

CURRENT AFFAIRS (JAN to AUG, 2026)

Section	Topics Covered (High Priority)
1. Appointments & Persons	Heads of Constitutional Bodies , New office holders etc. New Governor & CM of States.
2. Awards & Sports	Padma Awards, Oscar Awards, Arjuna Awards Major Sports tournaments (Winter Olympics, Badminton, Cricket, Tennis), T20 World Cup, 2026, IPL 2026, FIFA World Cup, 2026
3. Economy & Banking	Budget, Economic Survey , GDP forecasts, Inflation. NFHS-6
4. Science & Technology	ISRO missions, NASA , Biotechnology & Innovations, DRDO
5. National Affairs	Government Schemes , National events & summits, NITI Aayog reports/indices. New Delhi AI Summit
6. International Affairs	UN, WHO, IMF; G20, BRICS , World rankings/Indices, G7 Summit Iran-Israel Conflict. Defence Exercise
7. State Affairs	State schemes, Key State projects, GI tags, Local Festivals.
8. Environment & Ecology	New Wildlife sanctuaries/Tiger Reserves , Environment Index National Parks in news, Ramsar sites
9. Miscellaneous	Important Days & their Theme , AI Highlights & Developments CM & Governor of States, Old to New name
10. One liner/ QnA	Important One-Liner Exam oriented Question/Answer (QnA)

New Appointments

Major Leadership Changes in 2026

State	New Chief Minister	Preceded By
West Bengal	Suvendu Adhikari	Mamata Banerjee
Tamil Nadu	C. Joseph Vijay	M.K. Stalin
Bihar	Samrat Choudhary	Nitish Kumar
Manipur	Yumnam Khemchand Singh	N. Biren Singh
Keralam	V. D. Satheesan	Pinarayi Vijayan
Puducherry	N. Rangasamy	Re-elected
Assam	Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma	Re-elected
Karnataka	DK Shivakumar	K Siddaramaiah

- **Pralhad Joshi** was appointed as the Union Education Minister of India (holding additional charge) on **July 25, 2026**. He took over the portfolio following the resignation of **Dharmendra Pradhan**.
- **Ajay Kumar**: Appointed as the **Chairman of UPSC**.
- **Parag Jain**: Designated as the new **Chief of RAW** (Research and Analysis Wing).
- **Poonam Gupta**: Appointed as a **Deputy Governor of the RBI**.
- **Sunetra Pawar** become Deputy CM of Maharashtra.
- **Historic Representation**: **Menaka Guruswamy** was noted in April reports as India's first openly queer Member of Parliament (MP).
- Indian High commissioner to Bangladesh- **Dinesh Trivedi**
- **Harivansh Narayan Singh**- appointed as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Name	Position / State
R. N. Ravi	Governor of West Bengal
Taranjit Singh Sandhu	LG of Delhi
Syed Ata Hasnain	Governor of Bihar
Jishnu Dev Varma	Governor of Maharashtra
Shiv Pratap Shukla	Governor of Telangana
Kavinder Gupta	Governor of Himachal Pradesh
Vinai Kumar Saxena	LG of Ladakh
Nand Kishore Yadav	Governor of Nagaland

MISCELLANEOUS APPOINTMENTS

- New BCCI (Cricket) President- **Mithun Manhas**.
- **Uday Kotak**: Appointed as the **Chairman of GIFT City** (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) on February 13, 2026.
- Meta appointed **Kunal Shah** (best known for creating **CRED**) the global head and **CEO of WhatsApp**.
- Five-time World Chess Champion **Viswanathan Anand** took over as the **Interim President of FIDE** (International Chess Federation / *Fédération Internationale des Échecs*).

IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES

1. President of India- **Droupadi Murmu**
2. Vice President of India / **Ex-officio Rajya Sabha Chairperson- C. P. Radhakrishnan**
3. Prime Minister- **Narendra Modi**

Constitutional & Statutory Office Holders (as on 31 Aug, 2026)

Office / Post	Current Holder
Chief Justice of India (CJI)	Justice Surya Kant
Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG)	K. Sanjay Murthy
Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)	Gyanesh Kumar
Attorney General of India	R. Venkataramani
Solicitor General of India	Tushar Mehta
Chairman, 16th Finance Commission	Dr. Arvind Panagariya
Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)	NS Raja Subramani
Chairman, Rajya Sabha (VP)	C. P. Radhakrishnan
Speaker, Lok Sabha	Om Birla
Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Sanjay Malhotra
Controller General of Accounts (CGA)	Ms. T.C.A. Kalyani
Chief Information Commissioner (RTI)	Raj Kumar Goyal

Key Organisations & Their Current Heads (2026)

Organisation / Regulator / PSU	Position (Head / Chair / CEO)	Current Head (2026)
Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	Chairperson	Tuhin Kanta Pandey
State Bank of India (SBI)	Chairman	Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
NITI Aayog	CEO, NITI Aayog	Anurag Jain
NITI Aayog	Vice Chairman	Ashok Lahiri
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Chairman	Shaji K. V.
Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)	CEO / Chief	Saurabh Vijay
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)	Chairperson	Anil Kumar Lahoti
Central Board of Film Certification (Censor Board)	Chairperson, CBFC	Shashi Vempati Shekhar
Food Corporation of India (FCI)	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)	Rabindra Kumar Agarwal
National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)	Chairman	Santosh Kumar Yadav
ISRO	Chairman, ISRO	V. Narayanan
Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)	Chairman	Rajesh Kumar Singh
GAIL (India) Limited	CMD	Deepak Gupta
FICCI	Secretary General	Anant Swaroop

Global Leaders & Political Heads

Appointment	Name	Country / Organization
Prime Minister	Mark Carney	Canada (Former Governor of Bank of England/Canada).
Supreme Leader	Mojtaba Khamenei	Iran (Succeeded Ali Khamenei).
President	Constantine Tassoulas	Greece.
Prime Minister	Balendra Shah	NEPAL
Prime Minister	Tarique Rahman	BANGLADESH
Supreme leader	Kim Jong Un	North Korea
Chief of Mossad (Israel)	Roman Gofman	Israel

Person in NEWS

- **Ajit Pawar**- Deputy CM of Maharashtra. Died in a plane crash near Baramati on Jan 28, 2026.
- **Saina Nehwal**: The badminton icon announced her **retirement** in Jan 2026. She was the first Indian badminton player to win an Olympic medal (Bronze, London 2012).
- **Donald Trump**: US President officially withdrawing the USA from the **World Health Organization (WHO)** on Jan 22, 2026.
- **Nicolás Maduro**- Venezuelan President captured by USA under **Operation Absolute Resolve**.
- **Elon Musk**: Became the first person to reach a personal net worth of **\$800 billion** following a major merger involving SpaceX and xAI.
- **M.S. Dhoni**: Appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador for the Pune Grand Tour 2026.
- **Vikram Doraiswami** appointed as India's Ambassador to China.
- **CEO of Apple- John Ternus**
- Cabinet Secretary of India: Dr. T. V. Somanathan
- **Lee Jae Myung (President of South Korea)**: Paid a high-profile state visit to India in April, 2026.
- **Asha Bhosle**: The legendary singer and Padma Vibhushan awardee, whose career spanned over eight decades, passed away in April 2026

National Appointments (Defense & Security)

Appointee	Designation	Organization
Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor	Director General (DG)	ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police)
Rakesh Aggarwal	Director General (DG)	NIA (National Investigation Agency)
Praveen Kumar	Director General (DG)	BSF (Border Security Force)
Sandeep Jain	Vice chief of Army Staff	Indian ARMY
Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth	Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)	on June 30, 2026

- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):** **Lt. Gen. NS Raja Subramani (Retd)** has been appointed as India's **3rd Chief of Defence Staff**.
- **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS):** **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** has been named the next **Navy Chief**. He succeeds Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who retires at the end of May.
- **Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty:** Assumed charge as the **20th Commander-in-Chief** of the strategically crucial **Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN)**.
- **Sundarraaj P (2003-batch IPS):** Appointed as **Inspector General (IG)** in the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)**.
- **Colonel Sonam Wangchuk:** Known as the "**Lion of Ladakh**" and a recipient of the **Maha Vir Chakra** for his bravery during the Kargil War.
- **Susan Coyle:** **Army Chief of Australia** - Notable for being the **first female** to lead the Australian Army.
- **Dr. Joram Aniya** is a prominent academican, author, and researcher from Arunachal Pradesh who made history on **May 2, 2026**, by being appointed as a **Full-Time Member of NITI Aayog**.

Name	Designation / Appointment
Rohit Jain, Swaminathan Janakiraman	Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
Sandeep Bakhshi	Managing Director (MD) & CEO of ICICI Bank (Reappointed)
Amit Mahajan & Nayana Ovalekar	Executive Directors (EDs) at CDSL
Subhash Kelkar & Ankit Sharma	Executive Directors (EDs) at NSDL
Saurabh Shukla & Gopalan S. Raghavan	Executive Directors (EDs) at BSE Limited

New appointment June, 2026

- **Justice V. Mohana:** Sworn in as a **Supreme Court Judge**. She makes history as the **12th woman judge in the Supreme Court's history** and only the second woman lawyer to be directly elevated to the apex court from the Bar.
- **Senior Advocate Tushar Mehta:** Reappointed as the **Solicitor General of India** for a fresh three-year term (effective from July 1, 2026).
- **Swaminathan Janakiraman:** Reappointed as the **Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for an extended term of two years.
- **Saibal Chattopadhyay:** Appointed as the **Chairperson of the National Statistical Commission (NSC)**.
- **Saurabh Vijay (1998-batch IAS):** The current UIDAI CEO has assumed additional charge as the **Chief Executive Officer of the IndiaAI Mission**, with Sudeep Shrivastava appointed as the Chief Operating Officer (COO).
- **Lokhande Prashant Sitaram:** Appointed as the new **Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**.
- **Hitesh Joshi:** Appointed as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of the **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)**.
- **Khalilur Rahman (Foreign Minister of Bangladesh):** Elected as the **President of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**. *(High probability question for international relations sections).*

Defence & Security Appointments

Name	Position / Role	Relevant Context
Gen. Dhiraj Seth	31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)	Took charge succeeding Gen. Upendra Dwivedi. Important for Defense & Security affairs.
Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit	Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS)	Assumed charge on July 1, 2026.
Air Marshal Tejinder Singh	Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC)	Head of the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) setup under the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee.
Alok Kumar Mittal	DG, Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D)	Primary think-tank under MHA for police modernization.
Amit Garg	Director, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)	Responsible for national crime database management.

Key Appointments (July,2026)

- **Vikram Misri**: Granted a tenure extension as **Foreign Secretary of India**.
- **Ravi Shankar**: Appointed as **Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. Overseeing statistics, information systems, and regulatory policy.
- **Mahesh Muralidhar Pai**: Appointed as **MD & CEO of South Indian Bank**.
- **Sanjeev Jain (IFS)**: Appointed as India's Ambassador to **North Korea**.
- **Leander Paes**: Named as **Player Ambassador** for the **Asian Tennis Federation (ATF)** to promote youth participation.
- **Rajiv Kumar** (Former Chief Election Commissioner): Appointed as **Part-Time Chairman of HDFC Bank**.
- **Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi**: Appointed as Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)**.
- Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay: Chairperson, National Statistical Commission (NSC)
- **Captain Shivani Sehrawat** made history in **July 2026** by becoming the **first woman officer in the Indian Army appointed as an Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)**.

New Appointments (Aug,2026)

Banking & Economy

- **S. Somanath:** The former ISRO Chairman was appointed as a non-official director on the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) central board for a four-year term, effective August 20, 2026.
- **Anand Mahindra:** Reappointed as a part-time, non-official director on the RBI's central board for another four-year term.

Defence & Internal Security

- **Rakesh Aggarwal:** Appointed as the new Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- **Praveen Kumar:** Named the new Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- **Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor:** Appointed as the Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- **Gyanendra Pratap Singh:** Took charge as the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) & Government Agencies

- **Praveen Vashista:** Appointed as the new Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- **Anoop Kumar Rai:** Assumed charge as Director (Marketing) of the Navratna Defence PSU, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), on August 13, 2026.
- **Ambrish Tripathi:** Took over as Director (Human Resources) of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) on August 13, 2026.
- **Tewolde Gebremariam:** Appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Air India on August 5, 2026.
- **Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty:** Elected as the first woman President of the Press Club of India.
- **Varsha Ashok Aglawe:** Made history by becoming the 54th Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI). She is the **first woman** to head India's premier geoscientific organization in its 176-year history.
- **Dr. Pradeep Rai,** a Senior Advocate practicing before the Supreme Court of India, was recently elected as the **President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** for the 2026–2027 term.

Republic Day 2026 (77th Edition)

Theme of 2026: "150 Years of Vande Mataram" & "Viksit Bharat"

Chief Guests: **Mr. Antonio Costa** (President, European Council) & **Ms. Ursula von der Leyen** (President, European Commission).

Parade Winners (Judges' Choice)

Category	Winner	Key Feature/Theme
Best State Tableau	Maharashtra	<i>Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta</i>
2nd Best State	Jammu & Kashmir	Handicrafts & Folk Dances
3rd Best State	Kerala	Water Metro & Digital Literacy
Best Ministry Tableau	Ministry of Culture	<i>Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation</i>
Best Marching Contingent	Indian Navy	(Among the three services)
Best CAPF Contingent	Delhi Police	(Among CAPF/Auxiliary forces)

Note (Popular Choice Category): In the public voting (MyGov), **Gujarat** won the Best Tableau award, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Gallantry Awards 2026

President Droupadi Murmu approved these awards on the eve of Republic Day.

Award	Assignee	Service/Unit
Ashoka Chakra (Highest Peacetime)	Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla	Indian Air Force (Gaganyaan Astronaut)
Kirti Chakra	Major Arshdeep Singh	1 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra	Nb Subedar Doleshwar Subba	2 Para (SF)
Shaurya Chakra	Lt Commander Dilna K	Indian Navy

Padma Awards 2026

The Ministry of Home Affairs announced the Padma Awards on the eve of Republic Day (Jan 25, 2026).

Quick Summary Statistics (One-Liners)

- **Total Awards:** 131
- **Padma Vibhushan:** 5
- **Padma Bhushan:** 13
- **Padma Shri:** 113
- **Women Awardees:** 19
- **Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI:** 6
- **Posthumous Awards:** 16
- **Duo Cases:** 2 (Counted as one award)

Padma Vibhushan 2026 (Highest Priority)

These 5 names are very important for all exams.

Name	Field	State	Key Fact
Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra	Veteran Actor (He-Man of Bollywood)
Shri V. S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Kerala	Former CM of Kerala
Shri K. T. Thomas	Public Affairs	Kerala	Former Supreme Court Judge
Ms. N. Rajam	Art	Uttar Pradesh	Hindustani Classical Violinist
Shri P. Narayanan	Lit. & Education	Kerala	Eminent Scholar/Writer

Padma Bhushan 2026 (Famous Personalities)

Select important names often asked in "Person in News" sections.

- **Art:** Ms. Alka Yagnik (Singer), Shri Mammootty (Actor), Shri Piyush Pandey (Posthumous - Ad Guru).
- **Trade & Industry:** Shri Uday Kotak (Banker).
- **Sports:** Shri Vijay Amritraj (Tennis - USA/NRI).
- **Public Affairs:** Shri Shibu Soren (Posthumous - Jharkhand), Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari (Uttarakhand).

Sports & Other Important Padma Shri Winners

- **Rohit Sharma** (Cricket) – Captain of Indian Cricket Team.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** (Cricket) – Captain of Indian Women's Team.
- **R. Madhavan** (Art) – Actor & Filmmaker.

Important Padma Shri 2026 Winners (All India List)

1. Sports (High Priority for All Exams)

Questions often ask for the sport associated with the person.

Name	State	Sport / Field	Key Fact
Rohit Sharma	Maharashtra	Cricket	Captain, Indian Men's Team.
Harmanpreet Kaur	Punjab	Cricket	Captain, Indian Women's Team.
Savita Punia	Haryana	Hockey	Goalkeeper, Indian Women's Hockey.
Baldev Singh	Punjab	Hockey	Veteran Player/Coach (Dronacharya Awardee).
Praveen Kumar	Uttar Pradesh	Para-Athletics	High Jump (Paralympic Medalist).
K. Pajanivel	Puducherry	Discus Throw	Veteran Coach/Athlete.
Vladimer Mestvirishvili (Posthumous)	Georgia (Foreign)	Wrestling Coach	Trained Indian Olympians like Sushil Kumar.

2. Art & Cinema (Famous Personalities)

Commonly asked in "Person in News" sections.

