIMS**, with **international IIT campuses** in **Zanzibar** and **Abu Dhabi**.
 - ➔ Under **NEP**, reforms such as **NCrF**, **Academic Bank of Credit**, and **flexible entry-exit** systems were widely adopted.
 - ➔ India achieved an **86% reduction in maternal mortality (since 1990)**, a **78% decline in under-five mortality (since 1990)**, and a **37% fall in infant mortality** over the past decade (**40 deaths per thousands live birth in 2013** to **25 in 2023**).
- ❑ **Employment and Skill Development**
 - ➔ **Total employment** reached **56.2 crore** in **Q2 FY26**, with net job creation continuing.
 - ➔ Organised manufacturing employment increased by **6% in FY24**, adding over **10 lakh jobs**.
 - ➔ **Gig and platform workers** were formally recognised under **Labour Codes**, while **e-Shram** registered over **31 crore workers**, **54% of them women**.
 - ➔ The **National Career Service** platform mobilised around **80 million vacancies**, strengthening labour market matching.
 - ➔ The government proposed upgrading **1,000 ITIs** to align skilling with industry needs.
- ❑ **Rural Development and Social Progress**
 - ➔ As per the revised World Bank poverty line, India's **extreme poverty declined to 5.3% in 2022–23**.
 - ➔ Social services expenditure rose to **7.9% of GDP** in **FY26 (BE)**.
 - ➔ **SVAMITVA** completed drone surveys in **3.28 lakh villages**, and **Drone Didis** strengthened rural livelihoods.



A. Recent Astronomical Activities

Chandrayaan-3 Hop Experiment

A team of scientists from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on **May 18, 2026** shared a report of the findings of the 'Hop' experiment conducted by the Vikram Lander of Chandrayaan-3 and the Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) on the Moon.

- ➔ A new study conducted during the final phase of the Chandrayaan-3 missions when the Vikram lander performed a successful hop experiment, has offered fresh insights into the Moon surface.
- ➔ During the final phase of its mission, Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander reignited its engines to perform a controlled "hop" experiment (primarily to test ascent capabilities for future sample-return missions) and landed nearby, nearly 50 cm away from its initial position.
- ➔ ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment), a lunar thermometer was re-penetrated into the lunar regolith (soil) at the new location.
- ➔ By analysing the ChaSTE data following this historic "hop" manoeuvre by the Vikram lander, scientists have discovered that the post-hop location at the Moon's southern polar region possesses a complex, layered soil structure that was significantly altered by the lander's brief flight.

❑ Key findings from the study have emerged, which include:

- ➔ **Layered Stratigraphy:** analysis revealed a distinct two-layer structure within the top 6.5 cm of the post-hop site which means that the top few centimetres of the Moon's surface aren't just a uniform pile of dust; they are made of distinct layers with different properties,
- ➔ **Geotechnical Variability:** the soil's cohesion and density were found to increase significantly with depth which means that the Moon's soil at the surface becomes more packed and sticky as we go deeper and **Twilight Thermal Profiles:** the data highlighted a "shadowing effect" where local craters and depressions caused temperatures to plunge faster than global models predicted.

- ➔ **Surface Erosion and Compaction:** The engine firing blew away the top 3 cm of regolith, exposing and slightly compacting the material underneath.

India's First Orbital Data Centre Satellite Pathfinder

Recently on **4 May 2026**, Pixxel announced a strategic partnership with Sarvam to develop and build **Pathfinder**, described as **India's first orbital data centre satellite**. Pixxel will design, build, launch and operate the satellite, while Sarvam will provide the AI backbone for running full-stack language models, training and inference directly in orbit. Pathfinder is planned as a **200 kg-class satellite** and is scheduled to reach orbit as early as **Q4 2026**. The mission is important because it brings together **remote sensing, high-performance computing and India-built AI** on a single satellite platform.

○ Orbital Data Centre

- ➔ An **orbital data centre** is a space-based computing system in which satellites carry high-performance processors such as **data-centre-class GPUs**.
- ➔ These processors can run AI models in orbit, rather than depending entirely on ground-based data centres.
- ➔ In ordinary satellite missions, satellites collect images or signals and send large volumes of raw data to Earth.
- ➔ In an orbital data centre model, computation happens closer to where the data is generated. This is similar to **edge computing**, where data is processed near its source instead of being sent to a distant cloud server.
- ➔ Pathfinder is a **single-satellite demonstrator**. Its purpose is to test whether powerful computing hardware, similar to that used in ground data centres, can work reliably in the space environment.
- ➔ Pixxel says the satellite will host data-centre-class GPUs, unlike conventional satellite computing systems that usually depend on low-power processors optimised mainly for survival in space.

❑ Role of Pixxel and Sarvam

➔ Pixxel's role:

- ➔ Pixxel will design, build, launch and operate Pathfinder. It will also provide the hyperspectral imaging payload.
- ➔ The satellite will be developed at **Gigapixxel**, Pixxel's upcoming facility designed to scale satellite production to up to **100 units**.

➔ Sarvam's role:

- ➔ Sarvam will provide the AI backbone. Its full-stack sovereign AI platform, including models and inference infrastructure developed and governed in India, will run directly on the satellite's GPU layer.
- ➔ Pixxel's announcement says this reduces dependence on foreign cloud or ground infrastructure for onboard processing.
- ➔ This makes the mission significant from the perspective of **AI sovereignty** and **space-based digital infrastructure**.

Mission Drishti: World's First OptoSAR Satellite

Mission Drishti is an important milestone in Earth observation and India's private space sector. It is GalaxEye's first satellite mission and introduces **OptoSAR imaging** in orbit. The Prime Minister's Office described the mission as the successful launch of the **world's first OptoSAR satellite** and the **largest privately built satellite in India**.

○ The Problem in Earth Observation

- ➔ Conventional Earth observation has one major limitation. **Optical or multispectral imaging** gives images that are easy to understand, similar to camera images, but it depends on light and clear skies.
- ➔ Therefore, clouds, smoke, rain and night-time conditions reduce its usefulness.
- ➔ **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** works differently.
- ➔ It is an active sensing technology: it sends microwave energy toward Earth and records the reflected signal. NASA Earthdata explains that SAR can create high-resolution imagery by day or night and regardless of weather conditions.
- ➔ But SAR images are less intuitive and usually require specialist interpretation.

○ What OptoSAR Means

- ➔ OptoSAR is GalaxEye's approach to combining optical clarity with radar reliability. Mission Drishti carries both a **Synthetic Aperture Radar sensor** and a **multispectral imaging sensor** on the same satellite.
- ➔ Mission Drishti is the first satellite to combine MSI and SAR on a single platform, producing reliable, all-weather and analysis-ready Earth imagery.
- ➔ This combination is important because it reduces the old dependence on two separate satellites.

Artemis II Mission

Artemis II was not a Moon-landing mission; it was a **crewed lunar flyby mission** meant to prove that NASA's Space Launch System, Orion spacecraft, ground systems, recovery teams and mission procedures can safely carry humans beyond low Earth orbit and bring them back. NASA describes it as the first crewed Artemis flight and a key step toward long-term human return to the Moon and future crewed missions to Mars.

- ➔ Artemis II lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center on April 1, 2026, sending the first humans to the Moon since 1972. (Note: The Apollo 17 mission in 1972 sent humans to land on the Moon, whereas Artemis II sent humans toward the Moon.)
- ➔ During the mission, the crew completed a lunar flyby, returning humans to the Moon's vicinity for the first time in 53 years after the final Apollo Mission to the Moon.
- ➔ Astronauts Manual Spacecraft Operation and on board decision-making capability is required in case the crew needs to make decisions that can't wait for feedback from ground stations.

❑ Engineering Focus of the Mission

- ➔ The Artemis II Orion heat shield is the critical thermal protection system on the base of Orion Spacecraft. Orion heat shield protect the Capsule and Astronauts from searing temperatures and Extreme friction during high speed atmospheric re-entry.
- ➔ During the flight, the astronauts tested Orion's life-support, communications, control, navigation and manual operation systems in a deep-space environment.
- ➔ The mission also tested how well astronauts could live and work inside Orion during a lunar-return flight.
- ➔ This is important because Artemis is not only about reaching the Moon; it is about building the systems needed for repeated journeys, lunar surface work, and eventually Mars missions.
- ➔ The Oriou Spacecraft used in Artemis II was named Integrity by the crew.

❑ Orion's Heat Shield and Re-entry Lesson

- ➔ One of the most important engineering lessons came from Orion's heat shield. During Artemis I, NASA found unexpected cracking and shedding of heat-shield material.
- ➔ NASA later explained that heat and gases had accumulated inside the Avcoat material, creating internal pressure and uneven shedding during re-entry, although the spacecraft would still have kept a crew safe.
- ➔ For Artemis II, NASA closely monitored re-entry and the thermal protection system.
- ➔ The spacecraft returned at extremely high lunar-return speed, and NASA's initial inspection found

that the heat shield performed as expected and that heat-shield char loss was significantly reduced compared with Artemis I.

- ➔ This result is important for astronaut safety in future Moon-landing missions.
- ➔ Artemis III is now listed by NASA as a 2027 low-Earth orbit demonstration, mission to test one or both commercial landers from Space X and Blue Origin.

International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations, 2026

The second edition of the International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations — SMOPS-2026 was held from 8 to 10 April 2026 in Bengaluru/Bangalore, India.

- ➔ Its theme was “Innovative Operations for Smart and Sustainable Space Mission Management – Next Generation.” The conference was jointly organised by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Astronautical Society of India (ASI) and the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA).
- ➔ The conference was inaugurated on 8 April 2026 by Shri A. S. Kiran Kumar, former Chairman of ISRO and former Secretary, Department of Space.

□ Purpose and Scope of the Conference

- ➔ SMOPS-2026 aimed to discuss the complete chain of modern mission operations. Its scope included mission operations management, advanced mission design, automation, management of large constellations, human spaceflight missions, space robotics etc.

New Telescopes in Ladakh

The Union Budget 2026-27 has given a major push to India's astronomy programme. As per Budget 2026-27 four Telescope infrastructure facilities will be setup or upgrade.

1. National Large Solar Telescope (NLST)

- ➔ The NLST will be built at Merak near Pangong Lake Ladakh. It is a 2-metre-class ground-based telescope that will observe the Sun in optical and near-infrared wavelengths.
- ➔ It is designed to study the origin and behaviour of solar magnetic fields at very high resolution.

2. National Large Optical-Infrared Telescope (NLOT)

- ➔ NLOT will come up at Hanle (Ladakh) and is officially described as India's next-generation flagship ground-based optical-infrared telescope.
- ➔ It will have a 13.7-metre segmented primary mirror, advanced adaptive optics for sharper infrared imaging, and instruments such as spectrographs and imagers.

3. Upgrade of the Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT)

- ➔ The Indian Astronomical Observatory at Hanle is a high-altitude observatory in Ladakh. The Himalayan

Chandra Telescope is the 2-M optical-infrared Telescope installed there.

- ➔ It obtained first light on 26 September 2000, began regular science observations in May 2003, and is a 2-metre optical-infrared telescope remotely operated from CREST near Bengaluru through a dedicated satellite link.
- ➔ The upgraded HCT is planned as a 3.7-metre segmented optical-infrared telescope, which would make it more useful for transient and multi-messenger astronomy.

4. COSMOS-2 Planetarium

- ➔ It will be constructed at Amaravati and it will be implemented by Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

India's first Private Earth Observation (EO) Satellite Constellation

Earth Observation (EO) data is critical for day-to-day governance (agriculture, infrastructure planning), climate monitoring, and disaster response. Recently, on 21 January 2026, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) formalised its agreement with a Pixxel-led consortium called “Allied Orbits” to establish India's first indigenous commercial Earth Observation satellite constellation under the Earth Observation Public-Private Partnership (EO-PPP) programme.

- ➔ The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) announced the selection of the **Pixxel Space** India-led consortium to design, build, and operate **India's first fully indigenous commercial earth observation (EO) satellite constellation** under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.

- ➔ The Bengaluru-based **Pixxel Space** India consortium comprises **Piersight Space, SatSure Analytics India, and Dhruva Space**.

- ➔ It is for the first time in the history of the Indian space sector that a private consortium would invest more than **₹1,200 crore** over the next five years to launch a constellation of **12 state-of-the-art EO satellites** equipped with panchromatic, multispectral, hyperspectral, and microwave Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors.

- ➔ The constellation will deliver Analysis Ready Data (ARD) and Value-Added Services (VAS) for applications in climate change monitoring, disaster management.

□ EO-PPP programme

- ➔ EO-PPP programme is aimed at building a reliable national EO data backbone, reducing dependence on foreign satellite data and strengthening India's geospatial and space-based services ecosystem through structured public-private collaboration.

ISRO's LVM3 M6 Mission

India's heavy-lift launcher LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3) has been increasingly used for high-value national missions as well as international commercial launches. In the LVM3M6 mission, ISRO/NSIL launched the BlueBird Block-2 communications satellite of AST SpaceMobile (USA) and successfully placed it into the intended orbit.

- ➔ The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) on December 24, 2025 and successfully placed the BlueBird Block-2 satellite in low Earth orbit.
- ➔ ISRO accomplished two milestones with this mission as it was able to deploy the largest commercial communications satellite in low Earth orbit and also the BlueBird Block-2 satellite became the heaviest payload (6,100 kg.) to be launched by LVM3 from Indian soil.
- ➔ LVM3-M6 mission was the 104th launch from Sriharikota and also the ninth successful mission of the LVM-3 launch vehicle and the third dedicated commercial mission demonstrating its 100% reliability.

❑ AST SpaceMobile

- ➔ AST SpaceMobile (AST & Science, LLC) is building the space-based cellular broadband network, which is accessible directly by smartphones and designed for both commercial and government applications.
- ➔ AST SpaceMobile has launched five satellites — BlueBird 1-5 in September 2024, which enable internet coverage across the US and other select countries.

❑ The Blue Bird Block-2 satellite

- ➔ The BlueBird Block-2 satellite features a 223 m² phased array, making it the largest commercial communication satellite ever deployed into low Earth orbit.
- ➔ The BlueBird Block-2 mission is part of the global Low Earth Orbit constellation to provide direct-to-mobile connectivity through a satellite.
- ➔ This constellation would enable 4G and 5G voice and video calls, texts, streaming and data for anyone at any time, ISRO said.
- ➔ The BlueBird Block-2 spacecraft would be the heaviest payload to be launched into Low Earth Orbit in the history of the LVM3 rocket.

First Static Test of Kalam 1200

India achieved a major success in the field of space when, on August 8, 2025, the private space company M/s Skyroot Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. (SAPL) of Hyderabad successfully conducted the first static test of the KALAM 1200 Motor – the first stage of Vikram – 1 Launch Vehicle.

❑ Key Points

- ➔ The Static Test Facility located at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota (SDSC-SHAR) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- ➔ The Kalam-1200 motor is an 11-metre-long, 1.7-metre-diameter monolithic composite motor filled with 30 tonnes of solid propellant.
- ➔ Based on “design inputs,” this longest monolithic motor was manufactured at the Solid Propellant Plant, Sriharikota.
- ➔ According to the declared payload capacity of Vikram-1, it can carry about 350 kg to a low-inclination orbit at an altitude of 500 km and about 260 kg to SSPO (Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit).

Successful Launch of the NISAR Satellite

The NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite is a landmark in Earth observation and India-US space collaboration. Jointly developed by ISRO and NASA, it is the first mission to use dual-band SAR technology for high-resolution, all-weather, day-and-night imaging.

- ➔ NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite was successfully launched on 30 July 2025 from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, by the GSLV-F16 rocket.
- ☉ It is noteworthy that NISAR is the first mission of its kind jointly developed by India's ISRO and America's NASA, aimed at conducting microwave imaging on a global scale.
- ☉ It is worth mentioning that this was the 18th flight of the GSLV and the 12th flight with an indigenous cryogenic stage.
- ➔ Technically, the NISAR satellite is based on dual-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology, operating in L-band (by NASA) and S-band (by ISRO).
- ☉ Its dual SAR radar system (L-band and S-band) makes it special, enabling it to monitor the minutest and deepest structures of the Earth day and night, in all weather conditions.
- ➔ NISAR has a 12-metre diameter unfurlable reflector antenna, deployed via a 9-metre boom.
- ☉ It uses advanced SweepSAR technology, providing high-resolution and wide-swath imagery.
- ☉ It is capable of acquiring fully polarimetric and interferometric data.
- ➔ NISAR was inserted into a 747-km (orbit altitude) Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit.
- ☉ **Orbit altitude:** 747 km (circular).
- ☉ **Inclination:** 98.4°.
- ☉ **Total satellite mass:** 2,393 kg.
- ➔ It will image the Earth's land and ice-covered surfaces, islands, sea ice, and selected oceans every 12 days.

Axiom Mission 4

- ➔ On **July 15, 2025**, with the return of Indian astronaut **Shubhanshu Shukla** after a historic **18-day scientific mission** aboard the **International Space Station (ISS)**, '**Axiom Mission 4**' was successfully completed.

- This mission was conducted in collaboration with **NASA, Axiom Space, ESA, and other international partners.**
- On **25 June 2025**, through '**Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)**', Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla was sent to the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- In Axiom Mission 4, the **SpaceX Dragon spacecraft** was launched on a **Falcon-9 rocket**.
- A new Crew Dragon, "**Grace (C213)**", was used for this flight, named by the Ax-4 crew. It is SpaceX's **fifth (and final) new Crew Dragon**.
- The launch took place from **Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida (USA)**.
- **Shubhanshu Shukla served as the Pilot** of this mission.
- The other three astronauts in the crew were: **Peggy Whitson (Mission Commander; USA), Tibor Kapu (Hungary), and Slawosz Uznanski Wisniewski (Poland)**.
- On **26 June 2025**, the Axiom Mission 4 crew successfully docked at the **space-facing port of the Harmony Module**. They were welcomed aboard the ISS by the members of **Expedition 73**.
- Shubhanshu Shukla worked in close partnership with the Axiom Mission 4 crew and Expedition 73 members, contributing to the daily rhythm of ISS operations, supporting joint science, maintenance, and outreach efforts.
- With this mission, Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian astronaut to visit the ISS.
- It should be noted that after Rakesh Sharma (who visited Salyut-7 space station in 1984 during the Soviet Soyuz T-11 mission), Shubhanshu Shukla became the second Indian citizen to travel to Earth's orbit after 41 years.
- On July 14, 2025, the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft successfully undocked from the ISS.
- The undocking process was carried out by NASA and Axiom Space controllers in coordination with SpaceX MCC-X in California.
- During this process, the spacecraft orbited Earth for approximately 22 hours 30 minutes.
- On July 15, 2025, the Dragon capsule safely splashed down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California.
- The SpaceX recovery team promptly retrieved the capsule, and all astronauts, including Shubhanshu Shukla, were brought out safely.
- The mission was completed with a successful de-orbit and normal vehicle performance.

B. Recent Science & Technologies

Bharat Innovates 2026

Bharat Innovates 2026 concluded in Nice, marking the completion of three days(**14-16 June 2026**) of technology showcases, business meetings, investor pitching and institutional engagements involving participants from India, France and across the world.

- The Summit showcased 120 curated Indian DeepTech innovators and around 45 technology projects from 15 premier Indian higher education institutions. Nearly 60 per cent of the participating startups were incubated in or were closely associated with the IITs, IISc and other leading Indian institutions.
- **The three-day summit facilitated:**
- 1,350+ B2B meetings involving startups, investors, corporates and institutional partners;
- 50+ collaboration agreements across industry, academia, research and incubation;
- Pitches by 80+ startups before over 50 global investors from more than 10 countries;
- Confirmed investor follow-up commitments for more than 40 startups; and
- The startup partnerships announced include Agnikul Cosmos with ICEYE (Finland) and Safran (France); Detect Technologies with TotalEnergies;
- TuTr Hyperloop with thyssenkrupp; iElectron Technologies with ALTEN; and a potential investment in The ePlane Company by Indian Angel Network.

India's First Advanced 3D Semiconductor Packaging Unit

India's semiconductor programme has entered an important advanced-packaging phase with the launch of the Heterogeneous Integration Packaging Solutions project promoted by 3D Glass Solutions. The foundation stone of India's first advanced 3D chip packaging unit was laid in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- This project is not a conventional semiconductor fabrication plant. It is a greenfield, vertically integrated advanced packaging and embedded glass-substrate ATMP facility.
- It is among the 12 plants that have been approved under the ambitious scheme, including a chip fabrication plant being built by the Tata Group, and a number of other assembly and testing plants including the US-based Micron Technology, among others.
- The total investment in the project is ₹1,943.53 crore.
- This is one project in the first phase of the ISM which will put India at the cutting edge of technology in terms of advanced packaging, using glass as a substrate, which is very unique, and making sure that we are part of the 3D packaging drive.

- ➔ Odisha has become the first State to host both India's first compound semiconductor fabrication unit and an advanced 3D chip packaging facility based on glass substrates.

PFBR at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu

India has marked a major milestone in its nuclear energy programme. The indigenously designed and built **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)** at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu successfully attained its first criticality on 6th April 2026, marking the initiation of a sustained nuclear chain reaction. This PFBR is a 500 MWe (megawatt electrical) reactor built by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) at the Kalpakkam Nuclear Complex.

- ➔ With this achievement, India has officially entered the second stage of its three-stage nuclear power programme, a vision first conceived by Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha, the architect of India's nuclear programme.
- ➔ The milestone carries substantial global significance. Once fully operational, India will become only the second country in the world after Russia to operate a commercial fast breeder reactor.

□ Stage of Nuclear Programme

- ➔ **Stage 1: Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)** – Natural uranium is used as fuel in PHWRs to generate power. The spent fuel from these reactors produces plutonium, which becomes the primary input for the next stage.
- ➔ **Stage 2: Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs)** – The plutonium obtained from Stage 1 is used as fuel in Fast Breeder Reactors, which generate more fuel than they consume.
- ➔ The PFBR at Kalpakkam marks India's entry into this stage. These reactors will be used to breed Uranium-233 from thorium, laying the groundwork for Stage 3.
- ➔ **Stage 3: Thorium-Based Reactors** – This stage will harness India's vast thorium reserves at scale, using the Uranium-233 bred in Stage 2 as fuel.
- ➔ Thorium is considered a practically vast energy source and this stage holds the key to India's long-term energy security.
- ➔ Each stage feeds into the next, making India's nuclear programme one of the most forward-looking energy strategies in the world.

NIELIT to Establish India's First Dedicated Quantum & AI University Campus

At the India AI Impact Summit 2026, the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), under the Ministry of Electronics and

Information Technology (MeitY), signed an MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 20 February 2026 to establish India's first dedicated Quantum and Artificial Intelligence university campus in Amaravati. The summit was held from 16 to 21 February 2026.

- ➔ The NIELIT Quantum-AI University at Amaravati Quantum Valley will anchor India's next wave of deep-tech talent by converging quantum science, artificial intelligence, and industry-aligned skilling to build a globally competitive innovation ecosystem."

Bodhan AI & Bharat EduAI Stack

At the Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026, the government formally launched the Bodhan AI Centre of Excellence and marked the beginning of the Bharat EduAI Stack as an open and interoperable architecture for AI solutions in education.

- ➔ This initiative follows the Union Government's decision to establish a Centre of Excellence in AI for Education.
- ➔ IIT Madras has been chosen as the institutional anchor, and the centre has been set up as the IIT Madras Bodhan AI Foundation.

□ Bodhan AI:

- ➔ It is IIT Madras incubated initiative supported by Ministry of Education; building the Bharat Edu AI stack as a Sovereign Digital Public Infrastructure.
- ➔ **Bharat EduAI Stack:** It will function as an **open-source** digital public AI infrastructure to deploy AI tools across the **education ecosystem**, including **personalised AI tutors**, AI-assisted **teacher training and support**, institutional administration systems, and **data-driven policy-making** based on large learning datasets.

□ Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026

- ➔ Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026 was a two-day event held in Bharat Mandapam from February 12-13, 2026, sets Stage for nationwide EduAI collaboration. During the event, Shri Pradhan launched the **Bodhan AI Centre of Excellence**. The Conclave marks a significant step in advancing the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across India's education ecosystem.
- ➔ The Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026 is envisioned as a **national platform for landscape discovery, strategic alignment, and partnership building** in AI-enabled education.

TOP 500 List on Supercomputers

The 66th edition of the TOP500 list (November 2025)—released alongside the SC25 conference in

St. Louis (USA)—highlights the accelerating global shift into the **exascale** era of supercomputing. The **EI Capitan** system at **Lawrence Livermore National**

Laboratory (USA) has retained the **No. 1** position after being remeasured at **1.809 exaFLOP/s** on the HPL benchmark.

❑ Profiles of the top exascale systems (TOP500, Nov 2025)

Rank	System	Cores	Rmax (PFlop/s)	Rpeak (PFlop/s)	Power (kW)
1	EI Capitan - United States	11,340,000	1,809.00	2,821.10	29,685
2	Frontier - United States	9,066,176	1,353.00	2,055.72	24,607
3	Aurora - United States	9,264,128	1,012.00	1,980.01	38,698
4	JUPITER Booster - Germany	4,801,344	1,000.00	1,226.28	15,794
5	Eagle - United States	2,073,600	561.20	846.84	

Note – Eagle should not be called an exascale system because its listed HPL Performance is below one exa Flop/s.

❑ India's supercomputer in top 500 List

Rank	System	Cores	Rmax (PFlop/s)	Rpeak (PFlop/s)	Power (kW)
188	AIRAWAT - PSAT (C-DAC)	81,344	8.50	13.17	—
196	Arka (IITM)	290,016	8.28	10.61	2,017
251	Arunika (NCMRWF)	203,040	5.94	7.40	1,236
338	Pratyush (IITM)	119,232	3.76	4.01	1,353
469	Arka AI/ML (IITM)	8176	2.70	3.75	—

India-AI Impact Summit 2026

The Government of India has cemented its position as a major player in the global technology landscape by officially unveiling the logo and key initiatives for the India AI Impact Summit 2026. It was hosted in New Delhi.

- ➔ The India-AI Impact Summit 2026 was held on February 16-21, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ➔ Being hosted for the first time by a Global South nation, the Summit is guided by the principles or Sutras of People, Planet, and Progress.
- ➔ The Global AI Impact commons areas launched with 80+ impact stories across 30+ countries.
- ➔ The discussions are further centered around 7 thematic Chakras and three Sutras

❑ The Three Sutras

The Summit was anchored on three guiding principles or Sutras:

- ➔ **People:** AI must serve humanity in all its diversity, respecting cultural identities, preserving dignity, and ensuring no one is left behind.
- ➔ **Planet:** AI development and deployment must be resource efficient while also accelerating climate resilience, environmental protection, and scientific discoveries.
- ➔ **Progress:** Ensure equitable distribution of AI's benefits, democratize access to datasets, compute, and models, and apply AI to healthcare, education, governance, and agriculture.

❑ The Seven Chakras

- ➔ The Sutras are translated into action through seven Chakras, areas of multilateral cooperation designed to deliver tangible outcomes:

- ➔ **Human Capital**– Address employment, skilling, and workforce transformation.
- ➔ **Inclusion for Social Empowerment**– Foster AI that reflects languages, cultures, and identities.
- ➔ **Safe and Trusted AI** – Provide democratized access to safety testing, transparency, and auditing tools.
- ➔ **Resilience, Innovation, and Efficiency** – Promote resource-efficient.
- ➔ **Science**– Expand responsible use of AI to accelerate research and discovery; strengthen ecosystems and partnerships in the Global South.
- ➔ **Democratizing AI Resources** – Forge pathways for equitable access to data, compute, models, and critical infrastructure.
- ➔ **AI for Economic Development & Social Good** – Identify and scale AI applications in public interest sectors.

❑ Official Logo

- ➔ The official logo's identity was the Ashoka Chakra, an emblem of ethical governance, justice, and constitutional values that guide India's digital and technological journey.

❑ India's progress

- ➔ The India AI mission has made very good progress. India had a target of 10000 GPUs, and today India are at 38000GPUs, which is very good progress.”
- ➔ Target of 570 Data Labs will be spread across the country and open doors for students going forward.

❑ Key Initiatives Launched

- ➔ AI Pitch Fest (UDAAN): It will showcase innovative AI startups from across the globe and high-potential ventures from India's Tier 2 & 3 hubs, with a special focus on women leaders and differently-abled changemakers.

Bharat Forecast System

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) will soon adopt the Bharat Forecast System (BFS) which

offers the highest resolution among weather models. This move will significantly enhance the IMD's weather forecasting capabilities, especially with respect to extreme rainfall and cyclones.

- ➔ It is India's first high-resolution weather model capable of forecasting at a 6 km x 6 km spatial resolution.
- ➔ In fact, weather modellers have also been working to fine-tune this resolution to 3 km and 1 km.
- ➔ The BFS is India's first indigenously built weather model. It is a deterministic model, that is, it will be a single-model based output.
- ➔ The resolution of the existing weather model is 12 km x 12 km, which means forecasters consider the 144 sq km area as one unit and the forecast for this unit is considered uniform.

C. Body and Health Related Scientific Activities

10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity

The 10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity: Best Practices Shaping India's Health Future was organised in Chandigarh from 30 April to 1 May 2026 by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It was inaugurated by Union Health Minister Shri J.P. Nadda. The summit acted as a national platform for States and Union Territories to present innovations and best practices for making healthcare more inclusive, accessible and affordable.

- ➔ Institutional deliveries have increased from 79% to 89%, reflecting improved access to maternal healthcare services. Maternal Mortality Ratio has seen a significant decline, with sustained progress over the years.
- ➔ India has achieved a 79% decline in under-five mortality and a 73% decline in infant mortality.

❑ Swasth Bharat Portal

- ➔ The Swasth Bharat Portal is a **one-stop integrated platform** designed to bring multiple national health programmes onto a single digital interface.

❑ JANANI Portal

- ➔ JANANI - Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care - Sehat ke Sath, Every Step of Care, a robust digital platform aligned with the ABDM framework, designed to serve as a single source of truth for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCH) data across the country.

- ➔ JANANI adopts a lifecycle approach to ensure continuum of care from pre-pregnancy through pregnancy, childbirth, and childhood.
- ➔ The application captures real-time, high-quality data on critical health parameters, enabling early identification of vulnerable groups, including high-risk Pregnancies and children with specific health conditions, and facilitating timely interventions.

❑ Integrated Training Module for Primary Health Care Worker Team

- ➔ Integrated Training for Primary Healthcare Teams marks a significant step in strengthening this foundation. By bringing together multiple programme-based trainings into a single, structured, and competency-driven framework, the initiative simplifies learning while enhancing the capabilities of frontline providers.

Mission SEHAT

Mission SEHAT — Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation is an important national initiative that connects agriculture with nutrition and public health. It was launched on 11 May 2026 in New Delhi by Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilisers, and Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development. The mission has been jointly launched by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.

- ➔ The core objective of Mission SEHAT is to convert agricultural progress into measurable health outcomes for the people of India.
- ➔ It seeks to build a framework for **“Healthy Food, Healthy Farms and a Healthy India”** by bringing together agricultural science, nutrition research and public health policy.

India has approved Takeda’s TAK-003 (Qdenga)

Recently CDSCO’s subject expert committee recommended Takeda’s TAK-003 (Qdenga), its first dengue vaccine, cleared by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) under the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for individuals aged 4 to 60 years marking a historic shift from reactive vector control to preventive public health strategy.

- ➔ India’s dengue control strategy is entering a vaccine-assisted phase. The official NCVBDC table now records 2,89,235 cases and 485 deaths in 2023, 2,33,519 cases and 297 deaths in 2024, 1,21,824 cases and 131 deaths in 2025, and 6,927 cases with 10 deaths provisionally till 28 February 2026.

❑ TAK-003(Qdenga)

- ➔ TAK-003(Qdenga), is a live-attenuated vaccine containing weakened versions of dengue virus serotypes 1, 2, 3 and 4 developed by Takeda Pharma (A Japanese pharmaceutical company).
- ➔ TAK-003 uses the DENV2 strain as the genomic backbone.
- ➔ The vaccine schedule is a 2-dose series three months apart, given to specific age groups and in specific circumstances according to WHO recommendations.

SAHI & BODH Health AI Initiatives

India has taken an important step in digital health governance with the launch of two new initiatives on 17 February 2026 at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 — SAHI (Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare for India) and BODH (Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI). These initiatives are meant to make the use of artificial intelligence in healthcare safe, ethical, evidence-based, transparent and inclusive.

❑ SAHI: a national framework for responsible Health AI

- ➔ SAHI is a national guidance framework for the adoption of AI across India’s healthcare system. It gives strategic direction on governance, data stewardship, validation, deployment and monitoring of AI tools.
- ➔ An important feature of SAHI is that it is designed to create coordination between healthcare institutions, technology developers, researchers and policymakers.

❑ BODH: benchmarking and validation platform for Health AI

- ➔ BODH has been developed by the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur in collaboration with the National Health Authority.
- ➔ It is a privacy-preserving benchmarking platform for Health AI. Its main role is to allow rigorous evaluation of AI models on diverse, anonymized real-world health data without sharing the underlying datasets.

❑ AI-Preneurs of India

- ➔ On the same occasion, Atal Innovation Mission under NITI Aayog launched AI-Preneurs of India, a flagship coffee table book on India’s AI startup ecosystem.
- ➔ The book documents the journeys of 45 AI startups that are working on real-world problems. It covers more than 30 sector domains, including healthcare, education, sustainability, mobility, sports analytics, deep tech and social impact.

India’s first state-funded Bio-Safety Level-4 (BSL-4) laboratory

India is expanding its highest-level bio-containment capacity with a new Bio-Safety Level-4 (BSL-4) Bio-Containment Facility at the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC), Gandhinagar. The foundation stone was laid on 13 January 2026 by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

- ➔ The technical term “Bio-Safety Level 4) represents the highest level of biological containment.
- ➔ BSL-4 (Biosafety Level 4) facility is the maximum containment laboratory designed for studying the world’s most dangerous, often incurable pathogens (e.g., Ebola, Nipah, Marburg).

❑ Existing BSL-4 labs in India

- ➔ Currently, there is only one civilian BSL-4 laboratory functional in India, located at the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune, Maharashtra.

WHO Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2025

Recently, WHO released the Global Tuberculosis Report 2025 on November 12, 2025, giving an updated assessment of the TB epidemic and response at global, regional and country levels based mainly on data up to 2024. Data from 184 countries and areas cover more than 99% of the world’s population and TB cases, giving the report very strong global representativeness.

- ➔ Tuberculosis (TB) is described as the **world’s leading cause of death from a single infectious agent**, and remains among the **top 10 causes of death worldwide**.
- ➔ TB is an **airborne, contagious** disease; since 2000, global efforts to combat TB have **saved an estimated 83 million lives**.

❑ Global TB Burden

- ➔ In **2024**, an estimated **10.7 million people** developed TB, corresponding to **131 new cases per 100,000 population** worldwide.
- ⌚ About **5.8%** of these incident cases occurred in **people living with HIV**, showing the continuing overlap between the TB and HIV epidemics.
- ➔ By sex and age, adult men (≥ 15 years) accounted for about **5.8 million cases (54%)**, adult women about **3.7 million (35%)**, and children (0–14 years) about **1.2 million (11%)**.
- ➔ Regional distribution of total incident TB cases in 2024 shows **South-East Asia at 34%**, **Western Pacific 27%**, **African Region 25%**, **Eastern Mediterranean 8.6%**, **Americas 3.3%** and **Europe 1.9%**.
- ➔ Regarding TB–HIV co-infection, **5.8%** of people with a new TB episode in 2024 were living with HIV at the global level.
- ⌚ This proportion **exceeds 50% in parts of southern Africa**, although it has been steadily declining from a peak of **17% in 2000**.
- ➔ Top eight countries ($\approx$ two-thirds of global TB burden):
- ⌚ **India (25%)**, Indonesia (10%), Philippines (6.8%), China (6.5%), Pakistan (6.3%), Nigeria (4.8%), Democratic Republic of the Congo (3.9%), Bangladesh (3.6%).

❑ TB Incidence in India

- ➔ **TB incidence in India** has fallen by **21%**, from **237 per lakh population in 2015** to **187 per lakh population in 2024**, almost **double** the global decline of **12%**; this is described as one of the **highest declines** globally among high-burden countries.
- ➔ **TB mortality** in India (TB deaths in HIV-negative people) has reduced from **28 per lakh population in 2015** to **21 per lakh population in 2024**, with India achieving a **higher reduction** than the global reduction.
- ➔ India's **treatment coverage** rose from **53% in 2015** to **over 92% in 2024**, ahead of global universal health coverage and other high-burden countries.
- ➔ In **2024**, **26.18 lakh TB patients** were diagnosed in India, out of an estimated **27 lakh** incident cases, reducing the “missing cases” from **15 lakh in 2015** to **less than one lakh in 2024**, with **no significant increase** in MDR-TB cases.

Nafithromycin: India's First Indigenous Antibiotic

Recently, on October 18, 2025, Union Minister Jitendra Singh shared the information that **India has developed its first indigenously discovered and**

developed antibiotic, 'Nafithromycin', which is effective against resistant respiratory infections and is especially useful for cancer patients and patients with uncontrolled diabetes.

- ➔ This antibiotic has been developed with the support of the **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**.
- ➔ Nafithromycin has been introduced to the market by the pharmaceutical company **Wockhardt** under the brand name **Mignaf**.
- ➔ This is India's first indigenously developed antibiotic, created with the objective of tackling **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**.

Malaria Vaccine: AdFalcivax

- ➔ The **Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar**, of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, has developed a recombinant **multi-stage malaria vaccine candidate** named **AdFalcivax**.
- ⌚ Its objective is to prevent **individual infection against Plasmodium falciparum** and to reduce **community-level transmission**.
- ⌚ As of **June 17, 2026**, this technology has been **licensed to five Indian companies**, while it is still in the **preclinical stage (TRL 4)** and is **not approved for clinical use**.
- ➔ At present, the technology is at **TRL 4**; therefore, the process of moving it into **clinical trials, scaling up manufacturing**, and obtaining **regulatory approvals** will be carried forward in collaboration with industry partners.
- ⌚ This vaccine candidate has **not yet been approved for clinical use**; hence, the timeline assessment will depend on regulatory progress.
- ➔ Currently, **WHO-recommended vaccines—RTS,S/AS01 (Mosquirix) and R21/Matrix-M—**are available for widespread use in children; both have received **WHO prequalification**.
- ➔ **AdFalcivax** has very high stability. It remains effective for up to **nine months at normal room temperature**.
- ⌚ This eliminates the need for expensive **cold chain logistics**, which is a major challenge for vaccination campaigns in **remote and resource-limited areas**.
- ➔ The estimated **production cost of this vaccine is only ₹20 per dose**, compared to existing vaccines that cost **between ₹250 and ₹830 per dose**.
- ⌚ This makes it extremely **cost-effective for large-scale immunization programs**.
- ➔ **ICMR has invited Expressions of Interest (EOIs)** from eligible companies for **technology transfer and large-scale production** of this vaccine and later the Multistage Malaria vaccine technology was licensed to five companies.
- ➔ India aims to achieve zero indigenous malaria cases by 2027 and full elimination by 2030.

HPV Vaccination Drive for 14-Year-Old Girls

India launched the nationwide free HPV vaccination campaign on 28 February 2026 from Ajmer, Rajasthan. It targets 14-year-old girls across all 36 States and Union Territories. After the national launch, States and UTs also held their own rollout events. The campaign is aimed at reducing the future burden of cervical cancer through early prevention. Around 1.2 crore girls are expected to benefit every year.

- ➔ Cervical cancer remains a major women's health challenge. WHO says it is largely preventable through HPV vaccination and regular screening.
- ➔ Globally, it was the fourth most common cancer among women in 2022, with about 660,000 new cases and 350,000 deaths.
- ➔ In India, IARC-GLOBOCAN 2022 recorded 127,526 new cases and 79,906 deaths, making cervical cancer the second most common cancer among Indian women.

❑ Target Population and Coverage:

- ➔ The campaign will cover girls aged 14 years (those who have completed 14 years but have not yet completed 15 years).
- ➔ As per Registrar General of India (RGI) 2021 estimates, the annual cohort of 14-year-old girls is approximately 1.2 crore, who are expected to benefit from this initiative each year.

❑ Key Features:

- ➔ **Vaccination Duration:** three months (90 days) in campaign mode.
- ➔ After completion of the campaign phase, the HPV vaccine will be available on routine immunization session days.
- ➔ **Dose & Administration:** Single dose (0.5 ml) Intramuscular (IM) injection in the left upper arm
- ➔ Vaccination is voluntary, free of cost and will be administered only after parental/guardian consent.

- ➔ Beneficiaries may pre-register and schedule appointments on the U-WIN digital platform.
- ➔ The U-WIN platform will be used for session planning, registration, recording and reporting, while the e-VIN portal will manage vaccine stocks and logistics.

Country's First Animal Stem Cell Biobank

- ➔ India has given a new direction to animal health, regenerative medicine, and biotechnology by launching the country's first state-of-the-art Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Animal Stem Cell Laboratory at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), under the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC), Hyderabad.
- ➔ This Biobank and Laboratory were inaugurated on **August 9, 2025** by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, **Dr. Jitendra Singh**.
- ➔ This Biobank will focus on Regenerative Medicine and Cellular Therapies for livestock.

Elimination of Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT) in Kenya

On August 8, 2025, Kenya received validation from the **World Health Organization (WHO)** for the "elimination of Human African Trypanosomiasis—'Sleeping Sickness'—as a public health problem."

❑ Key Points

- ➔ WHO validated Kenya for the "elimination as a public health problem."
- ➔ 'Sleeping Sickness' is a parasitic disease caused by **Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense** and transmitted by the bite of the tsetse fly that has acquired the parasites from infected humans or animals.
- ➔ As the disease progresses, the parasite enters the brain, leading to changes in behavior, disturbed sleep, and confusion. This is why it is called 'Sleeping Sickness.'
- ➔ Kenya has become the **tenth country** to achieve this milestone.

D. Defence

ICGS ACHAL Commissions in Indian Coast Guard

The commissioning of **Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS Achal** is an important step in strengthening India's maritime security and coastal surveillance capability. The vessel was commissioned on **May 09, 2026** at **Goa Shipyard Limited**. It is the latest vessel in the **new-generation Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel** series of the Indian Coast Guard.

- ➔ ICGS Achal has been named from the word "Achal", meaning "firm".
- ➔ Designed and built indigenously by M/s Goa Shipyard Limited, it represents a significant milestone in India's shipbuilding capabilities.

India's 1st Indigenous Glide Weapon TARA

India has taken an important step in indigenous defence technology with the successful maiden flight-

trial of **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)**. The trial was conducted jointly by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** off the coast of Odisha on **7 May 2026**. TARA is a **modular range extension kit** and has been described as **India's first indigenous glide weapon system**.

○ About TARA

➔ TARA stands for Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation. It is a weapon kit designed to convert unguided warheads into precision-guided weapons.

□ Objective of the System

- ➔ The main purpose of TARA is to improve the combat value of low-cost aerial weapons.
- ➔ TARA has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, along with other DRDO laboratories.

INS Mahendragiri Inducted into Indian Navy

The delivery of **Mahendragiri**, an advanced stealth frigate of the **Nilgiri-class / Project 17A**, is an important milestone in India's indigenous warship-building programme.

○ Project 17A

- ➔ **Project 17A** is the follow-on programme of the earlier **Project 17 / Shivalik-class frigates**. The new frigates have been designed as versatile, multi-mission platforms to meet both present and emerging challenges in the maritime domain.
- ➔ Designed by the **Warship Design Bureau (WDB)** and overseen by the Warship Overseeing Team (Mumbai), P17A frigates reflect a generational leap in **indigenous** ship design, stealth, survivability, and combat capability.
- ➔ Mahendragiri is the sixth P17A ship to be delivered to the Indian Navy **in the span of less than 17 months** from the delivery of the first P17A (Nilgiri) by M/s MDSL on 20 Dec 2024.

Oreshnik Ballistic Missile

Recently, on Sunday (May 24, 2026) that Russia used the powerful hypersonic Oreshnik ballistic missile during a mass drone and missile attack on Kyiv. Oreshnik means "Hazel Tree", based on its appearance when its multiple warheads fall to Earth in streaks of fiery light. The Ukrainians called the first one fired the "Kedr" – Cedar.

- ➔ It is likely a medium-range ballistic missile, with its use so far indicating a range of 600 to 1,000 miles. US defense officials deemed the Oreshnik fired in November 2024 to be an "intermediate-range ballistic missile" or IRBM, suggesting they thought its actual range could be over 3,000 miles.

Delivery of Malwan

The Indian Navy received '**Malwan**', an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, from **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**, Kochi, on **31 March 2026**.

- ➔ Malwan belongs to the **Mahe-class ASW Shallow Water Craft project** being executed by CSL for the Indian Navy.
- ➔ The broader ASW SWC programme is aimed at improving India's capability to detect, track and counter submarines and other underwater threats in littoral, or near-shore, waters.

□ Naming and Maritime Heritage

- ➔ The vessel is named after **Malwan**, a historic coastal town in Maharashtra. CSL has specified that Malwan is located in **Sindhudurg district**.
- ➔ The name also reflects the maritime legacy associated with **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**.

Delivery of AGRAY

On March 30, 2026, Agray, the fourth of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), Kolkata, was delivered to the Indian Navy at Kolkata.

□ Agray: Design and Construction

- ➔ Agray has been **indigenously designed and built by GRSE, Kolkata**.
- ➔ The ship is around **77 metres** long and belongs to a class of vessels described by the Indian Navy as the **largest Indian Naval warships propelled by waterjets**.
- ➔ **Sanshodhak — Survey Vessel Large** – GRSE also delivered **Sanshodhak**, the **fourth and final Survey Vessel (Large)** of its class. It is designed for full-scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys, including surveys of ports, harbour approaches, navigation channels and maritime routes.

INS Aridaman

India's reported induction of its third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, **INS Aridhaman/Aridaman**, and the official commissioning of the stealth frigate **INS Taragiri** at Visakhapatnam mark an important step in India's naval modernisation.

- ➔ A larger 7,000-tonne vessel, **INS Aridaman** will carry more K-15 missiles, as well as the intermediate-range K-4 nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) – with nearly double the number of VLS tubes than its predecessors – that can hit targets 3,500 km away.

Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile 'Agni-III'

Agni-III is an important part of India's strategic deterrence system. On 6 February 2026, India successfully

test-fired Agni-III from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.

- ➔ With this test, the Agni series of missiles continues to strengthen India's strategic capabilities. The series includes Agni-1 with a range of 700 km, Agni-2 with a range of 2,000 km, Agni-3 with a range of 3,000 km, Agni-4 capable of striking targets up to 4,000 km, and Agni-5, which has the longest striking range of 5,000 km.

❑ What is Agni 3 and why its success matters for India

- ➔ The Agni-3 is an indigenous, two-stage, solid-fuelled intermediate-range ballistic missile, featuring a strike range of more than 3000 km and 1.5-tonne payload capacity.

❑ About India's rail-based Agni-Prime

- ➔ Last year, on September 24, India successfully conducted the launch of the Intermediate Range Agni-Prime Missile from a rail-based mobile launcher.
- ➔ "The first-of-its-kind launch was carried out from a specially designed rail based mobile launcher having the capability to move on a rail network without any pre-conditions.

Launch of the First Cadet Training Ship 'Krishna'

- ➔ The launch of the first Cadet Training Ship, Krishna, is an important development for the Indian Navy. It strengthens India's sea-training capacity for future officers and also reflects the wider national push toward indigenous defence production under Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India.
- ➔ Yard 18003 (Krishna), the first of the three Cadet Training Ships (CTS) under construction at M/s L&T, Kattupalli (Chennai), has been launched on **16 Feb 2026**. In keeping with the Naval traditions, **Mrs Anupama Chauhan launched the ship in the presence of General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff**. Senior officials of the Indian Armed Forces and M/s L&T Shipbuilding, Chennai attended the event.

P-8I Anti-Submarine Warfare

On **February 12, 2026**, the Defence Acquisition Council accorded Acceptance of Necessity for P-8I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft for the Indian Navy.

- ➔ The Boeing P-8I is a multi-mission, long-range maritime patrol aircraft designed for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Anti-Surface Warfare, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Maritime Domain Awareness, and search and rescue operations.

Suryastra Rocket Launcher

The Indian Army has cleared/fast-tracked a new universal multi-calibre rocket launcher system called Suryastra, being produced in India with Israeli technology collaboration.

- ➔ Recently, in January 2026 under emergency procurement powers, the Indian Army has signed a approx. ₹293 crore contract with private defence manufacturer NIBE Limited, in collaboration with Israel, for the supply of an advanced long-range rocket launcher system with strike capabilities of 150 km and 300 km.

❑ The system, Suryastra

- ➔ The system, Suryastra, is India's first Made in India universal multi-calibre rocket launcher, capable of executing precision surface-to-surface strikes at ranges extending up to 300 km.
- ➔ Designed to engage multiple targets simultaneously at varying ranges. The same launcher is also capable of firing loitering munitions up to a range of 100 km, enhancing operational flexibility.

First indigenous Pilot trainer Aircraft 'HANSA-3 NG',

The CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), Bengaluru, showcased a major step from "lab-to-market" by launching the production version of the indigenous HANSA 3 (NG) trainer aircraft, alongside multiple aerospace initiatives aimed at strengthening India's civil and defence aviation ecosystem.

- ➔ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh on November 29, 2025 launched the production version of India's indigenous HANSA-3 NG pilot trainer aircraft at CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) in Bengaluru.
- ➔ The Hansa-3 has an all-composite airframe (as opposed to purely metal), and is designed to meet the expanding demand for PPL (Private Pilot Licence) and CPL (Commercial Pilot Licence) training.
- ➔ First designed and developed by the CSIR-NAL in the early 1990s, the latest iteration of the HANSA-3 has undergone significant upgrades.

'Saksham' Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS) Grid System

Recently, the Indian Army has initiated the procurement of the indigenously developed '**Saksham' Counter Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS) Grid System** to strengthen its operational readiness against emerging aerial threats.

- ➔ **SAKSHAM** stands for **Situational Awareness for Kinetic Soft and Hard Kill Assets Management**.

- ➔ It is an indigenously developed Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS) grid system, developed by **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.
- ➔ **Its Objectives are:**
 - ☉ To detect, track, identify, and neutralize enemy drones, quadcopter drones, and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in **real-time** in border areas.

Dhvani: Hypersonic Missile

- India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is developing the '**Dhvani**' Hypersonic Missile under its advanced hypersonic weapons program. This is a next-generation missile system designed as a **Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV)**, capable of performing **sharp maneuvers at high altitudes** at speeds exceeding **Mach 5 (more than 7,400 km/h)**.
- ➔ **Dhvani** is a Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV) capable of high-speed changes in direction while traveling at hypersonic speeds at high altitudes.
 - ☉ The missile's potential **operational range** is **6,000 to 10,000 kilometers**, which could nearly **double** the reach of India's Agni-V Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM).
 - ➔ The missile's **speed** is **greater than Mach 5**, making its **interception** by current missile defense systems virtually impossible.

Anti Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft 'Androth'

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata designed and indigenously built, the second of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASWSWC). '**Androth**', was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on **6 October 2025**. Earlier, the first ASWSWC '**Arnala**' had been commissioned into the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on **June 18, 2025**.
- ➔ INS Androth was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) under a public private partnership (PPP) with Larsen & Toubro Shipyard.
 - ➔ The vessel is named after Androth Island of the Lakshadweep archipelago.
 - ➔ The ASW Shallow Water Craft programme was envisaged in the early 2010s to strengthen India's coastal antisubmarine capabilities.

ICGS 'Adamyia'

The Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) '**Adamyia**' was formally **commissioned on 19 September 2025** at **Paradip Port, Odisha**. It is the **first vessel** of the **Adamyia-class**, a series of **eight Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)** built under a programme by **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**.

- ➔ The Adamyia-class consists of eight Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) being constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited, based in Vasco da Gama, Goa, for the Indian Coast Guard.

Successful Test of Agni-Prime Missile

On **September 24, 2025**, India successfully conducted the test of the Agni-Prime (Agni-P) ballistic missile from a rail-based mobile launcher.

- ➔ Notably, with this successful test, **India has joined the list of select major countries** that possess a **canisterised launch system** and have the capability to launch with **free mobility on rail networks**.
- ☉ **Agni-Prime missile** is a **New Generation Advanced Ballistic Missile**.
- ☉ It has a **strike range** between **1,000 km to 2,000 km**.
- ☉ It is a **surface-to-surface** missile.
- ☉ **Agni-Prime** is capable of carrying **explosives** ranging from **1,500 kg to 3,000 kg**.

TASL's Defence Manufacturing Facility in Morocco

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Defence Minister of Morocco Mr Abdelatif Loudyi jointly inaugurated Tata Advanced Systems Limited's (TASL) state-of-the-art defence manufacturing facility in Berrechid, Morocco, on **September 23, 2025**.

- ➔ This is **India's first overseas defence manufacturing facility** established by a private sector company, marking a significant milestone for the 'Make in India' and 'Make for the World' vision.
- ➔ The facility, which spans **20,000 square metres**, is set up to produce the **Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8** combat vehicle.
- ➔ The plant will manufacture the vehicles under a contract to supply the WhAP 8x8 to the **Royal Moroccan Army**, with initial deliveries scheduled to begin ahead of time.

Launch of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft 'Ajay'

The Indian Navy has boosted its indigenous shipbuilding strength with the launch of Yard 3034 Ajay, the eighth and final Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd., Kolkata.

