



CLARITY 4 SURE

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FREE · REVISION SHEET

CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 2026

Exam-ready facts only · 385 items from 25 days

For NABARD Grade A · RBI Grade B · SEBI Grade A · IRDAI · SIDBI

Big themes · Facts To Remember 444 · National Affairs 85 · Banking and Finance 58

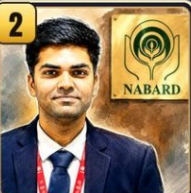
Most mentioned · Practice MCQs · Answer Key · Exam Relevance · News What · RBI



GIANT KILLERS

NABARD GRADE A 2026

ENROLLED IN CLARITY NABARD MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

 1 188.75 SURAJ RAVINDRA NABARD MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME	 2 185 LOKESH CHANDRAN NABARD MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME	 3 185 VIVEK NABARD MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME	 4 184.50 KAPIL PATLYA NABARD MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME	 5 183.75 SIDDHANT KHESARWANI NABARD MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME	 6 182 LALIT KUMAR NABARD MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME
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EXPERT GUIDANCE
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COMPLETE SYLLABUS
DAILY TEST & MCQ PRACTICE

DESCRIPTIVE ANSWER WRITING
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INTERVIEW PREPARATION

6 OF THE
TOP 10

Six of the ten highest scorers in NABARD Grade A 2026 came from this classroom — 32 final selections in one batch. The same mentors compile this book every day.

Contents

Names, numbers and tables only, topic by topic — 385 items from 25 days of May 2026. Every entry is linked; so is every bookmark in your PDF reader.

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THE MONTH IN NUMBERS

May 2026 at a glance

25 daily compilations, 632 items across 9 topics — Facts To Remember weighed the most. Read the charts first: they tell you where this month's questions will come from.

25

daily compilations

632

items covered

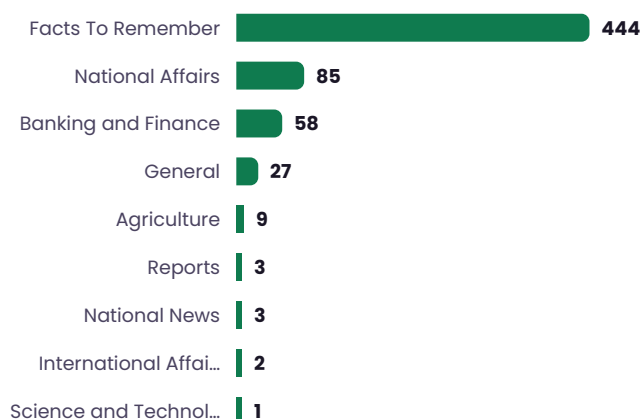
9

topics

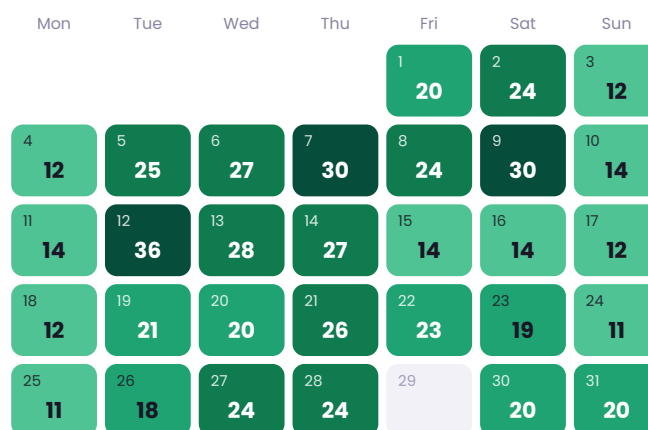
252

data tables

Items by topic



Items per day



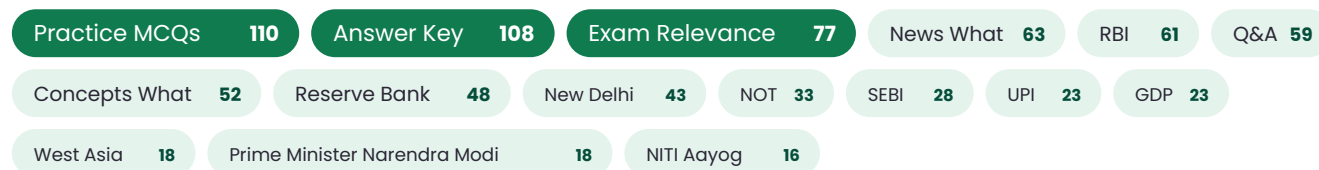
Darker = a heavier day. Two-day posts are split across their days.

Where the items sat

Other exams 632 (100%)

Most mentioned this month

How many items each name appeared in. Know these cold.



"What feels hard today is the easy question next month."

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FIGURES THE PAPER LOVES

May 2026 by the numbers

The month's biggest figures with the line they came from. Say each one with its scheme or report before you turn the page.

₹5 lakh

(c) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; DICGC cover was raised to ₹5 lakh per depositor per bank ...
RBI cancels licence of Mumbai-based Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank · 14 May 2026

₹16,300 crore

The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), launched in 2024, has a total outlay of ₹16,300 crore and another ₹18,000 crore ...
Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework · 28 May 2026

₹19,744 crore

India's National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched in 2023 with an outlay of about ₹19,744 crore.
Indian Railways Approves Country's First Indigenous Hydrogen Train · 29 30 & 31 May 2026

₹70,125 crore

PMGSY-IV (2024–2029): The latest phase with an outlay of ₹70,125 crore. It aims to connect 25,000 remaining unconnect...
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-IV · 3 & 4 May 2026

\$68 billion

Top Peers: Mexico follows at a distant second (\$68 billion), with China at \$48 billion (2022 figures).
The World Migration Report 2026: IOM · 8 May 2026

₹14,231 crore

FPI outflow in May 2026 (so far): ₹14,231 crore from Indian equities.
FPI Ownership of Indian Equities Hits 14-year Low as Selling Streak Continues · 10 & 11 May 2026

₹54.61 crore

2024 seizures: ₹54.61 crore worth of fake currency seized.
National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 'Crime in India' 2024 Report · 12 May 2026

₹6,000

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, launched in 2019, provides ₹6,000 per year (in three equal instalments) to eli...
Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM) · 13 May 2026

₹29.53 lakh

Payment velocity — UPI: ₹29.53 lakh crore transacted in March 2026 alone, accounting for 81% of retail payment volume.
AI-Powered Financial Inclusion in India · 15 & 16 May 2026

₹150

Investment: ₹150+ crore under the SPECS scheme.
Rajasthan gets its first Semiconductor Plant · 17 & 18 May 2026

READ IT THE WAY TOPPERS DO

How to use this book

This sheet is for the last lap: every item is cut down to the names, numbers and tables the paper actually asks. Work topic by topic, then close the book and take the test at the end of each topic.

1

Read a topic

Cards first, in order. Mark every number and every proper noun as you go.

2

Cover and recall

Cover the bullets with your hand and recite the item from its title alone.

3

Take the test

Fill the blanks at the end of the topic from memory, then check the answers.

4

Come back

Tick the tracker below. Revisit weak topics on day 3 and day 7.

Your revision tracker

Tick as you go. Day 3 and day 7 recalls are what move a fact from short-term to exam-day memory.

TOPIC	READ	RECALL +3	RECALL +7	TEST	NOTES
Facts To Remember (444)	☐	☐	☐	☐	
National Affairs (85)	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Banking and Finance (58)	☐	☐	☐	☐	
General (27)	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Agriculture (9)	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Reports (3)	☐	☐	☐	☐	
National News (3)	☐	☐	☐	☐	
International Affairs (2)	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Science and Technology (1)	☐	☐	☐	☐	

"Do not fear the mistake. Fear repeating it."

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS · 85

NSO 80th Round Survey on Household Social Consumption on Health

30 April 2026

- Rural: Rose from 6.8% (2017-18) to 12.2% (2025).
- Hospitalization Costs: In over 50% of hospitalization cases in public health facilities, the expenditure is only ₹1,100.
- Overall Median OOPe: Standing at ₹11,285 (including private care), indicating that high-cost medical debt is now limited to specific, specialized cases rather than being the norm.
- Targeted Impact: The bottom two quintiles (poorest 40%) have seen the most significant decline in OOPe, proving that government interventions are reaching the intended beneficiaries.

Region	2017-18 (75th Round)	2025 (80th Round)
Rural Institutional Delivery	90.5%	95.6%
Urban Institutional Delivery	96.1%	97.8%

India's Shift to E100 and B100

30 April 2026

- E100 is pure ethanol with no petrol content. While India currently targets 20% blending (E20) by 2025-26, E100 requires Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) or dedicated ethanol engines.
- Biodiesel: Replacing 'B10' (10% blend) with 'B100' (pure biodiesel).
- Agricultural Support: Over \$15 billion has been paid directly to farmers (sugarcane and grain producers) over the last decade as ethanol feedstocks.
- Today, 90% of new sales in Brazil are FFVs, allowing consumers to choose at the pump between petrol or ethanol based on current pricing.

Exam Focus Area	Relevance Level
UPSC CSE	GS-3 (Environment: Biofuels, Economy: Infrastructure & Energy)
JPSC / State AE	Mechanical/Automobile Engineering & State Biofuel policies
RBI Grade B	Finance: Forex savings and Import-Export dynamics

NITI Aayog: DPI@2047 Roadmap for Viksit Bharat

30 April 2026

- DPI 1.0 (The Foundation): Focused on financial inclusion and "leakage-proof" welfare transfers (DBT).
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: B

- DPI 2.0 & 3.0 (The Growth Engines): Focused on enhancing human capability, market access for MSMEs, and decentralized economic growth.
- Human Capability: Learner-centric education in local languages and universal healthcare data systems.

Phase	Timeline	Theme	Primary Objective
DPI 2.0	2025-2035	Realising Aspirations	Scaling livelihood-led growth; empowering MSMEs and farmers; building a capable citizen base.
DPI 3.0	2035-2047	Achieving Prosperity	Grassroots innovation; non-linear growth; transitioning to a high-income, developed nation (Viksit Bharat).

Prehistoric Rock Painting Site: Oor Pare (Nilgiris)

30 April 2026

- Located near Vellarikombai village (near Kotagiri), the site is a massive rock shelter perched at an elevation of 1,100 metres.
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: C
- Dimensions: The "canvas" is substantial, covering an area of approximately 6.3 metres (length) by 5.4 metres (height).
- Anthropomorphic Figures: Humans are depicted with conical headdresses, possibly representing shamans or tribal leaders.

Tribes	Role/Connection to Site	Key Characteristics
Irula	Consider the site sacred ; use it for spiritual refuge.	Known for herbal medicine and traditional snake-catching expertise.
Kurumba	Use the site as a resting place during honey-gathering.	Renowned for scaling cliffs to collect honey; traditionally linked to the ancient Pallavas.

Multilateral Exercise Pragati-I (2026)

30 April 2026

- Defense Industry Exposition (May 30-31): A concurrent event highlighting indigenous (Made in India) military hardware. It allows foreign delegations to witness "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" capabilities first-hand, specifically in:
- Full Form: Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Q1. The acronym 'PRAGATI' in the military exercise

stands for Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in which region?

- Q3. How many friendly foreign nations are participating in the first edition of Exercise Pragati?

Exam Focus Area	Relevance Level
UPSC CSE	GS-2 (International Relations), GS-3 (Internal Security)
CDS / NDA / AFCAT	Military Exercises and Defense Technology
Banking / SSC	General Awareness: Current Defense News

Women and Men in India 2025

1 May 2026

- **Managerial Surge:** Between 2017 and 2025, the number of women in managerial positions grew by 102.54%, nearly double the growth rate of men (73.80%).
- **Mean Age at Marriage:** Now stands at 24.3 years, providing women a longer window for higher education and career entry before domestic responsibilities begin.
- **The Literacy Challenge:** Despite youth parity, an overall 14.4% literacy gap persists, largely due to older generations who missed out on schooling.
- **Rural Female LFPR:** A massive jump from 37.5% to 45.9% in just three years. This reflects the impact of self-help groups (SHGs) and rural employment schemes.

Exam Focus Area	Relevance Level
UPSC CSE	GS-1 (Society: Role of Women), GS-2 (Social Justice), GS-3 (Economy)
State PSCs	Socio-economic indicators and rural development data
RBI/NABARD	Rural female LFPR and financial inclusion metrics

India's First Green Methanol Plant

1 May 2026

- **Origin:** Introduced in the 1920s (by the British) and 1961 (by the Gujarat Forest Dept) to prevent desertification.
- **Q1.** Where is India's first green methanol production plant using Prosopis juliflora being established?
- **Answers:** Q1: B | Q2: B | Q3: C
- **Impact:** It has crowded out native grasses over thousands of kilometers in the Banni grasslands, destroying the habitat of local livestock and wildlife.

Feature	Conventional Methanol	Green Methanol
Source	Natural gas or Coal gasification.	Biomass (agricultural residue/weeds).
CO2 Emissions	High (fossil-based).	Reduced by up to 95%.

Other Pollutants	High NOx and SOx.	NOx down by 80%; eliminates SOx.
IMO Rules	May face penalties in future.	Complies with IMO's "Green Port" rules.

National Critical Mineral Mission

1 May 2026

- **Scheme Notified:** October 2, 2025.
- **Total Investment Commitment:** Approximately ₹5,000 crore.
- **Phase 1 Approvals:** 20 companies (March 30, 2026).
- **Phase 2 Approvals:** 38 companies (April 29, 2026).

Exam Focus Area	Relevance Level
UPSC CSE	GS-3 (Energy, Infrastructure, Resources, Environment)
RBI Grade B	ESI: Sustainable Development and Industrial Policy
State PSCs	Regional industrial units and mining policies

Tathagata Buddha Relics in Leh (2026)

1 May 2026

- **Q1.** Which of the Five Tathagatas is associated with the "Bhumisparsha Mudra" (Earth-Touching gesture) and the transformation of anger?
- **Answers:** Q1: C | Q2: B | Q3: D
- **Usage:** Shakyamuni Buddha often referred to himself in the third person as "The Tathagata" when teaching his disciples.

Buddha	Wisdom	Color	Direction	Mudra (Hand Gesture)
Vairocana	Ultimate Reality (Dharmadhatu)	White	Center	Dharmachakra (Turning the Wheel)
Akshobhya	Mirror-like Wisdom	Blue	East	Bhumisparsha (Earth-Touching)
Ratnasambhava	Wisdom of Equality	Yellow	South	Varada (Charity/Giving)
Amitabha	Discriminating Wisdom	Red	West	Dhyana (Meditation)
Amoghasiddhi	All-Accomplishing Wisdom	Green	North	Abhaya (Fearlessness)

Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0

1 May 2026

- **Q1.** Which state emerged as the highest performer in PAI 2.0, with nearly 80% of its Panchayats reaching the Front Runner grade?
- **Answers:** Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: B
- **Water-Sufficient Panchayat:** Monitors access to potable water and greywater management.

Grade	Category	Score Range	Status in 2024
A+	Achiever	\$ \ge 90\$	Zero Panchayats reached this level.

Grade	Category	Score Range	Status in 2024
A	Front Runner	\$75 – 90\$	3,635 Panchayats (High performers like Tripura).
B	Performer	\$60 – 75\$	1,18,824 Panchayats (The largest group).
C	Aspirant	\$40 – 60\$	Underperforming areas (e.g., parts of Bihar).
D	Beginner	\$ < 40\$	Critically lagging areas (e.g., remote NE regions).

NASM-SR: India's Indigenous Maritime "Ship-Killer"

1 May 2026

- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: B | Q3: B
- Significance: It reduces dependence on foreign OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) and provides the Navy with a tailored solution for littoral (near-shore) warfare.
- Range: Approximately 55 km, keeping the launch helicopter at a safe distance from the target's immediate point-defense systems.
- Sea-Skimming Profile: The missile flies extremely low to the water's surface. This makes it difficult for enemy shipborne radars to detect it against the "clutter" of the waves until it is too late to react.

Exam Focus Area	Relevance Level
UPSC CSE	GS-3 (Science & Tech: Indigenization of Technology, Defense)
CDS / AFCAT	Defense Current Affairs, Weapon Systems
State PSCs	General Awareness: Achievements in Defense

Operation WHITE STRIKE

3 & 4 May 2026

- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: B
- In a major victory for India's internal security and anti-narcotics efforts, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) executed Operation WHITE STRIKE in early May 2026. The operation led to the seizure of 349 kg of high-grade cocaine, valued at approximately ₹1,745 crore, within the Mumbai logistics corridor.

Feature	Details
Executing Agency	Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)
Primary Target	International Cocaine Trafficking Syndicate
Seizure Volume	349 kg (Exceeds India's typical annual average)
Estimated Value	₹1,745 Crore
Primary Locations	Kalamboli and Bhiwandi (Mumbai/Thane logistics hubs)

The Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026

3 & 4 May 2026

- On May 1, 2026, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026. This update serves as a major overhaul of the 2009 Rules, primarily focusing on digitizing the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) framework and tightening document security for minors.
- A: Under Section 7B(2) of the Citizenship Act, 1955, they cannot:
- Q1. The Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026 were notified by which Union Ministry?
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: B

Exam	Focus Area	Relevance Level
UPSC CSE	GS-2 (Citizenship, Indian Diaspora, Governance)	Extreme
JPSC / BPSC	Polity: Citizenship and Rights of NRIs/OCIs	High
SSC / RRB	Current Affairs: New Government Portals and Forms	Medium

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)

3 & 4 May 2026

- 1969–1972: Early safety committees monitored the first stations at Tarapur and Rajasthan.
- 1979–1981: The Karkhanawala and Meckoni Committees argued that for public confidence, safety oversight must be handled by a dedicated statutory body rather than just internal committees.
- 1983: The AERB was formally established under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.
- The AERB develops the Safety Codes and Guides that dictate how nuclear plants must be designed and operated. It also helps the government frame rules under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Exam	Focus Area	Relevance Level
UPSC CSE	GS-3 (Energy, S&T, Environmental Safety)	High
JPSC / State PCS	Statutory Bodies and Nuclear Power Projects in India	Very High
Engineering Services	Nuclear Safety Standards and Equipment Lifecycle	High

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-IV

3 & 4 May 2026

- PMGSY-II (2013): Shifted focus from "new connectivity" to consolidation. It upgraded 50,000 km of existing rural roads to improve transport efficiency between villages and growth centers.

- PMGSY-IV (2024–2029): The latest phase with an outlay of ₹70,125 crore. It aims to connect 25,000 remaining unconnected habitations through 62,500 km of new roads.
- e-MARG: A performance-based maintenance platform. It ensures contractors are only paid during the 5-year Defect Liability Period (DLP) if the road is actually maintained.
- PMGSY-I (2000): The foundation phase. It targeted all-weather connectivity for unconnected habitations with populations of 500+ (plain areas) and 250+ (hilly/tribal areas).

Mission Drishti

3 & 4 May 2026

- Launch Vehicle: SpaceX Falcon 9 (Transporter mission).
- Optical Sensors: Provide high-detail, intuitive images but are useless at night or when blocked by clouds/smoke.
- SAR Sensors: Can see through clouds, rain, and darkness by using radar waves, but the images can be difficult to interpret and may lack the "visual" clarity of optical photos.
- Weight: 190 kg (India's largest privately developed EO satellite).

Exam	Focus Area	Relevance Level
UPSC CSE	GS-3 (Science & Tech: Space, Indigenous Tech)	Extreme
SSC / State PCS	General Science: Satellite types and sensor technologies	High

Sikkim becomes country's first paperless judiciary state

5 May 2026

- A: Under the Information Technology Act, 2000, digital signatures have the same legal validity as physical signatures. Judges use secure tokens or Aadhaar-based e-Sign to authenticate their orders.
- Paperless Courtrooms (The Output): During hearings, judges refer to digital displays. Orders and judgments are signed using Digital Signatures and are immediately uploaded for public access.
- A: It is the body responsible for overseeing the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) enablement of the Indian Judiciary. The Sikkim success is a direct outcome of the e-Committee's Phase III roadmap.

Exam	Focus Area
UPSC CSE	GS-2 (Governance & Judiciary: Role of ICT); GS-3 (Science & Tech)
SPSC (Sikkim)	Current Affairs: State-specific milestones
Law Entrance	Legal Tech reforms and the e-Courts Project

The CINBAX-II 2026 Exercise

5 May 2026

- Indian Contingent: Approximately 120 personnel, primarily from a battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment.
- Cambodian Contingent: Approximately 160 personnel from the Royal Cambodian Army.
- Timeline: May 4 to May 17, 2026.
- The CINBAX-II 2026 exercise is the second edition of the bilateral military engagement between India and Cambodia. This year's iteration, starting May 4, 2026, marks a significant step in India's Act East Policy, moving from diplomatic dialogue to deep tactical military cooperation.

Key Training Modules

5 May 2026

- Validation Exercise: The two-week program concludes with a 48-hour continuous simulation to test if the two forces can operate as a single unit under stress.

Exam	Focus Area
UPSC CSE	GS-2 (Bilateral Relations: India-ASEAN); GS-3 (Security: Military Exercises)
Defence (NDA/CDS)	Facts: Unit involved (Maratha Light Infantry), Location (Kampong Speu), UN Mandate Chapter VII
SSC/Banking	Current Affairs: Participating countries and the name of the exercise

Cell Broadcast System (CBS)

5 May 2026

- Answers: Q1: C | Q2: B
- Traditional SMS (Point-to-Point): Messages are sent to specific phone numbers. During a disaster, millions of people trying to use their phones simultaneously create "network congestion," causing SMS alerts to be delayed or fail.
- Multilingual Support: The system automatically pushes alerts in the dominant regional language based on the location of the cell tower, ensuring high comprehension in India's diverse linguistic landscape.

Feature	Technical Impact
No Queuing	Messages bypass the standard mobile traffic queue, arriving in near real-time (within seconds).
Geo-Fencing	Alerts can be restricted to a single neighborhood (e.g., for a local gas leak) or expanded to an entire state (e.g., for a cyclone).

Feature	Technical Impact
Silent Mode Override	The alert is accompanied by a unique, high-decibel siren and vibration that can override "Silent" or "Do Not Disturb" modes on many devices.
Network Resilience	Because it doesn't require a data connection or a "handshake" with a specific number, it works better in areas with weak or overloaded signals.

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (KMY)

5 May 2026

- **Nepal's Stance:** On May 3, 2026, Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a formal objection, stating that Lipulekh, along with Kalapani and Limpiyadhura, are integral parts of its sovereign territory based on the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli.
- **India's Rebuttal:** The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) rejected Nepal's claims, calling them "unjustified" and "untenable." India maintains that the Lipulekh Pass has been a long-standing pilgrimage and trade route since 1954.
- **After a hiatus of several years,** India and China agreed to resume the pilgrimage via Lipulekh Pass for the June–August 2026 season.
- **Plan:** Around 1,000 pilgrims are expected to travel in batches.

Feature	Route 1: Lipulekh Pass	Route 2: Nathu La Pass
State	Uttarakhand (Pithoragarh)	Sikkim
Nature	Traditionally involved arduous trekking; now features an 80-km motorable road.	Primarily motorable; considered more comfortable for elderly pilgrims.
Historical Status	The oldest and shortest route; culturally significant.	Opened in 2015 to provide an alternative to the trek-heavy Lipulekh route.
Current Conflict	Central to the India-Nepal boundary dispute.	Generally stable, but subject to India-China border tensions.

Exam Relevance

5 May 2026

Exam	Focus Area
UPSC CSE	GS-1 (Geography: Important Passes); GS-2 (International Relations: India-Nepal & India-China)
State PCS	Uttarakhand & Sikkim current events; historical treaties (Treaty of Sugauli)
General Awareness	Religious sites, high-altitude geography, and MEA-led initiatives

India's Aarogya Maitri (BHISHM Cube)

5 May 2026

- **The Mini-Cube:** The smallest unit (roughly 15 inches), weighing approximately 15–20 kg. Each is waterproof, shockproof, and light enough to be carried by one person or a drone.
- **The deployment of India's Aarogya Maitri (BHISHM Cube)** in Jamaica in April 2026 marks a significant milestone in South-South cooperation. By providing this cutting-edge healthcare infrastructure to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), India has transitioned from being a "first responder" to a "strategic health partner," offering a scalable, indigenous model for disaster resilience.
- **The Mother Cube:** A collection of 36 mini-cubes pre-organized by injury type (e.g., burns, fractures, chest injuries).
- **The Full BHISHM Unit:** Comprised of two mother cubes (72 mini-cubes), it functions as a comprehensive trauma center.

Feature	Detail
Setup Time	Fully deployable in under 12 minutes .
Patient Capacity	Can treat up to 200 casualties simultaneously.
Surgical Capability	Equipped to perform 10–15 basic surgeries per day.
Sustainability	Operates for 48 hours using internal power (solar/battery) and oxygen generation.
Diagnostics	Includes portable ultrasound, digital X-rays, and AI-enabled blood testing.
Tracking	Uses RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) for real-time inventory management.

ECLGS 5.0

6 May 2026

- The scheme provides 100% credit guarantee coverage for MSMEs.
- The total targeted credit flow under the scheme is Rs. 2,55,000 crore.
- ECLGS 5.0 is the first version of the scheme launched in response to a non-pandemic crisis.
- The scheme is open to loans sanctioned up to 31 March 2027.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Economy (Government schemes, banking sector)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Indian Economy, MSME sector, mobilization of resources
BPSC / State PCS	Indian Economy, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS)	Financial Awareness, Banking & Economy section

Exam	Relevance
SEBI / NABARD	Credit guarantee mechanism, MSME finance

Project 17A

6 May 2026

- A network of coastal radar surveillance stations set up after the 2008 Mumbai (26/11) attacks to monitor Indian waters. Its goal is to plug gaps in coastal surveillance and prevent intrusions.
- The total estimated cost is approximately ₹45,000 crore.
- The CAG pointed out hundreds of design changes during construction in earlier warship classes, and noted that ships were being "commissioned on paper" without critical components, leaving the hull unprepared for combat. A 2025 CAG report also said the Navy was inducting platforms without building supporting infrastructure.
- It was set up after the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Defence, Indigenous Schemes, Constitutional Bodies (CAG)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Indian Ocean Diplomacy, India–China Relations
BPSC / State PCS	Defence Affairs, Current Affairs, Indian Polity (CAG)
CDS / NDA / AFCAT	Defence GK — Indian Navy ship classes, projects, naval doctrine
Banking & SSC	Static GK on defence projects, ship names, recent inductions

Project Deepak

6 May 2026

- Headquarters: Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
- Year of Raising: 1961 (Established shortly before the 1962 conflict, highlighting its strategic origin).
- The 66th Raising Day celebration of Project Deepak on May 4, 2026, marks a significant milestone for the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). As one of the oldest pillars of India's border infrastructure, Project Deepak plays a dual role: acting as a strategic multiplier for the Indian Armed Forces and a lifeline for the civilian population in the Western Himalayas.
- Parent Body: Border Roads Organisation (BRO), under the Ministry of Defence.