Name	State	Art Form
R. Madhavan	Maharashtra	Actor & Filmmaker (Rocketry: The Nambi Effect).
Anil Kumar Rastogi	Uttar Pradesh	Theatre & Acting (Veteran Scientist-Actor).
Deepika Reddy	Telangana	Kuchipudi Dance.
Kalamandalam Vimala Menon	Kerala	Mohiniyattam Dance.
Prof. Lars-Christian Koch	Germany (Foreign)	Musicology (Head of Berlin Phonogram Archive).
Satish Shah (Posthumous)	Maharashtra	Cinema/Comedy (Sarabhai vs Sarabhai fame).

3. Unsung Heroes (Social Work & Grassroots)

Very important for Civil Services (PCS) exams.

Name	State	Contribution
Anke Gowda M.	Karnataka	"Walking Encyclopedia of Paddy" (Preserved 100+ rice varieties).
Brij Lal Bhat	J&K	Preserving traditional Folk Music of Kashmir.
Dr. Budhri Tati	Chhattisgarh	Tribal health & serving patients in Naxal-affected areas.
Hally War	Meghalaya	Promoting Music among Khasi tribes.
Sangyusang S. Pongener	Nagaland	Preserving Ao Naga cultural heritage.

4. Medicine & Science

Name	State	Field
Dr. Armida Fernandez	Maharashtra	Medicine (Neonatology/Child care).
Dr. H. V. Hande	Tamil Nadu	Medicine (Veteran Doctor & Politician).
A. E. Muthunayagam	Kerala	Science & Engg (Rocket Propulsion expert).
Juzer Vasi	Maharashtra	Science & Engg (Solar Energy expert).

Nobel Prize 2025

Category	Winners	Key Reason (One Liner)
Peace	Maria Corina Machado	For her fearless struggle for democracy and rights in Venezuela.
Literature	László Krasznahorkai	For his visionary writing that reaffirms the power of art.
Economics	Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, Peter Howitt	For theories on Innovation and Creative Destruction in economic growth.
Medicine	Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, Shimon Sakaguchi	For discovering Regulatory T Cells (Peripheral Immune Tolerance).
Physics	John Clarke, Michel Devoret, John Martinis	For discoveries in Quantum Tunnelling in electric circuits.
Chemistry	Omar M. Yaghi, Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson	For the development of Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) .

Special Awards

- **Ashok Chakra:** Awarded to **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** (India's astronaut-designate) for his exceptional service.
- **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025:** Awarded to **Smriti Mandhana**.
- **Crafoord Prize 2026:** Awarded to **Veerabhadran Ramanathan** for his contributions to climate science.
- **Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award:** Awarded to **Dr. Haripriya Aravind and Dr. R. Venkatesh** of India for their services in ophthalmology.
- **Dalai Lama** won his first-ever Grammy at the age of 90. He won in the category of **Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling Recording** for his spoken-word album, **Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama**.

2026 BAFTA Film Awards

Category	Winner	Film
Best Film	—	<i>One Battle After Another</i>
Best British Film	—	<i>Hamnet</i>
Best Director	Paul Thomas Anderson	<i>One Battle After Another</i>
Best Leading Actor	Robert Aramayo	<i>I Swear</i>
Best Leading Actress	Jessie Buckley	<i>Hamnet</i>
Best Children's & Family Film	—	<i>Boong</i>

Note: The Manipuri film *Boong*, directed by Lakshmipriya Devi, made history at the 2026 BAFTA Film Awards (held on February 22, 2026) by winning the award for Best Children's and Family Film.

98th Academy Awards (The Oscars 2026)

The 98th Oscars were held in early March. For exams, focus on the "Big Five" categories:

- **Best Picture:** *One Battle After Another*
- **Best Director:** Paul Thomas Anderson (*One Battle After Another*)
- **Best Actor:** Michael B. Jordan (for his role in *Sinners*)
- **Best Actress:** Jessie Buckley (for her role in *Hamnet*)
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Sean Penn (*One Battle After Another*)
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Amy Madigan (*Weapons*)
- **Best Original Song:** "Golden" (from *KPop Demon Hunters*)

The Abel Prize 2026 (Mathematics)

- **Winner: Gerd Faltings** (German Mathematician).
- **Field:** Honored for his fundamental contributions to **arithmetic geometry**. He is the first German to win this prize (often called the "Nobel of Math").

Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics 2026

Known as the "Oscars of Science," -Main Winner: **Frank Merle**

The Pritzker Architecture Prize 2026

- **Winner: Smiljan Radić Clarke** (Chile).
- **Significance:** Known as the highest honor in architecture. Radić is celebrated for his unique use of materials and spatial geometry.

Sports Awards (Sportstar Aces 2026)

- **Best State for Promotion of Sports: Bihar** (Recognized for its massive investment in the Rajgir Sports Complex).
- **National Team of the Year: Indian Women's Cricket Team** (Following their 2025 ODI World Cup victory).
- **Sportstar of the Year (Male):** Neeraj Chopra (Consistent performance in Diamond League).

Quick Revision Table for Exams

Award	Winner	Field/Category
Abel Prize	Gerd Faltings	Mathematics
Pritzker Prize	Smiljan Radić Clarke	Architecture
Oscar (Best Picture)	<i>One Battle After Another</i>	Cinema
Oscar (Best Actor)	Michael B. Jordan	Cinema
Sahitya (English)	Navtej Sarna	Literature

International Awards & Honours

Award	Winner(s)	Category/Field	Key Highlight
Laureus World Sports Awards	Carlos Alcaraz & Aryna Sabalenka	Sportsman & Sportswoman of the Year	Alcaraz became one of the youngest to win the top honour.
Goldman Environmental Prize	All-Women Cohort	Environmental Conservation	Known as the "Green Nobel," this year marked the first time the prize went to an all-female group.
Harvard South Asian Person of the Year	Sayani Gupta	Arts & Entertainment	Honoured for her contribution to South Asian representation in cinema.
Vienna Women Empowerment Award	Guntur Municipal Corporation	Public Service	Honoured for their innovative urban women empowerment initiatives in India.

Professional & Academic Excellence

- **Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award 2026:** Awarded to **Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao** on April 20 in Hyderabad for his outstanding contributions to agricultural science and food security.
- **WWF AI-Based Conservation Honour:** Botanist **N. Alim Yusuf** was honoured for developing an AI-based app to track endangered plant species.
- **Femina Miss India World 2026:** **Sadhvi Satish Sail** was crowned the winner.
- **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize:** Awarded to the **Sudanese Journalists Syndicate** for their bravery during the conflict in Sudan.
- **Pulitzer Prize 2026 (Indian Winner):** A team of **Indian Journalists** won a Pulitzer for their investigative "Digital Crime Story".
- **Whitley Award 2026:** Indian scientist **Barkha Subba & Parveen Shaikh** won this prestigious "Green Oscar" on May 1 for her work in desert conservation.
- **WMO's Top Honor:** The IMO Prize-Recipient: **Dr. Florence Rabier (France)**, former Director of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). **The IMO Prize is universally regarded as the "Nobel Prize of Meteorology"**

Sahitya Akademi Awards

The winners for the latest cycle were celebrated this March. Key names for exams:

- **English:** Navtej Sarna (for *Crimson Spring*)
- **Hindi:** Mamta Kalia (for *Jeete Jee Allahabad*)
- **Bengali:** Prasun Bandyopadhyay (for *Shrestha Kabita*)
- **Sanskrit:** Sadhu Bhadreshdas

Award Name	Winner(s)	Category/Work
Saraswati Samman 2025	Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay	Literature (Bengali Novel: <i>Hara Parbati Katha</i>)
Jnanpith Award, 2025	R. Vairamuthu	Literature
Esmond B. Martin Royal Geographical Society Prize 2026	Dr. Krithi Karanth & Prof. Alexandre Antonelli	Conservation & Ecosystem Research
Stockholm Water Prize	Kaveh Madani (Iran)	

Award	Winner(s)	Field / Remark
International Booker Prize 2026	<i>Taiwan Travelogue</i> by Yáng Shuāng-zǐ (Translated by Lin King)	Became the first book translated from Mandarin Chinese to win the prize.
Cannes Film Festival 2026 (Palme d'Or)	<i>Fjord</i> (Directed by Cristian Mungiu)	The highest prize awarded at the Cannes Film Festival. The film is a tale of immigration and clashing cultures set in Norway.
Pulitzer Prize 2026 (Journalism)	ProPublica, The New York Times, Reuters, etc.	Major winners included ProPublica and The Connecticut Mirror (Local Reporting), and Reuters (Feature Photography for covering the global digital scamming industry).
Stockholm Water Prize 2026	Kaveh Madani	Regarded as the world's most prestigious award for water-related work.

PM Modi Conferred Slovakia's Highest State Decoration

On **June 15, 2026**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Slovakia's highest civilian award during his official state visit to Bratislava.

- **Award Name: Order of the White Double Cross, First Class**
- **Presented By:** Slovak President Peter Pellegrini.
- **Exam Relevance:** UPSC and SSC frequently ask about the names of foreign state honors bestowed upon the Indian Prime Minister. This honor was given for outstanding contributions to accelerating bilateral and strategic cooperation between India and Slovakia.

Cultural & Performing Arts

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards Announced

The General Council of the Sangeet Natak Akademi announced the prestigious fellowships and awards for the combined years of **2024 and 2025** on **June 10, 2026**.

- **Akademi Ratna (Fellowship):** The highest honor, strictly restricted to a maximum of 40 living individuals at any given time. It carries a purse prize of **₹3,00,000**.
- **Akademi Puraskar:** 108 master artists were selected across fields like Hindustani/Carnatic music, traditional folk arts, theatre, and puppetry (carries **₹1,00,000**).
- **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar:** 106 young artists (under the age of 40) were selected to incentivize budding talent in performing arts (carries **₹25,000**).

National E-Governance & Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Awards

Key Exam Note: Questions on National E-Governance Awards frequently test the administrative purpose and parent ministry behind digital tools.

- **Gold Award (National Awards for e-Governance 2026):**
 - **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)** — Recognized for data-driven local governance.
 - **Agri Stack** — Recognized for unified digital service delivery to farmers.
 - **Mahakumbh Governance System** — Awarded for large-scale civic event management.
- **Silver Award: e-Jagriti Platform** — Streamlining consumer dispute redressal through process re-engineering.

International Science & Environment Awards

- **UNESCO-Carlos J. Finlay Prize for Microbiology (July 2026):**
 - **Winner: Dr. Direk Limmathurotsakul** (Thailand).
 - *UPSC Linkage:* Awarded by UNESCO for pioneering research on **meliodosis** (a soil-and-water bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei*) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) policy.

- **EU LIFE Awards 2026 (July 20, 2026):**
 - **Citizens' Prize:** *Egyptian Vulture New LIFE Project* (cross-continental conservation across Europe, Asia, and Africa).
 - **Special Award (Nature-Positive Economy):** *LIFE Olivares Vivos* (biodiversity restoration in Spanish olive groves).

Top National & International Civilian Honours

Award / Distinction	Recipient	Key Context / Exam Takeaway
Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026	Ajit Doval (National Security Advisor)	Conferred by the Lokmanya Tilak Trust on July 22, 2026, for his exceptional contributions to national security. <i>Static Note:</i> Instituted in 1983; socialist leader S.M. Joshi was the 1st recipient.
Guardian of the Blue Horizon (<i>Seychelles' Highest Honor</i>)	Narendra Modi (Prime Minister)	Awarded by Seychelles President Dr. Patrick Herminie to mark 50 years of diplomatic ties and recognize PM Modi's push for the Blue Economy , International Solar Alliance (ISA), and Mission LiFE.
Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia	Narendra Modi (Prime Minister)	Indonesia's Highest Civilian Award → PM Narendra Modi (July 2026) → Presented by President Prabowo Subianto .
FAO Soil Farmer Hero 2026	Valluvan (Tamil Nadu Farmer)	Conferred by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for sustainable soil health management and eco-friendly farming practices.

The 72nd National Film Awards

Top Feature Film & Acting Honours

Category	Winner(s)	Film
Best Feature Film	Producer: B62 Studios	<i>Article 370</i>
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Shared)	Kartik Aaryan	<i>Chandu Champion</i>
	Mammootty	<i>Bramayugam</i>
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Yami Gautam Dhar	<i>Article 370</i>
Best Director	Rajkumar Periasamy	<i>Amaran</i>
Best Supporting Actor	Sanjay Mishra	<i>Bhakshak</i>
Best Supporting Actress (Shared)	Ropashree Varkady	<i>Mithya</i>
	Sachana Namidass	<i>Maharaja</i>
Best Feature Film (Wholesome Entertainment)	Director: Nag Ashwin	<i>Kalki 2898 AD</i>
Best Film Promoting Social/National Values	Director: Arun Matheswaran	<i>Captain Miller</i>
Best Debut Film of a Director	Director: Randeep Hooda	<i>Swatantrya Veer Savarkar</i>
Best Children's Film	Director: Saraswathi Ani	<i>35 Chinna Katha Kaadu</i>

Technical, Music & Screenplay Awards

- **Best Screenplay (Original):** Sukumar (*Pushpa 2: The Rule*)
- **Best Screenplay (Adapted):** Yogesh Deshpande (*Swargandharva Sudhir Phadke*)
- **Best Dialogue Writer:** Venky Atluri (*Lucky Baskhar*)
- **Best Cinematography:** Shehnad Jalal (*Bramayugam*)
- **Best Music Direction (Songs):** Shashwat Sachdev (*Article 370*)
- **Best Music Direction (Background Score):** G. V. Prakash Kumar (*Amaran*)
- **Best Male Playback Singer:** Abhay Jodhpurkar for "*Gharat Ganpati*" (*Navasachi Gauri Mazi*)
- **Best Female Playback Singer:** Vaikom Vijayalakshmi for "*Angu Vaana Konilu*" (*ARM*)
- **Best Lyrics:** Manoj Muntashir for "*Jaane Do*" (*Maidaan*)
- **Best Choreography:** Vijay Ganguly (*Stree 2*)
- **Best Editing:** R. Kalaivannan (*Amaran*)
- **Best Sound Design:** Manas Choudhury (*Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*)
- **Best Production Design:** Nitin Zihani Choudhary (*Kalki 2898 AD*)
- **Best Action Direction (Stunts):** Anl Arasu (*Maharaja*)
- **Best Costume Design:** Deepali Noor & Sheetal Sharma (*Pushpa 2: The Rule*)
- **Best Make-Up Artist:** P. Ravi Kumar (*Committee Kurrollu*)

Best Feature Film in Language Categories

Language	Winning Film
Best Hindi Film	<i>Srikanth</i>
Best Tamil Film	<i>Raayan</i>
Best Telugu Film	<i>Committee Kurrollu</i>
Best Malayalam Film	<i>Feminichi Fathima</i>
Best Kannada Film	<i>Mithya</i>
Best Bengali Film	<i>Chalchitra Ekhon</i>

Language	Winning Film
Best Marathi Film	<i>Mukkam Post Bombilwadi</i>
Best Assamese Film	<i>Juiphool</i>
Best Odia Film	<i>Lahari</i>
Best Gujarati Film	<i>Maaran</i>
Best Manipuri Film	<i>Sunita</i>
Best Konkani Film	<i>Mog Asum</i>
Best Tulu Film	<i>IMBU</i>
Best Garhwali Film	<i>Dholi</i>

Special Mentions: Dhanush (*Captain Miller*) and Suren G (*Meiyazhagan*).

Non-Feature & Cinema Literature Awards

- **Best Non-Feature Film Direction:** Aanand L. Rai (*Statue of Unity – Ekta ka Prateek*)
- **Best Documentary:** *Ram-Nami*
- **Best Short Film (Up to 30 mins):** *Hamsafar*
- **Best Biographical / Historical Compilation Film:** *Kakori*
- **Best Arts / Culture Film:** *Main Nida*
- **Best Animation Film:** *Touched as Water*
- **Best Non-Feature Film Promoting Social/Environmental Values:** *Piplantri: A Tale of Eco Feminism*
- **Best Book on Cinema:** *Naaniruvude Nimagaagi Naadiruvude Nanagaagi: Kannada Cinemada Thathva Matthu Rajakeeya* by Kenchanuru Pradeep Kumar Shetty

Awards & Prize (Aug, 2026)

Defence & Gallantry Awards

- **Independence Day Gallantry Awards 2026:** On the eve of Independence Day, President Droupadi Murmu approved **78 Gallantry awards** for Defence Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel. The list includes **9 Kirti Chakras** and **19 Shaurya Chakras**. 13 of these honors were awarded posthumously.