- ➔ In April 2019 the Ministry of Defense signed a contract of 16 ASW SWC; 8 with GRSE and 8 with Cochin Shipyard Limited(CSL).
- ➔ '**Ajay**' (Yard 3034) is the eighth and last ASW craft of Arnala class ship of Indian Navy constructed at GRSE .
- ➔ The first ship in the series, '**Arnala**', was commissioned into the Navy at Visakhapatnam on **June 18, 2025**,

becoming the first indigenously built ASW Shallow Water Craft.

- ➔ These advanced ships are specifically designed for anti-submarine operations in coastal and shallow waters, replacing the ageing Abhay-class corvettes currently in service.

Successful Test of Astra Missile

On July 11, 2025, a major success was achieved through the joint efforts of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, when they successfully tested the **'Astra' Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air missile (BVRAAM)** with an indigenous RF seeker off the coast of Odisha.

- ➔ During this test, two launches were conducted, both of the indigenously developed radio-frequency seeker-equipped **'Astra' missile** from **Su-30 MKI** aircraft.
- ➔ The missiles struck high-speed unmanned aerial targets with great precision under every range, angle, and condition.
- ➔ This test confirms the Astra's strike capability of over **100 kilometers**, making it highly effective in armed aerial engagements.

Successful Test of Agni-5

- ➔ On **August 20, 2025**, India successfully tested the **Agni-5 missile** from the **Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha**, under the supervision of the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**.
- ➔ The **Government of India** describes **Agni-5** as an **Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM)**; officially, it has a **strike range of up to 5,000 km**.
- ➔ **Agni-5** can be launched from a **mobile platform** as well as from the **Integrated Test Range**. It is capable of carrying **nuclear warheads**.
- ➔ In **March 2024**, under **Mission Divyastra**, DRDO successfully tested Agni-5 with **MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle)** technology.
- ➔ In **2018**, DRDO had conducted a **canister-based test of Agni-5** from **Dr. Abdul Kalam Island**.
- ➔ The **Agni missile series** already deployed includes **Agni-1 to Agni-4**, with ranges from **700 km to 3,500 km**.

Successful Test of Pralay Missile

- ➔ On **July 28-29, 2025**, India's **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** carried out **two consecutive successful tests** of the indigenously developed **'Pralay' missile** from **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island**, off the coast of Odisha.
- ➔ These trials were part of **'User Trials'**, which assessed the **future operational requirements of the Indian Armed Forces**.

- ➔ The **Pralay missile** is an **indigenously developed, surface-to-surface, solid-fuel-based quasi-ballistic missile**.
- ➔ According to initial official details, it has a **strike range of 150 to 500 km** and can be launched from a **mobile launcher**.
- ➔ It is capable of carrying **conventional or strategic warheads** weighing **350 to 700 kilograms**.

INS Arnala

- ➔ On **June 18, 2025**, the first of eight **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC)**, **'Arnala'**, indigenously designed and built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)**, **Kolkata**, was commissioned into the **Indian Navy** at the **Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam**.
- ➔ **INS Arnala** has been built by **GRSE** in collaboration with **Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipyard** under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)**.
- ➔ The name **'Arnala'** commemorates the strategic maritime importance given by the great Maratha warrior **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** to **Arnala Island** (located about **13 km north of Vasai, Maharashtra**).
- ➔ The **ASW Shallow Water Craft** programme was conceived in the early 2010s to strengthen India's coastal anti-submarine warfare capabilities.
- ➔ In **December 2013**, the **Defence Acquisition Council** approved the procurement of **16 Shallow Water ASW vessels** at an estimated cost of **₹13,440 crore**.
- ➔ In **2014**, a tender was issued under the **'Buy and Make (Indian)' category**, inviting Indian shipyards.
- ➔ After a competitive process, in **April 2019**, **GRSE and Cochin Shipyard** were jointly awarded a contract for the construction of **8 vessels each**, worth about **₹12,622 crore (~₹6,311 crore for each)**.
- ➔ Construction began at the end of **2020** under the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model**; for example, **GRSE** partnered with **L&T's Kattupalli Shipyard** for production.

➔ **'Androth'**, second of the eight ASW SWCs (Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft), being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, was delivered to the Indian Navy on September 13, 2025 at GRSE, Kolkata.

Name	Yard	Launch Date
Arnala	3029	December 20, 2022
Anjadip	3030	June 13, 2023
Amini	3031	November 16, 2023
Abhay	3032	October 25, 2024
Agray	3033	March 13, 2024
Ajay	3034	July 21, 2025
Androth	3035	March 21, 2023
Akshay	3036	March 13, 2024

Delivery of Dunagiri & Himgiri

DUNAGIRI

- ➔ On March 30, 2026, Dunagiri (Yard 3023) was delivered to the Indian Navy at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), Kolkata. It is the fifth ship of the Nilgiri-class under Project 17A and the second ship of this class built by GRSE.
- ➔ Dunagiri is an **indigenous stealth frigate** built under **Project 17A**, a major programme for advanced guided-missile frigates of the Indian Navy.
- ➔ The new Dunagiri carries forward the legacy of the earlier **INS Dunagiri**, a **Leander-class frigate** that served the Indian Navy from **5 May 1977 to 10 October 2010**.
- ➔ The older ship served for **33 years**, and the new frigate continues this naval tradition of preserving historic ship names.

HIMGIRI

Under Project-17A (P-17A) 'Nilgiri-class', seven stealth guided-missile frigates are being built in India to strengthen the Navy's combat capabilities and showcase the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Among them, INS Himgiri (Yard 3022), built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), is the third ship of the class and was delivered to the Indian Navy on July 31, 2025.

- ➔ Out of the seven frigates, four are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, and three at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- ➔ By 2024, all seven vessels had been launched.
- ➔ INS Nilgiri was commissioned into the Navy on January 15, 2025; it is currently deployed at Visakhapatnam and made its first port call at Chennai on July 21, 2025.
- ➔ INS Udaygiri was delivered to the Navy on 1 July 2025 and is scheduled to be commissioned at Visakhapatnam on August 26, 2025.
- ➔ INS Himgiri (Yard 3022), the third frigate built by GRSE, was delivered on July 31, 2025 in Kolkata and is also planned to be commissioned on August 26, 2025.
- ➔ Himgiri is a reincarnation of the erstwhile INS Himgiri, a Leander-class frigate decommissioned in 2005 after 30 years of service.

Successful Test of 'Akash Prime'

On July 16, 2025, India successfully tested the advanced version of the Akash weapon system, named 'Akash Prime', for the Indian Army in the high-altitude areas of Ladakh.

❑ Key Points

- ➔ Indian Army's Army Air Defence and DRDO, in conjunction with Defence PSUs such as Bharat Dynamics Limited & Bharat Electronics Limited,

and other Industry Partners have successfully validated the indigenously designed and developed Akash Prime Weapon System.

- ➔ The tests were conducted as part of the 'First of Production Model firing trial', enabling timely military deployment and boosting India's air defence capability in high-altitude border areas.
- ➔ The operational range of the Akash weapon system is officially 4.5–25 km, with an altitude coverage of 100 m to 20 km (the specific range of Akash Prime has not been officially disclosed).
- ➔ 'Akashteer' is an indigenous Air Defence Command and Reporting System, which during Operation Sindoor intercepted and neutralised every inbound projectile.

INS Nistar

India commissioned its first indigenously designed and built Diving Support Vessel (DSV) — **INS Nistar** — into the Indian Navy fleet on **18th July 2025** at the Naval Dockyard, **Visakhapatnam**. The commissioning was carried out in the presence of **Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth**.

This vessel significantly enhances India's deep-sea rescue capabilities and its maritime strategic presence.

- ➔ **INS Nistar** has been **entirely designed and constructed by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)**, located in Visakhapatnam.
- ➔ It is the **first of two Nistar-class vessels** developed specifically for the Indian Navy's unique operational requirements.
- ➔ The ship's name, 'Nistar', originates from Sanskrit and means liberation, rescue or salvation.

INS Tamal

Marking a significant milestone in strengthening India's maritime prowess, **INS Tamal (F71)** was officially commissioned into the Indian Navy on **1 July 2025** at the **Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia**. INS Tamal is the eighth multi-role stealth frigate in the series of Project 1135.6 and the second of the additional follow-on Tushil class of ships. It is also the last foreign-built warship of the Indian Navy, marking a milestone in India's journey toward self-reliance.

❑ Key Points

- ➔ INS Tamal is the eighth multi-role stealth frigate under Project 1135.6 and the second follow-on ship of the Tushil class.
- ➔ The ship was originally reserved for Russia under the name Admiral Istomin.
- ➔ INS Tamal is approximately 125 meters in length and has a displacement of around 3,900 tons.
- ➔ INS Tamal is powered by an advanced gas turbine propulsion plant.
- ➔ The frigate is capable of achieving a speed of over 30 knots.

Successful Test of Rudrastra

- ➔ On June 11, 2025, the Indian Army successfully tested the Rudrastra Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), developed by Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL), at the Pokhran Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- ➔ 'Rudrastra' is a hybrid VTOL UAV drone, combining the features of both a helicopter and a fixed-wing aircraft.
- ➔ It has a total operational range of 170 kilometers (including loitering over the target) and a flight endurance of approximately 90 minutes.

E. Miscellaneous

India Assumes Chairmanship of the Common Criteria Development Board

India has been nominated as the Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) from April 2026 to April 2028, a prestigious responsibility reflecting the nation's growing role in international IT security standards development. This leadership position was confirmed during the 1st Quarter Meeting of the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA), held from 14th to 16th April 2026 in Tokyo, Japan.

- ➔ The Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) is the foundational international framework that enables the mutual recognition of IT security certificates among member countries, eliminating the need for re-certification and facilitating global trade in secure IT products.
- ➔ The arrangement operates through specialized working groups and administrative mechanisms that maintain the integrity of the Common Criteria Portal, the authoritative global repository and "single source of truth" for certified secure IT products.

Operation Mule Hunt 1.0

In one of Gujarat's largest crackdowns on cybercrime-linked financial networks, the State police have uncovered cyber fraud worth ₹2,289 crore and taken action against 913 mule bank accounts during a special Statewide operation aimed at dismantling the financial infrastructure used by cybercriminals. The crackdown, titled Operation Mule Hunt 1.0, led to the registration of 565 FIRs and the arrest of 638 accused persons, according to details shared by the Gujarat government on June 1, 2026.

- ➔ The drive was conducted by the Gujarat Police and the Cyber Centre of Excellence (CCOE) under the supervision of Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi as part of the State government's broader effort to combat cybercrime.
- ➔ A mule account is a bank account used to receive, transfer or launder money obtained through online fraud.

Bharat Electricity Summit 2026

Over the past decade, India's power sector has undergone a period of major structural change, transitioning to a system defined by adequacy, expanded capacity, and improved reliability.

- ➔ Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 was held from 19 to 22 March 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.
- ➔ The Summit was a global conference-cum-exhibition for the power and electricity sector.
- ➔ It was held under the theme "Electrifying Growth. Empowering Sustainability. Connecting Globally."

❑ The Summit was important for India's long-term power-sector planning.

- ➔ Two important reports were released at the Summit: the National Resource Adequacy Plan and the Transmission Plan for Integration of over 900 GW Non-Fossil Fuel Capacity by 2035–36.
- ➔ Transmission planning is necessary because renewable energy projects are often located far from major demand centres.

❑ India recorded major capacity expansion during FY 2025–26.

- ➔ The figure of 52,537 MW capacity addition belongs to the period up to 31 January 2026.
- ➔ For the completed FY 2025–26, official MNRE data state that non-fossil capacity addition was 55.29 GW, the highest increase in any year.
- ➔ In FY 2025–26, solar capacity addition reached 44.61 GW, while wind capacity addition reached 6.05 GW.
- ➔ As of 31 March 2026, India's total installed power generation capacity was 5,32,740 MW, or about 532.740 GW.
- ➔ As of 31 March 2026, India's total non-fossil capacity was 2,83,468 MW, or about 283.468 GW, forming 53.2% of total installed capacity.

❑ The latest official renewable energy data show further growth after March 2026.

- ➔ As of 31 May 2026, India's total renewable energy capacity, including large hydro, was 282,745.08 MW.
- ➔ As of 31 May 2026, India's total non-fossil capacity was 291,525.08 MW.
- ➔ Solar power remained the largest renewable segment, with cumulative solar capacity of 157.05 GW as on May 31, 2026.

- ➔ Wind power capacity stood at **56,807.04 MW** as of 31 May 2026.
- ➔ The National Power Portal dashboard for June 2026 showed India's total installed capacity at **543,013.8 MW**.
- ➔ In that classification, thermal capacity was **251,489.13 MW**, hydro capacity was **51,964.66 MW**, RES capacity excluding large hydro was **230,780.01 MW**, and nuclear capacity was **8,780 MW**.
- ❑ **India's non-fossil energy progress is important for climate policy**
- ➔ India achieved the milestone of 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources in June 2025.
- ➔ This was achieved about five years ahead of the 2030 target under India's Nationally Determined Contribution.
- ➔ India is working towards achieving 500 GW installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030.
- ➔ India ranked third globally in renewable energy installed capacity according to IRENA Renewable Energy Statistics 2026, based on data as of December 2025.
- ❑ **India's transmission network has also expanded significantly**
- ➔ In January 2026, India's national power transmission network crossed **5 lakh circuit kilometres** of transmission lines of 220 kV and above.
- ➔ At that milestone, transformation capacity reached **1,407 GVA**.
- ➔ The Ministry of Power described India's grid as the **world's largest synchronous national grid**.
- ➔ The milestone was linked to the vision of **"One Nation – One Grid – One Frequency."**
- ➔ As per the National Power Portal data available for June 2026, India's transmission network reached **508,535 ckm**, and transformation capacity reached **1,469,041 MVA**, or about **1,469.041 GVA**.
- ➔ Transmission expansion is important because India needs to evacuate and integrate large quantities of solar, wind, hydro and other non-fossil electricity into the national grid.
- ❑ **India has moved close to power sufficiency.**
- ➔ In FY 2025–26, the country's energy requirement was **17,07,493 MU**, while energy availability was **17,06,985 MU**.
- ➔ The energy deficit was only **0.03%** in FY 2025–26.
- ➔ The peak demand was **2,45,444 MW**, while maximum demand met was **2,45,416 MW**.
- ➔ The peak deficit was only **0.01%**, showing a very small gap between demand and supply.

Research Station: Approval for the Construction of Maitri II

India is now set to begin a new chapter on the world's southernmost continent, Antarctica. According to a press

release issued by the Ministry of Finance on October 4, 2025, approval has been granted for the construction of **'Maitri II'**, which will be India's proposed **fourth research station**, to be built in East Antarctica. The station is planned to be ready by January 2029.

- ➔ India began research activities in Antarctica in the early 1980s.
- The first station, **'Dakshin Gangotri'**, operated for a few years.
- ➔ Currently, India has two active stations—
- **Maitri** (since 1989),
- **Bharati** (since 2012).
- ➔ The Maitri station is situated on a 20 km long ice-free stretch of land called the **Schirmacher Oasis**.
- It is located at an altitude of approximately **50 meters** above sea level and about **100 km** inland from the coast.
- ➔ It is noteworthy that the project is being executed by the **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)**, Goa.

India's First Bamboo-Based Ethanol Plant

Taking a significant step towards promoting clean energy and reducing dependence on fossil fuels, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Assam Bio-Ethanol Plant at Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) in **Golaghat district of Assam** on September 14, 2025, and laid the foundation stone of a modern polypropylene unit.

- ➔ This plant has been established through **Assam Bio-Refinery Private Limited**, a joint venture of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), Finland's **Fortum and Chempolis Oy**, which will produce bio-ethanol from bamboo.
- ➔ Bamboo is an attractive feedstock for the production of bio-ethanol as it is a non-food crop and contains high lignocellulosic.

Third Tobacco Free Youth Campaign

- ➔ The Third Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign continues our mission to empower young people to make healthy, informed choices and live free from the harms of tobacco and nicotine.
- ➔ Recently on 9th October, 2025 Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Smt. Anupriya Patel launched the third edition of the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0 at a hybrid event in New Delhi.
- ➔ The 60-day Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0 prioritizes six enhanced key strategies:
- Intensifying public awareness campaigns about the dangers of tobacco.

India Electric Mobility Index, 2024

India has prioritized e-mobility to cut transport sector emissions and achieve the net zero target by 2070. To support this goal, NITI Aayog launched the

India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2024, the first tool to comprehensively track and benchmark the progress of 28 States and 8 Union Territories in their transition. Covering 16 indicators across three themes—transport electrification, charging infrastructure, and EV research and innovation—the index highlights strengths, identifies policy gaps, and promotes best practice sharing to accelerate India's electric mobility vision.

- ➔ IEMI is the world's first sub national level e-mobility index, with the objective of measuring progress, identifying policy gaps, and enhancing the exchange of best practices.
- ➔ The IEMI score is read in three categories—**Frontrunner (65–99), Performer (50–64), and Aspirant (0–49)**.
- ➔ This classification simply explains the status of each state/UT.
- ➔ At the overall level, the frontrunners were **Delhi, Maharashtra, and Chandigarh**, showing that in these states, EV adoption, charging infrastructure readiness and EV technology and innovation—all three themes—are strong.
- ➔ As an overall top performance reference and national average indicator, the report cites **Top Score 77** and **National Average 39**, which are useful for understanding the relative progress of states.
- ➔ In the overall top performance score ranking—**Delhi 77, Maharashtra 68, Chandigarh 65, Karnataka 64, Tamil Nadu 59, Haryana 54, Odisha 49, Rajasthan 48, Chhattisgarh 48**.
- ➔ The lowest-scoring states were **Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (12), Nagaland (19), Jammu & Kashmir (20), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (22), and Sikkim (23)**; these regions demand priority for targeted interventions.

Kalaa Setu: Real-Time Language Tech for India

India's digital governance push demands fast, multilingual citizen communication. To meet this scale,

the Government is adopting AI tools for inclusive, last-mile outreach. In this regard, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting through its WaveX Startup Accelerator Platform has launched the **“Kalaa Setu – Real-Time Language Tech for Bharat” Challenge**.

- ➔ The initiative focuses on making information **accessible, relatable, and multilingual**.

WaveX

- ➔ It is the dedicated startup accelerator platform launched under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's WAVES initiative in March 2025.
- ➔ It is aimed at nurturing innovation in the media, entertainment, and language technology sectors.

BhashaSetu Challenge

- ➔ 'Bhasha Setu' real-time language translation challenge was launched under WaveX on June 30, 2025.

BharatGen: India's First AI Multimodal LLM

On **June 2, 2025**, the **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge)** for Science & Technology launched **“BharatGen LLM”** at the BharatGen Summit 2025.

- ➔ BharatGen is India's first indigenously developed and government-funded **Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs)**, designed to operate in 22 Indian languages.
- ➔ Unlike traditional unimodal models (like early versions of ChatGPT), multimodal LLMs are trained on diverse data formats—text, images, audio, and video—allowing them to interpret and generate responses across multiple media types with greater contextual understanding.

Development and Implementation

- ➔ **Developed under:** the National Mission on Inter-disciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)
- ➔ **Executing agency:** TIH Foundation for IoT and IoE at IIT Bombay.

News in Short

○ The first supercomputer in Bihar

- ➔ Patna has joined India's growing network of high-performance computing hubs with the inauguration of Param Rudra, a state-of-the-art supercomputer installed under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). The system was formally launched at IIT Patna.
- ➔ Param Rudra has been established through a memorandum of understanding between IIT Patna and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- ➔ The 838-teraflops system uses largely indigenous components and runs on an Indian-developed software stack created by C-DAC.

○ India's First LNG-Diesel Dual-Fuel DEMU Train

- ➔ Indian Railways has achieved a major milestone in green transportation by starting the country's first LNG-diesel dual-fuel DEMU train at Sabarmati, Ahmedabad.
- ➔ This new train is a step towards reducing pollution and making railway operations more environmental friendly.
- ➔ Under this initiative, the driving power cars of the 1,400 HP DEMU train have been converted to a dual-fuel system, utilising Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to replace approximately 40 per cent of the traditional diesel consumption.

○ **India's first national ship manufacturing heavy industry parka**

- ➔ The National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park, Tamil Nadu (NSHIP, TN) has been established as the country's first Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) dedicated to developing a mega shipbuilding cluster.
- ➔ In a major boost to the Government of India's Shipbuilding Development Scheme, the first Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) - National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park, Tamil Nadu (NSHIP, TN) - has been formed as a 50:50 Joint Venture between VOC Port (GoI) and SIPCOT (Government of Tamil Nadu).

○ **HAL Launches Dhruv NG for Civil Aviation**

- ➔ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on December 30, 2025 marked a breakthrough in India's civil aviation ecosystem as the Dhruv New Generation (NG) helicopter successfully undertook its maiden flight at HAL's Helicopter Division in Bengaluru.
- ➔ Dhruv NG is a 5.5-tonne, indigenously developed, twin-engine, multi-role helicopter, capable of day-night, all-weather operations, and derived from the Dhruv ALH Mk-III civil platform.
- ➔ Capability: Powered by indigenous Shakti engines with Cat-A performance and AS4-compliant systems, it is suitable for demanding roles including offshore operations of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

○ **WAVES Animation Bazaar and 8th Edition of India Joy 2025**

- ➔ Recently, on November 1, 2025 WAVES Animation Bazaar and 8th edition of India Joy 2025, a two-day event dedicated to media and entertainment inaugurated in Hyderabad.
- ➔ The two-day event, being organised with support of Telangana government, the Telangana VFX, Animation and Gaming Association and the Union Ministry of I&B is dedicated to the creative economy across films, e-sports, VFX, animation, OTT, comics and other emerging digital entertainment sectors.
- ➔ The WAVES Bazaar platform aims to empower creators to monetise their work and accelerate industry growth, thus transforming craft to commerce.
- ➔ During the event, the Government communication highlighted a plan to establish the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) in Hyderabad.

○ **India International Science Festival (IISF), 2025**

- ➔ The 11th edition of IISF was held from December 6-9, 2025 in Panchkula, Haryana. This flagship event featured exhibitions, business-to-business meetings, competitions, and cultural programs that bridge the gap between laboratories and society.

- ➔ The mission of IISF includes bridging traditional knowledge systems with modern scientific research thereby strengthening the link between India's indigenous knowledge heritage and contemporary scientific inquiry.

- ➔ The theme of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025 – **"Vigyan Se Samruddhi: for Atmanirbhar Bharat"** was to celebrate and advance the spirit of science-led growth for a self-reliant and prosperous India.

○ **DRAVYA" Portal**

- ➔ The recently released DRAVYA Portal (Digitized Retrieval Application for Versatile Yardstick of AYUSH Substances) is the largest collection of data on Ayurvedic Ingredients and Products made easily available to everyone. It is an ever-growing, ever-evolving database that covers classical Ayurveda textbooks as well as contemporary scientific literature and field studies.

□ **Key Highlights**

- ➔ In its first phase, the DRAVYA portal aims to catalogue information on 100 key medicinal substances, with data continuously updated through a dedicated entry software to ensure precision and authenticity.

○ **Rudrastra**

- ➔ On June 11, 2025, the Indian Army successfully tested the Rudrastra Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), developed by Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL), at the Pokhran Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- ➔ 'Rudrastra' is a hybrid Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) UAV drone, combining the features of both a helicopter and a fixed-wing aircraft.
- ➔ It has a total operational range of 170 kilometers (including loitering over the target) and a flight endurance of approximately 90 minutes. Operating at medium altitude, it can deliver a wide-area impact using an airburst warhead.

○ **World's first commercial space surveillance satellite**

- ➔ Bengaluru-based start-up Digantara has commissioned the world's first commercial space surveillance satellite, **SCOT (Space Camera for Object Tracking)**.
- ➔ It can track objects as small as 5 cm in Earth's orbit.
- ➔ The satellite, launched aboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 mission on January 14, 2025 has captured images over South America in March 2025.

○ **BSNL Soft launches Quantum 5G FWA**

- ➔ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) announced on **June 18, 2025, in Hyderabad**, the soft launch of **BSNL Quantum 5G FWA**. This indigenous, SIM-less fixed-wireless-access solution delivers fibre-like speeds over 5G radio.

Environmental Affairs

Overview on the Events of Environmental Importance in the Country and Abroad and the Activities of Various Organizations Related to Global Environment



Project GIB Adds Three Chicks

Project Great Indian Bustard (GIB) has added three more chicks to the conservation breeding programme in the last couple of days, taking the total number of chicks hatched so far in the fourth year of captive breeding to 26, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav said on **14 June 2026**. The captive stock has now grown to **94** birds, with more chicks expected this season.

Key Highlights

- ➔ As per report in the fourth year of GIB captive breeding, **26 chicks** have hatched so far, including 18 through artificial insemination, four through natural breeding and four from wild-collected eggs.
- ➔ As per report in exchange for the wild eggs, three chicks have hatched in the wild in Rajasthan through jumpstart intervention to improve founder genetic diversity and mitigate predation risk.
- ➔ Project Great Indian Bustard (Project Bustard) was launched by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan on 5 June 2013 to conserve the Critically Endangered Great Indian Bustard (**Godawan; Ardeotis nigriceps**), the State Bird of Rajasthan. Rajasthan became the first state to launch a dedicated conservation project for the species, initially in the **Desert National Park (DNP), Jaisalmer**.
- ➔ Although protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the species suffered severe decline due to habitat loss from grassland conversion, habitat fragmentation, anthropogenic disturbances during the breeding season, and poaching.
- ➔ Around 2013, Rajasthan supported more than 50% of the world's remaining Great Indian Bustard population.
- ➔ Population Trend: More than 1,000 individuals (few decades earlier) → 745 (1978) → 600 (2001) → 300 (2008) → about 125 (2013), making it one of the world's most threatened bird species.
- ➔ The Great Indian Bustard is a flagship grassland bird and an indicator of healthy grassland ecosystems.

- ➔ Grasslands are often wrongly treated as wastelands despite supporting livestock grazing and rural livelihoods; India possesses about 15–20% of the world's livestock, highlighting the ecological and economic importance of grassland conservation.

India Adds its 100th Ramsar site

India achieved a major wetland-conservation milestone on **5 June 2026**, when **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary**, also known as **Surha Tal**, in **Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh**, was designated as **India's 100th Ramsar site**. With Surha Tal, Uttar Pradesh's Ramsar tally rises to **13**.

Jai Prakash Narayan (Surhatal) Bird Sanctuary

- ➔ The Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary falls under the jurisdiction of Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh.
- ➔ The site is a freshwater wetland in the middle stretch of the Ganga (Ganges) River basin.

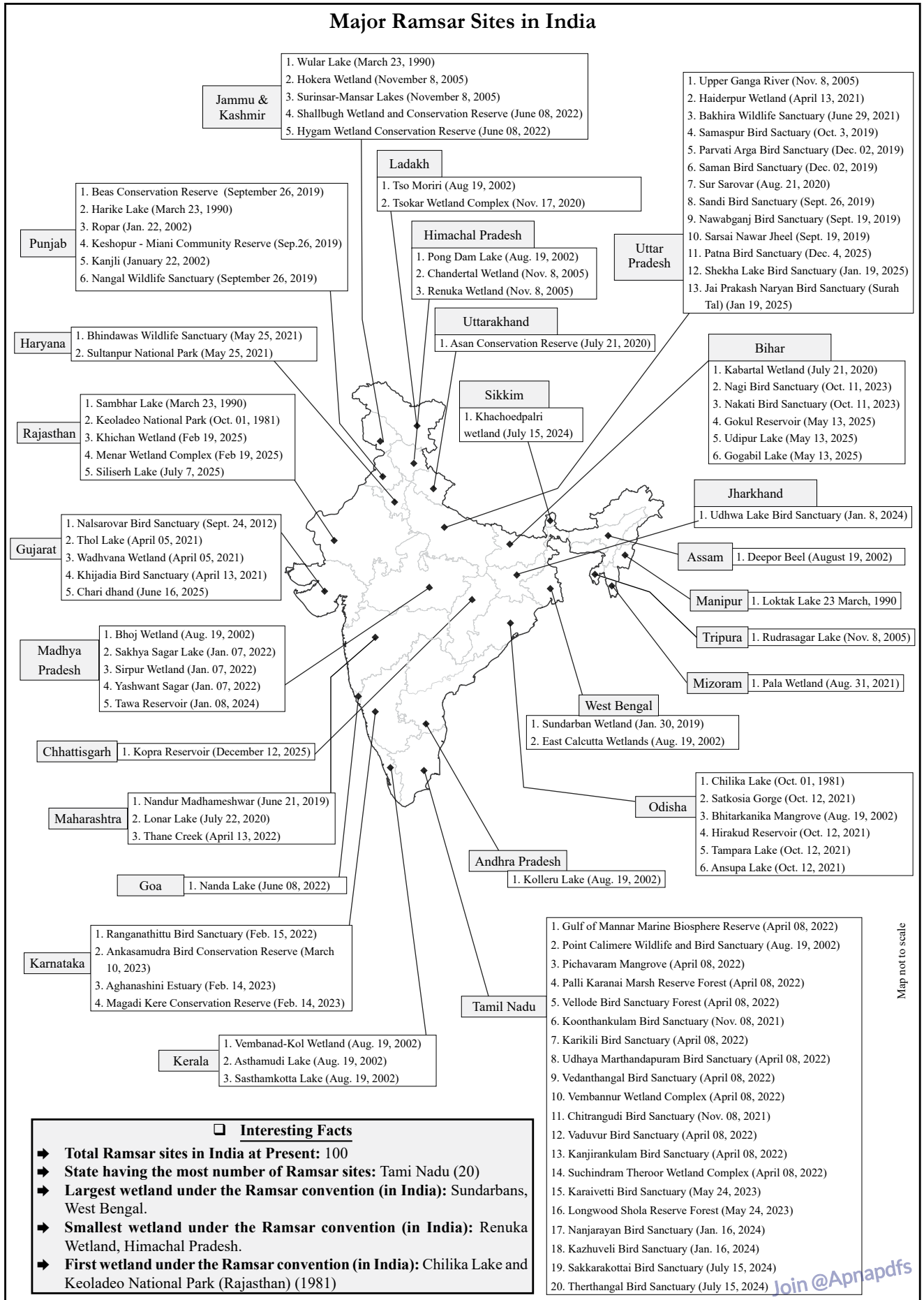
Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary as India's 99th Ramsar site

- ➔ Shekha Jheel, located in the Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, has been notified as the 12th Ramsar site of the state.
- ➔ It is an important stopover along the Central Asian Flyway.
- ➔ A freshwater lake situated 17 kms from Aligarh, the Shekha Jheel has recorded the presence of 249 bird species in its vicinity, out of which 62 are specifically dependent on the wetland.

Meaning of Ramsar sites

- ➔ A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, also known as "The Convention on Wetlands", an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO, which came into force in 1975.

Top 2 States with Maximum Number of Ramsar Sites	
Count	States/UTs
1	Tamil Nadu – 20 sites
2	Uttar Pradesh – 13 sites



Namo Oxygen Parks

Marking World Environment Day 2026, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on June 5, 2026 inaugurated 18 Namoo Oxygen Parks across the national capital and launched a series of green initiatives under the nationwide 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ The origin of these parks traces back to an act of environmental vandalism. In 2024, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) illegally axed over 1,100 mature trees in the Southern Ridge, a protected reserve forest often called the 'lungs of the capital'.

E85 Fuel Rollout in India

India's launch of E85 fuel marks a shift from ordinary ethanol blending in petrol to a wider flex-fuel mobility ecosystem. The policy is important for energy security, import reduction, farmer income, cleaner mobility and India's long-term climate commitments.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched E85 fuel at an IndianOil retail outlet in New Delhi today on the occasion of World Environment Day 2026 (**June 5, 2026**).
- ➔ E85 is a high-ethanol blended fuel comprising 80–85 per cent ethanol and 14–19 per cent petrol, specifically designed for use in flex-fuel vehicles.
- ➔ The initiative aims to facilitate the adoption of Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs), which are capable of operating on ethanol blends from E20 to E100, without restricting consumers to a single blend.
- ➔ The rollout commences across 48 Public Sector OMC's retail outlets (ROs) in the country, enabling flex-fuel vehicle users to access this cleaner fuel.
- ➔ The initiative is slated for nationwide expansion.
- ➔ The same would be scaled up to 500 ROs by December 2026 and about 5000 ROs by December 2027 and help raise India's aggregate ethanol blending levels to nearly 26 per cent by 2030-31.
- ➔ Ethanol blending has increased from 1.53 per cent in 2014 to 20 per cent as of **June 5, 2026**, with the target achieved five years ahead of schedule.

❑ Benefits of E85:

- ➔ E85 is priced nearly ₹20 per litre lower than conventional petrol to ensure that the economic benefits of domestically produced ethanol are passed on to consumers.
- ➔ Flex-fuel vehicles operating on E85 can reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by around 61 per cent compared to conventional petrol vehicles.

❑ Flex-fuel vehicles

- ➔ A flex-fuel vehicle is typically understood as the one which holds the capability to run on different variants of fuel.
- ➔ In the present context, the FFVs should be able to run in E20, E85, and E100 types of fuel.
- ➔ The vehicle's engine and fuel system automatically detect the ethanol content and adjust fuel injection and ignition timing accordingly.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands Set Guinness World Records

In May 2026, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration created two underwater Guinness World Records at Swaraj Dweep. The records were linked with the Administration's larger effort to promote the islands as a global centre for scuba diving, marine tourism and responsible adventure tourism. Guinness World Records lists the Andaman and Nicobar Administration as the record holder for both underwater achievements.

❑ Location: Swaraj Dweep

- ➔ Swaraj Dweep, earlier known as Havelock Island, is one of the important tourist destinations of South Andaman.
- ➔ It is a natural paradise with white sandy beaches, coral reefs and green forests. Such features make it suitable for marine tourism, scuba diving and eco-tourism-based activities.

❑ Sequence of the Achievements

- ➔ The first achievement was the underwater unfurling of the Indian Tricolour. Guinness World Records records this achievement under the title "**Largest flag unfurled underwater.**"
- ➔ The second achievement followed with the creation of the "**Tallest human stack underwater**" at Swaraj Dweep.

First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

The First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels was an important step in global climate governance because it focused specifically on **how countries can reduce their dependence on coal, oil and gas in a just, orderly and equitable manner**. The background to the conference lies in the **COP28 Global Stocktake decision**.

❑ Guiding Principles

- ➔ The Conference was guided by three key principles:
 - **Participation by those ready to move forward.**
 - **Implementation as the guiding star**, based on the shared scientific certainty.
 - **Focus on solutions** that meaningfully support the transition rather than delay it.

India's 1st Satellite-Tagged Ganges Soft-shell Turtle

India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle, an endangered species, was released in the 1,302 sq. km Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam on May 15, 2026.

Key Highlights

➔ Assam is one of the world's top priority areas in freshwater turtle conservation. Of the eight soft-shell turtles reported from India, five are known from the Kaziranga landscape.

The Ganges soft-shell turtle

➔ The Ganges soft-shell turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*), a Schedule I animal under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, can be differentiated from other riverine turtles by its distinct arrowhead-shaped markings on the top of the head.

➔ Ganges softshell turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*) can be differentiated from other riverine turtles in having distinct arrow head shaped markings on top of head.

Mizoram Ginger Mission

➔ The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, together with Chief Minister of Mizoram Shri Lalduhoma, launched the Mizoram Ginger Mission, a ₹189.79 crore convergence-led initiative for Ginger Cultivation & Value Chain Development for the State of Mizoram.

India Ranks third globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity

India has emerged as a global leader in clean energy, securing the third position worldwide in renewable energy installed capacity, surpassing Brazil, as per the Renewable Capacity Statistics 2026 released by the International

Renewable Energy Agency. The country recorded a total non-fossil fuel capacity of 283.46 GW as of March 31, 2026, with renewable energy alone contributing 274.68 GW.

Key Highlights

➔ India's total power generation during 2025-26 (up to March 2026) reached 1,847.913 BU. The share of non-fossil fuels in total generation reached 29.2% in 2025-26 (538.97 BU).

➔ India achieved the milestone of 50% of its cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources in June 2025, five years ahead of the 2030 target set under its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement.

➔ So far, a total of 283.46 GW of capacity from non-fossil fuel sources has been installed in the country as of March 31, 2026.

➔ This includes 274.68 GW Renewable Energy (150.26 GW Solar Power, 56.09 GW Wind Power, 11.75 GW Bioenergy, 5.17 GW Small Hydro Power, 51.41 GW Large Hydro Power) and 8.78 GW Nuclear Power capacity.

➔ India stands 3rd globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity (as per IRENA RE Statistics 2026 with data as of December, 2025).

Total Renewable Energy Installed Capacity (GW)	
Country	Capacity
China	2258.02
USA	467.92
India	250.52
Brazil	228.20
Germany	199.92
Japan	134.53
Canada	110.51
World	5149.28

Generation Performance during April–March 2026 (Prov.)

Category-wise	Target Generation during Current Year 2025–26 (Up to March 2026) (BU)	Generation during Current Year 2025–26 (Up to March 2026) (BU)	Ach. w.r.t Targets (%)	Generation during Previous Year 2024–25 (Up to March 2025) (BU)	Growth w.r.t Previous Year Generation (%)	% of Total Generation
Generation from Fossil Fuel						
Coal	1429.000	1250.189	87.49	1298.052	-3.69	67.7
Gas	37.262	26.009	69.80	31.580	-17.64	1.4
Lignite	37.000	30.323	81.95	32.995	-8.10	1.6
Diesel	0.400	0.430	107.42	0.443	-2.93	0.0
Total (Fossil Fuel)	1503.662	1306.951	86.92	1363.069	-4.12	70.8

Generation from Non-Fossil Fuel						
Generation from Renewable Sources (Including Hydro)						
Wind	91.712	106.089	115.68	83.347	27.29	5.7
Solar	152.499	173.525	113.79	144.150	20.38	9.4
BioPower & Others	30.789	29.199	94.84	27.512	6.13	1.6
Total: Solar, Wind & Other RE	275.000	308.813	112.30	255.009	21.10	16.7
Hydro	155.674	167.163	107.38	148.634	12.47	9.1
Bhutan Import	9.472	7.813	82.48	5.484	42.46	0.4
Total RE Generation (Incl. Hydro)	440.146	483.789	109.92	409.127	18.25	26.2
Nuclear	56.592	55.181	97.51	56.681	-2.65	3.0
Total (Non-Fossil Fuel)	496.738	538.970	108.50	465.808	15.71	29.2
Total Generation (Fossil Fuel & Non-Fossil Fuel)						
Total Generation	2,000.400	1,845.921	92.28	1,828.877	0.93	100.0

Fossil Fuel Generation (70.8%)	Non Fossil Fuel or RE (29.2%)
➔ The electricity generation from Fossil Fuel Sources in the country during 2025-26 is 1306.951 BU as against the generation of 1363.069 BU during the corresponding period previous year showing the negative growth of 4.12%. ➔ Coal based power generation during 2025-26 is 1250.189 BU showing negative growth of 3.69% over the previous year same period.	➔ Share of Non-Fossil Generation in Total Generation has been around 29.2%. ➔ During 2025-26, Share of RE Generation (Including Large Hydro) in Total Generation has been 26.2% ➔ Generation from Renewable Sources (Excl. Large Hydro) during 2025-26 is 308.813 BU as against the generation of 255.009 BU during corresponding period previous year showing growth of 21.10%. ➔ Wind based generation has been 106.089 BU showing significant growth of 27.29%. ➔ Solar based generation has been 173.525 BU showing growth of 20.38%. ➔ Wind+Solar is 279.614 BU which constitutes 15.14% of total generation.

Note—As of May 31, 2026 MNRE reported India's renewable energy capacity as 282.745 GW including 157.046 GW Solar, 56.807 GW Wind, 5.179 GW Small Hydro and 51.965 GW Large Hydro. Nuclear Capacity was 8.780 GW, taking Non-Fossil capacity to 291.525 GW.

India's First Green Methanol Production Plant

India is developing a **green biomethanol plant** at **Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla, Gujarat**, using invasive biomass as feedstock for cleaner marine fuel.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ The plant is located at **Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla**, one of India's major ports on the western coast. It is planned as a **five-tonne-per-day green biomethanol facility**.
- ➔ The project is being executed with the involvement of **Thermax Energy** and **Ankur Scientific**, with Ankur Scientific providing biomass gasification technology.
- ➔ The plant will use **Prosopis juliflora biomass** as its main feedstock. This is significant because the plant converts a long-standing ecological problem into a clean energy resource.

COP 15 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species

Migratory species are animals that move across countries, continents, oceans, rivers and skies for food, breeding, climate suitability or survival. Their protection cannot be done by one country alone because their routes cut across political boundaries. This is why the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**, also known as the **Bonn Convention**, is important for global biodiversity governance.

- ➔ The 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (CMS COP15) was held in Campo Grande, Brazil, from March 23 to March 29, 2026, under the theme "Connecting Nature to Sustain Life."

❑ Major Outcome

- ➔ The biggest outcome of COP15 was the decision to

provide **new or upgraded treaty protection to 40 species, subspecies and populations** of birds, aquatic wildlife and terrestrial animals.

- ➔ These were added to or upgraded within CMS Appendices I and II. With this, the Convention now covers **over 1,200 unique species**.
- ➔ Brazil's Ministry of Environment reported that COP15 gave final approval to **70 proposals**, including **15 appendix amendments covering 40 species, subspecies and populations, 16 Concerted Actions and 39 resolutions**.
- ➔ The meeting also approved conservation efforts for important species such as the **cheetah, striped hyena, snowy owl, giant otter, great hammerhead shark and several shorebird species** facing steep population decline.

❑ **Brazil's Role and Next COP**

- ➔ With the conclusion of COP15, **Brazil holds the CMS COP Presidency for the next three years**. The focus during this period will be on implementing the decisions taken in Campo Grande.
- ➔ The next CMS COP, **COP16**, will be held in **Bonn, Germany, in 2029**. It will coincide with the **50th anniversary of CMS**, making it symbolically important because Bonn is the city where the treaty was signed in 1979.

IQAir World Air Quality Report 2025

Recently on March 24, 2026, IQAir released the 2025 IQAir World Air Quality Report. This 8th edition annual

Report provides a comprehensive overview of air quality across the globe for the calendar year 2025. This Report presents PM2.5 air quality data sourced from 9,446 cities spanning 143 countries, regions, and territories.

○ **Expansion of Global Air Quality Coverage**

- ➔ Last year's World Air Quality Report included data from **8,954 cities across 138 countries, regions, and territories**.
- ➔ The current report expanded its coverage to **9,446 cities in 143 countries, regions, and territories**.
- ➔ In 2025, West Asia saw increased data contributions, especially due to the inclusion of **Iran, Syria, and Jordan**.
- ➔ This resulted in a **33% increase** in the number of cities covered in the region.
- ➔ **Burundi, Turkmenistan, and Togo**, which ranked among the top 30 most polluted countries in 2024, are absent from this year's report due to a lack of available data.

❑ **Global PM2.5 Trends and WHO Guideline Performance**

- ➔ Globally, only **13 countries, regions, and territories** met the WHO annual PM2.5 guideline of **5 µg/m³**.
- ➔ These included **French Polynesia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Barbados, New Caledonia, Iceland, Bermuda, Réunion, Andorra, Australia, Grenada, Panama, and Estonia**.
- ➔ In 2025, only **14% of global cities** met the WHO annual PM2.5 guideline.
- ➔ This was a decline from **17% in 2024**, showing that clean air remains a fragile achievement.

World's most polluted cities by annual average PM2.5 concentration, 2025, µg/m³										
Rank	City	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
1	Loni, India	112.5	91.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Hotan, China	109.6	84.5	87.3	94.3	101.5	110.2	110.1	116	91.9
3	Byrnihat, India	101.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
4	Delhi, India	99.6	108.3	102.1	92.6	96.4	84.1	98.6	113.5	108.2
5	Faisalabad, Pakistan	98.8	88.8	88.2	84.5	94.2	73.2	104.6	130.4	--

Rank	Country/Region	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	Population
1	Pakistan	67.3	73.7	73.7	70.9	66.8	59.0	65.8	74.3	231,402,117
2	Bangladesh	66.1	78.0	79.9	65.8	76.9	77.1	83.3	97.1	169,356,251
3	Tajikistan	57.3	46.3	49.0	46.0	59.4	30.9	--	--	9,750,064
4	Chad	53.6	91.8	--	89.7	75.9	--	--	--	17,179,740
5	Democratic Republic of the Congo	50.2	58.2	40.8	15.5	--	--	32.1	--	95,894,118
6	India	48.9	50.6	54.4	53.3	58.1	51.9	58.1	72.5	1,407,563,842

❑ Regional capital city ranking

Rank	Capital City	Country	Avg PM2.5 (µg/m³)
1	New Delhi	India	82.2
2	Dhaka	Bangladesh	68.0
3	Dushanbe	Tajikistan	57.3
4	N'Djamena	Chad	53.6
5	Kinshasa	D.R. Congo	50.2

India's National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna

India has taken an important step in marine biodiversity conservation by designating the “Bhavasagara” Referral Centre at the Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE), Kochi, Kerala, as the National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna on March 30, 2026. The designation was made by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), while CMLRE functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

❑ About Bhavasagara Referral Centre

- ➔ The Bhavasagara Referral Centre is a specialised national facility dedicated to deep-sea biodiversity. It acts as a repository for deep-sea faunal collections from India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- ➔ Bhavasagara maintains over 3560 taxonomically identified and geo-referenced voucher specimens.

❑ Main Functions of the Repository

- ➔ As a National Repository, Bhavasagara is authorised to maintain secure custody of representative biological samples as **voucher specimens**, along with associated scientific data such as DNA sequences.
- ➔ Bhavasagara acts as the official custodian for type specimens of New deep specimen of new deep-sea species discovered in Indian waters and that New Taxa must be notified and voucher specimens deposited in the designated repository.
- ➔ The repository will also support **capacity building in deep-sea taxonomy**.

Project Him Sarovar

Project **Him Sarovar** is a new water-security initiative of the Ladakh Administration. It has been designed for Ladakh's **cold desert conditions**, where water is a lifeline for agriculture, settlements and livelihoods. The project focuses on **scientific snow harvesting**, conservation of **snowmelt and glacial melt**, and creation of small water bodies so that seasonal water, which usually flows away, can be stored and used during lean periods.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ Project Him Sarovar was launched on April 10, 2026 by Vinay Saxena, LG of Ladakh.

- ➔ Under Phase I, 50 water bodies were proposed with 30 in Leh and 20 in Kargil covering nearly 25% of Ladakh's villages. As of June 12, 2026. 5 reservoirs had already been completed and the target was to create 100 such water bodies by next year.

India Withdraws COP33 UNFCCC Host Bid

India has withdrawn its candidature to host **COP33**, the 33rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, scheduled for 2028. This is an important development for India's climate diplomacy because Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed at COP28 in Dubai in 2023 that India should host COP33.

❑ Background of India's COP33 bid

- ➔ At COP28 in Dubai in December 2023, Prime Minister Modi highlighted India's climate commitments, called for support to the Global South, invited leaders to join the Green Credits Initiative co-launched by India and the UAE, and proposed that India host COP33 in 2028.
- ➔ India's candidature had also received international support. The BRICS Rio de Janeiro Declaration of July 2025 welcomed India's candidature to host COP33 in 2028.

❑ UN Climate Summit

- ➔ The right to host the annual climate COP negotiations rotates between the UN's five regional groups. This year, COP31 will be hosted by Türkiye and Australia.
- ➔ Next year's event (COP33) will be held in the capital city of Ethiopia, a representative of the African Group.

Botswana Cheetah Translocation to India & birth of new cubs

Nine cheetahs arrived from Botswana at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, marking a significant milestone in India's ambitious cheetah reintroduction project.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ Project Cheetah is the Government of India's programme to reintroduce cheetahs after the species was declared extinct in India in 1952.
- ➔ The last confirmed sighting of the cheetah in India was recorded in 1947 in Koriya district. Project Cheetah was launched on September 17, 2022.
- ➔ The first batch of eight African cheetahs came from Namibia and was released into quarantine enclosures at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in September 2022.
- ➔ A second batch of twelve cheetahs came from South Africa in February 2023.

- ➔ Jwala, earlier known as Siyaya, was one of the Namibian cheetahs brought to Kuno in September 2022. She has become one of the most important breeding females under Project Cheetah.
- ➔ Jwala gave birth to four cubs in March 2023, but only one survived.
- ➔ She gave birth again in January 2024. The number was first announced as three, but it was later corrected to four cubs.
- ➔ On March 9, 2026, Jwala gave birth to five healthy cubs at Kuno National Park. This was her third litter in India and the tenth successful cheetah litter under the reintroduction programme.
- ➔ The birth of Jwala's five cubs on March 9, 2026, took India's cheetah population to 53 at that time. The number of India-born cubs rose to 33.
- ➔ The Botswana translocation added a new phase to Project Cheetah.
- ➔ During President Droupadi Murmu's visit to Botswana in November 2025, eight cheetahs were symbolically donated to India at the Mokolodi Nature Reserve.
- ➔ On February 28, 2026, nine Botswana-origin cheetahs were received at Kuno National Park.
- ➔ This batch consisted of six females and three males.
- ➔ They were released into quarantine enclosures for acclimatisation and health monitoring before any gradual release into the larger landscape.
- ➔ The Botswana cheetahs were transported from Mokolodi to Gaborone and then airlifted by the Indian Air Force to Gwalior. From Gwalior, they were taken to Kuno by IAF helicopters.
- ➔ However, after later mortality reports, a June 2026 update placed India's total cheetah population at 52, including 49 cheetahs at Kuno and three at Gandhi Sagar.
- ➔ Kuno National Park remains the primary site for Project Cheetah.
- ➔ Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh has been prepared as an additional habitat.

❑ Bee Corridors

- ➔ India's highway plantation policy is now moving from simple roadside beautification to ecological restoration. On 17 February 2026, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) announced a first-of-its-kind "Bee Corridor" initiative along National Highways. This marks a shift from ornamental plantations to pollinator-friendly vegetation and builds on the broader Green Highways approach that has guided plantations along highways since 2015.

State of India's Environment (SOE) 2026 Report

The **State of India's Environment 2026** report was released by the **Centre for Science and Environment**

(CSE) and Down to Earth Magazine on **February 25, 2026** at the Anil Agarwal Dialogue 2026 in Nimli near Alwar Rajasthan. The annual SOE series began in 2014, though CSE's longer environmental reporting tradition goes back to the 1982 Citizen's First Report.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ The report states that **2025** recorded the **highest rise in the frequency and impact of extreme weather events** in India during the last **four years**.
- ➔ These events included **heatwaves, cold waves, heavy rainfall, and floods**.
- ➔ From **January 1 to November 30, 2025**, extreme weather events occurred on **99% of the days** in India, causing **4,421 deaths** and affecting at least **17.41 million hectares** of crop area.
- ➔ In comparison, **2024** saw such events on **88% of the days**, with **3,472 deaths** and **3.61 million hectares** of crop damage, while **2023** recorded them on **89% of the days**, causing **3,287 deaths** and affecting **2.09 million hectares**.
- ➔ Among the States, **Himachal Pradesh** was the worst affected with extreme weather on **267 days**, followed by **Kerala** with **173 days** and **Madhya Pradesh** with **162 days**.

❑ Air Pollution, Freshwater Stress, and Novel Entities

- ➔ On air pollution, CSE's analysis shows that only **15% of India's population**, about **200 million people**, lives within **10 km** of a **continuous air quality monitor**.
- ➔ This means that **85% of the population**, or over **1.2 billion people**, lives outside any reliable monitoring range.
- ➔ The report notes that **ocean acidity has increased by 30–40% since the industrial era**, threatening marine ecosystems, including **corals and shell-forming organisms**, and weakening the ocean's ability to absorb carbon.

India Submits 7th National Report to the CBD

India has submitted its Seventh National Report (NR-7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) filed it on **February 26, 2026**, ahead of the 28 February deadline. Under Article 26 of the CBD, national reporting is mandatory for all Parties.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ NR-7 is an indicator-based national assessment. It uses 142 national indicators mapped against 23 National Biodiversity Targets and brings together inputs from 33 Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments, statutory bodies and research institutions.

❑ About forests, land and wetlands

- ➔ The report says India has strengthened biodiversity-inclusive land and seascape planning. It records a Recorded Forest Area of 7,75,377 sq km; within this, 5,20,365 sq km is under forest cover.
- ➔ This is 1,445.81 sq km higher than the 2021 assessment. The number of Ramsar sites has also risen from 26 in 2014 to 100 (as on June 19, 2026).
- ➔ India's Wetland Atlas 2017 has mapped 2,31,195 wetlands covering 15.98 million hectares, about 4.86% of the country's geographical area.
- ➔ However, the latest high-resolution NWIA/SARITA Mapping estimates 3.58 million wetlands, covering 16.89 million hectares, about 5.12% of India's geographical area.
- ➔ In production landscapes, agroforestry already covers 8.65% of India's geographical area, or about 28.42 million hectares.

MoEFCC Year-End Review 2025: Key Initiatives, Reforms and Outcomes

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) highlighted 2025 as a year focused on forest conservation, wildlife protection and climate leadership, combining on-ground conservation, community participation, and governance reforms (especially through digital systems and ease-of-compliance measures).

❑ Key Highlights

○ Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam

- ➔ A large people-centric plantation campaign launched by the Prime Minister, implemented using a Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approach.
- ➔ **262.4 crore** saplings planted as of December 24, 2025 (campaign running since 5 June 2024).
- ➔ Plantation activities were digitally tracked via the Meri LiFE portal.