Project	Region of Operation	Key Focus
Project Deepak	Himachal Pradesh	Manali-Leh Axis, Hindustan-Tibet Road.
Project Himank	Ladakh	Highest motorable roads (Umling La, Khardung La).
Project Dantak	Bhutan	Infrastructure development in Bhutan (Friendship project).

Project Beacon	Jammu & Kashmir	Zojila Pass and Kashmir Valley connectivity.
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Understanding Inequality in India's Growth Story

7 May 2026

- Higher Gini Index: HCES 2023–24 estimates India's consumption inequality at 0.29, higher than the World Bank's estimate of 0.25.
- Urban–Rural Disparity: The urban sector is significantly more unequal than the rural sector, with the top 10% of urban dwellers spending 9 times more than the bottom 10% of rural residents.
- Class Gains: Since the 1980s, urban managers and professionals have gained disproportionately, while informal and agricultural workers have lagged.
- 2. According to the report, the top 10% of the urban population contributes what percentage of total non-food expenditure?

Subject Area	Relevance and Application
Indian Economy (UPSC GS-3)	Critical for questions on "Inclusive Growth," "Poverty," and "Resource Mobilization."
Social Justice (UPSC GS-2)	Impact of welfare policy changes (MGNREGA replacement) on vulnerable populations.
Essay / Ethics	Useful for discussing the trade-offs between "Growth vs. Equity" in a developing nation.
Statistics & Surveys	Understanding the role of MoSPI, NSSO, and the methodology of Gini/MPCE.
State PSC (JPSC/BPSC)	High relevance for questions regarding rural distress and state-level social security.

Discovery of Atmosphere on TNO (612533) 2002 XV93

7 May 2026

- 2. The technique of "Stellar Occultation" is primarily used by astronomers to:
- Answers: 1-C, 2-C, 3-E, 4-C
- Astronomers have made a landmark discovery in the outer reaches of our solar system by detecting a thin atmosphere around the Trans-Neptunian Object (TNO) (612533) 2002 XV93. Located in the icy Kuiper Belt, this object is now only the second TNO—after Pluto—confirmed to possess a gaseous envelope. The discovery, made via stellar occultation by telescopes in Japan, challenges existing models of how small, icy bodies (with a diameter of only 500 km) can retain atmospheres. This finding provides a "time capsule" look into the chemical composition of the early solar system from 4.5 billion years ago.
- Significant Milestone: Only the second TNO known to have an atmosphere (Pluto was the first).

Subject Area	Relevance and Application
Science & Tech (UPSC GS-3)	Significant for topics on Space Exploration and Solar System formation.
Geography (Physical)	Understanding the structure of the outer solar system (Kuiper Belt vs. Oort Cloud).
Current Affairs	First-of-its-kind discovery in observational astronomy.
State PSC / SSC	High probability for questions on IAU classifications, AUs, and planetary definitions.
Scientific Exams	Focus on the mechanics of cryovolcanism and stellar occultation methods.

Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling

7 May 2026

- Operational tenure: FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31 (6 years).
- Opex subsidy: Disbursed in stages — 40% in Year 2 and 60% in Year 5 — linked to incremental sales over the base year (FY 2025–26).
- India released its first official Critical Minerals List of 30 minerals in 2023.
- The scheme runs from FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper III — Economy, Mineral resources, Government Schemes
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Mobilisation of resources, Mineral security, Energy security, Conservation
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — International Relations (Critical mineral diplomacy, MSP)
BPSC / State PCS	Indian Economy, Environment, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	ESI / Economic and Social Issues — Mineral economy, EV transition

National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)

7 May 2026

- Operational tenure: FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31 (6 years).
- Opex subsidy: Disbursed in stages — 40% in Year 2 and 60% in Year 5 — linked to incremental sales over the base year (FY 2025–26).
- India released its first official Critical Minerals List of 30 minerals in 2023.
- The scheme runs from FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper III — Economy, Mineral resources, Government Schemes

UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Mobilisation of resources, Mineral security, Energy security, Conservation
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — International Relations (Critical mineral diplomacy, MSP)
BPSC / State PCS	Indian Economy, Environment, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	ESI / Economic and Social Issues — Mineral economy, EV transition

Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026

7 May 2026

- Legislative measure: Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 — amends the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.
- It amends the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.
- (c) — Statements 1, 2, 4 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong; the increase requires only an ordinary law (simple majority of Parliament + President's assent), not a constitutional amendment, since Article 124(1) already empowers Parliament to do so by law.
- Appointment route: Names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium (CJI + 4 senior-most judges) → Union Ministry of Law and Justice → PM → President of India appoints under Article 124(2).

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II — Indian Polity (Supreme Court, Articles 124–147, Collegium, NJAC)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Judiciary, Separation of Powers, Judicial Reforms, Pendency
UPSC Mains	Essay — Judicial Reforms, Access to Justice
BPSC / State PCS	Indian Polity, Constitution, Current Affairs
Judicial Services	Core area — SC structure, jurisdiction, appointments
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Static GK on Constitutional bodies
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static GK on Supreme Court, Articles, Collegium

Mission for Cotton Productivity

7 May 2026

- Production target: Increase cotton output to 498 lakh bales (170 kg each) by 2031.
- A central public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Textiles, set up in 1970. It procures cotton at Minimum Support Price (MSP) to protect farmers from distress sales and ensures availability of quality cotton to the domestic textile industry.
- Outlay: ₹5,659.22 crore.
- Quality target: Reduce trash content in cotton to less than 2% and upgrade testing labs to global

standards.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper III — Agriculture, Government Schemes, Cropping Patterns
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Agricultural Productivity, Marketing of Produce, Food Processing & Allied Industries
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Government policies and interventions
BPSC / State PCS	Agriculture, Indian Economy, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Agriculture & Rural Economy — high importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on schemes, ministries, cotton
Geography Optional	Agricultural geography, cropping patterns
Agriculture / Forest Services exams	Core area — cotton cultivation, productivity, schemes

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0

7 May 2026

- General: Up to 20% of peak Q4 FY 2026 working capital, capped at ₹100 crore per borrower.
- The scheme provides 100% credit guarantee coverage for MSMEs.
- Borrowers must have Standard accounts as on 31 March 2026.
- ECLGS was first launched in May 2020 as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (Government schemes, banking sector)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Indian Economy, MSME sector, Mobilisation of resources
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Government policies and interventions
BPSC / State PCS	Indian Economy, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Financial Awareness, Banking & Economy — high importance
SEBI / IES	Credit guarantee mechanisms, MSME finance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on schemes, ministries, MSME

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released the Crime in India 2024 Report

7 May 2026

- Total cognisable crimes (2024): 58.86 lakh — down 6% from 2023.
- Cybercrime: 1,01,928 cases (up 17% from 86,420 in

2023). Fraud accounts for 72.6%, sexual exploitation 3.1%, extortion 2.5%.

- Offences against the state: 5,194 cases (up 6.6% from 4,873). 84.6% under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act; 12.5% under UAPA.
- Drug-overdose deaths: 978 in 2024, up 50% from 650 in 2023.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Internal Security, Government bodies (NCRB), Laws (UAPA, BNS)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Welfare of vulnerable sections (SC/ST), Governance
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Internal Security, Cybercrime, Drug trafficking, Agrarian distress
BPSC / State PCS	Internal Security, Current Affairs, Indian Polity
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	ESI / Economic and Social Issues — agrarian distress, unemployment data
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static GK on NCRB, IPC/BNS, UAPA, MHA

The World Migration Report 2026: IOM

8 May 2026

- Top Peers: Mexico follows at a distant second (\$68 billion), with China at \$48 billion (2022 figures).
- The World Migration Report 2026, released by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), confirms India's position as the world's leading recipient of remittances. In a landmark year, India became the first and only nation to surpass the \$100-billion threshold, recording \$138 billion in inflows for 2024. This economic surge is powered by a 19-million-strong diaspora and a strategic shift from low-skilled labor to high-skilled migration in sectors like technology and healthcare.
- Growth Trajectory: Inflows rose from \$53 billion (2010) to \$138 billion (2024).
- A: While specific source breakdowns weren't in this report, the trend is driven by the UAE, US, and Saudi Arabia, which host the largest numbers of Indian immigrants. High earnings in the UK, Canada, and Australia also contributed significantly to the 2024 surge.

School Management Committee (SMC) Guidelines

8 May 2026

- Parental Majority: 75% of the committee must consist of parents or guardians.
- Gender Parity: A mandatory 50% reservation for women within the committee.
- 1. What percentage of School Management Committee (SMC) members must be parents or guardians according to the 2026 Guidelines?
- Financial Power: SMCs are now authorized to execute

civil works for school infrastructure up to ₹30 lakh.

1st International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit

8 May 2026

- **Global Reach:** A coalition of 95 big cat range countries, conservation partners, and scientific organizations.
- **Headquarters:** Located in India, marking a rare instance of a global environmental body being based in the country (similar to the International Solar Alliance).
- The Union Environment Minister has officially launched the website and logo for the 1st International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit, scheduled for 2026 in New Delhi. This summit marks the transition of IBCA from a concept—originally proposed by India in 2023—into a fully operational inter-governmental organization. Headquartered in India, the alliance positions the country as a global mentor in wildlife protection, leveraging the success of initiatives like Project Tiger and Project Lion to help 95 other "range countries" secure their own apex predators.
- 1. Where is the headquarters of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) located?

Swasth Bharat Portal

8 May 2026

- In May 2026, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched the Swasth Bharat Portal during the 10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity in Chandigarh. This portal is designed to solve the "silo problem" in Indian healthcare—where different health programs (like TB, immunization, or maternal health) use separate, disconnected apps. By acting as a federated aggregator, it creates a single digital window for health workers and administrators, significantly reducing paperwork and improving data accuracy.
- The Swasth Bharat Portal is a unified digital health platform launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in May 2026. Its primary purpose is to integrate India's fragmented national health programs into a single, interoperable system.
- 2. What is the projected reduction in the "data entry effort" for health workers due to this portal?
- Answers: 1-C, 2-C, 3-B, 4-C

NITI Aayog Report on the School Education System in India

9 May 2026

- **Infrastructure Growth:** Functional electricity in schools has seen a massive jump, reaching 91.9% in 2024-25 from 55.96% a decade ago.
- **The Digital Surge:** Internet access in schools skyrocketed from 8.05% in 2014-15 to 63.5% in

2024-25.

- **A:** It refers to the study of changes over a specific period (2014-2025). The report identifies how the system evolved from focusing on "Access" (enrolling kids) to "Outcomes" (what kids actually learn).
- **Scale of Operation:** India manages the world's largest education network with 24.69 crore students and 1.01 crore teachers.

Answers

9 May 2026

Exam Body	Relevance & Application
UPSC (CSE)	GS Paper II: Issues relating to the development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Education. GS Paper III: Planning and Resource Mobilization.
RBI Grade B	ESI (Economic & Social Issues): Social Structure in India; Education; Demographic Trends and Human Development.
NABARD Grade A	ESI (Rural Development): Education in rural India; ASER reports; Status of rural infrastructure and digital divide.
SSC (CGL/CHSL)	General Awareness: Current Affairs related to NITI Aayog reports, government schemes (Samagra Shiksha), and education statistics.
State PSCs	Mains/Interview: State-specific performance in education, school merging policies, and implementation of NEP 2020.

NCRB "Crime in India 2024" Report

9 May 2026

- **Cognizable Crimes:** Total registered crimes stood at 58.86 lakh, showing a positive downward trend with a 6% decrease from the previous year.
- **Cybercrime Surge:** Digital offenses crossed the 1-lakh mark for the first time, reaching 1,01,928 cases, a significant 17% increase.
- **Cyber Fraud:** Online financial fraud remains the biggest threat, accounting for 72.6% of all cyber-related FIRs.
- **Drug Overdose Crisis:** A worrying 50% spike in fatalities due to drug overdoses was recorded, indicating a growing public health and narcotics challenge.

Answers

9 May 2026

- C (Ministry of Home Affairs)
- B (Daily wage workers and Farmers)

Exam Body	Relevance & Application
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Exam Body	Relevance & Application
UPSC (CSE)	GS Paper II & III: Law and order, Internal Security (Cybersecurity), and Social Justice (Suicides/Drug Abuse).
SSC (CGL/CHSL)	General Awareness: Current statistics on crime, headquarters of NCRB, and nodal ministries for national reports.
State PSCs	General Studies: State-specific crime trends and the implementation of digital safety measures by state police.

JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care) Platform

9 May 2026

- Q1. The JANANI platform, launched in 2026, is an upgraded version of which existing portal?
- The launch of the JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care) platform by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in 2026 marks a major technological leap in India's public health infrastructure. It shifts maternal and child healthcare from a "fragmented" paper-based system to a "longitudinal" digital-first model.
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: B | Q3: C
- QR-Enabled Digital MCH Cards: Mothers no longer need to carry bulky paper booklets. A simple QR code scan at any health center across India pulls up their entire medical history.

Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)

9 May 2026

- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: B | Q3: C
- The Conversion: It is designed to be fitted onto existing unguided warheads (often called "dumb bombs").

India Hosts ISO International Subcommittee Meetings on 'Space Systems and Operations' for the First Time

10 & 11 May 2026

- Established 23 February 1947.
- The Outer Space Treaty, 1967 is the cornerstone of international space law.
- It is established under the BIS Act, 2016.
- ISO was established on 23 February 1947, with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. It now has member bodies from over 170 countries.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — International Organisations (ISO, BIS), Science & Technology (Space)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Important International Institutions, India and global standards

UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Science & Technology (Space, Satellites, Debris), Indigenous Standards
BPSC / State PCS	International Affairs, Science & Technology, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Current Affairs — Standards and Trade
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static GK on ISO, BIS, ISRO, Outer Space Treaty

Hanamkonda's Kakatiya-era Dance Pavilion Rises Again

10 & 11 May 2026

- Duration: 42 years of restoration work.
- Built by: King Rudra Deva of the Kakatiya dynasty in 1163 AD.
- Highlight features: Monolithic Nandi made of black basalt; richly carved pillars whose vertical carvings give the impression of "thousand pillars."
- Historical event: Originally damaged during the conquest of Ulugh Khan (later Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq) in 1323–24.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Art & Culture, Ancient/Medieval History, ASI
UPSC Mains	GS Paper I — Indian Heritage and Culture, Temple architecture, Medieval India
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Science & Technology (Indigenous knowledge, Geotechnical engineering)
State PCS	Indian History, Art & Culture, Current Affairs
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static GK on temples, dynasties, ASI

3 Jan Suraksha Schemes: PMSBY, PMJJBY and APY Completes 11 years

10 & 11 May 2026

- Launched on: 9 May 2015 at Kolkata, West Bengal, by PM Narendra Modi.
- The premium under the scheme is less than ₹2 per month.
- PMJDY was launched in 2014 to provide universal access to banking.
- PMJJBY: 27.43 crore.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (Government schemes, Financial inclusion, Social security)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Welfare schemes, Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector
BPSC / State PCS	Indian Economy, Social Sector schemes, Current Affairs

Exam	Relevance
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Financial Awareness, Banking Schemes — high importance
Insurance / LIC AAO / IRDAI	Core area — Jan Suraksha, PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY
SEBI / PFRDA Officers	Pension & financial inclusion architecture
SSC / Railway / CAPF	Static GK on schemes, launch dates, eligibility

Union Health Ministry Launches JANANI Platform to Strengthen Maternal and Child Healthcare

10 & 11 May 2026

- Launched by: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- Launched at: National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity, Best Practices Shaping India's Health Future.
- Date: 7 May 2026.
- POSHAN (under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0) and the Poshan Tracker are government platforms that track child and maternal nutrition through anganwadis.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II on Government Schemes (JANANI, PMSMA, JSSK, JSY, ABDM); GS Paper III on Health
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II on Welfare, Health, Women and Child; GS Paper III on Health and Digital Public Infrastructure
BPSC and State PCS	Schemes, Health, Current Affairs
Banking and NABARD	General Awareness on schemes and DPI
NABARD Grade A	Rural health and welfare

India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit (IALFS 2.0)

10 & 11 May 2026

- The major airlines include IndiGo (market leader), Air India (now under the Tata Group, with Vistara and AirAsia India merged into it), SpiceJet, Akasa Air (launched 2022), and regional carriers like Star Air.
- In May 2026, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the 2nd edition of the India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit (IALFS 2.0) at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar. The summit, organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in partnership with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), is part of a strategic push to position GIFT City as a global hub for aircraft

leasing and financing an industry historically dominated by Ireland and Singapore.

- Event: India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit (IALFS 2.0).
- Organised by: Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), in partnership with IFSCA and FICCI.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (Aviation, GIFT City, IFSCA, Government schemes)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Infrastructure (Airports, Aviation), Mobilisation of resources, Financial markets
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Financial Awareness — Aviation Finance, IFSC
SEBI / IFSCA Grade A	Core area — IFSC, aircraft leasing, financial regulation
CA / CFA / CS	Aircraft leasing structures, IFSC tax regime
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static GK on GIFT City, IFSCA, aviation regulators, airlines

Agni-6 Missile

10 & 11 May 2026

- 1. The "Mission Divyastra" and the recent May 2026 Agni trial are associated with which specific technology?
- Indigenous Success: The project involved collaboration between DRDO, the Indian Army, and domestic industry partners, furthering the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative in defense.
- Q3: How was the mission's success verified by the Defence Ministry?
- B (6 — USA, Russia, China, UK, France, and India)

Exam Body	Relevance & Application
UPSC (CSE)	GS Paper III: Science & Technology—Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life; Indigenization of technology; Internal Security.
RBI Grade B	General Awareness: Static and current facts about India's defense breakthroughs and strategic assets.
NABARD Grade A	General Awareness: National news, specifically focusing on self-reliance in critical technology sectors.
SSC (CGL/CHSL)	General Awareness: Facts about Agni missiles, MIRV full form, testing locations (Odisha), and DRDO leadership.
Defence Exams (CDS/AFCAT)	Specialized Knowledge: Technical specifications of Agni missiles and strategic implications of MIRV for the Indian Armed Forces.

Survey Records 143 Odonata Species Across

Western Ghats

10 & 11 May 2026

- The Kasturirangan Committee recommended protecting nearly 64% of the Western Ghats as ecologically sensitive.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; the Gadgil Committee recommended protecting ~64% of the Ghats. The Kasturirangan Committee reduced this to ~37%.
- Key finding: Only 65% of historically known Odonata species could be recovered — suggesting a ~35% shortfall in current diversity.
- In 2012, UNESCO inscribed 39 serial sites across the Western Ghats — spanning Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra — as a natural World Heritage Site, recognising its outstanding universal value as a biodiversity hotspot.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper III — Environment, Biodiversity, Conservation, IUCN, Western Ghats
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Biodiversity, Conservation, Environmental Degradation, Climate Change
UPSC Mains	GS Paper I — Indian Geography (Western Ghats)
BPSC / State PCS	Environment, Geography, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	ESI / Environment & Sustainability
Forest Services (IFoS)	Core area — species, conservation status, ecological indicators
Geography / Zoology / Environment Optional	Biogeography, conservation biology, taxonomy

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005

12 May 2026

- Repeal: All rules, notifications, schemes, orders, and guidelines under MGNREGA, 2005 stand repealed.
- That from 1 July 2026, all rules, notifications, schemes, orders, and guidelines under the MGNREGA, 2005 will stand repealed, and the new VB-G RAM G Act will come into force.
- Effective Date: 1 July 2026 — the VB-G RAM G Act comes into force.
- The Act will come into force from 1 July 2026.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II — Indian Polity, Government Schemes, Welfare programmes
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Welfare schemes, Issues relating to development & management of Social Sector, Rights-based legislation

State PCS	Indian Polity, Welfare schemes, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	ESI / Economic and Social Issues — high importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static GK on MGNREGA, NRLM, government schemes

Tiger returns to Arunachal sanctuary after two decades

12 May 2026

- Established: 1978.
- Launched in 1973 from Jim Corbett National Park, Project Tiger is India's flagship conservation programme. It has established dozens of Tiger Reserves under the management of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- Recent event: A tiger captured by camera traps for the first time in ~20 years.
- Riverine island ecosystem with about 100 km of river courses.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper III — Environment, Biodiversity, Conservation, Mapping (Arunachal Pradesh, Sanctuaries)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Biodiversity, Conservation, Climate-Biodiversity linkages
State PCS	Geography, Environment, Current Affairs
Arunachal PSC / NE State exams	Core area — local sanctuaries, ecology, Daying Ering
Forest Services (IFoS)	Wildlife sanctuaries, species ecology, Wildlife Protection Act
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	ESI / Environment & Sustainability
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static GK on sanctuaries, national animals, Project Tiger

'One Case One Data' initiative, & AI chatbot 'Su Sahay'

12 May 2026

- Backdrop: Indian judiciary faces over 5 crore pending cases, with information asymmetry between courts being a recognised bottleneck.
- The Supreme Court alone has over 5 crore pending cases at present.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 4 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong; the 5 crore pending cases figure refers to all courts combined (Supreme Court, High Courts, and district/subordinate courts) — not the Supreme Court alone (which has around 80,000+ pending cases).
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; the e-Courts Project is funded by the Government of India (with Phase III approved at around ₹7,210 crore), not by UNDP.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II — Indian Polity (Supreme Court, CJI, Articles 39A, 124), Government initiatives
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Judiciary, Judicial Reforms, e-Governance, Access to Justice
BPSC / State PCS	Indian Polity, Current Affairs, Digital Governance
Judicial Services / Law / CLAT	Core area — judicial digitisation, NJDG, SUPACE, SUVAS
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Current Affairs — Digital governance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static GK on Supreme Court, CJI, e-Courts

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 'Crime in India' 2024 Report

12 May 2026

- 2024 seizures: ₹54.61 crore worth of fake currency seized.
- Cumulative since 2017: ₹638 crore.
- Peak year: 2022 — ₹382.6 crore.
- New ₹500 trend: Fakes in 2024 were ~4× those in 2016.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II — Polity, GS Paper III — Internal Security (Currency, NCRB, UAPA, NIA)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Internal Security (Money laundering, terror financing, FICN), Indian Economy
State PCS	Indian Economy, Internal Security, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Banking & Economy — high importance
Law / Judicial Services	Currency laws, UAPA, RBI Act
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on RBI, demonetisation, NCRB, currency notes

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) January–March 2026 (Q4 of FY26)

13 May 2026

- Q4 FY26 (Jan–Mar 2026): 6.6%.
- Q3 FY26 (Oct–Dec 2025): 6.7%.
- Rural LFPR: 58.2% (Q4 FY26) vs 58.4% (Oct–Dec 2025).
- The PLFS 2025 annual figure of 44.9% is for all ages.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (Employment, PLFS, LFPR, UR, WPR), Government Data Sources

UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Indian Economy, Employment, Inclusive Growth, Demographic Dividend
BPSC / State PCS	Indian Economy, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	ESI / Economic and Social Issues — high importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on MoSPI, NSO, PLFS, employment indicators

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana – Phase IV (PMGSY-IV)

13 May 2026

- It was launched in 2016 to provide pucca houses to rural homeless and kutcha-house dwellers.
- Event: Launch of PMGSY-IV on the occasion of the silver jubilee (25 years) of PMGSY.
- ₹1,763.08 crore estimated cost.
- Under PM-JANMAN (for PVTG habitations): Road projects worth ₹261.81 crore covering 384.34 km.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II — Government Schemes (PMGSY, PMAY-G, PM-JANMAN), Welfare programmes
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Welfare schemes, Centre-State relations, Rural development
State PCS	Indian Economy, Rural Development, Polity, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Rural Economy and Development — high importance
Agriculture / Forest / Tribal Welfare exams	Core area — rural infrastructure, tribal schemes

SEHAT Mission

13 May 2026

- Work orders to 50,000+ beneficiaries under Antyodaya Gruha Yojana (AGY) — Odisha's flagship housing scheme.
- 10 lakh additional houses for Odisha under PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana).
- Launched in 2016, PMAY-G is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at providing pucca houses with basic amenities to all eligible homeless rural households and those living in kutcha or dilapidated houses. It replaced the earlier Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY).
- He distributed work orders to 50,000+ beneficiaries under the Antyodaya Gruha Yojana.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II — Government Schemes (PMAY, AGY, Panchayati Raj), Welfare Programmes; GS Paper I — Indian Heritage and Culture (Bhima Bhoi)

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Welfare schemes, Governance, Rural Development; GS Paper III — Tourism, Inclusive Growth
BPSC / State PCS	Polity, Welfare Schemes, Indian Culture, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Rural Economy, ESI — high importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on schemes, Indian poets/reformers, ministries

The National Jute Board (NJB)

13 May 2026

- Established under the National Jute Board Act, 2008; formally enacted on 12 February 2009.
- A central public-sector enterprise under the Ministry of Textiles, set up in 1971. JCI is the price-support and procurement agency for raw jute, ensuring farmers receive at least the Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the government.
- (c) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; the NJB functions under the Ministry of Textiles, not the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- It was established under the National Jute Board Act, 2008.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (Agriculture, Schemes), Geography (Crops, Major Producing States), S&T (ISRO)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Agriculture, Food Processing & Allied Industries, S&T applications in agriculture
State PCS	Agriculture, Indian Economy, Geography, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Rural & Agricultural Economy — high importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on NJB, JCI, ISRO, jute industry
Agriculture / Forest Services / IFoS	Core area — jute cultivation, MSP, sector schemes

NITI Aayog Releases Policy Report on 'School Education System in India'

13 May 2026

- Electricity coverage in schools: 55% (2014-15) → ~92% (2024-25).
- Electricity coverage in schools has risen from 55% in 2014-15 to about 92% in 2024-25.
- Only 27% of Grade 3 students can read a Grade 2 text.
- Only 31% of Grade 5 students can solve basic division.

Exam	Relevance
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UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II — Indian Polity (Article 21A), Government Schemes (NEP 2020, NIPUN Bharat)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Welfare schemes, Issues relating to development of Social Sector (Education)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Human Capital, Inclusive Growth, Education quality
State PCS	Education, Polity, Social sector, Current Affairs

PM repeats call for saving fuel, cutting gold buy; bats for work from home

13 May 2026

- CAD likely to expand to >2% of GDP this fiscal (vs <1% in 2025-26).
- Budgeted target: 4.3% of GDP for 2026-27.
- The Union government's Budget targeted a fiscal deficit of 4.3% of GDP for 2026-27.
- The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act was enacted in 2003.

Government doubles import duty on gold & silver, effective rate now at 18.4%

14 May 2026

- The Gold Monetisation Scheme was launched in 2010.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; the Gold Monetisation Scheme was launched in 2015, not 2010.
- Action: Government doubles effective import tax on gold and silver from ~9.2% to ~18.4%.
- The effective tax rate on gold and silver imports has been doubled from about 9.2% to about 18.4%.

Component	Previous	New
Basic Customs Duty	5%	10%
AIDC (Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess)	1%	5%
IGST (on assessable value incl. customs duty)	3%	3% (unchanged)
Effective total tax	~9.2%	~18.4%

Kimberley Process (KP) Intersessional Meeting in Mumbai

14 May 2026

- Established pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 55/56.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; under KPCS rules, members cannot trade rough diamonds with non-members — this is a core restriction of the scheme.
- Strategic context for India: India processes ~90% of the world's rough diamonds in Surat, Gujarat, making it the largest cutting and polishing hub globally.