Science & Mathematics Awards

- **Dirac Medal 2026:** Indian theoretical physicist **Deepak Dhar** was named the co-recipient of the prestigious Dirac Medal on August 11, 2026. The award honors his outstanding contributions to theoretical physics.
- **COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026:** Astrophysicist **Annapurni Subramaniam** was awarded this international honor for her exceptional contributions to space research by scientists from developing countries.
- **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar:** Several top scientists were honored under the government's premier science awards. Notable recipients include Prof. Naba Kumar Mondal (Vigyan Shri in Physics) and Dr. Roxy Mathew Koll (Vigyan Yuva in Earth Science).
- **Fields Medal 2026:** Often called the "Nobel Prize of Mathematics," the 2026 medals were awarded to Yu Deng, John Pardon, Jacob Tsimerman, and Hong Wang for their exceptional mathematical research.

Environment & Arts

- **Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection 2026:** Awarded on August 7 to two women changemakers from Tamil Nadu, **P. Pechiyammal** and **Govindhammal**. They were recognized for their grassroots work in marine conservation and ocean plastic management.
- **Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman 2026:** Conferred on August 25, 2026, to Odissi maestro **Guru Durga Charan Ranbir** in recognition of his lifetime excellence in the arts.

Other Important National Awards

- **Miss Universe India 2026:** **Kaziah Liz Mejo** was crowned Miss Universe India on August 25, 2026.
- **National Anubhav Awards 2026:** Conferred by Dr. Jitendra Singh on August 18, 2026, to acknowledge the outstanding systemic contributions of retiring and retired government employees.

Brand Ambassador

Entity / Initiative	Brand Ambassador
Census 2027	Sudarsan Pattnaik
Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW)	Manu Bhaker
Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)	Rashmika Mandanna
Skechers India	Mohammad Siraj
Shriram Finance Limited	Rahul Dravid
Bank of Baroda (Global)	Sachin Tendulkar
BPCL	Jasprit Bumrah

Brand Ambassador	Company / Brand
Shah Rukh Khan	Visa India (Payments Technology)
Kriti Sanon	GIVA (Fine Jewellery) — <i>Also joined as a Strategic Investor</i>
Shreyas Iyer	Formula 1® Programme / Mumbai Falcons F1 Sim Racing
Carlos Alcaraz	Infosys (Global Brand Ambassador)
Manu Bhaker	Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways
Group Capt. Shubhanshu Shukla	Viksit Bharat Buildathon

Sports & Tournaments

Here is the detailed list of **Major Sports Tournaments**, covering **2025 Winners** and **Upcoming Host Cities/Countries**.

1. Cricket (ICC Tournaments)

Tournament	Last Winner	Upcoming Host Country & Year
ICC Champions Trophy	India (2025)	India (2029)
Asia Cup Cricket (MEN)	India(2025)	
ICC Men's T20 World Cup	India (2024)	India & Sri Lanka (2026) Australia & NZ (2028)
ICC Men's ODI World Cup	Australia (2023)	South Africa, Zimbabwe & Namibia (2027) India & Bangladesh (2031)
World Test Championship	Australia (2023)	London, Lord's (Final in June 2025 & 2027)
Women's ODI World Cup	India (2025)	
Women's T20 World Cup	New Zealand (2024)	England (2026)

2. Football (FIFA World Cup)

Event	Host Country	Year
FIFA Men's World Cup	USA, Canada & Mexico	2026
	Spain, Portugal & Morocco	2030
	Saudi Arabia	2034
FIFA Women's World Cup	Brazil	2027

3. Olympics & Multi-Sport Events

Exam Focus: **Ahmedabad** has been officially confirmed as the host for the **2030 Commonwealth Games**,

Event	Next Host City / Country	Year
Summer Olympics	Los Angeles, USA	2028
	Brisbane, Australia	2032
Winter Olympics	Milan & Cortina, Italy	2026
	French Alps, France	2030
Commonwealth Games	Glasgow, Scotland	2026
	Ahmedabad, India	2030 (New)
Asian Games	Aichi-Nagoya, Japan	2026
	Doha, Qatar	2030
	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	2034

4. Other Major Sports Hosts

Sport	Tournament	Host Country
Hockey	Men's World Cup	Belgium & Netherlands (2026)
Badminton	Thomas & Uber Cup	Denmark (2026)
Athletics	World Athletics Champ.	Tokyo, Japan (2025) Beijing, China (2027)

- India will host World Athletics indoor Championship 2028- **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- **Monte Carlo Masters 2026: Jannik Sinner** won the title on April 12, defeating Casper Ruud in the final.

Sports Current Affairs: Jan to July 2026

Here is the comprehensive list of sports winners and key news from **January to June 2026**, specially curated for your government exams (PCS, SSC, BANKING, RRB, FCI).

1. Tennis: Australian Open 2026 (Melbourne)

The first Grand Slam of the year is a favorite topic for examiners.

Category	Winner	Runner-Up	Key Fact
Women's Singles	Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)	Aryna Sabalenka	Rybakina's 2nd Grand Slam title.
Men's Doubles	Christian Harrison (USA) & Neal Skupski (UK)	J. Kubler & M. Polmans	First title as a pair.
Women's Doubles	Elise Mertens (Belgium) & Zhang Shuai (China)	A. Danilina & A. Krunic	Mertens returns to World No. 1 in doubles.
Mixed Doubles	Olivia Gadecki & John Peers (Australia)	K. Mladenovic & M. Guinard	First home pair to defend the title in 37 years.
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Novak Djokovic	Djokovic reached his 400th Grand Slam win this month.

2. Badminton: Major Tournaments (Jan 2026)

Note: Saina Nehwal announced her retirement on Jan 22, 2026, ending an era for Indian badminton.

Tournament	Category	Winner	Country
India Open 2026 (New Delhi)	Men's Singles	Lin Chun-yi	Chinese Taipei
	Women's Singles	An Se-young	South Korea (Defended Title)
	Men's Doubles	Liang Weikeng & Wang Chang	China
Malaysia Open 2026	Men's Singles	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	Thailand
	Women's Singles	An Se-young	South Korea

The T20 World Cup, 2026

The **2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup** concluded in March, marking a monumental achievement for Indian cricket.

- **Winner: India** (Defeated New Zealand by **96 runs** in the final on March 8, 2026).
- **Venue:** Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.
- **Major Records:** India became the **first team to defend** a T20 World Cup title (winning 2024 and 2026).
 - India is now the first nation to win **three T20 World Cup trophies** (2007, 2024, 2026).
- **Key Awards:**
 - **Player of the Tournament:** Sanju Samson (321 runs).
 - **Man of the Match (Final):** Jasprit Bumrah (4 wickets for 15 runs).

Cricket Updates (Exam Oriented)

- **Virat Kohli's Record:** Became the **2nd highest run-scorer** in international cricket history (surpassing Kumar Sangakkara)
- **WPL History:** Nat Sciver-Brunt (Mumbai Indians) became the first player to score a **century** in the Women's Premier League.
- **T20 World Cup 2026 Change:** **Scotland** replaced Bangladesh in Group C for the upcoming T20 World Cup (to be hosted by India & Sri Lanka).
- **Rashid Khan** become first bowler to take 700 T20 wickets.
- **Youngest T20 Centurion-** Fanny Utagushimmaninde (Rawanda)

2026 Winter Olympics (Milan-Cortina)

- **Duration:** February 6 – 22, 2026.
- **Host:** Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, **Italy**.
- **Top Performer:** **Norway** topped the medal table with 41 medals (18 Gold).
- **India's Performance:** India's two-man contingent, **Arif Mohammad Khan and Stanzin Lundup**, participated; though no medals were won, it marked a significant presence for India in winter sports.
- **Torch bearer of India-** Abhinav Bindra

Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026

India delivered a historic performance, finishing at the **top of the medal tally** with a total of **94 medals** (including junior and senior categories). In the senior rifle and pistol events alone, India secured 33 medals.

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India	13	11	9	33
2	Kazakhstan	3	4	1	8
3	Japan	0	2	3	5

Key Individual Highlights (Gold Medalists)

This championship saw several world records and clean sweeps by Indian shooters:

- **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar:** Set a **new world record (362.0)** to win gold in the **Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions**. India swept the entire podium in this event (Niraj Kumar - Silver, Akhil Sheoran - Bronze).
- **Rudranksh Patil:** Won his first individual continental title in the **Men's 10m Air Rifle**.

Major Team Victories

India dominated the team categories, winning gold in almost every major discipline:

- **10m Air Pistol (Women):** Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh, and Suruchi Singh.
- **10m Air Rifle (Men):** Rudranksh Patil, Arjun Babuta, and Vishal Singh.

Badminton Asia Championships 2026

Held in **Ningbo, China** (April 7–12, 2026).

- **Men's Singles Silver:** **Ayush Shetty** became the first Indian man in years to reach the final of the Asian Championships, eventually losing to World No. 2 **Shi Yuqi** (China).
- **Women's Singles Winner:** **An Se-young** (South Korea) defeated Wang Zhi Yi.
- **Mixed Doubles Bronze:** India's top pair secured a bronze medal, further cementing India's growing dominance in the doubles circuit.

NOTE: Indian men's hockey team vice-captain **Hardik Singh** has been nominated for the prestigious **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** at the National Sports Awards 2025.

World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026

2026 Grand Prix Calendar

The season follows a global circuit, similar to the Diamond League.

- **Leg 1: Dubai, UAE** (February 2026) – The season opener.
- **Leg 2: New Delhi, India** (March 11–13, 2026) – Held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
- **Leg 3: Rabat, Morocco** (Scheduled: April 23–25, 2026).
- **Final Leg: Cali, Colombia** (Scheduled: September 2026).

New Delhi Leg Highlights (March 2026)

India dominated its home event, finishing at the **top of the medal tally**.

- **Total Medals for India:** 208 (75 Gold, 69 Silver, 64 Bronze).
- **Top 3 Nations:**
 1. **India** (208 medals)
 2. **Russia** (35 medals)
 3. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (3 medals)
- **Key Participants:** 257 athletes from 8 nations (India, Russia, Nepal, Bhutan, Hong Kong, Serbia, Bosnia, and Egypt).

Star Indian Performers:

- **Sumit Antil:** Won Gold in Men's Javelin (F64) with a throw of 69.25m.
- **Preeti Pal:** Won double Gold in the Women's 100m and 200m (T35).
- **Praveen Kumar:** Won Gold in Men's High Jump (T44) with a 1.96m effort.
- **Mariyappan Thangavelu:** Featured prominently in the high jump events.
- **Shailesh Kumar:** Won Gold in Men's High Jump (T42).

Tennis: The "Sunshine Double"

- **Men's Singles: Jannik Sinner (Italy)** defeated Jiri Lehecka to win the Miami Open and complete the "Sunshine Double" (winning both Indian Wells and Miami Open in the same year).
- **Women's Singles: Aryna Sabalenka** defeated Coco Gauff. Sabalenka also completed the "Sunshine Double", becoming the first woman to do so since Iga Świątek in 2022.

Particulars/ Sports	Winner/Champions
Under-19 Men's World Cup (Cricket)	India
Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026	Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)
Hockey India League (HIL) 2025-26 (Men's)	Kalinga Lancers
Ranji Trophy 2025-26 (Cricket)	Jammu & Kashmir
ACC women's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026 (Cricket)	India
Santosh Trophy (Football)	Services
SAFF U-19 Women's Championship	India
Pro Wrestling League 2026	Haryana Thunders
Squash JSW Indian Open (Mumbai)	Anahat Singh (Women) Abhay Singh (Men)
Khelo India Winter Games	Indian Army
ICC Women's T20 World Cup, 2026	Australia

Track & Field: Multiple Records Broken

Athlete	Event	Achievement
Sumit Antil	Javelin Throw (F64 Para)	Shattered his own world record with a massive throw of 74.82 meters at the 8th Indian Open International Para Athletics Championships in Bengaluru.
Gurindervir Singh	100m Sprint	Set a new national record by clocking 10.09 seconds at the Federation Cup (Ranchi), becoming the first Indian sprinter to enter the "10.0s" bracket.
Dev Kumar Meena & Kuldeep Kumar	Pole Vault	Set a new national record of 5.45 meters at the 29th National Senior Athletics Meet, achieving Commonwealth Games qualification.

Major Awards & Honors

Laureus World Sports Awards 2026

The "Oscars of Sport" were held in **Madrid**.

- **Sportsman of the Year:** Carlos Alcaraz (Tennis)
- **Sportswoman of the Year:** Aryna Sabalenka (Tennis)
- **Team of the Year:** Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)
- **Breakthrough of the Year:** Lando Norris (Formula 1)
- **Comeback of the Year:** Rory McIlroy (Golf)
- **Action Sportsperson of the Year:** Chloe Kim (Snowboarding)

BCCI Naman Awards 2026

Award Category	Winner
Polly Umrigar Award (Best International Cricketer - Men)	Shubman Gill
Best International Cricketer - Women	Smriti Mandhana
Best International Debut (Men)	Harshit Rana
Best International Debut (Women)	N Sree Charani

Lifetime Achievement Awards

This year, the BCCI conferred its highest honors on three stalwarts of Indian cricket:

- **Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award:** Shared by **Roger Binny** (1983 World Cup hero and BCCI President) and **Rahul Dravid** (Legendary batter and former Head Coach).
- **BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women:** **Mithali Raj** (Former captain and highest run-getter in women's ODIs).

Cricket & ICC Recognitions

- **ICC Hall of Fame Inductions (July 11, 2026):** Former Indian captains **Sourav Ganguly** and **Anjum Chopra** were officially inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.

Sports Personalities in News

- **Payal Nag:** Became the **first quadruple amputee** to win an Archery Championship (World Para Archery Series Final) in Bangkok.
- **Virat Kohli:** Became the first player in IPL history to reach **9,000 runs** and hit **800 boundaries**.
- **Bhuvneshwar Kumar:** Marked a milestone as the **first fast bowler** to take **200 wickets** in the IPL.
- **New Asian Hosts:** The Asian Athletics Association awarded the hosting rights for the **2027 Asian Relays** to **Chandigarh**, and the **2028 Asian Indoor Championships** to **Bhubaneswar**.
- **ISSF World Cup (Munich):** **Esha Singh** won the gold medal in the Women's 25m pistol event, shattering the world record with a brilliant 43/50 in the final.
- **Lionel Messi:** Officially became the **second billionaire footballer** (joining Cristiano Ronaldo), fueled by his Inter Miami contract and global investments.
- **Jannik Sinner:** Won the **Italian Open**, becoming the youngest player (age 24) and only the second male in history (after Novak Djokovic) to complete the **Career Golden Masters**.

SAFF Women's Championship 2026

The 8th edition of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship concluded on **June 6, 2026**, in Marmagao, Goa.

- **Champions:** **India** defeated the defending champions, Bangladesh, 3–1 in the grand final at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
- **Significance:** This marks India's **6th championship title** and ends a seven-year drought (India last won in 2019, while Bangladesh dominated the 2022 and 2024 editions).
- **Key Honors to Remember:**
 - **Most Valuable Player (MVP):** Sanfida Nongrum (India)
 - **Top Scorer:** Aveka Singh (India) with 4 goals
 - **Best Goalkeeper:** Panthoi Chanu Elangbam (India)

Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026

- **Winner:** Renowned sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** from Odisha.
- **Significance:** He became the first Indian to secure the top spot at the II International Festival of Sand Sculpture in Russia on **June 11, 2026**.

French Open 2026 (Roland-Garros)

The second Grand Slam of the year concluded on **June 7, 2026**, on the clay courts of Paris, yielding historic structural milestones for tennis.

- **Men's Singles Winner: Alexander Zverev (Germany)** captured his **maiden career Grand Slam title** by defeating Italy's Flavio Cobolli in an intense five-set final (6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7, 6-1). He became the first German man to win a major singles title since Boris Becker in 1996.
- **Women's Singles Winner: 19-year-old Mirra Andreeva (Russia)** captured her first Grand Slam title by defeating Poland's Maja Chwalińska 6-3, 6-2.
- **Key Stat for Exams:** Andreeva became the youngest Roland-Garros women's champion since Iga Świątek in 2020, and the first player born after 2005 to play in a major singles final.