○ Forest and tree cover status (India + global position)

- ➔ ISFR 2023 (India State of Forest Report 2023) reports: 18th edition of ISFR.
- ⌚ Total forest and tree cover: **25.17%** of India's geographical area
- ⌚ Forest cover: **21.76%** and tree cover: **3.41%**
- ➔ As per FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025 (as cited in the review):
- ⌚ India ranks **9th** globally in forest area (improved from 10th),
- ⌚ retains **3rd** position worldwide in annual net forest gain.

❑ Wildlife conservation and species recovery

○ Project Tiger

- ➔ **58 Tiger Reserves** cover about **85,000 sq km** (compared with 46 reserves in 2014).

- ➔ New reserve added: Madhav Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh).
- ➔ 6th cycle of All India Tiger Estimation initiated (highlighted as a global-first initiative in the review).
- ➔ Focus areas: habitat improvement and corridor protection.

○ Project Elephant

- ➔ Elephant Reserves increased to **33 (2025)** from **26 (2014)**; about **8,610 sq km** additional area brought under protection.
- ➔ **Key interventions:**
 - ⌚ India-Bangladesh Transboundary Elephant Conservation Protocol
 - ⌚ **150 elephant corridors** identified across **15 States**
 - ⌚ Ex-gratia for human fatalities enhanced from **₹5 lakh → ₹10 lakh**
 - ⌚ Rail-track mitigation portal: **110** critical sites identified
 - ⌚ DNA profiling of captive elephants via Gaj Soochna App

○ International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- ➔ IBCA launched in April 2023 for conservation of **7 big cat species globally**.
- ➔ Framework Agreement entered into force on **January 23, 2025**.
- ➔ Membership expanded to 18 countries.
- ➔ Focus: conservation cooperation, capacity building and research; also links biodiversity with climate adaptation, ecosystem services, water security and community livelihoods.

○ National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

- ➔ 7th NBWL meeting chaired by the Prime Minister held at **Sasan, Gir** on **March 3, 2025**; emphasis on collaboration and action points for biodiversity conservation.

○ Global engagement (CBD)

- ➔ India participated in CBD COP-16 (Rome, 2025); advocated equity, finance and technology transfer.

❑ Climate change action and carbon market

○ India's NDC progress (as highlighted in the review)

- ➔ Emission intensity of GDP reduced by **36%** from 2005 level, achieved in 2020 (against target of **45%** by 2030).
- ➔ Non-fossil electricity installed capacity exceeded **50% in June 2025** (about 5 years ahead of schedule).
- ➔ Additional carbon sink created: **2.29 billion tonnes** (2005–2021) (against **2.5–3.0 billion tonnes** target by 2030).

○ National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- ➔ Coverage: **130 cities**.
- ➔ **Funding:**
 - ⌚ **₹13,415 crore** provided as performance-linked funding (to date),

- ₹792.72 crore released to **82 cities** in FY 2025–26 under CP scheme,
- Recommendations sent for release of ₹2,194.25 crore to **48 million-plus** cities under XV Finance Commission air quality grants.
- Outcomes:
 - **103 cities** recorded PM10 reduction in 2024–25 compared with 2017–18
 - **64 cities** reduced PM10 by >20%
 - **25 cities** reduced PM10 by >40%
 - **22 cities** met NAAQS for PM10.
- Guidelines issued for Ward-level Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan in **130 cities**.

○ **Nagar Van Yojana (NVY)**

- **75 projects** sanctioned in 2025.
- Total **620 Nagar Van** projects sanctioned.
- Total outlay: ₹654 crore.

○ **MISHTI Programme (mangroves)**

- **4,536 ha** brought under restoration in 2025.
- ₹46.48 crore released in 2025.
- Total **22,560 ha** degraded mangroves restored.

○ **National Coastal Mission and Blue Flag beaches**

- National Coastal Mission extended for 2025–31 with allocation of ₹767 crore.
- As of the 2025–26 season, **18 beaches** across 7 coastal States and 4 UTs accorded Blue Flag Certification.

International Renewable Energy Agency

Recently, the **Sixteenth Session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly** concluded on **12 January 2026** in **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, marking a significant milestone in global deliberations on sustainable energy transition. The Assembly, held under the theme **“Powering Humanity: Renewable Energy for Shared Prosperity”**.

- The **IRENA Youth Forum**, held on the sidelines of the Assembly, brought together **young leaders from more than 60 countries** to emphasise the role of youth innovation, digital skills and inclusive policy in shaping sustainable energy futures.

India’s First Indigenous Pollution Control Vessel

- Marking a major step forward in India’s pursuit of **Aatmanirbharta** in shipbuilding and maritime capability development, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) ‘Samudra Pratap’, the first of two Pollution Control Vessels built by **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**, in **Goa** on **January 05, 2026**.

- **With over 60%** indigenous content, ICGS Samudra Pratap is India’s first indigenously designed pollution control vessel and the largest ship in the ICG fleet to date.
- **ICGS Samudra Pratap** has been specially designed for pollution control, but its role is not limited to this alone.

Global Methane Status Report

- The report was launched on **17 November 2025** during COP30 in Belém, Brazil.
- UNEP states the GMP includes 159 countries + the European Commission.
- The report notes that (as of April 2025) those members covered about 57% of global emissions.
- Sector shares of global anthropogenic methane are about 42% agriculture, 38% energy, 20% waste.
- G20+ countries are responsible for about 65% of total emissions and hold 72% of the mitigation potential.

30th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC: COP30

COP30, held in Belém in the Amazon region, became strongly associated with an “implementation-first” framing. Alongside the political track, COP30 also showcased a large-scale implementation architecture through the COP30 Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA)—a renewed framework built on the Marrakech Partnership and the Global Stocktake response, organized into six thematic axes and driven by 30 activation groups (482 initiatives).

□ **Key Highlights**

- COP30 took place in Belem from November 10-21, 2025.
- **In parallel, the COP30 Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA)** operationalized this “implementation turn” through a **four-step activation cycle**—Coordinate, Measure, Showcase, Scale.
- **Coordinate:** 30 activation groups with **482 initiatives** aligned toward 30 key objectives.

□ **COP30’s “Implementation Shift” and the Belém Package**

- Unlike earlier COPs that leaned heavily toward announcing new pledges, COP30 marked a clear shift toward **implementation**.
- The central political outcome was widely described as the **Belém Package**—around **29 decisions** functioning less as a new “target set” and more as an **implementation toolkit** to deliver the Paris Agreement.
- The package’s conceptual foundation was the **Global Mutirão decision**.
- “Mutirão” (a Brazilian term) implies the community coming together for shared work—similar in spirit to India’s concept of **“Shramdaan.”**

❑ Accelerating Action: Mitigation, Adaptation, and Finance (with Finance the Most Contested)

(1) Climate Finance: reinforcing obligations + tracking and delivery tools

- ➔ A major achievement attributed to COP30 was strengthening the interpretation of **Paris Agreement Article 9.1** (developed countries “shall provide” financial resources to developing countries).
- ➔ A two-year “**Climate Finance Work Programme**” was launched to clarify definitions, improve tracking, and strengthen accountability for climate finance flows.
- ➔ **Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)**: Brazil-led blended finance mechanism targeting **USD 125 billion**, designed like a “scholarship for forests,” delivering performance-based payments for protecting tropical forests (monitored via satellite data).

(2) Adaptation: operationalizing the GGA and scaling resilience delivery

- ➔ COP30 decisions treat the Baku Adaptation Road Map as an ongoing work stream with a defined first phase (2026-28).

(3) Mitigation & Transition: the Belém 4x Pledge and sectoral scaling

- ➔ To curb emissions and accelerate system transitions, COP30 advanced the implementation of **Belém 4x Pledge**. The pledge was launched at the Pre-COP.
- ⊕ Target: **quadruple the use of sustainable fuels by 2035** relative to 2024 (including green hydrogen, advanced biofuels, and e-fuels).
- ⊕ Tracking: **IEA** to track progress.
- ➔ **23 countries officially endorsed** the pledge, with broad non-state support (including major industry actors).

❑ Just Transition

- ➔ **Belém Action Mechanism (BAM)**: adopted to support a socially fair transition away from fossil fuels—focused on worker reskilling and social dialogue, though without a large dedicated fund.
- ➔ The **Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative** announced its **18th** nation-state supporter (Cambodia) and presented a PAS with next steps through the Climate Action Agenda.

❑ Health

- ➔ **Belém Health Action Plan**: launched to build climate-resilient health systems to tackle heatwaves and vector-borne diseases.
- ➔ The Belém Health Action Plan is described as the **world’s first international climate adaptation plan dedicated entirely to health**, launched with an initial **USD 300 million** investment from a coalition of **35+ philanthropies**, funding research,

policy, solutions for extreme heat/air pollution/infectious diseases, and strengthening health systems via climate-data integration.

- ➔ COP30 also marked “Race to Zero for health care hits 100”: **100 healthcare institutions** joined, representing **14,000+ hospitals/health centers** across **28 countries**.

❑ India’s position at COP30 (as reflected in negotiations and blocs)

- ⊕ **Finance is an obligation**: India emphasized that under Article 9.1, climate finance is a **legal obligation**, not charity, and demanded **USD 1.3 trillion/year**.
- ⊕ **Opposition to CBAM**: India strongly opposed unilateral trade measures like the EU’s CBAM, arguing they violate CBDR-RC and resemble “green protectionism.”
- ➔ **Looking ahead: COP31 (Türkiye, 2026) and the “Belém Mission to 1.5°C”**

Emissions Gap Report 2025

Recently on November 4, 2025, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the Emissions Gap Report 2025: Off Target – Continued collective inaction puts global temperature goal at risk. The report arrives at two defining moments: the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement and the deadline cycle for countries to submit new NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) with 2035 targets.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ UNEP adds that the **U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement** would cancel around **0.1°C** of the already-limited progress, reinforcing how fragile the global pathway remains.
- ➔ UNEP notes that the United States’ NDC is no longer in effect from January 27, 2026 due to withdrawal.

❑ Record emissions: 57.7 GtCO₂e in 2024, with a sharp jump from 2023

- ➔ The report finds that global net anthropogenic GHG emissions hit a new record: **57.7 GtCO₂e** in 2024, a **2.3%** increase from 2023.
- ⊕ UNEP highlights that the largest contributor to the increase in 2024 emissions was land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF):
- ⊕ Global net LULUCF CO₂ rose ~21% in 2024 and accounted for ~53% of the overall increase in global emissions.
- ⊕ Fossil CO₂ rose ~1.1% in 2024, contributing ~36% of the overall increase.

(B) 2035: current pledges fall far short of what 1.5°C requires

- ➔ UNEP estimates that full implementation of:
- ⊕ **unconditional NDCs** would cut 2035 emissions by ~12% (vs. 2019), and
- ⊕ **conditional NDCs** by ~15% (vs. 2019).

- ➔ But to align with Paris-aligned pathways, UNEP indicates the world needs **~35% reductions (2°C pathway)** and **~55% reductions (1.5°C pathway)** by 2035—far beyond current commitments.
- ❑ **India context (as part of the global story)**
- ➔ India's long-term target is **net-zero by 2070** (announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 and reiterated by the Government of India).
- ➔ India's **updated NDC** (submitted in 2022) includes targets such as a **45% reduction in emissions intensity of GDP by 2030 (from 2005 levels)** and **about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030**, among others.
- ➔ In the UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2025's snapshot of G20 progress, India is listed among members with **no new NDC submitted or mitigation pledge announced by 30 September 2025** (the report's cut-off date).
- ❑ **UNEP Emissions Gap Report**
- ➔ **UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2025: Off Target** (released **04 Nov 2025, 16th edition**) warns the world is still off-track for Paris goals.
- ➔ **Projected warming: ~2.3–2.5°C** with full NDC implementation; **up to ~2.8°C** under current policies.
- ➔ **2024 global GHG emissions: 57.7 GtCO₂e (record); +2.3% vs 2023** (2023 revised to **56.2 GtCO₂e**).
- ➔ **2024 spike driver: LULUCF CO₂ +~21%** causing **~53%** of the increase; **fossil CO₂ +~1.1%** causing **~36%**; **fossil CO₂ ~69%** of total GHG.
- ➔ **2030 emissions gap:** For 2030, under unconditional NDCs, the gap is about 12 Gt CO₂e for below 2 °C and 20 Gt CO₂e for 1.5°C; conditional NDCs reduce these by 2 Gt CO₂e.
- ➔ **2035 gap:** NDCs imply only **~12–15% cuts** vs 2019, but Paris-aligned pathways need **~35% (2°C)** and **~55% (1.5°C)** cuts vs 2019.
- ➔ **NDC participation gap** (cutoff **September 30, 2025**): only **60 Parties** (covering **63%** emissions) had mid-2030s targets; only 13 parties, covering less than 1% global GHG emissions, updated their 2030 targets.
- ➔ **G20** accounts for **~77%** of global emissions (excluding African Union), so action by major emitters is decisive.
- ➔ **CDR warning:** a **0.1°C** temperature reduction would need removal/storage of about **five years of current annual CO₂ emissions**.
- ➔ **India NDC (official): 45% emissions-intensity reduction by 2030 vs 2005** and **~50% non-fossil power capacity by 2030**; UNEP notes India's **per capita emissions** are below world average.

Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025

Released on October 22, 2025, the Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025, published by the FAO, is the most comprehensive global evaluation of forests, conducted every five years using official national data. The report tracks forest status and changes from 1990 to 2025, serving as the primary source for monitoring international commitments like SDG 15 (Life on Land) and informing the Paris Agreement.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ The Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025 was released by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations in October 2025.

- ➔ It is the **most comprehensive assessment** of the world's forests, conducted every five years, and based on **official national data** reported by countries.
- ➔ The report monitors progress toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly **SDG 15 (Life on Land)**.

❑ Global Trends in Forest Area and Change:

- ➔ The world's total forest area stands at approximately **4.14 billion hectares**, covering about **32%** of the Earth's total land area.
- ➔ The annual rate of **net forest loss has slowed significantly**, dropping from 10.7 million hectares per year in the 1990s to **4.12 million hectares per year** during the 2015–2025 period.
- ➔ **Deforestation slowed** to 10.9 million hectares per year (2015–2025), down from 17.6 million hectares annually (1990–2000).
- ➔ **Forest expansion** (mainly through afforestation and natural expansion) also slowed to 6.78 million hectares per year (2015–2025).
- ➔ More than half of the world's forests are concentrated in just five countries: **Russia, Brazil, Canada, the United States, and China**.
- ➔ Approximately **20%** of the global forest area is within **legally established protected areas**.
- ➔ **Europe** has the largest forest area, accounting for **25 percent** of the world's total. **South America** has the highest proportion of forest, at **49 percent** of the total land area.

❑ India's Performance :

- ➔ India has achieved a significant milestone in global forest statistics by advancing to the **9th** position worldwide in terms of total forest area, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025 released on 22 October 2025.
- ➔ In the previous assessment, India was ranked **10th**. India has also maintained its **3rd** position globally in the annual net gain of forest area.

- ➔ **Total Forest Area Ranking:** India has moved up to the **9th position globally** in terms of total forest area, an improvement from the 10th position in the previous assessment.
- ⦿ India's total forest area is approximately **72.7 million hectares**, which is about **2%** of the world's total forest area.
- ➔ **Annual Forest Area Gain:** India has **maintained its 3rd position worldwide** in terms of annual net forest area gain, showcasing consistent efforts in afforestation and conservation.
- ➔ **Carbon Sink Performance:** India's forests rank **5th globally** among major carbon sinks, with an estimated removal **150 Mt of CO₂** per year during 2021-2025.

India's First Dugong Conservation Reserve

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has formally recognized India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay. This marks a major international affirmation for the country's marine conservation efforts.

❑ Key Facts

- ➔ The proposal for IUCN recognition was submitted by the Omcar Foundation and adopted at the **'IUCN World Conservation Congress, 2025'** (held in Abu Dhabi).
- ⦿ Government members voted **98 percent** in favour of the proposal, while non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and research institutions voted **94.8 percent** in favour.
- ➔ The Reserve was established by the **Government of Tamil Nadu** on September 21, 2022, under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ➔ It is located in the **Northern Palk Bay** and covers an area of **448.34 sq. km**.
- ➔ The area is home to over **12,250 hectares of seagrass meadows**, which are vital foraging grounds for the Dugong (Dugong dugon).
- ➔ The Dugong is listed as **'Vulnerable'** on the IUCN Red List.

IUCN World Conservation Congress, 2025

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress, 2025, was held in **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, serving as the world's largest platform to guide global conservation efforts.

❑ Key Facts

- ➔ The **IUCN World Conservation Congress, 2025** was organized in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), from **October 9 to 15, 2025**.

- ➔ Its primary objective was to address global environmental challenges for the upcoming decade and establish a shared agenda by setting conservation priorities.
- ➔ Major outcomes of the Congress included the approval of a new **20-year Strategic Vision** and a **four-year Programme**, as well as the selection of **Panama** as the host country for the 2027 World Protected and Conserved Area Congress.
- ➔ Additionally, in-depth discussions were held on key themes such as **'Nature-Positive Economies'** and the **role of Indigenous Peoples**.

❑ Significant Decisions by IUCN Members

- ⦿ A new **20-year Strategic Vision** for the Union was approved.
- ⦿ A new **Programme** for the next four years was also adopted.
- ⦿ **Panama** was selected as the next host country for the **2027 World Protected and Conserved Area Congress**. This decision is significant for the management and expansion of protected areas globally.

Tribal Art Exhibition - 'Silent Conversation'

Recently, former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated a four day unique tribal art exhibition 'Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Centre', at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on October 9, 2025. In its fourth edition, the annual exhibition is being organised by the **Sankala Foundation** with the support of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), a statutory body under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ The exhibition aims to spread awareness about the conservation ethos of tribal communities and other forest-dwellers residing in and around forests, particularly India's tiger reserves.
- ➔ Sankala Foundation, a non-profit, organised a National Conference on 'Tribal Arts and India's Conservation Ethos: Living Wisdom,' on 10th October in partnership with Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi.
- ➔ The conference was inaugurated by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Ramsar Convention COP-15

The primary objective of the **Ramsar Convention** is to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands worldwide. The meeting of representatives of its member

countries, known as the **Conference of the Parties (COP)**, is held every three years to make important decisions.

❑ Key Facts

- ➔ The **15th meeting of the Parties (COP15)** to the Ramsar Convention was held in **Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**, from July 23 to 31, 2025, to discuss the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of wetlands at a global level.
- ➔ The theme of **COP15** was **“Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future”**.
- ➔ A new **5th Strategic Plan (2025-2034)** was adopted with **4 goals and 18 targets**. These aim to halt wetland loss, promote sustainable use, ensure the conservation of Wetlands of International Importance, and enhance funding, scientific cooperation, and capacity building.
- ➔ For the first time, India's cities of **Indore** and **Udaipur** were given the **“Wetland City”** status under the **Wetland City Accreditation** program.
- ➔ India presented a historic proposal titled **“Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles for the Wise Use of Wetlands”** at COP15, which was unanimously accepted by all **172 member countries**.
- ➔ Saudi Arabia has become the contracting Party of Ramsar Convention on August 2, 2025.
- ➔ This proposal is in line with **“Mission LiFE” (Lifestyle for Environment)**, presented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at **UNFCCC COP26**, which emphasizes sustainable behavior and lifestyles.
- ➔ It is noteworthy that the closing session of COP15 welcomed the organization of **COP16 in July 2028 in Panama City**.
- ➔ Approximately **35%** of the world's wetlands have shrunk in the last 50 years, requiring immediate conservation and restoration.
- ➔ In India, extensive public participation is being ensured through campaigns like **‘Mission Sahbhagita’** and **‘Save Wetlands’**.

India's first Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve

In a landmark achievement for India's environmental conservation efforts, Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh has been officially included in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. This prestigious recognition, granted under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

❑ Key Points

- ➔ UNESCO officially announced the designation of the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in India – as part of 26 new sites added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) during the 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves

(37th Session of UNESCO's MAB International Coordinating Council) in Hangzhou, China.

- ➔ It is among the 26 new biosphere reserves designated across several countries. With this inclusion, **India now has 13 biosphere reserves in the MAB Network**.
- ➔ This designation brings India's total to 13 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, joining a global network of 797 sites in 145 countries.
- ➔ Spanning 7,770 km² at altitudes ranging from 3,300 to 6,600 meters, the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve encompasses windswept plateaus, glacial valleys, alpine lakes, and rugged high-altitude deserts.
- ➔ This is India's first high-altitude cold desert biosphere reserve and one of the coldest and driest ecosystems in UNESCO's WNBR.
- ➔ It covers the Pin Valley National Park and its surroundings, Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandratil Wildlife Sanctuary/Wetland and Sarchu.

❑ The 5th WCBR

- ➔ The 5th WCBR is the largest and most influential conference under UNESCO's MAB programme, with over 3,000 participants from more than 100 countries and regions.
- ➔ It is also the first time the congress has been held in Asia, and outside Europe and the Americas – marking a milestone in the MAB program's development and highlighting its global inclusivity.

Sundarbans now India's Second Largest Tiger Reserve

The **Sundarbans Tiger Reserve (STR)** in West Bengal has been officially expanded, becoming India's second-largest tiger reserve following the Nagarjun-sagar-Srisaillam Tiger reserve in Andhra Pradesh after the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) approved the inclusion of additional forest areas. This strategic move aims to enhance conservation efforts and streamline management of the region's rich biodiversity.

- ➔ On August 19, 2025, the NBWL sanctioned the West Bengal government's proposal to expand the STR by 1,044.68 square kilometers, increasing its total area to 2,584.89 square kilometers.
- ➔ The expansion incorporates three tiger-inhabited ranges—Matla, Raidighi, and Ramganga—from the South 24 Parganas district into the STR.

PM Modi Inaugurates the Green Mobility Initiatives in Hansalpur, Gujarat

On August 26, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated significant green mobility initiatives at Suzuki Motor Corporation's plant in Hansalpur, Ahmedabad,

Gujarat. This event underscores India's commitment to becoming a global hub for sustainable transportation and advancing the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' missions.

- ➔ PM Modi inaugurated the localized production of hybrid battery electrodes at the TDS Lithium-Ion Battery Plant in Hansalpur, marking a pivotal step towards self-reliance in green energy technologies.
- ➔ He flagged off the export of Suzuki's first Made-in-India global strategic Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV), the "e-VITARA," which will be shipped to other countries, promoting India's electric vehicle manufacturing capabilities.

The Launch of 'Matri Van' Initiative

Recently on August 2, 2025 Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, along with Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, and Power, Shri Manohar Lal, presided over the ceremonial launch of the 'Matri Van' initiative - a green legacy symbolizing ecological preservation and community participation - under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Programme of Government of India. The event was organized by the Forest Department of Haryana as part of Van Mahotsav 2025, in Gurugram.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ The 'Matri Van' initiative - a theme based urban forest dedicated to nurturing generations through Mother-Nature-inspired green efforts - would be developed in an area of 750 acres in the Aravalli Hill area, along the Gurugram-Faridabad Road.
- ➔ The main components of the 'Matri Van' would include removal of existing bushes like Kabuli Kikar (*Prosopis juliflora*) and plantation of Dhak/Amaltash Trees along Gurugram-Faridabad Road, while creating theme-based Plantation Groves to restore local ecology in the Aravallis.
- ➔ The theme-based Plantation Groves would be carved out in the Matri Van, as follows:
 - ☉ Bodhi Vatika: Grove of Bargad, Peepal, Gullar, Pilkhan
 - ☉ Bambusetum: Group of Bamboo species
 - ☉ Aravalli Species Arboretum
 - ☉ Pushp Vatika: Group of Species of Flowering Trees
 - ☉ Sugandh Vatika: Group of Species of fragrance
 - ☉ Medicinal Plants Vatika
 - ☉ Nakshatra Vatika
 - ☉ Rashi Vatika
 - ☉ Cactus Garden
 - ☉ Butterfly Garden
- ➔ The Matri Van would further include nature trails, cycle track, yoga places, sitting places/gazebos,

public facilities, parking at four corners, treated water irrigation system/misting/sprinkling, water bodies at selected locations for conservation of water and to check urban flooding.

Project Samudrayaan

Recently Two Indian aquanauts **Cdr (Retd) Jatinder Pal Singh and R Ramesh** conducted deep ocean dives into the Atlantic Ocean aboard France's submersible *Nautile* as part of preparatory exercises for the Samudrayaan Project.

❑ Key Highlights

- ➔ **Samudrayaan** is India's first **manned deep-sea mission** under the **Deep Ocean Mission**.
- ➔ **Samudrayaan** is a project under the Deep Ocean Mission of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) which envisages the development of MATSYA-6000, a submersible spherical vessel to carry humans into the sea up to a depth of 6km.
- ➔ MATSYA-6000 is a sphere of 2260mm diameter with a wall thickness of 80mm, made out of Titanium alloy (Ti6Al4V - ELI grade) and is expected to withstand an external pressure up to 600bar under low temperature conditions of -3°C.
- ➔ This has the capability to carry a three-member crew into the deep ocean.
- ➔ Key objectives of Project include **developing technologies** for deep-sea mining, submersibles, and **ocean robotics**.

Global Wetland Outlook, 2025

The 'Global Wetland Outlook, 2025' (GWO, 2025) report, prepared by the **Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)** of the **Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention, 1971)**, provides a comprehensive assessment of global wetland degradation trends, economic values, restoration costs, and financial policy pathways. The report was released on July 15, 2025, and clarifies that wetlands are central to achieving climate, water security, and biodiversity goals.

❑ Key Facts

- ➔ The central theme of the Global Wetland Outlook, 2025 is "Valuing, Conserving, Restoring, and Financing Wetlands."
- ➔ The report reveals several concerning facts about the global state of wetlands:
 - ☉ Since 1970 for 11 wetland type assessed about approximately **411.50 million hectares** of wetlands have been lost globally, representing a decline of more than **22.4%** of their total global extent.
 - ☉ Invasive species
- ➔ Globally, **1,425.60 million hectares** of wetlands remain, providing an estimated annual benefit to people of **\$7.98 trillion to \$39.01 trillion**.

- If all remaining wetlands are effectively managed until 2050, they could provide a net present value (NPV) of over **\$205.25 trillion** during this period.
- Current funding for biodiversity conservation is only **0.25%** of the global GDP, which indicates a significant under investment in nature, including wetlands.
- ❑ **Key Takeaways from the Global Wetland Outlook, 2025**
- The **Global Wetland Outlook, 2025** suggests **four main pathways** for the conservation and wise use of wetlands:
 1. **Enhancing natural capital valuation** and integrating it into decision-making.
 2. **Recognizing wetlands as an integral part of the global water cycle** for all people.
 3. **Prioritizing wetlands in innovative financial solutions** for nature and people.
 4. **Mobilizing public and private investment** in wetlands as nature-based solutions.

Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025

The **62nd Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB62)** of the **Bonn Climate Change Conference** were convened from **June 16-26, 2025** in **Bonn, Germany**, serving as a pivotal mid-year session under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. As a key preparatory platform ahead of **COP30 in Belém, Brazil**, the conference brought together **delegates from member countries, scientists, policy experts, and civil society representatives** to engage in focused technical negotiations.

❑ **Key Highlights**

- One of the key focuses was the **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)**, where negotiators worked on narrowing down over 9,000 existing indicators to around 490 measurable, policy-relevant indicators.
- These indicators will help track countries' adaptation efforts under the Paris Agreement.
- The Bonn conference is primarily led by the Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) under the UNFCCC.

Global Tiger Day 2025 Celebrations

Global Tiger Day, observed annually on **29th July**, was established in **2010** at the **St. Petersburg Tiger Summit** with the goal of doubling wild tiger numbers by 2022 under the global "Tx2" initiative. In **2025**, India, home to over **70% of the world's wild tigers**, once again showcased its leadership in tiger conservation through nationwide events and awareness campaigns.

❑ **Key Highlights**

- The theme for Global Tiger Day 2025 was **"Securing the Future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the Heart"**.

- India now has **58 tiger reserves** and an estimated **3,682 wild tigers** as of March 2025, up from 1,411 in 2006.
- A special highlight of the 2025 celebrations was the **Eco-Shop Exhibition**, featuring eco-shops from different Tiger Reserves across the country.
- The day also marked the launch of the 'Plastic-Free Tiger Reserves' campaign, aimed at eliminating the use of all single-use plastics within tiger reserves.

Hornbill Conservation Center

In a significant step toward wildlife conservation, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department has announced the establishment of a **Hornbill Conservation Centre**. This initiative is aimed at protecting the various species of hornbills found in the region and promoting biodiversity research and awareness.

❑ **Key Highlights**

- The Tamil Nadu government has announced the establishment of **India's first Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) in Coimbatore district**.
- The Centre will focus on four hornbill species found in the Western Ghats — the **Great Hornbill, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Malabar Pied Hornbill, and Indian Grey Hornbill**.
- **Hornbills** are large, wide-ranging birds that primarily inhabit **tropical forests**.
- Hornbills, often referred to as **"farmers of the forest,"** play a vital ecological role as seed dispersers, aiding in the regeneration of native forests.

National Red List Roadmap

At the **IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025**, India launched its **National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030**. The initiative was officially unveiled by **Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh**, at the Asia Pavilion.

❑ **Key Highlights**

- The **Red List Roadmap** represents **India's structured response** to the urgent need for species documentation and threat assessment.
- It will guide **conservation strategies through scientific data**, enabling targeted interventions for endangered flora and fauna.
- The roadmap has been developed in collaboration with the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, the **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)**, and the **Centre for Species Survival**.



○ Uttar Pradesh Government launched the 'Visit My State' campaign

- ➔ Uttar Pradesh Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh on 13 May 2026 launched the 'Visit My State' campaign, calling the current global uncertainty an "opportunity in crisis".
- ➔ Under the initiative, State-run museums across Uttar Pradesh will provide free entry to children and families for two month.
- ➔ The initiative aims to increase tourist footfall, generate employment, support local artisans and businesses, and strengthen Uttar Pradesh's position as a major tourism destination in India.

○ North Tech Symposium in Prayagraj

- ➔ Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has inaugurated a North Tech Symposium, on the theme 'Raksha Triveni Sangam - Where Technology, Industry & Soldiering Converge', in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on May 4, 2026.
- ➔ The three-day event was jointly organised by the Northern Command & Central Command of the Indian Army and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).

○ India's First Basmati Organic Demo Farm

- ➔ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has signed a 70-year lease agreement to establish India's first integrated Basmati and organic training-cum-demonstration farm in **Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh**.
- ➔ The project aims to promote sustainable agriculture by integrating Basmati cultivation with organic farming practices and enhancing farmer awareness and skill development.

○ Parveen Shaikh Wins 2026 Whitley Award

- ➔ Parveen Shaikh has won the 2026 Whitley Award—often called the "Green Oscar"—for her community-led conservation of the endangered Indian Skimmer.
- ➔ She works with the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and her highly successful "Guardian" model is now being expanded along the **Ganga to Prayagraj**.

○ Ganga Expressway

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Ganga Expressway in Hardoi district on April 29, 2026,

marking a key milestone in the rollout of large-scale infrastructure in the country.

- ➔ PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the project on December 18, 2021, in Shahjahanpur, with construction commencing in April 2022.
- ➔ The project was developed under a public-private partnership model.
- ➔ The Ganga Expressway is a 594-km-long, access-controlled greenfield corridor with six lanes, expandable to eight, and a design speed of 120 km/h.
- ➔ Built at an estimated cost of ₹36,230 crore, it runs through **12 districts — Meerut, Bulandshahr, Hapur, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareilly, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj** — linking western, central and eastern Uttar Pradesh through a continuous high-speed route.

○ Fruit Horizon 2026

- ➔ On May 6-7, 2026, Lucknow hosted the "Fruit Horizon 2026" conclave, a two-day national event focused on transforming India into a global leader in premium fruit production and exports.

○ Minimum Wage Revision in Uttar Pradesh

- ➔ The Uttar Pradesh government issued a notification on April 17, in regard to the revision of minimum wages in the State as an interim step, with retrospective effect from April 1, 2026.
- ➔ The notification revises existing minimum wage rates under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, using powers under the United Provinces Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- ➔ An important provision is the division of the State into three categories, depending upon geographical and economic factors.
- ➔ Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad are categorised as Category I due to their being areas where industrial activity is concentrated and the cost of living.
- ➔ Category II encompasses districts with municipal corporations, while Category III contains the rest.
- ➔ In each case, wages are set based on skill levels — unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled.
- ➔ The wage structure comprises a basic amount and a Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA).
- ➔ In Category I, monthly wages are fixed at ₹13,690 for unskilled labour, ₹15,059 for semi-skilled labour, and ₹16,868 for skilled labour.

○ UP 'Navayug Palika Yojana'

- ➔ To expand the Smart City Mission and accelerate balanced urban development in the state, a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approved the "Navayug Palika Yojana."
- ➔ Under this scheme, urban bodies in 58 district headquarters will be equipped with modern facilities.
- ➔ The plan includes 55 municipal councils, three town councils, and the Dadri Municipal Council in Gautam Buddha Nagar.
- ➔ The scheme will invest ₹583.20 crore annually, totaling ₹2,916 crore over five years (2025-26 to 2029-30).
- ➔ This is a fully state-funded scheme with no central government involvement.
- ➔ The Navayug Palika Yojana will promote digital governance, e-services, and technological solutions along the lines of smart cities.

○ Third edition of the Sansad Khel Mahakumbh-2026

- ➔ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attended the third edition of the Sansad Khel Mahakumbh in Lucknow, emphasising the rapid expansion of sports infrastructure across India.
- ➔ The third edition of the Sansad Khel Mahakumbh commenced in April, 2026.

○ Vikramaditya Vedic Clock

- ➔ The 700-kg Vikramaditya Vedic Clock at Kashi Vishwanath Temple A Vikramaditya Vedic Clock has been installed at Kashi Vishwanath Temple in April, 2026 to revive ancient Indian timekeeping traditions.
- ➔ The 700-kg clock was presented by Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav and unveiled in the presence of Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath.

○ Divya Singh Cycles to Everest Base Camp

- ➔ Divya Singh, a 28-year-old school teacher from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, became the first Indian woman and second woman globally to cycle to Everest Base Camp.
- ➔ She completed the journey in 14 days.

○ Inauguration of Noida International Airport (Phase-I)

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially inaugurated Phase-I of the Noida International Airport (also known as Jewar Airport) in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, on March 28, 2026.
- ➔ The first phase was developed at an investment of approximately ₹11,200 crore.
- ➔ The airport is being developed constructed and operated by Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), a subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG, in partnership with the state and central governments.

○ Kalinjar Fort Declared National Geo-Heritage Site

- ➔ The Geological Survey of India has formally recognised and declared the Eparchaeon Unconformity

near Kalinjar Fort, Banda District, Uttar Pradesh as a Geo-Heritage Site of National Importance by adopting resolution on March 6, 2026 during 176th GSI Foundation Day celebration.

○ Varanasi Sets Guinness World Record

- ➔ Varanasi set a Guinness World Record on March 1, 2026, by planting exactly 2,51,446 saplings in one hour.
- ➔ Over 20,000 citizens and officials participated in this mega-drive, surpassing China's 2018 record of 1.53 lakh trees.
- ➔ The plantation drive was part of a larger initiative to build a sustainable urban forest called "Namo Van".

○ 'Nivesh Mitra 3.0'

- ➔ On March 24, 2026 Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched 'Nivesh Mitra 3.0', a digital platform which has been specifically designed to simplify and enhance the investor experience.
- ➔ Along with this, he also gave a new direction to industrial development by unveiling the 'UP Private Business Park Development Scheme-2025' and the 'Plug-and-Play Industrial Sheds Scheme'.

○ Railways Commissions Kavach System

- ➔ On March 22, 2026 Indian Railways has successfully commissioned the Kavach Automatic Train Protection System on the Prayagraj (Excluding) – Kanpur (Excluding) section (190 Route Kilometres) of the Delhi-Howrah high-density corridor.
- ➔ The Ministry of Railways said that the commissioning marks a significant milestone in running trains at 160 km/h, enhancing railway safety and improving operational efficiency on one of the most vital sections of the Indian Railways.
- ➔ Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection system under the Make in India initiative and is being progressively deployed across Indian Railways to strengthen safety and modernize train operations.

○ World Bank Partners with India to Improve Air Quality in UP

- ➔ The World Bank, the Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) signed an agreement to support the Government of UP's Clean Air Plan which focuses on integrated solutions to improve the state's air quality and create job opportunities for youth and women.

○ Project GANGA

- ➔ In March 2026 The Government of Uttar Pradesh has launched Project GANGA (Government Assisted Network for Growth and Advancement) to strengthen digital connectivity across the state. Under this initiative, broadband connectivity will be extended to nearly 20 lakh households over the next two to three years, significantly enhancing access to digital services in both urban and rural areas.

- ➔ Under the project, 8,000 to 10,000 local entrepreneurs at the Nyaya Panchayat level will be developed as Digital Service Providers (DSPs), who will deliver high-speed broadband and other digital services in villages.
- **MoU under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0**
 - ➔ The Government of Uttar Pradesh has signed a reform-linked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of India under the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, marking the State's entry into the reform-oriented implementation framework of the Mission.
 - ➔ Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 was earlier approved by the Union Cabinet on 10 March 2026.
- **Uttar Pradesh's First Media Tower**
 - ➔ The Uttar Pradesh government has approved the construction of the state's first high-tech Media Tower in **Bareilly** to strengthen public communication infrastructure and promote urban beautification.
- **Two new state universities**
 - ➔ On February 16, 2026 The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed bills to establish two new state universities:
 - ➔ Kashi Naresh University in Bhadohi and Swami Shukdevanand University in Shahjahanpur.
 - ➔ These institutions were upgraded from existing local colleges to expand higher education access in the state.
- **First-Ever Excise Export Policy 2026-29**
 - ➔ In February 13, 2026, the Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) approved a dedicated Excise Export Policy for the period 2026–27 to 2028–29, becoming the first state in India to frame a separate export-oriented policy for its excise ecosystem.
- **India's First National Cow Culture Museum**
 - ➔ The Uttar Pradesh government has announced plans to establish India's first National Cow Culture Museum on the campus of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University **Mathura** to showcase the country's rich heritage and scientific understanding of cattle.
 - ➔ The museum is expected to feature around 100 digital and physical models of Indian cattle breeds, including major indigenous and endangered breeds.
- **India–France National Centre of Excellence in Aeronautics**
 - ➔ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Skilling in Aeronautics and Defence at the National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) in **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **North India's First Semiconductor Unit**
 - ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to lay the foundation stone of North India's first semiconductor manufacturing unit in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh on February 21, 2026.
- ➔ The semiconductor manufacturing facility is a joint venture between HCL and Foxconn — involves an estimated investment of around ₹3,700 crore.
- **Namo Bharat Rapid Rail and the Meerut Metro**
 - ➔ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Namu Bharat Rapid Rail and the Meerut Metro route on February 22, 2026 in Meerut.
- **Purvanchal's First Yarn Processing Plant**
 - ➔ The first yarn Processing Plant of Purvanchal is set to be established in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh.
 - ➔ The plant aims to provide locally processed yarn to the carpet industry, reducing dependence on other states.
- **Bareilly Airport Tops UP in AAI Survey**
 - ➔ Bareilly Airport secured the top position in Uttar Pradesh and 7th rank nationally in the Airports Authority of India's (AAI) Customer Satisfaction Survey.
 - ➔ The top national rank was jointly secured by Raja Bhoj Airport (Bhopal) and Khajuraho Airport.
- **Uttar Pradesh Tops Domestic Tourism in 2025**
 - ➔ Uttar Pradesh has become India's most visited state for domestic tourism in 2025, according to the Ministry of Tourism.
 - ➔ UP ranks 1st in Domestic Tourists Visits (137 Crore) and 4th in Foreign Tourists Visits (3.66 Lakh) in 2025.
- **India's First Government Hospital-Based AI Clinic**
 - ➔ India's first government hospital-based Artificial Intelligence (AI) clinic has been inaugurated at the Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
 - ➔ The clinic will use artificial intelligence algorithms along with genetic screening to analyse blood tests, imaging scans, and clinical data to assist diagnosis and treatment.
- **India's First AI-Enabled State University Pilot Launched**
 - ➔ India has opened a new chapter in higher learning. On 28 January 2026, the government unveiled the country's first AI-enabled university pilot at Chaudhary Charan Singh University (CCSU), Meerut.
 - ➔ The project partners MSDE with Google Cloud and implementation specialist Placecom.
 - ➔ Together, they aim to model how AI can transform operations, teaching, and student support across India's higher education, including colleges and universities.
- **86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC)**
 - ➔ The 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) was hosted by the Uttar Pradesh Legislature at the Vidhan Bhawan in Lucknow from January 19 to 21, 2026.

- ➔ The event was inaugurated by UP Governor Anandiben Patel and addressed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- ➔ During the three-day conference from 19 to 21 January, 2026, the dignitaries will brainstorm on the following agenda items:
 - Leveraging Technology for Transparent, Efficient and Citizen - Centric Legislative Processes;
 - Capacity Building of Legislators to Increase Efficiency and Strengthen Democratic Governance; and
 - Accountability of Legislature towards the Public.
- **72nd National Volleyball Tournament**
 - ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 72nd National Volleyball Tournament on January 4, 2026.
 - ➔ Held at the Dr. Sampurnanand Sports Stadium in **Varanasi**, the week-long event (January 4 to 11, 2026) featured over 1,000 athletes from 58 teams across India.
- **First State-Level Braille Library**
 - ➔ Uttar Pradesh's first state-level Braille library was inaugurated on January 4, 2026, at Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University (DSMNRU) in Lucknow.
 - ➔ The facility is located on the first floor of the Swami Vivekananda Central Library and currently houses over 4,000 Braille books
- **Uttar Pradesh Tops Deregulation 1.0 Rankings**
 - ➔ Uttar Pradesh has secured the number one rank in the Deregulation 1.0 exercise, emerging as the top state nationwide for business reforms.
 - ➔ The Government of India identified 23 key priority areas across land, building and construction, labour, utilities, permissions, and other sectors to simplify business operations and make them more transparent and investment-friendly.
- **Regional AI Impact Conference 2026**
 - ➔ The Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference was held in **Lucknow** on January 12–13, 2026.
 - ➔ Hosted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and IndiaAI and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the event served as a major strategic precursor to the national India AI Impact Summit.
 - ➔ The state government officially announced the UP AI Mission, backed by a ₹2,000 crore investment over three years.
- **Second Rangewide Dolphin Estimation**
 - ➔ Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change rolled out the second rangewide estimation of riverine and estuarine dolphins under Project Dolphin on January 17, 2026 from Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh.
 - ➔ This programme is coordinated by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, in collaboration with State Forest Departments and partner conservation organizations WWF India, Aaranyak and Wildlife Trust of India.
- **First Zero Fresh Waste Dump City**
 - ➔ Lucknow has been recognised as the First Zero Fresh Waste Dump City in Uttar Pradesh under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
- **'Jan Bhavan'**
 - ➔ The Uttar Pradesh government officially renamed the **Governor's official residence** in Lucknow from Raj Bhavan to Jan Bhavan on January 21, 2026.
- **India's first 'Glass Museum'**
 - ➔ India's first dedicated Glass Museum is being developed in Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh, traditionally known as the Glass City of India.
- **One District-One Cuisine Launched in Uttar Pradesh**
 - ➔ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah addressed the 'Uttar Pradesh Day' celebrations as the Chief Guest on, January 24, 2026 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
 - ➔ At the programme held at Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow, Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the 'One District One Cuisine' (ODOC) scheme.
 - ➔ Under this scheme, the distinctive traditional cuisine of each district of Uttar Pradesh will be identified and linked with quality improvement, branding, and market access, so that local flavours gain not only regional but also national and global recognition.
- **Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman (2025-26)**
 - ➔ Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman (2025-26) was presented on the occasion of Uttar Pradesh Day (24 January 2026) at Rashtra Prerna Sthal, Lucknow.
 - ➔ This year, the award was given to 5 prominent personalities who have made outstanding contributions in various fields. Each winner was awarded ₹11 lakh cash, a citation and a shawl.
 - ➔ Key Honorees of the Year -
 - ➔ **Shubhanshu Shukla:** Space Science (Indian Air Force astronaut and Wing Commander)
 - ➔ **Alakh Pandey:** Education (Founder of Physics Wallah)
 - ➔ **Dr. Hari Om Panwar:** Literature.
 - ➔ **Rashmi Arya:** Women Empowerment.
 - ➔ **Dr. Sudhanshu Singh:** Agriculture expert
- **Inauguration of Rashtra Prerna Sthal**
 - ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on 25 December 2025, marking the 101st birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **India's first indigenous hydrogen-powered water taxi**
 - ➔ India marked a major step in its green maritime push as Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the commercial operation of the country's first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel at **Namo Ghat Varanasi** on December 11, 2025.

○ India's First Forest University

- ➔ The Uttar Pradesh government has announced the establishment of India's first dedicated forest university in **Gorakhpur**, with an investment of about ₹500 crore, aimed at promoting forestry, wildlife and environmental education and research.

○ First municipal space lab

- ➔ Uttar Pradesh's First Municipal Space Lab is established in Padrauna, Kushinagar district.
- ➔ This facility was created through a partnership between the Padrauna Municipal Council and Vyomika Space to bring hands-on science education to rural students.

○ Digital Libraries Launched in Agra

- ➔ The Uttar Pradesh government is establishing digital libraries in 104 gram panchayats of Agra to improve rural education and provide students with digital learning resources.

○ Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary Declared Eco-Sensitive Zone

- ➔ The Government of India has declared Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) to protect biodiversity and promote responsible ecotourism.
- ➔ Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary is located in **Gonda district** of Uttar Pradesh.

○ UNESCO 'City of Gastronomy'

- ➔ On October 31, 2025, UNESCO officially designated Lucknow as a Creative City of Gastronomy, recognizing its rich, centuries-old Awadhi culinary heritage.
- ➔ Lucknow is the second Indian city in UCCN's Gastronomy category, following Hyderabad, which was designated in 2019.

○ India's First MWh-Scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB)

- ➔ Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs inaugurated India's first megawatt-hour (MWh) scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) in **Greater Noida** on 11 November 2025.
- ➔ The 3 MWh Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) is developed by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)'s NETRA (National Energy Technology Research Alliance).

○ India's First 'Solar on Track' System

- ➔ In November 13, 2025, National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) launched India's first 'Solar on Track' system at the Namoo Bharat Depot in **Duhai, Ghaziabad**.
- ➔ This initiative marks the first-ever installation of such a system in any RRTS (Regional Rapid Transit System) or Metro network.

○ UP's First State Institute of Hotel Management

- ➔ Gorakhpur has been selected to host Uttar Pradesh's first State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM), aimed at boosting tourism-linked skill development and hospitality education in the eastern region of the state.

NEWS IN SHORTS

- **Pratibimb Platform:** Prayagraj Police using AI/data-driven **Pratibimb** platform for cybercrime detection; integrates **FIRs, mobile tower data, IP addresses, financial transactions & behavioural patterns** to identify cyber-fraud clusters.
- **Lucknow – India's first AI City:** ₹10,732 crore project; AI ecosystem with **10,000 GPUs**, multimodal language models, AI innovation hub & R&D labs.
- **HRMS for Udyami Mitras:** **July 21, 2025;** Industrial Development Minister **Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'** launched **HRMS Portal** integrated with **Nivesh Sarathi** at **Invest UP, Lucknow**.
- **UP first in India to Use AI for Road Safety:** Centre approved AI-based pilot (**July, 2025**); **ITI Ltd.** (India's first PSU) with **mLogica** to launch India's first AI-driven road safety project for accident reduction & traffic enforcement.
- **UP ECMP-2025:** Approved **September 2, 2025;** aligned with **ECMS; ₹5,000 crore** investment target; lakhs of jobs; promotes **11 electronic components** including displays, camera modules & multilayer PCBs.
- **Export Promotion Policy 2025-30:** Approved **September 2, 2025;** includes service-sector expansion, e-commerce, onboarding assistance, export performance incentives & postal export centres.
- **UP: 2nd Fastest-Growing Economy:** **MoSPI (Aug 2025);** GSDP growth **5.5%→8.9%;** **Tamil Nadu 11.19% (1st);** **Arunachal Pradesh & Meghalaya 9.66%.**
- **UP Leads Industrial Growth (ASI 2023-24):** Led in **GVA, factories & employment;** factories **19,102→22,141 (+15.91%)** against national **2.7%;** **8.51%** national factory share (**4th** after **Tamil Nadu 15.43%,** **Gujarat 12.81%,** **Maharashtra 10.20%**); employment **14.86→16.26 lakh (+9.37%)** against national **5.9%;** **8%** national industrial employment; among top five with **Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra & Karnataka.**
- **State-of-the-Art Data Centre:** **Central Electronics Ltd. (CEL)** to establish data centre at **Sahibabad campus, Ghaziabad.**
- **North India's Largest Film City:** Layout submitted to **YEIDA; Sector-21, Greater Noida; 1,000 acres** along Yamuna Expressway; entertainment & employment hub.
- **Gorakhpur Link Expressway:** Inaugurated **20 June 2025** by **CM Yogi Adityanath;** **91.352 km, ₹7,283.28 crore;** connects **Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar & Ambedkar Nagar.**

- **India's 1st ABC Training Centre:** Lucknow Municipal Corporation, Jarhara; national hub for street-dog management training.
- **UP's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant:** Inaugurated 17 August, 2025, Khanimpur (Gorakhpur) by CM Yogi; by Torrent Gas & Torrent Power; blends green hydrogen with CNG & PNG.
- **India's 1st Drone Forensic Lab:** At UPSIFS, Lucknow; inaugurated by CM Yogi; established by Milind Raj ("Drone Man of India").
- **India's 1st Tempered Glass Facility:** Inaugurated August 30, 2025, Noida by Ashwini Vaishnaw; Optiemus Electronics + Corning (USA); brand "Engineered by Corning".
- **UP's 1st AYUSH University:** Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH University, Gorakhpur; inaugurated July 1, 2025 by President Droupadi Murmu in presence of Governor Anandiben Patel & CM Yogi; cost ₹268 crore.

Initiative	Key Facts
INSPIRE Award MANAK	UP topped with 2.8 lakh nominations (highest ever), +70,000 from 2.1 lakh; top districts: Pratapgarh (7,085), Prayagraj (6,929), Lucknow (6,721), Hardoi (6,689), Jaunpur (5,930); 22 UP districts among national top 50; followed by Rajasthan (1.41 lakh) & Karnataka (1.01 lakh).
Learning by Doing	Launched July 10, 2025 under NEP 2020 for Classes 6–8; practical training in woodwork, metalwork, energy & environment, agriculture & horticulture, health & nutrition; pilot: 60 schools, 15 districts, 5,937 students; expansion to 3,288 schools (2025-26) under Samagra Shiksha & PM SHRI; promotes employability & life skills.
NAVYA	June 24, 2025, Sonbhadra; MWCD + MSDE; vocational training for Class 10+, girls aged 16–18 in non-traditional trades.
AI-Augmented Chandigarh University	India's first private AI-Augmented Multidisciplinary campus inaugurated July 26, 2025, Unnao by CM Yogi Adityanath.

- **UP's 1st TAVI:** LPS Cardiology Institute, Kanpur; first govt medical college in UP offering Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation; avoids open-heart surgery.
- **India's 1st EDFC:** Meerut Cantonment; free from Equine Infectious Anaemia, Equine Influenza, Equine Piroplasmiasis, Glanders & Surra; India free from African Horse Sickness since 2014.
- **Lucknow Zero Net Waste City:** 700 MT processing unit at Shivri Plant; 100% scientific processing of 2,000 MT/day municipal waste.
- **Gram-Urja Model:** Launched 15 Jul 2025; promotes organic fertilizer, 70% LPG reduction, integrated with MGNREGA.

- **Mobile Veterinary Units:** Approved in Lucknow & Gorakhpur divisions for Sarus & injured wildlife.
- **ASMITA 2025:** Launched July 8, 2025, Modinagar (Ghaziabad) by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya; 852 leagues, 15 sports, 70,000+ female athletes; part of Khelo India.
- **World Boxing Cup:** November 13–24, 2025, Greater Noida (Vijay Pathik Sports Complex); 450 boxers, 80+ countries, ~150 officials; World Boxing Congress: 23 November
- **Karikot (Bahraich):** Won ICRT India Responsible Tourism Award 2025.
- **World's 1st Ceramic Waste Park:** "Anokhi Duniya", Khurja; opens by end-September, 2025.
- **Navy Shaurya Museum:** Nausena Shaurya Sangrahalaya, CG City near Ekana Stadium, Lucknow.
- **Holy Water Exchange:** July 28, 2025; Kashi Vishwanath–Rameswaram Jyotirlinga; under Kashi-Tamil Sangamam.
- **Youth Spiritual Summit:** Ended 20 Jul 2025 with Kashi Declaration; theme Drug-free Youth for Developed India; organised by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- **Good Samaritan Scheme:** October, 2025; "Raah-Veer" helpers receive certificate + ₹25,000/incident for taking accident victims to hospital within golden hour; targets 24,118 road deaths (2024).
- **Operation Shikanja:** October 9–13, 2025; EOW arrested 23 absconding economic offenders.
- **Operation Mahakal:** August 5, 2025; Kanpur Police crackdown on land mafia & extortion, including influential collaborators.
- **Operation Savera:** Saharanpur anti-drug campaign under CM Yogi & DGP Rajeev Krishna; targets entire narcotics chain.
- **Sadak Suraksha Mitra:** Adopted August 26, 2025; MoRTH + Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports; volunteers 18–28 years, no pending traffic fines; first aid, accident response & road safety audits.
- **NHRC Symposium:** July 26, 2025, University of Lucknow; National Symposium on Women's Safety at Work & Public Spaces.
- **25th Central Zonal Council:** Chaired by Amit Shah, June 24, 2025, Varanasi; attended by CMs & two ministers from each member state.
- **UP GCC Conclave 2025:** June 10, 2025, Lucknow (Taj Mahal Hotel); organised by Invest UP to promote UP as a Global Capability Centre (GCC) hub.
- **Maharaja Suheldev Memorial:** Inaugurated 10 June 2025, Chittaura Lake, Bahraich; cost ₹39.49 crore; 40-foot equestrian statue.
- **Maharaja Bijli Pasi Memorial:** Announced June 10, 2025, Lucknow.
- **Varanasi Solar Railway Panels:** India's first removable solar panel system between railway tracks by BLW; 70 m, 28 panels, 15 kWp.