- The Kimberley Process (KP) Intersessional Meeting — held in its capacity as Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2026.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II — International Organisations, India's role; GS Paper III — Economy (Diamond industry)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — India's role in international organisations, bilateral and multilateral cooperation
State PCS	International Organisations, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Banking & Economy — moderate importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on Kimberley Process, India's diamond industry, UN resolutions

The Union Minister for Earth Sciences has launched two path-breaking AI-enabled weather-forecasting products

14 May 2026

- Mechanism: Blends ~100 years of IMD data, global weather models, and AI analytics.
- Established in 1875, the IMD is India's national meteorological service and the principal agency for weather forecasting, seismological observations, agro-meteorology, and aviation weather services. It functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The High Spatial Resolution Rainfall Forecast offers rainfall forecasts at 1-km resolution.
- The Southwest Monsoon brings approximately 75% of India's annual rainfall.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Geography (Monsoon); GS Paper III — Science & Technology, AI in Governance
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Indian Economy (Agriculture), Disaster Management, S&T
BPSC / State PCS	Agriculture, Geography, Science & Technology, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Rural Economy, Agriculture — high importance
Forest / Agriculture / Environment exams	Core area — IMD, monsoon, climate-resilient agriculture

10th edition of the Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD-10) in New Delhi

14 May 2026

- Highlight from Sonowal's address: Women's participation in India's maritime sector has surged 340% since 2020.
- India currently holds the chairship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for 2025–27.

- Because India currently holds the chairship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for the 2025–27 period, providing leadership in shaping the IOR agenda during a particularly transformative phase for global maritime security and trade.
- That women's participation in India's maritime sector has surged by 340% since 2020 — a significant indicator of growing gender inclusion in a traditionally male-dominated sector.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II — International Organisations (IORA), India's bilateral relations
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — India's foreign policy, Bilateral & multilateral relations, IOR
State PCS	International Affairs, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Indian Economy, External Sector — moderate importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on IORA, MEA, ICWA, SAGAR, Indian Ocean

India's first Integrated Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) field laboratory facility

14 May 2026

- Scaled up by: UrjanovaC — a deep-tech venture incubated at the Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT-B, featured in Bharat Innovates 2026.
- India aims to source 50% of installed electric power from non-fossil sources by 2030.
- He inaugurated India's first Integrated Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) field laboratory facility under the Bharat Innovates 2026 flagship — at IIT Bombay.
- The technology has been scaled up by UrjanovaC, a deep-tech start-up incubated at the Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT-B, and recognised among the leading start-ups in Bharat Innovates 2026.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper III — Environment, S&T, Climate Change, CCUS; GS Paper I — Geography (Deccan Traps)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Environment, Climate Change, S&T, Industrial Decarbonisation
State PCS	Environment, S&T, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	ESI / Environment & Sustainability — moderate importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on CCUS, Deccan Traps, IIT Bombay, climate commitments

Flagrant Violations' of Tribal Rights in Great Nicobar Projects: Jairam Ramesh Writes to

Minister Jual Oram

14 May 2026

- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 4 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong; the Forest Rights Act is implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, not the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- trigger: ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island (GNI) project :
- The Tribal Council of Little and Great Nicobar has flagged serious violations of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 in the Union government's notification of three new wildlife sanctuaries in the Nicobar archipelago — on Little Nicobar Island, Menchal Island, and Meroe Island. These sanctuaries were notified by the Centre in October 2022 to compensate for the ecological impact of the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project — a massive infrastructure programme to build an international container transshipment port, airport, and greenfield tourist township on the southernmost island, expected to affect coral colonies and the nesting habitats of the leatherback turtle and Nicobar megapode.
- Sanctuaries (notified October 2022):

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II — Constitutional provisions for STs, Forest Rights Act; GS Paper III — Environment, Biodiversity, Conservation
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Welfare of vulnerable sections (STs, PVTGs), Federalism, Indigenous rights
BPSC / State PCS	Geography, Polity, Tribal welfare, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	ESI / Economic and Social Issues — important for environment & social section
Forest Services (IFoS)	Core area — wildlife sanctuaries, FRA, indigenous-conservation conflicts

AI-Powered Financial Inclusion in India

15 & 16 May 2026

- Identity foundation — Aadhaar: Over 144 crore numbers generated (March 2026), providing secure biometric identity for authentication.
- Banking reach — Jan Dhan: 58.16 crore accounts (April 2026), with cumulative deposits of ₹3.02 lakh crore.
- Payment velocity — UPI: ₹29.53 lakh crore transacted in March 2026 alone, accounting for 81% of retail payment volume.
- Launched in August 2014, PMJDY is a national financial inclusion mission providing zero-balance bank accounts, RuPay debit cards, accident insurance, and overdraft facilities. As of April 2026, it covers 58.16 crore accounts holding ₹3.02 lakh crore in deposits.

Use case	AI tool/platform
Alternative credit scoring	Unified Lending Interface (ULI) — uses satellite data + land records
Language access	Banking BHASHINI — 22 scheduled Indian languages
Fraud detection	MuleHunter.AI — detects mule accounts in real time
Informal worker integration	Mission Digital ShramSetu — 490 million workers
Operational efficiency	Account Aggregator (AA) framework — consent-based, paperless

Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP)

15 & 16 May 2026

- Duration: Eight years, spanning 2026 to 2033.
- The new COSOP has a duration of eight years, covering 2026 to 2033.
- The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme was launched by NABARD in 1992.
- The Government of India launched the "10,000 FPO Scheme" in 2020.

Priority	Focus
Resilience Building	Strengthening social, economic, and climate resilience of vulnerable rural communities
Knowledge Scaling	Strengthening knowledge systems to replicate successful Indian development models globally

The Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)

15 & 16 May 2026

- CERT-In operates under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; the whole purpose of CCRA is to eliminate the need for re-testing — a certificate issued under CCRA in one member nation is recognised across all members without retesting.
- Decision: India nominated as Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) for April 2026 – April 2028.
- India's status: Certificate Authorizing Nation since 2013.

Function	What it covers
Technical Management	Manages the international work programme for ISO/IEC 15408 (CC) and CEM
Standardisation	Defines technical evaluation criteria for global IT products — firewalls, OS, smart cards, etc.
Portal Management	Maintains the Common Criteria Portal — the authoritative global repository of certified IT products

Function	What it covers
Mutual Recognition	Ensures a certificate from one country (e.g., India) is valid across all 38 member nations
Technical Working Groups	Coordinates working groups on emerging technologies (cloud, IoT, AI, biometrics, mobile)

The Asiatic Lions

15 & 16 May 2026

- Latest count: 891 individuals as per the 16th Lion Population Estimation (May 2025) — a 32% rise since 2020.
- Event: Lion Species Spotlight Programme, inaugurated at Sasan Gir, Gujarat, ahead of the IBCA Summit 2026.
- The Asiatic Lion is listed in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- According to the 16th Lion Population Estimation (May 2025), the Asiatic lion population stands at 891 individuals — a 32% increase since 2020, reflecting one of the most successful single-species recoveries in India.

Framework	Status
Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	Schedule-I (Highest protection)
CITES	Appendix-I
IUCN Red List	Vulnerable
National Programme	Project Lion (launched 2020)

CBI Launches AI-Powered Verification System 'Abhay'

15 & 16 May 2026

- Section 66D of the IT Act, 2000 deals with cheating by personation using computer resources.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong: CERT-In functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), not the Ministry of Home Affairs. (It is operationalised under Section 70B of the IT Act, 2000.)
- (a) Do not panic; do not pay. (b) Disconnect and verify the notice through Abhay or the CBI's official website. (c) Report immediately to the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal — 1930 / cybercrime.gov.in. (d) Inform local police and alert family members.
- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) is a scheme of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Step	What happens
1. Initial contact	A fraudulent "CBI/police/ED/IT/customs" notice or call alleging a serious offence
2. Coercion	Victim deceived into compliance through threats of arrest, court action, public shame

3. "Digital arrest"	Victim kept on a continuous video call under surveillance for hours/days
4. Sham legal process	Fake "investigation", fake judges, fake bail/penalty demands
5. Extortion	Money is extracted under the guise of "settlement", "clearance", or "fine"

The IP Catalyst Initiative

15 & 16 May 2026

- C-DAC was established in 1988 and is best known for developing India's PARAM series of supercomputers.
- In India, patents are granted for a term of 20 years from the date of filing.
- Launched by: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), at a national conference in New Delhi.
- A patent is a legal right granted to an inventor for an invention — a product or process — that is novel, non-obvious (involves an inventive step), and industrially applicable. In India, patents are granted for 20 years from the date of filing, under the Patents Act, 1970.

Feature	What it offers
Digital Platform (cipie.in)	Single window for technology commercialisation services and IP support
Financial Assistance	(a) IP filing support for MeitY-funded and grantee institutions ; (b) International patent filing support for startups and MSMEs
IP Advisory Services	Professional prior-art search and specialised IP advisory for high-quality patent applications
Commercialisation Support	IP valuation and technology readiness/maturity assessment to gauge market viability
Technology Transfer	Facilitates licensing between research institutions and industry players
Collaboration Ecosystem	Bridges industry-academia-startup partnerships for co-development
Prototyping & Deployment	Helps convert lab-scale prototypes into market-ready products at scale

Cabinet Approves ₹37,500 Crore Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects

15 & 16 May 2026

- Approving Authority: Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi (May 2026).
- Underlying Mission: Built on the National Coal Gasification Mission (NCGM), 2021 — which targets 100 MT of coal gasification by 2030.
- It is structured on the National Coal Gasification

Mission launched in 2021.

- The National Coal Gasification Mission targets gasification of 50 MT of coal by 2030.

Cap type	Amount
% of Plant & Machinery cost	Up to 20%
Per project cap	₹5,000 crore
Per product cap	₹9,000 crore (excluding SNG and Urea)
Per group/entity cap	₹12,000 crore across all projects

India's First Satellite-Tagged Ganges Soft-Shell Turtle Released in Kaziranga

15 & 16 May 2026

- It is listed in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act, 2022 restructured the species schedules and aligned them more closely with CITES.
- Location: Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (1,302 sq km), along the northern bank of the Brahmaputra, Assam.
- Implementing partners: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) + Kaziranga National Park authorities + Assam Forest Department.

Parameter	Detail
Species	Ganges soft-shell turtle (<i>Nilssoniana gangetica</i>)
Identification	Arrowhead-shaped markings on top of the head
Habitat	Large rivers, lakes, and reservoirs
Ecological role	Major river predator; feeds on dead and decaying animal matter – a natural cleaner of riverine ecosystems
Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	Schedule-I (highest protection)
IUCN Red List	Endangered
Assam's significance	5 of 8 soft-shell turtle species in India occur in Kaziranga landscape

SARTHAK-PDS Scheme

28 May 2026

- The scheme has been approved by the Union Cabinet for five years up to March 2031.
- The total outlay of the scheme is ₹25,530 crore.
- The Act provides legal entitlement to subsidised foodgrains for up to 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent of the urban population.
- The scheme aims to strengthen the implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

Earlier Scheme	What it covered
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Assistance to State Agencies for Intra-State Movement of Foodgrains and FPS Dealers' Margin under NFSA

Financial support for moving foodgrains within states and paying FPS dealer margins

Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in PDS (SMART PDS)

Technology modernisation of PDS: ration card digitisation, Aadhaar seeding, e-PoS, online allocation, supply-chain computerisation

Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework

28 May 2026

- The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), launched in 2024, has a total outlay of ₹16,300 crore and another ₹18,000 crore expected from PSUs and others.
- The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) was launched in 2024 with a government outlay of ₹16,300 crore.
- India has classified 30 critical minerals based on the Expert Committee report of the Ministry of Mines (2023).
- The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was amended in 2023 to allow private sector mining of critical and atomic minerals.

Aim	Detail
Stable, resilient supply chains	Reduce single-point dependencies for critical minerals and rare earth elements
Reduce China dependence	Counter China's dominance in processing, refining, and export of rare earths
Insulate technology and defence sectors	Protect against geopolitical coercion through export restrictions

PM-WANI (Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface)

28 May 2026

- The 2026 upgrades require users to register separately with every PDOA and App Provider.
- (a), Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; PDOs do NOT require a telecom licence under PM-WANI. The scheme deliberately avoids licensing burdens for last-mile operators.
- Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) require only a free registration that is processed within 7 working days.
- Hotspot operators have been advised to roll out short-duration sachet plans of 15, 30, and 60 minutes.

Component	What it does
Public Data Office (PDO)	Last-mile node; buys bandwidth from TSPs/ISPs and runs the Wi-Fi hotspot

Component	What it does
Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA)	Backend layer; handles authorisation, security, accounting, and management of multiple PDOs
App Provider	Builds user-facing apps for registration, authentication, and hotspot discovery
Central Registry	Master directory of all certified App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs; ensures interoperability

16th India–Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) in Singapore

28 May 2026

- The first ADMM-Plus meeting was held in Hanoi in 2010.
- ADMM-Plus brings together the 10 ASEAN member states and 8 dialogue partners.
- India and Singapore have ended all bilateral defence exercises in 2026.
- Q3. With reference to the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), consider the following statements:

Indicator	Detail
Type	Highest institutional defence consultation mechanism between India and Singapore
Purpose	Review bilateral defence cooperation and chart future engagements
Frequency	Regular, policy-level dialogue

SRS Statistical Report 2024

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- Institutional healthcare access strengthened further, with 95.4% of live births occurring in hospitals or healthcare institutions in 2024.
- Q1. With reference to the Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2024, consider the following statements:
- Q2. Consider the following statements about findings of the SRS 2024 Report on women's health and demographic structure:
- Q4. With reference to regional and end-of-life findings in the SRS 2024 Report, consider the following statements:

Indicator	Value
TFR (national)	1.9 (below 2.1 replacement level)
CBR	18.3 (from 21.0 in 2014)
CDR	6.4
IMR (national)	24 per 1,000 live births
U5MR	28 per 1,000 live births
Institutional deliveries	95.4 per cent
Sex Ratio at Birth (2022–24 avg)	918

Mean age at marriage (women)	23.1 years (rural 22.6, urban 24.4)
Median age	29.2 years
Population 0–14	24.0 per cent
Population 15–59	66.4 per cent
Population 60+	9.7 per cent
Deaths without formal medical attention	45.5 per cent

Indian Railways Approves Country's First Indigenous Hydrogen Train

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- India's National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched in 2023 with an outlay of about ₹19,744 crore.
- It was established in 1957 and is headquartered in Lucknow.
- Q1. With reference to India's first indigenous hydrogen train, consider the following statements:
- Project: India's first indigenous Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based trainset.

Feature	Detail
Indigenous refuelling hub	At Jind station , with local hydrogen compression and refuelling infrastructure
Redundant compression systems	Standby compressor unit for continuous fuelling availability
Advanced multi-tier safety	Hydrogen leak detectors, flame detectors , automated safety sensors across the production and dispensing line
Shakurbasti maintenance hub	Dedicated workshop with RDSO-approved SOPs and routine safety audits
24/7 monitored transit	Round-the-clock monitoring of fuelling grids by certified teams , with technical staff onboard during early phases

DARPG Launches NeSDA 2025 Portal to Assess India's Digital Governance and Citizen Service Delivery

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- Launched by: DARPG, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- Q2. Consider the following statements about the assessment parameters used by NeSDA 2025:
- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, has launched the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2025 Portal. NeSDA is a biennial assessment framework that measures how well Indian states, UTs, and central ministries deliver digital services to citizens and businesses.

- Portal: NeSDA 2025 Portal.

India and Canada Launch Canada-India Trade and Investment Forum Taiwan Overtakes India to Become World's 5th

- The forum acts as a steering mechanism for negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with a shared deadline of end-2026.
- A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement covers goods trade, services, investment, mobility, and regulatory cooperation. The forum acts as a steering mechanism to drive CEPA negotiations with a target conclusion by end of 2026.
- Q2. Consider the following statements about Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs) and India's trade architecture:
- Members: India and Canada.

Sector

Clean energy

Critical minerals

Agri-food

Advanced manufacturing

Digital technologies

Skills development

Ministry of Panchayati Raj Holds National Training of Trainers for "Nirbhay Raho" Initiative

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 reserves at least one-third of seats for women in Panchayats.
- It targets a combined footprint of over 32 lakh elected Panchayat representatives across India.
- Nirbhay Netri focuses on training about 14.5 lakh Elected Women Representatives.
- Nirbhay Chetna targets the sensitisation of about 17.5 lakh Male Elected Representatives.

Pillar	Target Group	Focus
Nirbhay Netri	About 14.5 lakh Elected Women Representatives (EWRs)	Legal literacy, leadership, capacity to handle local safety issues
Nirbhay Chetna	About 17.5 lakh Male Elected Representatives	Sensitisation, breaking patriarchal biases, joining gender-equality and safety campaigns

Nirbhay Drishti

Village infrastructure

CCTV and surveillance infrastructure in strategic rural locations

Largest Stock Market in May 2026

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- In May 2026, the Taiwan Stock Exchange has overtaken India to become the world's fifth largest stock market. Taiwan's total market capitalisation has reached USD 4.95 trillion, while India's stands at USD 4.92 trillion, a small but symbolically important gap. The shift has happened even though India has a higher Gross Domestic Product (GDP) than Taiwan, and is driven by two main forces. First, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-led semiconductor boom has lifted Taiwan's market, particularly Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), whose shares have surged about 45 to 50 per cent in 2026 alone and which now makes up nearly 42 per cent of Taiwan's Taiex index.
- Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) refers to investment by foreign investors in financial assets of another country, including listed stocks, bonds, and derivatives, without seeking management control of the underlying companies. FPI flows are typically short-term and volatile, often driven by interest rate differentials, currency expectations, global risk sentiment, and index weights. In India, FPIs are registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under the SEBI (Foreign Portfolio Investors) Regulations, 2019, and are categorised into Category I and Category II. When FPIs invest, stock prices and the rupee tend to rise; when FPIs withdraw money (called outflows), stock indices fall, the rupee weakens, and bond yields can rise. The 2026 FPI outflows from India are one of the key reasons behind the country's slip in the global stock market ranking, even as domestic mutual funds and SIP investors continue to provide a strong domestic buffer.
- Q2. Consider the following statements about the factors behind India's relative slip in the global stock market ranking:
- Taiwan Stock Exchange has overtaken India to become the world's 5th largest stock market.

Market	Capitalisation
Taiwan Stock Exchange	USD 4.95 trillion
Indian Stock Market	USD 4.92 trillion

TEST YOURSELF · NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. Established under the _____; formally enacted on 12 February 2009.
2. _____: Early safety committees monitored the first stations at Tarapur and Rajasthan.
3. _____: Shifted focus from "new connectivity" to consolidation. It upgraded 50,000 km of existing rural roads to improve transport efficiency between villages and growth centers.
4. A: Under the _____, digital signatures have the same legal validity as physical signatures. Judges use secure tokens or Aadhaar-based e-Sign to authenticate their orders.
5. General: Up to _____, capped at ₹100 crore per borrower.

Answers 1 National Jute Board Act, 2008 · 2 1969–1972 · 3 PMGSY-II (2013) · 4 Information Technology Act, 2000 · 5 20% of peak Q4 FY 2026 working capital

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RBI's Exit Path for Small NBFCs: The "Type I" Deregistration Framework

30 April 2026

- Assets: Less than ₹1,000 crore.
- Registered Type I NBFCs: Meet the "no public funds/no customer" criteria but have assets of ₹1,000 crore or more.
- Audited financial statements for the last 3 years.
- Status: Exempt from RBI registration starting July 1, 2026.

Exam Focus Area	Relevance Level
RBI Grade B	Finance: NBFC Regulation, SBR, and PRAVAAH portal
UPSC CSE	GS-3 (Economy: Banking and Financial Institutions)

E-PRAAPTI

30 April 2026

- The Problem: As of March 2024, there were 2.15 million inoperative accounts containing ₹8,505 crore. Many members cannot link these to their current UAN because they lack old documentation.
- A) ₹1,638 Crore
- B) ₹2,632 Crore
- C) ₹8,505 Crore

Phase	Target Users	Mechanism
Initial Phase	Members with a known Member ID .	Users enter their old ID; Aadhaar validates identity for instant linking.
Expansion Phase	Members who cannot recall their old IDs.	Search based on name, DOB, and Aadhaar-linked history to "suggest" dormant accounts.

IPPB SHG Savings Account

30 April 2026

- Maximum Balance: Up to ₹2,00,000.
- Interest: Paid out quarterly (2.0% for balances up to ₹1 Lakh; 2.25% for balances above ₹1 Lakh).
- Last-Mile Connectivity: Operates across 5.5 lakh villages.
- Self Help Groups (SHGs) are informal collectives of 10–20 members (primarily women) who pool their savings to provide micro-loans to each other.

Feature	IPPB SHG Savings Account	Typical Commercial Savings Account
Minimum Balance	₹0	Often ₹500–₹5,000
Initial Deposit	₹0	Usually required

Cash Transactions	Free	Often capped after 3–5 uses
Access Point	Doorstep (Postman)	Physical Branch / ATM
Focus Group	Rural Women Collectives	Individual Consumers

RBI's New Lending Norms for UCBs

30 April 2026

- Aggregate Limit: UCBs can now maintain aggregate unsecured loans up to 20% of their total advances (previously 10% of total assets).
- The ECBA Exemption: For UCBs meeting the Eligibility Criteria for Business Authorisation (ECBA), unsecured advances up to ₹50,000 per borrower (classified as Priority Sector Loans) are excluded from this 20% limit.
- Tenure Cap (Tier-I & II): Capped at 20 years, which must include any moratorium period.
- A: These are members who don't have full voting rights but can avail of small loans (like consumer durable loans up to ₹2.5 Lakh) if the bank's by-laws allow it.

UCB Tier	Individual Unsecured Loan Limit
Tier-I	Up to ₹5 Lakh
Tier-II	Up to ₹7.5 Lakh
Tier-III & Tier-IV	Up to ₹10 Lakh

Federal Bank Acquisition of Standard Chartered's Credit Card Portfolio

1 May 2026

- Financial Disclosure: The final deal value (the price Federal Bank is paying for the 4.5 lakh customers) has not been disclosed.
- Portfolio Size: Approximately 4.5 lakh (450,000) credit cards.
- Q1. Federal Bank's acquisition of the Standard Chartered portfolio is specifically targeting which type of customers?
- Completion: Expected to close within Calendar Year 2026.

Exam Focus Area	Relevance Level
Banking (IBPS/SBI PO)	Current Banking Awareness: Acquisitions and Portfolio growth
RBI Grade B	Finance: Consolidation in the Banking Sector
UPSC CSE	GS-3 (Economy: Banking sector reforms and trends)

1 May 2026

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) has proposed the launch of an Index of Service Production (ISP) with 2024–25 as the base year. This index is designed to track monthly movements in the services sector, which contributes over 50% of India's Gross Value Added (GVA), providing a real-time pulse similar to what the IIP does for manufacturing.
- A) It contributes less than 5% to the GVA
- Answers: Q1: C | Q2: B | Q3: B
- Informal Sector Exclusion: Nearly one-third of services GVA comes from the informal sector (street vendors, small workshops, domestic help). Since they are often outside the GST net, the ISP will initially only capture the Formal Sector.

Country/Region	Measurement Approach
United Kingdom	Publishes a monthly services index that feeds directly into monthly GDP estimates.
South Korea	Uses value-based indicators adjusted by sector-specific producer prices.
European Union	Compiles monthly indices across member states to track regional economic health.
India (Proposed)	Value-based (GST data) adjusted by a mix of CPI proxies (due to lack of a PPI).

InGovern Urges RBI to Reject Tata Sons' Deregistration Plea

2 May 2026

- Asset Size: Must have an asset size of ₹100 crore or more.
- Investment Rule: It must hold at least 90% of its net assets in the form of investment in equity shares, preference shares, bonds, or loans in group companies.
- Equity Rule: At least 60% of its net assets must be in equity shares of group companies.
- In September 2022, the RBI classified Tata Sons as an NBFC-Upper Layer (NBFC-UL). Under the Scale-Based Regulation, any NBFC-UL is mandated to list on a stock exchange within three years (by September 2025).

Layer	Type of NBFC	Regulatory Intensity
Base Layer (BL)	Non-deposit taking NBFCs below ₹1000 Cr.	Lowest
Middle Layer (ML)	All deposit-taking NBFCs; CICs; NBFCs > ₹1000 Cr.	Moderate
Upper Layer (UL)	Top 15 NBFCs identified by RBI based on risk/size.	High (Mandatory Listing)
Top Layer (TL)	Entities posing extreme systemic risk (Currently empty).	Highest

NBBL, Juspay Launch New System to Simplify Bank Payments in India

3 & 4 May 2026

- Interoperability: Ensuring that the system works seamlessly regardless of which bank or payment aggregator is being used.
- The Unified Switch: Acts as a central router. When you initiate a net banking payment, the Switch identifies the bank, routes the request through the most efficient path, and ensures the data reaches its destination in a structured format.

Exam	Focus Area	Relevance Level
RBI Grade B	Phase II: Finance (Payment Systems, Fintech Evolution)	Extreme
UPSC CSE	GS-3 (Indian Economy: Digital Infrastructure, Banking Reforms)	High
Banking (SBI/IBPS)	General Awareness: NPCI subsidiaries and digital payment updates	Very High

Foreign Exchange Management (FEMA) Rules 2026

5 May 2026

- The Reason: LIC is governed by its own dedicated Act (LIC Act, 1956). Given its massive role in the Indian economy and its status as a state-backed behemoth, the government maintains a tighter grip on its ownership structure to ensure national interest and stability.
- Expansion of Intermediaries: The 100% limit isn't just for the companies that sell policies; it covers the entire support ecosystem, including brokers, consultants, third-party administrators (TPAs), and loss assessors.
- The Cap: Foreign investment in LIC is strictly capped at 20% via the automatic route.
- Capital Infusion: Indian insurance companies often struggle with high "solvency margin" requirements (the extra capital they must keep to ensure they can pay claims). 100% FDI allows global parents to pump in the billions needed for expansion.

Exam	Focus Area
UPSC CSE	GS-3 (Economy: Investment Models, Banking & Insurance)
RBI Grade B	Finance (FEMA Rules, FDI Policy)
Banking / Insurance Exams	General Awareness: Current IRDAI and MoF notifications

RBI Alert: Fraudulent Loan Waiver Campaigns

5 May 2026

- Financial Loss: Borrowers lose money to scammers while their original bank debt continues to grow due

to interest.

- Q2. Which organization did the Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association meet to discuss wind energy deployment?
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: C
- Credit Score Damage: Relying on these fake waivers leads to defaults, severely damaging the borrower's CIBIL/Credit Score.