Wimbledon 2026: Official Winners Table

Category	Winner / Champion	Country	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Jannik Sinner	Italy	Alexander Zverev (Germany)
Women's Singles	Linda Nosková	Czech Republic	Karolína Muchová (Czech Republic)
Men's Doubles	Harri Heliövaara & Henry Patten	Finland / UK	—
Women's Doubles	Guo Hanyu & Kristina Mladenovic	China / France	Gabriela Dabrowski & Luisa Stefani
Mixed Doubles	Marcelo Arévalo & Jeļena Ostapenko	El Salvador / Latvia	—

Key Highlights for Competitive Exams

- **Jannik Sinner:** Became the 10th man in the Open Era to retain the Wimbledon singles title.
- **Static GK Quick Linkages:**
 - **Surface:** Grass Court (The only Grand Slam played on grass).
 - **Oldest Tennis Tournament:** Established in **1877**.

FIFA World Cup, 2026

Key Tournament Overview

- **Champion: Spain ES** (2nd World Cup title, defeating Argentina 1–0 after extra time).
- **Runner-up: Argentina AR.**
- **3rd Place: England**

Individual Award Winners

Award Category	Recipient	Country	Key Context / Performance
Golden Ball (Best Player)	Rodri	Spain ES	Midfield anchor throughout Spain's title-winning campaign.
Silver Ball	Lionel Messi	Argentina AR	Led Argentina to their 2nd consecutive final.
Bronze Ball	Kylian Mbappé	France FR	Top attacking performer for France.
Golden Boot (Top Scorer)	Kylian Mbappé	France FR	10 goals in 8 matches; 1st player to win back-to-back Golden Boots.
Silver Boot	Lionel Messi	Argentina AR	2nd highest goalscorer.
Bronze Boot	Jude Bellingham	England	3rd highest goalscorer.
Golden Glove (Best Goalkeeper)	Unai Simón	Spain ES	Recorded 7 clean sheets across 8 matches.
Young Player Award	Pau Cubarsí	Spain ES	Crucial teenage defender in Spain's backline.
FIFA Fair Play Trophy	The Netherlands	Netherlands NL	Awarded for exemplary discipline and sportsmanship.

Key Tournament Overview

- **Edition:** 23rd edition of the FIFA Men's World Cup.
- **Duration:** June 11 – July 19, 2026.
- **Joint Hosts:** Co-hosted by three nations for the first time in history: **Canada, Mexico, and the United States.**
- **Opening Match:** Played on June 11, 2026, at the historic **Estadio Azteca** in Mexico City.
- **Final Match:** Scheduled for July 19, 2026, at the **New York New Jersey Stadium (MetLife Stadium)** in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Major Structural & Format Changes (High-Yield)

The 2026 tournament marks the largest structural reimagining of the World Cup since 1998.

- **Team Expansion:** The tournament expanded from the traditional 32-team grid to an unprecedented **48 national teams.**
- **Match Volume:** The total number of matches increased from 64 to **104 matches** (consisting of 72 group stage games and 32 knockout games).
- **New Group Layout:** Teams are divided into **12 groups of 4 teams** each (Groups A to L).
- **The Round of 32:** For the first time, a new knockout stage has been introduced. The **top 2 teams** from each of the 12 groups, along with the **8 best third-placed teams**, advance to the Round of 32.
- **Path to Glory:** To win the trophy, a nation must now play a total of **8 matches**, compared to the 7 matches required in previous tournaments.

Country	Number of Host Cities	Specific Venues / Stadiums
United States	11 Cities	New York/New Jersey, Los Angeles, Dallas, Atlanta, Miami, Houston, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle.
Mexico	3 Cities	Mexico City (Estadio Azteca), Guadalajara (Estadio Akron), Monterrey (Estadio BBVA).
Canada	2 Cities	Toronto (BMO Field), Vancouver (BC Place).

Official Symbols & Branding

The Tri-Mascots

1. **Maple™ the Moose (Canada):** Positioned as a resilient, street-style loving **goalkeeper**.
2. **Zayu™ the Jaguar (Mexico):** Representing strength and agility as an explosive **striker**.
3. **Clutch™ the Bald Eagle (USA):** Embodying unity, leadership, and adventure as a tireless **midfielder**.

Historical & Geopolitical Milestones

Points for Statement-Based Questions (UPSC Pattern)

- **Mexico's Triple Crown:** Mexico has made history by becoming the **first country to host matches in three separate Men's FIFA World Cups** (1970, 1986, and 2026).
- **Canada's Milestone:** This marks Canada's absolute debut as a host of the Men's World Cup (having previously hosted only the 2015 Women's World Cup).
- **Expanded Continental Representation:** Due to the 48-team expansion, regional quotas saw massive upgrades. Notably, the **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** received **8 direct qualification slots**.
- **Tournament Debutants:** The expansion allowed several smaller footballing nations to make their maiden FIFA World Cup appearances, notably **Uzbekistan, Cape Verde, Jordan, and Curaçao**.

Records FIFA World Cup, 2026

- **Kylian Mbappé (France):** Became the all-time leading goalscorer in FIFA World Cup history (22 career goals) and the first player to win back-to-back Golden Boots (2022 & 2026).
- **Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal):** Became the first player in history to score in **six different World Cup editions** (2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, 2026).
- **Lionel Messi (Argentina):** Set the record for most match victories in World Cup history (23 wins) and scored in 9 consecutive World Cup appearances.
- **Michael Olise (France):** Broke Pelé's 1970 record by delivering **7 assists** in a single World Cup edition.
- **Defensive Record:** Spain conceded only **1 goal** across all 8 matches during the entire tournament, setting a record for World Cup champions.
- **Highest Scoring Edition:** Highest-scoring World Cup in history with **308 goals** across 104 matches (2.96 goals/game).

IPL 2026 Complete Award Winners List

Award Category	Winner / Details
Champion	Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)
Runner-Up	Gujarat Titans (GT)
Player of the Match (Final)	Virat Kohli
Most Valuable Player (MVP)	Vaibhav Sooryavanshi
Highest Run Scorer (Orange Cap)	Vaibhav Sooryavanshi
Highest Wicket Taker (Purple Cap)	Kagiso Rabada

1st World Yogasana Sport Championship 2026:

- **When & Where:** June 4–8, 2026, at the **EKA Arena in Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, India.
- **Scale:** 522 athletes competing from 79 different countries.
- **Official Mascot:** The official mascot for the 2026 championship was **“Veer the Lion”**.
- **The Winner:** **India completely dominated** the event, finishing at the top of the leaderboard with **114 total medals** (102 Gold, 9 Silver, 3 Bronze).
- **Runner-Up:** Japan finished **second** with 11 total medals (3 Gold). Nepal won the second-most overall medals with 52 (1 Gold, 36 Silver, 15 Bronze).
- **Star Performer:** Argentina's **Nabila Barraza** was the most successful international athlete, winning 2 Gold and 3 Silver medals.

World Junior Champion (2026)

- **Anahat Singh** is an 18-year-old Indian squash sensation who made international sports history.
- **First Indian World Junior Champion:** In July 2026, **Anahat Singh became the first Indian ever to win** the Girls' Singles title at the World Junior Squash Championships in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada.

ISSF World Cup 2026 (Hangzhou, China)

- **Esha Singh clinched the Gold medal in the Women's 25 Metre Pistol event.**

Track & Field / Athletics

Event / Milestone	Recipient / Team	Key Details & Exam Relevance
Men's Mile World Record	Josh Kerr (Great Britain)	Broke Hicham El Guerrouj's 26-year-old world record at the London Diamond League with a time of 3:42.66 .
Asian U23 Athletics Championships	India Mixed 4x400m Relay	Clinched India's first-ever gold medal in this category at the championships held in Ordos, China.
National 100m Sprint Record	Gurindervir Singh (India)	Clocked 10.09 seconds at the Federation Cup in Ranchi, setting a new Indian national record.

Chess: Double Grandmaster Milestone

Static Note: To become a Grandmaster (GM), a player must reach an FIDE Elo rating of 2500 and achieve 3 GM norms in international tournaments.

- **India's 98th Grandmaster:** 17-year-old **Aswath S** (Kanyakumari) achieved his final GM norm at the Pune International Round-Robin Tournament.
- **India's 99th Grandmaster:** **V S Rathnvel** crossed the 2500 Elo benchmark at the Guwahati Smart City International Open to become India's 99th GM, leaving India one step away from the 100-GM mark.

Combat Sports

- **U-20 Asian Wrestling Championships (Pattaya, Thailand):** The Indian wrestling contingent won **20 medals** (including 4 Gold).

Sonam Zomba & KFL (Karma Fight League)

Sonam Zomba, a combat sports athlete and MMA fighter from Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, made sports history by becoming the **first-ever Karma Fight League (KFL) World Strawweight Champion**.

BWF Japan Open 2026

- Women's Singles won by **P. V. Sindhu**.

P. V. Sindhu became the first Indian shuttler in history to win the Japan Open title, as well as the first Indian to reach the tournament's final.

- Men's Singles won by **Christo Popov (France)**

XXIII Commonwealth Games (Glasgow 2026)

Host City & Relocation Background

- **Official Name:** XXIII Commonwealth Games (Glasgow 2026)
- **Host City:** Glasgow, Scotland (United Kingdom)
- **Official Motto:** "We Move Together"
- **Opening Ceremony Date:** Scheduled for **July 23, 2026** at the OVO Hydro in Glasgow, UK.
- **Indian Flagbearers:** Olympic medallists **Mirabai Chanu** (Weightlifting) and **Lovlina Borgohain** (Boxing) were named flagbearers for the opening ceremony.
- **Contingent Leader:** Reigning Olympic champion **Neeraj Chopra** was named to lead India's 191-member overall contingent.

Streamlined Sports Roster (10 Sports)

To reduce infrastructure costs, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) capped the 2026 edition to **10 sports** (featuring 6 integrated para-sports), down from 19 sports at Birmingham 2022.

Category	Included Sports (Glasgow 2026)
Track & Water, Combat & Strength, Court & Skill	Athletics & Para Athletics, Swimming & Para Swimming, Track Cycling & Para Track Cycling, Boxing, Judo, Weightlifting & Para Powerlifting, 3x3 Basketball & Wheelchair 3x3 Basketball, Netball, Lawn Bowls & Para Bowls, Artistic Gymnastics.

Crucial Rule Change: Starting with the 2026 edition, the CGF made **Athletics and Swimming the only two compulsory core sports**, granting future host cities flexibility to select remaining sports based on local infrastructure.

Key Indian Medalists at Glasgow 2026:

- **Mirabai Chanu** – Gold (Weightlifting)
- **Sharmila Dhankar** – Gold (Women's Shot Put F57, Para Athletics)
- **Sarvesh Anil Kushare** – Silver (Men's High Jump)
- **Ajaya Babu** – Silver (Men's 79 kg Weightlifting)
- **Rishikanta Singh / Muthupandi Raja / Gyaneshwari Yadav** – Silver (Weightlifting categories)

India's Performance & Medal Tally

Despite the exclusion of key Indian sports, the contingent performed exceptionally well, finishing **4th overall** on the medal table.

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Australia	70	45	56	171
2	England	29	45	36	110
3	Canada	19	20	23	62
4	India	13	17	9	39

Key Indian Highlights (Expected MCQs):

- **Boxing Dominance:** India claimed a record **10 boxing medals (including 7 Golds)**, making it India's most successful sport at this edition.
- **Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting):** Completed a historic **hat-trick** of CWG Gold medals in the 48kg category.
- **Judo Breakthrough:** **Asmita Dey** (Women's 48kg) became India's first-ever Commonwealth Games champion in Judo, followed closely by **Harsh Singh** (Men's 60kg) winning Gold on the same day.
- **Athletics Firsts:** **Tejaswin Shankar** became India's first CWG decathlon medallist (Bronze).
- Star javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** returned to win Silver.
- **Gulveer Singh** became the first Indian track athlete to win two individual medals (Silver in 10,000m, Bronze in 5,000m) at a single CWG.

World Athletics U20 Championships 2026 (Eugene)

India secured several historic "firsts" at this championship:

- **Basant Kumar Meghwal** won Silver in the men's high jump (2.21m), becoming the first Indian man to win a medal in this event.
- **Shahnavaz Khan** won Bronze in the long jump, marking another first for Indian men.
- **Ashish Yadav** secured Silver in the men's javelin throw with a distance of 74.09m.
- In the women's events, **Mansi Lather** won Silver, while Tanvi and Komal claimed Bronze medals.

Other Major Sporting Achievements

- **Aerobic Gymnastics: Ariha Pangambam** (from Manipur) won India's first-ever senior gold medal in the individual women's category at the Aerobic Gymnastics Asian Championships in the Philippines.
- **Chess:** Indian Grandmaster **R. Praggnanandhaa** won the prestigious Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz 2026. Additionally, GM **Pranesh M** secured the Kanizsa Open 2026 Title in Hungary.
- **Table Tennis Governance:** On August 12, 2026, the Sports Ministry suspended the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) citing governance failures, directing the Indian Olympic Association to form an ad hoc committee.
- **Formula 1:** McLaren's **Lando Norris** won the Dutch Grand Prix 2026.

Arjuna Awards (Regular Category)

A total of **17 sportspersons** were selected for the Arjuna Award

Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline / Sport
Tejaswin Shankar	Athletics
Muhammed Ajmal V	Athletics
Priyanka Goswami	Athletics
Treesa Jolly	Badminton
Gayatri Gopichand	Badminton
Narender	Boxing
Vidit Gujrathi	Chess
Divya Deshmukh	Chess
Dhanush Srikanth	Deaf Shooting
Lalremsiami	Hockey
Rajkumar Pal	Hockey

Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline / Sport
Surjeet	Kabaddi
Pooja	Kabaddi
Ekta Bhyan	Para Athletics
Rudransh Khandelwal	Para-Shooting
Arvind Singh	Rowing
Akhil Sheoran	Shooting

Arjuna Award (Lifetime Category)

Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline / Sport
I Arumainayagam	Football

Dronacharya Awards

The Dronacharya Award recognizes outstanding coaches who have successfully trained medal-winning athletes.

Name of the Coach	Discipline / Sport	Category
Parveer Singh	Athletics	Regular
Chhote Lal Yadav	Boxing	Regular
Neha Nandkumar Chavan	Shooting	Regular
Dharmendra Singh Yadav	Boxing	Lifetime
Virender Kumar	Wrestling	Lifetime

Important Highlights:

- **R Praggnanandhaa** recently made history by becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious **Grand Chess Tour (GCT)** in August 2026. He defeated the defending champion, American GM Fabiano Caruana, with a score of 15-13 in the GCT Finals held in Saint Louis.

The 2026 Grand Chess Tour Campaign

Praggnanandhaa's path to the finals was built on a series of strong performances across the 2026 tour, combining classical, rapid, and blitz formats:

- **Super Chess Classic Romania (Bucharest):** Finished tied for fifth in the classical event.
- **Super Rapid & Blitz Croatia (Zagreb):** Finished tied for third place.
- **Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz:** Won the event dominantly, finishing 1.5 points ahead of Javokhir Sindarov.
- **Sinquefield Cup:** Tied for first place in the classical tournament, though he lost the tiebreaker to Wesley So.

2026 Durand Cup

- **Champion:** **East Bengal FC** (defeated Mohun Bagan SG **4–1** on August 23, 2026, at Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata).
- **Record Tied:** **17th title** for East Bengal, making them the joint-most successful team in tournament history alongside Mohun Bagan.
- **Drought Ended:** First Durand Cup title in **22 years** (last won in 2004).
- **Key Performer:** **Edmund Lalrindika** scored a first-half hat-trick (11', 22', 44').

Neeraj Chopra at Lausanne Diamond League 2026

- **Result:** Finished **2nd (Silver Medal)**.
- **Best Throw:** **88.05m**, which was his season-best mark. He achieved this on his second attempt.
- **The Winner:** Sri Lanka's **Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage** won the gold medal with a throw of **88.14m**, edging out Chopra by a mere 9 centimeters.

Economic Survey 2025-26

Economic Survey 2025-26: Exam Highlights

Note: The Economic Survey 2025-26 was tabled in Parliament on **January 29, 2026** by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. *It is authored by the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) **V. Anantha Nageswaran**.*

Key GDP & Growth Figures (Most Important)

The most likely questions in any exam ask for the GDP projection.

Indicator	Data / Projection	Notes
GDP Growth Projection (FY27)	6.8% – 7.2%	For the upcoming year (2026-27).
GDP Estimate (Current FY26)	7.4%	First Advance Estimates for 2025-26.
Potential Growth Rate	7%	Revised upwards from 6.5%.
Inflation (CPI)	1.7%	Historic low (April-Dec 2025 average).
Forex Reserves	\$701.4 Billion	As of Jan 16, 2026 (Covers ~11 months of imports).
Fiscal Deficit Target	4.4%	For FY26 (Budget Estimate).

Sectoral Growth Rates (GVA for FY26)

Memorize these percentages for "Match the Following" questions.