Uttar Pradesh Budget 2026–27

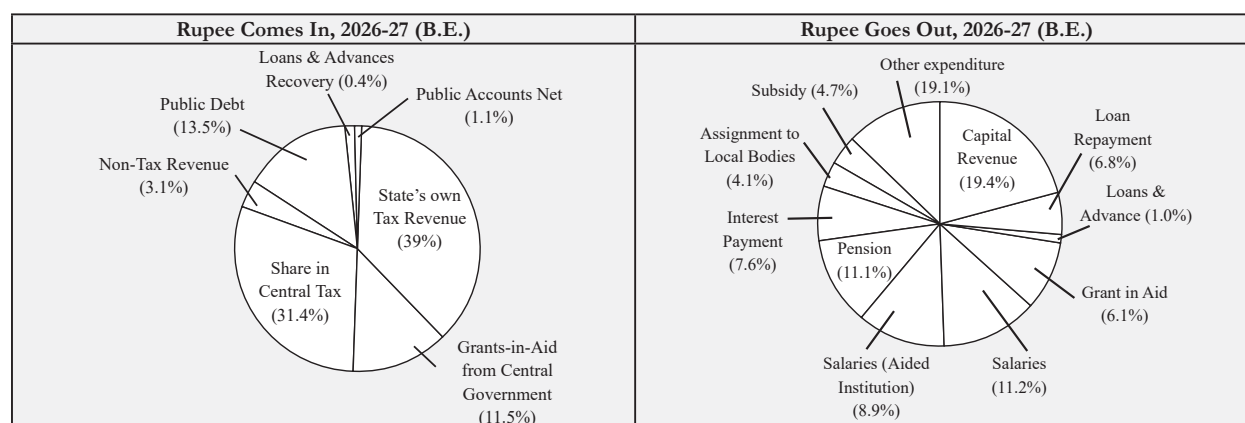
- ➔ The Uttar Pradesh Budget for **2026–27** was presented by Finance Minister **Suresh Kumar Khanna** on **February 11, 2026**. This budget is a large expansionary budget with a strong focus on growth, infrastructure, welfare, and technology-led development.
- ➔ The budget combines **higher expenditure, continued revenue surplus, and a fiscal deficit kept at 3% of GSDP**, which indicates that the state is trying to balance development spending with fiscal discipline.
- ❑ **Economic Background of Uttar Pradesh**
 - ➔ The **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** of Uttar Pradesh for **2026–27**, at current prices, is projected at **Rs 39.8 lakh crore**. This implies a **28% increase** over the revised estimate of **2025–26**.
 - ➔ In **2024–25**, Uttar Pradesh's GSDP at constant prices is estimated to grow by **9%**, which is higher than the estimated **6.5% GDP growth for India** in the same year.
 - ➔ The structure of the state economy in **2024–25** shows that **agriculture contributes 27%**, **manufacturing contributes 26%**, and **services contribute 47%** of the economy. This means services remain the largest sector, but agriculture continues to hold a very significant share in Uttar Pradesh's economy.
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh's **per capita GSDP** in **2024–25** is estimated at **Rs 1,24,366**, which is an increase of **11.6%** over **2023–24**. It is noted that India's per capita GDP is estimated at **Rs 2,34,859** in 2024–25.
- ❑ **Overall Size of the Budget**
 - ➔ The **total expenditure** proposed in the budget for **2026–27** is **Rs 9,12,696 crore**. This is **27% higher** than the revised estimate of **2025–26**.
 - ➔ Out of this, **debt repayment** is estimated at **Rs 61,795 crore**. Therefore, **net expenditure**, which is the more meaningful measure for policy analysis, stands at **Rs 8,50,901 crore**.
 - ➔ **Total receipts** are budgeted at **Rs 8,48,233 crore**, while **net receipts excluding borrowings** are estimated at **Rs 7,32,420 crore**. The difference is to be partly met through borrowings.

Budget at a Glance

S. No.	Particulars	2024–25 (Actuals)	2025–26 (Budget Estimates)	2025–26 (Revised Estimates)	2026–27 (Budget Estimates)
1	Share in Central Taxes	510213.08	662690.93	579842.01	728928.12
2	State's Own Tax Revenue	443097.79	550172.21	476065.98	603401.76
3	Non-Tax Revenue	67115.29	112518.72	103776.03	125526.36
4	Share in Central Taxes	65725.46	15551.72	106551.72	119305.06
5	Grants-in-Aid	731.90	3242.17	3242.17	3492.06
6	Capital Receipts (including Public Account)	64993.56	113309.55	105309.55	115812.80
	Public Account (Net)	0.00	10000.00	0.00	10000.00
7	Total Receipts (1–6)	575938.54	779242.65	686393.73	848233.18
8	Revenue Expenditure	450886.46	583174.57	505493.90	664470.55
	of which: Committed Expenditure	51542.09	64095.95	60358.33	68921.02
9	Capital Expenditure	152261.94	225561.49	210737.05	248225.80
11	Interest Payments	114001.35	165242.91	159780.71	177744.12
12	Loan Repayments	29945.47	51403.16	41476.45	61795.39
	Public Account (Net)	0.00	10000.00	0.00	10000.00
	Other Expenditure	—	—	—	—
13	Total Expenditure (8–10)	603148.40	808736.06	716230.95	912690.35
14	Revenue Deficit (1–8)	59326.62	79516.36	74348.11	64457.57
15	Fiscal Deficit	62257.95	91390.80	91670.32	118480.58
16	Primary Deficit (15–9)	10715.86	27303.85	31311.99	49559.56

“@” Indicates expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State.

“&” Indicates adjustment of ways and means advances under Public Account.



❑ Revenue Surplus, Fiscal Deficit, and Primary Deficit

- ➔ The budget estimates a **revenue surplus** of **Rs 64,458 crore**, which is **1.6% of GSDP**, in 2026–27. This means the state expects its revenue receipts to exceed its revenue expenditure.
- ➔ However, this revenue surplus is lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26, when revenue surplus was estimated at **Rs 74,348 crore**, or **2.4% of GSDP**. This suggests that while the state remains in surplus on the revenue account, the cushion is becoming smaller.
- ➔ The **fiscal deficit** for 2026–27 is budgeted at **Rs 1,18,481 crore**, which is **3% of GSDP**. This is the same ratio as the revised estimate for 2025–26 and aligns with the **16th Finance Commission's recommended annual limit of 3% of GSDP for states for 2026–31**.
- ➔ The **primary deficit** is estimated at **Rs 49,560 crore**, or **1.2% of GSDP**, in 2026–27. This is significantly higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26, indicating a larger gap even before interest payments are considered.

❑ Expenditure Pattern

- ➔ **Revenue expenditure** in 2026–27 is proposed at **Rs 6,64,471 crore**, which is **31% higher** than the revised estimate for 2025–26. Revenue expenditure mainly includes salaries, pensions, interest payments, grants, and subsidies.
- ➔ **Capital outlay** is budgeted at **Rs 1,77,744 crore**, which is an increase of **11%** over the revised estimate of 2025–26. Capital outlay is important because it creates assets such as roads, buildings, and infrastructure.
- ➔ Rise in revenue expenditure is being driven by higher spending on **pension, general education, rural development, grants to local bodies and panchayati raj institutions, and energy**.

❑ Receipts Structure

- ➔ **Revenue receipts** for 2026–27 are estimated at **Rs 7,28,928 crore**, which is **26% higher** than the revised estimate for 2025–26.

- ➔ Of the total revenue receipts, roughly **50% will be raised by the state from its own resources** and the remaining **50% will come from the Centre**, either as the state's share in central taxes or as grants.
- ➔ **State's own tax revenue** is estimated at **Rs 3,34,491 crore** in 2026–27, which is **48% higher** than the revised estimate for 2025–26.
- ➔ **State's own non-tax revenue** is estimated at **Rs 26,754 crore**, which is almost double the revised estimate for 2025–26. The budget attributes this mainly to increases in concession fees, rent, royalty, share capital receipts from Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation for rural electrification, and interest income.
- ➔ The state's **share in central taxes** is estimated at **Rs 2,68,911 crore**, while **grants from the Centre** are estimated at **Rs 98,772 crore**.

❑ Tax Revenue and Tax Trends

- ➔ Among own tax sources, **State GST** is projected to be the **largest source**, contributing **45% of the state's own tax revenue** in 2026–27. State GST is budgeted at **Rs 1,49,956 crore**, which is **79% higher** than the revised estimate for 2025–26.
- ➔ **State excise** is estimated at **Rs 71,278 crore**, or **17% higher** than the revised estimate for 2025–26.
- ➔ **Sales tax/VAT** is projected at **Rs 48,115 crore**, showing a **43% increase** over the revised estimate of 2025–26.
- ➔ **Stamp duty and registration fees** are estimated at **Rs 43,802 crore**, while **taxes on vehicles** are budgeted at **Rs 15,808 crore**.
- ➔ Revised estimates for most own-tax revenue heads in 2025–26 were lower than the original budget estimates, which suggests that revenue projections have recently been difficult to realise fully.

❑ Debt, Liabilities, and Guarantees

- ➔ At the end of 2026–27, the state's **outstanding liabilities** are estimated at **23.1% of GSDP**, which is lower than the revised estimate of **27.6% of GSDP** for 2025–26. This indicates an expected improvement in the debt burden relative to the size of the economy.

- ➔ It is noted that as of **31 March 2025**, Uttar Pradesh's **outstanding government guarantees** were estimated at **Rs 1,71,924 crore**, which is **5.8% of GSDP**. These are contingent liabilities that may become actual obligations in future.

❑ Sector-Wise Expenditure Priorities

- ➔ The sectors listed account for **60% of the total sectoral expenditure** budgeted by the state in **2026–27**.
- ➔ **Education, Sports, Arts, and Culture** has been allocated **Rs 1,08,154 crore**, which is **28% higher** than the revised estimate of **2025–26**.
- ➔ **Energy** has been allocated **Rs 56,621 crore**, an increase of **17%** over the revised estimate of **2025–26**.
- ➔ **Health and Family Welfare** has been allocated **Rs 53,326 crore**, which is **24% higher** than the revised estimate for **2025–26**.
- ➔ **Transport** has been allocated **Rs 50,391 crore**, while **Rural Development** receives **Rs 49,044 crore**, with rural development showing a sharp **59% increase** over the revised estimate.
- ➔ **Social Welfare and Nutrition** is allocated **Rs 42,263 crore**, **Police** gets **Rs 41,898 crore**, **Agriculture and Allied Activities** gets **Rs 30,938 crore**, and **Urban Development** gets **Rs 27,532 crore**.

❑ Important Scheme Allocations by Sector

- ➔ In education, **Rs. 55,792 crore** has been allocated

towards **assistance to non-government primary schools**, and **Rs 7,738 crore** has been allocated for **primary education under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan**.

- ➔ In energy, **Rs 21,500 crore** has been allocated towards **power subsidy**.
- ➔ In health, **Rs 5,793 crore** is allocated for **urban health services (Allopathy)** and **Rs 6,818 crore** for **rural health services (Allopathy)**.
- ➔ In transport, **Rs 38,592 crore** has been allocated towards **capital outlay on roads and bridges**.
- ➔ In rural development, **Rs 6,102 crore** is allocated for **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Rural**, **Rs 5,544 crore** for **MGNREGS**, and **Rs 4,580 crore** for **Ajeevika Mission**.
- ➔ In social welfare, **Rs 8,950 crore** has been allocated towards **old age/farmer pensions**, and **Rs 3,500 crore** towards **Nirashrit Mahila Pension Yojana**.
- ➔ In agriculture, **Rs 2,400 crore** is allocated for **subsidy for power supply to private tubewells**, and **Rs 638 crore** for the **conversion of diesel pumps to solar pumps**.
- ➔ In urban development, **Rs 6,842 crore** is allocated towards **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban**.
- ➔ In **agriculture**, the state will launch a programme to encourage **agriculture marketing and exports**.
- ➔ For **ease of doing business**, industrial requirements such as **licensing and registration** will be simplified in the next phase under the principle of **Jan Vishwas**.

Uttar Pradesh Economic Survey 2025–26

On **February 9, 2026**, the Government of Uttar Pradesh presented the **Uttar Pradesh Economic Survey 2025–26**.

- ➔ With the vision of rapid development, the state has set a target of becoming a **one trillion dollar economy**.
- ➔ According to quick estimates at current prices, the **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** of Uttar Pradesh increased from **₹13.30 lakh crore in 2016–17** to **₹26.67 lakh crore in 2023–24**.
- ➔ In **2024–25**, advance estimates placed it at **₹29.62 lakh crore**, while revised estimates placed it at **₹29.78 lakh crore**.
- ➔ With a **13.4% growth over the previous year**, the GSDP is estimated at **₹30.25 lakh crore**, higher than both earlier estimates.
- ➔ In **2025–26**, the state economy is estimated to reach approximately **₹36 lakh crore**.
- ➔ According to the research report '**Ecowrap**' by **State Bank of India**, India is moving towards becoming the **third-largest economy in the world by 2027**, surpassing Japan and Germany, and Uttar Pradesh is expected to play a **decisive role** in this achievement.

- ➔ Uttar Pradesh's GSDP at current prices increased from **₹13.30 lakh crore in 2016–17** to **₹30.25 lakh crore in 2024–25** (quick estimates), registering a **compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.8% over 8 years**.
- ➔ In **2024–25**, the state contributes about **9.1% to India's GDP**.

❑ Structural Changes in Economy

- ➔ From **2017–18** to **2024–25**, structural changes are visible in the state economy:
 - The **primary sector** remained almost stable (from **25.9% to 25.8%**).
 - The **secondary sector** increased significantly (from **25.4% to 27.2%**), indicating growth in **industrial production, manufacturing, and infrastructure**.
 - The **tertiary sector** declined slightly (from **48.8% to 47.0%**), indicating a **balanced restructuring of services**.

❑ Comparison with National Economy

- ➔ At the national level:
 - Primary sector declined from **20.4% to 19.7%**
 - Secondary sector declined from **27.0% to 25.3%**
 - Tertiary sector increased from **52.5% to 54.9%**

Sector-wise Contribution in 2024–25	
Sub-sector	Share
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	24.9%
Construction	12.9%
Real estate and professional services	13.9%
Manufacturing	11.7%
Trade and hotels	8.3%
Transport and communication	7.4%

❑ Agriculture and Allied Sector

- ➔ The agriculture and allied sector has shown continuous progress.
- ➔ Its Gross Value Added increased from ₹2.96 lakh crore in 2016–17 to ₹6.95 lakh crore in 2024–25, growing at a CAGR of 11.2%, which is nearly a doubling of value.
- ➔ Advance estimates placed it at ₹6.86 lakh crore, while revised estimates placed it at ₹7.12 lakh crore.
- ➔ Crops remain the main component, contributing the highest share of 67.4% in the Gross Value Added (GVA) of the agriculture and allied sector.
- ➔ Livestock contributes 24.7%, forestry contributes 4.5%, and fisheries and aquaculture contribute 3.5%.
- ➔ In 2024–25, the total food grain production in the state increased by 9.9% over the previous year, reaching 737.4 lakh metric tonnes, and the state continues to hold a leading position in the country.
- ➔ Within this, oilseeds production increased by 57.9%, total cereals increased by 11%, including 23.6% growth in paddy and 6.3% growth in wheat production.
- ➔ Milk production increased by 33.6%, placing the state at the first position in the country.
- ➔ Egg production increased by 167%.
- ➔ In 2025–26, fish production is estimated to increase further by 15.7%, reflecting efforts towards sustainable agriculture and diversification.

❑ Forestry and Land Use

- ➔ It increased from 23,437.53 sq. km in 2021 to 23,996.72 sq. km in 2023, registering an increase of 559.19 sq. km (2.39%).
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh ranks second in the country in terms of increase in forest and tree cover.

❑ Secondary Sector (Industry and Infrastructure)

- ➔ The Gross Value Added (GVA) of the secondary sector increased from ₹3.34 lakh crore in 2016–17 to ₹7.60 lakh crore in 2024–25, growing at a CAGR of 10.8%.
- ➔ Within the secondary sector:
 - ⊕ The construction sector leads with a 47.4% share, reflecting rapid expansion of infrastructure and urban development.
 - ⊕ The manufacturing sector contributes 42.9%, indicating strong industrial capacity and investment.

- ⊕ The electricity sector contributes 9.6%, ensuring energy availability and continuity of industrial activities.

- ➔ According to the Annual Survey of Industries 2023–24, the Gross Value Added of industries in the state increased by 25% over the previous year, which is the highest among major states and more than double the national growth rate of 11.9%.

❑ Infrastructure Development

- ➔ In Varanasi, the country's first urban ropeway project is under construction, which is considered a major step in urban transport.
- ➔ The state is developing as the capital of expressways, with:
 - ⊕ 7 expressways operational
 - ⊕ 3 under construction
 - ⊕ 12 proposed
- ➔ At present, the state has 12 domestic and 4 international airports (Lucknow, Varanasi, Kushinagar, and Ayodhya).
- ➔ With the start of the Noida International Airport at Jewar (Gautam Buddha Nagar), the state will become the first in India with 5 international airports.
- ➔ The total road network includes 12.123 thousand km of National Highways, and 90 National Highways pass through the state.

❑ Energy and Digital Connectivity

- ➔ Uttar Pradesh achieved a leading position in power generation, producing 126.50 thousand gigawatt-hours up to December 2025–26.
- ➔ The state also ranked first in the country in internet subscribers, with 13.82 crore subscribers up to September 2025–26.

❑ Service Sector

- ➔ The service sector contributes 47.0% to the state economy.
- ➔ The Gross Value Added (GVA) of the service sector increased from ₹5.95 lakh crore in 2016–17 to ₹13.10 lakh crore in 2024–25 (quick estimates), growing at a CAGR of 10.4%.
- ➔ The progress of the service sector in Uttar Pradesh has been remarkable in 2024–25 compared to 2016–17, as the Gross Value Added (GVA) of all sub-sectors has almost doubled.

❑ Tourism

- ➔ In 2024, the state received 64.91 crore tourists, which increased to 156.18 crore in 2025 (more than 2.4 times), including the impact of Maha Kumbh.
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh has surpassed Tamil Nadu to become first in the country in tourist arrivals.
- ➔ Its share in domestic tourism increased from:
 - ⊕ 16.2% (2021) – 2nd position
 - ⊕ 18.4% (2022)
 - ⊕ 19.1% (2023)
 - ⊕ 21.9% (2024) – top position in India

❑ State Finances

- ➔ The total state budget increased from ₹3.47 lakh crore in 2016–17 to ₹8.33 lakh crore in 2025–26, recording an increase of ₹4.86 lakh crore over nine years.
- ➔ The public debt-to-GDP ratio declined from 29.3% in 2016–17 to 28.0% in 2024–25, which is significantly lower than the national level (81.3%) and the global average (92.8%), indicating fiscal stability and discipline.

❑ Per Capita Income

- ➔ The per capita income (net) increased from ₹54,564 in 2016–17 to ₹1,09,844 in 2024–25, growing at a CAGR of about 9.1%.
- ➔ During the period 2020–21 to 2024–25, the growth rate was higher at 14.7%.
- ➔ The per capita income (gross) was estimated at ₹1,26,304 in 2024–25.

❑ Population and Demographic Trends

- ➔ As per March 2026 estimates, Uttar Pradesh has a population of 25.19 crore, which is:
 - ⊖ 17.8% of India's population (141.51 crore)
 - ⊖ 3.0% of the world population (830 crore)
- ➔ India contributes about 17% to the global population.
- ➔ If Uttar Pradesh were a country, it would rank 5th in the world in population, after India, China, the United States (33.5 crore), and Indonesia (27.7 crore).

❑ Population Growth and Fertility

- ➔ The population growth rate declined from 1.85% per year in 2011 to 1.70% in 2021, and is expected to further decline to 0.58% during 2026–2051.
- ➔ The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined from 2.7 (NFHS-4, 2015–16) to 2.4 (NFHS-5, 2019–21) and is expected to reach the replacement level of 2.1 soon.

❑ Life Expectancy and Social Indicators

- ➔ Life expectancy is expected to increase:
 - ⊖ Males: from 62.5 years (2011) to 73.2 years (2051)
 - ⊖ Females: from 65.0 years (2011) to 77.1 years (2051)

❑ Sex Ratio and Age Structure

- ➔ The sex ratio at birth in Uttar Pradesh was 111 boys per 100 girls in 2011.
- ➔ The age pyramid shows clear demographic changes:
 - ⊖ 2011: wide base (high child population)
 - ⊖ 2026: higher proportion of working-age population (20–34 years)
 - ⊖ 2046: decline in the 0–14 age group and increase in the 40+ population

❑ Dependence on Central Taxes

- ➔ The state's dependence on central taxes has been continuously declining.

- ➔ It was 56.0% in 2016–17, which is estimated to decline to 46.4% in 2025–26.
- ➔ The State Own Tax Revenue increased from ₹0.86 lakh crore in 2016–17 to ₹2.09 lakh crore in 2024–25 (advance estimates), which is about 2.5 times growth.
- ➔ The capital expenditure increased from ₹69.79 thousand crore in 2016–17 to ₹147.72 thousand crore in 2024–25 (advance estimates), reflecting development-oriented priorities.
- ➔ The public debt-to-GDP ratio declined from 29.3% in 2016–17 to 28.0% in 2024–25, which is significantly lower than the national level (about 81.3%) and global average (about 92.8%), indicating fiscal discipline and stability.

❑ Budget and Receipts

- ➔ Over the last nine years, the total budget increased at a CAGR of about 10.3%, reaching approximately ₹8.09 lakh crore in 2025–26.
- ➔ During the same period, total receipts increased at 10.2% CAGR, reaching about ₹7.79 lakh crore.
- ➔ As per the 2025–26 budget:
 - ⊖ Revenue expenditure: ₹5.83 lakh crore
- ➔ Compared to 2024–25 revised estimates:
 - ⊖ Revenue receipts increased by 21.0%
 - ⊖ Revenue expenditure increased by 19.2%
- ➔ Over the last nine years (2016–17 to 2025–26):
 - ⊖ Revenue receipts grew at 11.1% CAGR
 - ⊖ Revenue expenditure grew at 11.9% CAGR
- ➔ The ratio of revenue expenditure to revenue receipts declined from 92% (2016–17) to 89.2% (2024–25) and is estimated at 87.9% in 2025–26.

❑ Composition of Revenue Receipts

- ➔ Revenue receipts represent income from regular government operations.
- ➔ Main components include:
 - ⊖ State's own resources (tax and non-tax revenue)
 - ⊖ Transfers from the central government (share in divisible pool and grants)
- ➔ Revenue receipts increased from ₹2.57 lakh crore (2016–17) to ₹6.63 lakh crore (2025–26 BE).
- ➔ Over nine years:
 - ⊖ State tax and non-tax revenue grew at 12% a CAGR
 - ⊖ Central transfers grew at 10.3% a CAGR

❑ Breakup of Revenue

- ➔ State Tax Revenue
 - ⊖ 2016–17: ₹0.86 lakh crore
 - ⊖ 2025–26: ₹2.95 lakh crore
 - ⊖ Growth rate: CAGR of 14.7%
- ➔ Share in Central Taxes
 - ⊖ Estimated at ₹2.55 lakh crore in 2025–26
 - ⊖ Growth rate: 9.9%
- ➔ Non-Tax Revenue
 - ⊖ State non-tax revenue: ₹0.25 lakh crore (2025–26)
 - ⊖ Grants from Centre: increased at CAGR of 11.7% about ₹0.88 lakh crore (2025–26)



○ Bihar Launches CGRM Portal

- ➔ On **June 5, 2026** The **Rural Development Department** of Bihar has launched the **Centralized Grievance Redressal and Monitoring (CGRM) Portal** to strengthen transparency, accountability, and real-time monitoring of rural development schemes across the state.

○ Chief Justice of the Patna High Court

- ➔ Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai has been elevated as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, taking charge of judicial administration in the state of Bihar.
- ➔ The appointment, approved by President **Droupadi Murmu**, has come into effect from **June 5, 2026**.

○ 'Sahyog Shivar' Initiative

- ➔ Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary launched the 'Sahyog Shivar' (Support Camp) initiative to ensure time-bound doorstep redressal of public grievances across the state's gram panchayats.
- ➔ The initiative, which officially rolled out on May 19, 2026, aims to resolve local issues efficiently.
- ➔ Camps are held sequentially across village panchayats on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month.
- ➔ Government officials are required to resolve grievances within **30 days**.
- ➔ The Shivar is backed by the Sahyog Portal and a centralized toll-free helpline number **1100**, enabling citizens to register complaints online or offline.

○ Bihar Approves EV Policy 2026

- ➔ Bihar approved the Bihar Electric Vehicle (Amendment) Policy, 2026 to encourage electric mobility, reduce pollution, and lower dependence on petrol and diesel-powered vehicles.
- ➔ The policy aims to ensure that electric vehicles constitute at least 30% of all new vehicle registrations in Bihar by 2030.
- ➔ Major Provisions Subsidy for Electric Cars: Women purchasing electric cars registered in their name will receive a direct subsidy of Rs. 1 lakh.
- ➔ Support for Electric Two-Wheelers: Beneficiaries from the general category will receive financial assistance of Rs. 10,000, while SC/ST beneficiaries will get Rs. 12,000.

- ➔ Incentives for Goods-Carrying Electric Tricycles: Subsidies of Rs. 50,000 for general category beneficiaries and Rs. 60,000 for SC/ST beneficiaries will be provided for purchasing electric goods carriers.

- ➔ Tax Benefits: All electric vehicles registered in Bihar will receive a 50% rebate on motor vehicle tax.

○ 3rd NIFTEM to Be Established in Bihar

- ➔ The Bihar government has given in-principle approval for the transfer of 100 acres of land in Hajipur, Vaishali district, for the establishment of the country's third National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM).

○ Bihar T10 Cricket League

- ➔ **Bihar T10 League 2026 full schedule** - Bihar T10 League 2026 also known (**Bihar T10 or BT10 2026**) is a T10 tennis ball cricket league held in Bihar, India.
- ➔ The first season of the Bihar T10 League 2026 is scheduled to be held on July 5, 2026. Franchises from eight cities in Bihar will play 28 matches.
- ➔ The Bihar **T10** Cricket League was launched in Patna in the presence of Bihar Sports Minister Shreyasi Singh and BJP MP and actor Manoj Tiwari was appointed as the brand ambassador.

○ 'The Wild Call' Wins Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2026

- ➔ The animated film 'The Wild Call', based on Rajgir Zoo Safari, won the Best Animation Film award at the 16th Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival 2026.
- ➔ The film was produced by the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bihar, and directed by Naveendh S. Fareed and Azharuddin Sulaiman.
- ➔ The film focuses on climate change, habitat conservation, and human-wildlife coexistence.

○ Bihar NDA Government Expands Cabinet

- ➔ 32 ministers Take Oath – The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in Bihar led by Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary expanded its Cabinet at Gandhi Maidan, where 32 ministers were sworn in.

Minister	Designation / Department
Samrat Choudhary (CM)	Cabinet Secretariat, Election, General Administration, Home, Vigilance, Civil Aviation etc.
Vijay Kumar Choudhary (Deputy CM)	Parliamentary Affairs & Water Resources
Bijendra Prasad Yadav (Deputy CM)	Commercial Taxes & Finance
Vijay Sinha	Agriculture
Shrawan Kumar	Rural Development, Information & Public Relations
Dilip Kumar Jaiswal	Revenue & Land Reforms
Nishant	Health
Leshi Singh	Building Construction
Ram Kripal Yadav	Cooperative
Nitish Mishra	IT, Urban Development & Housing
Damodar Rawat	Transport
Ashok Choudhary	Food & Consumer Protection
Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha	Planning & Development
Arun Shankar Prasad	Labour Resources & Migrant Worker Welfare
Sanjay Singh	Law, Higher Education
Madan Sahini	Prohibition, Excise & Registration
Kumar Shailendra	Road Construction
Sheela Kumari	Science & Technology
Shreyashi Singh	Sports, Industry
Sunil Kumar	Rural Works
Kedar Prasad Gupta	Tourism
Md Jama Khan	Minority Welfare
Nand Kishore Ram	Animal & Fish Resources
Lakhendra Kumar Roushan	Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Welfare
Shailesh Kumar	Energy
Dr. Pramod Kumar	Art, Culture & Youth; Mining & Geology
Shweta Gupta	Social Welfare
Mithilesh Tiwari	Education
Ram Chandra Prasad	Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Sanjay Kumar Singh	Public Health Engineering Department
Sanjay Kumar	Sugarcane Industry
Deepak Prakash	Panchayati Raj
Rama Nishad	Backward Class & Extremely Backward Class Welfare
Ratnesh Sada	Disaster Management
Santosh Kumar Suman	Minor Water Resources

○ India's First AI-Based Cyber Helpline Call Centre

- ➔ The Bihar government is preparing to roll out an artificial intelligence-enabled version of the cybercrime helpline 1930.
- ➔ The upgraded platform is intended to reduce the time taken to register complaints related to cyber fraud and online crime, while also improving the speed of follow-up action.

○ Sahyog Portal and Sahyog Helpline Number 1100

- ➔ Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary launched the Sahyog Portal and the toll-free Sahyog Helpline Number 1100 on 11 May 2026.
- ➔ Objective: To resolve public grievances quickly and transparently.
- ➔ Significance: It is part of Saat Nischay 3-"Sabka Samman, Jeevan Aasan," and aims to eliminate administrative delays and make public services easily accessible.

○ Bihar Cabinet Meeting

- ➔ A Bihar Cabinet meeting chaired by Samrat Choudhary approved 19 major agenda items on 13 May 2026.
- ➔ The Cabinet approved the creation of Rural SP posts in five sensitive districts, East Champaran, Samastipur, Madhubani, Vaishali, and Siwan, to strengthen law and order.
- ➔ The Cabinet approved renaming the "Mukhya Mantri Sukshma Evam Laghu Udyog Cluster Vikas Yojana" as the "Mukhya Mantri Sukshma, Laghu Evam Madhyam Udyog Cluster Vikas Yojana."
- ➔ The Cabinet approved the transfer of 110.12 acres of land in **Kishanganj** to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for establishing a CISF training centre.

○ Bihar's First natural elephant corridor

- ➔ The Garhi forest area of the Jamui Forest Division, the Charkapathar and Batiya forest areas of Jhajha, and the Madhwa sub-forest area of the Chakai Forest Division have now become Bihar's first natural elephant corridor.

○ Global Water Award 2026

- ➔ The Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (BUIDCO) won the prestigious "Wastewater Project of the Year" award at the Global Water Summit 2026.
- ➔ It was awarded for the implementation of Digha-Kankarbagh Integrated Wastewater Project.

○ "Brand Bihar" initiative

- ➔ The Bihar government recently announced the launch of "Brand Bihar," a state-wide initiative under the chief secretary's cell.
- ➔ Objective: To strengthen the state's identity, improve its public image and position the state as a destination for investment, innovation and opportunity.

○ **Bihar Electric Vehicle (Amendment) Policy, 2026**

- ➔ The state cabinet, led by Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, has taken a major decision to reduce fuel dependence, protect the environment, and reduce pollution.
- ➔ The cabinet has approved the Bihar Electric Vehicle Policy-2026 on May 13, 2026.
- ➔ The main objective of this new policy is to reduce dependence on petrol and diesel in the state and empower women.
- ➔ The government has announced financial assistance for various categories in this policy-
- Electric Car: The government will provide a direct subsidy of Rs 1 lakh for purchasing an electric car in the name of women.
- Two-wheeler: Rs 10,000 for general category and Rs 12,000 for women and SC/ST category beneficiaries.
- Goods carrying tricycle: Assistance of Rs 50,000 will be given to the general category and Rs 60,000 to the SC/ST category on goods carrying electric auto.
- Tax relief: All electric vehicles registered in Bihar will get 50% rebate in motor vehicle tax.
- Old vehicles: Under the scrapping policy, additional benefits will also be available on scrapping of old vehicles as per the rules of the Central Government.

○ **Bihar T10 Cricket League**

- ➔ On May 11, 2026 Sports Minister Ms. Shreyasi Singh launched the Bihar T10 League, affiliated with ISPL, at an event in Patna.
- ➔ Bihar tennis ball cricket tolent a Professional Pathway and visibility on the national stage through the ISPL connection.
- ➔ BJP MP and actor **Manoj Tiwari** was appointed as the brand ambassador of the Bihar T10 League.

○ **CISF Regional Training Centre**

- ➔ On May 7, 2026 Bihar government has approved 110.12 acres of land in Kishanganj district for the establishment of a Regional Training Centre (RTC) of the CISF.
- ➔ The Regional Training Centre will facilitate the training of 1,000 CISF personnel.

○ **3rd NIFTEM to Be Established in Hajipur, Bihar**

- ➔ The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) will be established in Hajipur.
- ➔ The Bihar Cabinet approved the free transfer of 100 acres of land to the Central Government for setting up NIFTEM in Hajipur, located in Vaishali district.
- ➔ Currently, NIFTEM has only two campuses in the country. The first one is located in Kundli, Sonipat district, Haryana, while the second one is operational in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

○ **The 'Wild Call' Wins Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2026**

- ➔ The animated film "The Wild Call", inspired by Rajgir Zoo Safari in Bihar, has been honoured as the Best Animation Film at the 16th Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival 2026.
- ➔ The film, produced by the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bihar, was directed by Naveedh S. Fareed and Azharuddin Sulaiman.

○ **To Lam, visited Gaya in Bihar**

- ➔ On May 5, 2026 The President of Vietnam, To Lam, visited Bodh Gaya in Bihar and offered prayers at the Mahabodhi Temple as part of his three-day State Visit to India in May 2026.

○ **MSME Technology Centre and Extension Centres**

- ➔ On April 28, 2026 Union Minister for Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi and Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Samrat Choudhary jointly inaugurated MSME Technology Centre in Sikandarpur, Bihta, Patna and Extension Centre in Muzaffarpur, Rohtas, Darbhanga and Munger.
- ➔ The newly inaugurated four Extension Centres will train more than 5,500 trainees per year across their catchment areas through short and long-term training programs in high-demand domains such as AI/IoT, Tool & Die Making, CNC Manufacturing, CAD/CAM, Welding, Quality Control, SolidWorks, 3D Printing etc.

○ **Samrat Choudhary: 24th Chief Minister of Bihar**

- ➔ Samrat Choudhary was sworn in as the **24th Chief Minister of Bihar** on 15th April, 2026.
- ➔ The swearing-in ceremony took place at Lok Bhawan in Patna, in the presence of senior leaders, including Nitish Kumar.
- ➔ He was administered the oath of office by Bihar's Governor Syed Ata Hasnain.
- ➔ Senior JD(U) leaders Bijendra Prasad Yadav and Vijay Kumar Chaudhary were sworn in as Deputy Chief Ministers.
- ➔ In the 2025 Bihar Assembly Elections, he was elected from the **Tarapur** constituency in Munger district of Bihar.
- ➔ He is the first leader from the **Bharatiya Janata Party** to become Chief Minister of Bihar.

○ **Nari Shakti for Viksit Bharat Run**

- ➔ Bihar's Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary flagged off the "Nari Shakti for Viksit Bharat Run" in Patna on April 17, 2026.
- ➔ It was organised as part of the Nari Shakti Vandan Abhiyan and was held at Digha roundabout along the JP Ganga Path.

- ➔ Objective of programme is to promote women-led development and strengthen citizen participation in the vision of Viksit Bharat.

- ➔ The event, themed Nari Shakti Vandan, was conducted in Patna and Jaipur on 17 April, while it was held in Delhi, Cuttack, Mumbai, Indore, and Bengaluru on 18 April.

○ Adiyogi statue and a yoga center in Bhagalpur

- ➔ Sadhguru's Isha Foundation has proposed building a 112-foot-tall Adiyogi statue and a yoga center in **Bhagalpur**.
- ➔ Around 100–120 acres of land has been requested for the project.

○ "Education City" in Bihar

- ➔ In a major push to transform the education sector, Bihar is accelerating plans to build a world-class "Education City" **near Patna**.
- ➔ The project will span over 250 acres in the Patna region.
- ➔ An initial budget of Rs. 547 crore has been allocated (with scope for increase).

○ India–Portugal Dialogue

- ➔ Nalanda University hosted a two-day India–Portugal Dialogue on 11–12th April in Rajgir, Nalanda.
- ➔ It was held to mark 50 years of modern diplomatic relations between India and Portugal.
- ➔ It was centred on diplomacy, culture, language and sustainable development with a focus on strengthening academic and institutional engagement.

○ 17th Vishwakarma Awards 2026

- ➔ The Construction Industry Development Council awarded 17th Vishwakarma Awards 2026 to the Bapu Tower in Patna and the Buddha Samyak Darshan Museum and Memorial Stupa in Vaishali.
- ➔ The awards were presented by the Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari.
- ➔ The 17th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2026, hosted by the Construction Industry Development Council, were presented on April 10, 2026, in New Delhi.

○ Nitish Kumar Becomes Rajya Sabha Member

- ➔ Nitish Kumar, former Chief Minister of Bihar, has been sworn in as a member of the Rajya Sabha on April 10, 2026.
- ➔ The oath was administered by C. P. Radhakrishnan (Vice-President) at his chamber during a brief ceremony.

○ BiharOne Project

- ➔ The BiharOne Project was launched by the Bihar government to create a unified digital platform for public services.
- ➔ A contract of ₹87 crore has been awarded to Corporate Infotech Pvt. Ltd. (CIPL); the platform is expected by July 2026.
- ➔ The initiative aims to eliminate the need for citizens to navigate multiple offices, lengthy paperwork, and procedural delays.

○ Flying Training Hub

- ➔ The Bihar government has launched an ambitious plan to develop **Birpur in Supaul district** as a "flying training hub."
- ➔ For this purpose, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Aero Club of India under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

○ Second Glass Bridge of Bihar

- ➔ The "Second Glass Bridge" of Bihar will be built at Ajaivinath Dham in Bhagalpur.
- ➔ Bihar's first glass bridge is in Rajgir, Nalanda. The bridge will measure approximately 30 metres in length and 5 metres in width, and will be situated at a height of about 200 feet.

○ Seven Wonders of the World Park

- ➔ The "Seven Wonders of the World" park is being developed at a cost of Rs. 14.85 crore in Bodh Gaya in Gaya district of Bihar.
- ➔ It is a 40-acre theme park which will showcase the Taj Mahal, the Great Wall of China, the Pyramids of Giza, Machu Picchu in Peru and Petra in Jordan.
- ➔ It is intended to complement Bodh Gaya's status as a major Buddhist pilgrimage site by offering an additional draw for visitors.

NEWS IN SHORTS

- **PANCHAM Digital Chatbot:** Bihar launched **PANCHAM (Panchayat Assistance and Messaging Chatbot)**; officially launched by **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (GoI)** on **January 25, 2026**; developed with **UNICEF**;
- ➔ It is a **WhatsApp-based** platform providing instant support, scheme information & training to Panchayat representatives/citizens; objective: **transparent, accessible & effective Panchayat system**.
- **e-Vidhan (NeVA):** Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** launched **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** in **Bihar Assembly (7 Feb 2026)** for **paperless legislatures** and creation of a **national legislative data repository**.
- **Bihar Development Summit 2026:** Held **22 Feb 2026, New Delhi**; organised by **Let's Inspire Bihar Movement**; inaugurated by **Giriraj Singh**;
- ➔ **Objective:** roadmap for **Bihar's economic transformation by 2047** under **Viksit Bihar** vision.
- **Bihar @2047 Vision Conclave:** 3rd edition, **Bengaluru, Dec 2025**.
- **SSB Border Projects:** **Amit Shah** inaugurated **Leti & Inderwa Border Outposts (Araria)** on **26 Feb 2026**; foundation/e-inauguration of **₹170 crore SSB infrastructure** projects for **CAPF**; **554 km border roads approved**, **14/18 segments completed**; **₹2,336 crore spent out of ₹2,468 crore sanctioned**.
- **'Police Didi' Scheme:** Announced **February 20, 2026** by **Samrat Choudhary** (then Deputy CM, now CM).

- **Objective:** improve police–women/girls communication, especially in rural & semi-urban areas; specialised Bihar Police teams; procurement of **1,500 scooters + 3,200 motorcycles**.
- **Bihar Declared Naxal-Free:** Achieved after surrender of last armed Maoist **Suresh Koda** in **Munger**.
- **Bihar Manuscript Verification:** Bihar rose **5th** → **3rd** nationally under **Gyan Bharatam Mission**; **22%** of surveyed manuscripts (~7.5 lakh); review by **Art & Culture Department**; ranks after **Rajasthan (14,49,867)** & **Madhya Pradesh (10,12,516)**.
- **Nalanda International Literature Festival 2026:** **12–15 Mar 2026**, **Rajgir ICC** near ancient Nalanda ruins; focus: **Indian languages, culture, ideas, heritage & manuscripts**.
- **Nalanda Development Dialogue:** First edition by **Nalanda University**, **8–9 Mar 2026**, **Rajgir**; international conference reviving Nalanda’s tradition of global dialogue on **sustainable & inclusive development**.
- **State-Level Youth Festival 2025:** **23–24 Dec 2025**, **Madhubani**; jointly organised by **Art, Culture & Youth Department**, **Govt. of Bihar** and **Madhubani district administration**.
- **Agro Bihar–2026:** State agricultural fair **12–15 Mar 2026**, **Gandhi Maidan, Patna**; modern & profitable farming; participation of **farmers, agri experts & machinery manufacturers**.
- **Bihar Nursery & Green-Tech Conclave 2026:** First national 3-day horticulture conclave, **21–23 Mar 2026**, **Gyan Bhawan, Patna**; theme: **“Parampara Se Pragati Tak” (From Tradition to Progress)**.
- **First Sports Science Centre:** Bihar to establish first Sports Science Centre at **Patliputra Sports Complex** and **Rajgir Sports Academy**, on lines of national-level facilities.
- **Bihar’s First Robotic Pancreatic Cancer Surgery:** Successfully performed at **IGIMS, Patna**; led by **Dr. Manish Mandal (Medical Superintendent)**.
- **DRDO Mega Defence Technology Exhibition:** **15–18 Apr 2026**, **Mahatma Gandhi Prekshagrih, Motihari**; showcased advanced defence technologies & **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives; theme: **“Shanti, Satya aur Vigyan ka Sangam – Surakshit aur Aatmanirbhar Bharat ki Aur”**.
- **Doppler Weather Radars:** **ISRO** to install radars in **Bhagalpur & West Champaran** with new ground stations; also developing **crowd-management solutions** for **Chhath Puja** and other major festivals.
- **National Capacity Building Workshop:** **18–19 Mar 2026**, **Patna**; organised by **MoSPI, Govt. of Bihar & UNDP** on **Monitoring of SDGs, Environmental Accounting & Gender Statistics**.

- **Objective:** **timely, robust, disaggregated data** for monitoring development outcomes & evidence-based policymaking.

Event/Initiative	Key Facts
Project Udaan	Patna Nagar Nigam initiative providing free coaching for children of sanitation workers.
16th Hockey India Sub-Junior Men National Championship 2026	Held at Rajgir; Gold: Uttar Pradesh (def. Madhya Pradesh 5–2); Silver: Madhya Pradesh; Bronze: Punjab.
SportsStar Aces Awards 2026	Bihar selected Best State in Promoting Sports; information conveyed to former CM Nitish Kumar; award decided by national jury chaired by Sunil Gavaskar.
Sports Village	Approved in Goradih block, Bhagalpur; international-standard facilities for cricket, football, kabaddi, kho-kho, tennis, badminton, basketball, volleyball, archery, shooting, martial arts & hockey.

- **Bihar Waterbird Survey (Asian Waterbird Census):** Conducted in **Kosi region**, concluded **Feb 2026**; Bihar has conducted survey annually since **2022**; **4,982 birds, 92 species** recorded; new migratory sightings: **Baikal Teal** (rare Siberian/Russian breeding duck) & **Fulvous Whistling Teal**.
- **GeM Excellence Event:** Held in **Patna (Jan 2026)**; objective: connect **MSMEs, startups & self-help groups** directly with **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** procurement system.
- **BJP National President: Nitin Nabin (Bihar)** appointed **National President of BJP**; former **five-time consecutive MLA** from **Bankipur Assembly constituency, Patna**.
- **Boat Ride Facility:** Inaugurated by **Samrat Chaudhary** (then Deputy CM, now CM) at **Kharagpur Lake, Munger district (Dec 2025)**.
- **Supercomputer ‘PARAM Rudra’:** Bihar’s 1st supercomputer installed at **IIT Patna**; launched under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) to expand high-performance computing (HPC) infrastructure and advanced research.
- **Kajra Solar Plant:** India’s largest battery-based solar plant operational at **Kajra, Lakhisarai district**.
- **Capacity:** **301 MW solar + 495 MWh** battery storage. Stores daytime energy for peak night supply.
- **Bikram Lock Canal Bank Project:** Solar energy project in **Patna district** inaugurated by **Nitish Kumar (June 4, 2025)** under ‘Jal-Jeevan Hariyali’ Abhiyan.
- **Nuclear Power Plant:** Announced by Union Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar (June 24, 2025)**. Centre to set up Bihar’s 1st nuclear plant via 1 of 6 planned national Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
- **e-Voting Landmark:** Bihar became 1st Indian state to use mobile phone e-voting (**June 28, 2025**) during

municipal bypolls across 6 Nagar Panchayats in Patna, Buxar, Rohtas, and East Champaran.

- **1st female e-voter:** Mrs. Bibha Kumari (Pakridayal, East Champaran); 1st male: Munna Kumar (same district).
- **Dairy & Milk Powder Expansion:** State to build 3 new dairy plants (total 5 lakh L/day capacity) in Darbhanga, Wazirganj (Gaya), and Gopalganj; plus 2 milk powder plants (30 MT/day capacity each) in Dehri-on-Sone (Rohtas) and Sitamarhi.
- **National Makhana Board:** Launched by PM Narendra Modi on Sept 15, 2025, in Purnea (initially announced in Union Budget 2025-26).
- Focuses on scaling production, processing, and exports of fox nuts. Sector development package: ~Rs 476 crore.
- **Makhana Mahotsav 2025:** Held at Gyan Bhavan, Gandhi Maidan (Patna). Attended by Union Agri Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who released the report 'Makhana: From Culture to Prosperity' (Makhana: Sanskriti se Samriddhi).
- **Sex Sorted Semen Facility:** Inaugurated by PM Modi (Sept 15, 2025) at Semen Station, Purnea. Developed under Rashtriya Gokul Mission with Rs 10 crore central aid; capacity of 5 lakh doses/year to boost the dairy sector.
- **Ramsar Sites Designation:** Two Bihar wetlands added to the global Ramsar Convention list: Gokul Jalashay (Buxar) and Udaipur Jheel (West Champaran).
- **Industrial Corridors:** Announced by former CM Nitish Kumar to establish major industrial projects/zones in Bhagalpur and Gopalganj.
- **Ultra-Luxury Caravans:** 5-star travel vehicles launched under heritage circuit tourism strategy to boost revenue and preserve culture.
- Routes cover Nalanda, Rajgir, Bodhi Gaya, Vaishali, Vikramshila, and Patna's Gandhi Circuit.
- **CM Women's Employment Scheme:** Launched by Nitish Kumar (Current CM: Samrat Chaudhary). Offers Rs 10,000 initial financial aid to 1 woman per family to launch self-employment ventures, conditional on joining Jeevika Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- **Bihar State Jeevika Nidhi Credit Cooperative Federation Ltd:** Virtual inauguration by PM Modi (Sept 2, 2025) to ease credit/financial assistance access for rural women entrepreneurs.
- **CM Self-Help Allowance Scheme:** Extended by Nitish Kumar (Sept 18, 2025) under 7 Nischay program. Provides Rs 1,000/month for maximum 2 years to unemployed, non-studying graduates aged 20-25 not engaged in any public/private/NGO sector.
- **Mukhya Mantri Pratigya Yojana (FY 2025-26):** Targets 5,000 youth in 2025-26, scaling to 1 lakh youth over 5 years (from 2026-27).

- **Eligible:** Age 18–28 with skill training or Class 12 to PG qualification. Disbursed via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Intern Profile / Location	Monthly Stipend & Out-of-District Allowances
Class 12 Pass	Rs 4,000 / month base stipend
ITI / Diploma Holder	Rs 5,000 / month base stipend
Graduate / Postgraduate	Rs 6,000 / month base stipend
Mobility Premium (Max 3 months)	Extra Rs 2,000/month if outside home district; Extra Rs 5,000/month if interning outside Bihar.

- **Mukhya Mantri Kalakar Pension Yojana:** Rs 3,000/month pension approved for permanent residents aged 50+ with 10+ years in classical/visual/performing arts. Eligibility: Annual income <Rs 1.2 lakh; no government job.
- **Bihar Patrakar Samman Scheme (BPSS) Hike:** Monthly pension for retired journalists raised from Rs 6,000 to Rs 15,000. Dependent/spouse pension raised from Rs 3,000 to Rs 10,000/month upon pensioner's death.
- **Eligibility:** Resident, age 60+, 20 years journalism experience, and holding verified IPRD certification.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):** Bihar ranked #1 state in India with a 92% online OPD registration rate via Scan-and-Share QR codes.
- Accounts for 2.94 crore out of 11.38 crore national registrations since 2021, ahead of UP (2.25 cr) and AP (1.70 cr).
- **Operation Naya Savera:** Fortnight-long campaign (July 31–Aug 14, 2025) launched by Bihar Police HQ on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons to rescue/rehabilitate minor trafficking victims.
- 2025 Theme: "Human Trafficking is Organised Crime — End the Exploitation."
- **CM's Guru-Shishya Parampara Scheme:** Run by Department of Art, Culture, and Youth to revive rare, endangered folk arts, music, and paintings by pairing expert gurus with young disciples for traditional training.
- **World Para Athletics Championships 2025:** Shailesh Kumar (Islam Nagar, Jamui district, Bihar) won India's 1st-ever gold medal at the tournament in the Men's High Jump T63 event.
- He cleared an Asian and Championship record of 1.91 m. Co-national Varun Bhati won bronze in the same event.
- **12th Men's Asia Cup Hockey:** Indian Men's team defeated South Korea 4-1 in the final at Rajgir Sports Complex, Bihar (Sept 7, 2025).
- Ended an 8-year title drought and qualified for the 2026 FIH Men's World Cup (Netherlands & Belgium).

Bihar Budget 2026–27

Bihar's Budget for 2026–27 was presented by Finance Minister **Bijendra Prasad Yadav** on **February 3, 2026**.

Key Highlights

- ➔ The size of Bihar's budget has increased from **₹23,885 crore in 2004–05** to **₹3,47,589.76 crore (including debt repayment) in 2026–27**.
- ➔ This reflects the state government's increased fiscal capacity to spend on social sectors, infrastructure and welfare schemes.
- ➔ After **Saat Nischay-1** and **Saat Nischay-2**, the government has now framed **Saat Nischay-3 for 2025–2030**, with the aim of taking Bihar towards the category of developed states.

Overall Budget Size and Fiscal Framework

- ➔ For 2026–27, Bihar's **net budget expenditure** is estimated at **₹3,47,589.76 crore**, which is **₹30,694.74 crore higher** than the Budget Estimate of **₹3,16,895.02 crore** for 2025–26.
- ➔ The annual scheme outlay is **₹1,22,155.42 crore**, while establishment and committed expenditure is **₹2,25,434.34 crore**.
- ➔ Thus, scheme expenditure forms **35.14%** of total expenditure and establishment/committed expenditure forms **64.86%**.
- ➔ The **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** for 2026–27 is projected at about **₹13.09 lakh crore**, showing an estimated growth of about **15%** over 2025–26.
- ➔ The Budget targets a **revenue surplus of ₹1,143.19 crore** and a **fiscal deficit of ₹39,111.80 crore**, equal to **2.99% of GSDP**, which is within the 3% limit set under the Bihar Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management framework.
- ➔ The expenditure excluding debt repayment is estimated at **₹3,24,925 crore**, while debt repayment is about **₹22,665 crore**.
- ➔ In the Appropriation Bill, the state proposes **gross expenditure of ₹3,53,045.15 crore**, out of which **₹3,02,242.13 crore** is voted expenditure and **₹50,803.02 crore** is charged expenditure.
- ➔ The net expenditure figure used in the budget summary is **₹3,47,589.76 crore**.

Revenue Receipts and Borrowings

- ➔ Total **revenue receipts** for 2026–27 are estimated at **₹2,85,277.12 crore**. Of this, the state is expected to raise **₹75,202.99 crore** from its own tax and non-tax sources, while about **₹2,10,074 crore** will come from the Centre through tax devolution and grants.
- ➔ This shows Bihar's continuing dependence on central transfers.
- ➔ The state's own tax revenue is estimated at **₹65,800 crore**.
- ➔ Important components include **commercial taxes of ₹50,000 crore**, **stamp and registration fees of**

₹10,000 crore, **transport tax of ₹5,000 crore**, and **land revenue of ₹800 crore**.