Exam	Focus Area
RBI Grade B	Finance (Consumer Protection, Credit Culture)
UPSC CSE	GS-3 (Economy: Banking/Energy Infrastructure)
Banking (SBI/IBPS)	General Awareness: Current RBI circulars and Industry News

The UDGM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access iNforMation) Portal

6 May 2026

- The Scope: As of April 1, 2026, the portal has seen 20 lakh registered users and 44 lakh searches.
- Integration Gaps: While 90% of bank funds are covered, advocate Prashant Bhushan noted that Post Office savings, Provident Funds (EPF), and Insurance policies are not yet part of UDGM. This creates a fragmented search process for families.
- When money in a bank account remains untouched for 10 years or more, it is classified as an "unclaimed deposit."
- Safety: The money is not "taken" by the government; it is held in this corpus. Depositors or their heirs can claim it back from the bank at any time, even after it has been moved to DEAF. The bank then claims the refund from the RBI.

Exam	Focus Area
UPSC CSE (GS-3)	Economy: Banking regulations, Financial inclusion, and the role of the RBI.
RBI Grade B	Banking awareness, DEAF guidelines, and the UDGM interface.
SSC / Banking	Current Affairs: The name of the portal (UDGM), the DEAF corpus year (2014), and recent court rulings.

RBI releases norms for banks holding non financial assets

6 May 2026

- (a) — Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong; SARFAESI applies primarily to secured loans, not unsecured. Statement 4 is wrong; DRTs were established under the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, not SARFAESI.
- The maximum holding period for such assets is 10 years.
- (c) — Statements 1, 3, 4 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong; the maximum holding period is 7 years, not

10.

- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 4 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong; the framework explicitly discourages permanent retention by capping holding at 7 years and ensuring banks do not become real estate entities.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (Banking, NPAs, RBI regulation)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Banking Sector Reforms, NPA Resolution, Financial Stability
BPSC / State PCS	Indian Economy, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Banking Awareness, Recent RBI Norms — high importance
SEBI Grade A	Financial Regulation, Stressed Assets
SSC / Insurance	Static GK on banking laws and recovery mechanisms

India Proposes Allowing Online Bond Platforms to Provide Access to Overseas-Listed Debt

6 May 2026

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India is the statutory regulator of the Indian securities market, established under the SEBI Act, 1992. It regulates stock exchanges, brokers, mutual funds, and capital market intermediaries.
- The International Financial Services Centres Authority is a unified statutory regulator for financial products and services in IFSCs, established in 2020. It subsumes regulatory powers of RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, and PFRDA within IFSCs like GIFT City.
- It is operated under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
- Q1. With reference to SEBI's May 2026 proposal on Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs), consider the following statements:

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (SEBI, Capital Markets, GIFT City, IFSCA)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Financial Markets, Mobilisation of Resources, Financial Inclusion
BPSC / State PCS	Indian Economy, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Financial Awareness, Capital Markets — high importance
SEBI Grade A	Core area — SEBI regulations, OBPPs, IFSCA, bond market
SSC / Insurance	Static GK on regulators, GIFT City, financial schemes

Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised

7 May 2026

- Regulation: Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026, issued by RBI under FEMA, 1999.
- The Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) currently permits resident individuals to remit up to USD 250,000 per financial year.
- The release of the Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026, which restructure the framework for money changers and authorised dealers in foreign exchange.
- Q1. With reference to the RBI's Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026, consider the following statements:

Exam	Relevance
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Financial Awareness, Forex Regulations — high importance
SEBI Grade A	Adjacent area — capital flows, regulatory architecture
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static GK on RBI, FEMA, LRS, FFMC

PhonePe's AI-Driven Merchant Onboarding

7 May 2026

- Scale: The tool serves a platform with over 700 million registered users.
- Q2: How does a conversational interface help a merchant integrate a Payment Gateway?
- 4. How many registered users does PhonePe currently have?
- Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D

RBI clears Kotak Bank to raise stake up to 9.99% in AU Small Finance, Federal Bank

8 May 2026

- The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 governs ownership norms for private sector banks.
- Nature of acquisition: Aggregate holding of up to 9.99% of paid-up share capital or voting rights in each bank.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank is one of India's largest new-generation private sector banks, founded by Uday Kotak. It is the first non-banking finance company (NBFC) in India to be converted into a bank by the RBI in 2003. It is listed on both BSE and NSE.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank received approval to acquire up to 9.99% in AU Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (Banking sector, RBI regulations, capital markets)

Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Financial Awareness — very high importance; banking ownership norms, SFBs
SEBI Grade A	LODR Regulations, ownership norms, capital market disclosures
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on banks, RBI, SEBI

Mythos AI

8 May 2026

- ECLGS Exclusions: Interestingly, while the government is providing credit support (ECLGS 5.0) to many sectors hit by geopolitical crises, they are focusing banking resources specifically on tech resilience.
- 2. According to the news report, which of the following sectors is EXCLUDED from the ECLGS benefits?
- Q3: How does AI increase Cybersecurity threats?
- Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-C, 4-D

Cyber-suraksha.ai by SEBI

8 May 2026

- Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-C
- Vulnerability Management: Coordinating with Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) to share playbooks and "threat intelligence" so that a vulnerability found in one institution can be patched across all others immediately.
- Third-Party Oversight: Reviewing the security posture of third-party vendors and application service providers that banks and stock exchanges rely on.
- 4. What is the financial limit for civil works that can be executed by School Management Committees (SMCs) under the 2026 guidelines?

Stakeholder Group	Role in the Ecosystem
MIIs (Market Infrastructure Institutions)	The backbone of the market, including Stock Exchanges (NSE, BSE), Clearing Corporations , and Depositories (NSDL, CDSL).
QRTAs (Qualified Registrar and Transfer Agents)	Agencies that maintain records of share transfers and investor information; their data is a high-value target for hackers.
REs (Regulated Entities)	Intermediaries such as stockbrokers, mutual fund houses, and investment advisors who interact directly with investors.

RBI Eases Rules for Banks to Include Quarterly Profits in Regulatory Capital

9 May 2026

- Risk-Weighted Assets (RWA): Not all assets are equal. Cash has \$0\%\$ risk, while a personal loan might have \$100\%\$ risk. CAR weights these assets based on their risk level to show the "true" exposure.
- Higher CAR = More Lending: For every ₹100 a bank

lends, it must keep a certain amount of capital as a "buffer." By allowing banks to add their current profits to this buffer every quarter, the RBI is effectively giving them more "room" to lend more money to the public.

- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: A
- As of May 2026, this topic is highly relevant due to new RBI amendments aimed at simplifying how banks calculate their strength.

Feature	Old Rule (Prescriptive)	New Rule (Simplified)
Current Year Profit	Could be added to capital only if NPA provisions stayed within a 25% deviation of the 4-quarter average.	Can be added to capital on a quarterly basis without any additional conditions.
Frequency	Often delayed due to the "deviation check."	Seamless quarterly inclusion.

RBI Imposes Penalties on YES Bank, Hinduja Housing Finance

10 & 11 May 2026

- Regulatory powers over HFCs were transferred to the RBI through the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2019.
- It empowers the RBI (which took over HFC regulation from the National Housing Bank in 2019) to impose monetary penalties on housing finance companies that fail to comply with directions or provisions of the Act.
- CERSAI was established under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 to maintain registries of asset securitisation, asset reconstruction, and security interests. In 2016, it was designated as the operator of the CKYCRR.
- NHB was established in 1988 under the NHB Act, 1987 to regulate and supervise housing finance companies (HFCs) and promote housing finance institutions. It was wholly owned by the RBI until 2019, when ownership was transferred to the Government of India.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (RBI, Banking Regulation, KYC, AML)
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Banking Awareness, AML/KYC compliance — high importance
SEBI Grade A	Adjacent area — financial regulation

FPI Ownership of Indian Equities Hits 14-year Low as Selling Streak Continues

10 & 11 May 2026

- FPI outflow in May 2026 (so far): ₹14,231 crore from Indian equities.
- Total 2026 outflow: Over ₹2 lakh crore — already exceeding the ₹1.66 lakh crore pulled out in all of 2025.

- FPIs have withdrawn ₹14,231 crore from Indian equities in May 2026 (so far).
- Total FPI outflows in 2026 have crossed ₹2 lakh crore.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (FPI/FDI, SEBI, Capital Markets)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — External Sector, Financial Markets, Mobilisation of Resources
BPSC / State PCS	Indian Economy, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Financial Awareness, External Sector — high importance
SEBI Grade A	Core area — FPI regulations, capital flows

Sebi about to nudge the door open for agri-commodities

10 & 11 May 2026

- Broad — not sensitive, with avg deliverable supply ≥ 1 million tonnes and market value $\geq ₹5,000$ crore over last 5 years.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 4 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong; cash settlement involves a net cash payment based on price difference — not physical exchange. Physical exchange occurs in delivery-based settlement.
- History: India lifted its four-decade ban on commodity derivatives trading in 2003; NCDEX and MCX both opened that year.
- The proposal has been endorsed by SEBI's Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (SEBI, Commodity Markets, Derivatives)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Financial Markets, Mobilisation of Resources, Agricultural Marketing
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Financial Awareness, Capital Markets — high importance
SEBI Grade A	Core area — SEBI regulations, commodity derivatives, NCDEX, MCX
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static GK on regulators, exchanges, FMC-SEBI merger
Agricultural / Forest Services exams	Agri marketing, price discovery, hedging mechanisms

RBI, European Central Bank sign revised agreement on information exchange, central banking ties

10 & 11 May 2026

- Wider context: Comes alongside RBI's release of the Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026, signalling India's deeper integration with global financial governance

frameworks.

- (a) — Statements 1, 3, 4 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong; the ECB is the central bank for the 20 Eurozone countries, not all 27 EU members. Some EU members (like Denmark, Sweden, Poland) have not adopted the euro.
- Date & Venue: 10 May 2026, on the sidelines of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) meetings in Basel, Switzerland.
- The RBI was established on 1 April 1935 under the RBI Act, 1934.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — International Organisations (BIS, ECB), Indian Economy (RBI)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — India and bilateral/multilateral institutions, India-EU relations
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Banking & Economy — high importance
SEBI Grade A	Global Financial Regulation, Cross-border supervision

HSBC slashes FY27 GDP estimate sharply to 6%

12 May 2026

- It is a six-member statutory committee under the RBI Act, 1934.
- Forecast: FY27 GDP growth at 6%, down from the FY26 growth estimate of 7.4%.
- RBI's own estimate for FY27: 6.9% (announced last month) — well above HSBC's projection.
- The RBI estimated FY27 GDP growth at 6.9% last month. HSBC's projection is 90 basis points lower, signalling that private analysts view downside risks more seriously than the central bank.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (GDP, RBI, MPC, Inflation), Geography (El Niño)
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Banking & Economy — high importance
SEBI Grade A	Macroeconomic policy, financial markets

Fintech firms form SRO to boost trust in digital precious metals market

12 May 2026

- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; SROs complement statutory regulators, they do not replace them. Regulators retain ultimate authority.
- It will ensure 1:1 physical metal backing of all digital gold holdings by its members.
- SEBI (2025): Stated that digital gold products are outside its regulatory purview.

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India is the statutory regulator of India's securities market under the SEBI Act, 1992. It regulates stock exchanges, brokers, mutual funds, FPIs, and capital market intermediaries. Its mandate does not extend to all financial products — digital gold has been one such gap.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (Fintech, SEBI, Gold investment options)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Financial Markets, Investor protection, Fintech regulation
State PCS	Indian Economy, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Financial Awareness, Fintech & Gold investment products
SEBI Grade A	Core area — capital markets, investor protection, regulatory gaps

Sebi plans to speed up AIF fundraising, use of capital

12 May 2026

- The number of accredited investors grew over 300% between May 2025 and April 2026.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; NSDL was established in 1996 and CDSL in 1999 — the years are reversed.
- Current: 30 days from PPM filing through merchant bankers.
- First-time schemes: Launch permitted after grant of registration OR 10 working days after filing — whichever is later.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (SEBI, Capital Markets, AIFs, Investor Protection)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Financial Markets, Mobilisation of Resources, Capital Market Reforms
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Financial Awareness, Capital Markets — high importance
SEBI Grade A	Core area — AIFs, accredited investors, PPM, IPF, depositories

RBI, European Central Bank sign revised agreement on information exchange

12 May 2026

- Founded: 1 June 1998, under the Maastricht Treaty framework.
- Eurozone composition: Started with 11 members → currently 21 (as of 2026) .
- Headquarters: Frankfurt, Germany.
- Capital stock: €11 billion, held by the central banks of all 27 EU member states as shareholders — share determined by population and GDP.

Moody's slashes 2026 India growth forecast to 6%

UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — International Organisations (EU, ECB, Eurozone), Indian Economy (RBI cooperation)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — India and bilateral/multilateral institutions, India-EU relations
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Banking & Economy — high importance
SEBI / IFSCA Grade A	Global financial governance, cross-border cooperation

6%

13 May 2026

- 2026: Cut by 0.8 ppt to 6%.
- 2027: Cut by 0.5 ppt to 6%.
- 2025 (actual): 7.5%.
- Moody's: 6.0% for both 2026 and 2027.

Retail inflation climbs to 13-month high of 3.5% in April on higher food, restaurant prices

13 May 2026

- April 2026 CPI inflation: 3.5% — a 13-month high.
- March 2026 CPI: 3.4%.
- Retail inflation rose to a 13-month high of 3.5% in April 2026.
- The framework was operationalised under an amendment to the RBI Act, 1934, in 2016.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Indian Economy (Inflation, CPI/WPI, RBI, MPC)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Indian Economy, Monetary Policy, External Sector, Food Security
State PCS	Indian Economy, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Banking & Economy — high importance
SEBI Grade A	Macroeconomic policy, financial markets

Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)

13 May 2026

- Sovereign guarantee: ₹12,980 crore.
- It holds a sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore.
- It provides P&I cover for about 90% of the world's ocean-going tonnage.
- (c) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; the BMIP covers all four types of marine risks — hull and machinery, cargo, P&I, and war risk — not just hull and machinery.

Exam	Relevance
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Financial Awareness — Insurance — high importance
Insurance / IRDAI / LIC AAO	Core area — Marine Insurance, P&I, Public Sector insurers
SSC / Insurance	Static + Current GK on DFS, New India Assurance, Strait of Hormuz

GARUDA Mechanism (Green-Channel: Alternative Investment Funds Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement)

13 May 2026

- Number of accredited investors: 649 (May 2025) → 2,773 (April 2026) — a 327% rise.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India is the statutory regulator of India's securities market, established under the SEBI Act, 1992. It regulates stock exchanges, brokers, mutual funds, FPIs, AIFs, and other capital market intermediaries.
- The number of accredited investors grew sharply between May 2025 and April 2026.
- First-time schemes: Launch permission from SEBI registration date OR 10 working days after filing — whichever is later.

Exam	Relevance
State PCS	Indian Economy, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Financial Awareness, Capital Markets — high importance
SEBI Grade A	Core area — AIFs, accredited investors, PPM, regulatory innovation

RBI cancels licence of Mumbai-based Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank

14 May 2026

- (c) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; DICGC cover was raised to ₹5 lakh per depositor per bank in 2020 (from the earlier ₹1 lakh).
- DICGC insurance cover of up to ₹5 lakh per depositor per bank.
- Deposit insurance coverage under DICGC is up to ₹1 lakh per depositor per bank.
- It insures deposits up to ₹5 lakh per depositor per bank, including principal and interest.

RBI Removes Prior Approval Requirement for Banks' Outward Remittance Tie-ups with Fintechs

15 & 16 May 2026

- Under the 2016 framework, non-bank entities had to obtain RBI's prior approval before forming tie-up arrangements with AD banks for outward remittance services — making each partnership subject to case-by-case regulatory clearance.

- Q3. With reference to the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), consider the following statements:
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong: Authorised Dealers are licensed and regulated by the RBI under FEMA, 1999, not by SEBI. SEBI regulates securities markets, not foreign exchange dealers.
- Compliance anchor 1 — FEMA: AD banks must continue to ensure strict compliance with the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

Exam	Relevance
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Banking & Economy — High importance: FEMA, AD banks, LRS, KYC
RBI Grade B	Forex regulation, payments and settlements, fintech regulation — very high importance
SEBI / IRDAI Grade A	Financial regulation, fintech, cross-jurisdictional supervision

India's Inflation Pressures

15 & 16 May 2026

- Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI): 4.2% in April, up from 3.87% in March.
- The Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) rose from 3.87% in March to 4.2% in April.
- Retail (CPI) inflation, April: 3.48% — a 13-month high, up marginally from 3.4% in March.
- Wholesale (WPI) inflation, April: 8.3% — a 42-month high, more than double the March print of 3.88%.

Component	YoY Change
Fuel and power	+24.71%
Petroleum and natural gas	+67.2%

Banks Back RBI's Proposed 1-Hour Lag for Digital Payments Above ₹10,000

15 & 16 May 2026

- The Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 empowers the RBI to regulate and supervise payment systems.
- Core proposal: One-hour delay on account-to-account digital transfers above ₹10,000 before crediting the beneficiary.
- Scope: Peer-to-Peer (P2P) transfers.
- Banks' position: Broadly supportive of a delay but want the threshold raised from ₹10,000 to ₹25,000.

Measure	What it does
Additional authentication by trusted individuals	For vulnerable users (senior citizens, first-time digital users)
Tighter scrutiny of accounts	For accounts receiving large credits — potential mule-account check

Expanded customer-controlled safeguards	Per-account / per-customer customisable risk controls
₹25 lakh ceiling on annual aggregate credits	Proposed cap on total credits into a bank account in a year (banks flagged as not feasible)

Real-time risk scores on cards for digital payments to track fraud

17 & 18 May 2026

- The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The total recovery rate of fraud value is around 6.7%.
- Know Your Customer (KYC) is the regulatory process by which banks and financial institutions verify the identity of their customers — a key safeguard under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. Strong KYC plus mule-account intelligence prevents fraudulent and synthetic identities from accessing the banking system.
- A central body under the Ministry of Home Affairs that coordinates India's response to cybercrime. It runs the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS) and the helpline 1930, which allows victims of online financial fraud to report incidents and stop fraudulent transactions in real time.

Exam	Relevance
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Banking & Economy — high importance
SEBI / IRDAI / NABARD Grade A	Financial regulation, fraud prevention

NPS launches Retirement Income Schemes

17 & 18 May 2026

- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; PMVVY was closed for new subscriptions in March 2023 — it is no longer open for new investors.
- NPS is regulated by the PFRDA under the PFRDA Act, 2013.
- Scope: Applies to the withdrawable (60%) portion of NPS Tier I corpus; not the mandatory annuity portion (40%).
- The RIS Steady Life Cycle starts with 35% equity at age 60.

Age	Equity (E)	Corporate Bonds (C)	Government Securities (G)
Up to 60	35	10	55
65	25	15	60
70	15	20	65
75	10	20	70
80+	10	15	75

RBI withdraws IFR requirement for banks maintaining market risk capital

17 & 18 May 2026

- Payments Banks can accept deposits up to ₹2 lakh per customer but cannot lend.
- Allied news: Gunveer Singh elevated to Executive Director (ED) at RBI (effective 18 May 2026), heading the Department of Payment and Settlement Systems.
- Appointment: Gunveer Singh has been promoted to Executive Director (ED) of the RBI, effective 18 May 2026.
- A global, voluntary regulatory framework developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) after the 2008 financial crisis. It sets standards on bank capital, leverage, liquidity, and risk management — adopted in India by the RBI.

Banks seek RBI Relief on InvIT Lending Rules

20 May 2026

- India's first REIT — Embassy Office Parks REIT — was listed in 2019.
- The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) was announced in 2021 with a corpus target of ₹6 lakh crore for FY22-FY25.
- Completed 3 years of operations.
- No adverse regulatory action in past 3 years.

Feature	InvIT	REIT
Underlying asset	Infrastructure (roads, power, telecom)	Commercial real estate (office, retail)
Income source	Toll, tariff, lease, contracted revenue	Rental income from properties
Asset life cycle	Often concession-based, finite tenure	Generally long-life real estate
Risk profile	Concession risk, traffic risk, regulatory risk	Tenant risk, vacancy risk, real estate cycle
Investor base	Largely institutional initially	Institutional + retail (post 2019 reform)

RBI Proposes Revised Capital Adequacy Disclosure Norms for Banks

20 May 2026

- One or more Whole-Time Directors must attest in writing that Pillar 3 disclosures conform to board-agreed processes.
- The ratio of a bank's High-Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA) to its expected net cash outflows over the next 30 days under a stress scenario. Banks must maintain an LCR of at least 100%, ensuring they can withstand short-term liquidity shocks.
- The minimum CRAR for banks in India under Basel III is 9%, plus a Capital Conservation Buffer of 2.5%.
- A global, voluntary regulatory framework developed

by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) to standardise bank regulation across countries. The framework has evolved through three iterations: Basel I (1988): Focus on credit risk and capital adequacy. Basel II (2004): Three pillars introduced — minimum capital, supervisory review, market discipline. Basel III (2010-11): Strengthened capital and liquidity requirements after the 2008 global financial crisis.

Pillar	Focus
Pillar 1	Minimum capital requirements (CRAR, leverage, LCR, NSFR).
Pillar 2	Supervisory review (ICAAP, RBI inspection, capital adequacy assessment).
Pillar 3	Market discipline via public disclosures.

RBI has Cancelled the Licence of The Yashwant Co-operative Bank

20 May 2026

- Following the 2021 DICGC Amendment, depositors of a bank under moratorium can receive insured deposits within 90 days.
- DICGC already paid ₹106.96 crore (as on 20 April 2026).
- In February 2020, the limit was raised from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh following the PMC Bank crisis (September 2019).
- The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation provides insurance up to ₹5 lakh per depositor per bank.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper III — Indian Economy (Banking, DICGC, Cooperative banks); GS Paper II — Governance
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Indian Economy, Banking sector, Financial stability, Cooperative banking reform
BPSC / State PCS / Maharashtra PSC	Indian Economy, Banking, Cooperative sector, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Banking & Economy — high importance
NABARD Grade A	Core area — Cooperative banks, regulation, financial inclusion

RBI Draft Rules Allow Limited Phone Restrictions for Loan Defaults

21 May 2026

- An independent grievance redressal mechanism for customers of banks, NBFCs, and digital lenders — now under the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2021. It allows customers to file complaints free of charge for resolution of grievances.
- First notice: After 60 days past due date, providing at least 21 days to cure.
- Second notice: After expiry of first notice, with at least

7 more days to cure.

- Restrictions to be reversed within 1 hour of borrower curing default.

Feature	VRR	Fixed Rate Repo
Rate	Market-determined via auction	Fixed at policy repo rate
Quantity	Notified by RBI; bids submitted	Available at fixed rate
Use	Active liquidity management	Standing facility
Frequency	Periodic, as needed	Always available

RBI Withdraws IFR Requirement for Banks Maintaining Market Risk Capital

21 May 2026

- A differentiated bank category (final guidelines 2014) that can accept deposits up to ₹2 lakh per customer but cannot lend. Examples: Paytm Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank, Airtel Payments Bank, Fino Payments Bank.
- A specialised rural-focused bank owned jointly by: (a) Central Government (50%). (b) Sponsor commercial bank (35%). (c) State Government (15%). Established under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, regulated by the RBI, supervised by NABARD.
- Small Finance Banks (SFBs) must direct at least 75% of adjusted net bank credit to priority sectors.
- Payments Banks can accept deposits up to ₹2 lakh per customer but cannot lend.

Decision	Applicability
IFR requirement withdrawn	Banks maintaining capital charge for market risk under revised investment portfolio framework
IFR balance → CET1 capital	Via transfer to statutory reserve, general reserve, or P&L balance
IFR retained but eased	UCBs, SFBs, Payments Banks, RRBs — assessment only on balance-sheet dates (not continuous)

RBI imposes restrictions on Etawah-based Nagar Sahakari Bank for 6 months

21 May 2026

- The 2021 DICGC Amendment allows depositors to receive insured deposits within 90 days of a bank being placed under moratorium or restriction.
- Eligible depositors get DICGC insurance up to ₹5 lakh per depositor per bank.
- The RBI has imposed regulatory restrictions (All Inclusive Directions) on the bank, including a withdrawal cap of ₹10,000 per depositor, prohibition on loans, fresh deposits, and borrowings, for 6 months, under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Not necessarily immediately, but the 90-day rule under the 2021 DICGC Amendment allows depositors to receive their insured amounts within 90 days of

the bank being placed under restrictions — without waiting for formal liquidation.

Aspect	All Inclusive Direction (AID)	Licence Cancellation
Bank's legal existence	Continues	Ceases as a bank
Operational scope	Restricted, but ongoing	Wound up
Reversibility	Reversible (can be lifted)	Irreversible
Outcome	Recovery / merger / liquidation	Liquidation
Section of BR Act	Section 35A	Sections 22 and 36AA
Depositor recourse	Withdrawals capped + DICGC	Full DICGC payout + liquidation distribution

Viyona Fintech gets NPCI certification

21 May 2026

- Founded: 2022 by Ravindranath Yarlagadda.
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Certifications secured (May 2026):
- Immediate Payment Service — a 24x7, real-time, inter-bank electronic fund transfer service developed by NPCI. Launched widely in 2010–2014, IMPS was the first real-time payment service in India and remains in use for higher-value transactions (typically up to ₹5 lakh per transaction in many channels), complementing UPI.

Aspect	UPI	IMPS
Launch year	2016	2010–14
Channel	Mobile (UPI app)	Mobile, internet, ATM, branch
Address	VPA (UPI ID)	Account number + IFSC, or mobile + MMID
Authentication	UPI PIN	Bank's authentication
Transaction limit (typical)	₹1 lakh (₹5 lakh for specific use cases)	₹5 lakh
Volume share	Dominant	Smaller, declining

RBI's new draft guidelines have digital wallets feeling the pinch

21 May 2026

- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 is the primary AML framework in India.
- The draft proposes a monthly person-to-person transfer limit of ₹25,000 via wallets.
- The cash loading limit is proposed to be reduced from ₹50,000 to ₹10,000 per month.
- The draft proposes an overall monthly balance cap

of ₹2 lakh for wallets.

Provision	Existing	Proposed
P2P monthly transfer cap	(Higher)	₹25,000
Cash loading limit (monthly)	₹50,000	₹10,000
Overall monthly balance cap	(Higher)	₹2 lakh
Small PPI use	Wider use	Only for goods & services purchase

RBI Revives Aggressive Pre-Market Intervention to Arrest Rupee's Slide

22 May 2026

- Thursday opening: 96.30 (after intervention).
- Thursday close: 96.36 (~50-paise recovery from low).
- Drivers of rupee pressure (May 2026):
- Previous deployment: March 2026.

Factor	Impact
2026 West Asia conflict	Oil >\$100/barrel; supply-chain risk
Strait of Hormuz disruption	Tanker insurance costs; shipping delays
FPI outflows	~₹14,231 crore in May 2026
Strong US dollar globally	DXY pressure on all EM currencies
CAD widening pressures	Trade deficit deterioration
Bearish sentiment	Self-reinforcing depreciation expectations

SEBI Moots New Price Discovery Mechanism for IPOs & Relistings

22 May 2026

- SEBI is a statutory body established under the SEBI Act, 1992.
- Concern flagged: Distorted price-discovery and inefficient call-auction sessions — case noted where 90% of buy orders were rejected.
- Pre-open call auction session: 9 am – 10 am on first day of listing/relisting.
- The pre-open call auction session is conducted between 9 am and 10 am on the first day of listing or relisting.