- **Services Sector: 9.1%** (Highest growth driver; Share in GVA reached historic high of 56.4%).
- **Industry Sector: 6.2%** (Manufacturing grew at 9.13% in Q2).
- **Agriculture Sector: 3.1%** (Stabilizing role; Foodgrain production reached record **3,577.3 Lakh MT**).

Major "Scoops" & New Recommendations (High Priority)

1. The "Big Scoop": Replacement of MGNREGA

The Survey highlights the enactment of a new act to replace the 2005 MGNREGA, citing a 53% decline in work demand under the old scheme.

- **New Act: Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-GRAM G).**
- **Key Changes:**
 - **Guaranteed Days:** Increased from 100 to **125 days** per rural household.
 - **Wage Payment:** Mandated weekly or within a fortnight.
 - **Focus:** Asset creation linked to *Viksit Bharat 2047* goals (not just relief work).

2. Inflation & Monetary Management

- **Historic Low:** The average CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation for April-Dec 2025 was **1.7%**—the lowest since the current CPI series began.
- **Reason:** Sharp contraction in food prices (Vegetables & Pulses prices dropped significantly in late 2025).
- **Repo Rate Context:** The survey notes the Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR) remained aligned with policy rates, supporting liquidity.

3. External Sector: "The \$700 Billion Club"

- **Forex Reserves:** Reached **\$701.4 Billion** as of January 16, 2026.
- **Import Cover:** Sufficient for **11 months** of imports.
- **External Debt:** Forex reserves now cover **94%** of India's total external debt.
- **Exports:** Total exports (Merchandise + Services) reached a record **\$825.3 Billion** in FY25.

4. Social Infrastructure & Employment

- **Poverty Line Update:** The Survey uses the World Bank's new poverty line of **\$3.00 per day (PPP)**. Based on this, India's extreme poverty is down to **5.3%**.
- **Unemployment Rate:** Declined to **4.8%** (Dec 2025).
- **Female Labour Force Participation (LFPR):** Rose to **35.3%** in Dec 2025 (up from 23.3% in 2017-18).
- **Education:** Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) increased to **70,018** (June 2025).

6. New Terminology for Exams

- **"Strategic Indispensability"**: The new strategy to make Indian manufacturing unavoidable for the world.
- **"Oasis of Performance"**: Phrase used by CEA **V. Anantha Nageswaran** to describe India amidst global volatility.
- **"Thali Economics" Update**: Food affordability improved significantly due to the drop in vegetable prices (-2.71% inflation in Dec 2025).

7. Infrastructure Snapshots

- **High-Speed Corridors**: Expanded 10-fold to **5,364 km** (by Dec 2025).
- **Airports**: Increased to **164** operational airports.
- **Digital**: India now has **99.56 crore** internet connections.

Exam "One-Liners" (Rapid Fire)

- **Who authored the Economic Survey 2025-26?** -> **V. Anantha Nageswaran** (Chief Economic Advisor).
- **What is the theme/focus of the Survey?** -> "India transitions towards a high-growth and resilient economy" (Focus on **Demand-Led Growth**).
- **What was the total exports figure for FY25 mentioned in the survey?** -> **USD 825.3 Billion** (Record High).
- **Which sector is the largest contributor to GVA?** -> **Services** (56.4%).
- **The Survey highlights a "Power Gap" index where India scores -4.0. Which institute releases this?** -> **Lowy Institute** (Asia Power Index).
- **What is the "Silver Lining" mentioned regarding the Rupee?** -> Despite depreciation, the Rupee has performed better than most emerging market currencies.

Union Budget 2026-27

The Union Budget 2026-27 was presented by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** today, February 1, 2026. This budget is centered around "**Three Kartavyas**" to achieve the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**:

- 1) Accelerating economic growth,
- 2) Fulfilling people's aspirations, and
- 3) Ensuring inclusive development (*Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas*).

Macro-Economic Indicators & Fiscal Position

The government continues its path of fiscal consolidation while aggressively pushing capital expenditure.

Indicator	Budget Estimate (BE) 2026-27
Fiscal Deficit	4.3% of GDP (Reduced from 4.4% in RE 2025-26)
Capital Expenditure (Capex)	₹12.2 Lakh Crore (approx. 9% increase)
Nominal GDP Growth	Estimated at 10%
Total Expenditure	₹53.5 Lakh Crore
Net Tax Receipts	₹28.7 Lakh Crore
Debt-to-GDP Ratio	Estimated at 55.6% (Targeting 50% by 2030-31)

Direct & Indirect Tax Proposals

A major highlight is the notification of the **New Income Tax Act, 2025**, effective from **April 1, 2026**.

- **Tax Simplification:** The new Act aims to reduce complexity and litigation. Taxpayers can now update returns even after reassessment has started (with an additional 10% tax).
- **Safe Harbour for IT:** Common safe harbour margin of **15.5%** for IT services; the threshold for availing this is raised from ₹300 crore to **₹2,000 crore**.
- **Data Centers:** Foreign cloud service providers setting up data centers in India will receive a **tax holiday until 2047**.
- **Buyback Tax:** Buybacks will now be taxed as **Capital Gains** in the hands of shareholders to protect minority interests.
- **Customs Duty:** The tariff rate on goods imported for personal use is halved from **20% to 10%**. A **Customs Integrated System** will be rolled out within two years.

Sectoral Highlights & New Schemes

1. Manufacturing & MSMEs

- **SME Growth Fund:** A dedicated ₹10,000 crore fund to create "Future Champions."
- **Biopharma SHAKTI:** A new strategy for healthcare advancement with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore over 5 years.
- **India Semiconductor Mission 2.0:** Expanded focus to include equipment, materials, and R&D.
- **Textiles:** Launch of the **National Fibre Scheme** and **Samarth 2.0** for skilling.

2. Agriculture & Rural Development

- **Bharat-VISTAAR:** A multilingual AI tool for customized farm advisory and risk reduction.
- **Increased Credit:** Focus on increasing farmer income through animal husbandry and fisheries (integrated development of 500 reservoirs).

3. Infrastructure & Connectivity

- **National Waterways:** 20 new national waterways to be developed over the next 5 years.
- **Regional Medical Hubs:** Support for States to establish **5 Regional Medical Hubs** to promote medical tourism.
- **Industrial Corridors:** New Dedicated Freight Corridor between **Dankuni and Surat**.

4. Education & Youth (Yuva Shakti)

- **Education to Employment:** A high-powered standing committee to align the services sector with employment.
- **Girls' Hostels:** Proposal to set up one girls' hostel in every district.
- **University Townships:** Creation of **5 university townships** and academic zones.

Governance & Others

- **16th Finance Commission:** The government accepted the recommendation to retain the vertical share of devolution to states at **41%**.
- **Banking Reform:** A "High-Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat" will be formed to align the financial sector with future growth.
- **Tourism:** Development of 15 archaeological sites and new "Turtle Trails" and "Bird Watching Trails" across various states.
- **Securities Transaction Tax (STT):** Increased from **0.1% to 0.15% on options** and from **0.02% to 0.05% on futures**.

Exam "One-Liners" to Remember:

- **Fiscal Prudence:** The government aims to reduce outstanding liabilities **to 50% of GDP by March 2031**.
- **Rare Earth Corridors:** Will be established in Odisha, Keralam (Kerala), Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.
- **GDP Growth (Q3 FY26):** India's GDP grew by **7.8%** in the third quarter of FY26 (using the new 2022-23 base year series).
- **Tripura Gramin Bank** launched India's **first RRB Co-branded RuPay Credit Card** on Feb 4.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** issued India's **first fully digital FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investor) license**.
- In late March, Goldman Sachs cut India's 2026 growth forecast to **5.9%** (from 7.3%) due to the **energy shock** caused by disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.
- **India's Global Economic Ranking:** According to the **IMF World Economic Outlook (April 2026)**, India has slipped to the **6th largest economy** in the world (GDP ~\$4.15 trillion).
- **Asian Development Outlook (April 2026):** The ADB projected India's growth at **6.9% for 2026** and 7.3% for 2027.
- **Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL):** The RBI officially **cancelled the banking license** of Paytm Payments Bank Limited effective **April 24, 2026**, under Section 22(4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- **Growth Forecast:** The RBI projected India's **GDP growth at 6.9%** for FY27.
- **Inflation (CPI):** The All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March 2026 (released in April) stood at **3.40%**, well within the RBI's comfort zone of 2%–6%.
- **Historic RBI Surplus Transfer:** The Reserve Bank of India's Central Board met to approve a massive dividend payout to the government for FY26. Economists project the surplus transfer to range **between ₹2.8 trillion and ₹3.3 trillion**, which would surpass the previous record of ₹2.7 trillion.
- **UN Growth Forecast Cut:** The United Nations (UN DESA) lowered India's 2026 economic growth forecast to **6.4%** (down from 6.6%).
- **ICRA Projections:** Credit rating agency ICRA lowered its FY27 GDP growth estimate for India to 6.2% and projected the current account deficit to widen to 2.3% of GDP.
- **Rupee Hits All-Time Low:** The Indian Rupee experienced an unprecedented plunge, hitting an all-time closing low of **₹96.86 against the US Dollar** (**Follow latest data**). This sharp depreciation was driven by foreign capital flight and surging Brent crude oil prices (approaching \$110 per barrel) due to geopolitical tensions.
- **Overseas Direct Investment (ODI):** Outward foreign investments by Indian companies more than
- **NASSCOM Chairman:** Srikanth Velamakanni was appointed as the new Chairman of NASSCOM.

Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026

- **Released on:** March 11, 2026. by NITI AAYOG
- **Key Findings:**
 - **Top Performer: Odisha** (retained the top spot for the second consecutive year).
 - **Bottom Performer: Punjab** (ranked lowest due to unsustainable debt and deficits).
 - **Top Achievers:** Odisha, Goa, and Jharkhand.
 - **New Addition:** For the first time, **10 North-Eastern and Himalayan states** were evaluated separately. **Arunachal Pradesh** emerged as the top performer among them.

Key Rates of Interest: (As of April, 2026)

- **Public Provident Fund (PPF):** 7.1%
- **Sukanya Samriddhi Account:** 8.2%
- **National Savings Certificate (NSC):** 7.7%
- **Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS):** 8.2%
- **Repo Rate:** Maintained a "Pause" at **5.25%** for the 8th consecutive time.

Sample Registration System (SRS) 2024 Report

- **Published By:** Registrar General of India
- **Key Data Points:**
 - **India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** remained steady at **1.9**, staying below the population replacement level of 2.1 for the fifth consecutive year.
 - Delhi recorded the lowest TFR (1.2), while Bihar recorded the highest (2.1). The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) stood at **24 per 1,000 live births**.
 - The report also noted that India's working-age population has expanded to 66.4%.

Rural Economy

Enactment of VB–G RAM G Act, 2025 (Effective July 1, 2026): The **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin)** Act officially came into effect on **July 1, 2026**.

- **Core Concept:** Introduces a "**Single Plan – Multi Funding**" architecture centered on the **Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP)**.
- **Four Pillars:** Water Security, Core Rural Infrastructure, Rural Livelihoods, and Mitigation of Extreme Weather Events.

International Trade & Multilateral Commitments

- **WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS):** On **July 20, 2026**, India deposited its Instrument of Acceptance to become the **123rd WTO member** to join the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
 - *Exam Note:* The agreement prohibits subsidies for Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and overfished stocks, protecting marine biodiversity while safeguarding domestic artisanal fishing rights.
- **India–UK CETA Implementation:** The **India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** officially entered into force on **July 15, 2026**, **providing duty-free or concessional market access across textiles, pharmaceuticals, and IT services.**
- **EU–India Textile and Apparel Dialogue (TAD):** Organized alongside **Bharat Tex 2026** (held July 14–17 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi), the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) signed a pact with the European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX) to support trade alignment under the EU-India FTA.

Taxation, Fiscal Policy & Capital Markets

- **Windfall Tax Revision (SAED):** Effective **July 16, 2026**, the Ministry of Finance updated the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED):
 - **Diesel Export SAED:** Raised from ₹8.5/L to **₹15.5/litre.**
 - **ATF Export SAED:** Raised from ₹7.5/L to **₹14.5/litre.**
 - **Petrol Export SAED:** Reduced from ₹4/L to **₹2.5/litre.**
- **Fiscal Deficit Moderation:** Provisional Actuals released by the Ministry of Finance showed India's FY26 fiscal deficit moderating to **4.4% of GDP**, achieving its lowest level since FY 2018–19.

Green Economy & Industrial Decarbonization

- **Steel Sector Under Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS):** The Union Government mandated binding Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission-intensity targets for **255 major steel plants** starting FY 2026–27.

Banking, Tech & State Affairs

- **First Quantum Finance Hub:** Punjab National Bank (PNB) partnered with the Andhra Pradesh Government to establish India's first bank-led **PNB Quantum Finance Hub** at Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV).
- **NABARD Green Infrastructure MoU:** Signed with MAHAPREIT (Maharashtra) to jointly finance rural bioenergy, biogas, and solar cold storage initiatives.
- **UNNATI AI 2.0:** Launched by **Microsoft India** in partnership with IIT Delhi (FITT) to boost AI research and CSR innovation.

RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Outcomes

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee, chaired by Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**, concluded its bi-monthly review on **June 5, 2026**.

- **Repo Rate Status:** The MPC voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate **unchanged at 5.25%**.
- **Stance:** Maintained a **neutral policy stance** (the stance was shifted to neutral earlier this year following cumulative cuts of 1 percentage point since February 2025).
- **Revised Macro Projections for FY27:**
 - **GDP Growth Forecast:** Revised downward to **6.6%** (from the earlier projection of 6.9%) due to heightened global trade policy uncertainties and financial market volatility.
 - **CPI Inflation Forecast:** Revised upward to **5.1%** (from 4.6%) due to geopolitical risks (specifically West Asia conflicts impacting crude oil prices) and early monsoon volatility.

Core Data Comparison: NFHS-5 vs NFHS-6

Indicator Category	Specific Parameter	NFHS-5 (2019-21)	NFHS-6 (2023-24)	Exam Takeaway / Trend
Demography	Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	2.0	2.0	Remained stable; below the replacement level of 2.1 (Urban: 1.6, Rural: 2.1).
Maternal Health	Institutional Deliveries	88.6%	90.6%	Steady progress toward universal safe delivery coverage.
	Births by Skilled Personnel	89.4%	91.3%	Reflects better grassroots health infrastructure.
	First Trimester ANC Registration	70.0%	76.2%	Improvement in early tracking of pregnancy.
Child Health	Full Immunization (12-23 months)	83.8%	87.1%	Major boost due to digital systems like U-WIN.
	Rotavirus Vaccine Coverage	36.4%	85.4%	Universal Immunization Programme expansion.

Indicator Category	Specific Parameter	NFHS-5 (2019-21)	NFHS-6 (2023-24)	Exam Takeaway / Trend
Child Nutrition	Stunting (Low height-for-age)	35.5%	29.3%	Significant reduction in chronic long-term malnutrition.
	Severe Wasting (Too thin for height)	7.7%	5.2%	Sharp drop in acute, life-threatening malnutrition.
Women Empowerment	Internet Usage (Ever used)	33.3%	64.3%	Massive digital leap; almost doubled nationwide.
	Operational Bank Account Ownership	78.6%	89.0%	Surge in financial inclusion and autonomy.
	Personal Mobile Phone Ownership	53.9%	63.6%	Direct expansion of individual communication access.
Emerging Concerns	C-Section Deliveries	21.5%	27.2%	Well above the WHO's recommended limit of 10-15% (Private sector reached 54.1%).
	Obesity/Overweight (Women)	24.0%	30.7%	Significant spike; urban women hit a high of 42.8%.
	Obesity/Overweight (Men)	22.9%	27.3%	Clear indicators of an expanding lifestyle disease burden.

Science & Technology

Here are the critical updates from **January to June 2026** for your science and technology paper. The focus this month was heavily on **Space (ISRO)** and **Defense Technology (DRDO)**.

1. Space Technology (ISRO)

High Priority for all exams.

A. First Launch of 2026: PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 Mission

- **Launch Date:** January 12, 2026.
- **Launch Vehicle:** PSLV-C62 (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle).
- **Primary Payload: EOS-N1 (Anvesha).**
 - *Purpose:* A strategic Earth Observation Satellite (Spy Satellite) developed for the **DRDO**.
 - *Capability:* Hypersonic imaging to detect hidden assets/camouflage.
- **Co-Passengers (18 Satellites):**
 - **AayulSAT:** India's first "On-orbit Refuelling" demonstration satellite (by startup *OrbitAID Aerospace*).
 - **MOI-1:** AI-powered Earth imaging satellite.
 - **Kestrel (KID):** A reentry capsule demonstrator from Spain.