- ➔ State GST as the largest source of Bihar's own tax revenue, with an estimated **₹38,000 crore** in 2026–27.
- ➔ The state's own non-tax revenue is estimated at **₹9,402.99 crore**, including **₹4,200 crore from mining** and **₹2,570.08 crore from interest receipts**.
- ➔ Bihar's share in central taxes is estimated at **₹1,58,178.32 crore**, while grants-in-aid from the Centre are estimated at **₹51,895.81 crore**.
- ➔ These grants include **₹44,002.81 crore for Centrally Sponsored Schemes** and **₹7,893 crore linked to Finance Commission-related grants**, including disaster response and local body grants.
- ➔ Borrowing of **₹61,939.48 crore** is proposed for 2026–27.
- ➔ The state also proposes to provide **loans and advances of ₹1,413.94 crore**.
- ➔ Debt repayment is estimated at **₹22,664.83 crore**, including repayment of loans taken earlier from the Centre and internal loans.

Capital and Revenue Expenditure

- ➔ Total **capital expenditure** is estimated at **₹63,455.84 crore**, which is **18.26%** of total expenditure.
- ➔ This includes capital outlay of **₹39,377.06 crore**, with **₹6,117.30 crore** for general services, **₹7,434.80 crore** for social services and **₹25,824.96 crore** for economic services.
- ➔ Total **revenue expenditure** is estimated at **₹2,84,133.92 crore**, or **81.74%** of total expenditure.
- ➔ This includes expenditure on salaries, pensions, interest payments, subsidies, grants and welfare schemes.
- ➔ Under the state's broader budget classification, spending on salaries, pensions, interest payments and debt repayment together is estimated at **₹1,79,327.48 crore**.
- ➔ Using the comparable committed-expenditure classification of salaries, pensions and interest payments, estimates committed expenditure at **₹1,33,494 crore**, or **47% of revenue receipts**.

Bihar's Economy: Key Indicators

- ➔ Bihar's economy is projected to grow strongly in nominal terms. For 2026–27, GSDP at current prices is projected at **₹13.09 lakh crore**.
- ➔ In 2024–25, Bihar's GSDP at constant prices is estimated to have grown by **8.6%**, compared to India's GDP growth of **6.5%**.
- ➔ At current prices, agriculture, manufacturing and services are estimated to contribute **23%**, **23%** and **54%** respectively to Bihar's economy in 2024–25.

➔ Bihar's per capita GSDP at current prices for 2024–25 is estimated at ₹76,490, while India's per capita GDP is estimated at ₹2,34,859.

➔ The state's per capita NSDP for 2024–25 is estimated at ₹69,321, showing an increase of 11.45% over the previous year.

❑ Saat Nischay-3: Main Development Roadmap for 2025–2030

➔ The Budget gives major importance to **Saat Nischay-3**, which is planned for the period 2025–2030.

➔ Its main objective is to accelerate income growth, employment, social welfare, education, health and infrastructure.

❑ Progress in Agriculture

➔ Three roadmaps have already been implemented, and work on the **Fourth Agriculture Roadmap, 2024–2029** will be accelerated.

➔ A new state scheme, **Jannayak Karpoori Thakur Kisan Samman Nidhi**, will provide farmers ₹3,000 per year in addition to the ₹6,000 per year provided under the central PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi.

➔ Foodgrain production has increased more than three times since 2005. According to the final estimates for 2024–25, total foodgrain production reached **326.62 lakh metric tonnes**, the highest ever for the state.

➔ Bihar holds an important position in several agricultural products. In 2024–25, it ranked **first in makhana and litchi production, second in maize, fourth in honey, fifth in rice and sixth in wheat**.

➔ The state produces about **85% of India's makhana** and **23% of India's litchi**.

➔ The Government of India has also established a **National Makhana Board** in Bihar to support makhana farmers and improve production.

➔ Bihar is also a leading state in mushroom production, with current production of about **44,000 metric tonnes**.

➔ The government is working on an **AI-enabled Mechanised Agriculture Mission**, a **Bihar Agri Infrastructure Mission** with an initial investment vision of ₹1 lakh crore, and a **Bihar Agriculture Acceleration Mission** to promote agri-startups, GI-tagged products and rural agricultural markets.

➔ In allied sectors, Bihar's per capita annual fish availability is **12.21 kg**, calculated on the basis of 60% population coverage.

➔ Women's empowerment is one of the central themes of the Budget. Under **Jeevika**, about **1.40 crore families** have been connected through **11.45 lakh self-help groups**, and **91 lakh members** have

received insurance coverage. At present, **31.71 lakh Jeevika Didis** have been declared **Lakhpati Didis**.

➔ The **Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana** has been one of the most important welfare-cum-employment measures.

➔ It aims to support self-employment among women, with initial financial help of ₹10,000 and further assistance of up to ₹2 lakh for enterprise expansion.

➔ Under the **Chief Minister Divyangjan Entrepreneur Scheme**, approved beneficiaries will receive loans and grants in a 50:50 ratio up to a maximum project cost of ₹10 lakh per unit.

➔ For social justice, ₹19,603.02 crore has been allocated for Scheduled Castes and ₹1,648.42 crore for Scheduled Tribes in 2026–27.

➔ According to Sample Registration System data, Bihar's **Maternal Mortality Ratio** for 2021–23 is 104.

➔ In child health indicators, Bihar's **Infant Mortality Rate** is 23, **Neonatal Mortality Rate** is 18, and **Under-5 Mortality Rate** is 27.

➔ Bihar's IMR, NMR and Under-5 mortality rate are better than the national averages of 25, 19 and 29 respectively, though its MMR remains above the national figure of 88.

➔ Bihar has maintained the first position on the Government of India's **DVDMS Central Dashboard** for supply and distribution of medicines since September 2024.

➔ Bihar has made major progress in basic infrastructure. The length of rural roads increased from **64,205 km in 2015–16** to about **1.19 lakh km in 2025–26**, making Bihar one of the states with high road density.

➔ Per capita electricity consumption increased from **203 kWh in 2015** to **374 kWh in 2025**.

Sector-wise High-Yield Facts	
Sector	Important Fact for Exam
Education	Bihar allocated 21.7% of its sectoral expenditure to education, higher than the 31-state average of 14.5% .
Rural development	Bihar allocated 9.4% of sectoral expenditure to rural development, higher than the state average of 4.9% .
Health	Bihar allocated 6.3% to health, slightly above the state average of 6.2% .
Police	Bihar allocated 5.2% to police, above the state average of 4.0% .
Roads and bridges	Bihar allocated 2.9% , lower than the state average of 4.3% .
Agriculture	Bihar allocated 2.6% , lower than the state average of 5.7% .

Bihar Economic Survey, 2025–26

- ➔ According to the Bihar Economic Survey, 2025–26, Bihar's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant (2011–12) prices grew by 8.6 percent in 2024–25 (Q.E.), and at current prices by 13.1 percent, reaching ₹5,31,372 crore and ₹9,91,997 crore respectively.
- ➔ In the last three years, Bihar's economic growth rate, both at constant and current prices, has been higher than the Gross Domestic Product growth rate of India.
- ➔ At current prices, Bihar's GSDP growth rates were 17.9 percent in 2022–23 and 14.9 percent in 2023–24, compared to 14.0 percent and 12.0 percent respectively for the country.
- ➔ The quick estimates for 2024–25 show that Bihar's GSDP growth rate at current prices is estimated at 13.1 percent compared to 9.8 percent for India. At constant (2011–12) prices, Bihar's growth rate is estimated at 8.6 percent, which is higher than India's 6.5 percent. These figures place Bihar among the fastest-growing states in the country.
- ➔ For 2024–25, quick estimates show that the Gross State Value Added (GSVA) of the secondary sector grew by 11.1 percent at constant (2011–12) prices and 15.5 percent at current prices.
- ➔ In 2024–25, the tertiary sector grew by 8.9 percent at constant prices and 13.5 percent at current prices, while the primary sector recorded growth of 4.1 percent at constant prices and 9.6 percent at current prices.
- ➔ Between 2020–21 and 2024–25, the share of the secondary sector in GSVA increased significantly from 21.1 percent to 26.8 percent at constant (2011–12) prices, mainly due to growth in construction and manufacturing.
- ➔ In contrast, the share of the primary sector declined from 21.9 percent to 18.3 percent, and the share of the tertiary sector also declined from 57.0 percent to 54.8 percent, indicating increasing diversification in the state's economic activities.
- ➔ Per capita GSDP at current prices increased from ₹46,412 in 2020–21 to ₹76,490 in 2024–25, indicating a consistent upward trend.
- ➔ At constant (2011–12) prices, per capita GSDP increased from ₹30,159 in 2020–21 to ₹40,973 in 2024–25.
- ➔ Within Bihar, Patna district recorded the highest Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP), followed by Begusarai and Munger districts.
- ➔ At current prices, per capita GDDP was ₹2,41,220 for Patna, ₹1,05,600 for Begusarai, and ₹93,921 for Munger.
- ☐ **Public Financial Management**
- ➔ Bihar's fiscal development path reflects disciplined financial management, as the state government's total expenditure increased from ₹1.66 lakh crore in 2020–21 to ₹2.82 lakh crore in 2024–25. The state government maintained fiscal prudence through lower borrowing and effective debt servicing while consistently prioritising developmental expenditure in sectors such as education, health, energy, transport, irrigation, and agriculture.
- ➔ The share of capital expenditure in total expenditure increased significantly from 15.8 percent in 2020–21 to 22.3 percent in 2024–25, while the share of revenue expenditure declined from 84.2 percent to 77.7 percent. This structural change reflects the government's focus on long-term investment, infrastructure development, and asset creation.
- ➔ Revenue receipts of the state government increased from ₹1.28 lakh crore in 2020–21 to ₹2.18 lakh crore in 2024–25, with tax revenue as the main source. The share of tax revenue increased from 70 percent to 84 percent, while the share of non-tax revenue declined from 5 percent to 2 percent and the share of grants-in-aid declined from 25 percent to 14 percent.
- ➔ The structure of revenue expenditure remained largely stable over the last five years, with social services having the highest share at 46 percent. The share of economic services increased slightly from 21 percent to 22 percent, while the share of general services declined slightly from 33 percent to 32 percent.
- ➔ This distribution reflects the government's commitment to both welfare expansion and strengthening productive sectors.
- ➔ The share of plan expenditure in total expenditure increased from 38.3 percent in 2020–21 to 39.9 percent in 2024–25, while the share of establishment and committed expenditure declined from 61.7 percent to 60.1 percent.
- ➔ This trend indicates a gradual shift towards welfare-oriented activities and policy-driven development priorities.
- ➔ Developmental expenditure remained around two-thirds of the total budget, reaching 67.4 percent in 2024–25. It increased from ₹1,12,122 crore in 2020–21 to ₹1,89,892 crore in 2024–25, indicating a stronger focus on development and welfare expenditure.
- ➔ Receipts from the central government increased from ₹91,625 crore in 2020–21 to ₹1,59,298 crore in 2024–25, mainly due to transfers from the divisible tax pool, which increased from ₹59,861 crore to ₹1,29,435 crore.
- ➔ In 2024–25, grants-in-aid from the central government amounted to ₹29,863 crore.
- ➔ The state's own revenue increased from ₹36,543 crore in 2020–21 to ₹59,360 crore in 2024–25, with tax revenue as the major contributor.
- ➔ As of 31 March 2025, the outstanding debt of the state government was ₹3,74,134 crore, which was 37.7 percent of the GSDP.
- ➔ At the end of 2024–25, 84.6 percent of the total outstanding debt consisted of public debt. Out of total public debt, 83.8 percent came from internal

borrowings, while 16.2 percent came from loans and advances from the central government.

- ➔ Market loans and loans from financial institutions are the main components of internal debt.

❑ Agriculture and Allied Sector

- ➔ According to provisional estimates released by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics for 2023–24, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries together accounted for 23.1 percent of GSVA. Within this, crop production contributed 11.5 percent and livestock contributed 8.1 percent.
- ➔ In 2023–24, rice, wheat, and maize together contributed 99.9 percent of total foodgrain production in Bihar. In 2024–25, rice accounted for 40.7 percent, wheat for 32.1 percent, and maize for 27.1 percent of total foodgrain production.
- ➔ Between 2023–24 and 2024–25, production of rice increased by 4.3 percent, wheat by 7.1 percent, and maize by 12.6 percent.
- ➔ Bihar is among the leading fruit and vegetable producing states in the country and is a major producer of litchi, makhana, and mushrooms. In 2023–24, total horticulture production in the state was estimated at about 230 lakh tonnes, which is higher than 206 lakh tonnes in 2019–20, with a major share coming from fruits and vegetables.
- ➔ Between 2023–24 and 2024–25, milk production increased by 4.2 percent, egg production by 10.0 percent, and fish production by 9.9 percent.
- ➔ The share of electricity consumption in agriculture increased significantly from 5.3 percent in 2020–21 to 14.9 percent in 2024–25.
- ➔ In 2024–25, the number of Kisan Credit Card holders increased by 16.3 percent compared to 2023–24, while total credit disbursed increased by 32.8 percent from ₹7,080.07 crore in 2023–24 to ₹9,399.24 crore in 2024–25.
- ➔ Total expenditure on irrigation in 2024–25 was ₹2,729.83 crore, of which 74.3 percent was capital expenditure. Between 2023–24 and 2024–25, total irrigation expenditure increased by 63.1 percent. This increase in public expenditure is reflected in the extensive expansion of major, medium, and minor irrigation projects.

❑ Enterprise Sector

- ➔ Bihar's secondary sector has experienced fluctuations over the past five years. After a sharp decline in 2020–21 due to the pandemic, it recovered in 2021–22 and recorded rapid growth in 2022–23, mainly driven by mining, utilities, and construction.
- ➔ In 2024–25, 37.8 lakh tourists visited 28 eco-tourism sites, which is 24.0 percent higher than the previous year. Total expenditure on eco-tourism and park development in 2024–25 was ₹100.00 crore.

❑ Human Development

- ➔ Over the past 19 years, expenditure on social services has increased rapidly, rising fivefold in the first

decade and 15-fold between 2005–06 and 2024–25. Expenditure on health and education increased by 14.8 times and 13.2 times respectively.

- ➔ Life expectancy at birth (LEB) in Bihar during 2019–2023 was 68.9 years for males and 69.7 years for females.
- ➔ It is also notable that between 2017 and 2023, the infant mortality rate (IMR) declined by 12 percentage points from 35 to 23.
- ➔ Significant progress has been made in reducing maternal mortality rate (MMR), which declined from 312 deaths per lakh live births in 2004–2006 by 208 points to 104 in 2021–2023. Under the Janani Suraksha Yojana, institutional deliveries increased from 15.77 lakh in 2020–21 to 16.17 lakh in 2024–25 (an increase of 2.54 percent).
- ➔ In 2024–25, total enrolment at the primary level was 159.22 lakh, including 80.87 lakh boys and 78.35 lakh girls. Total enrolment was 27.54 lakh at the secondary level and 20.33 lakh at the higher secondary level.

❑ Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management

- ➔ Between 2011–12 and 2024–25, Bihar's forestry and logging sector achieved a compound annual growth rate of 10.6 percent at current prices. The total value increased from ₹4,187 crore to ₹15,139 crore during this period.
- ➔ By 2024–25, this sector accounted for 7.0 percent of GSVA in agriculture and 2.0 percent of the state's total GSVA.
- ➔ Since 2011, Bihar's ecological footprint has expanded significantly. The total area under forest and tree cover increased by 689 sq km from 9,214 sq km to 9,903 sq km by 2023.
- ➔ The total forest area increased from 6,845 sq km to 7,532 sq km during this period. Notably, the area under very dense forests (VDF) increased significantly from 231 sq km to 387 sq km, indicating successful conservation within protected areas.
- ➔ Bihar's installed power capacity is 11,764 MW, with the major share coming from thermal power (7,743 MW). Solar energy is the largest renewable source with a contribution of 1,922 MW, followed by hydropower at 1,356 MW and wind energy at 699 MW.
- ➔ In 2024–25, the total budget allocation for the Urban Development and Housing Department was ₹5,274.9 crore and total expenditure was ₹3,613.8 crore, with a utilisation rate of 68.5 percent.
- ➔ The debt-to-GSDP ratio in Bihar increased steadily over the last five years from 30.9 percent in 2020–21 to 37.9 percent in 2024–25, indicating increased availability of credit in the state's economy.
- ➔ The percentage of non-performing assets (NPAs) in banks in Bihar declined significantly over the last five years from 11.8 percent in 2020–21 to 7.6 percent in 2024–25.

Short News

Current Notes

Brief Note on Persons in News, Places in News, Organisations / Institutions, Exercise and Operations, Awards, Important Days / Weeks, Books and Authors etc.



Persons in News

NATIONAL

○ Narendra Modi

- ➔ King Harald V of Norway conferred upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi the 'Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit' (highest honour) during his visit to Norway on May 18, 2026.

Awards to PM Narendra Modi			
Awards	Country	Date	Remarks
Royal Order of the Polar, Commander Grand Cross	Sweden	May 17, 2026	Sweden's highest honour conferred on foreign Heads of Government
'Speaker of the Knesset Medal'	Israel	February 25, 2026	Highest honour of the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament
Order of Oman (First Class)	Oman	December 18, 2025	Highest civilian honour of Oman
Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia	Ethiopia	December 16, 2025	Highest civilian honour of Ethiopia
Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis	Namibia	July 9, 2025	Highest civilian honour of Namibia
The Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross	Brazil	July 9, 2025	Highest national honour of Brazil
Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana	Ghana	July 2, 2025	National honour of Ghana
The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad & Tobago	July 4, 2025	Highest civilian honour of Trinidad & Tobago
Key of the City of Buenos Aires	Buenos Aires	July 6, 2025	—
Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III	Cyprus	June 16, 2025	Highest civilian honour of Cyprus

- ➔ Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has achieved a historic milestone in Indian politics by becoming the longest-serving head of an elected government in the country on March 22, 2026.
- ➔ He has now completed 8, 931 days (as of March 22, 2026) as head of government, combining his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat and as Prime Minister
- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India on June 10, 2026.

- ➔ He has surpassed the record of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who first took the oath as an elected Prime Minister on May 13, 1952 and served until May 27, 1964.
- ➔ From May 26, 2014 to June 10, 2026, Prime Minister Modi's continuous tenure is now 4099 days.

○ D.K. Shivakumar

- ➔ Senior Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar sworn in as the 25th Chief Minister of Karnataka on June 3, 2026.
- ➔ Additionally, senior Congress leader G. Parameshwara was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of the state.

○ Meenakshi Madan Rai

- ➔ Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai took the oath of office as the 48th Chief Justice of the Patna High Court on June 5, 2026.
- ➔ She was appointed for this post following the retirement of Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo on June 4, 2026.

○ Ajay Kochhar

- ➔ Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar assumed charge as the 48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS) on May, 2026.

○ Vineet McCarty

- ➔ Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty assumed charge as the 20th Commander-in-Chief, Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) at Sri Vijaya Puram on June 1, 2026.

○ Subhash C. Kashyap

- ➔ Former Lok Sabha Secretary General (1983-1990) and constitutional expert Subhash C. Kashyap passed away in New Delhi at the age of 97 on June 4, 2026.

○ Rajesh Kumar Singh

- ➔ Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh assumed additional charge as Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on May 31, 2026.

○ **Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan**

- ➔ Senior Congress leader and former minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan was elected as Speaker of the 16th Kerala Legislative Assembly on May 22, 2026.

○ **Ranjeet Kumar Dass**

- ➔ Former Assam BJP president Ranjeet Kumar Dass was elected Speaker of the Assam Assembly for a second term on May 21, 2026.

○ **Bharat Singh Chauhan**

- ➔ Re-elected unanimously and unopposed as Chairman of the Commonwealth Chess Association (CCA) for the term 2026–2030 in May 2026.

○ **Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri**

- ➔ Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri passed away at the age of 91 on May 19, 2026.

○ **Bashir Badr**

- ➔ Famous Urdu poet and literary figure Bashir Badr passed away at the age of 91 in Madhya Pradesh on May 28, 2026.
- ➔ He received the Padma Shri award in 1999 for his contribution towards literature and the Sangeet Natak Akademi. He also received the Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu for his poetry collection “Aas” in 1999.

○ **Randhir Singh**

- ➔ Five-time Olympian and former Indian shooter **Randhir Singh** passed away due to prolonged illness at the age of 79 on May 27, 2026.
- ➔ He became the first Indian shooter to win an Asian Games gold medal when he topped the podium at Bangkok 1978 in men's trap.

○ **Five New Judges of Supreme Court of India (Oath Date- June 2, 2026)**

1. Justice Sheel Nagu
 2. Justice Shree Chandrashekhar
 3. Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva
 4. Justice Arun Palli
 5. Senior Advocate V. Mohana
- ➔ With this, the strength of judges in the apex court increased from 34 to 38, including the Chief Justice of India.

○ **Dhiraj Seth**

- ➔ Assumed the appointment of the Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS) on April 1, 2026.

○ **Harivansh Narayan Singh**

- ➔ Elected unopposed as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for the third consecutive time on April 17, 2026.

○ **Anant Swarup**

- ➔ The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has appointed Mr. Anant Swarup as its Secretary-General, effective April 15, 2026.

○ **Dinesh Trivedi**

- ➔ Former Union Minister Dinesh Trivedi has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on April 27, 2026.

○ **Veer Vikram Yadav**

- ➔ Appointed by the Central Government as the new Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on March 31, 2026.

○ **Periasamy Kumaran**

- ➔ Assumed office as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom on May 14, 2026.

○ **Sayani Gupta**

- ➔ Bollywood actress Sayani Gupta has been named as the 2026 Person of the Year by the Harvard South Asian Association in April 2026.

○ **Vinay Tonse**

- ➔ Veteran banker Vinay Tonse has assumed charge as the managing director and chief executive officer of YES Bank for a 3-year term on April 6, 2026.

○ **Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti**

- ➔ Assumed charge as Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) with effect from March 18, 2026.

○ **Vikram K. Doraiswami**

- ➔ Assumed charge as the next Ambassador of India to the People's Republic of China on May 2, 2026.

○ **Nidhi Chhibber**

- ➔ Nidhi Chhibber has been assigned additional charge as Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog on February 24, 2026.

○ **K.V. Ramana Murthy**

- ➔ Appointed as a Whole-time Member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in March 2026.

○ **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**

- ➔ Appointed as the brand ambassador for the BHIM Payments App in March 2026.

○ **Ashok Kumar**

- ➔ Appointed as the new Chief Electoral Officer of Delhi on February 9, 2026.

○ **Yumanam Khemchand Singh**

- ➔ Bharatiya Janata Party leader Yumanam Khemchand Singh was sworn in as the chief minister of Manipur on February 4, 2026.

- ➔ Along with him, Kuki BJP MLA Nemcha Kipgen and Naga People's Front MLA Losii Dikho also sworn in as Deputy Chief Ministers of the state.

○ Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor

- ➔ On January 14, 2026, the Central Government appointed senior IPS officer Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor as the new Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

○ Praveen Kumar

- ➔ The Central Government appointed senior IPS officer Praveen Kumar as the new Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) on January 14, 2026.

○ Rakesh Aggarwal

- ➔ On January 14, 2026, the Central Government appointed senior IPS officer Rakesh Aggarwal as the new Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

○ Praveen Vashisth

- ➔ Took oath as a Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission on January 16, 2026.

○ Lav Aggarwal

- ➔ The Central Government appointed Lav Aggarwal as the new Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in December 2025.

○ Raj Kumar Goyal

- ➔ Assumed office as the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission on December 15, 2025.

○ Surya Kant

- ➔ Took oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India on November 24, 2025.
- ➔ He has succeeded Justice B.R. Gavai, who demitted office on November 23, 2025.
- ➔ Justice Surya Kant will have a tenure of around 15 months (until February 2027) as the Chief Justice of India.

○ Vikram Nath

- ➔ Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India, has been nominated as the new Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) with effect from November 24, 2025.

○ Sangeeta Baruah

- ➔ The Press Club of India (PCI) elected senior journalist Sangeeta Baruah of Assam (first woman) as its president on December 13, 2025.

○ Ram V. Sutar

- ➔ Ram Vanji Sutar, one of India's most prolific sculptors, passed away at the age of 100 in Noida on December 18, 2025.
- ➔ Popularly called the 'Statue Man', he designed over 50 large-scale public works projects over a career spanning seven decades, including the world's tallest statue, the Statue of Unity.

○ Ranjana Prakash Desai

- ➔ The Union Cabinet appointed Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai as the chairperson of the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) on October 28, 2025.

○ Prathiba M. Singh

- ➔ Justice Prathiba M. Singh, from the Delhi High Court, was appointed as chairperson of the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Advisory Board of Judges for the 2025–2027 term in October 2025.

○ Nirmal Kumar Minda

- ➔ Took over as new President of industry chamber Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) on October 17, 2025.

○ Vivek Menon

- ➔ Renowned wildlife conservationist Vivek Menon was elected as the new Chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) for the 2025–2029 term on October 15, 2025.
- ➔ He became the first Asian to lead this Commission.

○ Praveer Ranjan

- ➔ Assumed charge as Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on September 30, 2025.

○ Dr. Kanad Das

- ➔ Took charge as the 13th director of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) on September 25, 2025.
- ➔ He is the first mycologist to head the premier research institute under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

○ Rajit Punhani

- ➔ Took charge as Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on September 1, 2025.

○ Dr. Geetha Vani Rayasam

- ➔ Assumed charge as the new Director of CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) on September 9, 2025.

○ Sanjay Singhal

- ➔ Assumed charge as the 27th Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) on September 1, 2025.

○ **T.C.A. Kalyani**

- ➔ Assumed charge as the 29th Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance on September 1, 2025.

○ **Pandit Chhannulal Mishra**

- ➔ Pandit Chhannulal Mishra, a vocalist and towering figure in Hindustani classical music, passed away at the age of 89 on October 2, 2025.
- ➔ He was conferred with the Padma Vibhushan in 2020 and the Padma Bhushan in 2010.

○ **Rajarajan A**

- ➔ Assumed charge as the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre on August 1, 2025.
- ➔ He succeeded S. Unnikrishnan Nair, who superannuated on July 31, 2025.

○ **Shashi Prakash Goyal**

- ➔ Assumed charge as the new Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh on July 31, 2025.

○ **Anish Dayal Singh**

- ➔ Appointed as the new Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA), with a mandate to handle internal affairs, in August 2025.

○ **K.J. Patel**

- ➔ Appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) on July 31, 2025.

○ **Aastha Poonia**

- ➔ Became the first woman to be streamed into the Fighter stream of Naval Aviation.

○ **Sonali Mishra**

- ➔ Assumed charge as the first woman Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) on August 1, 2025.
- ➔ She will serve as DG-RPF until October 31, 2026.

○ **Professor Ashim Kumar Ghosh**

- ➔ Took oath as the 19th Governor of Haryana on July 21, 2025.

○ **Dinesh Maheshwari**

- ➔ Former Supreme Court judge, Justice Dinesh Maheshwari has been appointed as the Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India on April 15, 2025.

Appointments of Governors/Lieutenant Governors in different States and Union Territories (March 6, 2026) -		
State / UT	Name	Oath Date
Telangana	Shiv Pratap Shukla	March 11, 2026
West Bengal	R. N. Ravi	March 12, 2026
Himachal Pradesh	Kavinder Gupta	March 10, 2026
Nagaland	Nand Kishore Yadav	March 13, 2026
Bihar	Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain	March 14, 2026
Tamil Nadu (Additional Charge)	R. V. Arlekar	March 12, 2026
Delhi (NCT)	Taranjit Singh Sandhu	March 11, 2026
Ladakh	Vinai Kumar Saxena	March 13, 2026
Maharashtra	Jishnu Dev Verma	March 10, 2026

Recent Appointments (National)

- **Ashutosh Dixit:** Appointed as the next Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) in June 2026. He will assume office on July 1, 2026, succeeding Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor in this role.
- **Lokhande Prashant Sitaram:** Appointed as the new Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education on June 2, 2026.
- **Saurabh Vijay:** Assumed office as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the India AI Mission, Ministry of Electronics and IT on June 5, 2026.
- **Sanjay Khanna:** Took charge as Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) in April 2026.
- **Preeti Saran:** Veteran diplomat Preeti Saran has been re-elected to the prestigious UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) for a fresh four-year tenure starting 2027, in April 2026.
- **Sudarsan Pattnaik :** Appointed as the Brand Ambassador for Census 2027 by the Ministry of Home Affairs in March 2026.
- **Saba Shawl :** Became Kashmir's first woman Jail Superintendent at the Central Jail in Srinagar in March 2026.
- **Uday Kotak :** Appointed as the chairman of Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT) in February 2026. He succeeded the former bureaucrat and principal advisor to the Gujarat Chief Minister, Hasmukh Adhia.
- **Shantmanu :** Appointed as the State Election Commissioner of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in February 2026. His tenure in this post will be five years or up to the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

● Sunetra Pawar : Sunetra Pawar, wife of the deceased Nationalist Congress Party leader Ajit Pawar, took oath as the first woman Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra on January 31, 2026. ● S. Prakash : The General Insurance Council appointed S. Prakash as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Health Insurance Ecosystem and Strategic Partnerships in January 2026. ● Usha Janakiraman : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Usha Janakiraman as Executive Director (ED) on December 1, 2025. ● Shailesh Chandra : World automotive industry body, OICA (Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles), has appointed Shailesh Chandra as its new President effective November 1, 2025. ● Ravi Ranjan : The State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed Ravi Ranjan as its new Managing Director (MD), effective December 15, 2025. He will hold the post until his retirement in September 2028. ● Anant Goenka : Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) named RPG Group vice chairman Anant Goenka as its president-elect for 2025-26 on October 14, 2025. ● Brij Bhushan Agarwal : Brij Bhushan Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director of Shyam Metalics, was appointed as the new President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in October 2025. ● Shailesh Chandra : Appointed as MD and CEO of Tata Motors for a three-year term starting October 1, 2025.	● Pradeep Kumar Prajapati : Assumed charge as the Director of the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) , New Delhi on September 13, 2025. ● Kriti Sanon: The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) India announced the appointment of Kriti Sanon as its Honorary Ambassador for Gender Equality on September 1, 2025. ● Rajiv Ranjan: Appointed as the Vice-President and Chief Risk Officer of the New Development Bank (NDB) for a five-year term on August 23, 2025. ● Shahrukh Khan: Online food delivery platform Zomato has roped in Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan as its brand ambassador in August 2025. ● Ajay Seth: Took charge as the chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for a three year term on September 1, 2025. ● Sunil Jayawant Kadam: Took charge as Executive Director of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on July 1, 2025. ● Professor Uma Kanjilal: Appointed as the first Woman Vice Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in July 2025. ● Deepak Bagla: Assumed charge as the Mission Director of the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog on July 21, 2025. ● Rajiv Memani : Assumed office as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the 2025-26 term, on June 1, 2025. ● S. Mahendra Dev: Assumed charge as the Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) on June 7, 2025.
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Other Important Personalities (National)

● Anurag Garg: The Central Government has extended the tenure of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) chief Anurag Garg till July 2027 on May 22, 2026. His tenure was to end on May 23, 2026. ● Abhilasha Barak: Major Abhilasha Barak, Indian peacekeeper serving with the United Nations (UN) mission in Lebanon, was conferred the 2025 UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award in May 2026. With this recognition, Major Barak becomes the third Indian peacekeeper to receive the honour after Suman Gawani (awarded in 2019) for her service with the UN Mission in South Sudan, and Radhika Sen (awarded in 2023) .	● Divya Singh : Divya Singh, a 28-year-old teacher from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, has made history by becoming the first Indian woman and second woman globally to reach the Mount Everest Base Camp (EBC) on a bicycle in April 2026. ● Menaka Guruswamy : Menaka Guruswamy, senior Supreme Court advocate, has become India's first openly queer Member of Parliament (MP) in April 2026. She had played a key role in the 2018 Supreme Court ruling that decriminalised homosexuality. ● Rituparna Sengupta : Indian actress Rituparna Sengupta has been honoured with the Woman Empowerment Award for Art and Culture at the House of Commons, United Kingdom, on
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the occasion of International Women's Day in March 2026. ● Hansja Sharma : Captain Hansja Sharma, hails from Jammu & Kashmir, has created history by becoming the Indian Army's first woman pilot qualified to fly the Rudra Armed Helicopter in January 2026. ● Swathi Shantha Kumar : Indian Army's Major Swathi Shantha Kumar, has been awarded the UN Secretary-General's Award-2025 for her outstanding contribution to gender-inclusive peacekeeping in January 2026. ● Keerthy Suresh : UNICEF India has appointed National Award-winning actor Keerthy Suresh as a Celebrity Advocate on November 13, 2025. ● Raveena Tandon : Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon was named as the PETA India's 2025 person of the year on December 8, 2025. ● Bharath Thammineni : Bharath Thammineni, a 36-year-old mountaineer from Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, has created history by becoming the first Indian to summit all nine of the world's 14 highest peaks. He achieved this	milestone by reaching the summit of Cho Oyu (8, 188 metres) — the sixth-highest mountain in the world on October 14, 2025. ● Dr. Sonali Ghosh : Dr Sonali Ghosh, Field Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, has become the first Indian to receive the prestigious WCPA-Kenton Miller Award on October 10, 2025. ● Deepika Padukone : Renowned Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone has been appointed as the first-ever Mental Health Ambassador of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in October 2025. ● Kriti Sanon : The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) India announced the appointment of acclaimed actor, producer and entrepreneur Kriti Sanon as its Honorary Ambassador for Gender Equality on September 1, 2025. ● Alia Bhatt : Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt has been officially announced as a Global Brand Ambassador for Global denim giant Levi's in September 2025.
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Obituary (National)

● Suman Kalyanpur: Veteran singer Suman Kalyanpur passed away at the age of 89 on May 31, 2026. She remained active as a playback singer from 1954 to 1988, singing in multiple languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Bengali and Odia. ● K.N. Panikkar : Eminent historian, academic and public intellectual K.N. Panikkar passed away in Thiruvananthapuram on March 9, 2026. ● Prof. Hermann Kulke : Eminent historian and Indologist, Prof Hermann Kulke, considered the foremost global voice of Odisha's culture and history, passed away on March 10, 2026. ● Asha Bhosle : Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle passed away at the age of 92 in Mumbai on April 12, 2026. Bhosle, who recorded more than 12, 000 songs in over 20 Indian and foreign languages, is widely considered one of the most versatile voices in Indian music. She was the younger sister of the iconic singer Lata Mangeshkar. ● Vijaypat Singhania : Former Raymond chairman Vijaypat Singhania passed away at the age of 87 in Mumbai on March 28, 2026. ● Mani Shankar Mukherjee : Renowned Bengali literary figure Mani Shankar Mukherjee passed away at the age of 92 on February 20, 2026. He was widely known by his pen name 'Sankar'.	● Geeta Patnaik : Passed away at the age of 68 on February 15, 2026. She was one of the most distinguished playback singers in the Odia music world. ● Ajit Pawar : Veteran Indian politician and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar passed away on January 28, 2026. He died in an aircraft accident in Baramati. He was the longest-serving Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra. ● Gyanranjan : Renowned Hindi writer Gyanranjan passed away at the age of 90 on January 7, 2026. He was also the editor of the well-known Hindi magazine Pahar. ● Swaraj Kaushal : Former Mizoram Governor (1990) and senior advocate Swaraj Kaushal passed away at the age of 73 on December 4, 2025. ● Dharmendra : Veteran actor Dharmendra Kewal Krishan Deol, affectionately known as Dharmendra, passed away in Mumbai at the age of 89 on November 24, 2025. He was affectionately known as Bollywood's He-Man and was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2012. His final screen presence was noted in the movie 'IKKIS' (2025). ● Kamini Kaushal : Kamini Kaushal, one of Hindi cinema's earliest and most celebrated female stars, passed away at the age of 98 on November 13, 2025. Her final screen appearance
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came in Aamir Khan's Laal Singh Chaddha (2022), where she appeared at the age of 95. ● Andre Sri : Renowned poet and lyricist Andre Sri passed away at the age of 64 in Hyderabad on November 10, 2025. He was the author of the iconic Telangana State song "Jaya Jayahe Telangana". ● Govardhan Asrani : Veteran actor Govardhan Asrani passed away in Mumbai at the age of 84 on October 20, 2025. ● Pankaj Dheer : Television star Pankaj Dheer passed away at the age of 68 following a battle with cancer on October 15, 2025. He was known for playing the role of Karna in B.R. Chopra's	"Mahabharat". ● Rao Balasaraswati : Veteran actress and singer, passed away at the age of 97 on October 15, 2025. She is considered as the first playback singer in Telugu cinema. She also has the distinction for being the first 'light music' singer on All India Radio. ● Piyush Pandey : Piyush Pandey, known as the Father of Indian advertising, passed away in Mumbai on October 24, 2025. ● Shibu Soren : Former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shibu Soren, passed away at the age of 81 on August 4, 2025. He was also known as Dishom Guru.
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INTERNATIONAL

○ Han Seong-sook

- ➔ South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has nominated Han Seong-sook as the country's next Prime Minister in June 2026.
- ➔ If approved by the National Assembly, Han would become the first female Prime Minister under the Lee administration.

○ Mette Frederiksen

- ➔ Assumed office as the Prime Minister of Denmark for a remarkable third consecutive term on June 3, 2026.

○ Khalilur Rahman

- ➔ Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman was elected President of the United Nations General Assembly's 81st session on **June 2, 2026**.

○ Janez Janša

- ➔ Janez Janša, Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) leader, was elected as the Prime Minister of Slovenia for his fourth term in May 2026.

○ Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo

- ➔ **Senegal's** President Bassirou Diomaye Faye appointed Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo as the African nation's new prime minister on May 26, 2026.

○ Min Aung Hlaing

- ➔ Sworn in as the elected President of Myanmar on April 10, 2026.
- ➔ He has led the country with strict military control since taking power from Aung San Suu Kyi's government in 2021.

○ Uchral Nyam-Osor

- ➔ Elected as Mongolia's new prime minister in March 2026, becoming the country's third leader in nine months as political instability and economic pressures intensify.

○ Ismail Omar Guelleh

- ➔ Djibouti President; re-elected for a sixth term, winning 97.81 per cent of the vote in presidential election held on April 10, 2026.

○ Rumen Radev

- ➔ Former president of Bulgaria; elected as the Prime Minister of Bulgaria on May 8, 2026.

○ Péter Magyar

- ➔ Leader of the center-right opposition Tisza party; sworn in as the Prime Minister of Hungary on May 9, 2026.

○ Nizar Amedi

- ➔ The Iraqi parliament elected Kurdish politician Nizar Amedi as the country's new president on April 11, 2026, following parliamentary elections held in November 2025.

○ To Lam

- ➔ Vietnam's Communist Party's Secretary General To Lam was unanimously elected by parliament as the country's president for a five-year term in April 2026.

○ Susan Coyle

- ➔ Australian government has announced the appointment of Lieutenant General Susan Coyle as the first woman to lead its Army in April 2026.
- ➔ She will become Chief of Army in July 2026.

○ John Ternus

- ➔ John Ternus was named the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Apple Inc. in April 2026.
- ➔ He will become Apple's next chief executive officer effective on September 1, 2026, replacing Tim Cook in this post.

○ Roman Gofman

- ➔ Israel has approved the appointment of Roman Gofman as the new Mossad intelligence agency head in April 2026.

○ **Romuald Wadagni**

- ➔ Benin's Finance Minister Romuald Wadagni has won the presidential election with 94.05 percent of the vote according to preliminary results released by the Autonomous National Electoral Commission in April 2026.

○ **Hafiz Uddin Ahmed**

- ➔ Senior BNP parliamentarian Major (Retd.) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, Bir Bikrom was elected as the Speaker of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad of Bangladesh on March 12, 2026.

○ **José Antonio Kast Rist**

- ➔ Assumed office as the 38th President of Chile on March 11, 2026.

○ **Rob Jetten**

- ➔ Sworn in as the **Prime Minister of the Netherlands in February 2026.**
- ➔ Jetten becomes the youngest-ever and first openly gay prime minister in the Netherlands.

○ **Shaya Mohsen Al-Zindani**

- ➔ Yemen's Saudi-backed government has appointed Foreign Minister Shaya Mohsen Zindani as the new prime minister of Yemen in January 2026.

○ **Yoweri Museveni**

- ➔ Sworn in for a historic seventh term as President of Uganda on May 13, 2026

○ **Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani**

- ➔ The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has officially elected Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar as its new President during the 46th OCA General Assembly held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on January 26, 2026.

○ **Sunita Williams**

- ➔ NASA has announced the retirement of Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams from the space agency after 27 years of remarkable service in January 2026.
- ➔ Her retirement is effective from the 27th of December 2025.
- ➔ Williams completed three missions aboard the International Space Station, setting numerous human spaceflight records throughout her career.
- ➔ Williams logged 608 days in space — second on the list of cumulative time in space by a NASA astronaut.

○ **Dina Powell McCormick**

- ➔ **Meta has announced the appointment of** Dina Powell McCormick as President and Vice Chairman on January 12, 2026.

○ **Andrej Babis**

- ➔ Sworn in as the Czech Republic's new Prime Minister on December 9, 2025, following October's parliamentary election.
- ➔ At 71, he is now the oldest person to lead a Czech or Czechoslovak government.

○ **Asim Munir**

- ➔ Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has approved the appointment of Field Marshal Asim Munir as the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), a newly created position in December 2025.
- ➔ Munir will serve in this role for a period of five years.

○ **Lucas Philippe**

- ➔ Elected as the new President of the INTERPOL General Assembly on November 27, 2025.
- ➔ He succeeded Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi from the UAE in this role.

○ **Fatima Bosch**

- ➔ Miss Mexico Fatima Bosch won the title of the 74th edition of Miss Universe 2025 in Thailand on November 21, 2025.

○ **Samia Suluhu Hassan**

- ➔ Sworn in for a second term as the President of Tanzania on November 3, 2025.

○ **Paul Biya**

- ➔ Sworn in as the President of Cameroon for an eighth term on November 6, 2025.

○ **Catherine Connolly**

- ➔ Independent left-wing politician Ms. Catherine Connolly has been elected as the 10th President of Ireland after a landslide victory in October 2025.

○ **Rodrigo Paz Pereira**

- ➔ Rodrigo Paz Pereira, a centrist senator sworn in as Bolivians new president for five year term in November, 2025.

○ **Patrick Herminie**

- ➔ Seychelles opposition leader, Dr. Patrick Herminie sworn in as the sixth President of Seychelles on October 26, 2026.

○ **Ruphin Fortunat Zafisambo**

- ➔ Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina has named army general Ruphin Fortunat Zafisambo as the new prime minister of the country on October 6, 2025.

○ **Sanae Takaichi**

- ➔ Sanae Takaichi was designated as Japan's 105th Prime Minister on February 18, 2026.
- ➔ Ms. Takaichi has become Japan's first female Prime Minister.

○ **Khaled Ahmed El-Enany Ali Ezz**

- ➔ Khaled Ahmed El-Enany Ali Ezz an Egyptologist, was elected as the 12th Director – General of UNESCO, during the General Conference of UNESCO, held in Samarkand on November 6, 2025.
- ➔ He is the first Director-General from an Arab country, and the second from Africa to hold this position since Amadou Mahtar Mbow (1974-1987) from Senegal.

○ **Anutin Charnvirakul**

- ➔ Thailand's parliament re-elected Anutin Charnvirakul as the country's prime minister in March, 2026.

○ **Sabita Bhandari**

- ➔ Appointed as the new Attorney General of Nepal in September 2025.
- ➔ She is the first woman to be appointed the Attorney General of the Himalayan nation.

○ **Sébastien Lecornu**

- ➔ President Emmanuel Macron named Sébastien Lecornu as the new French Prime Minister on September 9, 2025.

○ **Mohamed Irfaan Ali**

- ➔ **Mohamed Irfaan Ali** sworn in as the President of Guyana for a second term in September 2025.

○ **Kokichi Akuzawa**

- ➔ **Japanese man Kokichi Akuzawa** has become the oldest person to climb to the top of Mount Fuji summit at the age of 102 in September 2025.
- ➔ His achievement has been recognised by Guinness World Records.

○ **Inga Ruginiene**

- ➔ The Lithuanian parliament approved the appointment of Social Democrat Inga Ruginiene as Lithuania's new Prime Minister on August 26, 2025.

○ **Zou Jiayi**

- ➔ Assumed office as the President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on June 23, 2025.

○ **Jennifer Geerlings-Simons**

- ➔ Assumed office as the first female president of Suriname on July 16, 2025.

Other Important Personalities (International)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carlos Alcaraz : Infosys has named tennis star Carlos Alcaraz as its global brand ambassador in a multi-year partnership in April 2026. ● Antonio Costa, Ursula von der Leyen : President of the European Council Mr Antonio Costa and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen were | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Chief Guests for the 77th Republic Day Parade (RDP) 2026, organized on January 26, 2026. ● Rishi Sunak : Former British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has joined U.S. tech giant Microsoft and AI startup Anthropic as a senior adviser in October 2025. |
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Obituary (International)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sonny Rollins: Sonny Rollins, one of the greatest jazz saxophonists of all time, has died aged 95 on May 24, 2026. ● Mal Anderson: Australian tennis great Mal Anderson, a major champion and central figure in one of the sport's most successful era, passed away at the age of 91 on May 10, 2026. ● Chandrikapersad Santokhi: Chandrikapersad Santokhi, former President of Suriname (2020-25), passed away at the age of 67 on March 30, 2026. ● Robert Duvall : Famous American actor, filmmaker, and producer Robert Duvall passed away at the age of 95 on February 15, 2026. He won the Academy Award (Oscar) for Best Actor for his role in the 1983 film Tender Mercies. ● David J. Farber : David J. Farber, widely known as the "Grandfather of the Internet," passed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> away at the age of 91 in Tokyo on February 7, 2026. ● Ayatollah Ali Khamenei : Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed following a major attack by Israel and the United States in Iran in February 2026. Khamenei served as Supreme Leader of Iran from 1989 until his death in 2026. ● Lee Soon-jae : Lee Soon-jae, one of South Korea's most beloved actors, passed away at the age of 91 on November 25, 2025. ● Farida Parveen : Bangladeshi legendary folk singer and cultural figure Farida Parveen passed away at the age of 71 on September 13, 2025. She was widely known as the "Queen of Lalon Geeti". ● Bob Simpson: Bob Simpson, a former player, captain and coach and one of the most influential figures in Australian cricket, passed away at the age of 89 on August 16, 2025. |
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Places in News

NATIONAL

○ Lucknow

- ➔ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the new Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) at Lucknow along with the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath on June 8, 2026.
- ➔ It is India's 8th Regional Meteorological Centre.

○ West Bengal

- ➔ West Bengal has become the 36th State and Union Territory in the country to implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana on June 8, 2026.

○ Jammu

- ➔ Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the new Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) at Jammu on June 5, 2026.

○ New Delhi

- ➔ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, along with Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, on June 5, 2026, inaugurated eighteen Namo Oxygen Parks in New Delhi on the occasion of World Environment Day.

○ Chumur

- ➔ Ladakh Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, laid the foundation stone for the first Model Border Village at Chumur under the Government of India's ambitious Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) on June 2, 2026.

○ Bhopal

- ➔ India's first "Algae Tree," a revolutionary carbon-capturing technology designed to combat air pollution, was inaugurated in Bhopal's Swami Vivekananda Park on May 1, 2026.

○ Guwahati

- ➔ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated India's first AI-powered "phygital" banking branch of Slice Small Finance Bank at GS Road in Guwahati on May 16, 2026.

○ Bhojtal

- ➔ The Indian Navy inaugurated its premier Naval Sailing Node at **Upper Lake, widely known as Bhojtal, in Bhopal on May 17, 2026.**

○ Kerala

- ➔ The Kerala government has created a dedicated Artificial Intelligence (AI) portfolio, becoming the

first Indian state to elevate AI to a dedicated, independent ministry in May 2026.

- ➔ The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for alteration of name of the State of 'Kerala' as 'Keralam' on February 24, 2026.

○ Surat

- ➔ Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari announced the launch of India's first Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) barrier-less tolling system at the Chorayasi Toll Plaza on the Surat-Bharuch section of NH-48 in Gujarat in May 2026.

○ Bhubaneswar

- ➔ Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi and Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw laid the foundation stone for India's first advanced 3D chip packaging unit at Info Valley, Bhubaneswar in Odisha on April 19, 2026.

○ Mandya

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira at the Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math in Mandya district of Karnataka on April 15, 2026.

○ Telangana

- ➔ Telangana has been declared Naxal-free following the surrender of 42 cadres in April 2026.
- ➔ As per Telangana's DGP's statement a total of 761 Maoists have surrendered to Telangana Police between 2024 and 2026, along with 302 firearms.

○ Tripura

- ➔ Three panchayats of Tripura have won top honours in the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025 and Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025 on June 3, 2026.
- ➔ Sepahijala district has been ranked the best District Panchayat in the country.

○ Gandhinagar

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on March 31, 2026, inaugurated the Samrat Samprati Sangrahalay, Jain Heritage Museum at Koba Tirth in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on the auspicious occasion of Bhagwan Mahavir Jayanti.

○ Chandigarh

- ➔ Chandigarh has achieved a significant milestone by becoming India's fully literate Union Territory in March 2026. It has achieved a remarkable 99.93% literacy rate and is the sixth State/UT in the country and the second Union Territory after Ladakh to achieve the feat.

○ Gurugram

- ➔ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has launched the country's first 'LPG ATM' (gas vending machine) in Gurugram, Haryana in March 2026.

○ Bihar

- ➔ Bihar has been declared free of Naxal activities in February 2026.

○ Bela Gram

- ➔ Bela Gram in the Bhandara district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, emerged as the state's first net-zero village through panchayat leadership in February 2026.
- ➔ In 2024, the Bela Gram Panchayat won the first prize in the Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar under the Rashtriya Panchayat Puraskar 2024.

○ Gandhinagar

- ➔ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah unveiled the equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj constructed by Maharashtra Samaj Gandhinagar in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on February 17, 2026.

○ Mathura

- ➔ The country's first national 'cow culture' museum was announced to be established on Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University campus in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh in February 2026.
- ➔ It will be established on the initiative of the Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad.

○ Chandigarh

- ➔ The 29th Divya Kala Mela 2026 was held in Chandigarh from February 13–21, 2026.
- ➔ It was organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

○ Jagdalpur

- ➔ President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Bastar Pandum 2026 at Jagdalpur, the divisional headquarters of Bastar, Chhattisgarh on February 7, 2026.
- ➔ The festival was held from February 7 to 9, 2026.

○ Ajmer

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign for 14-year-old girls from Ajmer, Rajasthan, marking a historic milestone in India's fight against cervical cancer on February 28, 2026.

○ Greater Noida

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid the foundation stone of the HCL-Foxconn Joint Venture project – India Chip Pvt. Ltd. in the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority at Jewar in Greater Noida of Uttar Pradesh on February 21, 2026.

○ Pakyong Airport

- ➔ The Sikkim Legislative Assembly on March 26, 2026 adopted a government resolution to rename Pakyong Airport as Trilochan Pokhrel Airport.

○ Maharashtra

- ➔ Maharashtra has become the first state in India to launch dedicated Menopause Clinics across government hospitals and urban healthcare centres in January 2026.

○ Visakhapatnam Railway Station

- ➔ Indian Railways has introduced a humanoid robot named "ASC ARJUN" at Visakhapatnam Railway Station in January 2026.

○ Lucknow

- ➔ Lucknow has inaugurated its third fresh waste processing facility at Shivari Plant in January 2026.
- ➔ With this, it became the first city in Uttar Pradesh to achieve 100% scientific processing of municipal solid waste—officially earning the distinction of a 'zero fresh waste dump' city.

○ Ahmedabad

- ➔ Indian Railways has successfully operationalised the nation's first-ever LNG-Diesel dual-fuel DEMU train at Sabarmati in Ahmedabad in January 2026.
- ➔ Under this initiative, the driving power cars of the 1,400 HP DEMU train have been converted to a dual-fuel system, utilising Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

○ Andaman Sea

- ➔ Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched India's first-ever open-sea Marine Fish Farming project from the Andaman Sea on January 18, 2026.

○ Mizoram

- ➔ Mizoram was recognized and declared as the 'Ginger Capital of India' by the NITI Aayog in December 2025.

○ Varanasi

- ➔ Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the commercial operation of the country's first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel at Namo Ghat in Varanasi on December 11, 2025.

○ Guwahati

- ➔ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated a riverine terminal, said to be the first of its kind in India on the Brahmaputra in Guwahati on November 7, 2025.
- ➔ The Gateway of Guwahati, Terminal and Jetty which she inaugurated, is a functional floating terminal constructed at a cost of Rs. 304.95 crore by the Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society.

○ Greater Noida

- ➔ Union Minister of Power Manohar Lal Khattar, inaugurated India's largest and first MWh-scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) system of 3 MWh capacity during his visit to NTPC NETRA at Greater Noida on November 11, 2025.

○ Madhya Pradesh

- ➔ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has declared the state free from Naxalism, following the surrender of two Maoists in Balaghat district on December 11, 2025.

○ Indira Gandhi International Airport

- ➔ Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in New Delhi has become the first airport to achieve 'water-positive' status in the country with a capacity of more than 40 million passengers per annum in December, 2025.

○ Odisha

- ➔ Odisha's Sunapur and Puri beaches have again earned the prestigious International Blue Flag Certification for 2025-26 in November, 2025.