Area	Current Framework	Proposed Reform
Mainboard IPO band	~50% to +100% from base price	Auto-widening by 10% when equilibrium price approaches threshold
SME IPO band	±90%, no flexing	Flexing mechanism extended
Band expansion trigger	—	5 PAN-based unique investors needed at extremes

Relisting base price	—	Latest traded price ≤ 6 months old
No recent price	—	Independent valuation agency certificates
Relisting after >6 months suspension	—	Lower of two independent valuers' book values

RBI's Record ₹2.87 Trillion Surplus Transfer

23 May 2026

- The ECF is based on the recommendations of the Bimal Jalan Committee (2019).
- Surplus transferred: ₹2.87 trillion (FY26).
- Previous record: ₹2.69 trillion (FY25).
- Year-on-year change: Up 7 per cent.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper III on Indian Economy (RBI, fiscal-monetary interaction, central banking)
Banking (RBI Gr B, SBI PO, IBPS, NABARD)	Banking and Economy, high importance
SEBI, IRDAI, NABARD Grade A	Financial regulation, central banking

ZikZuk Technologies Receives RBI Final Authorisation to Operate as Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) Issuer

23 May 2026

- Authorisation: Final PPI issuer authorisation under Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSSA), 2007.
- The authorisation is granted under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSSA), 2007.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; PPIs are regulated by the RBI under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 and the RBI Master Direction on PPIs — NOT by SEBI.
- Earlier: In-principle approval in May 2025.

Stage	Minimum Positive Net-Worth
At the time of application	₹5 crore
By the end of the 3rd financial year from grant of authorisation	₹15 crore
At all times thereafter	₹15 crore continuously

Fintech Jumpp Receives IRDAI Corporate Agency and ISNP Licences to Distribute Insurance Through AI-Powered Platform

24 & 25 May 2026

- "Insurance for All by 2047" mission.
- A Corporate Agent under IRDAI rules can tie up with multiple insurers, typically up to 9 per line of business.
- ISNP guidelines were issued by IRDAI in 2017.

- The Bima Trinity is part of IRDAI's "Insurance for All by 2047" vision.

Licence	Function
Corporate Agency	Sell insurance products of multiple insurers (typically up to 9 per line of business)
Insurance Self Network Platform (ISNP)	Operate a fully digital, end-to-end insurance distribution platform online

RBI Imposes ₹10.10 Lakh Penalty on City Union Bank, Plus Penalties on Two NBFCs

26 May 2026

- The penalties were imposed in exercise of powers under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005.
- The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹10.10 lakh on City Union Bank.
- Domestic Commercial Banks must allocate 40 per cent of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to priority sectors.
- Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Entity	Penalty	Nature of Lapse
City Union Bank Limited	₹10.10 lakh	Priority Sector Loan charges + SHG data reporting failure
Newa Investments Private Limited	₹2.70 lakh	Governance: appointing directors without prior RBI written permission
Mintifi Finserve Private Limited (NBFC)	₹3.10 lakh	KYC: failure to upload customer KYC to Central KYC Records Registry on time

RBI Tightens Governance Norms for Urban Cooperative Bank Directors

26 May 2026

- Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as amended in 2020 (extended RBI's supervisory powers over cooperative banks).
- The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020 strengthened RBI's regulatory powers over UCBs.
- Directions: Reserve Bank of India (Urban Co-operative Banks, Governance) Amendment Directions, 2026.
- Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020 allowed the RBI to:

Provision	Requirement
Maximum continuous tenure	10 years
Cooling-off period	3 years (compulsory)
Reappointment	Only after the cooling-off period ends

Permitted association during cooling-off	Only as a member or customer of the UCB
Prohibited association during cooling-off	Any other capacity, including consultant, advisor, committee member

IRDAI Ties Top Insurance Bosses' Pay to How Well They Treat Customers

27 May 2026

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority issued guidelines on dark patterns in 2023.
- Implementation of Indian Accounting Standards carries a fixed weight of 10 per cent.
- Removal of dark patterns in customer and distributor interactions carries a fixed weight of 10 per cent.
- Under the new IRDAI framework, insurers must publicly disclose the proportion of claims settled within 15, 30, and 60 days.

Finance Minister Sitharaman Launches Three New SIDBI Initiatives

27 May 2026

- The RBI's Co-Lending Model, 2020 allows banks and NBFCs to co-lend to priority sector borrowers.
- SIDBI was established in 1990 under the SIDBI Act, 1989.
- MSMEs contribute roughly 30 per cent of India's GDP.
- They account for about 45 per cent of India's manufacturing output and over 48 per cent of total exports.

Initiative	Aim	Key Features
SIDBI MachFin Mart	A B2B digital marketplace for MSMEs to buy modern machinery with built-in financing	Transparent price discovery; quality-benchmark filters; integrated low-interest asset financing via SIDBI; faster shift from manual to automated production
RRB Co-Lending Portal	A data-sharing bridge between SIDBI and Regional Rural Banks to push credit to rural micro-enterprises	Risk-sharing architecture; digital scoring instead of physical underwriting; last-mile penetration to borrowers without formal credit history; unified dashboard down to the district level

Initiative	Aim	Key Features
Modernisation of Rural Enterprises (MoRE) Programme	A three-year framework to modernise 10,000 rural micro and artisanal units between 2026 and 2029	Cluster-based interventions (handloom, pottery, etc.); structured training, digital literacy, and financial coaching; supply-chain integration with e-commerce; green energy and energy-efficient tools

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) completes 10 years

28 May 2026

- Banking gross NPAs have fallen from about 11.8 per cent in 2017 to 2.1 per cent in September 2025.
- The framework was introduced through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2021.
- Creditors have recovered over ₹4 lakh crore under resolution plans.
- Recovery has been about 167 per cent of liquidation value.

Challenge	Detail
Delays	Average resolution still around 2 years , far above the 330-day target
Liquidation-heavy outcomes	3,003 of 7,102 closed cases ended in liquidation, not revival
Sector recovery variation	Scheduled commercial banks recovery rate dropped to 36.6 per cent in 2024-25
Legacy case burden	42 per cent of resolved cases came from BIFR-era or defunct firms

LIC Launches Two New Joint Insurance Products for Couples, "New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium" and "New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium"

28 May 2026

- The Single Premium variant is a one-time payment plan with guaranteed additions of ₹70 per ₹1,000 of Basic Sum Assured.
- The Limited Premium variant offers Premium Payment Term options of 5, 10, or 15 years.
- Both variants have policy terms ranging from 10 to 25 years.
- The Limited Premium variant offers 7 per cent

guaranteed additions on the Tabular Annual Premium.

Feature	New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium	New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium
Type	One-time premium payment	Limited premium payment
Premium Payment Term (PPT)	One-time	5, 10, or 15 years
Policy Term	10 to 25 years	10 to 25 years
Guaranteed Additions	₹70 per ₹1,000 of Basic Sum Assured (BSA)	7 per cent on Tabular Annual Premium (TAP)
Joint Life Cover	Yes (for couples)	Yes (for couples)
Premium Waiver on First Death	Yes (as applicable)	Yes (Premium waiver on first death)
Loan Facility	Available	Available
Payout Options	Flexible	Flexible

One MobiKwik Receives RBI In-Principle Approval for Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P) Licence

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- Payment Aggregators are regulated under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- (a), Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; both PA-Online and PA-P are regulated by the RBI under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 and related RBI guidelines. They are not governed by different parent laws or regulators.
- RBI Guidelines on Regulation of Payment Aggregators and Payment Gateways, 2020: brought online PAs under RBI regulation.
- PA-P framework: regulatory architecture for offline payment aggregators finalised by the RBI in 2024.

Service	Use Case
Point-of-Sale (PoS) acceptance	In-store card and digital payments using PoS terminals
QR-based payments	Static and dynamic QR codes at retail counters
Merchant settlement solutions	Settling proceeds to merchant bank accounts
Soundbox deployment	Audio confirmation devices for small shops that hear transaction success in their local language
EDC (Electronic Data Capture) machines	Card swipe and digital payment acceptance hardware

TEST YOURSELF · BANKING AND FINANCE

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. _____ as amended in 2020 (extended RBI's supervisory powers over cooperative banks).
2. CERSAI was established under the _____ to maintain registries of asset securitisation, asset reconstruction, and security interests. In 2016, it was designated as the operator of the CKYCRR.
3. _____: ₹14,231 crore from Indian equities.
4. (a) — Statements 1, 3, 4 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong; the ECB is the central bank for the _____, not all 27 EU members. Some EU members (like Denmark, Sweden, Poland) have not adopted the euro.
5. (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; _____ and CDSL in 1999 — the years are reversed.

Answers 1 Banking Regulation Act, 1949 · 2 SARFAESI Act, 2002 · 3 FPI outflow in May 2026 (so far) · 4 20 Eurozone countries · 5 NSDL was established in 1996

AGRICULTURE · 9

Government Relaxes Wheat Procurement Norms (2026)

30 April 2026

- **Lustre Loss:** Wheat with up to 70% loss of lustre (surface shininess/color) will now be accepted. Usually, significantly discolored grain is rejected as it is perceived to be of lower quality.
- **Shrivelled & Broken Grains:** The permissible limit has been more than doubled, increasing from the standard 6% to 15%.
- **Specific Constraint:** Within the above limit, the total of "broken" and "slightly broken" grains must not exceed 6% to ensure the grain remains viable for milling.
- **Answers:** Q1: D | Q2: C | Q3: B

Exam Focus Area	Relevance Level
UPSC CSE	GS-3 (Agriculture: MSP, Procurement, Food Security)
State PSCs	Regional agricultural policies and disaster management
Banking / IBPS AFO	Agricultural finance and crop quality standards

Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)

2 May 2026

- **Direct Financial Assistance:** Providing subsidies ranging from 40% to 50% for the purchase of various agricultural machinery.
- As highlighted in the discussion on Agricultural Engineering, the high cost of machinery is a major barrier for Indian farmers. The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), launched in 2014-15, is the flagship government initiative designed to overcome this by making "future-ready" engineering solutions accessible and affordable, particularly for small and marginal farmers.
- While global leaders like the USA and Brazil have mechanization levels above 75%, India is steadily progressing:
- **A:** It refers to the amount of mechanical, electrical, and animal power available per hectare (kW/ha). Higher farm power is directly correlated with higher agricultural productivity. SMAM aims to increase India's average from ~2.5 kW/ha to 4.0 kW/ha.

Category	Mechanization Level (Approx)	Objective
Current (2024-25)	~47%	Transitioning from animal power to mechanical power.

Target 2030	~60%	Scaling up precision tools and drone technology.
High Mechanization States	Punjab, Haryana	Extensive use of tractors and combine harvesters.
Low Mechanization States	North-East, Hill states	Focus on specialized, small-scale mountain machinery.

Marine Fish Landings in India: CMFRI Data 2025

3 & 4 May 2026

- The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) released its 2025 annual report, revealing a major shift in India's blue economy. For the first time in years, Tamil Nadu has overtaken Gujarat to become the leading marine fish producer in the country.
- **Total Catch:** 3.57 Million Tonnes (a 3% increase year-on-year).
- **At Landing Centres:** ₹69,254 Crore (up 10.45%).
- **At Retail Level:** ₹97,702 Crore (up 8.43%).

Rank	State	Catch (Million Tonnes)	Trend / Remarks
1	Tamil Nadu	—	Overtook Gujarat to take the top spot.
2	Gujarat	—	15% Decline due to weather and fishing bans.
3	Kerala	0.62	Marginal 2% increase; highest marketing efficiency.
4	Karnataka	—	43% Surge (recovering from a steep 2024 decline).
5	Maharashtra	—	16% Increase in landings.

APEDA Facilitates First-Ever Honey Export from Assam's Baksa District to US

12 May 2026

- It is a statutory body established under the APEDA Act, 1985.
- **First-ever export:** 20 Metric Tons of Baksa Honey shipped to the United States.
- ~43% higher price realisation for local beekeepers compared to local farm-gate prices.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; ODOP covers agricultural, handicraft, and industrial products — it is not limited to agriculture.

Exam	Relevance
State PCS	Indian Economy, Schemes, Geography
RBI Gr B, NABARD	Rural and Agricultural Economy — high importance

Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM)

13 May 2026

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, launched in 2019, provides ₹6,000 per year (in three equal instalments) to eligible landholding farmers, transferred directly to their bank accounts under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- (c) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; the DAM is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, not the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Because it is one of India's major agricultural states, with about 7.2 million farmers (2015–16 Census), a net sown area of 5.5 million hectares, and high productivity in rice, potatoes, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds, and maize.
- Small and marginal farmers together account for about 86% of India's farmers.

Exam	Relevance
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Rural & Agricultural Banking — high importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on agriculture schemes, AgriStack, PM-KISAN
Agriculture / Forest Services exams	Core area — DAM, AgriStack, farmer identity systems

SEHAT Mission (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation)

13 May 2026

- Significance: First formal convergence of India's agriculture and health sectors at a national mission scale.
- ICAR (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare).
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Established in 1929, it is the apex body for coordinating, guiding, and managing research and education in agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries in India.
- The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment, launched in 2018, is India's flagship programme to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anaemia, and low birth weight. It integrates services across ICDS, NHM, and other schemes.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II — Welfare schemes; GS Paper III — Agriculture, Science & Technology

BPSC / State PCS	Agriculture, Health, Government Schemes, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Rural Economy, Agriculture & Health — high importance
Agriculture / Forest Services / Health Services	Core area — biofortification, millets, One Health, IFS

Khet Bachao Abhiyan

24 & 25 May 2026

- Soil Health Card scheme (2015) for soil testing.
- Dalhan Aatmanirbharta Mission (October 2025) for pulse self-sufficiency, which supports nitrogen-fixing crops.
- ₹2 lakh crore annual fertilizer subsidy, large share lost to inefficiency.
- The campaign reportedly reached over 2.7 crore citizens nationwide.

Exam	Relevance
NABARD Grade A	Very high importance on agriculture, rural credit, sustainability
Agriculture, Geography, Environment Optional	Sustainable agriculture, soil management, agricultural policy

Germany's B+H Solutions to Invest €1 Million in India in 2026 to Push Metal-Based Nano-Fertilizers

26 May 2026

- It was amended in 2021 to formally include nano-fertilizers as a recognised category.
- It is issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- A regulatory framework issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in coordination with the Department of Fertilizers, governing the manufacture, import, distribution, sale, and quality control of fertilizers in India. The FCO prescribes product specifications, packaging, labelling, and quality testing standards. It was amended in 2021 to formally include nano-fertilizers as a recognised category, giving products like nano-urea, nano-DAP, and metal-based nano-fertilizers (such as AgroCopper) legal status as agricultural inputs.
- The company plans to invest €1 million in India in 2026.

Indicator	Detail
Number of products	Eight currently offered in India
Flagship product	AgroBeize : developed exclusively for India, combines silver and copper nanoparticles , also registered as a disinfectant

Indicator	Detail
Recently FCO-registered	AgroCopper (nano copper)
FCO registration pending	Nano iron

India Releases First National Report on the Nagoya Protocol

28 May 2026

- The NBA is a statutory autonomous body established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- India granted 12,830 approvals under the ABS framework between 2017 and 2025, reflecting large-scale implementation of biodiversity governance.
- National Biodiversity Authority issued 5,913 approvals, while State Biodiversity Boards and UT Biodiversity Councils issued 6,917 approvals.

- India developed a strong three-tier biodiversity governance network consisting of the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards, and over 2.76 lakh Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).

Feature	Detail
Full Name	Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization
Parent Treaty	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992
Adopted	Nagoya, Japan, 2010
Entered into Force	2014
Scope	Biological materials and Digital Sequence Information (DSI)

TEST YOURSELF · AGRICULTURE

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. India granted _____ under the ABS framework between 2017 and 2025, reflecting large-scale implementation of biodiversity governance.
2. At Landing Centres: _____ (up 10.45%).
3. _____ for local beekeepers compared to local farm-gate prices.
4. (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; PM-KISAN provides _____, not ₹10,000.
5. _____ (2015) for soil testing.

Answers 1 12,830 approvals · 2 ₹69,254 Crore · 3 ~43% higher price realisation · 4 ₹6,000 per year · 5 Soil Health Card scheme

FACTS TO REMEMBER · 197

PM Narendra Modi Visits Sikkim; Inaugurates Rs 4,000 Crore Projects

30 April 2026

- PM Narendra Modi visited Sikkim on 27–28 April 2026 for 50th Statehood celebrations; inaugurated and laid foundation for 30+ projects worth Rs 4,000 crore; projects span infrastructure, healthcare, and connectivity sectors; also visited Orchid centre and boosted North–East cricket infrastructure.

Google Cloud AI Hub Foundation Laid in Visakhapatnam

30 April 2026

- Foundation stone laid for Google Cloud AI Hub in Visakhapatnam in April 2026; project worth USD 15 billion is India's largest FDI project; includes hyperscale data centres, subsea cables, and fibre networks; aims to make Vizag a global AI and cloud hub.

India Post and DTDC Sign Logistics MoU

30 April 2026

- Department of Posts signed MoU with DTDC in April 2026 to boost logistics network; enables capacity sharing and expands rural delivery reach; integrates tracking systems and supports COD services; strengthens India's e-commerce and logistics ecosystem.

SkyHop Gets Approval for India's First Seaplane Service

30 April 2026

- SkyHop Aviation received DGCA approval for seaplane operations in April 2026; initial services to begin in Lakshadweep for island connectivity; uses 19-seater Twin Otter aircraft capable of water landing; aligned with UDAN scheme for regional connectivity.

BHEL Signs Defence Technology Agreement with DRDO

30 April 2026

- BHEL signed technology transfer agreement with DRDO's NSTL in April 2026; focuses on Gas Turbine Infrared Suppression System for naval ships; reduces infrared signature and enhances stealth capability; supports Make in India and defence indigenisation.

SIPRI Report 2025: India 5th Largest Military Spender

30 April 2026

- SIPRI report 2026 ranked India as 5th largest military spender in 2025; India spent USD 92.1 billion with 8.9% growth; USA topped followed by China, Russia, and Germany; global military spending reached USD 2.88 trillion.

UAE Exits OPEC and OPEC+ Alliance

30 April 2026

- UAE announced exit from OPEC and OPEC+ effective May 2026; aims to gain flexibility in oil production strategy; decision driven by expanded production capacity of ADNOC; may impact global oil coordination and pricing dynamics.

Flipkart, Axis Bank and PayU Launch Biometric Payments

30 April 2026

- Flipkart, Axis Bank, and PayU launched biometric card payments in April 2026; replaces OTP with fingerprint or Face ID authentication; improves security and transaction success rates; aligns with RBI digital payment authentication norms.

China Launches Pakistan's PRSC-EO3 Satellite

30 April 2026

- China launched Pakistan's PRSC-EO3 satellite in April 2026 via Long March-6 rocket; satellite supports earth observation and disaster management; uses AI-based imaging and multi-spectrum sensors; marks 640th mission of Long March series.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2026 – April 28

30 April 2026

- Observed on April 28 to promote workplace safety and health standards; 2026 theme focuses on psychosocial working environment; established by ILO in 2003; aims to reduce work-related accidents and diseases globally.

International Jazz Day 2026 – April 30

30 April 2026

- Observed on April 30 to celebrate jazz as global cultural art form; declared by UNESCO in 2011; promotes unity and cultural exchange through music; 2026 global host city is Chicago, USA.

World Immunization Week 2026 – April 24–30

30 April 2026

- Observed from April 24 to 30 to promote vaccination awareness; 2026 theme highlights benefits across

generations; led by WHO across 180+ countries; aims to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases worldwide.

MDNIY to organise Yoga Mahotsav 2026 in Telangana

1 May 2026

- Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) will organise Yoga Mahotsav 2026 to mark the 50-day countdown to 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 in Telangana tomorrow.

US returns 657 antiquities collectively valued at nearly 14 million dollars to India

1 May 2026

- The US has returned 657 antiquities collectively valued at nearly 14 million dollars to India.

Promotion & Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026 comes into force

1 May 2026

- The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026, came into force today, marking a significant step in regulating India's rapidly expanding online gaming sector.

PM Modi guides diplomats at 11th Heads of Mission Conference in New Delhi

1 May 2026

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 11th Heads of Mission Conference in New Delhi.

Narendra Modi Visits Uttar Pradesh to Launch ₹6,350 Crore Development Projects

2 May 2026

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Uttar Pradesh on April 28–29, 2026, focusing on women empowerment and infrastructure growth, attended a Mahila Sammelan in Varanasi, offered prayers at Kashi Vishwanath Temple, inaugurated projects worth ₹6,350 crore across sectors like healthcare, tourism, and railways, and launched the 594-km Ganga Expressway in Hardoi to boost connectivity.

Mansukh Mandaviya Attends NRAI's 75th Anniversary, Launches Athlete App

2 May 2026

- Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya attended the 75th anniversary of the National Rifle Association of India in New Delhi, unveiled a commemorative logo marking 75 years of shooting excellence, launched the MyNRAI Athlete App making NRAI fully digitised, and announced a grassroots initiative to introduce 7.5 lakh students to shooting before the 2028 Olympics.

Neena Malhotra Chairs BRICS MENA Meeting 2026 in New Delhi

2 May 2026

- MEA Secretary Neena Malhotra chaired the BRICS MENA meeting in New Delhi on April 23–24, 2026, where members discussed West Asia issues including Palestine and Gaza, emphasized humanitarian assistance, reiterated zero tolerance for terrorism, and agreed to reconvene under China's chairship in 2027.

Sanjay Seth Launches 'Namo Stall Scheme' in Ranchi

2 May 2026

- Union MoS Sanjay Seth launched the Namo Stall Scheme under PM SVANidhi Scheme in Ranchi to empower street vendors, improve infrastructure and visibility, provided free stalls worth ₹50,000 in the initial phase, and strengthened access to collateral-free loans with interest subsidy.

Tata AIA Life Insurance Launches 'Shubh Health Citi' ULIP Plan

2 May 2026

- Tata AIA launched a ULIP-based health plan covering over 60 critical illnesses, combining insurance, investment, and wellness benefits, offering OPD cover and premium waivers, and enabling long-term healthcare financial planning for individuals aged 18–65.

Sahajanand Medical Technologies Limited Receives ISO 50001 Certification

2 May 2026

- SMT achieved ISO 50001 certification becoming the first Indian cardiovascular device manufacturer with structured energy management, enhancing sustainability, improving energy efficiency, and reinforcing environmentally responsible manufacturing practices.

Anupinder Singh Grewal Appointed President of NCLT

2 May 2026

- Justice Anupinder Grewal was appointed President of the National Company Law Tribunal for a five-year term, bringing over 30 years of judicial experience, and strengthening institutional capacity amid focus on faster insolvency resolution.

Andaman sets Guinness World Record by unfurling largest underwater national flag

2 May 2026

- The Andaman and Nicobar administration on Saturday (May 2, 2026) set a new Guinness World Record by unfurling the world's largest underwater national flag at Radhanagar beach.

Vijay Kumar Passes Away at 57

2 May 2026

- Veteran golfer Vijay Kumar passed away in Lucknow at age 57, was a four-time Order of Merit champion, won the Indian Open in 2002, and represented India internationally including the Alfred Dunhill Cup.

Maharashtra Approves AI Policy 2026

2 May 2026

- Maharashtra approved an AI policy targeting ₹10,000 crore investment and 1.5 lakh jobs by 2031, proposing AI centres, innovation hubs, startup support, and ethical AI governance frameworks.

Bengaluru City Police Launches AI-Powered 'Namma 112'

2 May 2026

- Bengaluru Police launched AI-enabled 'Namma 112' emergency system with multilingual support, real-time voice-to-text conversion, predictive policing features, and improved accessibility and response efficiency.

Ministry of Mines Approves Companies Under Critical Mineral Recycling Scheme

3 & 4 May 2026

- The Ministry of Mines approved 58 companies under a ₹1,500 crore scheme to boost recycling of lithium-ion batteries, e-waste, and scrap, with ₹5,000 crore pledged investments and 850 KTPA capacity to reduce import dependence.

Ministry of Earth Sciences Establishes C-ART Observatory in Visakhapatnam

3 & 4 May 2026

- MoES inaugurated a ₹180 crore coastal weather observatory at Andhra University to improve cyclone prediction, strengthen weather forecasting systems, and enhance early warning capabilities along India's east coast.

ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Reports Tamil Nadu as Top Marine Fish Producer

3 & 4 May 2026

- CMFRI reported Tamil Nadu as the top marine fish producer in 2025 with 6.85 lakh tonnes, surpassing Gujarat, while India's total production rose 3% to 35.7 lakh tonnes with strong market value growth.

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited Delivers Stealth Frigate 'Mahendragiri'

3 & 4 May 2026

- MDL delivered the sixth Project-17A stealth frigate to the Indian Navy, marking completion of its assigned warships, showcasing indigenous shipbuilding and advanced naval design capabilities.

Ishank Singh Sets World Record in Palk Strait

3 & 4 May 2026

- Seven-year-old Ishank Singh became the youngest and fastest swimmer to cross the Palk Strait in 9 hours 50 minutes, demonstrating exceptional endurance and setting a global benchmark.

International Workers' Day Observed on May 1

3 & 4 May 2026

- International Workers' Day is observed globally to honor workers' contributions, promote labour rights, and commemorate the Haymarket Affair of 1886, marking a historic labour movement milestone.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj Launches PAI 2.0 for FY24; Tripura Tops Index

5 May 2026

- MoPR launched Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 to assess Gram Panchayat performance with participation from 33 States/UTs and 2.59 lakh GPs, where Tripura ranked first with 80% front-runner panchayats, followed by Kerala and Odisha, while Jugal Kishore Nagar GP topped nationally.

Ministry of Jal Shakti Signs Reform MoUs under JJM 2.0

5 May 2026

- MoJS signed reform-linked MoUs with Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Tripura to achieve 100% tap water coverage by 2028, promoting GP-led water governance, digital monitoring, and sustainable rural water supply systems.

Rohit Jain Appointed RBI Deputy Governor

5 May 2026

- Rohit Jain was appointed Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India for three years, bringing extensive experience in banking regulation, supervision, and financial stability.

GalaxEye Space Solutions Launches 'Drishti' OptoSAR Satellite

5 May 2026

- GalaxEye launched the world's first OptoSAR satellite

integrating EO and SAR sensors aboard SpaceX Falcon 9, enabling high-resolution imaging and improved Earth observation capabilities.

Defence Research and Development Organisation Tests LR-AShM Missile

5 May 2026

- DRDO successfully conducted second test of Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-ship Missile with 1500 km range and speeds up to Mach 10, marking a major advancement in India's defence capabilities.

World Press Freedom Day Observed on May 3

5 May 2026

- World Press Freedom Day promotes freedom of expression, with 2026 theme "Shaping a Future at Peace", and highlights global press freedom rankings and journalist recognition.

Telangana Acquires Hyderabad Metro Phase I

5 May 2026

- Telangana government acquired 100% stake in Hyderabad Metro Phase I from L&T, transitioning from PPP to full state ownership to improve urban mobility, governance, and service delivery.