B. Gaganyaan Mission Update

- ISRO confirmed that the **first uncrewed mission (G1)** is in the final preparation stages for early 2026.
- **Vyommitra (Humanoid Robot):** Confirmed to fly on the G1 mission to simulate human functions and test life support systems.

C. NASA-ISRO: NISAR Mission

- **Update:** On **March 30, 2026**, NASA and ISRO released new radar imagery from the **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)** satellite.
- **Feature:** The imagery showcased its "cloud-penetrating" capability, allowing high-resolution Earth observation even through dense cloud cover (tested over regions like Seattle and Mount St. Helens).

D. NASA: Artemis II Countdown

- **Date:** March 30, 2026.
- **Event:** The official countdown began for the **Artemis II** launch (targeted for **April 1, 2026**).
- **Mission:** It will be the first crewed mission to orbit the Moon since Apollo.
- **Crew:** Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch (NASA), and Jeremy Hansen (CSA).

E. NavIC System Setback

- **Event:** On **March 13, 2026**, an **atomic clock** aboard the **IRNSS-1F** satellite (part of India's NavIC constellation) stopped functioning.
- **Impact:** While the satellite continues to provide messaging services, the failure highlights the urgent need for the **NVS-03** replacement satellite.

IT, AI & Digital India

A. India-AI Impact Summit 2026

- **News:** The Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) announced this major summit will be held in **New Delhi (Feb 16-20, 2026)**.
- **Significance:** It will be the first global AI summit hosted in the "Global South."

AI Standards Hub Global Summit, 2026

>Held in Glasgow, UK.

>It focused on creating international benchmarks for AI safety and governance.

Artificial Intelligence & Digital Infrastructure

- **Bhashini Integration:** The AI-based language translation platform, **Bhashini**, has now been integrated into **23+ government services**, allowing farmers to access PM-Kisan details via voice commands in 14+ languages.
- **CBDC Food Subsidy Pilot:** India launched its first **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** enabled food subsidy distribution in Puducherry. Subsidy is credited as programmable **₹ (Digital Rupee)** tokens.

Defence Technology (DRDO & Army)

A. Republic Day 2026 Showcase

- **LR-AShM:** DRDO displayed the **Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile**.
 - *Key Feature:* Capable of Mach 10+ speed; designed to destroy enemy ships from long distances.
- **Naval Tech Tableau:** Showcased the **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)** system based on Fuel Cells, which allows submarines to stay underwater for longer periods without surfacing.

Defence Exercises

- **Exercise Khajnar:** 13th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan joint military exercise held in **Misamari, Assam**.
- **Exercise Agni Varsha:** Conducted by the Indian Army in **Pokhran, Rajasthan**, to test operational readiness.
- **Exercise Vajra Prahar:** 16th edition of the India-USA Joint Special Forces exercise commenced in **Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh** (Feb 24).
- **Exercise Kalari Leap:** A major Indian Air Force (IAF) exercise conducted in the **Lakshadweep** islands.

Exam "One-Liners" (Rapid Revision)

1. What is the name of the DRDO spy satellite launched by ISRO on Jan 12, 2026? -> **EOS-N1 (Anvesha)**.
2. Which IIT signed an agreement with the Indian Army to offer M.Tech in Defence Tech? -> **IIT Ropar**.
3. What was the primary theme of the DRDO tableau on Republic Day 2026? -> **Naval Technologies (Submarines/AIP)**.
4. Name the humanoid robot scheduled to fly on the Gaganyaan G1 mission. -> **Vyommitra**.

National Science Day (February 28, 2026)

India celebrates National Science Day to commemorate the discovery of the **Raman Effect** by Sir C.V. Raman in 1928 (Nobel Prize in 1930).

- **Theme 2026:** *"Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat"*
- **Significance:** Emphasizes the role of inclusive scientific growth and youth-led innovation in making India a developed nation by 2047.

Defence Technology (DRDO)

- **VSHORADS Trials:** The DRDO successfully conducted three successive flight trials of the **Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha (Feb 27).
 - It is a Man-Portable Air Defence System (MANPADS) designed to neutralize low-altitude aerial threats.

Space Technology (ISRO)

- **TDS-01 Mission:** A Technology Demonstration Satellite (TDS-01) is set to test **High Thrust Electric Propulsion Systems** and **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** for secure communication.
- **Electric Propulsion:** This tech will allow satellites to be lighter by replacing chemical fuel with electric thrusters for orbit-raising.

Academic & Scientific Achievements

- **58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO 2026 - Tashkent, Uzbekistan):** The 4-member Indian national team achieved a **historic all-gold sweep**, securing 1st place globally in the overall medal tally.
- **37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2026 - Vilnius, Lithuania):** The Indian team secured **1 Gold and 3 Silver medals**.

Important Notes:

- **Vachana STT:** India's first foundational Indic speech recognition model released as part of the India AI Mission.
- **PRAHAR Strategy:** India's first National Anti-Terrorism Policy and Strategy launched on February 23, 2026. It is based on seven pillars (P-R-A-H-A-R).

1. Space Technology & Exploration

ISRO & International Collaboration

- **Space Medicine (ISRO-AIIMS MoU):** ISRO and AIIMS New Delhi signed a Framework MoU to collaborate on **Space Medicine and Research**. This is a critical step for the **Gaganyaan** mission to monitor astronaut health in microgravity.
- **IMEx-2026:** ISRO announced the **Indian Microgravity Experiments (IMEx-2026)**, inviting proposals for scientific experiments to be conducted on the orbital platform of the PSLV (POEM).
- **START-2026:** The **Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)** program was inaugurated to provide introductory-level training in space science to undergraduate and postgraduate students across India.

2. Defense & Strategic Technology

- **Advanced Armoured Platforms:** DRDO unveiled its newly developed **Advanced Armoured Platforms** (both tracked and wheeled) in Ahilyanagar.
 - **Feature:** Includes an indigenously designed **30mm crewless turret**.
 - **Significance:** Indigenous content currently stands at **65%**, targeting 90% soon.
- **Air Droppable Container (ADC-150):** Successful in-flight release trials were conducted by DRDO and the Indian Navy. It can deliver a **150 kg payload** to ships in distress at sea.

3. Semiconductors & Electronics

India's Chip Sovereignty

- **First 3D Chip Packaging Unit:** The foundation stone was laid in **Bhubaneswar (Odisha)**. This unit marks India's entry into advanced **high-end electronics manufacturing** beyond basic assembly.
- **Silicon Photonics Solutions:** MeitY launched two major indigenously developed solutions:
 1. **Process Design Kit (PDK)** for photonics chip manufacturing.
 2. **Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuit (PPIC) Test Bed.**
 - **Context:** Silicon Photonics uses light (photons) instead of electricity to transfer data, making it exponentially faster.

4. Health, Biotechnology & Environment

- **NSO 80th Round Health Survey:** Key findings released in April:
 - **Insurance Coverage:** Government-funded health insurance has **tripled** since 2017, covering ~45% of rural households.
 - **Epidemiological Shift:** Significant rise in Non-Communicable Diseases (**NCDs**) like diabetes and hypertension compared to infectious diseases.
- **Qdenga (TAK-003):** Major regulatory progress for India's first likely **Dengue Vaccine**, focusing on its efficacy in the Indian demographic.
- **Lithium-Ion Anode Plant:** India's first anode material production facility was commissioned at **Mahistikry, West Bengal**. This reduces dependency on China for critical EV battery components.
- **Rare Earth Recycling:** India's first integrated lithium-ion battery and **Rare Earth magnet recycling plant** was inaugurated in **Sikandrabad, Uttar Pradesh**.

5. AI & Digital Infrastructure

- **UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion:** Formally launched at SSPU, this is the **first in Asia** dedicated to gender inclusion and skill development in high-tech areas like robotics and AI.
- **Bhashini Initiative:** Conducted workshops for the **preservation of minority languages** (Gurmukhi and Pali) using AI-led digital models.

Exam-Focused Key Facts

Term	Domain	Key Detail
PACE Satellite	Space	NASA mission to study ocean health and atmosphere.
Memristor	Computing	Compact nanomaterial (Hafnium Oxide) that remembers electrical states.
SHANTI Act	Nuclear	Proposed legislation to allow private investment in nuclear power (100GW target).
Pragati & Vikas	Digital	Mascots for India's first Digital Census 2027 .

I. Defense & Strategic Affairs (May, 2026)

- **Agni-1 Missile Test:** India successfully tested the short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) **Agni-1** from the Integrated Test Range in Balasore, Odisha. It is a single-stage, solid-fuel missile capable of acting as a medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM) with lighter payloads.
- **"Smart Border" Project Expansion:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah undertook a multi-state tour (covering Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tripura, and West Bengal) to review and push the "Smart Border Project." This initiative heavily integrates modern tech—like drones, advanced radars, and electronic monitoring systems—along the India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders.

II. Science, Health (May, 2026)

- **Ensitrelvir Antiviral Drug:** Highlighted heavily in science journals this month, Ensitrelvir is a new oral antiviral drug that inhibits the SARS-CoV-2 main protease (the enzyme essential for viral replication). It represents a major advancement in post-exposure prophylaxis for COVID-19 and potential future betacoronaviruses.
- **Kopra Reservoir Conservation:** From an environmental science and mapping perspective, conservation efforts at Chhattisgarh's **Kopra Reservoir** made national news, making it a potential geography/environment map-based question.

NOTES:

In **May 2026**, the Indian Army officially inducted two advanced, indigenous digital platforms—**Kautilya** and **Q-FORCE**. These systems mark a massive leap forward in integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data into India's defense framework to prepare for next-generation, data-driven warfare.

Platform	Core Function	Technology Used	Primary Objective
Kautilya	Command Intelligence & Decision Support	AI, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Analytics Dashboards	Threat assessment, battlefield awareness, and real-time operational/administrative decisions.
Q-FORCE	Logistics & Supply Chain Management	Data Integration, Integrated Supply Software	Streamlining inventory tracking, transport planning, and troop sustainment across diverse terrains.

Part 1: Defence Current Affairs (June, 2026)

1. Netra AEW&C System Achieves Final Operational Clearance (FOC)

The Indian Air Force (IAF) officially received the Final Operational Clearance for the **indigenous Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system**, marking a massive leap for India's airborne surveillance capabilities.

- **Developer:** Completely designed and developed indigenously by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- **Key Capabilities:** Equipped with a 240-degree Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar. It is capable of detecting, tracking, and monitoring multiple aerial threats simultaneously.
- **Endurance:** Can remain airborne for 5 to 6 hours continuously, with range extendable via mid-air refueling.

2. Commissioning of Three Indigenous Naval Ships

The Indian Navy commissioned three frontline indigenous vessels simultaneously in Kolkata, built with **more than 75% indigenous content** under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

- **The Vessels:** **INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak, and INS Agray.**
- **Manufacturing:** Constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- **Exam Core Fact:** *INS Dunagiri* is the **fifth stealth frigate under Project 17A**, featuring advanced radar cross-section reduction properties and designed by the navy's in-house Warship Design Bureau (WDB).

3. Key Weapons & Systems in Brief

- **Indigenous T-12 Shotgun:** Formally inducted into the Indian Army. It is a highly reliable, gas-operated, semi-automatic 12-gauge weapon system meant for close-quarter tactical operations.
- **UAV Archer-NG:** DRDO completed successful flight testing of upgraded variants of the Archer-NG (Next Generation), India's indigenous Short Range Armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.
- **FenSense System:** Unveiled by A1 Fence, this intelligent perimeter and border security system integrates AI-driven sensors to detect physical breaches, reinforcing smart-border management.
- **US-India FMS Sustainment Package:** The US Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) approved a Foreign Military Sales package providing a \$230 million long-term sustainment setup **for India's M777A2 Ultra-Lightweight Howitzers and \$198.2 million for AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters.**

Part 2: Science & Technology Current Affairs (June, 2026)

1. 67th TOP500 Global Supercomputer Rankings

The biannual TOP500 Supercomputer list was released at the ISC High Performance 2026 conference in Hamburg, Germany.

Attribute	Global & National Rankings
Global Top Tier	1. Frontier (USA), 2. Aurora (USA)
India's Global Position	Ranked 16th globally in terms of absolute computing capability presence.
India's Elite Systems	India retains 7 supercomputers on the list, led by <i>PARAM Siddhi-AI, Pratyush, Mihir, Aditya, SahasraT, Arka, and Param Bramha</i> .

2. ISRO Space Exploration & Core Tech Highlights

- **Chandrayaan-3 "Hop" Discoveries:** ISRO scientists published analysis from the Vikram lander's physical hop experiment, uncovering high levels of **regolith heterogeneity** (varied composition of loose dust and rocks) at the lunar South Pole, providing vital data for building future moon bases.
- **Indigenous Microprocessors:** ISRO highlighted structural integration of **VIKRAM3201** (India's first fully indigenous 32-bit space-grade microprocessor) and **KALPANA32**, developed alongside the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) to phase out foreign chip reliance in high-reliability satellites.
- **BRICS Space Agency Meet:** Hosted in Bengaluru, the heads of space agencies finalized operational maps for the joint **BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation** to track global climate anomalies and shared environmental security metrics.

3. Digital Infrastructure, AI, and Drone Technology

- **C-DOT & IIT Hyderabad Partnership:** Signed an MoU to set up a specialized Center of Excellence (CoE) in Advanced Communication Technologies. Focus fields include 6G wireless architectures, quantum communications, and AI-driven cybersecurity.
- **BharathCloud:** Acting as India's sovereign AI cloud provider, it entered into a security mapping agreement with the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) to provide entirely localized, secure, and sovereign cloud infrastructure.

Mission Aagaman

On **July 18, 2026**, Hyderabad-based space startup **Skyroot Aerospace** made history by successfully executing **Mission Aagaman**, launching **Vikram-1**—India's first privately built **orbital** rocket—from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR) in Sriharikota.

With this maiden launch, **India became only the third country in the world** (after the US and China) to independently demonstrate private-sector orbital spaceflight capability.

Key Launch Specifications

Parameter	Details
Mission Name	Mission Aagaman (<i>Sanskrit for "Arrival"</i>)
Launch Date & Site	July 18, 2026 • First Launch Pad (FLP), SDSC Sriharikota
Rocket Class	Small-lift, 4-Stage Orbital Launch Vehicle
Height & Mass	~20–24 metres tall (~7 storeys) • Carbon-composite airframe
Target Orbit	~450 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO)
Payload Capacity	350–480 kg to LEO; 260–290 kg to 500 km Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO)

ISRO Conducts SOLVE Ground Test for Gaganyaan (July 3, 2026)

ISRO successfully executed the first ground test of the **Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments (SOLVE)** at Sriharikota.

- **Purpose:** Built to test and validate the **10-parachute recovery sequence** of the Gaganyaan Crew Module under real sub-orbital flight conditions (10–17 km altitude).
- **Technical Spec:** Powered by a modified PSLV strap-on solid motor featuring **Secondary Injection Thrust Vector Control (SITVC)** for trajectory stability.

Naval & Marine Technology

- **INS Malvan (ASW-SWC):** Underwent successful final sea trials in July 2026. Belongs to the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) class designed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) to replace the aging Abhay-class corvettes.

Semiconductors & Hardware Infrastructure

Event / Unit	Location	Key Context / Exam Relevance
CG Semi OSAT Facility	Sanand, Gujarat	Inaugurated on July 4, 2026 . Advanced Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) plant built under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) .
White Rabbit Technology	NPL, New Delhi	Adopted by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) for sub-nanosecond precise distribution of Indian Standard Time (IST) across critical telecom and banking grids.

Exercise Pitch Black 2026

- **Location:** Darwin, Australia.

Indian Deployment: Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed 4 Rafale fighter jets, 2 C-17 Globemasters, and over 120 air warriors

Maiden Test of 'Kusha' LRSAM

- **Developer:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Event:** Successful maiden flight test of the '**Kusha**' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- **Significance:** Designed to intercept high-altitude aerial threats, fighter aircraft, and UAVs, strengthening India's multi-layered air defence network.

Global Space & Emerging Aerospace Technologies

- **Eärendil-1 Orbital Mirror Satellite:**
 - **Developing Entity:** Reflect Orbital (USA).
 - **Objective:** Approved by the US FCC, **Eärendil-1** is a test satellite equipped with a large orbital mirror designed to reflect sunlight onto specific terrestrial solar farms during nighttime or low-sun hours to enable continuous renewable power generation.