○ Goa

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 77 foot bronze statue of Lord Ram at Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in Goa on November 28, 2025.

○ Omkareshwar Sanctuary

- ➔ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav announced the establishment of the Omkareshwar Sanctuary as the 27th sanctuary of the state on November 1, 2025.

○ Raipur

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial-cum-Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on November 1, 2025.

○ Lucknow

- ➔ Lucknow has officially been declared a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy during the 43rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference in Samarkand on October 31, 2025.
- ➔ It is the second Indian city to win the title after Hyderabad.

○ Aurangabad Railway Station

- ➔ The South Central Railway announced the renaming of the Aurangabad Railway Station in Maharashtra as the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Railway Station on October 25, 2025.

○ Sonipat

- ➔ Union Minister for Roads, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first commercial

electric truck battery swapping and charging station at the Delhi International Cargo Terminal Private Limited (DICT) in Panchi Gujran village on the GT Road near Ganaur in Sonipat on October 8, 2025.

○ Chennai

- ➔ Chennai has become the first city in India to launch a fully operational Real time Flood Forecasting and Spatial Decision Support System (RTFF & SDSS) in October 2025.

○ Visakhapatnam

- ➔ Google has announced the establishment of the first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hub in India in Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh in October 2025.
- ➔ This investment of approximately USD 15 billion over five years (2026–2030) marks Google's largest investment in India to date.

○ Ayodhya

- ➔ Ayodhya celebrated Deepotsav 2025 by illuminating the city with 26,17,215 lamps, marking the 9th edition of the festival on October 19, 2025.

○ Lucknow

- ➔ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on October 18, 2025, jointly flagged off the first batch of BrahMos missiles manufactured at the BrahMos Integration and Testing Facility Centre in Lucknow.

○ Kondareddypally

- ➔ Kondareddypally village in Telangana has become South India's first fully solar-powered village and India's second such village as of September 2025.

○ Chandigarh

- ➔ Chandigarh has become India's first slum-free city after the demolition of its last slum, Shahpur Colony on September 30, 2025.

○ Balod

- ➔ The Chhattisgarh government has claimed that Balod in the state has become the first child marriage-free district in the country in September 2025.

○ Hyderabad

- ➔ The celebrations of Bathukamma Festival 2025 in Hyderabad, Telangana, organised by the state government, have set two new Guinness World Records in September 2025.
- ➔ The two Guinness World Records were for its tallest Bathukamma floral decoration consisting of about seven tonnes of flowers and of 63.11 feet high, with a diameter of 11 meters. The second record for the highly synchronised performance by a large number of women said to be 1354.

○ Tirupati

- ➔ On September 25, 2025, Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated India's first AI-powered Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC) for pilgrims at the Vaikuntham Queue Complex, Tirumala, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh on September 25, 2025.

○ Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve

- ➔ The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in Himachal Pradesh has been inducted into the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) in September 2025.
- ➔ This is India's first high-altitude cold desert biosphere reserve and one of the coldest and driest ecosystems in UNESCO's WNBR.

○ Ahilyanagar

- ➔ The Ahmednagar railway station in Ahilyanagar (formerly Ahmednagar) district of Maharashtra has been renamed as Ahilyanagar, honouring the legacy of Lokmata Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar in September 2025.

○ Dhordo

- ➔ Dhordo village in Kutch district of Gujarat became the fourth solar village of the state in September 2025.
- ➔ With this milestone, Dhordo joins Modhera in Mehsana, Sukhi in Kheda, and Masali in Banaskantha as the fourth solar village of Gujarat.

○ Patna

- ➔ The then Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Science City at Rajendra Nagar in Patna, Bihar on September 21, 2025.

○ Udaipur , Indore

- ➔ Udaipur and Indore have officially received its certificates for being recognised Wetland Cities under the Ramsar Convention on September, 2025.
- ➔ It is noted that both cities have become the first two Indian cities to make it to the global list of accredited wetland cities under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in January 2025.

○ Dugong Conservation Reserve

- ➔ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has formally adopted a motion recognising India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu in September 2025.
- ➔ Established on September 21, 2022, the Dugong Conservation Reserve covers 448.34 square kilometres in northern Palk Bay.

○ Assam

- ➔ India's first vulture conservation knowledge portal was launched in Assam on September 2, 2025.

- ➔ It was launched by We Foundation India in collaboration with Gauhati University's Department of Zoology.

○ Rajgir

- ➔ The newly constructed Royal Bhutan Buddhist Temple at Rajgir in Bihar, was inaugurated on September 4, 2025.
- ➔ The temple was inaugurated in accordance with Bhutanese tradition by the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Tshering Tobgay, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju and representatives of both countries.

○ Nagpur

- ➔ Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered Anganwadi center in Waddhamna village, Nagpur district, Maharashtra on July 27, 2025.
- ➔ This center has been established under the 'Mission Bal Bharari' scheme.

○ Bihar

- ➔ The Bihar cabinet approved the formation of Bihar Rajya Safai Karmachari Aayog in the state on July 29, 2025.
- ➔ It will consist of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and five other members.

○ Hyderabad

- ➔ Union Minister of State for Science & Technology Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first-of-its-kind state-of-the-art Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Animal Stem Cell Laboratory at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad on August 9, 2025.

○ Sindhudurg

- ➔ Maharashtra has unveiled its first glass skywalk over the Napne Waterfall in the Sindhudurg district in July 2025.

○ Gomti Nagar Railway Station

- ➔ Lucknow's Gomti Nagar Railway Station became the first railway station in Uttar Pradesh to be managed privately in July 2025.

○ Mumbai

- ➔ Union Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated **Mauli – India's First All-Women Clean Street Food Hub** in Mumbai on August 17, 2025.

○ Sonapur, Assam

- ➔ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated India's first water technology park named 'Aqua Tech Park' at Bagibari in Sonapur on July 12, 2025.

○ Yakten

- ➔ Yakten, a village in Sikkim's Pakyong district, was officially inaugurated as India's first digital nomad village on July 14, 2025.
- ➔ The 'Nomad Sikkim' is a joint initiative of the Pakyong district administration and Sarvahitey NGO to develop a digital nomad hub for working professionals.

○ Arthunkal Police Station

- ➔ Arthunkal Police Station, located in Alappuzha District, Kerala, has become the first police station in India to receive the prestigious IS/ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) certification from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in June, 2025.

○ Anamalai Tiger Reserve

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government has announced the establishment of India's first Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) in Coimbatore district in July 2025.

○ Nizamabad

- ➔ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated the headquarters of the National Turmeric Board in Nizamabad, Telangana on June 29, 2025.

INTERNATIONAL

○ Cambodia

- ➔ NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has officially partnered with ACLEDA Bank Plc. to launch Unified Payments Interface (UPI) acceptance in Cambodia in June 2026.
- ➔ With Cambodia joining the network, UPI is now accepted in nine countries worldwide.
- ➔ Earlier, Qatar has officially launched India's UPI.
- ➔ The other countries are – Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka & UAE.

○ Seattle

- ➔ The first-ever life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda in the U.S. was unveiled in Seattle by Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson and Consul General of India in Seattle Prakash Gupta on April 11, 2026.

○ Bangladesh

- ➔ Bangladesh has begun loading uranium fuel into its first nuclear power station in April, 2026.
- ➔ With the start of fuel loading, Bangladesh is set to become the world's 33rd country to generate electricity using nuclear energy.

○ Argentina

- ➔ Argentina has formally notified withdrawn from the World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2026.
- ➔ The Argentine government had first announced its intention to withdraw from the WHO in February 2025.

○ China

- ➔ The world's largest compressed-air energy storage plant, with a capacity of 2.4 GWh, has started operating in Jiangsu province in central China in January 2026.
- ➔ The plant consists of two 300-megawatt non-fuel storage units with a total storage capacity of 2,400 megawatt-hours, which will meet the annual demand of around 6 lakh households.

○ Japan

- ➔ Japan has restarted a reactor at the world's largest Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant in January 2026.

○ Paris

- ➔ A bust of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was unveiled at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on the occasion of Constitution Day, on November 26, 2025.

○ Australia

- ➔ Australia became the first country to ban social media for children under-16, from December 10, 2025.

○ Riyadh

- ➔ The Guinness World Records has officially certified Riyadh Metro in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as the world's longest driverless metro network at 176 kilometers, on January 30, 2025.

○ Uruguay

- ➔ Uruguay legalized euthanasia on October 15, 2025, becoming the first country in Latin America to pass a law that allows terminally ill people to opt for assisted death.

○ California

- ➔ California has become the third US state to designate Diwali as an official state holiday in October, 2025.
- ➔ It is noted that in October 2024, Pennsylvania became the first state to officially recognize Diwali as a state holiday, followed by Connecticut in 2025.

○ Fiji

- ➔ Fiji has launched its first-ever National Child Safeguarding Policy, setting a new national benchmark for child safety across all sectors of society, in October, 2025.

○ Maldives

- ➔ The Maldives has become the first country in the world to impose a “generational” ban on smoking, preventing individuals born on or after January 1, 2007 from purchasing, using or selling tobacco in all its forms.
- ➔ The ban took effect in Maldives on November 1, 2025.

○ Albania

- ➔ Albania has appointed the world’s first Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated government minister with a goal to make the nation corruption-free in September 2025.
- ➔ The digital assistant is named ‘Diella meaning ‘Sun’ and has been given responsibility for taking all decisions related to the public tenders, making them 100 per cent corruption-free.

○ Morocco

- ➔ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Moroccan counterpart, Abdelatif Loudyi, inaugurated Tata Advanced Systems Limited’s (TASL) defence manufacturing facility in Berrechid, Morocco, on September 23, 2025.

○ Australia

- ➔ Australia approved the world-first vaccine to protect koalas from chlamydia infections in September 2025.
- ➔ The single-dose vaccine was developed by the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

○ Abu Dhabi

- ➔ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated India’s first overseas Atal Incubation Centre at the IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi campus during his two-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates on September 10, 2025.

○ Nepal

- ➔ The World Health Organization announced that Nepal has eliminated rubella as a public health problem on August 18, 2025.

○ Suriname

- ➔ Suriname became the first country in the Amazon region to receive malaria-free certification from the World Health Organization (WHO) on June 30, 2025.

○ Madagascar, Egypt and Libya

- ➔ The UNESCO World Heritage Committee decided to remove three properties located in Madagascar, Egypt and Libya from the List of World Heritage in Danger in July 2025.
- ➔ These three sites are - Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar), Abu Mena (Egypt) and Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya).

Awards & Honours

NATIONAL

○ Sansad Ratna Awards

- ➔ 12 Members of Parliament and four parliamentary Committees have been selected for the Sansad Ratna Awards.
- ➔ The awards were announced by the **Prime Point Foundation**, a private organisation.
- ➔ Important MPs selected include **Jagdambika Pal, P.P. Chaudhary, Nishikant Dubey, and Shrikant Eknath Shinde**.

○ National Panchayat Awards 2025

- ➔ The **National Panchayat Awards 2025** were announced by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- ➔ A total of **42 Panchayats** from **17 States and Union Territories** were selected.
- ➔ The award ceremony was held on **3 June 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- ➔ **Karnataka** won the highest number of awards with **6 awards**.
- ➔ **Andhra Pradesh** and **Odisha** won **5 awards each**.

Important Best Overall Panchayat Awards	Winner	State	Prize
Best District Panchayat – Rank 1	Sepahijala	Tripura	₹5 crore
Best District Panchayat – Rank 2	Ganjam	Odisha	₹3 crore
Best District Panchayat – Rank 3	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	₹2 crore
Best Block Panchayat – Rank 1	Harippad, Alappuzha	Kerala	₹2 crore
Best Gram Panchayat – Rank 1	New Napam, Sonitpur	Assam	₹1.5 crore

- ➔ The **first prize for best-performing Gram Panchayats** under thematic categories is **₹1 crore**.
- ➔ The **top District Panchayat** receives up to **₹5 crore**.

○ Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)

- ➔ Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) has received a Guinness World Records title.
- ➔ MY Bharat is the flagship youth engagement platform of the Department of Youth Affairs.
- ➔ It created the record for **“Most Users to Take an Online Quiz in One Week.”**

○ National Awards for e-Governance 2026

- ➔ The Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) won the Gold Award at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026.

- ➔ PAI is a flagship data-driven governance initiative of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.

○ Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards

- ➔ Around **51 artistes** were honoured with **Sangeet Natak Akademi awards**.
- ➔ Artistes selected for the years **2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024** were felicitated.

Year	Safdar Hashmi Award	BM Shah Award
2021	Manoj Kumar Mishra, Rewa	Satish Anand, Delhi
2022	Rajesh Singh, New Delhi	Kamal Jain, Bhopal
2023	Ajay Kumar, Ghaziabad	Ravishankar Khare, Gorakhpur
2024	Shubhdeep Raha, Lucknow	Sanjay Mehta, Bhopal

○ Sahitya Akademi Award 2025

- ➔ Sahitya Akademi announced its annual **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025** on **March 16, 2026**. The awards were announced for **24 Indian languages** recognised by the Akademi.

Complete List of Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Winners		
Language	Title and Genre	Author
Assamese	Karhi Khelar Sadhu — Novel	Devabrat Das
Bengali	Shrestha Kabita — Poetry	Prasun Bandyopadhyay
Bodo	Dwngnwi Lama Mwnse Gathwn — Novel	Sahaisuli Brahma
Dogri	Thakur Satsayie — Poetry/Couplets	Khajur Singh Thakur
English	Crimson Spring — Novel	Navtej Sarna
Gujarati	Bhattkhadaki — Poetry	Yogesh Vaidya
Hindi	Jeete Jee Allahabad — Memoir	Mamta Kalra
Kannada	Dada Seerisu Tande — Short Stories	Amaresh Nugadoni
Kashmiri	Najdavanek'y Pot Aalav — Poetry	Ali Shaida
Konkani	Konkani Kavyem: Rupani Ani Rupakam — Essays	Henry Mendonca / H.M. Pernal
Maithili	Dhatri Paat San Gaam — Memoir	Mahendra
Malayalam	Maayamanushyar — Novel	N. Prabhakaran
Manipuri	Kanglamdriba Eephut — Short Stories	Haobam Nalini
Marathi	Kalyanilya Resha — Autobiography	Raju Baviskar

Nepali	Nepali Paramparik Sanskriti Ra Sabhyata Ko Dukuti — Essays	Prakash Bhattarai
Odia	Padapurana — Poetry	Girijakumar Baliyar Singh
Punjabi	Safety Kit — Stories	Jinder
Rajasthani	Bharkhama — Stories	Jitender Kumar Soni
Sanskrit	Prasthanacatustaye Brahmaghosah — Poetry	Mahamahopadhyaya Sadhu Bhadreshdas
Santali	Mid Birna Chenne Saon Inag Sagai — Short Stories	Sumitra Soren
Sindhi	Waghoo — Stories	Bhagwan Atlani
Tamil	Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal — Literary Criticism	Sa. Tamilselvan
Telugu	Animesha — Poetry	Nandini Sidha Reddy
Urdu	Safar Jaari Hai — Poetry	Pritpal Singh Betab

○ 60th Jnanpith Award 2025

- ➔ The 60th Jnanpith Award for the year 2025 will be conferred on noted Tamil poet, lyricist and writer **R. Vairamuthu**.
- ➔ Some of his important works include **Kallikattu Ethikasam**, **Karuvachi Kaaviyam**, **Thanni Desam** and **Moondraam Ullaga Por**.
- ➔ The Government of India awarded him the **Padma Shri in 2003** and the **Padma Bhushan in 2014**.
- ➔ He received the **Sahitya Akademi Award** for his novel **Kallikattu Ethikasam**.

○ KSRTC Wins Governance Now 12th PSU National Award

- ➔ **Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)** in March 2026 has received the Governance Now 12th PSU National Award.
- ➔ The award was given in the **“Excellence in Innovation”** category.

○ 21st Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards 2026

- ➔ The 21st edition of the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) was held in New Delhi from 19 to 25 March 2026.
- ➔ This year, META honoured **Amol Palekar** with the **META Lifetime Achievement Award**.

○ Telangana Gaddar Film Award 2025

- ➔ **Rashmika Mandanna** received the **Best Actress Award** at the **Telangana Gaddar Film Awards 2025**.

○ Lokmat Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards

- ➔ The 13th edition of the Lokmat Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards was held in March 2026 in New Delhi.
- ➔ Veteran Hindustani classical vocalists **Padma Shri Sumitra Guha (Kirana Gharana)** and **Pandit Laxman Krishnarao Pandit (Gwalior Gharana)** were honoured at the ceremony.

○ Samriddh Gram Initiative Nominated for WSIS Prizes 2026

- ➔ India's **Samriddh Gram Initiative** has been nominated for the **WSIS Prizes 2026**.
- ➔ The initiative has been nominated under the **Action Line AL C6: Enabling Environment** category.

○ Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao Honoured with Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award

- ➔ **Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao**, Director of **ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute**, has received the **Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award 2024–25**.
- ➔ The award was presented on **18 April 2026** at a ceremony in **Hyderabad**.

○ Miss Sake India 2026

- ➔ **Nishita Yogesh Antarkar** from **Mumbai** has been crowned **Miss Sake India 2026**.

○ BHU Wins AIU National Moot Court Competition 2026

- ➔ The team from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) won the Association of Indian Universities National Moot Court Competition 2026 (April 9–11, 2026).

○ Machhli National Award

- ➔ **Anita Chaudhary**, a forest guard posted at Shergarh Sanctuary in Rajasthan, has received the Machhli National Award.

○ Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards 2026

- ➔ The 20th edition of the **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards** was held in New Delhi.

Major Winners	
Category	Winner / Organisation
Print — Hindi	Avadhesh Akodia, Dainik Bhaskar
Broadcast/Digital — Hindi	Sarvapriya Sangwan, BBC News Hindi
Environment, Science and Technology Reporting	Jayashree Nandi and Tannu Jain, Hindustan Times
Uncovering India Invisible	Vijay Pal Dudi, Dainik Bhaskar
Business and Economic Journalism	Praveen Paramasivam, Munsif Vengattil and Aditya Kalra, Thomson Reuters

Reporting on Politics and Government	Deeptiman Tiwary, The Indian Express
Sports Journalism	Srikkanth Dhasarathy, DT Next
Investigative Reporting — Print/Digital	Mridulika Jha, Aaj Tak
Investigative Reporting — Broadcast	Sreya Chatterjee, India Today
Feature Writing	Vidheesha Kuntamalla, The Indian Express
Books — Non-Fiction	Aparajith Ramnath, Penguin Random House

○ Chetak Screen Awards 2026

- ➔ The Chetak Screen Awards 2026 were held in Mumbai on 5 April 2026.
- ➔ **Dhurandhar**, directed by **Aditya Dhar**, emerged as the biggest winner with **14 awards**.
- ➔ **Dharmendra** was honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.
- ➔ **Best Film**: Homebound
- ➔ **Best Actor (Female)**: Yami Gautam Dhar – Haq
- ➔ **Best Actor (Male)**: Ranveer Singh – Dhurandhar
- ➔ **Best Director**: Aditya Dhar – Dhurandhar
- ➔ **Best Film for Gender Sensitivity**: Haq
- ➔ **Best Song**: Saiyaara Title Track – Saiyaara (Tanishk Bagchi, Faheem Abdullah, Arslan Nizami)
- ➔ **Best Lyrics**: Gulzar – Ul Julool Ishq (Gustaakh Ishq)
- ➔ **Best OTT Film** – Stolen
- ➔ **Best Actor (Female) – OTT Film**: Sanya Malhotra – Mrs.

○ Pawan Kalyan: First Indian to Receive Samurai Martial Arts Honour

- ➔ Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has made history as the **first Indian** to be formally inducted into **Kenjutsu**, a prestigious and ancient Japanese samurai swordsmanship tradition.

○ Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar

- ➔ Railway Protection Force (RPF) Inspector **Chandana Sinha** was conferred with the **Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar**, the highest service honour of Indian Railways, on **January 9, 2026**.

○ Prestigious Padmapani Award

- ➔ Legendary music composer **Ilaiyaraaja** has been selected to receive the prestigious **Padmapani Award** at the Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival in **January-February, 2026**.

○ 2nd Banaras Lit Fest Book Awards 2026

- ➔ The winners of the **2nd Banaras Lit Fest Book Awards 2026** were announced in **February 2026**, celebrating literary excellence across multiple Indian languages.

- ➔ **Namita Gokhale** received the **Bharatendu Harishchandra Lifetime Achievement Award**.

○ Gallantry Awards

- ➔ President Droupadi Murmu approved gallantry awards for **70 Armed Forces personnel** in **January 2026**.
- ➔ **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** was awarded the **Ashoka Chakra** for his milestone achievement as the first Indian to visit the International Space Station (ISS).
- ➔ The **Kirti Chakra** was conferred upon three officers: Major Arshdeep Singh, Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba, and Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair.

○ Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025

- ➔ The **Paradip Port Authority (PPA)** was awarded the First Prize at the **Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025** on **February 3, 2026**, for its exceptional contributions to cleanliness and sustainability.

○ Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Award

- ➔ Spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev launched the 'Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Award' on Mahashivratri, 2026 to recognise individuals for contributions to national development.

○ Padma Awards 2026 Announced

- ➔ The Government of India has announced the **Padma Awards 2026** on the occasion of **Republic Day (25 January 2026)**.
- ➔ A total of **131 Padma Awards** have been approved by the President of India for the year 2026.
- ➔ The awards include **2 duo cases**, which are counted as a single award.
- ➔ The distribution of awards is as follows: 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, 113 Padma Shri

□ Padma Vibhushan (5)

Name	Field	State / Country
Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
Shri K.T. Thomas	Public Affairs	Kerala
Ms. N Rajam	Art	Uttar Pradesh
Shri P Narayanan	Literature and Education	Kerala
Shri V S Achuthanandan (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Kerala

□ Padma Bhushan (13)

Name	Field	State / Country
Ms. Alka Yagnik	Art	Maharashtra

Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Public Affairs	Uttarakhand
Shri Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
Shri Mammooty	Art	Kerala
Dr. Nori Dattatreyaudu	Medicine	United States of America
Shri Piyush Pandey (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
Shri S K M Macilanandhan	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
Shri Shatavadhani R Ganesh	Art	Karnataka
Shri Shibu Soren (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Jharkhand
Shri Uday Kotak	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
Shri V K Malhotra (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Delhi
Shri Vellappally Natesan	Public Affairs	Kerala
Shri Vijay Amritraj	Sports	United States of America

□ Padma Shri (113): Some Awardees

Name	Field	State / Country
Shri Anil Kumar Rastogi	Art	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Ashok Kumar Singh	Science & Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Buddha Rashmi Mani	Archaeology	Uttar Pradesh
Ms. Mangala Kapoor	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Praveen Kumar	Sports	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Rajendra Prasad	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Shyam Sundar	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Raghupat Singh (Posthumous)	Agriculture	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Rohit Sharma	Sports	Maharashtra
Ms. Savita Punia	Sports	Haryana
Shri Prosenjit Chatterjee	Art	West Bengal
Shri Satish Shah (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
Ms. Shubha Venkatesha Iyengar	Science & Engineering	Karnataka
Prof. Lars-Christian Koch	Art	Germany
Ms. Liudmila Viktorovna Khokhlova	Literature & Education	Russia
Shri Vladimer Mestvirishvili (Posthumous)	Sports	Georgia
Shri Prateek Sharma	Medicine	United States of America

○ **Shilp Guru Awards and National Handicraft Awards for 2023 & 2024**

- ➔ President Smt. Droupadi Murmu conferred the Shilp Guru Awards and National Handicraft Awards for 2023 & 2024 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ➔ A total of 48 awards were presented, including:

Name	Gender	Craft	State
Shri Ajit Kumar Das	Male	Hand Painted Textiles	West Bengal
Smt. Madhuri Mishra	Female	Artistic Textiles (Batik Printing)	Uttar Pradesh

Name	Gender	Award Category	State
Ms Hirabai Jhareka Baghel	Female	Metal Craft	Chhattisgarh
Smt. Urbashi Maharana	Female	Toys and dolls, puppets, games, and kites	Bihar
Smt P.Vijaya Lakshmi	Female	Exclusively for Women - Kalamkari Painting	Rajasthan
Smt. Ahongs-hangbam Bimola Devi	Female	Endangered Craft -Shaphee Lanphee	Uttar Pradesh

Name	Gender	Craft Category	State
Shri Mohammad Dilshad	Male	Wood Carving (Centre table of Sheesham Wood)	Uttar Pradesh

○ **National Energy Conservation Award 2025**

- ➔ **Miyana Railway Station**, located in **Guna district, Madhya Pradesh**, received the **National Energy Conservation Award 2025** from the **President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, on the occasion of **National Energy Conservation Day**.

○ **Sixth edition of the Filmfare OTT Awards**

- ➔ The **sixth edition of the Filmfare OTT Awards** was held in **Mumbai on 15 December 2025**.
- **Major Winners – Series Category**
- ➔ **Best Series (Critics)** was awarded to **Paatal Lok Season 2**.
- ➔ **Best Director (Series)** was won by **Vikramaditya Motwane, Satyanshu Singh, Arkesh Ajay, Ambieka Pandit and Rohin Ravendran** for **Black Warrant**, and also by **Nagesh Kukunoor** for **The Hunt: The Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case**.

- ➔ **Jaideep Ahlawat** won **Best Actor (Male – Drama Series)** for **Paatal Lok Season 2**, while **Monika Panwar** won **Best Actor (Female – Drama Series)** for **Khauf**.

□ **Major Winners – Film (Web Original) Category**

- ➔ **Best Film (Web Original)** was awarded to **Girls Will Be Girls**.
- ➔ **Abhishek Banerjee** won **Best Actor (Male – Web Original Film)** for **Stolen**, while **Sanya Malhotra** won **Best Actor (Female – Web Original Film)** for **Mrs.**
- ➔ **Vikrant Massey** won **Best Actor (Male – Critics)** for **Sector 36**, and **Preeti Panigrahi** won **Best Actor (Female – Critics)** for **Girls Will Be Girls**.

○ **Transformational Leader of the Year' Award**

- ➔ **Jay Shah** received the '**Transformational Leader of the Year' Award** at the **NDTV Indian of the Year 2025** ceremony.

○ **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2025**

- ➔ President Droupadi Murmu conferred the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2025** on **December 26, 2025**, at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi**, honouring **20 children** for exceptional achievements in various fields.
- ➔ In the **Bravery** category, the awardees were **Vyoma Priya (Posthumous), Tamil Nadu; Kamlesh Kumar (Posthumous), Bihar; Muhammed Sidan P, Kerala; and Ajay Raj, Uttar Pradesh**.
- ➔ In the **Art and Culture** category, the awardees were **Esther Laldhawmi Hnamte, Mizoram; and Suman Sarkar, West Bengal**.
- ➔ In the **Environment** category, **Pooja, Uttar Pradesh**, was honoured for her innovative efforts to reduce agricultural dust and air pollution.
- ➔ In the **Social Service** category, the awardees were **Shvan Singh, Punjab; and Vansh Tayal, Chandigarh**.
- ➔ In the **Science and Technology** category, the awardees were **Aishi Prisha Borah, Assam; and Arnab Anupriya Maharshi, Maharashtra**.
- ➔ In the **Sports** category, the awardees were **Shivani Hosuru Uppara, Andhra Pradesh; Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Bihar; Yogita Mandavi, Chhattisgarh; Vaka Lakshmi Pragnika, Gujarat; Jyoti, Haryana; Anushka Kumari, Jharkhand; Dhinidhi Desinghu, Karnataka; Jyoshna Sabar, Odisha; and Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti, Telangana**.

○ **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) Awards 2025 and National Water Awards 2025**

- ➔ **JSJB** was launched on **6 September 2024** at **Surat, Gujarat**, inspired by the vision of **"Jan Shakti for Jal Shakti."**
- ➔ The award ceremony took place on **November 18, 2025**.

○ Top 3 States/UTs

- ➔ **Rank 1:** Telangana — 520,362 completed works.
- ➔ **Rank 2:** Chhattisgarh — 405,563 completed works.
- ➔ **Rank 3:** Rajasthan — 364,968 completed works.

□ Districts (Category 1):

- ➔ **Northern Zone (Category 1) : Rank 1:** Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh) — 35,509 completed works — ₹2 crore.
- ➔ **Eastern Zone (Category 1) : Rank 1:** Balod (Chhattisgarh) — 92,742 completed works — ₹2 crore.
- ➔ **Southern Zone (Category 1) : Rank 1:** Adilabad (Telangana) — 98,693 completed works — ₹2 crore.
- ➔ **Western Zone (Category 1) : Rank 1:** East Nimar (Madhya Pradesh) — 129,020 completed works — ₹2 crore.
- ➔ **North-Eastern Zone & Hilly States (Category 1) : Rank 1:** North Tripura (Tripura) — 11,547 completed works — ₹2 crore.

□ Municipal Corporations

- ➔ **Rank 1:** Raipur Municipal Corporation (Chhattisgarh) — 33,082 completed works — ₹2 crore.

6 th National Water Awards, 2024 - Winners		
Winner	State	Rank
1. BEST STATE		
Maharashtra	Maharashtra	First
Gujarat	Gujarat	Second
Haryana	Haryana	Third
2. BEST DISTRICT		
East Zone		
Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh	First
West Zone		
Khargone	Madhya Pradesh	First
North Zone		
Mirzapur	Uttar Pradesh	First
South Zone		
Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu	First
North East Zone		
Sepahijala	Tripura	First
3. BEST ULB		
Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra	First
Bhavnagar	Gujarat	Second
Nabadiganta Industrial Township	West Bengal	Third -Joint Winner
Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Third -Joint Winner

○ Lucknow Recognized as UNESCO 'City of Gastronomy'

- ➔ Recently, UNESCO has announced the designation of 58 Creative Cities, which now join the Organization's dedicated Network. Lucknow has been named a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy for its rich Awadhi Culinary Heritage.

○ Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025

- ➔ Recently on November 7, 2025; Dr. Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has been conferred the prestigious Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025.

○ National Gopal Ratna Awards 2025 (Nov. 2025)

Category	Name of the winners of NGRA 2025 with rank
Best Dairy Farmer rearing indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds	Non-NER: 1 st Shri Aravind Yashavant Patil, Kolhapur, Maharashtra 2 nd Dr. Kankanala Krishna Reddy, Hyderabad, Telangana
Best Dairy Cooperative society/ Milk Producer company/ Dairy Farmer producer organization	Non-NER: 1 st Meenan Gadi Ksheerolpadaka Sahakarana Sangham Ltd, Wayanad, Kerala 2 nd Kunnankattupathy Ksheerolpadaka Sahakarana Sangham, Palakkad, Kerala 2 nd Ghinoi Dugdh Utpadak Sahkari Samiti, Jaipur, Rajasthan
Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT)	Non-NER: 1 st Mr. Dilip Kumar Pradhan, Angul, Odisha 2 nd Mr. Vikas Kumar, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan

○ 76th National Book Awards 2025

- ➔ On November 19, 2025, Rabih Alameddine's blend of family comedy and wartime tragedy, "The True True Story of Raja the Gullible (and His Mother)," won the National Book Award for fiction.
- ➔ The non-fiction prize was given to Omar El Akkad's "One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This," while the poetry winner was Patricia Smith's "The Intentions of Thunder: New and Selected Poems."

○ Filmfare Awards 2025

- ➔ The 70th edition of the Filmfare Awards was held at EKA Arena, Kankaria Lake, Ahmedabad.
- ➔ The event took place on October 11, 2025.
- ➔ Laapataa Ladies won the Best Film award.
- ➔ The film bagged a total of 13 awards, equalling the record set by Gully Boy for the most wins by a single film.
- ➔ **Best Actor in a Leading Role Male**--Abhishek Bachchan (I Want To Talk) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion)

- **Best Actor in a Leading Role Female**--Alia Bhatt (Jigra)
- **Critics' Awards for Best Actor Male**--Rajkummar Rao (Srikanth)
- **Critics' Awards for Best Actor Female**--Pratibha Ranta (Laapataa Ladies)
- **Best Supporting Actor Male**--Ravi Kishan (Laapataa Ladies)
- **Critics' Award for Best Film**--Shoojit Sircar (I Want To Talk)
- **Best Debut Actor Female**--Nitanshi Goel (Laapataa Ladies)
- **Best Debut Actor Male**--Lakshya (Kill)
- **Best Music Album**--Ram Sampath (Laapataa Ladies)

○ Vigyan Ratna Award

- **Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar (Posthumous)** – Physics This great thinker explored black holes and stars. His books inspired millions. He passed away in 2025, but his ideas live on.

○ Vigyan Shri Awards

- These eight experts guide India's science world:
- **Dr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh** – Agricultural Science (Better crops for farmers)
- **Dr. Yusuf Mohammad Seikh** – Atomic Energy (Safe nuclear power)
- **Dr. K. Thangaraj** – Biological Sciences (DNA secrets for health)
- **Prof. Pradeep Thalappil** – Chemistry (Eco-friendly materials)
- **Prof. Aniruddha Bhalchandra Pandit** – Engineering Sciences (Clean water tech)
- **Dr. S. Venkata Mohan** – Environmental Science (Green waste solutions)
- **Prof. Mahan Mj** – Mathematics and Computer Science (Smart algorithms)
- **Shri Jayan N** – Space Science and Technology (Rocket innovations)

○ Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards

- Fourteen young stars under 45 were cheered. They prove age is just a number in science (some awardees are) –
- **Dr. Jagadish Gupta Kapuganti** and **Dr. Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia** – Agricultural Science
- **Shri Debarka Sengupta** and **Dr. Deepa Agashe** – Biological Sciences
- **Dr. Dibyendu Das** – Chemistry
- **Dr. Suresh Kumar** – Medicine (Better treatments)
- **Prof. Amit Kumar Agarwal** and **Prof. Surhud Shrikant More** – Physics

○ Vigyan Team Award

- **Aroma Mission CSIR Team** – Agricultural Science.

○ Hombale Samhita Harinikumar Alumni Krishi Media Award – 2025

- Senior journalist Amshi Prasannakumar from Mysuru has been selected for the 'Hombale Samhita Harinikumar Alumni Krishi Media Award – 2025'.

○ National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025

- Gram Panchayats have been honoured with the National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025 for their pioneering digital service delivery initiatives on September 23, 2025.
- **Gold Award** – Rohini Gram Panchayat, Dhule District, Maharashtra (Sarpanch Dr. Anandrao Pawara)
- **Jury Award** – Palsana Gram Panchayat, Surat District, Gujarat (Sarpanch Shri Pravinbhai Parshottambhai Ahir)
- **Jury Award** – Suakati Gram Panchayat, Kendujhar District, Odisha (Sarpanch Smt. Kautuka Naik)

○ Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- Malayalam actor Mohanlal was honored with the 2023 Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his iconic contribution to Indian cinema at the 71st National Film Awards ceremony on September 23, 2025, in New Delhi.

- Filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan won Best Director at the **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2025**.
- His film "Homebound" also won the Best Film award at the festival.
- The awards ceremony was held on August 15, 2025.

○ INSPIRE Award

- Muzaffarpur district (Bihar) has secured the top national rank in the INSPIRE Award Standard Scheme 2025.
- Bengaluru Urban ranked second with 7,306 ideas.

○ P. V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics

- Dr. Manmohan Singh, late former Prime Minister of India and renowned economist, has been posthumously awarded the P. V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics in September 2025.

○ 71st National Film Awards

- On **August 1, 2025**, the winners of the 71st National Film Awards for the year 2023 were announced.

Category of Award	Title of the Film	Awardee
Best Non-Feature Film	Flowering Man (Hindi)	Director: Soumyajit Ghosh Dastidar
Best Feature Film	12 th Fail (Hindi)	Director: Vidhu Vinod Chopra

Best Debut Film of a Director	Aatmapamphlet (Marathi)	Director: Ashish Bende
Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani (Hindi)	Director: Karan Johar
Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values	Sam Bahadur (Hindi)	Director: Meghna Gulzar
Best Direction	The Kerala Story (Hindi)	Director: Sudipto Sen
Best Actor in a Leading Role	Jawan (Hindi)	Actor: Shah Rukh Khan
	12 th Fail (Hindi)	Actor: Vikrant Massey
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Mrs. Chatterjee V/s Norway (Hindi)	Actress: Rani Mukerji
Best Hindi Film	Kathal: A Jackfruit Mystery	—
Special Mention	Animal (Re-Recording Mixer) (Hindi)	M R Rajakrishnan

- ➔ 71st National Film Awards, 2023 Best Writing on Cinema Award for Best Film Critic was awarded to Utpal Datta (Assamese)

○ Kalinga Ratna Award-2024

- ➔ The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, presented the Kalinga Ratna Award-2024 to Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan at Cuttack, Odisha, on July 15, 2025.

INTERNATIONAL

○ Pulitzer Prize 2026

- ➔ Indian journalists Anand RK and Suparna Sharma won the Pulitzer Prize in 2026.
- ➔ They won the award in the **Illustrated Reporting and Commentary** category.
- ➔ They shared the prize with **Natalie Obiko Pearson of Bloomberg**.
- ➔ Their award-winning project was titled **“trAPPed.”**

○ 2026 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards

- ➔ Soma Mandal, an Indian science teacher, has been

named the South Asia regional winner of the **2026 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards**.

- ➔ The awards are organised by **Cambridge University Press & Assessment**.

○ International Booker Prize 2026

- ➔ Taiwanese writer **Yáng Shuāng-zi** won the **International Booker Prize 2026** for her novel **Taiwan Travelogue**.
- ➔ The novel was translated from Mandarin Chinese into English by **Lin King**.
- ➔ The prize was announced on **May 19, 2026**, at **Tate Modern in London**.
- ➔ **Taiwan Travelogue** is the first translation from **Mandarin Chinese** to win the International Booker Prize.

○ 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award

- ➔ Chandrayaan-3 won the 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award.
- ➔ The award was given by the **American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)**.
- ➔ It is the highest honour of AIAA in astronautics.
- ➔ The award was presented on **May 21, 2026**, at the **AIAA ASCEND 2026 Conference in Washington, DC**.
- ➔ The award recognised Chandrayaan-3's historic Moon landing on **August 23, 2023**.

○ 2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

- ➔ **Major Abhilasha Barak** has been selected for the 2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (May 29, 2026).
- ➔ She is an Indian peacekeeper serving in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).
- ➔ She is the first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army.

○ UN to Honour Two Fallen Indian Peacekeepers

- ➔ Two Indian peacekeepers will be honoured posthumously by the **United Nations (May 29, 2026)**.
- ➔ The two Indian peacekeepers are **Lance Havildar Harbhajan Singh** and **Naib Subedar Sujit Kumar Pradhan**.

○ Earth Prize 2026

- ➔ Indian teenagers Vivaan Chhawchharia, Ariana Agarwal, and Avyana Mehta won The Earth Prize 2026.
- ➔ They became the **first team from India** to win this global award.
- ➔ They won the award for developing **Plas-Stick**, a low-cost method to remove microplastics from water.

○ Walk of Fame Star

- ➔ **Sir David Beckham** was honoured with a star on the **Hollywood Walk of Fame**.

- ➔ The ceremony was held in **Hollywood, California**, on **June 12, 2026**.

○ Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026

- ➔ Sudarsan Pattnaik became the first Indian to win the Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026.
- ➔ The award was given at the II International Festival of Sand Sculpture.
- ➔ He won the award for his sand sculpture on **climate change and global warming**.

○ Oscars 2026

- ➔ The 98th Academy Awards ceremony took place at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on March 15, 2026. Conan O'Brien returned to host for the second consecutive year.
- ➔ "One Battle After Another" led with six awards, "Sinners" followed with four and "Frankenstein" won three awards in different categories.

Oscars 2026 Winners	
Award Category	Winner
Actor in a Leading Role	Michael B. Jordan — Sinners
Actress in a Leading Role	Jessie Buckley — Hamnet
Animated Feature Film	KPop Demon Hunters — Maggie Kang, Chris Appelhans and Michelle L.M. Wong
Animated Short Film	The Girl Who Cried Pearls — Chris Lavis and Maciek Szczerbowski
Casting	One Battle after Another — Cassandra Kulukundis
Cinematography	Sinners — Autumn Durald Arkapaw
Directing	One Battle after Another — Paul Thomas Anderson
Documentary Feature Film	Mr. Nobody against Putin — David Borenstein, Pavel Talankin, Helle Faber and Alžběta Karásková
Documentary Short Film	All the Empty Rooms — Joshua Seftel and Conall Jones
International Feature Film	Norway — Sentimental Value
Music — Original Score	Sinners — Ludwig Goransson
Best Picture	One Battle after Another — Adam Somner, Sara Murphy and Paul Thomas Anderson

- ➔ Neeraj Ghaywan's film **Homebound** was India's official entry for the 98th Academy Awards (16 December, 2025).

○ Goldman Environmental Prize 2026

- ➔ The Goldman Environmental Prize 2026 was awarded to an all-women cohort for the first time in its history.
- ➔ The award is also known as the **"Green Nobel"**.
- ➔ The 2026 awards were presented in San Francisco on 20 April 2026.
- ➔ Six women from England, the United States, South Korea, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea and Colombia received the award.
- ➔ Iroro Tanshi – Nigeria
- ➔ Borim Kim – South Korea
- ➔ Sarah Finch – United Kingdom
- ➔ Theonila Roka Matbob – Papua New Guinea
- ➔ Alannah Acaq Hurley – United States
- ➔ Yuvelis Morales Blanco – Colombia

○ Miss India World 2026

- ➔ **Sadhvi Satish Sail** from **Goa** has been crowned **Miss India World 2026**.
- ➔ She won the title at the grand finale of the **61st Femina Miss India** pageant held in **Bhubaneswar**.

○ Lifetime Achievement Award at IFFD 2026

- ➔ Legendary Telugu actor **Nandamuri Balakrishna** has received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the **International Film Festival of Delhi 2026**.

○ BRICS CCI Award

- ➔ **Jharkhand MLA Kalpana Soren** in March 2026 has been honoured with the **Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award**.

○ Karnataka Grameena Bank Wins National Award

- ➔ **Karnataka Grameena Bank** in March 2026 has received the **National Award for Outstanding Performance in SHG-Bank Linkage 2024–25**.

○ Women Empowerment Award

- ➔ Indian actress **Rituparna Sengupta** has been honoured with the **Women Empowerment Award**.
- ➔ She received the award in March 2026 at the prestigious **House of Commons in London, United Kingdom**.

○ Stockholm Water Prize 2026

- ➔ **Kaveh Madani**, Director of the **United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health**, has won the 2026 Stockholm Water Prize.
- ➔ The announcement was made on **18 March 2026** at **UNESCO headquarters in Paris**.

○ Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran Receives Honorary Knighthood

- ➔ **Natarajan Chandrasekaran**, Chairman of the **Tata Group**, has received the insignia of **Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE)**.

○ KISS Humanitarian Award 2025

- ➔ Nita M. Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, has received the KISS Humanitarian Award 2025.

○ UN Secretary General's Award 2025

- ➔ Major Swathi Shantha Kumar of the Indian Army has been honored with the UN Secretary General's Award 2025 for her exceptional contributions to gender parity in South Sudan.

○ 83rd Golden Globe Awards

- ➔ The 83rd Golden Globe Awards took place on January 11, 2026, at the Beverly Hilton.

Award Category	Winner (Movie/Show Name)
Best Motion Picture – Drama	Hamnet
Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy	One Battle After Another
Best Motion Picture – Animated	KPop Demon Hunters
Best Director – Motion Picture	Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)
Best Female Actor – Motion Picture Drama	Jessie Buckley (Hamnet)
Best Male Actor – Motion Picture Drama	Wagner Moura (The Secret Agent)
Best Original Score – Motion Picture	Ludwig Göransson (Sinners)
Best Original Song – Motion Picture	“Golden” (KPop Demon Hunters)
Best Limited Series, Anthology, or Motion Picture Made for Television	Adolescence
Best Stand-Up Comedy Performance	Ricky Gervais Mortality

○ Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement

- ➔ American evolutionary biologist Toby Kiers was awarded the prestigious Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement in January 2026 for her groundbreaking research on underground fungal networks.

○ SKOCH Award 2025

- ➔ The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) was honored with the SKOCH Award 2025 on January 19, 2026, for its innovative Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS).

○ Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025

- ➔ Mozambican humanitarian Graça Machel was

named the recipient of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025 on January 21, 2026.

○ Grammy Awards 2026

- ➔ The 68th Annual Grammy Awards were held on February 1, 2026.

Grammy Awards 2026	
Award Category	Winner
Album of the Year	Bad Bunny – Debí Tirar Más Fotos
Record of the Year	Kendrick Lamar with SZA – “Luther”
Song of the Year	Billie Eilish – “Wildflower”
Best New Artist	Olivia Dean
Best Pop Solo Performance	Lola Young – “Messy”

○ Crafoord Prize in Geosciences

- ➔ Indian-origin climate scientist Veerabhadran Ramanathan was awarded the 2026 Crafoord Prize in Geosciences by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in February 2026.

○ Global Teacher Prize 2026

- ➔ Indian artist and educator Rouble Nagi was awarded the Global Teacher Prize 2026 at the World Government Summit in Dubai 2026.

○ BAFTA Film Awards 2026

- ➔ The 79th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA 2026), organized by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, were held on February 22, 2026 at London's Royal Festival Hall, hosted by Alan Cumming.

Award Category	Winner
Best Film	One Battle After Another
Outstanding British Film	Hamnet
Best Director	Paul Thomas Anderson — One Battle After Another
Best Leading Actor	Robert Aramayo — I Swear
Best Leading Actress	Jessie Buckley — Hamnet

□ 'Boong' Wins BAFTA Children's & Family Film Award

- ➔ The Manipuri-language film Boong, directed by Lakshmipriya Devi (backed by Farhan Akhtar), won the BAFTA 2026 award for Best Children's & Family Film, marking a historic achievement for India.
- ➔ It became the first Indian film to win in this category, highlighting the global recognition of regional Indian cinema, especially from Northeast India.
- ➔ The film surpassed major international contenders like Zootopia 2 and Lilo & Stitch, showcasing strong competition at the global level.

○ Golden Globe Horizon Award

- ➔ Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt was honored with the prestigious Golden Globe Horizon Award at the 5th Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in December 2025.

○ Global Bank of the Year 2025

- ➔ DBS has been named the Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker, a publication of The Financial Times.

○ Best Domestic Airline Award

- ➔ **Air India** has been named **Best Domestic Airline** at the **Travel + Leisure India and South Asia's Best Awards 2025** for the **second consecutive year**.

○ Best International Airport in the World for 2025

- ➔ **Singapore Changi Airport** has been voted the **Best International Airport in the World for 2025** at **India's Best Awards** by **Travel+Leisure**.

○ Turner Prize 2025.

- ➔ **Nnena Kalu** became the **first artist with a learning disability** to win the prestigious **Turner Prize 2025**.

○ Sri Ravi Shankar Awarded World Leader for Peace and Security 2025

- ➔ Recently, on November 3, 2025, spiritual leader Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of the Art of Living Foundation, was conferred with the prestigious 2025 World Leader for Peace and Security Award by the Boston Global Forum (BGF) and the AI World Society (AIWS).

○ 56th International Film Festival of India 2025

- ➔ The 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was held in Panaji, Goa from November 20 to November 28, 2025.

□ Winners of the 56th International Film Festival of India

- ➔ **Golden Peacock (Best Feature Film):** Skin of Youth (Vietnam) by Ash Mayfair
- ➔ **Silver Peacock (Best Director):** Santosh Davakhar for Gondhal (Marathi)
- ➔ **Silver Peacock (Best Actor - Male):** Ubeimar Rios for A Poet (Colombia)
- ➔ **Silver Peacock (Best Actor - Female):** Jara Sofija Ostan for Little Trouble Girls (Slovenia)
- ➔ **Best Web Series (OTT):** Bandish Bandits Season 2

○ Honorary Oscar at 2025 Governors Awards

- ➔ Recently, on November 16, 2025, Tom Cruise received an Honorary Oscar at the 2025 Governors Awards and Reflects, 'Making Films Is Who I Am'.

○ Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- ➔ Recently, on November 20, 2025, the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development

for 2024 was presented by Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi to Michelle Bachelet, the first and only woman President of Chile and a former chief of UN Human Rights.

○ Miss Universe 2025

- ➔ Fatima Bosch of Mexico has been officially crowned the Miss Universe 2025.
- ➔ This year's Miss Universe pageant took place on November 21, 2025, at the Impact Challenger Hall in Pak Kret, Nonthaburi, Thailand.

○ International Emmy Awards 2025

- ➔ Recently, on November 24, 2025, the 2025 International Emmy Awards concluded its grand ceremony, announcing the winners in New York.
- ➔ Imtiaz Ali's Amar Singh Chamkila had bagged not one, but two prestigious nominations at the 53rd International Emmy Awards.

□ International Emmy Awards 2025 Winners

- ➔ Arts Programming Award: RYUICHI SAKAMOTO: LAST DAYS
- ➔ Best Performance by an Actress: Anna Maxwell Martin (Until I Kill You)
- ➔ Emmys for Current Affairs: 'Dispatches: Kill Zone: Inside Gaza'
- ➔ International Emmy for News: 'Gaza, Search For Life'
- ➔ Best TV Movie/Mini-Series: Lost Boys and Fairies
- ➔ Best Performance by an Actor: Oriol Pla in 'Yo, adicto' [I, Addict]

○ First FIFA Peace Prize

- ➔ Recently, on December 6, 2025, the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, was presented with the inaugural "FIFA Peace Prize – Football Unites the World" by FIFA President Gianni Infantino during the Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup 2026 at the iconic John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

○ Youngest Recipient of Global Humane Society's Animal Welfare Award

- ➔ Anant Ambani is the youngest and the first Asian to receive this prestigious honor.

○ TIME's 2025 CEO of the Year

- ➔ YouTube CEO Neal Mohan has been named TIME Magazine's 2025 CEO of the Year. Mohan, who took over the top role in 2023, has guided YouTube through a transformative era.

○ TIME's 2025 Entertainer of the Year

- ➔ Leonardo DiCaprio named TIME's 2025 Entertainer of the Year

○ **TIME's 2025 Athlete of the Year**

- ➔ A'ja Wilson has been named TIME's 2025 Athlete of the Year, capping a campaign in which the Las Vegas Aces forward achieved a series of milestones unmatched in professional women's basketball.

○ **UNEP Champions of the Earth 2025 Award for Climate Leadership**

- ➔ Supriya Sahu, additional chief secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests, has won the UN Environment Programme's 2025 Champions of the Earth award recognized for her role in strengthening heat adaptation and ecosystem restoration in Tamil Nadu.

○ **James Anderson Receives Knighthood for Services to Cricket**

- ➔ James Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker, has been knighted for his outstanding contribution to cricket.

○ **Top Agri-Food Pioneer**

- ➔ Renowned Indian chef and Padma Shri awardee Sanjeev Kapoor has been honoured as a "Top Agri-Food Pioneer" by the World Food Prize Foundation in October, 2025.

○ **82nd Venice Film Festival**

- ➔ Anuparna Roy became the first Indian to win the Best Director award in the Orizzonti section of the 82nd Venice Film Festival for her film "Song of Forgotten Trees." (September, 2025)

○ **2025 Ramon Magsaysay Award**

- ➔ An Indian non-profit organization, 'Foundation to Educate Girls Globally', received the 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Award for its work in girls' education in rural and disadvantaged areas of India.
- ➔ The other 2025 awardees are Shaahina Ali from the Maldives for environmental work and Flaviano Antonio L Villanueva from the Philippines for his efforts to help the poor.
- ➔ Educate Girls, founded in 2007 by Safeena Husain, is the first Indian organization to win the award, which is considered Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

○ **Miss Universe India 2025**

- ➔ Manika Vishwakarma from Rajasthan has won the title of Miss Universe India 2025.

○ **Geetanjali Shree Wins PEN Translates Award**

- ➔ International Booker Prize winning Hindi author Geetanjali Shree's Once Elephants Lived Here, translated from the Hindi by Daisy Rockwell, has been named one of the 14 titles to win the PEN Translates Award, English PEN announced on July 24, 2025.

○ **'Oscar for Magicians' at FISM 2025**

- ➔ Recently, in July 2025, in a landmark achievement for India's performing arts, mentalist Suhani Shah from Rajasthan has become the first Indian to win the 'Best Magic Creator 2025' award at the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques (FISM)—popularly known as the Oscars for magicians.

○ **UN Population Award 2025**

- ➔ Recently, on July 11, 2025, Varsha Deshpande, women's rights activist from India and founder of the Dalit Mahila Vikas Mandal, won the 2025 United Nations Population Award in the individual category.

○ **PEN Pinter Prize 2025**

- ➔ Recently, in July 2025, Leila Aboulela has won this year's PEN Pinter Prize for her writing on migration, faith and the lives of women.

Organisations/Institutes

INDIA

○ **Chandigarh University**

- ➔ Chandigarh University inaugurated 'IndiaAI Data Lab' in collaboration with Intel India to improve the employability of students in June 2026.
- ➔ It became India's first private university to establish this lab.
- ➔ The University also launched MCA Data Science & BCA Data Science Programs in collaboration with Intel India.

○ **Indian Army**

- ➔ The Indian Army has launched 'Q-FORCE' which is an integrated application designed to streamline logistics and sustainment management in May 2026.

○ **DRDO**

- ➔ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted three consecutive flight-tests on June 10 & 11, 2026 to demonstrate multi-layered defence against long range ballistic missiles and anti-ship capability at medium range.

○ **Sikkim Police**

- ➔ The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu presented the 'President of India's Police Colour' to the Sikkim Police at Gangtok on May 28, 2026.
- ➔ Sikkim has become the 15th state overall and 3rd in the North East to get the prestigious award.