Raghav Das Gaiha wins Malcolm Adiseshiah Award

6 May 2026

- Raghav Das Gaiha, a visiting scholar at PARC, University of Pennsylvania, U.S., has been named the recipient of the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award, 2026.

Cabinet okays Micro LED plant, OSAT facility in Gujarat

6 May 2026

- The Union Cabinet okayed support worth ₹3,936 crore in total in support for two semiconductor plants by Crystal Matrix Ltd. and Suchi Semicon Pvt. Ltd.

China's Wu Yize wins World snooker championship

6 May 2026

- China's Wu Yize won the World snooker championship for the first time with an 18-17 victory over Shaun Murphy in the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre.

Ministry of Power Revises Make in India Norms for HVDC Substations

6 May 2026

- The Ministry of Power revised Make in India norms for

HVDC substations with a phased localisation roadmap instead of immediate compliance. The policy targets 60% local content by FY35 starting with 30% in FY28. It applies to EPC/turnkey LCC-based HVDC projects critical for long-distance power transmission. The move aligns with Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) to boost domestic manufacturing capacity.

Ministry of Railways Notifies South Coast Railway Zone

6 May 2026

- The government announced the creation of the South Coast Railway Zone with headquarters at Visakhapatnam. It becomes India's 18th railway zone and will be operational from June 1, 2026. The zone includes Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Guntur divisions reorganised from existing zones. It aims to boost logistics, port connectivity, tourism, and regional economic growth.

World Laughter Day Observed on May 3, 2026

6 May 2026

- World Laughter Day promotes global peace and well-being through laughter and positivity. It is celebrated on the first Sunday of May each year. The 2026 theme was "World Peace through Laughter." The day was initiated in 1998 by Dr. Madan Kataria to spread happiness and health awareness.

International Firefighters' Day Observed on May 4, 2026

6 May 2026

- International Firefighters' Day honours firefighters' bravery and sacrifice worldwide. It commemorates those who lost their lives in the line of duty. The day originated after a tragic wildfire incident in Australia in 1998. It is observed annually to recognise their critical public service.

World Portuguese Language Day Observed on May 5, 2026

6 May 2026

- World Portuguese Language Day celebrates the linguistic and cultural heritage of Portuguese-speaking nations. It marks the role of the language in global communication and culture. UNESCO officially recognised the day in 2019. The observance also highlights the importance of multilingualism and cultural diversity.

Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2026

7 May 2026

- UNESCO has awarded the 2026 UNESCO/Guillermo

Cano World Press Freedom Prize to the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate.

Dharmendra Pradhan Launches School Management Committee Guidelines 2026

7 May 2026

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the School Management Committee (SMC) Guidelines 2026 on 6 May 2026. The guidelines aim to strengthen community participation, improve school infrastructure, and enhance pedagogical practices in schools. The initiative aligns with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for inclusive and participatory education governance. It also seeks to promote accountability, local involvement, and better learning outcomes in the school education system.

Union Cabinet Approves Two Semiconductor Units under ISM 1.0

7 May 2026

- The Union Cabinet approved two semiconductor projects worth Rs 3,936 crore under India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 1.0. The projects include India's first commercial GaN-based Mini/Micro-LED display facility and a semiconductor packaging unit in Gujarat. These projects are expected to generate over 2,230 skilled jobs and strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem. The approvals mark the final projects sanctioned under the Rs 76,000 crore ISM 1.0 programme.

Union Cabinet Approves ECLGS 5.0 with Rs 18,100 Crore Outlay

7 May 2026

- The Cabinet approved ECLGS 5.0 to provide liquidity support to MSMEs affected by the West Asia crisis. The scheme offers 100% guarantee coverage for MSMEs and 90% for non-MSMEs and airlines through NCGTC. Eligible borrowers must have standard loan accounts as of March 31, 2026. The initiative aims to strengthen credit flow and business continuity during economic stress.

Ministry of Defence Signs Rs 1,476 Crore Deal with BEL

7 May 2026

- The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with BEL for five Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems for the Indian Army. The systems provide ELINT, COMINT, and counter-drone capabilities in tactical operations. Developed by DRDO's DLRL, the systems contain over 72% indigenous content. The procurement strengthens India's defence modernisation and self-reliance goals.

NLC India Limited Partners with EDF France for Nuclear Technologies

7 May 2026

- NLC India signed an agreement with EDF France to explore nuclear projects using EPR and SMR technologies. The collaboration supports India's target of achieving 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047. The partnership focuses on advanced, modular, and safer nuclear reactor systems. It aligns with India's clean energy transition and net-zero goals.

International Organization for Migration Releases World Migration Report 2026

7 May 2026

- The IOM reported that India remained the world's top remittance recipient with over USD 137 billion in 2024. The USA continued as the largest remittance-sending country globally. Mexico, the Philippines, France, and Pakistan followed India among top recipients. The report highlights the growing importance of global migration and remittance flows.

International Day of the Midwife Observed on May 5, 2026

7 May 2026

- International Day of the Midwife recognises the vital role of midwives in maternal and newborn healthcare. The 2026 theme was "One Million More Midwives." The observance raises awareness about the global shortage of trained midwives. It was first celebrated in 1991 following a proposal by the International Confederation of Midwives.

World Cartoonist Day Observed on May 5, 2026

7 May 2026

- World Cartoonist Day honours cartoonists for their contributions to art, humour, and social commentary. The day commemorates the debut of Hogan's Alley and The Yellow Kid in 1895. It was officially initiated in 1999 by the National Cartoonists Society. The observance celebrates the influence of cartoons in media and culture.

Nagaland Launches 100 Days Ayushman Student Coverage Mission

7 May 2026

- Nagaland launched the '100 Days Ayushman Student Coverage Mission' to expand healthcare coverage among students. The initiative extends benefits under AB-PMJAY and the state CMHIS scheme. Registration and card generation camps will be conducted in schools and colleges across the state. The mission aims to ensure universal student health

protection and improved healthcare access.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Approves Rs 365 per Quintal FRP for Sugarcane

8 May 2026

- CCEA approved an increase in the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane to Rs 365 per quintal for the 2026–27 season. The revised FRP is applicable at a basic recovery rate of 10.25% and marks a 2.81% rise from the previous season. The new rate will come into effect from October 1, 2026. The decision aims to improve farmer income and strengthen the sugar sector.

Union Cabinet Approves Mission for Cotton Productivity

8 May 2026

- The Union Cabinet approved the Mission for Cotton Productivity with a total outlay of Rs 5,659.22 crore for 2026–31. The mission aligns with the Government's 5F vision from Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign. It will be implemented jointly by the Ministries of Agriculture and Textiles along with other institutions. The initiative aims to improve cotton productivity, quality, and export competitiveness.

S&P Global Lowers India's GDP Forecast for FY27

8 May 2026

- S&P Global and CRISIL revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY27 to 6.6% from 7.1%. The downgrade was attributed to disruptions in trade and energy supply chains caused by the West Asia conflict. The report also projected higher inflation, rising current account deficit, and increasing debt-to-GDP ratio. Despite challenges, services sector growth is expected to remain a major economic driver.

Skyroot Aerospace Becomes India's First Space-tech Unicorn

8 May 2026

- Skyroot Aerospace became India's first space-tech unicorn after raising USD 60 million in funding. The company's valuation crossed USD 1.1 billion, nearly doubling its 2023 valuation. The funds will support the development of launch vehicles including Vikram-1. The milestone highlights India's growing private space technology ecosystem.

World Asthma Day Observed on May 5, 2026

8 May 2026

- World Asthma Day is observed globally to spread awareness about asthma care and treatment. The 2026 theme was "Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma, still an urgent

need." The observance is led by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA). It promotes better diagnosis, treatment access, and respiratory healthcare awareness.

Overview of Vietnam President To Lam's Visit to India

9 May 2026

- Vietnam President To Lam visited India from May 5 to 7, 2026, at the invitation of Narendra Modi to strengthen bilateral cooperation in defence, trade, critical technologies, and strategic sectors. During the visit, both countries reviewed cooperation in maritime affairs, renewable energy, space, science and technology, and people-to-people ties. India and Vietnam signed 13 MoUs covering digital technologies, culture, tourism, education, and healthcare. Both sides also announced plans to elevate bilateral ties to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and expand trade to USD 25 billion by 2030.

NCRB Releases Crime in India 2024 Report

9 May 2026

- National Crime Records Bureau released the "Crime in India 2024" report showing that overall cognisable crimes in India declined by 6% in 2024 compared to the previous year. India recorded 58.86 lakh cognisable crimes, with the national crime rate declining to 418.9 per lakh population. Delhi reported the highest number of cognisable offences among metropolitan cities. The report also highlighted rising suicide cases, with Bengaluru continuing to record high suicide numbers over the last three years.

MoSPI Updates State GDP Calculation Base Year to 2022–23

9 May 2026

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation updated the base year for Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and Gross State Value Added (GSVA) calculations to 2022–23. The revision aims to reflect the current structure of the economy through improved data sources and updated estimation methods. States and Union Territories have been directed to adopt the new base year for better comparability and standardisation of economic performance data.

NITI Aayog Releases Report on School Education System in India

9 May 2026

- NITI Aayog released a policy report titled "School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement." The report reviewed India's school education system

Gujarat CM inaugurates India Aircraft Leasing

infrastructure, learning outcomes, and inclusion. India currently has 14.71 lakh schools serving over 24.69 crore students. The report highlighted concerns such as low higher secondary enrolment, high dropout rates, and the existence of nearly 8,000 zero-enrolment schools across the country.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Gets RBI Nod to Acquire Stakes in AU SFB and Federal Bank

9 May 2026

- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited received approval from the Reserve Bank of India to acquire up to 9.99% stakes in AU Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank Limited. The approval is subject to regulatory norms and investment limits under banking regulations and FEMA guidelines.

World Athletics Day Observed on May 7, 2026

9 May 2026

- World Athletics Day was observed globally on May 7, 2026, to promote fitness and encourage youth participation in athletics. The initiative is led by World Athletics and focuses on using sports for social development and healthy lifestyles.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day Observed on May 8, 2026

9 May 2026

- World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day was observed on May 8, 2026, with the theme "United in Humanity." The observance honours humanitarian efforts and commemorates the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant. The day highlights global humanitarian service, disaster relief, and healthcare support initiatives.

India to host 1st IBCA Summit in June this year

9 May 2026

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav launched the website and logo for the 1st International Big Cat Alliance IBCA Summit 2026 in New Delhi.

Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (Retd) appointed as Chief of Defence Staff ↗

10 & 11 May 2026

- The Government of India has appointed Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). He will succeed General Anil Chauhan after the latter completes his tenure on 30 May 2026.

and Financing Summit 2.0

10 & 11 May 2026

- Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the second edition of the India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit (IALFS 2.0) at GIFT City, Gandhinagar. The summit was organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in collaboration with IFSCA and FICCI. Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu stated that India is expected to become the world's third-largest civil aviation market by 2035 with nearly 2,250 aircraft. Several MoUs were signed among aviation companies, financial institutions, and regulatory bodies during the summit.

Ministry of Finance Empowers GSTAT Principal Bench as NAAAR

10 & 11 May 2026

- The Ministry of Finance empowered the Principal Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal in New Delhi to function as the National Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings from April 1, 2026. The authority will resolve disputes involving conflicting GST advance rulings across different states and Union Territories. The move aims to improve consistency and clarity in GST implementation across India.

BIS Hosts Global Space Systems Standards Meeting in New Delhi

10 & 11 May 2026

- The Bureau of Indian Standards organised the 35th plenary and working group meetings of ISO Technical Committee 20/Subcommittee 14 on Space Systems and Operations for the first time in India. The event was held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi with participation from delegates of 13 countries. Discussions focused on international standards for space system design, launch operations, safety, and sustainability. The event highlighted India's growing role in the global space sector.

RBI Imposes Penalties on YES Bank and Hinduja Housing Finance

10 & 11 May 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India imposed monetary penalties on YES Bank and Hinduja Housing Finance for regulatory compliance lapses. YES Bank was fined Rs 31.80 lakh for deficiencies related to Know Your Customer norms, while Hinduja Housing Finance was penalised Rs 1.80 lakh for governance-related non-compliance. The action was taken under provisions of the Banking Regulation Act and National Housing Bank Act.

Government Appoints New CDS and Chief of Naval Staff

10 & 11 May 2026

- The Government of India appointed Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani as the third Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs with effect from May 30, 2026. Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan was appointed as the 27th Chief of Naval Staff and will assume office on May 31, 2026. Both appointments are aimed at strengthening India's military leadership and defence preparedness.

Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation Observed on May 8–9

10 & 11 May 2026

- The United Nations observed the Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War on May 8 and 9, 2026. The observance commemorates victims of World War II and promotes peace, reconciliation, and international cooperation. The year 2026 marked the 81st anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

International Nurses Day being observed today

12 May 2026

- International Nurses Day is being observed today. The day is observed every year on May 12 to celebrate nurses and their contribution to healthcare around the world.

India's economy is projected to grow at 6.6% in Financial Year 2026–27: SBI Research Report

12 May 2026

- An SBI Research Report for May 2026 has said that India's economy is projected to grow at 6.6% in the Financial Year 2026–27, as against the GDP growth for the Financial Year 2025–26, which is likely to be at 7.5%.

India to host Asian Weightlifting Championships after 44 years

12 May 2026

- India is set to host the prestigious 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from today, marking the country's first time hosting the event in 44 years.

India to host 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships in Gujarat after 44 years

12 May 2026

- India is set to host the prestigious 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships in Gandhinagar,

Gujarat from tomorrow, marking the country's first time hosting the event in 44 years.

SBI Research Projects India's Q4FY26 GDP Growth at 7.2%

12 May 2026

- SBI Research projected India's real GDP growth at around 7.2% for the fourth quarter of FY26. The report highlighted that India's economy remains resilient despite global uncertainties, supported by rural demand, fiscal support, and urban consumption.

National Panchayat Awards 2025 Announced

12 May 2026

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj announced the winners of the National Panchayat Awards 2025, recognising excellence in rural governance and sustainable development. Karnataka topped the awards tally with six awards, followed by Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

Suvendu Adhikari Sworn in as West Bengal Chief Minister

12 May 2026

- Suvendu Adhikari of the Bharatiya Janata Party was sworn in as the 9th Chief Minister of West Bengal, becoming the first BJP leader to hold the post in the state. The BJP secured a decisive victory in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections.

Australian Tennis Legend Mal Anderson Passes Away

12 May 2026

- Australian tennis legend Mal Anderson passed away at the age of 91. He was a former World No. 2 and became the first unseeded player to win the US National Championships men's singles title in 1957.

World Migratory Bird Day Observed on May 9

12 May 2026

- World Migratory Bird Day was observed globally on May 9, 2026, to raise awareness about migratory bird conservation and habitat protection. The campaign is supported by multiple United Nations organisations and international environmental bodies.

International Day of Argania Observed on May 10

12 May 2026

- The International Day of Argania was observed globally on May 10 to highlight the importance of the argan tree in sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and cultural heritage, especially in

International Day of Plant Health Observed on

PM Inaugurates Educational and Welfare Projects in Gujarat

13 May 2026

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sardardham Hostel in Vadodara developed at a cost of Rs 150 crore. He also inaugurated the Dr. Dushyant and Daksha Patel Complex and launched the Sardar Dham Education Support Yojana with an outlay of Rs 500 crore to provide financial assistance and mentorship to economically weaker students. Additionally, he virtually laid the foundation stone for the Dharamshi Harji Mordiya Girls Chhatralaya Phase-2 project.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches PMGSY-IV in Madhya Pradesh

13 May 2026

- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV during the silver jubilee celebrations of PMGSY in Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh. Under the scheme, Madhya Pradesh received approval for 973 rural roads covering over 2,117 kilometres with an investment of Rs 1,763 crore to improve rural connectivity.

Moody's Lowers India's GDP Growth Forecast to 6% for CY26

13 May 2026

- Moody's Ratings revised India's GDP growth forecast for calendar year 2026 downward to 6%. The agency cited weak private consumption, slower industrial activity, and global geopolitical tensions affecting energy prices and trade routes.

International Day of Vesak Observed Globally

13 May 2026

- The United Nations International Day of Vesak, also known as Buddha Purnima, was observed globally in May 2026 to commemorate the birth, enlightenment, and Parinirvana of Gautama Buddha. The observance promotes peace, harmony, and Buddhist teachings worldwide.

National Technology Day Observed on May 11

13 May 2026

- National Technology Day was celebrated across India on May 11, 2026, with the theme "Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth." The day commemorates India's Pokhran-II nuclear tests and achievements in science and technology.

May 12

13 May 2026

- The International Day of Plant Health was observed globally on May 12, 2026, to raise awareness about the importance of plant protection for food security, biodiversity, and sustainable development. The 2026 theme was "Plant Biosecurity for Food Security."

MoRD Notifies Implementation of VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 from July 1, 2026

14 May 2026

- The Ministry of Rural Development notified the implementation of the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, across India from July 1, 2026. With the rollout of the new law, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005, will be repealed from the same date.

India Hosts 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue in New Delhi

14 May 2026

- India hosted the 10th edition of the Indian Ocean Dialogue in New Delhi under the theme "Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World." The event was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Indian Ocean Rim Association Secretariat

DICGC Insurance Protection Available to Depositors

14 May 2026

- Following the cancellation, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation will provide deposit insurance coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per depositor, including principal and interest.

ISRO Scientist Kuljeet Kaur Marhas Becomes First Indian Woman Fellow of Meteoritical Society

14 May 2026

- ISRO scientist Kuljeet Kaur Marhas became the first Indian woman to be elected as a Fellow of the Meteoritical Society for 2026. She is only the third Indian scientist to receive the prestigious recognition in planetary science and meteoritics.

CII Elects R Mukundan as President for 2026-27

14 May 2026

- The Confederation of Indian Industry elected R Mukundan as its President for 2026-27. Suchitra Ella was elected President-Designate, while Shashwat Goenka became Vice President.

Argentina's Faustino Oro Becomes Second-Youngest Chess Grandmaster

14 May 2026

- Argentina's chess prodigy Faustino Oro became the second-youngest Grandmaster in chess history at the age of 12 years and 6 months after securing his final Grandmaster norm in Italy.

International Nurses Day Observed on May 12

14 May 2026

- International Nurses Day was observed globally on May 12, 2026, to recognise the contributions of nurses to healthcare systems and society. The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

President Droupadi Murmu Confers National Florence Nightingale Awards

14 May 2026

- On the occasion of International Nurses Day 2026, President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards to 15 nursing professionals at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Government Extends Coal Linkage Tenure to 30 Years

15 & 16 May 2026

- The Government of India has also extended coal linkage tenure up to 30 years under the "Production of Syngas leading to Coal Gasification" sub-sector within the Non-Regulated Sector linkage auction framework.

Cabinet Approves MSP for Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2026–27

15 & 16 May 2026

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price for 14 Kharif crops for the 2026–27 marketing season.

Thoothukudi Shipyard to Boost India's Maritime Capacity

15 & 16 May 2026

- The facility is expected to achieve an annual shipbuilding capacity of 2.5 Million Gross Tonnage, contributing significantly to India's Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 target.

MHI Launches Unified Bharat e-Charge Platform

15 & 16 May 2026

- Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy unveiled the Unified Bharat e-Charge platform and approved

1,243 EV charging stations for Karnataka under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme.

Mizoram Ginger Mission Launched with Rs 189.79 Crore Outlay

15 & 16 May 2026

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma launched the Rs 189.79 crore Mizoram Ginger Mission aimed at strengthening ginger cultivation and value-chain development in the state.

IEPFA and Prasar Bharati Sign MoU for Investor Awareness

15 & 16 May 2026

- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority signed an MoU with Prasar Bharati to strengthen investor education initiatives across India through Doordarshan channels.

CTBC Bank Becomes First Taiwanese Bank at GIFT City

15 & 16 May 2026

- CTBC Bank became the first Taiwanese bank to establish a branch at GIFT City in Gujarat after receiving approval from the International Financial Services Centres Authority.

N. Rangasamy Sworn in as Puducherry Chief Minister for Fifth Term

15 & 16 May 2026

- AINRC leader N. Rangasamy took oath as the Chief Minister of Puducherry for a fifth term after the NDA secured a majority in the 2026 Assembly elections.

Yoweri Museveni Sworn in as Uganda President for Seventh Term

15 & 16 May 2026

- Museveni has remained in power since 1986, making him one of Africa's longest-serving leaders.
- Yoweri Museveni took oath as the President of Uganda for a seventh term following his victory in the January 2026 presidential election.

Akash Ambani Appointed Managing Director of Jio Platforms

15 & 16 May 2026

- Jio Platforms appointed Akash Ambani as its first Managing Director for a five-year term effective from April 2026.

International Day of Families Observed on May

15

15 & 16 May 2026

- The International Day of Families was observed globally on May 15, 2026, to highlight the role of families in social development and address issues related to inequality and child wellbeing.

Cabinet Approves Ahmedabad–Dholera Rail Project and Nagpur Airport Modernisation

17 & 18 May 2026

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Narendra Modi approved the Rs. 20,667 crore Ahmedabad–Dholera semi high-speed rail project in Gujarat. The 134 km double-line corridor will use indigenous technology with speeds up to 220 kmph and is targeted for completion by 2030–31. The Union Cabinet also approved modernisation of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport under the PPP model.

India Assumes Chairmanship of Global IT Security Standards Body CCDB

17 & 18 May 2026

- India assumed the chairmanship of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) for the 2026–2028 term during the CCRA meeting held in Tokyo, Japan. The leadership role highlights India's growing influence in global IT security standards and certification systems. India has been a member of the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement since 2013 through MeitY and the STQC Directorate.

India Hosts Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026 in Mumbai

17 & 18 May 2026

- India hosted the Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026 in Mumbai under its chairship for the year 2026. The meeting focused on conflict diamond prevention, transparency, responsible diamond trade, and strengthening the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. Participants discussed the "3Cs" framework — Credibility, Compliance, and Consumer Confidence — to promote responsibly sourced diamonds globally.

EU Becomes India's Third Largest Seafood Export Market in FY26

17 & 18 May 2026

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that the European Union became India's third-largest seafood export market in FY26 after the USA and China. India's seafood exports to the EU reached USD 1.593 billion, accounting for 18.94% of total export value. India also strengthened compliance systems to meet EU regulations on antimicrobial use and food safety standards.

UN Global Forest Goals Report 2026 Highlights Fuelwood Demand as Key Driver of Forest Loss

17 & 18 May 2026

- The United Nations released the Global Forest Goals Report 2026 during the UN Forum on Forests session in New York. The report identified rising fuelwood demand and agricultural expansion as major causes of global forest loss, especially in Africa and South America. Global forest cover declined from 4.18 billion hectares in 2015 to 4.14 billion hectares in 2025.

Morgan Stanley Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast for FY27

17 & 18 May 2026

- Morgan Stanley revised India's FY27 GDP growth forecast upward to 6.7% from its earlier estimate of 6.2%. The report projected FY28 GDP growth at 7% while estimating inflation at 4.7% due to higher production costs and rupee weakness. Global economic growth for 2026 was projected to moderate to 3.2%.

Overview of EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar's Visit to Jamaica, Suriname and T&T

19 May 2026

- Union Minister S. Jaishankar visited Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago from May 2–10, 2026 to deepen India's engagement with Caribbean nations. India signed multiple MoUs in health, solarisation, broadcasting, infrastructure, and strategic cooperation. The visit also focused on development partnerships, investment, and bilateral collaboration across key sectors.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Participates in Sikkim Statehood Day

19 May 2026

- Jyotiraditya Scindia attended the 51st Statehood Day celebrations of Sikkim in Gangtok on May 16, 2026. During the event, he launched Mission Sikkim Organics with an outlay of Rs. 360 crore to strengthen organic farming and sustainable agriculture. He also inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 21 development projects worth Rs. 223 crore under MDoNER support.

PFRDA Launches New Retirement Scheme under NPS

19 May 2026

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority introduced new Retirement Income Schemes (RIS) under the National Pension System in May 2026. The framework offers flexible periodic

payout options and allows subscribers to continue NPS accounts till the age of 85. The initiative aims to improve post-retirement income management and corpus appreciation for pension subscribers.

India's 1st SME-led Semiconductor ATMP/OSAT Facility Inaugurated in Rajasthan

19 May 2026

- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated India's first SME-led semiconductor ATMP/OSAT facility in Bhiwadi, Rajasthan. The facility, developed by Sahasra Semiconductors Pvt. Ltd. under the SPECS scheme, was built with an investment of over Rs. 150 crore. A new Electronics Manufacturing Cluster at Salarpur was also inaugurated to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem.

Lok Sabha Speaker Constitutes Committee on Empowerment of Women

19 May 2026

- Om Birla constituted the parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women for 2026–27. BJP leader Daggubati Purandeswari was appointed Chairperson of the committee. The committee reviews women-related policies, schemes, and reports of the National Commission for Women.

NHAI Launches 'Project Saksham' for Rural Women Empowerment

19 May 2026

- The National Highways Authority of India launched Project Saksham in partnership with the Vertis Foundation to empower rural women through skill development and employment. The programme operates through 12 training centres across India and has trained over 6,000 youth so far. More than 80% of the beneficiaries are women, highlighting its focus on gender-led empowerment.

PM Narendra Modi Visits UAE

19 May 2026

- Narendra Modi visited the United Arab Emirates on May 15, 2026 during the first leg of his five-nation tour. India and UAE signed agreements in energy and maritime sectors, including partnerships involving ADNOC and Cochin Shipyard Limited. The UAE also announced USD 5 billion investments in India during the visit.

MoF Approves Emirates NBD Stake Acquisition in RBL Bank

19 May 2026

- The Ministry of Finance approved Emirates NBD proposal to acquire up to 74% stake in RBL Bank through preferential allotment and open offer. The

deal, valued at nearly USD 3 billion, marks one of the largest FDI transactions in India's banking sector. The acquisition awaits final approval from the RBI and other authorities.

Endangered Species Day 2026 – May 15

19 May 2026

- Endangered Species Day 2026 was observed on May 15, 2026 to raise awareness about endangered species and biodiversity conservation. The 2026 theme was "Celebrating America's Wildlife Comeback Stories. Championing the Endangered Species Act". The observance was first initiated in 2006 by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition.

International Day of Light 2026 – May 16

19 May 2026

- International Day of Light 2026 was observed globally on May 16, 2026 under the theme "Light for a Sustainable Future". The day highlights the importance of light-based technologies in science, education, and sustainable development. It commemorates Theodore Maiman's first successful laser operation in 1960.

National Dengue Day 2026 – May 16

19 May 2026

- National Dengue Day 2026 was observed across India on May 16, 2026 to spread awareness about dengue prevention and mosquito control. The theme for 2026 was "Community Participation for Dengue Control: Check, Clean and Cover". The observance was initiated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2010.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches 'Coffee of Nagaland' Mission

20 May 2026

- Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the Rs 175 crore "Coffee of Nagaland" mission to promote coffee cultivation and strengthen farmers' livelihoods in Nagaland. The initiative focuses on plantation development, branding, exports, processing, and coffee tourism through a cluster-based model. A separate Rs 49.48 crore pilot project was also launched to develop a complete coffee value chain in the state.