August Highlights

Space Exploration (ISRO & International)

- **ISRO's Major Policy Shift:** On India's National Space Day (August 23, 2026), ISRO announced a structural pivot to cease the direct manufacturing of commercial launch vehicles. End-to-end rocket assembly will be transferred to domestic private industrial consortia, allowing ISRO to focus strictly on **deep-space missions and advanced research**.
- **NASA's SkyFall Helicopters:** NASA announced plans to deploy new "SkyFall" helicopters to Mars, expanding its aerial planetary exploration capabilities.
- **First French Woman Spacewalk:** Astronaut Sophie Adenot made international space history by becoming the first French woman to perform a spacewalk.

Artificial Intelligence & Robotics

- **Tiangong Ultra Robot:** In a massive robotics milestone, the Chinese humanoid robot "Tiangong Ultra" made headlines on August 25, 2026, for reportedly beating Usain Bolt's 100m sprint time record, showcasing a leap in bipedal robotics dynamics.
- **AI Generating Viruses (Stanford-Arc Experiment):** Researchers successfully used AI genome language models (Evo 1 and Evo 2) to design complete genomes of bacteriophages (viruses that infect bacteria). This marks a massive shift in "generative biology" with major implications for combating antimicrobial resistance.

Government Tech Initiatives & Energy

- **PM Surya Sarovar Yojana Approved:** The Union Cabinet approved this massive scheme with an outlay of ₹5,070 crore. It aims to deploy 5,000 MW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) projects integrated with battery storage across India's reservoirs and inland water bodies.
- **GENESIS EIR Cohort 3.0:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the 3rd cohort of this startup initiative in Coimbatore. It focuses on emerging tech like AI, Machine Learning, IoT, and semiconductors, offering selected innovators up to ₹10 lakh in financial assistance.

Health, Science & Agriculture

- **Black Hole Star Discovery:** Indian-origin scientist **Rohan Naidu** was recognized for his pivotal role in a groundbreaking astronomical discovery regarding a "Black Hole Star".
- **Agricultural Breakthrough:** India successfully launched its first Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid (**Krisna459 and Godari234**), a significant advancement in domestic agricultural biotechnology.

VIHAAN

VIHAAN is India's first indigenous broadband networking System-on-Chip (SoC). It represents a major milestone in the country's push for self-reliance in semiconductor design and telecommunications infrastructure.

Here are the key details about VIHAAN:

What is VIHAAN?

- **The Developers:** It was designed by **Aheesa Digital Innovations**, a fabless semiconductor startup based in Chennai.
- **Core Architecture:** The chip is built on the open-standard RISC-V architecture and is powered by the indigenous **VEGA processor**, which was developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- **Purpose:** It is specifically built for fibre broadband, designed to be used in routers, modems, and Optical Network Terminals (ONTs) for Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections. It handles routing, traffic inspection, firewall functions, and network security.

Major Milestones (2026)

- **First-Pass Silicon Success:** The chip design was "taped out" (finalized for manufacturing) on Republic Day (January 2026) and successfully cleared its "first-pass silicon test" on Independence Day (August 2026).
- **Why it is a big deal:** Getting a chip right on the very first attempt (first-pass success) is incredibly rare in semiconductor manufacturing. Usually, flaws are discovered after the first fabrication, requiring expensive redesigns.
- **Future Plans:** Aheesa has partnered with Zigma to distribute the chip. Full production is targeted for **2027**.

Government Support and Significance

The development of VIHAAN is heavily backed by the Indian government's **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme** under the broader India Semiconductor Mission.

Currently, India relies almost entirely on foreign hardware for networking chips. VIHAAN's success is seen as a massive step in securing India's telecom supply chain, reducing foreign dependency, and protecting digital infrastructure from potential external security vulnerabilities.

National Affairs

Here is the detailed update on **National Affairs** for your upcoming exams, covering Government Schemes, Summits, and NITI Aayog reports.

1. Government Schemes & Policies (New & Updated)

January 2026 saw a major policy shift towards "Employment Guarantee" and "Digital Public Infrastructure".

Scheme / Policy	Status / Type	Key Exam Fact
V.B.G.R.A.M. Act 2025	Proposed	The <i>Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission</i> is set to replace MGNREGA. Key Change: Increases guaranteed work days to 125 days (from 100).
Mission LiFE (Phase II)	Launch	Launched on Jan 26. Focuses on "Circular Economy" credits for industries reducing plastic waste.
Prithvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)	Implementation	The Ministry of Earth Sciences launched the new " Deep Ocean Mission " submersible tests under this scheme in Jan.

2. National Events & Summits (Jan 2026)

High probability questions on Themes and Venues.

A. National Youth Festival 2026

- **Date:** January 9–12, 2026.
- **Venue:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- **Theme:** "*Viksit Bharat Young Leaders: Empowering the Amrit Peedhi*".
- **Key Event:** PM Modi concluded the **Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue** on Jan 12 (National Youth Day), interacting with 3,000 selected youth leaders.

C. Startup India Innovation Week

- **Date:** January 10–18, 2026.
- **Organized by:** DPIIT (Ministry of Commerce).
- **Award:** **National Startup Awards 2026** presented. Karnataka won "Best Performer State".

D. Parakram Diwas (Jan 23)

- **Occasion:** 129th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- **Event:** PM inaugurated the "**Netaji Memorial Complex**" in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Port Blair) via video conferencing.

3. NITI Aayog Reports & Indices (Jan 2026)

NITI Aayog releases are critical for Civil Services and PCS exams.

Report / Index	Released By	Rank 1 / Key Finding
School Education Quality Index (SEQI) 2.0	NITI Aayog	Kerala (Large States) retained top spot.
National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI) Update	NITI Aayog	Fact: 25.8 Crore people moved out of poverty (2014-2025). India's MPI score dropped to 0.052 .
"AI for All" Strategy Paper	NITI Aayog	Proposed setting up 5 "AI Cities" in India to drive the \$1 Trillion Digital Economy goal.
India Innovation Index 2025	NITI Aayog	Karnataka (Major States) ranked 1st; Manipur (North East) ranked 1st.

Notes:

- Census 2027: The commencement of the first-ever Digital Census process began in April 2026 with the "Self-Enumeration" phase. **The mascots for the census are "Pragati" and "Vikas"**
- On **January 30, 2026**, the Supreme Court of India delivered a landmark judgment in the case of **Dr. Jaya Thakur v. Union of India**, officially declaring that the **Right to Menstrual Health is a Fundamental Right** under **Article 21** (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) of the Constitution.
- Former President **Ram Nath Kovind's** autobiography is titled "**Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles**" - Released By: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

Infrastructure & Connectivity

- **Meerut Metro & Namo Bharat:** PM Modi flagged off the **Meerut Metro** and the entire Delhi–Meerut **Namo Bharat (RRTS)** corridor on February 22, 2026.
- **High-Speed Rail Corridors:** The government sanctioned the development of seven new high-speed rail corridors, including **Varanasi to Siliguri** and **Hyderabad to Bengaluru**.

Summits & International Relations

- **India AI Impact Summit 2026:** Held in New Delhi.
 - **New Delhi Declaration:** Signed by 88 countries to "democratize" AI.
 - **'MANAV' Vision:** PM Modi unveiled this vision for ethical and accountable AI governance.
 - **Pax Silica:** India formally joined this US-led strategic initiative to secure semiconductor and tech supply chains.
- **PM Modi's Israel Visit (Feb 25):** PM Modi became the first Indian PM to address the Knesset and received the **'Speaker of the Knesset Medal'**.
- **India-Brazil Agreement:** India granted Brazil access to its **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)** to prevent biopiracy of indigenous knowledge.
- **India-USA Trade Deal:** A major deal was concluded with the US reducing tariffs on Indian goods from 25% to 18%.

11th Raisina Dialogue

- **Date:** Early March 2026.
- **Location:** New Delhi.
- **Chief Guest:** **Alexander Stubb**, the President of Finland.
- **Significance:** India's premier conference on geopolitics and geo-economics. The 2026 edition focused on the "Nordic-Bharat partnership" and AI ethics.

National Events & Summits

- **Bharat Steel 2026 (April 16–17):** The **inaugural edition** of this summit was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. It focused on "Green Steel" and securing raw material supply chains for India's 300 MTPA target.
- **Shared Services & GCC Week India (April 21–24):** **Held in Bangalore**, this was the premier gathering for **Global Capability Centers (GCCs)**, highlighting India's evolution as an AI-first innovation hub.

Central Government Schemes

1. Pride of Hills Scheme

- **Launch/Focus:** March 2026.
- **Objective:** Specifically designed for Hill States (e.g., Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Tripura Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand) to address structural challenges like difficult terrain and limited revenue bases.
- **Budget:** ₹3,880 crore allocated specifically to Nagaland for FY 2026–27.
- **Significance:** It falls under the broader **Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)**.

2. ADITI Scheme (Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX)

- **Focus:** Defence Technology.
- **Objective:** To indigenize critical defense technologies by supporting startups and MSMEs.

3. Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS)

- **Focus:** Green Energy & Transport.
- **Objective:** Supports the adoption of electric 2-wheelers and 3-wheelers.
- **Timeline:** Active through 2026 to create a robust EV manufacturing ecosystem.

4. PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

- **Focus:** Renewable Energy.
- **Update:** Massive push in March 2026 to increase residential rooftop solar installations.
- **Benefit:** Up to 300 units of free electricity per month for eligible households.

BHAVYA-Rasayan Scheme

- **Full Form:** Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan.
- **Approved Outlay:** ₹3,030 crore (FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31) by the Union Cabinet.
- **Objective:** Establishment of **3 dedicated chemical mega-parks** (minimum 2,000 acres / 8 sq km each) under a competitive *challenge route* for states to make India a global chemical manufacturing hub.
- **Financial Model:** Central grant of up to ₹1,000 crore per park, linked to a minimum state contribution of ₹500 crore.

Government Schemes & Policy Updates

Scheme	Key Objective
Bharat Taxi App	India's 1st cooperative-led ride-hailing platform (Sahakar Taxi). Launched by Piyush Goyal in Mumbai with zero commission for drivers.
SWM Rules 2026	New Solid Waste Management Rules replaced the 2016 version, mandating 4-way segregation at source to fuel the circular economy.
Ayushman Bharat	Coverage officially expanded to include all senior citizens aged 70+ , regardless of their income levels.
RoDTEP Scheme	Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products extended to provide fiscal stability to exporters through 2026.

- **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar:** The rural employment scheme (formerly MGNREGS) saw a major budgetary and structural shift in April to emphasize **Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)** integration.

NITI Aayog Reports & Indices

Fiscal Health Index 2026

Released to evaluate the financial sustainability of states.

- **Top Performer: Odisha** (ranked 1st among 18 major states for the second consecutive year).
- **Bottom Performer: Punjab** (ranked last due to high debt-to-GDP and low capital outlay).
- **Notable Mention: Chhattisgarh** saw the sharpest decline in its fiscal prudence score.

Summit / Event Name	Host City & Venue	Key Exam Facts & Core Themes
56th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting	Davos, Switzerland	Theme: <i>'A Spirit of Dialogue'</i> . Major discussions revolved around handling a potential "AI bubble," job reskilling for the automated workforce, and geopolitical fragmentation.
India–EU Summit 2026	New Delhi, India	Focused heavily on accelerating the pending Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), green hydrogen supply corridors, and Indo-Pacific maritime safety.
India AI Impact Summit 2026	New Delhi (Bharat Mandapam)	Organized by the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY). Centered on building a <i>Sovereign AI Ecosystem</i> for governance, healthcare, and agriculture.
Wings India 2026	Hyderabad (Begumpet Airport)	Asia's largest civil aviation exhibition. Theme: <i>'Indian Aviation: Paving the Future'</i> . Highlighted the next phase of the UDAN regional connectivity scheme and drone cargo integration.
Asia Economic Dialogue (AED) 2026	Pune, Maharashtra	Jointly hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Pune International Centre. Theme: <i>'Goeconomics Beyond Globalisation'</i> , highlighting supply chain resilience in the Global South.
World Government Summit 2026	Dubai, UAE	Theme: <i>'Shaping Future Governments'</i> . Global leaders reviewed the cross-border regulation of frontier technologies, data privacy, and urban sustainability models.
BioAsia Summit 2026	Hyderabad, Telangana	Hosted by the Government of Telangana. Theme: <i>'TechBio Unleashed'</i> , analyzing the convergence of artificial intelligence, deep learning, and advanced life sciences.
BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting	New Delhi, India	India officially holds the BRICS Chairship for 2026 (its 4th time, following 2012, 2016, and 2021). Theme: <i>'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'</i> . Discussions optimized trade mechanisms using local currencies across the expanded 11-member bloc.

National Affairs & Government Policies

- **SARTHAK-PDS Scheme:** The Union Cabinet approved the *Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in PDS (SARTHAK-PDS)*. This major initiative integrates two schemes to completely digitize and modernize the Public Distribution System's logistics and handling.
- **India's First Nagoya Protocol Report:** India released its first national report on the Nagoya Protocol (Access and Benefit-Sharing of genetic resources). **India proved its global dominance by issuing 60.24% of all biodiversity traceability certificates globally.**
- **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0:** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched this comprehensive performance index. It uses data-driven governance metrics aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to evaluate over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country.
- **PM-AJAY Digital Portal:** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the PM-AJAY portal and companion mobile app. It shifts the *Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana* (welfare for Scheduled Castes) from paper-based workflows to an end-to-end digital system with real-time tracking.
- **Water Budgeting Success:** The government reported that targeted water budgeting and community governance under the *Atal Bhujal Yojana* significantly improved groundwater levels, officially making 11,000 villages drought-free.
- On **May 27, 2026**, **Sikkim was officially declared a fully literate state, marking a massive milestone for the Himalayan state.** Under the **Ministry of Education's ULLAS framework**, a state is certified as "fully literate" when adult literacy levels (for citizens aged **15 years and above** who missed formal schooling) cross the **95% benchmark**.
- **SHANTI Initiative & UNSC Reform (UPSC):** India intensified its diplomatic **campaign for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council through the SHANTI Initiative**, advocating for structural reforms in global multilateral bodies
- **K. Radhakrishnan Committee Recommendations:** Tasked with reforming the National Testing Agency (NTA), the committee emphasized transitioning toward **Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT)** and improving operational integrity.
- **Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme :** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the *Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme*, the **SAMARTH Panchayat Portal**, and released the **Model Own Source of Revenue (OSR) Rules** to strengthen financial autonomy and digital governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- **Basel III AT-1 Bonds:** State Bank of India (SBI) announced plans to become the first Indian bank to issue **Basel III-compliant Additional Tier-I (AT-1) Perpetual Bonds** in 2026.
- **Indian Natural Gas Futures:** The National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched India's first exchange-traded energy derivative, named *Indian Natural Gas Futures*.
- **Toy Sector Task Force:** The Ministry of Commerce & Industry formed a specialized task force targeting a **5% global market share by 2032** for the Indian toy manufacturing ecosystem.

The Delimitation Bill, 2026

This is the most critical constitutional and administrative development of the year, carrying high weight for competitive exams (particularly UPSC GS Paper 2). The bill provides the operational roadmap for the next re-drawing of constituencies.

- **The Census Benchmark:** The bill authorizes using the **2011 Census** for the upcoming immediate round of delimitation.
- **Expansion of the Lok Sabha:** It proposes raising the maximum strength of the Lok Sabha from 550 to **850 members** (allocating up to 815 seats for States and 35 for Union Territories).
- **Altering House Ratios:** Because the Rajya Sabha cap remains at 250 members under Article 80, the relative seat ratio between the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will alter from 2.2:1 to **3.3:1**. This structurally changes voting math during joint sittings and Presidential elections.
- **Impact on the Executive:** Under Article 75, the Council of Ministers cannot exceed 15% of the Lok Sabha's total strength. Expanding the house means the maximum permissible size of the Union Cabinet expands from 81 to **122 ministers**.

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026

Key Provisions: 2024 Act vs. 2026 Amendment Bill

Parameter / Offence	Public Examinations Act, 2024	Amendment Bill, 2026
Individual Cheating / Unfair Means	3 to 5 years imprisonment; fine up to ₹10 lakh	5 to 10 years imprisonment; fine up to ₹50 lakh
Organised Cheating Syndicates	5 to 10 years imprisonment; fine min. ₹1 crore	7 to 10 years imprisonment; fine up to ₹10 crore
Fines on Service Providers (Agencies, tech platforms)	Fine up to ₹1 crore	Fine up to ₹5 crore
Debarment of Service Providers	Barred for 4 years	Barred for 8 years
Complicit Management / Directors	3 to 10 years imprisonment; fine ₹1 crore	5 to 10 years imprisonment; fine up to ₹5 crore

Investigation Deadline: Police or investigating authorities must complete the investigation and submit a chargesheet within **2 months (60 days)**

High-Powered Technology Task Force led by Nandan Nilekani

In late July 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the formation of a **High-Powered Technology Task Force** led by **Nandan Nilekani** (Infosys co-founder and architect of Aadhaar) to design a **leak-proof, technology-driven public examination system** in India.