○ **RBI**

- ➔ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a high-security data centre in Bhubaneswar, Odisha as part of its strategy to safeguard critical financial infrastructure in February 2026.

- ➔ This marks RBI's second major data centre, with its Primary Data Centre currently situated in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.
- ➔ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched Mission SAKSHAM (Sahkari Bank Kshamta Nirman), for capacity building of the Urban Co-operative Banking sector on April 28, 2026.

○ CBI

- ➔ The Central Bureau of Investigation unveiled ABHAY, an AI-powered chatbot-style verification mechanism for the public to verify notices issued by it.
- ➔ The chatbot, 'ABHAY', was launched by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on the occasion of the 22nd D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture organised by the CBI on April 20, 2026,

○ DRDO

- ➔ The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) displayed its cutting edge technologies, advanced systems, and the robust strides taken towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' during a mega exhibition at Mahatma Gandhi Prekshagrih in Motihari, Bihar from April 15 to 18, 2026.
- ➔ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully carried out a high-speed rocket sled test of an indigenous fighter aircraft escape system at controlled velocity, in Chandigarh on December 2, 2025.

○ NIELIT

- ➔ The National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Andhra Pradesh on February 20, 2026 to establish India's first dedicated Quantum and Artificial Intelligence University campus in Amaravati.

○ MoPR

- ➔ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched a nationwide social media campaign 'Say No to Proxy Sarpanch' on International Women's Day 2026, on March 8, 2026.

○ Palamu Tiger Reserve

- ➔ The south division of Palamu Tiger Reserve has launched a new initiative titled 'Vanjeevi Didi' (incentive ₹3000/- month) across 17 identified villages to train educated women to become PTR ambassadors in February 2026.

○ Seva Teerth

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the name of the building complex Seva Teerth on February 13, 2026.
- ➔ He also formally inaugurated Seva Teerth (Prime Minister's Office etc.) and Kartavya Bhavan-1 & 2 (accommodate key ministries).

○ Yantra India Limited

- ➔ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the grant of Miniratna Category-I status to Yantra India Limited (YIL), a defence public sector undertaking (DPSU), on February 2, 2026.

○ ECI

- ➔ The Election Commission of India (ECI) launched ECINET, its one-stop digital platform for all election-related information and services on January 22, 2026.

○ UIDAI

- ➔ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched the Aadhaar mascot, a new resident-facing communication companion to simplify public understanding of Aadhaar services on January 8, 2026.

○ TGB

- ➔ Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB) has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Regional Rural Bank (RRB) in India to introduce a solar-energy-based mobile ATM van (TGB on wheels) in January 2026.

○ NRL

- ➔ Assam-based Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) was accorded 'Navratna' status (27th CPSE) on December 2, 2025.

○ NHAI

- ➔ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Reliance Jio to introduce a telecom-based safety alert system across the National Highways network in December 2025.
- ➔ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which has begun using municipal waste for road construction, has plans to use all municipal waste produced in the country for road construction by 2027.
- ➔ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in collaboration with Vertis Infrastructure Trust has launched 'Project Aarohan' to support the educational aspirations of toll plaza employees on August 26, 2025.
- ➔ The first phase of 'Project Aarohan' will have a fund allocation of Rs. 1 Crore and spanned from July 2025 to March 2026.

○ Fino

- ➔ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted in-principle approval to Fino Payments Bank for transitioning into a small finance bank in December 2025.
- ➔ This makes Fino the first payments bank to achieve this milestone.

○ BEL, SED

- ➔ Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Safran Electronics and Defence (SED), France have signed a Joint Venture Cooperation Agreement (JVCA) for the production of Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range (HAMMER) Smart Precision Guided Air-to-Ground Weapon in India on November 24, 2025.

○ HSL

- ➔ Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), one of India's oldest shipbuilding establishments, has been accorded Mini Ratna (Category-I) status by the Government of India on October 14, 2025.

○ IFFCO, AMUL

- ➔ India's cooperative giants, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) (1st rank) and Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul) (2nd rank) have been ranked as the top cooperatives in the world based on GDP per capita performance.
- ➔ The ranking has been done by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) World Cooperative Monitor 2025.

○ SBI

- ➔ The State Bank of India (SBI) announced its first gold trade as a Special Category Client (SCC) on the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) on November 1, 2025.

○ UIDAI

- ➔ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) unveiled the Aadhaar Vision 2032 framework to strengthen future-proof digital identity through AI, blockchain, quantum computing and advanced encryption on October 31, 2025.

○ IISC, C- MET

- ➔ Ministry of Mines has recognized 2 new institutes, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Hyderabad, as Centres of Excellence (CoE) under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) on October 25, 2025.
- ➔ Earlier, Ministry of Mines has recognized 7 institutes – 4 IITs and 3 R&D Labs – as Centres of Excellence (CoE) under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM).

○ IIT Madras

- ➔ Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-Madras) has been nominated as a UN Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence (AI) (capacity building and skilling) under the UN **Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET)** in September 2025.

○ HAL

- ➔ Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for procurement of 97 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A, including 68 fighters and 29 twin seaters, along with associated equipment, for the Indian Air Force, at a cost of over Rs. 62,370 crore (excluding taxes), on September 25, 2025.

○ IIMA

- ➔ The first international campus of the globally renowned business school, the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) was opened at Dubai International Academic City, part of TE-COM Group PJSC, on September 12, 2025.

○ AU Small Finance Bank

- ➔ AU Small Finance Bank (AU) has received an **in-principle approval** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to become a Universal Bank on August 7, 2025.
- ➔ With this approval, AU becomes the first Small Finance Bank in India to be a Universal Bank.

○ PNB

- ➔ Punjab National Bank inaugurated its first Startup Branch at Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi on August 27, 2025.

○ Hindustan Zinc

- ➔ Hindustan Zinc Limited (BSE: 500188 & NSE: HINDZINC) became the first Indian company to join the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) – a pivotal milestone that places India firmly on the global map of responsible mining, in August 2025.

○ SAIL

- ➔ Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) inaugurated its representative office at Lake Central, Business Bay, Dubai on July 2, 2025.
- ➔ It is SAIL's first international office in the Middle East.

○ NALSA

- ➔ The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) launched 'Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana', a nationwide scheme aimed at providing free legal assistance to soldiers, veterans and their families, during a ceremony in Srinagar on July 26, 2025.

○ SMFCL

- ➔ Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL), India's first Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) in the maritime sector on June 26, 2025.

WORLD

○ IBCA

- ➔ Saudi Arabia joined the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) as its new member on May 22, 2026.
- ➔ So far, 26 of the total 95 big cats range countries have joined this treaty-based global entity as members.

○ WHO

- ➔ In light of the reported outbreaks of Ebola Disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda, the World Health Organization (WHO) on May 17, 2026, under the International Health Regulations, 2005, determined it to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) .

○ University of Liverpool

- ➔ The Ministry of Education, Government of India handed over the Letter of Approval (LoA) to the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom, to establish its branch campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka on June 4, 2026.

○ Microsoft

- ➔ Microsoft unveiled Majorana 2, its next-generation topological quantum chip developed with the help of Microsoft Discovery's agentic AI in June 2026.
- ➔ Majorana 2's new features include a new materials stack enabling a 1, 000-fold improvement in reliability over the prior generation of qubits.

○ WHO

- ➔ The World Health Organization (WHO), on April 24, 2026, has announced a significant step forward in the fight against malaria with the prequalification of the first treatment developed specifically for newborns and young infants weighing between two and five kilograms.
- ➔ The World Health Organization (WHO) has verified Chile for eliminating leprosy disease in March 2026.
- ➔ It has become the first country in the Americas – and the second globally – to be officially verified as having eliminated leprosy disease.
- ➔ The United States Government formally exited from the World Health Organization on January 22, 2026.
- ➔ The World Health Organization (WHO) has validated Fiji for eliminating trachoma as a public health problem on October 20, 2025.

○ ADB

- ➔ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) projects India's gross domestic product growth to ease to 6.9% in fiscal year 2026 (FY2026, ending 31 March 2027)—from 7.6% in FY2025, according to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) April 2026, released on April 10, 2026.

○ World Bank

- ➔ The World Bank Group and the Government of Sri Lanka, on April 2, 2026, launched a new five-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) to support Sri Lanka's continued recovery, help achieve its 7% medium-term economic growth target.

○ Singapore Changi Airport

- ➔ Singapore Changi Airport has been named the Airport of the Year 2026 at the 2026 World Airport Awards ceremony held in London on March 18, 2026.
- ➔ The airport has reclaimed the top position for the 13th time.

○ BRICS

- ➔ From January 1, 2026, India officially assumed the rotating chairmanship of BRICS, taking over leadership from Brazil.
- ➔ The theme for India's BRICS Chairship this year is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

○ UNSC

- ➔ Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Latvia and Liberia have begun two-year terms as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), replacing Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia on January 1, 2026.
- ➔ They join the other five non-permanent members – Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama and Somalia – who will serve through the end of 2026.

○ European Union

- ➔ The European Union Council has listed Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization on February 19, 2026.
- ➔ The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is also listed as a terror organisation by the US, Australia and Canada.

○ Etihad Airways

- ➔ Etihad Airways was named the world's safest full-service airline for 2026, according to a report from AirlineRatings.com, released in January 2026.
- ➔ It became the first Gulf carrier to top the list.

○ IMO

- ➔ India has been re-elected to the IMO (International Maritime Organization) Council for the 2026-27 biennium in Category B, comprising 10 countries with the largest interest in international seaborne trade. on November 28, 2025.
- ➔ India secured 154 of the 169 valid votes cast in the election held at the 34th IMO Assembly in London, United Kingdom.

○ **ADB**

- ➔ The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed agreements for three loans worth over \$800 million for projects in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat on November 28, 2025.

○ **UNHRC**

- ➔ India has been elected unopposed to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the 2026-28 term, marking the country's seventh stint on October 14, 2025.
- ➔ India's three-year term will begin on January 1, 2026.

○ **IUCN**

- ➔ Armenia has officially joined the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a State Member during the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi on October 10, 2025.

○ **ASEAN**

- ➔ Timor-Leste (East Timor) has joined the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as its 11th member in October 2025.

○ **UN-GGIM-AP**

- ➔ India has been elected to the prestigious position of Co-Chair of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) in October 2025.

○ **ADB, World Bank**

- ➔ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a

\$3 billion sovereign exposure exchange agreement (EEA) with the World Bank to increase ADB's lending capacity for its developing member countries on October 20, 2025.

○ **INTERPOL**

- ➔ India has been elected as a member of the INTERPOL Asian Committee for the term 2025-29.
- ➔ During the 25th Asian Regional Conference held in Singapore on September 19, 2025.

○ **ADB**

- ➔ India and the Asian Development Bank have signed over 126-million-dollar loan agreement to promote sustainable tourism in Uttarakhand in September 2025.
- ➔ The project targets the Tehri Garhwal District, one of Uttarakhand's most climate-vulnerable and economically disadvantaged regions.

○ **ISA**

- ➔ The Republic of Moldova became the **107th member country** of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on **August 4, 2025**.
- ➔ It has earlier signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement in December 2024.

○ **NDB**

- ➔ Colombia and Uzbekistan have officially joined the New Development Bank (NDB) in July 2025.

○ **SCO**

- ➔ Belarus (first European country) officially joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as its 10th full member state.

Conference & Summit

NATIONAL

CONFERENCE/SUMMIT	VENUE	REMARKS
11 th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog (June 11, 2026)	Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi	Chaired by- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Theme- Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat@2047
National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign 2026 (May 28-29, 2026)	NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi	Organized by- Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
2 nd edition of Joint Commanders' Conference 2026 (May 7-8, 2026)	Jaipur, Rajasthan	Theme- Military Capability in New Domains'
11 th Heads of Mission (HoMs) Conference 2026 (April 28-30, 2026)	National Agricultural Science Complex, Pusa, New Delhi	Theme- "Reforming Indian Diplomacy for 2047"
10 th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Systems (April 30, 2026 – May 1, 2026)	Chandigarh	Inaugurated by- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J.P. Nadda

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6 th edition of the multilingual 'Sujal Gram Samvad' (April 22, 2026)	—	Organized by- Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti Chaired by - Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Patil (Virtually)
Sahityotsav - Festival of Letters 2026 (March 30 to April 4, 2026)	New Delhi	Theme- "Indian Literature: The Cradle of Cultures"
National Arogya Fair 2026 (February 25-28, 2026)	Shegaon, Buldhana, Maharashtra	Organized by - Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with the All India Ayurvedic Congress
11 th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law (March 16, 2026)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Organized by - Competition Commission of India (CCI)
GeodCon-26; First National Conference on geodesy in India (March 11-13, 2026)	Indian National Science Academy (INSA) in New Delhi	Organized by - IIT Kanpur's National Centre for Geodesy
First-ever Strategic Communication Conclave (March 7, 2026)	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Conducted by- Indian Army's Central Command
2 nd edition of the Fit India Carnival (March 8 to March 10, 2026)	Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JNS) in New Delhi	Organized by- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
ANVESH-2026 (February 26-28, 2026)	Sonipat, Haryana	Organized by- National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM-K)
AI4Agri 2026 Summit (February 22-23, 2026)	Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai	Hosted by - Government of Maharashtra
India-AI Impact Summit 2026 (February 16-20, 2026)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Theme- Welfare for All, Happiness of All
4 th India Energy Week 2026 (January 27-30, 2026)	Goa	Organized by - Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), under the patronage of India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Black Swan Summit, India 2026 (February 5-6, 2026)	Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Organized by - Government of Odisha in collaboration with Global Finance and Technology Network Addressed by – President Droupadi Murmu
Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 (January 12-13, 2026)	Lucknow	Organized by - IndiaAI and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the Government of Uttar Pradesh
6 th National Crop Nutrition Summit & B2B Expo 2026 (February 5-6, 2026)	Mumbai	Theme- Converge, Collaborate & Co-create – Elevating India as the World's Agri Input Manufacturing Hub
86 th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) (January 19-21, 2026)	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Addressed by –Speaker Om Birla
2 nd Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) (January 11-12, 2026)	Rajkot, Gujarat	Inaugurated by - Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Earth Summit, 2025 (December 5-6, 2025)	Gandhinagar, Gujarat	Inaugurated by – Union Home Minister Amit Shah
India International Space Conclave (IISC) - 2025 (November 18-19, 2025)	New Delhi	Theme – Expanding Horizons : Innovation, Inclusion & Resilience in the New Space Age Organized by – Indian Space Association (ISpA)
Chanakya Defence Dialogue-2025 (November 27-28, 2025)	Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi	Theme – Reform to Transform-Sashakt, Surakshit Aur Viksit Bharat Inaugurated by – President Droupadi Murmu
30 th CII Partnership Summit 2025 (November 14-15, 2025)	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	Organized by – Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Tribal Business Conclave 2025 (November 12, 2025)	New Delhi	Organized by – DPIIT, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Culture & FICCI (Industry Partner)
National Tribal Literary Fest 2025 (November 11-12, 2025)	New Delhi	Organized by – National Tribal Research Institute and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Vision for Sujalam Bharat Summit-2025 (November 28-29, 2025)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Organized by – Ministry of Jal Shakti
National Conference on “Strengthening Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms”-2025 (November 8-9, 2025)	Supreme Court of India, New Delhi	Organized by -National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) Inaugurated by - Prime Minister Narendra Modi
3rd National Conference on the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) 2025 (October 30, 2025)	New Delhi	—
23rd edition of Bharat Telecom 2025 (October 8-11, 2025)	New Delhi	Organized by - Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC)
4th Kautilya Economic Conclave – 2025 (October 3-5, 2025)	New Delhi	Hosted by – The Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), in partnership with the Ministry of Finance
3rd Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show 2025 (September 25-29, 2025)	India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida	Organized by – Government of Uttar Pradesh & India Exposition Mart Limited
National Conference on Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan with Project Officers of ITDAs (September 9-10, 2025)	New Delhi	Organized by - Ministry of Tribal Affairs
2nd India MedTech Expo 2025 (September 4-6, 2025)	Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi	—
Viksit Bharat: National Summit on Technical Textiles -2025 (August 22-23, 2025)	Gyan Bhawan, Patna	—
85th All India Speakers’ Conference-2025 (August 24-25, 2025)	Delhi Assembly, New Delhi	Inaugurated by - Union Home Minister Amit Shah
2nd BIMSTEC Port Conclave, 2025 (July 14-15, 2025)	Visakhapatnam	Hosted by – India
SHAPE-2025 (July 26-27, 2025)	New Delhi	SHAPE – Sustainable Hospital Architecture, Planning, Infrastructure and Equipment
11th India Maize Summit (July 7, 2025)	New Delhi	Organized by – FICCI and Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR)
9th World Water Summit 2025 (July 1-2, 2025)	New Delhi	Organized by – Energy and Environment Foundation

INTERNATIONAL

CONFERENCE/SUMMIT	VENUE	REMARKS
4th edition of the Kathmandu Kalinga Literary Festival (June 6-7, 2026)	Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur, Nepal	Theme- Beyond Borders: South Asian Literature in a Changing World”
11th Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (May 26, 2026)	New Delhi	Attended by - Foreign Ministers of Australia, India, Japan and the Secretary of State of the United States Hosted by – External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar
World Border Security Congress 2026 (April 14 to 16, 2026)	Vienna, Austria	Indian delegation led by- Additional Director General Anand Prakash Badola
First India- China Bilateral Consultations on SCO matters (April 16-17, 2026)	New Delhi	Led by - India’s SCO National-Coordinator Alok A. Dimri and China’s National-Coordinator Ambassador Yan Wenbin
3rd Global Conference of Meditation Leaders (GCML 2026) (April 3–5, 2026)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Organized by- Buddha-CEO Quantum Foundation with the support of the Ministry of AYUSH Theme- Meditation for Holistic Living and Peaceful World

International Malaria Conference (IMC) 2026 (March 7 to 9, 2026)	New Delhi	Theme- “Discovery, Development and Delivery: Driving Malaria Elimination and Beyond”
NASSCOM – Global Confluence 2026 (March 17, 2026)	Shangri –La, New Delhi	—
Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS–2026) (March 12-14, 2026)	New Delhi	—
ICANN85 Community Forum (March 7-12, 2026)	Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai	—
Mobile World Congress 2026 (March 2–5, 2026)	Barcelona, Spain	Indian delegation led by- Union Minister of Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
9th International Santal Conference 2026 (March 7, 2026)	Darjeeling, West Bengal	Organized by- International Santal Council Graced by- President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu
Tourism Leadership Summit 2026 (February 24, 2026)	New Delhi	Organized by- US-India Partnership Forum in collaboration with the Sankala Foundation
10th meeting of India-Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism (CT) (February 24, 2026)	New Delhi	Indian delegation led by- Dr. Vinod Bahade, Joint Secretary (Counter Terrorism)
25th edition of World Sustainable Development Summit -2026 (February 25–27, 2026)	Taj Palace in New Delhi	Theme - Transformations : Vision, Voices, and Values for Sustainable Development
3rd International AYUSH Conference & Exhibition 2026 (February 15-17, 2026)	Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC), Dubai	Theme - “Evidence-Based AYUSH Interventions in Mind-Body Health”
23rd edition of BioAsia 2026 (February 17-18, 2026)	HITEX Exhibition Center, Hyderabad	Theme- “TechBio Unleashed – AI, Automation, and the Biology Revolution
World Government Summit 2026 (February 3-5, 2026)	Dubai, UAE	Theme - “Shaping Future Governments”
11th edition of Nepal Buildcon International Expo (February 5-8, 2026)	Kathmandu, Nepal	—
2nd Global Buddhist Summit (January 24-25, 2026)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Theme - “Collective Wisdom, United Voice, and Mutual Coexistence” Organized by – International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India
1st International Conference on Green AI (January 24 and 25, 2026)	Dubai Police Academy in Dubai, UAE	Organized by - Zayed International Foundation for the Environment in collaboration with Dubai Police Academy and Curtin University Dubai Theme - “Harnessing AI applications for environmental sustainability”
2nd Bharat-Sri Lanka Hindi Sammelan (January 12, 2026)	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Organised by - Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), the cultural arm of the High Commission of India in Colombo
4th edition of 1 Billion Followers Summit (January 9-11, 2026)	Dubai, UAE	Theme - Content for Good Organised by - UAE Government Media Office, under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
6th International Agronomy Congress (IAC) - 2025 (November 24-26, 2025)	New Delhi	Theme – Re-envisioning Agronomy for Smart Agri-food Systems and Environmental Stewardship
World Telecommunication Development Conference - 2025 (November 17-28, 2025)	Baku, Azerbaijan	Theme – Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future

3 rd International Ayurveda Conference-2025 (November 14-15, 2025)	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Jointly organized by – Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) and Conayur, Sao Paulo Brazil Theme – Diversity and Inclusion in Ayurveda : Caring for Everybody and Every Being
10 th International Gita Mahotsav 2025 (November 15 – December 5, 2025)	Kurukshetra, Haryana	Inaugurated by – Nayab Singh Saini, Chief Minister, Haryana
44 th India International Trade Fair-2025 (November 14-27, 2025)	New Delhi	Theme – Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat
13 th International Tourism Mart 2025 (November 13-16, 2025)	Gangtok, Sikkim	Organized by – Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and Government of Sikkim
World Summit on Disaster Management-2025 (November 28-30, 2025)	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Governed by – Uttarakhand Council for Science and Technology (UCOSI)
International Conference on Preserving Rural Buddhist Heritage-2025 (November 28-30, 2025)	New Delhi	Theme – Indian Trust for Rural Heritage & Development
APEC CEO Summit Korea 2025 (October 28-31, 2025)	Gyeongju, Korea	Theme- Bridge, Business, Beyond
Second World Summit for Social Development 2025 (November 4-6, 2025)	Doha, Qatar	Hosted by - Government of Qatar
7 th edition of Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2025 (October 28-30, 2025)	New Delhi	Theme- ‘Promoting Holistic Maritime Security and Growth: Regional Capacity-Building and Capability-Enhancement’
International Aryan Summit 2025 (October 31, 2025)	New Delhi	—
8 th Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly (October 27-30, 2025)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	—
India Maritime Week 2025 (October 27-31, 2025)	NESCO Exhibition Centre, Mumbai	Organized by- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India
22 nd ASEAN-India Summit 2025 (October 26, 2025)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	—
5 th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (September 22 to 26, 2025)	Hangzhou, China	—
Global Food Regulators Summit (GFRS) 2025 (September 26 -27, 2025)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Organized by- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
11 th Asia Pacific MedTech Forum (APACMed) 2025 (September 16-17, 2025)	New Delhi	Organized by - APACMed
BIMSTEC Young Leaders’ Summit -2025 (September 9-11, 2025)	Venue- Guwahati, Assam	Hosted by - Bharat Scouts and Guides under the aegis of the Ministry of External Affairs
89 th International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) General Meeting -2025 (September 15, 2025)	New Delhi	—
4 th edition of World Food India (WFI) 2025 (September 25-28, 2025)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Organized by - Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)
14 th International Government Communication Forum (IGCF 2025) (September 11-12, 2025)	Sharjah, UAE	Theme - “Communication for Quality of Life”
4 th LEADS (Leadership, Excellence, Adaptability, Diversity, Sustainability) -2025 (September 10-11, 2025)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Theme - “Collaborations for Growth in a Transformative World”
International Conference on Space -2025 (September 8-9, 2025)	Bengaluru	Theme - Harnessing Space for Global Progress: Innovation, Policy, and Growth

15 th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism (CT) between India- EU (September 9, 2025)	Brussels	—
28 th Universal Postal Congress -2025 (September 8 to 19, 2025)	Dubai, UAE	—
3 rd International Conference of Young Buddhist Scholars (August 22,2025)	New Delhi	Theme – “Wisdom Transmission in Buddha Dhamma in the 21st Century” Organized by- International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)
First BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival-2025 (August 4, 2025)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Inaugurated by - External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar

Exercises and Operations

Name of Exercise	Participating Countries/Forces	Location
Exercise CINBAX-II 2026 (May 4 to 17, 2026)	India - Cambodia Bilateral Military Exercise	Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia
Exercise Cyclone – IV (April 9 to 17, 2026)	India - Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise	Anshas, Egypt
4 th IN–SLN DIVEX 2026 (April 21-28, 2026)	Indian Navy and the Sri Lankan Navy	Colombo, Sri Lanka
IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) 2026 (March 27, 2026)	Indian Navy	Maritime Warfare Centre, Southern Naval Command, Kochi
11 th Exercise LAMITIYE 2026 (March 9 to 20, 2026)	India- Seychelles	Seychelles Defence Academy, Seychelles
6 th Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR -2026 (February 24- March 16, 2026)	India and the USA	Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
Exercise ‘Vayu Shakti–2026-27’ (February, 2026)	Indian Air Force	Pokhran Firing Range, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
13 th Exercise KHANJAR 2026 (February 4-17, 2026)	India and Kyrgyzstan	Missamari, Assam
17 th Exercise DOSTI 2026 (January 16-19, 2026)	India, Maldives and Sri Lanka	Maldives
ICG-JCG Joint Exercise 2026 (January 15-17, 2026)	Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Japan Coast Guard (JCG)	Mumbai
19 th Exercise SURYA KIRAN-2025 (November 25 – December 8, 2025)	India and Nepal	Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
Exercise Desert Cyclone-II (December 18-30, 2025)	India and the UAE	Abu Dhabi, UAE
5 th Exercise Harimau Shakti-2025 (December 5-18, 2025)	India and Malaysia	Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
10 th Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI-2025 (December 3-12, 2025)	India and Indonesia	Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
8 th Exercise ‘Garuda-25’ (November 16-27, 2025)	India and France	Mont-de-Marsan, France
8 th Exercise “AJEYA WARRIOR-25” (November 17-30, 2025)	India and the U.K.	Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
6 th Exercise VINBAX-2025 (November 11-27, 2025)	India-Vietnam	Hanoi, Vietnam
14 th Exercise ‘EKUVERIN-2025’ (December 2-15, 2025)	India and the Maldives	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
29 th Exercise ‘MALABAR-2025’ (November 10-18, 2025)	India, Japan, Australia and the United States	In and around Guam in the Northern Pacific Ocean

11 th Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2025 (November 10-23, 2025)	India-Sri Lanka	Foreign Training Node, Belagavi, Karnataka
Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' – 02/2025 (November 19-20, 2025)	Coastal Security Exercise for the State of Kerala, UTs of Mahe and Lakshadweep	Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
Operation Sagar Bandhu (November 28, 2025)	Launched by – India	Objective – To provide Assistance to Sri Lanka in the wake of Cyclone Ditwah, causing severe flooding, loss of life.
Exercise AUSTRALIND 2025 (October 13-26, 2025)	Australia joint military Exercise	Irwin Barracks, Perth, Australia
Exercise Ocean Sky2025 (October 20-31, 2025)	Spanish Air Force	Gando Air Base, Spain
Exercise JAIMEX-2025 [October 16 – 18 (Sea Phase) & October 21, 2025 (Harbour phase)]	Japan-India Maritime Exercise	Yokosuka, Japan
5 th Exercise 'Samudra Shakti – 2025' (October 14- 17, 2025)	Indo-Indonesian Joint Bilateral Maritime Exercise	Visakhapatnam , Andhra Pradesh
Exercise KONKAN-2025 (October 5-12, 2025)	Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of the UK	—
Exercise Jal Prahar -2025 (September 16 -22, 2025)	—	Visakhapatnam & Kakinada
Exercise "Freedom Edge 2025" (September 15-19, 2025)	Japan, Republic of Korea, and the United States	Near Jeju Islands, South Korea
Exercise Siyom Prahar -2025 (September 8 to 10, 2025)	Indian Army	—
21 st Exercise Yudh ABHYAS-2025 (September 1-14, 2025)	India–USA Joint Military Exercise	Alaska, USA
14 th Exercise MAITREE-2025 (September 1-14, 2025)	India - Thailand joint military Exercise	Umroi, Meghalaya
12 th Exercise SLINEX-2025 (August 14-18, 2025)	India and Sri Lanka	Colombo
Exercise BRIGHT STAR 2025 (August 28 to September 10, 2025)	Multilateral tri-service drill hosted by Egypt in partnership with the United States	—
Exercise Joint Sea-2025 (August 1-5, 2025)	China -Russia	Russia
Exercise Samanvay Shakti 2025 (August 20 -30, 2025)	Civil Integration Exercise	Assam & Manipur
14 th Exercise Bold Kurukshetra -2025 (July 27- August 4, 2025)	India-Singapore	Jodhpur, Rajasthan
11 th Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 (TS25) (July 13 to August 4, 2025)	Multilateral training exercise including participation of 19 nations	Australia and Papua New Guinea
Operation Kalanemi (July 10, 2025)	Uttarakhand Government	—
8 th Exercise Shakti-2025 (June 18 - July 1, 2025)	India and France	La Cavalerie , France

Important Days/Week

NATIONAL		
IMPORTANT DAYS/WEEK	DATE (Year 2025-26)	THEME
National Statistics Day, 2026	29 June	Data for Development
National Science Day, 2026	28 February	"Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat".
Central Excise Day, 2026	24 February	—

Safer Internet Day, 2026	10 February	"Smart tech, safe choices, exploring the safe and responsible use of AI".
National Voters' Day, 2026	25 January	"My India, My Vote"
National Tourism Day 2026	25 January	—
National Girl Child Day 2026	24 January	"Empowering Girls for a Sustainable Future".
National Youth Day, 2026	12 January	"Ignite the Self, Impact the World (from Ramakrishna Mission)"
Good Governance Day (India)	25 December	—
National Consumer Rights Day	24 December	—
National Mathematics Day	22 December	"National Mathematics Day (NMD)"
Minorities Rights Day in India	18 December	—
National Energy Conservation Day	14 December	—
National Pollution Control Day	2 December	"Sustainable Living for a Greener Future"
Constitution Day of India	26 November	—
National Education Day	11 November	—
National Cancer Awareness Day	7 November	—
Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)	October 31	—
National Dolphin Day	5 October	—
National Teachers' Day	5 September	"Empowering Educators for a Sustainable Future."
National Handloom Day	7 August	—
Sadbhavna Diwas	20 August	—
Indian Akshay Urja Day	20 August	—
International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	23 August	—
National Space Day	23 August	—
National Sports Day	29 August	Ek Ghanta Khel ke Maidan Mein
National Doctor's Day	1 July	"Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?"
National Postal Worker Day	1 July	"Innovating Delivery: Honoring Postal Workers in the Digital Age."
Kargil Vijay Diwas	26 July	—
National Cancer Awareness Day	7 November	"Hope, love, and strength: our weapons against cancer!"
National Legal Services Day	9 November	Empowering Justice: Accessible Legal Aid for All
National Press Day	16 November	"Changing Nature of Press"
Constitution Day of India	26 November	Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhimaan" (Our Constitution, Our Pride),

INTERNATIONAL

IMPORTANT DAYS/WEEK	DATE (Year 2025-26)	THEME
➔ Recently United Nations announced upcoming international years – ☉ International Year of the Woman Farmer - Year 2026 ☉ International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development - Year 2026 ☉ International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism - Year 2027 ☉ International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence - Year 2029		
International Asteroid Day, 2026	30 June	—
International Day of the Tropics, 2026	29 June	—
UN MSME Day, 2026	27 June	"The Future Generation of MSMEs," with a central focus on "AI-Driven Future: Economic Empowerment for the Next Generation of MSMEs."

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	26 June	World drug problem: persisting issues, new challenges, innovative responses
Olympic Day 2026	23 June	"You Can Do This. Let's Move"
United Nations Public Service Day	23 June	Transforming Public Institutions: Advancing innovation, Participation, and Inclusion
International Widows' Day	23 June	
World Rainforest Day	22 June	The Forest Within You
World Music Day	21 June	A Day that brings us together
World Hydrography Day	21 June	Transforming How ocean data is shared
International Day of Yoga	21 June	Yoga for Healthy Ageing
World Refugee Day	20 June	Get Involved Until Everyone Is Safe
World Sickle Cell Awareness Day	19 June	Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease.
Autistic Pride Day	18 June	Autism is trending. Now do something about it.
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	17 June	Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.
Global Wind Day	15 June	Our wind, our community
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	15 June	Beyond Awareness: Making Elder Abuse Prevention Work
World Blood Donor Day	14 June	One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives
World Day Against Child Labour	12 June	Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults
International Archives Day	9 June	Archives for Justice: Rights, Memory & Futures
World Oceans Day	8 June	Reimagine: Beyond the world we know, a new relationship with our ocean.
World Food Safety Day	7 June	From burden to solutions – safe food everywhere
World Environment Day	5 June	Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future
World Bicycle Day	3 June	"Cycling for a Greener Future"
World Milk Day	1 June	Celebrating Women Farmers
Anti-Tobacco Day / World No Tobacco Day	31 May 2026	Unmasking the appeal – countering nicotine and tobacco addiction.
World Turtle Day	23 May 2026	
International Day for Biological Diversity	22 May 2026	"Acting locally for global impact"
International Museum Day	18 May 2026	Museums Uniting a Divided World
World Hypertension Day	17 May 2026	Controlling Hypertension Together
World Telecommunication Day / World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	17 May 2026	Digital lifelines: Strengthening resilience in a connected world.
International Day of Light	16 May 2026	Light, science and society: Advancing innovation and impact
Endangered Species Day	15 May 2026((The third Friday of May)	Celebrating America's Wildlife Comeback Stories. Championing the Endangered Species Act.
International Day of Families	15 May 2026	Families, Inequalities and Child Well-being.
International Nurses Day	12 May 2026	Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives
World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	8 May 2026	United in Humanity
World Thalassaemia Day / International Thalassaemia Day	8 May 2026	Together for Thalassaemia Care: Equity, Access & Hope
World Athletics Day	7 May 2026	—
International No Diet Day	6 May 2026	—
World Asthma Day	6 May 2026	Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma – still an urgent need

International Firefighter's Day	4 May 2026	
Press Freedom Day / World Press Freedom Day	3 May 2026	Shaping a Future at Peace: Promoting Press Freedom for Human Rights, Development, and Security
World Tuna Day	2 May 2026	
International Labour Day / May Day	1 May 2026	
World Immunization Week, 2026	24-30 April	"For every generation, vaccines work"
World Day for Safety and Health at Work, 2026	28 April	—
World Intellectual Property Day, 2026	26 April	
International Girls in ICT Day, 2026	23 April	"AI for Development: Girls shaping the digital future".
World Malaria Day, 2026	25 April	"Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must."
World Book and Copyright Day, 2026	23 April	—
International Earth Day, 2026	22 April	"Our Power, Our Planet"
World Health Day, 2026	7 April	"Together for health. Stand with science,"
International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, 2026	6 April	'Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers'
World Autism Awareness Day, 2026	2 April	"Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value"
World Tuberculosis (TB) Day	24 March	"Yes! We can end TB"
World Meteorological Day	23 March	"Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow".
World Water Day, 2026	22 March	"Water and Gender"
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 2026	21 March	"Mobilizing political will: 60 years of commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination".
World Down Syndrome Day, 2026	21 March	"Together Against Loneliness"
International Day of Forests, 2026	21 March	"Forests and Economies"
International Day of Happiness, 2026	20 March	"Social Media and Happiness"
World Consumer Rights Day, 2026	15 March	"Safe Products, Confident Consumers"
World Sleep Day, 2026	13 March	Sleep Well, Live Better.
World Kidney Day, 2026	12 March	—
International Day of Women Judges, 2026	10 March	"Women Judges on the Bench and Beyond: Protecting Access to Justice"
International Day of Mathematics, 2026	14 March	"Mathematics and Hope"
International Women's Day, 2026	8 March	"Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls"
World Obesity Day 2026	4 March	"8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity".
World Wildlife Day, 2026	3 March	"Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods"
World Hearing Day, 2026	3 March	"From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children."
Zero Discrimination Day, 2026	1 March	—
World Civil Defence Day, 2026	1 March	"Managing Environmental Risks for a Resilient and Sustainable Future".
Rare Disease Day, 2026	28 February	"More Than You Can Imagine"
World NGO Day, 2026	27 February	"Restoring Dignity Through Inclusion"
International Mother Language Day, 2026	21st February	"Youth voices on multilingual education".
World Radio Day, 2026	13 February	"Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice."
World Pulses Day, 2026	10 February	Pulses of the world: from modesty to excellence

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, 2026	6 February	“Towards 2030: No End To FGM Without Sustained Commitment and Investment”.
International Day of Human Fraternity, 2026	4 February	“Dialogue Over Division”.
World Cancer Day, 2026	4 February	“United by Unique”
World Wetlands Day, 2026	2 February	“Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage”.
World Leprosy Day 2026	25 January	“Leprosy is curable, the real challenge is stigma”.
International Day of Education, 2026	24 January	“The power of youth in co-creating education”.
World Hindi Day 2026	10 January	“Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence”
World Braille Day, 2026	4 January	—
International Human Solidarity Day	20 December	—
International Migrants Day	18 December	“My Great Story: Cultures and Development”
Universal Health Coverage Day	12 December	Devastating human impact of unaffordable health costs.
Human Rights Day	10 December	Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials
International Anti-Corruption Day	9 December	Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow’s Integrity
International Civil Aviation Day	7 December	“Safe Skies & Sustainable Future for All”
World Soil Day	5 December	“Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities.”
World Computer Literacy Day	2 December	Digital Skills for an Inclusive Future
International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	2 December	No official theme this year.
World AIDS Day	1 December	Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	25 November	UNiTE to End Digital Violence against Women and Girls
World Television Day	21 November	—
World Fisheries Day	21 November	—
World Children’s Day	20 November	“My Day, My Rights”
World Toilet Day	19 November	“Sanitation in a changing world”
International Student’s Day	17 November	—
World Philosophy Day	20 November	—
World Diabetes Day	14 November	—
World Kindness Day	13 November	“Kindness in a Digital World”
World Pneumonia Day	12 November	“Child Survival,”
World Radiography Day	8 November	“Radiographers: Seeing the Unseen”
World Tsunami Awareness Day	5 November	“Be Tsunami Ready: Invest in Tsunami Preparedness”
World Polio Day	24 October	—
World Osteoporosis Day	20 October	“It’s Unacceptable!”
International Poverty Eradication Day	17 October	“Ending social and institutional maltreatment by ensuring respect and effective support for families”.
World Anaesthesia Day	16 October	“Anaesthesiology in Health Emergencies”
World Food Day	16 October	“Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future”
International Day of Rural Women	15 October	“The Rise of Rural Women: Building Resilient Futures with Beijing+30.”
World Standards Day	14 October	“A Shared Vision for a Better World: Spotlight on SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals.”
International Disaster Risk Reduction Day	13 October	“Fund Resilience, Not Disasters”

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World Arthritis Day	12 October	—
International Day of the Girl Child	11 October	“The girl I am, the change I lead: Girls on the frontlines of crisis
World Mental Health Day	10 October	Mental Health in Humanitarian Emergencies.
World Post Day	9 October	“#PostForPeople: Local Service. Global Reach.”
World Teachers’ Day	5 October	“Recasting teaching as a collaborative profession.”
World Animal Day	4 October	‘Save Animals, Save the Planet,’
International Day of Non-Violence	2 October	—
International Day of Charity	5 September	“For work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace.”
International Literacy Day	8 September	“Promoting literacy in the digital era.”
World Suicide Prevention Day	10 September	“Changing the Narrative on Suicide”
World First Aid Day	13 September	—
International Day of Democracy	15 September	From Voice to Action
International Day for Interventional Cardiology	16 September	—
International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	16 September	From Science to Global Action
World Patient Safety Day	17 September	“Safe care for every newborn and every child,”
International Day of Peace	21 September	Act Now for a Peaceful World
World Alzheimer’s Day	21 September	“Ask about Dementia. Ask about Alzheimer’s”
World Rhino Day	22 September	—
World Contraception Day	26 September	“A choice for all – agency, intention, access.”
World Environmental Health Day	26 September	“Clean Air, Healthy People”.
World Tourism Day	27 September	“Tourism and Sustainable Transformation”
World Maritime Day	28 September	“Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity”
World Heart Day	29 September	“Don’t Miss a Beat”
International Translation Day	30 September	“Translation, shaping a future you can trust”50
World Lung Cancer Day	1 August	—
World Wide Web Day	1 August	—
World Sanskrit Day	9 August	—
World Biofuel Day	10 August	“Biofuels: A Sustainable Pathway to Net Zero”.
International Youth Day	12 August	“Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond”
World Elephant Day	12 August	“Matriarchs & Memories”
World Organ Donation Day	13 August	“Answering the Call”
World Photography Day	19 August	“My Favorite Photo”
World Chocolate Day	7 July	—
World Population Day	11 July	“Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world.”
Malala Day	12 July	—
World Day for International Justice	17 July	—
Nelson Mandela International Day	18 July	“It’s still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity.”
International Chess Day	20 July	“Every Move Counts”
World Nature Conservation Day	28 July	—
World Hepatitis Day	28 July	“It’s time for action”
International Tiger Day	29 July	“Call for Action”

Books & Authors

- ➔ The Library Man of India: The Story of P.N. Panicker – By P. P. Sathyan
- ➔ Apnapan – By Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development)
- ➔ Commemorative volume on 'Operation Sindoor' – Launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- ➔ Tides of Time: Bharat's History through Murals in Parliament – By Smt. Sudha Murty
- ➔ Karuna: The Power of Compassion – By Kailash Satyarthi
- ➔ "Mahatma: A Great Communicator" – By Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia
- ➔ Vishwaguru Srila Prabhupada – by Dr. Usha Upadhyay
- ➔ Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman (Coffee table book) – by Vijay Goel
- ➔ Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography – by Manoj Mukund Naravane
- ➔ Sing, Dance and Lead: Leadership Lessons from the Life of Srila Prabhupada – by Hindol Sengupta
- ➔ Agni Sarassulo Vikasinchina Kamalam Droupadi Murmu – By Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad
- ➔ Gen V Bano and Mahatma – Launched by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh
- ➔ 'Palanivelu GUTS' (autobiography) – by Dr. C. Palanivelu
- ➔ History That India Ignored – by Prem Prakash
- ➔ The One : Cricket, My Life and More – By Shikhar Dhawan
- ➔ A Sixth of Humanity : Independent India's Development Odyssey – By Devesh Kapur & Arvind Subramanian
- ➔ The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny – By Kiran Desai
- ➔ Antim Din (Hindi translation of novel "The Last Day") – by Jaroslavas Melnikas
- ➔ They Will Shoot You, Madam - My Life Through Conflict – by Harinder Baweja
- ➔ The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny – by Kiran Desai
- ➔ Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II: Shaping a Future Ready Force – by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan
- ➔ Why the Constitution Matters: Selected Speeches – by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud
- ➔ Demography, Representation, Delimitation: The North-South Divide in India – by Ravi K. Mishra
- ➔ Dapaan: Tales from Kashmir's Conflict – by Ipsita Chakravarty
- ➔ Different But No Less – by Anupam Kher
- ➔ Rocket Dreams: Musk, Bezos, and the Inside Story of the New, Trillion-Dollar Space Race – by Christian Davenport
- In Praise of Coalition Politics and other essays on Indian Democracy – by Manoj Kumar Jha
- M.S. Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India – by Priyambada Jayakumar
- Gunned Down – Murder of An Olympic Champion – by Sundeep Misra
- Das Paise ka Postcard – by S.N. Ahmed
- Confessions of a Shakespeare Addict - by V.S. Ravi
- Sustainable Wellness of Students: A Collective Responsibility in Higher Education – Launched by Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami
- The One: Cricket, My Life and More (Memoir) – by Shikhar Dhawan
- The Emergency Diaries-Years that Forged a Leader - Launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah
- Celebrating V.V. Kumar @ 90 – Compiled by Partab Ramchand
- Modi's Niti Shastra: The World's His Oyster – by Dr. Adish C. Aggarwala
- Indira Gandhi and the Years that Transformed India – by Srinath Raghavan
- WA Different Kind of Power – by Jacinda Ardern
- Win The Battle of Your Mind in the Age of Social Media – by Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta
- Janata Ki Kahani, Meri Aatmakatha – by Bandaru Dattatreya (Governor of Haryana)
- PMO: Prime Minister's Office Through the Years – by Himanshu Roy
- Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician – by Arun Singhal and Dr. Devendra Kumar Sharma
- The Chief Minister And The Spy – by Amarjeet Singh Daulat
- Crooked Seeds – by Karen Jennings
- John & Paul: A Love Story in Songs – by Ian Leslie
- Sanskriti ka Paanchva Adhyay (Compilation of PM Narendra Modi's thoughts & Speeches on Indian Culture, Heritage and tradition) – by Dr. Prabhat Ojha, Shri Ram Bahadur Rai
- Careless People: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism - by Sarah Wynn - Williams
- LEO: The Untold Story of Chennai Super Kings – by P. S. Raman
- The Great Conciliator: Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India – by Sanjeev Chopra
- Life on Mars : Collected Stories – by Namita Gokhale
- The New Icon: Savarkar and the Facts – by Arun Shourie
- I Am? – Compiled by Shri Gopichand P. Hinduja
- I Am A Soldier's Wife: The Life and Love of Toni Lidder – by Geetika Lidder
- Diyaslai – by Kailash Satyarthi (Autobiography)
- Stumped: Life Behind and Beyond the Twenty-Two Yards – by Syed Kirmani (Autobiography)
- Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh: Through the Ages – Released by Shri Amit Shah & Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
- The World After Gaza – by Pankaj Mishra



Cricket

Indian Premier League, 2026

- ➔ 19th IPL was organised from March 20 to May 31, 2026 across 13 venues.
- ➔ The tournament feature 10 teams competing in 74 matches.
- ➔ The final match was played at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad on May 31, 2026 between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Rajasthan Royals.

Champion

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (2nd title)

Important Award & Stats

- ➔ **Most Valuable Player** – Vaibhav Suryavanshi (Rajasthan Royals)
- ➔ **Player of the final match** – Virat Kohli (RCB)
- ➔ **Orange Cap** – Vaibhav Suryavanshi (RR), 776 runs
- ➔ **Purple Cap** – Kagiso Rabada (GT), 29 wickets
- ➔ **Fastest fifty** – Urvil Patel (CSK), 13 balls
- ➔ **Fastest century** – Vaibhav Suryavanshi (RR), 36 balls

Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2026

Wisden Award	Winner
Leading Men's Cricketer in the World	Mitchell Starc (Australia)
Leading Women's Cricketer in the World	Deepti Sharma (India)
Leading T20 Cricketer in the World	Abhishek Sharma (India)

ICC Men's T20 World Cup, 2026

- ➔ 10th edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8, 2026.

- ➔ India had previously hosted the tournament in 2016 while Sri Lanka in 2012.
- ➔ Italy qualified for the Men's T20 World Cup for the first time.
- ➔ The final was played between India and New Zealand at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad on March 8, 2026.

Champion

India (Record third title)

Individual Awards

- ➔ **Player of the Tournament** – Sanju Samson (India)
- ➔ **Player of the Match (Final)** – Jasprit Bumrah (India)
- ➔ **Most Runs** – Sahibzada Farhan (Pakistan, 383 runs)
- ➔ **Most Wickets** – Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy (Both India, 14 wickets each)

Important Facts : T20 World Cup, 2026

- ➔ **Teams** – 20
- ➔ **Total Matches** – 55
- ➔ **Highest Individual Score** – Yuvraj Samra (Canada, 110 runs)
- ➔ **Most Sixes** – Sanju Samson (India), 24 sixes
- ➔ **Fastest fifty** – Abhishek Sharma (India), 18 balls vs. New Zealand
- ➔ **Most Hundreds** – Sahibzada Farhan (Pakistan), 2
- ➔ **Fastest Hundred** – Finn Allen (New Zealand), 33 balls against South Africa
- ➔ **Hat-trick (1)** – Romario Shepherd (West Indies) vs. Scotland
- ➔ **Most Catches** – Glenn Phillips (New Zealand), 11 catches

ICC Men's Under-19 World Cup, 2026

- ➔ 16th ICC Men's Under-19 World Cup was held in Zimbabwe and Namibia from January 15 to February 6, 2026.

Result –

Champion – India (Record 6th title)

Runner-up – England

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Individual Awards and Stats	
➔	Player of the Series – Vaibhav Suryavanshi (India)
	Player of the final Match – Vaibhav Suryavanshi (India)
	Captain of India-U19 – Ayush Mhatre
Vaibhav Suryavanshi	
➔	14-year old Indian batsman Vaibhav Sooryavanshi scored 175 runs off just 80 balls, highest individual score ever in an Under-19 World Cup final.
➔	Suryavanshi shattered Dewald Brevis record for the most sixes in a single edition of the U19 World Cup.
⌚	He smashed 30 sixes in the tournament.
⌚	He smashed 15 sixes and 15 fours in the final match.

TATA Women's Premier League (WPL), 2026	
Result –	
Champion – Royal Challengers Bengaluru (2 nd title)	
Runner-up – Delhi Capitals	
Individual Awards and Stats	➔ Most Valuable Player – Sophie Devine (Gujarat Giants)
	➔ Orange Cap for most runs – Smriti Mandhana (RCB)
	➔ Purple Cap for most wickets – Sophie Devine (Gujarat Giants)
	➔ Hat-trick (1) – Nandini Sharma (Delhi Capitals)

The Ashes 2025-26	
➔	The Ashes is a Test series played biennially between England and Australia.
➔	Australia hosted the Ashes 2025-26 between November 21, 2025 and January 8, 2026.
Winner	
Australia (4-1)	
Individual Awards and Stats	
➔	Compton-Miller Medal for Player of the Series – Mitchell Starc (Australia)
➔	Most runs – Travis Head (Australia, 629 runs)
➔	Most wickets – Mitchell Starc (Australia, 31 wickets)

New Zealand Tour of India 2025-26	
➔	New Zealand cricket team visited India during January 11-31, 2026.

Result : ODI Series	
Winner – New Zealand (2-1)	
➔	New Zealand clinched their first-ever bilateral ODI series win in India.
➔	Daryl Mitchell of New Zealand adjudged as player of the series.
Result : T20I Series	
Winner – India (4-1)	
➔	Suryakumar Yadav (India) declared as Player of the Series.

India Under 19s Tour of South Africa 2025-26	
Result : Youth ODI Series	
Winner – India (3-0)	
➔	Indian captain Vaibhav Suryavanshi scored most runs (206) in the series.

South Africa tour of India 2025-26	
➔	The South African cricket team toured India in November and December, 2025.
Result : Test Series	
Winner - South Africa (2-0)	
➔	South Africa won first Test series in India after 2000 AD.
➔	Simon Harmer of South Africa adjudged as player of the series.
Result : ODI Series	
Winner – India (2-1)	
➔	Virat Kohli (India) adjudged as Player of the Series.
Result : T20I Series	
Winner – India (3-1)	
➔	Varun Chakravarthy (India) declared as Player of the Series.
➔	At the age of 23 years and 31 days, Tilak Varma became the youngest Indian batter to score 1000 runs in Men's T20I.

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025-26	
➔	The tournament took place from November 26 to December 18, 2025.
Result –	
Winner – Jharkhand (First title)	
Runner-up – Haryana	

ACC Under 19 Asia Cup 2025	
➔ The 12 th edition of ACC Under-19 Asia Cup hosted in UAE from December 12 to 21, 2025.	
Result :	
Winner – Pakistan U-19 (second title)	
Runner-up – India U-19	

India Tour of Australia 2025-26 (October 19 – November 8, 2025)	
Series	Winner
ODI Series (3 matches)	Winner – Australia (2-1) Player of the Series – Rohit Sharma (India)
T20I Series (5 matches)	Winner – India (2-1) Player of the Series – Abhishek Sharma (India) Most runs – Abhishek Sharma, 163 runs Most Wickets – Nathan Ellis (Australia), 9 wickets

ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025	
➔ The 13 th edition of ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 was hosted jointly by India and Sri Lanka from September 30 to November 2, 2025.	
➔ This was the fourth time India hosted the tournament (1978, 1997 and 2013).	
➔ Final match was played at DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai.	
Result -	
Champion – India (1 st title)	
Runner-up – South Africa	
Individual Awards	
➔ Player of the Series – Deepti Sharma (India)	
➔ Most runs – Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa), 571 runs	
➔ Most Wickets – Deepti Sharma (India) 22 wickets	

CEAT Cricket Ratings Awards 2025	
Award	Winner
International Cricketer of the Year	Joe Root (England)
Lifetime Achievement Award	Brian Lara (West Indies), B.S. Chandrasekhar (India)
Special Memento for Champions Trophy 2025	Rohit Sharma (India)

Men's ODI Batter of the Year	Kane Williamson (New Zealand)
T20I Bowler of the Year	Varun Chakravathy (India)
Women's Batter of the Year	Smriti Mandhana (India)
Women's Bowler of the Year	Deepti Sharma (India)
Emerging Player of the Year	Angkrish Raghuvanshi (India)

17 th Cricket Men's Asia Cup 2025	
 September 9-28, 2025	
Abu Dhabi & Dubai (U.A.E.)	Format – T20I
Result -	
Champion – India (Record 9 th title) [7 in ODI format and 2 in T20I format]	
Runner-up – Pakistan	

Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, 2025	
June 20 – August 4, 2025	Host - England
Result – Drawn (2-2)	
Bilateral Test Series (5 Matches) between Indian and England	
Individual Awards	
➔ Player of the Series – Shubman Gill (India) and Harry Brook (England)	
➔ Most runs – Shubman Gill, 754 runs	
➔ Most wickets – Mohammed Siraj (India), 23 wickets	
Shubman Gill	
➔ He broke Sunil Gavaskar's record (732 runs) of most runs by an Indian captain in a Test series.	
➔ With his knocks of 269 and 161 (total 430 runs) in Birmingham test, he surpassed Gavaskar's record (344 runs) for the highest match aggregate by an Indian.	