NIOS Launches Initiative for Out-of-School Children under NEP 2020

20 May 2026

- The National Institute of Open Schooling launched a new initiative to reconnect out-of-school children with formal education under the National Education

Policy 2020. The mission, titled “To Reach the Unreached,” will initially focus on children aged 14–18 across 10 pilot districts in multiple states. According to PLFS estimates, over two crore children in this age group are currently out of school.

TVS Venu Group to Acquire Stake in Jana Small Finance Bank

20 May 2026

- TVS Motor Company announced plans to acquire up to 9.9% stake in Jana Small Finance Bank through a combination of primary investment and secondary share purchase. The acquisition aims to strengthen the bank’s capital base and support future expansion. The deal is expected to conclude within three months subject to approvals.

BIS Notifies E22–E30 Fuel Norms, Approves Up to 30% Ethanol Blending

21 May 2026

- The Bureau of Indian Standards notified specifications for E22, E25, E27, and E30 fuel blends, allowing petrol blending with up to 30% ethanol beyond the current E20 target. The standards were issued under IS 19850:2026 for ethanol-blended motor gasoline used in positive ignition engine vehicles. The move aims to reduce India’s dependence on imported crude oil, support cleaner fuel adoption, and strengthen domestic biofuel production. However, the notification currently outlines only technical specifications and does not mandate immediate nationwide rollout of E30 fuel.

PM Narendra Modi Visits Netherlands

21 May 2026

- Narendra Modi visited the Netherlands from May 16–17, 2026, during the second leg of his five-nation tour. India and the Netherlands agreed to elevate bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership and adopted a five-year roadmap for cooperation from 2026–2030. During the visit, 17 agreements were signed across sectors including technology, trade, green energy, and water management. The Netherlands also returned 11th-century Chola copper plates to India.

Bharat Singh Chauhan Re-Elected Chairman of Commonwealth Chess Association

21 May 2026

- Bharat Singh Chauhan was re-elected as Chairman of the Commonwealth Chess Association for the 2026–2030 term during the Annual General Body Meeting held in Sri Lanka. The association also announced the launch of the Commonwealth School Chess Championship, with the first edition scheduled in Malaysia in October 2026.

World AIDS Vaccine Day 2026 – May 18

21 May 2026

- World AIDS Vaccine Day 2026 was observed on May 18 to highlight the importance of developing an effective HIV/AIDS vaccine and recognise the contributions of researchers, healthcare workers, and volunteers working in HIV prevention and vaccine research.

International Day for Women in Maritime 2026 – May 18

21 May 2026

- International Day for Women in Maritime 2026 was observed globally on May 18 to promote gender equality and women’s participation in the maritime industry. The 2026 theme was “From Policy to Practice: Advancing Gender Equality for Maritime Excellence.”

Multinational Military Exercise PRAGATI 2026 Begins in Meghalaya

22 May 2026

- The first edition of the multinational military exercise PRAGATI 2026 commenced at Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya. Organised by the Indian Army, the exercise is being conducted from May 18 to 31, 2026 with participation from 12 friendly nations across South Asia and Southeast Asia. The exercise focuses on counter-terrorism operations in jungle and semi-mountain terrain under India’s SAGAR and Act East frameworks.

NCDEX Launches India’s First Weather Derivatives Contract

22 May 2026

- The National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange launched India’s first exchange-traded weather derivatives contract named “RAINMUMBAI”. The contract is designed to hedge financial risks arising from rainfall variability in Mumbai and surrounding areas. Developed with IIT Bombay and based on IMD rainfall data, the contract will begin implementation from June 1, 2026.

UNDESA Lowers India’s GDP Forecast to 6.4% for FY27

22 May 2026

- The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs revised India’s GDP growth forecast for FY27 to 6.4% from its earlier estimate of 6.6% in the report “World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026”. The revision was attributed to global uncertainties and the ongoing West Asia crisis. The report also projected inflation in India at 4.9% for FY27.

Taiwanese Author Yáng Shuāng-zǐ Wins International Booker Prize 2026

22 May 2026

- Taiwanese author Yáng Shuāng-zǐ and translator Lin King won the International Booker Prize 2026 for the novel Taiwan Travelogue. The book became the first Mandarin Chinese novel to receive the award. The prize carries a cash award of 50,000 British Pounds shared equally between the author and translator.

World Fair Play Day 2026 – May 19

22 May 2026

- World Fair Play Day 2026 was observed globally on May 19 to promote sportsmanship, honesty, inclusion, and fairness in sports. The observance encourages athletes, organisations, and stakeholders to uphold integrity and the spirit of fair competition. The year 2026 marked the second observance of the day.

World Bee Day 2026 – May 20

22 May 2026

- World Bee Day 2026 was observed on May 20 to raise awareness about the importance of bees and pollinators in biodiversity and food security. The 2026 theme was “Bee Together for People and the Planet – A partnership that sustains us all.” The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Anton Janša, a pioneer of modern apiculture.

India Hosts 68th APO Governing Body Meeting in New Delhi

23 May 2026

- India hosted the 68th Governing Body Meeting of the Asian Productivity Organization in New Delhi under the leadership of Union Minister Piyush Goyal. The meeting brought together policymakers and experts from member economies to discuss productivity-led transformation under the APO Vision 2030 framework. Discussions included leadership reforms, regional productivity programmes, and future budget planning.

Ministry of Textiles Launches Bharat Tex 2026 Event App

23 May 2026

- The Ministry of Textiles launched the Bharat Tex 2026 Event App featuring AI-powered networking and business matchmaking tools. The app includes smart assistance, QR-based lead capture, and meeting management features for exhibitors and participants. Bharat Tex 2026 will be held from July 14–17, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

ZikZuk Technologies Receives RBI Approval as PPI Issuer

23 May 2026

- ZikZuk Technologies received final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Prepaid Payment Instrument issuer under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. The approval enables the company to expand digital payment services including wallets, prepaid cards, and cross-border payment solutions. The company will also integrate services across UPI infrastructure and regulated payment systems.

ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 Receives 2026 AIAA Goddard Astronautics Award

23 May 2026

- ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission received the 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. The award recognised the mission's successful soft landing near the Moon's south pole and its contribution to lunar exploration research. Chandrayaan-3 made India the fourth country to successfully achieve a soft landing on the Moon.

International Tea Day 2026 – May 21

23 May 2026

- International Tea Day 2026 was observed on May 21 to recognise the cultural and economic importance of tea and promote sustainable tea production. The 2026 theme announced by the FAO was “Sustaining Tea, Supporting Communities.” The observance also highlights the welfare of tea workers and small tea growers worldwide.

ITBP's First All-Women Expedition Successfully Summits Mount Everest

24 & 25 May 2026

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police completed its first-ever all-women international expedition to Mount Everest with a 14-member team successfully reaching the summit via the South Col Route in Nepal. Simultaneously, the Border Security Force also completed its first all-women Everest expedition under “Mission Vande Mataram”. Both expeditions supported the “Clean Himalaya – Save Glacier” campaign and promoted environmental conservation in the Himalayan region.

RBI Declares Record Rs 2.87 Lakh Crore Dividend to Government for FY26

24 & 25 May 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India approved a record surplus transfer of Rs 2.87 lakh crore to the Government of India for FY26. The decision was taken during the

National Anti-Terrorism Day 2026 – May 21
 The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was headed by Governor Sanjay Malhotra. RBI also maintained the Contingency Risk Buffer at 6.5% of the balance sheet while reporting strong growth in income and balance sheet expansion.

Major Abhilasha Barak Receives UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

24 & 25 May 2026

- Major Abhilasha Barak of the Indian Army was selected for the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award 2025. She was recognised for promoting gender sensitisation and community outreach activities during her deployment with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. She is also India's first woman combat helicopter pilot in the Army Aviation Corps.

Karnataka Grameena Bank Receives National Award for APY Performance

24 & 25 May 2026

- Karnataka Grameena Bank received a national award from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority for outstanding enrolment performance under the Atal Pension Yojana. The bank achieved 142% of its enrolment target by opening over 2.49 lakh APY accounts. The award was presented during the APY Annual Felicitation Programme in New Delhi.

ACC Extends Tenure of NCB Director General Anurag Garg Till 2027

24 & 25 May 2026

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet extended the tenure of Narcotics Control Bureau Director General Anurag Garg till July 31, 2027. Garg is a 1993-batch IPS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre and has served in several leadership roles in policing, vigilance, and law enforcement. He has been serving as DG of NCB since September 2024.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development 2026 – May 21

24 & 25 May 2026

- World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development 2026 was observed globally on May 21 to promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, and inclusive development. The observance is led annually by UNESCO following a UN General Assembly resolution adopted in 2002. The day highlights cultural diversity as a common heritage of humanity and an important driver of sustainable development.

24 & 25 May 2026

- National Anti-Terrorism Day 2026 was observed across India on May 21 to mark the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1991. The day aims to spread awareness against terrorism and violence while promoting national unity and peace. The observance is coordinated annually by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

International Day for Biological Diversity 2026 – May 22

24 & 25 May 2026

- The International Day for Biological Diversity 2026 was observed globally on May 22 to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The 2026 theme was "Acting locally for global impact." In India, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organised national-level celebrations in Bhopal in collaboration with the National Biodiversity Authority and the International Big Cat Alliance.

Rajnath Singh Visits Vietnam and South Korea to Strengthen Defence Cooperation

26 May 2026

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Vietnam and South Korea from May 18–21, 2026, to deepen defence and Indo-Pacific cooperation. During the Vietnam visit, India and Vietnam signed agreements on AI and quantum technology collaboration, besides inaugurating AI and language laboratories. In South Korea, India exchanged an MoU on defence cyber security cooperation and facilitated industrial agreements between Larsen & Toubro and Hanwha Co. Ltd.

AiIB Launches USD 10 Billion Relief Facility for Conflict-hit Nations

26 May 2026

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) launched the 'Energy, Food Security and Economic Resilience Facility (EFSERF)' with a funding support of USD 10 billion over two years. The initiative aims to help member countries tackle economic disruptions arising from the ongoing Middle East conflict. The facility will provide budgetary support, refinancing aid, liquidity assistance, and funding for essential imports.

RBI Approves Reappointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as ICICI Bank CEO

26 May 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India approved the reappointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as Managing

Director and CEO of ICICI Bank for another two-year term till October 2028. Since taking charge in 2018, he has overseen major improvements in retail lending, digital banking, and asset quality. The extension remains subject to shareholder and statutory approvals.

Vijay Shankar Retires from Domestic Cricket and IPL

26 May 2026

- Indian all-rounder Vijay Shankar announced his retirement from domestic cricket and the IPL after a 25-year cricket journey. He represented India in 12 ODIs and 9 T20Is and became the first Indian to take a wicket with the first ball of his World Cup debut during the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup. Vijay Shankar played for multiple IPL franchises including CSK, SRH, DC, and Gujarat Titans.

IBCA Pre-Summit Inaugurated in Bhopal by Bhupendra Yadav and MP CM Mohan Yadav

27 May 2026

- Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Pre-Summit at Indian Institute of Forest Management in Bhopal on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity. The MP Forest Department flagged off 20 motorcycles and a rescue truck for biodiversity awareness initiatives. Saudi Arabia joined IBCA as the 26th member nation, while MP announced Wildlife Rescue Centres near all tiger reserves.

Government Expands GATC Framework for Fuel Dispenser Verification

27 May 2026

- The Department of Consumer Affairs amended the Legal Metrology (GATC) Rules, 2013 to strengthen verification infrastructure for weights and measures across India. Under the revised framework, Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs) can now verify Petrol, Diesel, CNG, LPG, LNG, and Hydrogen dispensing systems. The amendment expands legal metrology coverage from 18 to 23 categories and aligns standards with International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) norms.

Sarbananda Sonowal Launches 'Maritime Reform Utsav'

27 May 2026

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal unveiled the nationwide "Maritime Reform Utsav" to commemorate 12 years of maritime reforms under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The initiative aims to strengthen Ease of Doing Business, digital governance, and maritime sector efficiency

under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. It also includes AI-driven governance, integrated maritime digital platforms, grievance redressal systems, and skill development initiatives.

Google Launches Free AI Training Programme for Teachers in India

27 May 2026

- Google announced the 'Google for Education Schoolers (GES)' programme to provide free AI training for teachers across Maharashtra, Assam, Punjab, Ladakh, and other regions of India. The initiative, launched at the Education World Forum 2026 in London, will train educators on responsible AI usage and tools like Gemini in classrooms. The programme is being implemented in partnership with UNICEF and several state governments in six Indian languages.

Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides Visits India

27 May 2026

- Nikos Christodoulides visited India from May 20–23, 2026, marking his first official visit in the current capacity. During meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, both countries discussed cooperation in trade, defence, maritime connectivity, education, and technology. India and Cyprus signed six MoUs and announced a five-year roadmap for defence cooperation along with elevation of bilateral relations.

RBI Introduces Cooling-off Period for UCB and RCB Directors

27 May 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India introduced a mandatory three-year cooling-off period for directors of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and Rural Co-operative Banks (RCBs) after completing 10 years on the board. The amendment aims to prevent directors from bypassing tenure limits through temporary resignations and reappointments. RBI also formed an expert committee under the Q-SAFE initiative to study the impact of quantum technology on the financial sector.

Federal Bank Appoints Elias George as Part-Time Chairman

27 May 2026

- Elias George was appointed as the Part-Time Chairman of Federal Bank following approval from the RBI. The former IAS officer brings over 35 years of experience in infrastructure financing, governance, and public administration. He previously served as CEO of Kochi Metro Rail Limited and Additional Chief Secretary of Kerala.

LIC Raises Stake in Central Bank of India to 6.06%

27 May 2026

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) increased its stake in Central Bank of India to 6.06% by acquiring 26.26 crore equity shares through market purchases. The acquisition was part of the Government of India's Offer for Sale (OFS) under its disinvestment strategy. The move strengthened LIC's presence in the public sector banking space.

China Launches Shenzhou-23 Mission to Tiangong Space Station

27 May 2026

- China launched the Shenzhou-23 Mission carrying three astronauts to the Tiangong Space Station aboard a Long March-2F Y23 rocket. The mission will conduct more than 100 scientific experiments in space medicine, microgravity physics, and aerospace science. Astronaut Li Jiaying became the first astronaut from Hong Kong to participate in a Chinese space mission.

Kimi Antonelli Wins Canadian Grand Prix 2026

27 May 2026

- Italian Formula One driver Kimi Antonelli won the 2026 Canadian Grand Prix held at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal, Canada. The Mercedes driver secured his fourth consecutive Formula One victory ahead of Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen. Antonelli further extended his lead in the FIA Formula One Drivers' Championship standings.

Rohit Rajpal Appointed India's Chef de Mission for CWG 2026

27 May 2026

- The Indian Olympic Association appointed former Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal as India's Chef de Mission for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. Ravi Bengani was named Deputy Chef de Mission, while PT Usha and other senior officials will lead the Indian delegation. Former boxer Mary Kom was also included as a special guest.

Commonwealth Day in India 2026 Observed on May 24

27 May 2026

- Commonwealth Day was observed in India on May 24 to commemorate Queen Victoria's birth anniversary and promote Commonwealth unity and global cooperation. The 2026 celebrations were held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi under the Fit India Sundays on Cycle programme. The observance traces its origin to Empire Day celebrations initiated in the early 20th century.

India's First Hydrogen Train Approved for Jind-Sonipat Route

28 May 2026

- The Ministry of Railways approved India's first 10-coach hydrogen fuel cell-based trainset for the Jind-Sonipat section under Northern Railway, marking a major milestone in green transportation. The approval was issued through a Railway Board circular dated May 22, 2026, bringing the country closer to the rollout of hydrogen-powered rail services. With this initiative, India joins a select group of countries adopting hydrogen train technology for sustainable and low-emission railway operations.

MYAS Notifies NSB and NST Rules, 2026 under Sports Governance Act

28 May 2026

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) notified the National Sports Governance (NSB) Rules, 2026 and National Sports Tribunal (NST) Rules, 2026 under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. The NSB will function as the central authority for granting recognition to National Sports Bodies and will comprise a Chairperson and two Members. The NST Rules define appointment procedures, service conditions, and tenure limits, with the Chairperson serving up to five years or 70 years of age.

ISM Launches 'Investors Support' Portal for Semiconductor Investments

28 May 2026

- The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) launched the 'Investors Support' portal as a single-window facilitation platform for semiconductor investors in India. The portal provides information on government schemes, Semicon India Programme projects, regulatory requirements, and grievance redressal support. Under the Semicon India Programme launched in 2021, India has already approved 12 semiconductor fabrication and packaging projects.

LIC Launches 'New Jeevan Sathi' Joint Insurance Products

28 May 2026

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched two new joint life insurance plans: "LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium" and "LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium". The plans are designed for couples and provide guaranteed returns, premium waiver benefits, flexible payouts, and loan facilities. The products will be available from June 2026 with policy terms ranging from 10 to 25 years.

MPEDA

28 May 2026

- P. Jawahar officially assumed charge as Chairman of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). The 2007-batch IAS officer succeeded D.V. Swamy and will serve a five-year tenure. India's seafood exports reached a record Rs.72,325.82 crore during FY26 under MPEDA's export promotion initiatives.

NASA Unveils USD 20 Billion Plan for Permanent Moon Base

28 May 2026

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced a USD 20 billion three-phase plan to establish a permanent lunar base with habitats, power systems, rovers, and drones. The Moon Base-I mission using Blue Origin's Blue Moon Mark-1 Endurance lander is planned for launch by 2026. NASA aims to establish lunar infrastructure by 2032 and conduct long-duration human missions on the Moon.

Veteran Archer Shyam Lal Meena Passes Away

28 May 2026

- Veteran Indian Olympian archer Shyam Lal Meena passed away at the age of 61 in Rajasthan. He was part of India's first Olympic archery team at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and won a bronze medal at the 1987 Asian Archery Championships. He received the Arjuna Award in 1989 for his contributions to Indian archery.

World Thyroid Day 2026 Observed on May 25

28 May 2026

- World Thyroid Day was observed globally on May 25 with the theme "Thyroid and Nutrition". The day aims to promote awareness about thyroid disorders, early diagnosis, and the importance of nutrition in thyroid health. The observance was established by the European Thyroid Association in 2008, while the Blue Paisley Ribbon serves as the awareness symbol.

Government Releases Third Advance Estimates of Agricultural Production for 2025-26

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the Third Advance Estimates of Production of Major Agricultural Crops for 2025-26. India's total foodgrain production is estimated at a record 376.563 million tonnes, around 5.3% higher than the previous year. Rice production is projected at 154.024 million tonnes and wheat production at 120.657 million tonnes, while total oilseed production is estimated at 43.059 million tonnes.

P. Jawahar Assumes Charge as Chairman of**Centre Launches Rs.236 Crore 'Mission Queen Pineapple' in Tripura**

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha launched the Rs.236 crore 'Tripura Mission Queen Pineapple' initiative to strengthen pineapple cultivation and value-chain infrastructure. The project aims to promote Tripura's GI-tagged Queen Pineapple through processing hubs, cold storage, reefer logistics, and IoT-enabled farm monitoring systems. The mission will be implemented over three years with a hub-and-spoke post-harvest ecosystem centered near Agartala airport.

MoD Issues RFP for Indigenous AMCA Fifth-Generation Fighter Programme

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme, India's first indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft project. The programme, led by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under DRDO, has an estimated prototype development cost of Rs.15,000 crore. For the first time, private sector companies including Tata Advanced Systems, Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Electronics, and Bharat Forge have been invited to participate in defence aircraft manufacturing.

Five-Time Olympian Raja Randhir Singh Passes Away

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- Veteran Indian shooter and sports administrator Raja Randhir Singh passed away at the age of 79 in New Delhi. He represented India in five Olympic Games between 1968 and 1984 and won a gold medal in men's trap shooting at the 1978 Asian Games. He also served as Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and became the first Indian President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

PT Usha and Dilip Tirkey Release Book on India's First Olympic Hockey Gold

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- Indian Olympic Association President P.T. Usha and Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey released the book "India's Olympic Gold: Hockey Triumph at Amsterdam" authored by hockey historian K. Arumugam. The book commemorates the 98th anniversary of India's first Olympic hockey gold medal won at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics. It highlights the historic journey of Indian hockey during the pre-independence era.

World Menstrual Hygiene Day 2026 Observed on May 28

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- World Menstrual Hygiene Day was observed globally on May 28 with the theme "Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld". The day aims to promote menstrual health awareness, improve access to menstrual hygiene facilities, and eliminate social stigma associated with menstruation. The observance was first launched in 2014 by the Germany-based NGO WASH United.

Chhattisgarh Launches Rs.200 Crore 'Adarsh Shahar Samridhi Yojana'

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- The Chhattisgarh Government launched the 'Adarsh Shahar Samridhi Yojana' with an allocation of Rs.200 crore to improve urban infrastructure in emerging towns and smaller urban centres. The scheme focuses on roads, drainage, water supply, smart traffic systems, housing, healthcare, renewable energy, and e-governance projects. In the first phase, 32 Urban Local Bodies across five revenue divisions have been selected for implementation.

MoH&FW Releases 10th National Health Accounts Estimates for FY23

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) released the 10th National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for Financial Year 2022-23 (FY23), highlighting a significant rise in Government Health Expenditure (GHE). The report showed that GHE increased from Rs.1.30 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs.3.85 lakh crore in FY23, reflecting higher public investment in India's healthcare sector. India's Total Health Expenditure (THE) for FY23 was estimated at Rs.8.81 lakh crore, accounting for 3.37% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

DARPG Launches NeSDA 2025 Portal for Digital Governance Assessment

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) launched the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2025 Portal to evaluate digital public service delivery mechanisms across India. The biennial assessment framework measures effectiveness of Government-to-Citizen (G2C) and Government-to-Business (G2B) e-governance services. The portal will assess central, state, UT, and city-level digital service platforms across sectors such as education, transport, labour, tourism, finance, and public grievances.

WBGB and Canara HSBC Life Insurance Partner for Rural Insurance Expansion

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- West Bengal Gramin Bank (WBGB) partnered with Canara HSBC Life Insurance to strengthen life insurance penetration in rural and semi-urban regions of West Bengal. Through WBGB's network of 960 branches, customers will gain access to protection, savings, and wealth creation insurance products. The partnership aims to improve financial security and insurance accessibility in underserved areas.

DBJ Partners with HDFC Capital for Affordable Housing Projects

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- Japan's Development Bank of Japan (DBJ) entered into a strategic partnership with HDFC Capital Advisors Limited to invest in affordable and mid-income housing projects across India. The collaboration targets a corpus of USD 1 billion through the H-DREAM Fund, marking DBJ's first real estate investment in India. The investment will support large-scale housing development under the GIFT City offshore investment framework.

Red Balloon Aerospace Launches India's First Indigenous Stratospheric SPB

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- Indian startup Red Balloon Aerospace launched India's first indigenous Stratospheric Super Pressure Balloon (SPB) named "VISTA" under Mission SANA in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The platform ascended to nearly 25 kilometres above Earth carrying payloads related to biological experiments, propulsion systems, navigation technologies, and earth observation sensors. India joined the United States, France, Japan, and China among nations possessing indigenous SPB capability.

Urdu Poet Bashir Badr Passes Away

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- Renowned Urdu poet and Padma Shri awardee Dr. Bashir Badr passed away at the age of 91 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 for his contribution to literature and education. His celebrated collection of ghazals earned him the Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu literature.

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2026 Observed on May 29

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was observed globally on May 29 with the theme "Invest in Peace". The day honours the service and

sacrifice of UN peacekeepers worldwide and commemorates the first UN peacekeeping mission launched in 1948 under the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

International Everest Day 2026 Observed on May 29

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- International Everest Day was observed globally on May 29 to commemorate the first successful ascent of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953. The observance celebrates courage, resilience, and human endurance while honouring

mountaineering achievements worldwide.

West Bengal Government Begins Annapurna Yojana Enrolment

29 30 & 31 May 2026

- The Government of West Bengal started the enrolment process for the Annapurna Yojana, aimed at supporting women without fixed income sources. Eligible women aged between 25 and 60 years can apply through online and offline modes for monthly financial assistance. The enrolment drive will continue for 90 days across municipalities and wards in the state.

REPORTS · 3

Special 301 Report

2 May 2026

- Answers: Q1: C | Q2: B | Q3: B
- The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has released its annual Special 301 Report, retaining India on the Priority Watch List. This list identifies trading partners that the U.S. believes do not provide an "adequate and effective" level of IPR protection or enforcement.
- Priority Foreign Country: Vietnam (The most serious category; may lead to trade investigations/sanctions under Section 301).
- Section 3(d): Though not explicitly named in every summary, this is the "chief concern." It prevents "evergreening"—the practice where pharma companies make minor changes to an existing drug to extend their patent monopoly. The U.S. views this as a barrier to innovation for its pharma majors.

Category	Definition	Countries (2026)
Priority Foreign Country	Most systemic/severe IP violations; leads to investigations.	Vietnam
Priority Watch List	Significant IP concerns requiring high-level engagement.	India, China, Russia, etc.
Watch List	Merits bilateral monitoring but less severe than priority.	European Union, etc.

THE Asia University Rankings 2026

2 May 2026

- Quantity Leader: India has the highest representation in the list with 128 universities, surpassing Japan (115) and Turkey (109).
- The Top 50 Barrier: IISc is the only Indian institute to feature in the top 50, indicating a need for enhanced research quality and international collaboration across other top-tier Indian universities (IITs, JNU, etc.).
- Q1. Which Indian institution emerged as the top-ranked university in the THE Asia University Rankings 2026?
- Q2. Which country has the highest number of universities represented overall in the 2026 rankings?

Rank	University	Country/Region	Score
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1	Tsinghua University	China	93.6
2	Peking University	China	93.1
3	National University of Singapore	Singapore	91.1
4=	Nanyang Technological University	Singapore	85.1
4=	University of Tokyo	Japan	85.1
6	University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	84.3
7	Fudan University	China	82.9
8	Zhejiang University	China	82.6
9	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	China	82.1
10	Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	81.1

Global Forest Goals Report 2026

14 May 2026

- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; India's National Forest Policy, 1988 targets 33% of geographical area under forest and tree cover — not 50%.
- Report: Global Forest Goals Report 2026.
- Asia's progress: Highest restoration performance globally — >31 million hectares (42.2% of pledged area).
- 91 countries pledged to restore 190 million hectares, but only 44 million hectares had actually been restored by 2025 — a substantial gap. Asia leads with more than 31 million hectares restored (42.2% of its pledged area).

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper III — Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change, International Reports
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Environment & Climate Change, Biodiversity, Sustainable Development
BPSC / State PCS	Geography, Environment, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	ESI / Environment & Sustainability — high importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on UN bodies, forest reports, climate initiatives
Forest Services (IFoS)	Core area — UNFF, REDD+, Bonn Challenge, primary forests, restoration

TEST YOURSELF · REPORTS

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; India's _____ targets 33% of geographical area under forest and tree cover — not 50%.
2. _____: IISc is the only Indian institute to feature in the top 50, indicating a need for enhanced research quality and international collaboration across other top-tier Indian universities (IITs, JNU, etc.).
3. _____: Vietnam (The most serious category; may lead to trade investigations/sanctions under Section 301).

Answers 1 National Forest Policy, 1988 · 2 The Top 50 Barrier · 3 Priority Foreign Country

NATIONAL NEWS · 3

PM E-DRIVE

2 May 2026

- Launched on October 1, 2024, the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) is the successor to the FAME-II policy. While FAME was about initiating the "spark" of electric mobility, PM E-DRIVE is about scaling it to a "mass revolution," specifically targeting public transport and commercial segments to reach 30% EV penetration by 2030.
- A: The government views the e-car segment as reaching "self-sustainability." Since e-cars already benefit from a massive tax gap (5% GST for EVs vs. up to 40% for petrol/diesel cars), direct subsidies were redirected to public transport.
- A: Incentives are designed to reduce over time (e.g., ₹5,000/kWh in FY25 dropping to ₹2,500/kWh in FY26). This encourages early adoption and signals to manufacturers that they must lower costs through scale.
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: B | Q3: B

Feature	FAME-II (Ended 2024)	PM E-DRIVE (2024–2026/28)
Primary Goal	Market creation & awareness	Mass adoption & infrastructure scaling
Electric Cars	Included in early phases	Excluded (Supported via 5% GST only)
Subsidy Model	Direct dealer-led discount	Aadhaar-authenticated E-Voucher
Emerging Segments	Limited focus	Inclusion of Ambulances and E-Trucks
Charging Target	~7,000 stations	~72,300 fast charging points

People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)

2 May 2026

- B) Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- The PBR is a statutory requirement under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. It is not just a list of plants and animals; it is a comprehensive record of

local biological resources (flora, fauna, aquatic life) and the Traditional Knowledge (TK) associated with them, such as the medicinal uses of plants found in sacred groves.

- A) Environment Protection Act, 1986
- C) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Body	Level	Primary Responsibility
National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)	National	Regulatory oversight and international legal protection.
State Biodiversity Board (SBB)	State	Technical guidance and funding (e.g., Kerala SBB's Kavu project).
Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)	Local	Preparation and custody of the PBR at the Panchayat/Municipal level.

Operation Sadbhavana (Operation Goodwill)

2 May 2026

- A: No. Operation Sadbhav (2024) was an international Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission to Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam after Typhoon Yagi. Operation Sadbhavana is the long-standing internal civic-action program in India.
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: B
- Education: Running over 40 Army Goodwill Schools (AGS) providing quality education to thousands of students, alongside the "Super-40" program for entrance exam coaching.
- Healthcare: Organizing medical, dental, and veterinary camps (like Op Netra 1.0) and upgrading local Medical Aid Centres in far-flung border villages.

Exam	Focus Area	Relevance Level
UPSC CSE	GS-3 (Internal Security, Border Area Management)	Very High
JPSC / BPSC	Civil-Military relations and humanitarian outreach	High
CAPF (AC)	Role of forces in nation building and social welfare	Extreme

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS · 2

Five New Members Joined IUCN

9 May 2026

- Established in 1948, IUCN is unique because it is the only environmental organization with United Nations Observer Status that includes both governments and NGOs.
- The Membership Model: By including Indigenous Peoples' organizations as a distinct category, IUCN ensures that traditional ecological knowledge is treated with the same authority as Western science.
- The expansion of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in May 2026, specifically adding five key organizations from Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, underscores the region's critical role in global biodiversity. This expansion is not just a numbers game; it integrates grassroots Indigenous knowledge and specialized island ecology into the global conservation framework.

Organization	Country	Primary Focus
U Yich Lu'um	Mexico	Interdisciplinary research and alternative development (likely Indigenous-led).
GECI	Mexico	Island Ecology: Specializing in restoring fragile island ecosystems.

Belize Fund	Belize	Sustainable finance for marine and coastal conservation (crucial for the Mesoamerican Reef).
ACOFOP	Guatemala	Community Forestry: Protecting the Maya Biosphere Reserve through local management.
Fundación Segundo Montes	El Salvador	Community-based environmental social development.

Exam Relevance

9 May 2026

- Q1. The IUCN is unique among global environmental organizations because its membership includes:
- Q3. Indigenous Peoples' organizations were granted a separate membership category in IUCN to:
- Answers: Q1: C | Q2: B | Q3: B

Exam	Focus Area
UPSC GS-3	Environment: Conservation, environmental pollution, and degradation. Role of international bodies.
UPSC GS-2	International Relations: Important International institutions and their structure.
IFS (Forest Services)	Detailed understanding of IUCN's role in forest management and the Red List.
State PCS	IUCN's status and the difference between National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

GENERAL · 27

Sand and Sustainability: An Essential Resource for Nature and Development Report

15 & 16 May 2026

- Surging demand: Global consumption rose from 9.6 billion tonnes (1970) to 50 billion tonnes annually (2020), at an average annual growth of 3.2%.
- Urban expansion: Average built-up area per person rose from 43 sq m (1975) to 63 sq m (2025).
- India's Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 mandate the preparation of District Survey Reports (DSRs).
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

Driver	Example
Rapid urbanisation (45%+ live in cities)	Land reclamation in Manila Bay, Maldives
Infrastructure development	India's PMAY , highway expansion
Population growth (8.2 billion in 2025)	Mass housing in developing nations
Climate adaptation	Gulhifalhu (Maldives) — 24.5 million cubic metres dredged
Technology demand	Silicon for semiconductors, solar panels, data centres

Chola-era Anaimangalam Plates, in possession of Leiden University since 1862, returned to India

17 & 18 May 2026

- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; the Archaeological Survey of India functions under the Ministry of Culture, not the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 regulates the export of antiquities from India.
- What is the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 (India)?
- India is a party to the UNESCO 1970 Convention on Cultural Property.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper I — Art and Culture (Chola dynasty, copper plates, architecture, religion); GS Paper II — India's bilateral relations
UPSC Mains	GS Paper I — Ancient and Medieval Indian History, Art and Culture
BPSC / State PCS	Indian History, Art and Culture, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B)	General Awareness / Indian heritage — moderate importance

Rajasthan gets its first Semiconductor Plant

17 & 18 May 2026

- Investment: ₹150+ crore under the SPECS scheme.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; the EMC scheme is administered by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), not the Ministry of External Affairs.
- It plans to scale up its capacity to 400–600 million units annually over the next 2–3 years.
- The Modified Programme for Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem has an outlay of ₹76,000 crore.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper III — S&T, Indian Economy (Semiconductors, ISM, SPECS); GS Paper I — Geography (Rajasthan)
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — S&T, Indigenisation, Industrial Growth, Make in India
State PCS	Indian Economy, Science & Technology, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	Indian Economy, Industrial Growth — moderate importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on ISM, SPECS, EMC, semiconductor projects

India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle released in Kaziranga

17 & 18 May 2026

- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I (Part II) — highest tier of protection.
- It is listed under Schedule I (Part II) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for the creation of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; the Brahmaputra enters Bangladesh (where it is known as the Jamuna) and joins the Ganges (Padma) before draining into the Bay of Bengal.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constitutes Committee on Empowerment of Women

17 & 18 May 2026

- First constituted: 29 April 1997, during the 11th Lok Sabha.
- Broader context: Comes amid implementation pathway of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 (128th Constitutional Amendment) — providing 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies post-delimitation.
- The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has reconstituted the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women for 2026–27, with Daggubati Purandeswari

as its Chairperson.

- It was first constituted in April 1997, during the 11th Lok Sabha.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper II — Polity (Parliamentary Committees, NCW, Women's empowerment); Constitutional provisions
UPSC Mains	GS Paper II — Polity, Governance, Welfare schemes; Issues related to women
BPSC / State PCS	Polity, Welfare, Current Affairs
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	ESI / Economic and Social Issues — moderate importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on Parliament, Committees, NCW

Despite top court raps, Jharkhand does not secure Saranda's prized sal forests

19 May 2026

- The Forest Rights Act, 2006, recognises both individual and community forest rights of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers.
- Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 and PESA Act, 1996 apply.
- The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, gives Gram Sabhas significant authority over minor minerals and forest produce in Scheduled Areas.
- 26% of India's iron ore reserves.

SHE-MART initiative

19 May 2026

- Three crore additional Lakhpati Didis by 2029.
- The government has set a target of three crore additional Lakhpati Didis by 2029.
- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; the Lakhpati Didi Initiative is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) through DAY-NRLM, not the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme was piloted by NABARD in 1992.

Scheme	Focus
DAY-NRLM	Foundational SHG mobilisation, credit, training
Lakhpati Didi	Income target — ₹1 lakh+/year
PM PRANAM	Sustainable agricultural inputs
Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)	Women farmers' productivity
Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)	Rural enterprise creation

SHE-MART

Market access and forward linkages

Mission Shakti

Women's safety, empowerment umbrella

Panzath Nag Spring Conservation Festival

20 May 2026

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.
- An international treaty signed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, with three core objectives: (a) Conservation of biological diversity. (b) Sustainable use of its components. (c) Fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources. The CBD recognises the role of indigenous and local communities in biodiversity conservation through its Article 8(j).
- Beneficiary villages: ~45 villages depend on the spring for irrigation and drinking water.
- Participants: Thousands of villagers — multi-village, multi-generational voluntary participation.

Exam	Relevance
UPSC Prelims	GS Paper III — Environment, Water resources, Biodiversity; GS Paper I — Geography (J&K, Himalayan systems), Culture
UPSC Mains	GS Paper III — Environment, Water conservation, Climate change
Banking (RBI Gr B, NABARD)	ESI / Environment, Rural development — moderate importance
SSC / Insurance / Railway	Static + Current GK on traditional water systems, J&K geography

PM Modi receives Sweden's prestigious award Royal Order of Polar Star

20 May 2026

- The first Nordic-India Summit was held in Stockholm in 2018.
- Established: 17 April 1748.
- King Carl XVI Gustaf — reigning since 1973 (52+ years), making him one of the longest-reigning current European monarchs. He is the head of the House of Bernadotte — the Swedish royal dynasty founded by Marshal Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte in 1818.
- 1975 reforms: Restricted to foreign citizens and stateless individuals who have rendered exceptional service to Sweden.

President Droupadi Murmu approves increase in sanctioned strength of judges in SC from 33 to 37

20 May 2026

- Been a judge of a High Court for at least 5 years, OR
- Been an advocate of a High Court for at least 10 years, OR

- Trigger: Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026.
- Promulgating authority: President of India under Article 123.

Aspect	Article 123 (President)	Article 213 (Governor)
Level	Union	State
When	Either House not in session OR prorogued	Legislature not in session
Advice	Union Council of Ministers	State Council of Ministers
Subject matter	Union and Concurrent Lists	State and Concurrent Lists
Special provision	None	Some matters require President's prior instructions

Ayush Anudan Portal under Ayush Grid Initiative

21 May 2026

- Launched: 2018 under the Digital India Program.
- Launched on 27 September 2021 (after a pilot as National Digital Health Mission from August 2020), ABDM creates a digital health ecosystem for India. Key elements: (a) ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) — unique 14-digit health ID. (b) Healthcare Professional Registry (HPR). (c) Health Facility Registry (HFR). (d) Personal Health Records (PHR) framework. (e) Federated architecture — data stays with original holders. (f) Consent-based data sharing.
- The Ministry of AYUSH was established as a separate ministry in November 2014.
- The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission was launched in September 2021.

Feature	Function
NGO Darpan Integration	Cross-links with NITI Aayog's NGO Darpan for automated authentication of applicant NGOs/institutions
Scheme-Wise Application Pathways	Customised evaluation paths for each Central Sector Scheme
Real-Time Tracking	Interactive dashboard for applicants and reviewers
Single-Window Integration	Accessible via the My Ayush Integrated Services Portal (MAISP)

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3

21 May 2026

- The Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) was launched in 1983 under the leadership of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- DRDO was established in 1958 and operates under

the Ministry of Defence.

- (a) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; India does allow FDI in defence — up to 74% under the automatic route and above 74% (up to 100%) under government approval in specific cases.
- The Defence Research & Development Organisation — established in 1958, under the Ministry of Defence. DRDO has 52+ laboratories across India and develops a wide range of indigenous defence systems including: (a) Missiles — Akash, Astra, Nag, BrahMos (with Russia), Pinaka, NAG, MRSAM (with Israel). (b) Aircraft systems — LCA Tejas avionics, AEW&C, UAVs. (c) Naval systems — sonars, torpedoes, ships' weapon systems. (d) Battle systems — Arjun MBT, BMPs, artillery. (e) Strategic systems — nuclear-related, space-related.

Parameter	Value
Weight	12.5 kg
Max range	10 km
Active engagement range	4 km (day) / 2.5 km (night)
Guidance	Dual-channel Imaging Infrared (IIR) seeker + Laser guidance
Accuracy (CEP)	10 cm
Datalink	Two-way S-Band
Propulsion	Dual-thrust solid propellant, smokeless

Exercise PRAGATI 2026

21 May 2026

- The Act East Policy was articulated in 2014, building on the earlier Look East Policy.
- Exercise name: PRAGATI 2026.
- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation — a regional grouping of 7 countries: India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand. BIMSTEC complements India's Act East and Neighbourhood First by focusing on Bay of Bengal connectivity. Several PRAGATI 2026 participants are BIMSTEC members.
- Announced by PM Modi at the East Asia Summit in November 2019, the IPOI is India's framework for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific covering seven pillars: (a) Maritime Security. (b) Maritime Ecology. (c) Maritime Resources. (d) Capacity Building and Resource Sharing. (e) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. (f) Science, Technology, and Academic Cooperation. (g) Trade Connectivity and Maritime Transport.

South Asia	Southeast Asia	Indian Ocean
Bhutan	Cambodia	Maldives
Nepal	Indonesia	Seychelles
Sri Lanka	Laos	
	Malaysia	
	Myanmar	

South Asia	Southeast Asia	Indian Ocean
	Philippines	
	Vietnam	

Shaheed Veer Gundadhar Seva Dera Jan Suvidha Kendra

21 May 2026

- The Forest Rights Act, 2006 recognises tribal and traditional forest dwellers' rights to forest lands.
- Munda Ulgulan (1899–1900) — Birsa Munda.
- Rebellion led: Bhumkal Rebellion, 1910 — against British colonial authority.
- The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 extends panchayati raj to Schedule V areas.

Uprising	Year	Leader	Region
Chuar Rebellion	1799	—	Bengal-Bihar
Bhil Rebellion	1818–31	—	Western India
Kol Rebellion	1831–32	Buddhu Bhagat	Chhota Nagpur
Khasi Rebellion	1829–33	Tirot Singh	Meghalaya
Santhal Rebellion (Hul)	1855–56	Sidhu, Kanhu, Chand, Bhairav Murmu	Jharkhand, Bengal
Tilka Manjhi's Revolt	1784	Tilka Manjhi	Bengal/Bihar
Munda Ulgulan	1899–1900	Birsa Munda	Chhota Nagpur
Bhumkal	1910	Veer Gundadhar	Bastar
Tana Bhagat Movement	1914	Jatra Oraon	Chhota Nagpur
Rampa Rebellion	1922–24	Alluri Sitarama Raju	Andhra
Warli Revolt	1945–47	Godavari Parulekar	Maharashtra

PM Modi Conferred FAO Agricola Medal in Rome

22 May 2026

- Established: 1977 by FAO.
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi — launched in February 2019, providing ₹6,000 per year (in three ₹2,000 instalments) as direct cash transfer to the bank accounts of smallholder and marginal farmers. Currently benefits ~11 crore farmers.
- PMGKAY provides free foodgrains to around 80 crore NFSA beneficiaries and has been extended till December 2028.
- (c) — Statements 1, 2, 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong; PM Modi is the second Indian leader to

receive the Agricola Medal — the first was Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2008 for his rural agricultural reforms.

Area	India's Initiative	Scale
Food Safety Net	PMGKAY — free foodgrains	800 million citizens
Farmer Income Support	PM-KISAN — direct cash transfers via DPI	110+ million smallholders
Climate Resilience	Indigenous bio-fortified, climate-resilient varieties	~3,000 varieties
Agritech Integration	Drones, AI weather advisories, satellite remote-sensing	Across multiple states
Water Conservation	' Per Drop More Crop ' (PMKSY) — micro-irrigation, sensor-based management	Water-stressed agrarian belts

Sweden Joins India's Shukrayaan (Venus Orbiter) Mission

22 May 2026

- India's first dedicated planetary mission to Venus — officially the Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM) — approved in September 2024 with a budget of ₹1,236 crore. It will carry 19 scientific payloads and is targeted to launch on 29 March 2028 aboard the LVM-3 rocket.
- It was approved by the Union Cabinet in September 2024 with a budget of ₹1,236 crore.
- India's first interplanetary mission was Chandrayaan-1 to the Moon.
- The mission is targeted to launch on 29 March 2028 aboard the LVM-3 rocket.

Objective	Investigation
Surface mapping	Volcanic features, terrain
Hotspot detection	Active volcanism
Subsurface sounding	Internal structure
Cloud dynamics	Atmospheric monitoring
Liquid water history	Did Venus once have water?

India Hosts 68th Session of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO)

22 May 2026

- Established: 11 May 1961.
- It hosted the G20 Summit in September 2023.
- Members: 21 economies in the Asia-Pacific.
- India's national arm: National Productivity Council (NPC) — established 1958.

Function	Role
Think Tank	Research on productivity, climate, economic trends

Ministry of Textiles Launches Bharat Tex 2026

Catalyst	Promote bilateral/multilateral engagements; institutional reforms
Regional Adviser	Policy advisory to governments
Institution Builder	Train HR; strengthen NPOs, SMEs, public sector
Clearinghouse	Gather and disseminate productivity best practices and tools

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches Mission on "Arunachal Kiwi"

22 May 2026

- MoDoNER was established as a separate ministry in 2004.
- Budget outlay: ₹167 crore.
- A cluster-based kiwi cultivation and value-chain development mission specifically designed for Arunachal Pradesh — combining schemes from multiple Union ministries under a whole-of-government, convergence-led approach with a budget of ₹167 crore.
- The total budget outlay is ₹167 crore.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Launches Phase-II of UMMID Programme for Rare Genetic Disorders

23 May 2026

- UMMID was launched on 23 September 2019 by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- It was established in 1986 under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Science and Technology, has launched Phase-II of the Unique Methods of Management and Treatment of Inherited Disorders (UMMID) Programme for Rare Genetic Disorders (RGDs) at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi. UMMID — originally launched on 23 September 2019 as India's first comprehensive national initiative for molecular diagnostics of rare diseases — is implemented by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Launched by: Dr Jitendra Singh, MoS (IC), Ministry of Science and Technology.

Component	Function
NIDAN Kendras	Advanced genetic diagnostics and counselling
Clinician training	Capacity-building of doctors and geneticists
Community outreach	Underserved region screening and awareness
UMMID Dashboard	Nationwide digital monitoring

Event App

23 May 2026

- It was the venue of the G20 Summit in September 2023.
- Organisers: Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF) + 11 textile Export Promotion Councils + MoT support.
- The textile sector contributes around 2.3% of India's GDP.
- Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary of the Ministry of Textiles (MoT), has launched the Bharat Tex 2026 Event Application an AI-driven networking and business matchmaking platform for the upcoming Bharat Tex 2026 exhibition, scheduled to be held from 14-17 July 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The app features a 24×7 AI-powered smart assistant for conversational support on schedules, venue, and event queries; dedicated networking and meeting modules for participants to discover partners, schedule meetings, and manage interactions; and a QR-based lead capture system allowing exhibitors and visitors to scan digital badges for seamless business follow-ups. The event is organised by the Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF) along with 11 textile Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) with the support of the MoT.

Feature	Function
AI Smart Assistant	24×7 conversational support for schedules, venue, directions, queries
Networking & Meeting Modules	Partner discovery, meeting scheduling, availability management, interaction tracking
QR-Based Lead Capture	Scan digital badges; save contact details for follow-ups

Scientists Discover New Amphibian Species "Kali Night Frog" (*Nyctibatrachus kali*) in Karnataka's Western Ghats

24 & 25 May 2026

- The Ghats are home to over 180 amphibian species, of which roughly 80 per cent are endemic.
- Around 80 per cent of the amphibian species found in the Western Ghats are endemic.
- It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012.
- Western Ghats is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biodiversity.

Feature	Description
Cryptic species	Morphologically near-identical to the Kumbara night frog (<i>Nyctibatrachus kumbara</i>)
Genetic identification	Confirmed as separate lineage via DNA isolation and sequencing
Bioacoustic profile	Distinct frequency and pulse patterns in the male's mating call

Feature	Description
Behaviour	Nocturnal , active at night near fast-flowing streams
Distribution	Micro-endemic , restricted to a small pocket of the central Western Ghats

BDIA Launches "Bharat Digital Samvad"

24 & 25 May 2026

- Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023.
- What is the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023?
- Q4. With reference to the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, consider the following statements:
- RBI Payment Systems Data Storage circular, 2018 (data localisation).

Priority	Stated Goal
National Security	Securing India's digital and data infrastructure
Economic Growth	Building toward a USD 1 trillion digital economy by 2030
Technological Self-Reliance	Reducing dependence on foreign digital infrastructure and platforms

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0

24 & 25 May 2026

- The government has targeted a total additional credit flow of ₹2.55 trillion under the scheme.
- Airlines are eligible for 100 per cent government guarantee under the scheme.
- The scheme provided ₹3.61 trillion in total guarantees.
- It was incorporated in 2014 under the Companies Act.

Body	Role
Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services (DFS)	Policy framework and budgetary backing
National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC)	Implementing agency; administers guarantees, claims, recoveries
Member Lending Institutions (MLIs)	Banks, NBFCs, FIs that disburse the loans
Ministry of MSME	Coordinates with eligible MSME borrowers

India Launches Its BRICS 2026 Tourism Agenda

27 May 2026

- Event: First BRICS Tourism Working Group (TWG) Meeting under India's BRICS 2026 Chairship.
- The first TWG meeting under India's BRICS 2026 Chairship was held in virtual mode.

- BRICS 2026 Presidency, theme and pillars:
- BRICS is a plurilateral grouping of major emerging economies, originally Brazil, Russia, India, and China (BRIC), formed as an informal forum in 2006. South Africa joined in 2010, making it BRICS. From 2024 onwards, the group has been expanding into BRICS+ with new members such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE, and additional partner states. The group aims to serve as a counterweight to G7-led Western financial architectures by promoting emerging-economy interests, reforming multilateral institutions, and strengthening South-South cooperation. Its key institutions include the New Development Bank (NDB) headquartered in Shanghai, and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) for liquidity support.

Priority	Focus
AI Integration	AI-driven visitor advisory, predictive tourism flow algorithms, smart hospitality
Sustainability & Responsible Tourism	Low-carbon travel footprints, waste reduction in heritage zones, revenue flowing to indigenous communities
Skilling & Capacity Building	Collaborative certification networks, digital literacy, hospitality training
Seamless Travel Facilitation	Easier border checks, e-visas, visa-free models, intra-BRICS exchanges
The Jaipur Roadmap	Path to the 2nd TWG Meeting and the BRICS Tourism Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur , where a joint ministerial declaration will be finalised

Jaishankar Hosts the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi

27 May 2026

- The first Quad Leaders' Summit was held virtually on 12 March 2021.
- The Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) was launched at the Tokyo Quad Summit in 2022.
- The first Quad Leaders' Summit was held virtually on 12 March 2021, elevating the grouping from a ministerial dialogue to a leader-level cooperation framework.
- It first crystallised as the "Tsunami Core Group" in 2004 for humanitarian assistance after the Indian Ocean Tsunami.

Aspect	Detail
Members	India, United States, Australia, Japan
Nature	Non-military, plurilateral strategic coalition
Founding character	Informal, consultative , no permanent secretariat or treaty
Identity	Coalition of maritime democracies

ICMR Launches "Medical Innovations Patent Mitra"

27 May 2026

- Initiative: Medical Innovations Patent Mitra: Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect.
- It was originally established in 1911 as the Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA).
- Q1. With reference to the recently launched "Medical Innovations Patent Mitra: Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect", consider the following statements:
- Launched by: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Objective	What it means
Bridge research and industry	Move technologies from ICMR institutes and labs into commercial production
Affordable healthcare	Bring down costs by enabling indigenous manufacturing
Strengthen the IP ecosystem	Support patent filing, protection, and licensing
Public-private partnerships	Bring researchers, startups, and industry on one platform
Support Viksit Bharat 2047	Build an innovation-led, self-reliant health economy

Kopra Reservoir in Chhattisgarh Emerges as a National Biodiversity Model After Ramsar

Recognition

27 May 2026

- Special status: Chhattisgarh's first Ramsar Site, designated in 2025.
- The Amrit Dharohar initiative (2023) focuses on community participation, ecotourism, biodiversity, and carbon stock at Ramsar sites.
- India joined the Ramsar Convention in 1982, with Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) as the first two Indian Ramsar sites.
- It is Chhattisgarh's first Ramsar Site of International Importance, designated in 2025.

Role	What it does
Migratory bird flyway node	Stopover and wintering site for thousands of long-distance migratory birds on Central Indian flyways
Rich aquatic food web	Healthy supply of fish, macro-invertebrates, and foraging material for birds
Multiple micro-habitats	Deep open water, shallow marshes, and aquatic vegetation beds , supporting nesting and roosting
Community-led bio-fencing	Living green barriers protect breeding grounds from human and cattle pressure
Hydrological stabiliser	Big groundwater recharge basin , maintains the water table, supports nearby farms

TEST YOURSELF · GENERAL

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. Launched: _____ under the Digital India Program.
2. The _____ focuses on community participation, ecotourism, biodiversity, and carbon stock at Ramsar sites.
3. _____: Schedule I (Part II) — highest tier of protection.
4. Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 and _____ apply.
5. _____: Global consumption rose from 9.6 billion tonnes (1970) to 50 billion tonnes annually (2020), at an average annual growth of 3.2%.

Answers 1 2018 · 2 Amrit Dharohar initiative (2023) · 3 Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 · 4 PESA Act, 1996 · 5 Surging demand

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY · 1

Solar wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE) Initiative

19 May 2026

- Mission lifetime: Baseline 3 years.
- Orbit: Highly elliptical, with an apogee at ~1.21 lakh km (121,000 km) above Earth's North Pole.
- Aim: First global, simultaneous X-ray + UV imagery of how Earth's magnetosphere deforms, reacts, and self-corrects during severe solar storms.
- The satellite will operate in a highly elliptical orbit at an apogee of approximately 1.21 lakh km above Earth's North Pole.

Instrument	Built by	Function
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Soft X-ray Imager (SXI)	ESA	Captures X-ray emissions from solar wind ions colliding with Earth's neutral atmosphere; maps magnetosphere boundaries.
Ultraviolet Aurora Imager (UVI)	China (CAS)	High-resolution UV imaging of the northern auroral oval.
Light Ion Analyser (LIA)	China (CAS)	Measures velocity, density, temperature of solar wind ions directly.
Magnetometer (MAG)	China (CAS)	Measures local magnetic field strength and direction.

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