Tennis

Indian Wells Open/BNP Paribas Open 2026 (March 4 to 15, 2026)	
Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Jannik Sinner (Italy) Runner-up – Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
Women's Singles	Winner – Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) Runner-up – Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)

Miami Open, 2026 (March 17 to 29, 2026)	
Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Jannik Sinner (Italy)
	Runner-up – Jiri Lehecka (Czech Republic)
Women's Singles	Winner – Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
	Runner-up – Coco Gauff (U.S.A.)
Sunshine Double ➔ Winning the titles of Indian Wells Open and Miami Open in the same year is called the 'Sunshine Double'. ➔ Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka made history this March as both completed the Sunshine Double.	

Tennis Tournaments	
Tournament	Winner
WTA Mumbai Open, 2026	Women's Singles – Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Thailand)
ATP Delhi Open, 2026	Men's Singles – Stefanos Sakellaridis (Greece) Men's Doubles – Siddhant Banthia (India) and Alexander Donski (Bulgaria)
ATP Chennai Challenger, 2026	Men's Singles – Frederico Ferreira Silva (Portugal) Men's Doubles – Pruchya Isaro (Thailand) & Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha (India)
WTA Chennai Open, 2025	Women's Singles – Winner – Janice Tjen (Indonesia)
Davis Cup Finals 2025	Champion – Italy (4 th title)
Billie Jean King Cup (Finals) 2025	Winner – Italy

Hockey

Men's Hero Hockey India League 2025-26	
➔ Men's Hockey India League 2025-26 was played in Chennai, Ranchi and Bhubaneswar from January 3-26, 2026.	
Result –	
Winner – Vedanta Kalinga Lancers (2 nd title)	
Runner-up – Ranchi Royals	

Individual Awards
➔ Hero Player of the Tournament – Amandeep Lakra (Hyderabad Toofans)
➔ Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament – Prince Deep Singh (Tamil Nadu Dragons)

Women's Hero Hockey India League 2025-26	
➔ Women's Hero Hockey India League 2025-26 was hosted in Ranchi, Jharkhand from December 28, 2025 to January 10, 2026.	
Result :	
Winner – SG Pipers	
Runner-up – Shrachi Bengal Tigers	

Individual Awards
➔ Hero Player of the Tournament – Navneet Kaur (SG Pipers)
➔ Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament – Bansari Solanki (SG Pipers)

FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup, 2025	
➔ 14 th Hockey Men's Junior World Cup was hosted in Chennai and Madurai (Tamil Nadu) from November 28 to December 10, 2025.	
Result :	
Winner – Germany (8 th title)	
Runner-up – Spain	
➔ Indian team finished the tournament at number three.	
➔ Best Player – Casper van der Veen (Netherlands)	

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025	
➔ 31 st edition of the tournament was held in Ipoh, Malaysia from November 23-30, 2025.	
Result :	
Winner – Belgium (first title)	
Runner-up – India	
➔ New Zealand won bronze medal.	
➔ Sanjay was the captain of Indian team.	

Hero Hockey Asia Cup (Men's) 2025	
 August 29 – September 7, 2025	
 Rajgir, Bihar	Mascot – Chand (A Tiger) Join @APNAPDFS

Result -
Champion – India (fourth Title)
Runner-up – South Korea
Individual Awards
Hero of the Tournament – Abhishek (India)
Top Scorer – Anvar Akhimullah (Malaysia), 12 goals
Best Goalkeeper – Kim Jaehan (South Korea)

Hockey Asia Cup (Women's) 2025
 September 5-14, 2025
Teams – 8 Gongshu, Hangzhou (China)
Result -
Winner – China Women
Runner-up – India Women
➔ Player of the Tournament – Uditia (India Women)

Football

SAFF U-20 Championship, 2026
➔ SAFF U-20 Championship 2026 took place in Male, Maldives from March 23 to April 3, 2026. ➔ South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) is the governing body of the tournament.
Result :
Winner – Bangladesh (2 nd title)
Runner-up – India

SAFF U-19 Women's Championship 2026
➔ SAFF U-19 Women's Championship 2026 was held in Pokhara, Nepal from 31 January to 7 February, 2026.
Result –
Winner – India (3 rd title)
Runner-up – Bangladesh

Santosh Trophy 2025-26 (December 15, 2025 to February 8, 2026)
Result –
Winner – Services (8 th title)
Runner-up - Kerala

FIFA U-20 World Cup 2025
➔ It was held in Chile from September 27 to October 19, 2025.

Result –
Champion – Morocco (first title)
Runner-up – Argentina

AIFF Super Cup 2025-26 (October 25 to December 7, 2025)
Result :
Winner – FC Goa (3 rd title)
Runner-up – East Bengal FC

Ballon d'Or Award, 2025
➔ Men's Ballon d'Or – Ousmane Dembele (Paris Saint-Germain and France)
➔ Women's Ballon d'Or – Aitana Bonmati (Barcelona and Spain)

SAFF Under-17 Championship 2025
September 15-27, 2025 Colombo, Sri Lanka
Result :
Champion – India (7 th title)
Runner-up – Bangladesh

Durand Cup, 2025
 July 23 – August 23, 2025 Teams – 24
Result –
Winner – North East United FC (Consecutive Second title)
Runner-up – Diamond Harbour FC

Badminton

Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2026
➔ Badminton team tournament Thomas & Uber Cup 2026 was hosted by Denmark from April 24 to May 3, 2026.
Result : Thomas Cup (Men)
Winner - China
Runner-up – France
Result : Uber Cup (Women)
Winner - South Korea
Runner-up – China

Badminton Asia Championships, 2026
➔ Badminton Asia Championships 2026 was hosted in Ningbo, China between April 7 and 12, 2026

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Shi Yu Qi (China)
	Runner-up – Ayush Shetty (India)
Women's Singles	Winner – An Se Young (South Korea)
	Runner-up – Wang Zhi Yi (China)

All England Open Badminton Championships, 2026

➔ All England Open Badminton Championships 2026 was took place in Birmingham, England (UK) from 3 to 8 March, 2026.

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Lin Chun-Yi (Chinese Taipei)
	Runner-up – Lakshya Sen (India)
Women's Singles	Winner – Wang Zhi Yi (China)
	Runner-up – An Se Young (South Korea)

BWF Thailand Masters 2026 (January 27 to February 1, 2026)

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Moh. Zaki Ubaidillah (Indonesia)
	Runner-up – Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul (Thailand)
Women's Singles	Winner – Devika Sihag (India)
	Runner-up – Goh Jin Wei (Malaysia)

BWF India Open 2026

➔ Badminton tournament India Open 2026 took place in New Delhi from January 13-18, 2026.

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Lin Chun-Yi (Chinese Taipei)
	Runner-up – Jonatan Christie (Indonesia)
Women's Singles	Winner – An Se Young (South Korea)
	Runner-up – Wang Zhi Yi (China)

BWF Guwahati Masters, 2025

➔ Badminton tournament Guwahati Masters 2025 was held in Guwahati, Assam from December 2 to 7, 2025.

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Sanskar Saraswat (India)
	Runner-up – Mithun Manjunath (India)

Women's Singles	Winner – Tung Ciou-Tong (Chinese Taipei)
	Runner-up – Tanvi Sharma (India)

BWF Odisha Masters, 2025 (December 9 to 14, 2025)

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Kiran George (India)
	Runner-up – Muhamad Yusuf (Indonesia)
Women's Singles	Winner – Unnati Hooda (India)
	Runner-up – Isharani Baruah (India)

Syed Modi India International 2025

➔ Syed Modi India International 2025 was organized in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh during November 25-30, 2025.

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Jason Gunawan (Hong Kong, China)
	Runner-up – Kidambi Srikanth (India)
Women's Singles	Winner – Hina Akechi (Japan)
	Runner-up – Neslihan Arin (Turkiye)
Women's Doubles	Winners – Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichandra Pullela (Both India)
	Runners-up – Kaho Osawa and Mai Tanabe (Both Japan)

BWF Australian Open 2025 (November 18-23, 2025)

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Lakshya Sen (India)
	Runner-up – Yushi Tanaka (Japan)
Women's Singles	Winner – An Se Young (South Korea)
	Runner-up – Putri Kusuma Wardani (Indonesia)

BWF World Junior Championships, 2025

Guwahati, Assam hosted the Championships during October 13-19, 2025.

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Yang Ming Yu Liu (China)
	Runner-up – Moh. Zaki Ubaidillah (Indonesia)

Women's Singles	Winner – Anyapat Phichitpreechasak (Thailand)
	Runner-up – Tanvi Sharma (India)

Chess

Commonwealth Chess Championship 2026	
➔ Commonwealth Chess Championship 2026 was held in Kalutara, Sri Lanka from May 16-26, 2026.	
Winner	
Open	Women
Mitrabha Guha (India)	Mary Ann Gomes (India)

FIDE Candidates 2026	
➔ The FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 took place in Pegeia, Cyprus between March 28 and April 16, 2026.	
➔ The tournament was held to determine the challenger for the World Chess Championship, 2026.	
Winner : Candidates	
Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan)	
➔ Javokhir Sindarov earned the right to play in the World Chess Championship 2026 against the reigning World Chess Champion Gukesh Dommaraju (India).	
Winner : Women's Candidates	
Vaishali Rameshbabu (India)	
➔ Vaishali Rameshbabu earned the right to play the women's World Chess Championship 2026 match against the reigning women's World Chess Champion Ju Wenjun (China).	

FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship, 2026 (February 13-15, 2026)	
Champion – Magnus Carlsen (Norway)	
Runner-up – Fabiano Caruana (USA).	

Tata Steel Chess India 2026	
➔ Tata Steel Chess India 2026 took place in Kolkata, West Bengal from January 7-11, 2026.	
Event	Result
Open Blitz	Winner – Wesley So (USA).
	Runner-up – Nihal Sarin (India)

Open Rapid	Winner – Nihal Sarin (India)
	Runner-up – Viswanathan Anand (India)
Women's Blitz	Winner – Carissa Yip (USA)
	Runner-up – Vantika Agrawal (India)
Women's Rapid	Winner – Kateryna Lagno (Russia)
	Runner-up – Aleksandra Goryachkina (Russia)

Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2026	
➔ The 88 th edition of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament was held in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands from January 16 to February 1, 2026.	
Event	Result
Masters	Winner – Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan)
	Runner-up – Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan)
Challengers	Winner – Andy Woodward (USA).
	Runner-up – Vasyl Ivanchuk (Ukraine)

Jerusalem Masters, 2025 (November 30 to December 3, 2025)	
Result :	
Winner – Arjun Erigaisi (India)	
Runner-up – Viswanathan Anand (India)	

Commonwealth Chess Championship, 2025	
➔ Commonwealth Chess Championship 2025 has been held from November 8 to 17, 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.	
Event	Result
Open	Winner – Daniel Howard Fernandez (England)
	Runner-up – Adireddy Arjun (India)
Women's	Winner – Srija Seshadri (India)
	Runner-up – Mary Ann Gomes (India)

Global Chess League (Season 3) 2025	
➔ Global Chess League 2025 was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra during December 13-24, 2025.	
Result :	
Winner – Alpine SG Pipers	
Runner-up – Triveni Continental Kings	

FIDE Chess World Cup, 2025

- ➔ Chess World Cup 2025 was held in Goa, India from October 31 to November 27, 2025.
- ➔ India hosted the tournament second time after 2002.
- ➔ It was the 11th edition of the Chess World Cup.

Result :

Champion – Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan)

Runner-up – Wei Yi (China)

- ➔ 19-years-old Javokhir Sindarov became the youngest player to win the Chess World Cup.
- ➔ FIDE World Cup Trophy has been christened as the Viswanathan Anand trophy, in honour of the Indian legend.

FIDE Grand Swiss & FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2025



September 2-16, 2025



Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Result –

Open	Women's
Winner- Anish Giri (Netherlands)	Winner – Vaishali Rameshbabu (India)
Runner-up – Matthias Bluebaum (Germany)	Runner-up – Kateryna Lagno (Russia)

Chennai Grand Masters, 2025



August 6-15, 2025



Chennai (Tamil Nadu)

Result –

Winner – Vincent Keymer (Germany)

Runner-up – Anish Giri (Netherlands)

FIDE Women's World Cup, 2025



July 5-29, 2025



Batumi, Georgia

Edition – Third

Players – 107

Result –

Champion – Divya Deshmukh (India)

Runner-up - Koneru Humpy (India)

- ➔ Divya Deshmukh become the fourth Indian women to earn the title of Grandmaster after her victory at the world cup.
- ➔ Deshmukh follows Koneru Humpy, R. Vaishali and Harika Dronavalli.
- ➔ Overall, she is 88th Grandmaster from India.

Boxing

Asian Boxing Championship (Elite), 2026

- ➔ Asian Boxing Championship 2026 took place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from March 28 to April 11, 2026.

Medal Table (Top 2)

Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Kazakhstan	6	2	5	13
2.	India	5	3	8	16

Indian Gold Medal Winners

1. Minakshi Hooda (Women's 48 kg)
2. Preeti Pawar (Women's 54 kg)
3. Priya Ghanghas (Women's 60 kg)
4. Arundhati Choudhary (Women's 70 kg)
5. Vishvanath Suresh (Men's 50 kg)

World Boxing Future Cup, 2026

- ➔ World Boxing Future Cup, 2026 was hosted in Bangkok, Thailand from 8-15 March, 2026.

Medal Table (Top 4)

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Uzbekistan	4	5	2	11
2.	Kazakhstan	4	4	3	11
3.	USA	4	1	4	9
4.	India	1	3	1	5

Indian Medal Winners

1. Chandrika Pujari (Women's 51 kg) – **Gold Medal**
2. Gunjan (Women's 48 kg) – **Silver Medal**
3. Joyshree Devi (Women's 54 kg) – **Silver Medal**
4. Ambekar Meetei (Men's 50 kg) – **Silver Medal**
5. Radhamani Longjam (Women's 57 kg) – **Bronze Medal**

World Boxing Cup Finals - 2025

- ➔ India hosted the finals at Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex, Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh) from November 16-20, 2025.

Medal Table (Top 3)					
Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India	9	6	5	20
2	Uzbekistan	4	5	4	13
3	England	2	1	3	6

Indian Gold Medal Winners

Minakshi Hooda (Women's 48 kg) – Nikhat Zareen (Women's 51 kg), Preeti Pawar (Women's 54 kg), Jaismine Lamboria (Women's 57 kg), Arundhati Choudhary (Women's 70 kg), Nupur Sheoran (Women's 80+ kg), Parveen Hooda (Women's 60 kg), Sachin Siwach (Men's 60 kg), Hitesh Gulia (Men's 70 kg)

World Boxing Championships (Liverpool) 2025					
 September 4-14, 2025					
 Liverpool, England (U.K.)					
Medal Standings (Top 3) (Men + Women)					
Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Kazakhstan	7	1	2	10
2.	Uzbekistan	6	2	3	11
3.	India	2	1	1	4

Indian Gold Medal Winners

- Jaismine Lamboria (Women's 57 kg category) – **Gold**
- Minakshi Hooda (Women's 48 kg category) – **Gold**

Shooting

ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) Cairo-2026					
➔ Junior Shooting World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) Cairo 2026 was organised in Cairo, Egypt from April 19 to 27, 2026.					
Medal Table (Top 3)					
Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	India	5	6	5	16
2.	Individual Neutral Athlete (AIN)	3	5	4	12
3.	France	3	1	2	6

Indian Gold Medal Winners

- Shiva Narwal (10m Air Pistol Men Junior)
- Prachi Gaikwad (50m Rifle 3 Positions Women Junior)

- Vanshika Chaudhary (10m Air Pistol Women Junior)
- Shambhavi Shravan Kshirsagar and Divyanshu Dewangan (10m Air Rifle Mixed Team Junior)
- Vanshika Chaudhary and Chirag Sharma (10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Junior)

ISSF Shooting World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) Granada-2026					
➔ Shooting World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) Granada 2026 was held in Granada, Spain from April 5 to 13, 2026.					
Medal Table (Top 3)					
Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	8	3	2	13
2.	Germany	1	1	0	2
3.	India	1	0	0	1

Indian Medal Winners

- Palak and Mukesh Nelavalli (10m Air Pistol Mixed Team) – **Gold**

ISSF World Cup Final (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) 2025					
➔ The Shooting World Cup Final (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) 2025 was organized in Doha, Qatar from December 4 to 9, 2025.					
Medal Table (Top 5)					
Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	4	2	3	9
2.	India	2	3	1	6
3.	USA	2	2	2	6

Indian Gold Medal Winners

- Suruchi Inder Singh (10m Air Pistol Women)
- Simranpreet Kaur Brar (25m Pistol Women)

ISSF World Championship (Rifle/Pistol) Cairo 2025					
➔ The Shooting World Championship (Rifle/Pistol) Cairo 2025 was hosted in Cairo (Egypt) from November 6-18, 2025.					
Medal Table (Top 3)					
Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	12	7	2	21
2	South Korea	7	3	4	14
3	India	3	6	4	13

Indian Gold Medal Winners	
Event	Winner
10m Air Pistol Men	Samrat Rana
50m Pistol Men	Ravinder Singh
10m Air Pistol Team Men	Sharvan Kumar, Samrat Rana and Varun Tomar

ISSF Junior World Cup (Rifle/ Pistol/Shotgun) New Delhi, 2025

➔ Shooting Junior World Cup was held in New Delhi from September 24 to October 2, 2025.

Medal Standings (Top-3)					
Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	India	8	10	8	26
2.	Individual Neutral Athlete (AIN)	5	3	4	12
3.	Italy	2	2	1	5

Indian Gold Medal Winners

- Himanshu (10m Air Rifle Men Junior)
- Jonathan Gavin Antony (10m Air Pistol Men Junior)
- Mukesh Nelavalli (25m Pistol Men Junior)
- Ojasvi Thakur (10m Air Rifle Women Junior)
- Anushka Thokur (50m Rifle 3 Positions Women Junior)
- Anushka Thokur (50m Rifle Prone Women Junior)
- Isha Anil Taksale and Himanshu (10m Air Rifle Mixed Team Junior)
- Rashmika Sahgal and Kapil (10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Junior)

Archery

Archery World Cup (Stage 1) 2026

➔ Stage I of Archery World Cup 2026 was held in Puebla, Mexico from April 7 to 12, 2026.

Medal Standings (Top 2 & India)					
Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	3	1	2	6
2.	USA	2	2	1	5
5.	India	1	0	0	1

Indian Medal Gold Winners

Event	Medal	Archers
Compound Women Team	Gold	Madhura Dhamangaonkar, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Pragati

Archery Asia Cup 2026 – World Ranking Tournament, Stage-I

➔ Stage I of Archery Asia Cup 2026 hosted in Bangkok, Thailand between 21 and 28 March, 2026.

Medal Table (Top 2)					
Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Kazakhstan	3	0	1	4
2.	India	2	4	4	10

Indian Medal Gold Winners

- Uday Kamboj (Compound Men)
- Chikitha Taniparthi & Rajat Chauhan (Compound Mixed Team)

Asian Archery Championships, 2025

➔ Asian Archery Championships was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from November 8-14, 2025.

Medal Table (Top 3)					
Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India	6	3	1	10
2	South Korea	2	4	4	10
3	Chinese Taipei	1	1	0	2

Indian Gold Medal Winners

Event	Archers
Compound Women	Jyothi Surekha Vennam
Compound Women Team	Deepshikha Prathika Pradeep, Jyothi Surekha Vennam
Compound Mixed Team	Deepshikha and Abhishek Verma
Recurve Men	Dhiraj Bommadevara
Recurve Women	Ankita Bhakat
Recurve Men Team	Yashdeep Sanjay Bhoge, Atanu Das, Rahul

Archery World Cup (Final) 2025

➔ Archery World Cup Final 2025 held in Nanjing (China) during October 17-19, 2025.

Medal Standings (Top 2 & India)					
Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Mexico	1	1	0	2
2.	South Korea	1	0	1	2
8.	India	0	0	1	1

Indian Medal Winner

Jyothi Surekha Vennam (Compound Women)
 Bronze medal

World Archery Para Championships 2025

September 22-28, 2025

Gwangju, South Korea

Medal Standings (Top 2)

Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	6	3	3	12
2.	India	2	2	1	5

Indian Gold Medal Winners

1. Toman Kumar (Compound Men Open)
2. Sheetal Devi (Compound Women Open)

World Archery Championships, 2025

September 5-12, 2025

Gwangju, South Korea

Medal Standings (Top 4)

Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	South Korea	2	1	4	7
2.	Mexico	2	0	1	3
3.	Spain	2	0	0	2
4.	India	1	1	0	2

Indian Gold Medal Winners

Event	Medal	Archer
Compound Men Team	Gold	Prathamesh Balchandra Fuge; Aman Saini; Rishabh Yadav

Asian Para-Archery Championships, 2025

July 2-7, 2025



Beijing, China

Medal Standings (Top 2)

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	10	4	3	17
2	India	3	3	3	9

Indian Gold Medal Winners

Event	Gold Medal
Recurve Open Mixed Team	Harvinder Singh and Bhawna
Compound Women Open Doubles	Sheetal Devi and Jyoti
Recurve Men Open	Harvinder Singh

Table Tennis

ITTF Men's & Women's World Cup, 2026

➔ ITTF Men's & Women's World Cup (Table Tennis) 2026 was hosted in Macao, China from March 30 to April 5, 2026.

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Wang Chuqin (China) Runner-up – Sora Matsushima (Japan)
Women's Singles	Winner – Sun Yingsha (China) Runner-up – Wang Manyu (China)

ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup, 2026

➔ Table Tennis tournament ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup, 2026 was organized in Haikou, China from 4 to 8 February, 2026.

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Wang Chuqin (China) Runner-up – Harimoto Tomokazu (Japan)
Women's Singles	Winner – Sun Yingsha (China) Runner-up – Wang Manyu (China)

WTT Star Contender Chennai, 2026 (February 10 to 15, 2026)

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Lubomir Jancarik (Czech Republic) Runner-up – Thibault Poret (France)
Women's Singles	Winner – Satsuki Odo (Japan) Runner-up – Miu Hirano (Japan)

WTT Contender Muscat 2026 (February 19-24, 2026)

Event	Result
Mixed Doubles	Winner – Manush Shah and Diya Chitale (Both India)

WTT Feeder Vadodara, 2026 (January 7-11, 2026)

Event	Result
Men's Singles	Winner – Manush Shah (India) Runner-up – Payas Jain (India)
Women's Singles	Winner – Ryu Hanna (South Korea) Runner-up – Anusha Kulkarni (India)

Men's Doubles	Winners – Ankur Bhattacharjee and Payas Jain (Both India)
Women's Doubles	Winners – Yoo Yerin and Ryu Hanna (Both South Korea)
Mixed Doubles	Winners – Payas Jain and Syndrela Das (Both India)

Formula One Car Race

Tournament/Race	Winner
Grand Prix 2026 Barcelona-Catalunya	Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari)
Monaco Grand Prix 2026	Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes)
Canadian Grand Prix 2026	Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes)
Miami Grand Prix 2026	Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes)
Japanese Grand Prix 2026	Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes)
Australian Grand Prix 2026	George Russell (Mercedes)

Squash

Grasshopper Cup (Squash) 2026

- ➔ International Squash tournament Grasshopper Cup, 2026 was held in Zurich, Switzerland from April 21 to 26, 2026.

Event	Winner
Men's	Karim Gawad (Egypt)
Women's	Sivasangari Subramaniam (Malaysia)

Squash World Cup, 2025

- ➔ Squash World Cup, 2025 was hosted in Chennai, Tamil Nadu between December 9 and 14, 2025.
➔ 12 nations competed in the fifth edition of the mixed team tournament.

Result :

Champion – India (first title)

Runner-up – Hong Kong, China

- ➔ Joshna Chinappa, Abhay Singh, Anahat Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar were the members of Indian mixed team.

Wrestling

Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026

- ➔ Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026 was hosted in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from May 11 to 17, 2026.

Medal Table (Top 3 & India)

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

Indian Silver Medal Winner

Gyaneshwari Yadav (Snatch Women's 53 kg)

Asian Wrestling Championships, 2026

- ➔ Asian Wrestling Championships, 2026 took place from April 6 to 12, 2026 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
➔ India finished the Asian Wrestling Championships with a haul of 17 medals (2 gold, 6 silver and 9 bronze).

Indian Gold Medal Winners

- Sujeet Kalkal (Men's 65 kg)
- Abhimanyu Mandwal (Men's 70 kg)

Zagreb Open, 2026

- ➔ Wrestling ranking series tournament Zagreb Open, 2026 was organised in Zagreb, Croatia from 4 to 8 February, 2026.
➔ Indian wrestlers won 14 medals (2 gold, 5 silver and 7 bronze).

Indian Gold Medal Winners

- Sujeet Kalkal (Men's freestyle, 65 kg)
- Manisha Bhanwala (Women's 57 kg)

Pro Wrestling League 2026

- ➔ 5th edition of Pro Wrestling League was organised from January 11 – February 1, 2026 in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Result –

Champion – Haryana Thunders

Runner-up – Delhi Dangal Warriors

Individual Awards
➔ Player of the Tournament – Turan Bayramov (Delhi Dangal Warriors)
Under 23 Wrestling World Championships 2025
➔ Novi Sad, Serbia hosted U23 World Championships during October 20-27, 2025.
➔ Indian U23 wrestlers finished the 2025 edition with 9 medals – 1 gold, 2 silver and 6 bronze.
Indian Medal Winners (Only Gold & Silver)
1. Sujeet Kalkal (Men's 65 kg) – Gold
2. Sarika (Women's 59 kg) – Silver
3. Hansika Lamba (Women's 53 kg) – Silver

Athletics

World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 New Delhi					
➔ World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 New Delhi took place at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi from 8 to 13 March, 2026.					
Medal Table (Top 3)					
Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	India	75	69	64	208
2.	Russia	15	14	6	35
3.	Bosnia & Herzegovina	1	2	0	3

Asian Indoor Athletics Championships, 2026

➡ 12th Asian Indoor Athletics Championships was hosted in Tianjin, China from February 6-8, 2026.

Medal Tally (Top 3 & India)					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	10	11	13	34
2.	Qatar	4	0	0	4
3.	Japan	3	6	2	11
7.	India	1	2	2	5

Indian Medal Winners

- Tejaswin Shankar (Heptathlon) – Gold
- Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Men’s Shot Put) – Silver
- Pooja (Women’s High Jump) – Silver
- Ancy Sojan (Women’s Long Jump) – Bronze
- J. Aadarsh Ram (Men’s High Jump) – Bronze

World Para Athletics Championships, 2025



September 27 – October 5, 2025



New Delhi

Medal Table (Top 3 & India)

Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Brazil	15	20	9	44
2.	China	13	22	17	52
3.	Iran	9	2	5	16
10.	India	6	9	7	22

Indian Gold Medal Winners

1. Sumit Antil (Men's Javelin Throw F64)

2. Sandip Singh Sargar (Men's Javelin Throw F44)

3. Shailesh Kumar (Men's High Jump T63)

4. Rinku Hooda (Men's Javeline Throw F46)

5. Nishad Kumar (Men's High Jump T47)

6. Simran Sharma (Women's 100 m T12)

Weightlifting

Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships, 2025
August 24-30, 2025
Ahmedabad, Gujarat
➔ Indian senior weightlifters have won total 13 medals (3 gold, 7 silver and 3 bronze).
Indian Gold Medal Winners
1. Mirabai Chanu (Women's 48 kg)
2. Ajith Narayan (Men's 71 kg)
3. Ajaya Babu Valluri (Men's 79 kg)

Miscellaneous

11 th Sanda World Cup, 2026					
➡ 11 th Sanda World Cup, 2026 was held from May 13-15, 2026 in Macao, China.					
➡ This World Cup was organised by the International Wushu Federation (IWUF).					
Medal Table (Top 3)					
Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	7	1	0	8
2.	Vietnam	3	3	0	6
3.	India	2	1	2	5
Indian Gold Medal Winners					
1. Aparna Dahiya (Women's 52 kg)					
2. Shivani (Women's 75 kg)					

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Khelo India Tribal Games, 2026

- ➔ The first edition of Khelo India Tribal Games, 2026 was organised in Chhattisgarh across three major centres– Raipur, Jagdalpur and Sarguja.
- ➔ It was held from March 25 to April 3, 2026.
- ➔ The official mascot of the event was “Morveer”.

Medal Table (Top 3 & Bihar)

Rank	State	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Karnataka	23	8	7	38
2.	Odisha	21	15	21	57
3.	Jharkhand	16	8	11	35
19.	Bihar	1	1	0	2

Medal Winners : Bihar

- Mulayam Kharwar (Wrestling/Men's Freestyle 65 kg) – **Gold Medal**
- Anamika Gond (Athletics/Women's Shot Put) – **Silver Medal**

Asian Beach Games, 2026

- ➔ The 6th Asian Beach Games was held from April 22 to 30, 2026 in Sanya, China.

Medal Table (Top 3 & India)

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	24	18	13	55
2.	Thailand	10	9	9	28
3.	Iran	9	1	0	10
6.	India	3	2	1	6

Indian Gold Medal Winners

- Women's Beach Kabaddi – Indian Women's team defeated Sri Lanka in final.
- Pushpa Yadav (Wrestling/Women's 60 kg)
- Priya Malik (Wrestling/Women's 70+ kg)

Laureus World Sports Awards 2026

Award	Winner
Laureus World Sportsman of the Year	Carlos Alcaraz (Tennis/Spain)
Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year	Aryna Sabalenka (Tennis/Belarus)

Sportstar Aces Awards, 2026

- ➔ The Sportstar Aces Awards 2026 held on March 13, 2026 in Mumbai.

Award

Winner

Sportsman of the Year (Male)

Mohammed Siraj

Sportswoman of the Year (Female)

Smriti Mandhana

Hockey India Annual Awards 2025

- ➔ The Hockey India 8th Annual Awards ceremony held in New Delhi on March 27, 2026.

Award	Winner 2025
Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year (Men)	Hardik Singh
Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year (Women)	Navneet Kaur
Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year	Bichu Devi Kharibam
Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award	Zafar Iqbal

BCCI Naman Awards 2026

- ➔ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) organised prestigious Naman Awards 2026 on March 15, 2026 in New Delhi.

Award	Winner
Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer (Men) 2024-25	Shubman Gill
Best International Cricketer (Women) 2024-25	Smriti Mandhana
Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award	Roger Binny and Rahul Dravid
BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women	Mithali Raj

BCCI Annual Player Retainership 2025-26 Team India

- ➔ 30 senior men cricketers were awarded central contracts, even as the BCCI did away with A+ category (October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026).

Senior Men –
➔ Grade A – Shubman Gill, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja
➔ Grade B – Washington Sunder, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Mohd. Siraj, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant, Kuldeep Yadav, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer.
➔ Grade C – 16 players.
Senior Women –
➔ Grade A – Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma.
➔ Grade B – Renuka Thakur, Shafali Verma, Richa Ghosh, Sneha Rana
➔ Grade C – 13 players

Khelo India Winter Games, 2026

- ➡ Khelo India Winter Games 2026 was organised in two chapters.
- ➡ First chapter was held in Leh, Ladakh between 20 and 26 January, 2026.
- ➡ While second chapter was held in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir from February 23-26, 2026.

Medal Table (Top 3)					
Rank	State/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Army	9	6	8	23
2.	Himachal Pradesh	6	7	1	14
3.	Haryana	4	1	2	7

FEI Asian Equestrian Championships, 2025
➔ FEI Asian Equestrian Championships 2025 took place in Pattaya, Thailand during November 24 to December, 7, 2025.
➔ India wrapped up their campaign with a historic five-medal haul in Pattaya, Thailand.
➔ Indian riders made their mark across the eventing and dressage competitions.
Indian Medal Winners - Ashish Limaye (gold medal) – individual eventing - Shruti Vora (silver medal) – individual dressage - Shruti Vora (silver medal) – dressage intermediate freestyle-I - Ashish Limaye, Shashank Singh Kataria and Shashank Kanmuri (silver medal) – team eventing - Shruti Vora, Divyakriti Singh and Gaurav Pundir (Silver medal) – team dressage

Southeast Asian Games, 2025					
➡ 33 rd Southeast Asian Games hosted in Thailand from December 9-20, 2025.					
Medal Standings (Top 3)					
Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Thailand	233	154	113	500
2.	Indonesia	91	112	130	333
3.	Vietnam	87	81	110	278

The Best FIFA Football Awards, 2025	
➡ The Best FIFA Awards 2025 were presented on December 16, 2025 in Doha, Qatar.	
Award for 2025	Winner
The Best FIFA Men's Player	Ousmane Dembele (France)
The Best FIFA Women's Player	Aitana Bonmati (Spain)

Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2025					
➡ KIUG 2025 concluded in Rajasthan from November 24 to December 5, 2025.					
➡ Khamma and Ghani (Two Camels) were chosen as the mascots of KIUG 2025.					
Medal Standings : Top 3					
Rank	University	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Chandigarh University	42	14	11	67
2	Lovely Professional University (Punjab)	32	24	22	78
3	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	32	22	18	72
Srihari Nataraj					
➡ He was the most successful athlete of KIUG 2025 (9 gold + 2 silver)					

Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025
➔ The second edition of Women's Kabaddi World Cup was organized in Dhaka, Bangladesh during November 17-24, 2025.
Result –
Champion – India (2nd title)
Runner-up – Chinese Taipei
➔ Bangladesh and Iran won bronze medals.
➔ Most Valuable Player – Sanju Devi (India)

25th Summer Deaflympics 2025

➔ 25th Summer Deaflympics was hosted in Tokyo, Japan from November 15-26, 2025.

Medal Tally (Top 3 & India)

Rank	Nation/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Ukraine	32	39	29	100
2	USA	17	7	12	36
3	Japan	16	12	23	51
6	India	9	7	4	20

India's Gold Medal Winners : Deaflympics 2025

1. Diksha Dagar – Golf (Women's individual)
2. Mahit Sandhu/Dhanush Srikanth – Shooting (Mixed 10m air rifle team)
3. Dhanush Srikanth – Shooting (Men's 10m air rifle)
4. Anuya Prasad – Shooting (Women's 10m air pistol)
5. Abhinav Deshwal/Pranjali Dhumal – Shooting (Mixed 10m air pistol)
6. Mahit Sandhu – Shooting (Women's 50m rifle 3 positions)
7. Abhinav Deshwal – Shooting (Men's 25m Pistol)
8. Pranjali Dhumal – Shooting (Women's 25m Pistol)
9. Sumit Dahiya – Wrestling (Men's 97 kg)

Asian Youth Games, 2025

- ➔ 3rd Asian Youth Games took place in Bahrain from October 22-31, 2025.
- ➔ The official mascot of the 3rd edition is **Shahab** – an Arabian Oryx.
- ☞ **Najm** and **Dana** are two additional mascots.

Medal Table (Top 3 & India)

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	63	49	35	147
2.	Uzbekistan	37	16	28	81
3.	Kazakhstan	24	29	40	93
6.	India	13	18	17	48

Prime Volleyball League (PVL) 2025

➔ The fourth season of PVL organized in Hyderabad during October 2-26, 2025.

Result :

Winner – Bengaluru Torpedoes (first title)

Runner-up – Mumbai Meteors

Pro Kabaddi League (Season 12) 2025

➔ Season 12 of Pro Kabaddi League organised in Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Jaipur and Delhi between August 29 to October 31, 2025.

Result -

Winner – Dabang Delhi K.C. (2nd title)

Runner-up – Puneri Paltan

11th Asian Aquatics Championships, 2025

- ➔ Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) hosted the championship between September 28 to October 11, 2025.
- ➔ This is the first time the Championship was held in India and second time in South Asia.
- ☞ **Jalveer**; a playful, energetic Asiatic Lion is the Mascot of the 11th Asian Aquatics Champions.

Medal Tally (Top 3 & India)

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	People's Republic of China	40	10	4	54
2.	Kazakhstan	8	7	8	23
3.	Japan	5	12	4	21
11.	India	0	4	9	13

➔ Indian Swimmer Srihari Nataraj won 7 medals (3 silvers and 4 bronzes).

Indian Medal Winners (Individual Events)

- ➔ **Bhavya Sachdeva (Bronze)** – Women's 400 m freestyle
- ➔ **Sajan Prakash (Bronze)** – Men's 200 m butterfly
- ➔ **Benediction Rohit Beniston (Silver)** – Men's 50 m butterfly
- ➔ **Rishabh Das (Bronze)** – Men's 200 m backstroke
- ➔ **Kushagra Rawat (Bronze)** – Men's 1500 m freestyle
- ➔ **Srihari Nataraj (Silver)** – Men's 200 m freestyle; Men's 50m backstroke; **(Bronze)** – Men's 100m freestyle; Men's 100m backstroke

Football World Cup 2026 : Mascots

- ➔ Maple the Moose (Canada), Zayu the Jaguar (Mexico) and Clutch the Bald Eagle (United States) will represent the host countries.

The World Games, 2025

 August 7-17, 2025

 Chengdu (China)

Medal Table (Top 3 & India)

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	36	17	11	64
2.	Germany	17	14	14	45
3.	Ukraine	16	14	14	44
65.	India	0	1	2	03

Indian Medal Winners

1. **Namrata Batra (Wushu)** – Silver (Women's Sanda 52 kg)
 2. **Rishabh Yadav (Archery)** – Bronze (Men's Individual Compound)
 3. **Anandkumar Velkumar (Roller Sports)** – Bronze (Men's 1000 m sprint inline speed skating)
- ➔ This was India's best show at the World Games in terms of medals won.

FISU Summer World University Games 2025

 July 16-27, 2025

 Rhine – Ruhr region (Germany)

Medal Table (Top 3 & India)

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Japan	34	21	24	79
2.	China	30	27	17	74
3.	USA	28	27	29	84
20.	India	2	5	5	12

Indian Gold Medal Winners

1. Sahil Jadhav (Archery) – **Gold**
2. Parneet Kaur and Kushal Dalal (Archery) – **Gold**

Khelo India Water Sports Festival-2025

 August 21-23, 2025



Dal Lake (Jammu & Kashmir)

Medal Tally (Top 7)

Rank	State/UT	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Madhya Pradesh	10	3	5	18
2.	Odisha	4	5	1	10
3.	Kerala	3	1	3	7
4.	Uttar Pradesh	2	0	1	3

Khelo India Youth Games, 2025

May 4-15, 2025

Host - Bihar

Mascot – Gajasimha

Medal Table (Top 3)

Rank	State/Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Maharashtra	58	47	53	158
2	Haryana	39	27	51	117
3	Rajasthan	24	12	24	60

Kho Kho World Cup 2025

January 13-19, 2025

Edition – First

Countries – 24

Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi

Event	Result
Men's Kho Kho	Winner – India Runner-up – Nepal
Women's Kho Kho	Winner – India Women Runner-up – Nepal Women

National Sports Awards, 2024

January 17, 2025

New Delhi

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2024

1. Gukesh D. (Chess)
2. Harmanpreet Singh (Men's Hockey)
3. Praveen Kumar (Para-Athletics)
4. Manu Bhaker (Shooting)

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Major Events

Tennis Grand Slam Tournaments, 2025

Category	Australian Open, 2026	French Open, 2026	Wimbledon, 2025	U.S. Open, 2025
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Alexander Zverev (Germany)	Jannik Sinner (Italy)	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
Winner				
Runner-up	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Flavio Cobolli (Italy)	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Jannik Sinner (Italy)
Women's Singles	Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)	Mirra Andreeva (Russia)	Iga Swiatek (Poland)	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
Winner				
Runner-up	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Maja Chwalinska (Poland)	Amanda Anisimova (USA)	Amanda Anisimova (USA)
Men's Doubles	Christian Harrison (USA) & Neal Skupski (UK)	Marcel Granollers (Spain) & Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)	Julian Cash and Lloyd Glasspool (Both UK)	Marcel Granollers (Spain) & Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)
Winner				
Runner-up	Jason Kubler & Marc Polmans (Both Australia)	Harri Heliövaara (Finland) & Henry Patten (Great Britain)	Rinky Hijikata (Australia) and David Pel (Netherlands)	Joe Salisbury & Neal Skupski (Both U.K.)
Women's Doubles	Elise Mertens (Belgium) & Zhang Shuai (China)	Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic) & Taylor Townsend (USA)	Veronika Kudermetova (Russia) and Elise Mertens (Belgium)	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand)
Winner				
Runner-up	Anna Danilina (Kazakhstan) & Aleksandra Krunic (Serbia)	Anna Danilina (Kazakhstan) & Aleksandra Krunic (Serbia)	Hsieh Su-Wei (Chinese Taipei) and Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia)	Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic) and Taylor Townsend (USA)
Mixed Doubles	Olivia Gadecki & John Peers (Both Australia)	Sara Errani & Andrea Vavassori (Both Italy)	Sem Verbeek (Netherlands) & Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)	Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori (Both Italy)
Winner				
Runner-up	Kristina Mladenovic & Manuel Guinard (Both France)	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) & Evan King (USA)	Joe Salisbury (U.K.) and Luisa Stefani (Brazil)	Iga Swiatek (Poland) & Casper Ruud (Norway)

Major Marathons & Road Running

Marathon/Race	Men's Winner	Women's Winner
Cape Town Marathon 2026	Mohamed Esa (Ethiopia)	Dera Dida Yami (Ethiopia)
London Marathon 2026	Sebastian Sawe (Kenya) (1 : 59 : 30 New World Record)	Tigst Assefa (Ethiopia)
Boston Marathon 2026	John Korir (Kenya)	Sharon Lokedi (Kenya)
Tokyo Marathon 2026	Tadese Takele (Ethiopia)	Brigid Kosgei (Kenya)
Lisbon Half Marathon 2026	Jacob Kiplimo (Uganda) (57:20 – New World Record)	Tsigie Gebreselama (Ethiopia)
TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026	Rodrigue Kwizera (Burundi)	Florence Niyokuri (Rwanda)

New Delhi Marathon 2026	Kartik Karkera	Nirmaben Thakor
Mumbai Marathon 2026	Tadu Abate (Ethiopia)	Yeshi Chekole (Ethiopia)
Los Angeles Marathon 2026	Nathan Martin (USA)	Priscah Cherono (Kenya)
Shanghai Marathon 2025	Milkesa Mangesha (Ethiopia)	Brigid Kosgei (Kenya)
TCS Amsterdam Marathon 2025	Geofry Toroitich Kipchumba (Kenya)	Anyalem Desta (Ethiopia)
Chicago Marathon 2025	Jacob Kiplimo (Uganda)	Hawi Feysa (Ethiopia)
BMW Berlin Marathon 2025	Sebastian Sawe (Kenya)	Rosemary Wanjiru (Kenya)
Sydney Marathon 2025	Hailemariam Kiros (Ethiopia)	Sifan Hassan (Netherlands)
TCS New York City Marathon 2025	Benson Kipruto (Kenya)	Hellen Obiri (Kenya)

Paris 2024 : 17th Summer Paralympic Games

August 28 – September 8, 2024

Medal Standings (Top 3 and India)

Rank	Team/NPC	 Gold	 Silver	 Bronze	Total
1.	People's Republic of China	94	76	50	220
2.	Great Britain	49	44	31	124
3.	United States of America	36	42	27	105
18.	India	7	9	13	29

Paris 2024 : 33rd Summer Olympics

- ➔ The 33rd edition was occurred during July 26 – August 11, 2024 in France.

Indian Winners

Indian Hockey Team – Bronze – Men's Hockey
 Swapnil Kusale – Bronze – Men's 50m rifle 3-position shooting
 Aman Sehrawat – Bronze – Men's 57 kg wrestling
 Neeraj Chopra – Silver – Men's Javelin Throw
 Manu Bhaker – Bronze – Women's 10 m air pistol shooting
 Manu Bhaker & Sarabjot Singh – Bronze – Mixed team 10 m Air Pistol Shooting

Medal Table (Top 3 and India)

Rank	National Olympic Committee	 Gold	 Silver	 Bronze	Total
1.	United States of America	40	44	42	126
2.	People's Republic of China	40	27	24	91
3.	Japan	20	12	13	45
71.	India	0	1	5	6

Upcoming Sports Events

Cricket–

ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 – England & Wales
 ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2027
 – Bangladesh & Nepal
 14th ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2027
 – South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia
 15th ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2031
 – India & Bangladesh
 11th ICC Men's T20I World Cup 2028
 – Australia & New Zealand
 12th ICC Men's T20I World Cup 2030
 – England, Wales, Ireland & Scotland
 ACC Men's Asia Cup 2027 – Bangladesh (ODI)
 ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2029 – India

Football –

FIFA World Cup 2026 – Canada, Mexico & USA
 AFC Asian Cup 2027 – Saudi Arabia
 FIFA Women's World Cup 2027 – Brazil
 FIFA World Cup 2030 – Morocco, Portugal & Spain
 FIFA World Cup 2034 – Saudi Arabia

Hockey –

FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2026
 – Belgium & Netherlands
 FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2026
 – Belgium & Netherlands

Miscellaneous –

Commonwealth Games 2030 – Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
 Asia Cup Archery 2027 – New Delhi
 Commonwealth Youth Games 2027 – Malta
 Asia-Pacific Deaf Championship 2026
 – Penang, Malaysia
 Summer Deaflympics 2029 – Athens, Greece
 Asian Youth Games 2029 – Tashkent, Uzbekistan
 World Police and Fire Games 2029
 – Ahmedabad, Gujarat
 Commonwealth Games 2026 – Glasgow (UK)
 14th South Asian Games 2027 – Pakistan
 Badminton World Championship 2026 – New Delhi
 47th Chess Olympiad 2028 – Abu Dhabi (U.A.E.)
 National Games 2027 – Meghalaya

Asian Winter Games, 2029	- Neom (Saudi Arabia)
47 th Chess Olympiad 2028	- Abu Dhabi, UAE
20 th Asian Games 2026	- Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
21 st Asian Games 2030	- Doha, Qatar
22 nd Asian Games 2034	- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
34 th Olympic Games 2028	- Los Angeles, USA
35 th Olympic Games 2032	- Brisbane, Australia
46 th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2026	- Uzbekistan

Sportsperson in News

○ C.D. Gopinath

- ➔ Former Indian cricketer.
- ➔ He has died in Chennai at the age of 96. (April 9, 2026)
- ➔ He was India's oldest Test cricketer and the second oldest worldwide after Australia's Neil Harvey.

○ Gurbax Singh Grewal

- ➔ Former Indian men's hockey player.
- ➔ He has died at the age of 84. (April 24, 2026).
- ➔ He was part of the bronze medal winning team at the Mexico City 1968 Olympics.

○ Ishank Singh

- ➔ A seven year old boy from Jharkhand.
- ➔ He has become the youngest swimmer to cross the Palk Strait, a 29 km stretch (April 30, 2026).
- ➔ He started from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka and reached Dhanushkodi in Tamil Nadu in 9 hours and 50 minutes.

○ Ajit Agarkar

- ➔ He will continue as chairman of the Senior Men's selection committee after the BCCI decided to renew his contract for one more year. (April 19, 2026)

○ Mayank Chakraborty

- ➔ Indian chess player from Assam.
- ➔ He became 94th Grandmaster of India. (March, 2026)
- ➔ Mayank became the first-ever Grandmaster from Assam and the North east region.

○ Sheetal Devi

- ➔ 19 year old Indian woman para-archer from Jammu & Kashmir.
- ➔ She has been named 'para archer of the year' in World Archery Awards 2025. (March, 2026)

○ Gurjant Singh

- ➔ Indian men's hockey forward.
- ➔ He has announced his retirement from international hockey. (March 27, 2026)
- ➔ He played a central role in India's triumph at Junior FIH World Cup 2016 in Lucknow.
- ➔ He was part of Olympics bronze medal winning teams at both Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024.

○ Utagushimaninde Fanny

- ➔ Woman cricketer of Rwanda.
- ➔ She has become the youngest centurion (15 years 223 days) ever in women's T20I history. (March, 2026).
- ➔ She scored 111* runs off just 65 balls against Ghana in the Nigeria Invitational Women's T20I Tournament.

○ Mirabai Chanu

- ➔ Indian woman weightlifter.
- ➔ She broke three national records during National Weightlifting Championship 2026 in Modinagar, Uttar Pradesh. (February 4, 2026)
- ➔ She won silver medal in women's 48 kg category at the World Weightlifting Championships 2025 in Forde (Norway). (October 2, 2025)

○ Kabak Yano

- ➔ Indian woman mountaineer belong to Arunachal Pradesh.
- ➔ Kabak Yano has successfully summited Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest peak in South America. (February, 2026)

○ Harmanpreet Kaur

- ➔ Indian woman cricketer.
- ➔ She became the most capped women's international cricketer (356 international matches) (February 19, 2026)

○ Davinder Singh Garcha

- ➔ He died at 73 years of age. (January 10, 2026).
- ➔ He scored eight goals in six matches at Moscow 1980.
- ➔ This was India's eighth and last gold medal in men's hockey at the Olympics.

○ Amelia Valverde

- ➔ A woman football manager, belongs to Costa Rica.
- ➔ The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has appointed Amelia Valverde as the coach of the Indian senior women's team. (January 20, 2026).

○ I.S. Bindra

- ➔ Former President of BCCI (1993-96).
- ➔ He passed away in New Delhi at 84 years of age. (January 25, 2026)

○ Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani

- ➔ He has elected as President of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). (January 26, 2026)

○ Aaryan Varshney

- ➔ 21 year old Indian chess player.
- ➔ Aaryan Varshney has become India's 92nd Chess Grandmaster (January 15, 2026).
- ➔ He is 8th Grandmaster from Delhi.

○ P.V. Sindhu

- ➔ Indian woman shuttler.
- ➔ She was elected Chair of the BWF Athletes Commission for 2026-2029 term. (December 24, 2025).

○ **Tanya Chaudhary**

- ➔ Indian woman hammer throw athlete.
- ➔ She broke nine year old National record with an effort of 65.60 m. (January 16, 2026)

○ **Kaamya Karthikeyan**

- ➔ 18 year old Indian mountaineer.
- ➔ Kaamya has set a new record as the youngest Indian and second youngest woman globally to ski to the South Pole. (December 27, 2025)
- ➔ She covered a distance of 115 kilometres.

○ **Sjoerd Marijne**

- ➔ Former Netherlands field hockey player.
- ➔ He has been reappointed as the Chief Coach of the Indian Women's hockey team. (January 2, 2026)

○ **Lando Norris**

- ➔ Formula One car racing team McLaren's driver.
- ➔ He became champion of 2025 Formula One Season.
- ➔ He won his first world title.

○ **A'ja Wilson**

- ➔ An American woman basketball player.
- ➔ Time magazine named her as Athlete of the Year 2025. (December 9, 2025)

○ **Kavita Chand**

- ➔ Indian woman mountaineer from Uttarakhand.
- ➔ She successfully scaled Mount Vinson, the highest peak in Antarctica. (December 12, 2025).

○ **Ryan Williams**

- ➔ 32-year-old football player.
- ➔ He is officially eligible for selection to the Indian team.
- ➔ He has got FIFA approval for the change of member association after relinquishing his Australian citizenship. (November, 2025)

○ **Gennady Golovkin**

- ➔ 43-year-old former professional boxer of Kazakhstan.
- ➔ He has been elected as President of World Boxing (November 23, 2025)

○ **Roger Federer**

- ➔ Former tennis player of Switzerland.
- ➔ He has been elected into the International Hall of Fame in the class of 2026. (November 19, 2025)

○ **Vaibhav Suryavanshi**

- ➔ 14 year old Indian cricketer from Samastipur, Bihar.
- ➔ He hammered a record 78 ball century in Youth Test against Australia Under-19 in Brisbane. (October 1, 2025)
- ➔ This is fastest youth Test hundred on Australian soil.

○ **Mithun Manhas**

- ➔ He elected unopposed as the 37th President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). (September 28, 2025)

○ **Linthoi Chanambam**

- ➔ 19 year old woman judo player from Manipur.
- ➔ She won bronze medal in women's 63 kg event at Junior Judo World Championship in Lima, Peru. (October 7, 2025)

○ **Priteesmita Bhoi**

- ➔ 16 year old Indian woman weightlifter.
- ➔ She broke the world youth record in clean and jerk.
- ➔ She won gold medal in girls' 44 kg category at the Youth Asian Games in Bahrain. (October 26, 2025)

○ **Ilamparathi A.R.**

- ➔ Chennai (Tamil Nadu) based 16 year old Chess player.
- ➔ He has become India's 90th Grandmaster. (October 30, 2025).

○ **Raahul Y.S.**

- ➔ Tamil Nadu based 21 year old Chess player.
- ➔ He has become India's 91st Grandmaster.

○ **Arshdeep Singh**

- ➔ He became the first Indian bowler to take 100 wickets in T20Is. (September 19, 2025)

○ **Anandkumar Velkumar**

- ➔ An Indian inline speed skater.
- ➔ He clinched gold medal in men's 1000 m sprint at Speed Skating World Championship 2025 in Beidaihe, China. (September 13-21, 2025)
- ➔ He became India's first-ever world champion in skating.

○ **Marium Fatima**

- ➔ Indian woman chess player.
- ➔ She made history by becoming Bihar's first Woman FIDE Master. (September, 2025)

○ **Khalid Jamil**

- ➔ An Indian professional football manager and former player.
- ➔ All India Football Federation (AIFF) appointed him as the head Coach of the Senior Men's Indian National Team. (August 1, 2025).

○ **S. Rohit Krishna**

- ➔ Chennai based Chess player.
- ➔ He became the 89th Indian Grandmaster.

○ **Sanjog Gupta**

- ➔ He was appointed as new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the International Cricket Council (ICC). (July 7, 2025)