Why Was the Task Force Formed?

- **Background:** The initiative comes in the wake of widespread paper leak allegations and irregularities surrounding major national entrance exams, including **NEET-UG 2026** and UGC-NET.
- **Institutional Revamp:** The primary goal is to overhaul the operations of the **National Testing Agency (NTA)** from both a governance and cybersecurity perspective.

Key Members of the Task Force

The panel brings together leading figures across technology, science, intelligence, and administration:

- **Nandan Nilekani (Head):** Architect of Aadhaar and key pioneer of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) & UPI.
- **S. Somanath:** Former Chairman, ISRO.
- **Tapan Deka:** Director, Intelligence Bureau (IB).
- **Prof. V. Kamakoti:** Director, IIT Madras.
- **Anita Karwal:** Former Union Education Secretary.
- **Amrit Lal Meena:** Senior Bureaucrat and Logistics Expert.

Technology Framework for "Leak-Proof" Exams

The task force is tasked with developing a end-to-end technological shield across the entire exam lifecycle:

1. **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) & Encrypted Transmission:**
 - Replacing physical paper supply chains with encrypted digital question paper storage and dynamic key-based unlocking right before the exam.
2. **Biometric & Multi-Factor Verification:**
 - AI-powered candidate authentication and multi-factor biometric checks to eliminate proxy candidates and impersonation at test centers.
3. **Computer Adaptive & Digital Testing:**
 - Transitioning paper-pencil tests to secure, computerized examination models utilizing advanced proctoring analytics.
4. **Legal & Penal Enforcement:**
 - Backing technological measures with fast-track anti-paper leak courts and strict legal

India's First Hydrogen Train

- **Launch:** Flagged off by PM Narendra Modi on **July 17, 2026**.
- **Route:** Covers **89 km** on the **Jind – Sonipat** section in Haryana (2-hour trip).
- **Capacity & Speed:** 10 coaches carrying ~2,600 passengers. Operates at **75 km/h** (design max: 110 km/h).
- **Technology:** Indigenously developed by **ICF Chennai**. Uses Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cells (2,400 kW total power).
- **Zero Emissions:** Emits **only water vapour and heat**. Supported by a **3,000 kg** refuelling station at Jind.
- **Big Picture:** Part of the *Hydrogen for Heritage* scheme (35 trains planned) to support Indian Railways' **Net-Zero 2030** target.

UN Climate Chief Visits India (July 21–22, 2026)

- **Dignitary:** **Simon Stiell**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- **Key Statements & Findings:**
 - Lauded India as a "**Solar Superpower**", noting that non-fossil fuel sources now account for **50% of India's installed power capacity**—achieved five years ahead of its 2030 target.
 - Highlighted that renewable energy deployment saved India **\$18 billion** in fossil fuel imports in the previous year.
- **Electrification Agenda:** Stressed the goal of sourcing at least **35% of total global energy from electricity by 2035**, emphasizing grid stability and battery energy storage systems (BESS).

16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting

- **Host & Location:** Conducted in **Chandigarh, India**, under India's **2026 BRICS Chairmanship**.
- **Key Deliverables:**
 - Adopted the **BRICS Good Practices (GxP) White Paper** and **Digital Health Architecture Compendium**.
 - Launched the **BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle (2026–2029)**.
 - Established the **BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence (CoE) on Mental Wellness**.

India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site

The **Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath** in Uttar Pradesh was officially inscribed as **India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

This decision was announced at the **48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee** held in Busan, South Korea. Sarnath had previously been on UNESCO's Tentative List for 28 years (since 1998).

Key Highlights & Historical Significance

- **Religious Importance:** Located 10 km from Varanasi, Sarnath is one of the four sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites (*Chaturmahasthanas*). It is the place where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon—an event known as **Dhammachakkappavattana** (Setting the Wheel of Dharma in Motion)—to his first five disciples.
- **4th Site in Uttar Pradesh:** Sarnath joins UP's existing UNESCO World Heritage Sites: **Taj Mahal** (1983), **Agra Fort** (1983), and **Fatehpur Sikri** (1986).

High-Yield Points for Competitive Exams

- **Current Tally:** India now ranks 6th globally and 2nd in the Asia-Pacific region **with 45 World Heritage Sites**.
- **Session & Venue:** 48th UNESCO World Heritage Committee Session, Busan, South Korea.
- **Ancient Names of Sarnath:** *Rishipatana*, *Mrigadava* (Deer Park).
- **Archaeological Discovery:** First scientific excavations were led by Sir Alexander Cunningham (first DG of ASI) in 1834–1836

The NITI Aayog Report on Education-Employment Gap

Officially titled "*Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047*", was released in August 2026.

Based on data from the 78th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS) conducted in 2021

Core Findings & Key Statistics

- **The "NEET" Crisis:** An estimated **8.7 crore (87 million)** Indian youth (aged 15 to 29) are classified as **NEET**—*Not in Education, Employment, or Training*. This constitutes roughly 11% of that age group.
- **The Education-Employment Gap:** Only **8.25%** of graduates are employed in roles that actually align with their formal qualifications.
- **Educated Unemployment:** The unemployment rate among graduates is **13%** overall, and a staggering **20.4%** for graduate women. This is drastically higher than the national average unemployment rate of 3.2%.
- **Generic Degrees:** Out of 3.4 crore undergraduate students, over 2 crore are enrolled in generic degrees (BA, B.Com, B.Sc) that seldom translate into direct industry employment.

Mission Samriddh Gaon

Fast Facts for Objective Exams

Feature	Details
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
Launched By	Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Launch Date & Venue	August 25, 2026, at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Pilot Locations	Budni block (Sehore district) & Khategaon block (Dewas district) in Madhya Pradesh
Core Philosophy	<i>"Prosperous villages, strong foundation of a developed India"</i>

Primary Objective

The mission aims to create a comprehensive and integrated model to build **self-reliant, poverty-free, and employment-rich villages**. By providing assured basic amenities and multiple streams of income directly within the village ecosystem, the government intends to entirely eliminate the need for "distress rural-to-urban migration".

Key Pillars & Implementation Strategy

- **The "Convergence" Model:** Instead of treating poverty alleviation, agriculture, employment, health, and infrastructure as separate, isolated goals, the mission converges all central and state welfare programs into a single, integrated development project for the village.
- **Family-Level Targeting:** The scheme adopts a granular approach. An integrated development framework is prepared at the individual family level. Households are evaluated and linked to relevant government schemes based on their specific needs and eligibility criteria.
- **Diversification of Rural Income:** To protect small and marginal farmers from weather and price shocks, the mission pushes for:
 - Moving beyond traditional grain production into integrated and diversified farming.
 - Setting up local warehouses, food processing units, and manufacturing-based activities to promote value addition.
- **Special Focus on Women:** A major element of the scheme is identifying women farmers and rural women to provide them with better access to agricultural inputs, knowledge, and expanded livelihood options.

National GOBARdhan Unified Scheme

Fast Facts for Objective Exams

Feature	Details
Full Form	Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan
Cabinet Approval Date	August 6, 2026
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)
Budget Outlay	₹23,731 Crore
Implementation Timeline	10 Years (FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36)

Primary Objective

The scheme aims to transform India's abundant agricultural residue, cattle dung, municipal organic waste, and other biomass into **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** and organic manure. The ultimate goal is to increase domestic CBG production **nearly ten-fold** and create a vibrant circular bioeconomy.

The "Six Growth Engines" (Components)

The unified scheme is built on six foundational pillars designed to scale the CBG sector nationwide:

1. **Assured CBG Offtake:** Guarantees that the biogas produced will have buyers.
2. **Stable CBG Pricing Framework:** Introduces a stable, government-backed price of **₹2,110 per MMBTU** (Metric Million British Thermal Unit) to provide revenue visibility to producers. *(Highly likely to be asked in banking/economy exams).*
3. **Capital Assistance:** Provides financial support for setting up CBG plants.
4. **Pipeline Infrastructure Development:** Supports both cluster-based and standalone pipeline infrastructure to connect CBG plants with City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks.
5. **Credit Guarantee Support:** Facilitates easier access to finance for developers, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs.
6. **CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund:** A dedicated fund to accelerate district-level implementation, technology adoption, and feedstock mapping.

Key Legislation of Monsoon Session 2026

Legislative Bill (Aug 2026)	Subject Area	Key Exam-Oriented Facts & Provisions
Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026	Polity & Judiciary	Increases the maximum number of SC judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India) from 33 to 37. Amends the limit originally set under the 1956 Act.
Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026	Polity & Law	Brings the National Song ("Vande Mataram") under legal protection. Imposes up to 3 years imprisonment and/or a fine for intentionally preventing its singing or causing disruption.
Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026	Governance	Establishes Special Fast Track Courts and Task Forces for paper leak cases. Mandates that investigations conclude in 2 months and day-to-day trials conclude within 3 months.
Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026	Public Administration	A 1 to 2-year registration delay requires an order from a District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, or Executive Magistrate. Delays over 2 years strictly require an order from a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class.
Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026	Constitution	Alters the First Schedule of the Constitution to officially change the state's name to 'Keralam'.
Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026	Economy	Exempts Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and the Bank for International Settlements from income tax on government securities. Raises the surcharge for domestic companies opting for concessional rates.

Legislative Bill (Aug 2026)	Subject Area	Key Exam-Oriented Facts & Provisions
MSME Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026	Economy	Empowers the Central Government to notify new thresholds for classifying enterprises based on investment and turnover. Sets dispute resolution timelines and decriminalizes specific offenses.
Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026	Geography & Economy	Prohibits state governments from imposing their own levies on mineral rights and mineral-bearing lands unless expressly prescribed by the Centre.
National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026	Agriculture	Allows the NCDC to fund industrial goods in rural areas. Expands the statutory definition of "foodstuffs" to include eggs, milk, meat, and vegetables.
Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026	Banking & Finance	Repeals and replaces the colonial-era Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 to modernize the legal status of digital banking records.
Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2026	Economy & Polity	Passed under Article 114 to authorize additional, excess expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India for the financial year 2022-23.
Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026	Judiciary	Focuses on rationalizing and amending the administrative framework and terms of service governing various appellate tribunals.

International summits

Host Cities for Major International Events (2026)

Event	2026 Host City (Country)
G20 Summit	Miami, USA
G7 Summit	Évian-les-Bains, France
BRICS Summit	New Delhi, India*
APEC Summit	Shenzhen, China
NATO Summit	Ankara, Turkey
COP Climate Summit	Antalya, Turkey (COP31)
SCO Summit	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
ASEAN Summit	Lapu-Lapu City / Manila, Philippines*
CHOGM	St John's, Antigua and Barbuda
Quad Leaders' Summit	New Delhi, India

Key Notes:

- **Quad Summit:** The Quad Leaders' Summit originally planned for India in late 2025 has been rescheduled to **early 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- UN convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 2025 host City- **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**.
- **COP31 (2026)** location is **Antalya, Türkiye** in November 2026.
- **ASEAN 2026:** While the Philippines will host the summit, specific meetings are expected to be distributed across cities like **Lapu-Lapu City** (Cebu) and **Manila**.
- **BRICS 2026:** India will assume the presidency, with **New Delhi** being the anticipated venue for the main leaders' summit.

G20 Summit 2025

Host Country: **South Africa** (First-ever G20 summit to be hosted on the African continent).

- **Presidency Period:** December 1, 2024 – November 30, 2025.
- **Host City: Johannesburg** (Leaders' Summit venue: Johannesburg Expo Centre).
- **Summit Dates: November 22–23, 2025.**
- **Theme: "Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability".**
- **Chair: Cyril Ramaphosa** (President of South Africa).

Key Agenda & Focus Areas

- **Africa Focus:** The presidency aims to place Africa's development and the "Global South" priorities at the center of the global agenda (aligning with the AU's Agenda 2063).
- **Priorities:**
 1. Inclusive economic growth and reducing inequality.
 2. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and innovation for sustainable development.

(Johannesburg Declaration)

- **Mission 300:** A major initiative to provide electricity to **300 million people** in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030.
- **Critical Minerals Framework:** Established to secure transparent supply chains for minerals like lithium and cobalt, emphasizing local processing in developing nations.
- **Ubuntu Approaches:** A new food security pact to support smallholder farmers and reduce food waste.

One-Liner Revision

- African Union became a **permanent member of G20 in 2023.**
- G20 2025 was the **first summit hosted in Africa.**
- **IMF & World Bank** were established under the **Bretton Woods system.**
- WHO is a **specialized agency of the UN** for global health.
- BRICS aims to reduce dependence on **Western-dominated financial systems.**

United Nations (UN) Updates

A. UN Security Council (UNSC)

- **New Non-Permanent Members:**

5 countries started their 2-year term on **Jan 1, 2026** (Term: 2026–2027).

1. Bahrain 2. Colombia 3. Latvia (Debut member)

4. Liberia 5. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

B. UN "International Years" of 2026

- **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists** (Lead Agency: FAO).
- **International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development** (Lead Agency: UNV).

Major Groups (G20 & BRICS)

Most important section for this month.

Organization	2026 Presidency	Key Update / Theme
BRICS	INDIA IN	India assumed the Presidency from Brazil on Jan 1, 2026. Theme: "Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability." Note: India will host the 18th BRICS Summit later this year.
G20	USA US	USA assumed the presidency from South Africa. Focus: Economic prosperity and secure energy supply chains. Summit Venue: Expected to be in Miami later in 2026.
G7	France FR	France holds the G7 Presidency for 2026.

- **79th World Health Assembly (WHA79):** The World Health Organization (WHO) concluded its 79th assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, under the theme "**Reshaping global health: a shared responsibility.**"
- **Cyprus President's Visit to India:** Nikos Christodoulides, President of Cyprus, undertook a 4-day official visit to India. The two nations signed six key Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) covering defense, education, and counter-terrorism. They also agreed on a 5-Year Roadmap for Defense Cooperation (2026-2031) and celebrated "India-Cyprus Space Day" on May 18.

52nd G7 Summit (June 2026)

The latest leaders' summit took place under the **French G7 Presidency** in mid-June.

- **Host Country & Venue:** Évian-les-Bains (Haute-Savoie), France—located on the scenic French shore of Lake Geneva.
- **Dates:** June 15 – 17, 2026.
- **Chairperson:** Emmanuel Macron (President of France).
- **Core Pillars of the 2026 French Agenda:**
 1. **Macroeconomic Imbalances:** Addressing currency, fiscal volatility, and international supply security.
 2. **Rethinking the Global Development Framework:** Revamping international finance and expanding concessional aid tools for vulnerable nations.

Key Outcomes & Joint Declarations (High-Yield for MCQs)

- **Critical Minerals Accord:** A binding joint declaration to protect and secure global supply chains for critical minerals, reducing geopolitical leverage from non-market economies.
- **The Evian Anti-Smuggling Pact:** Joint policy announcements to systematically dismantle international migrant smuggling rings and target synthetic drug trafficking channels.
- **Digital Child Safety Initiative:** A coordinated leaders' call to construct a structurally safer digital ecosystem specifically protecting minors from emerging web threats.
- **Global Health Response Coordination:** Direct frameworks managing the humanitarian response to the **Bundibugyo Ebola strain** out of Africa and enhancing open data networks for global cancer research.

IN India's Presence at Evian 2026

- **Status:** India was formally invited as a **special partner country** in the strategic "Sherpa track".
- **Representation:** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attended the working sessions, emphasizing the global South's voice in structural financial transformations, investment corridors, and sustainable digital equity.
- **Other Invited Outreach Nations:** Brazil, Egypt, Kenya, South Korea, Qatar, Ukraine, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Iran- Israel Conflict

Major Military Operations

- **Operation Roaring Lion (2026):** A joint large-scale military operation launched by the **IDF (Israel Defense Forces)** and **U.S. Armed Forces** in February/March 2026.
- Operation True Promise (Iran)
- Operation Epic Fury (U.S. & Israel)

Major Defence System

Side	System	Type / Purpose
Israel	Iron Dome	Short-range rocket/mortar interceptor.
	David's Sling	Medium-to-long range missile defense.
	Arrow-2 & Arrow-3	Exo-atmospheric (space) interceptors for ballistic missiles.
USA	Patriot (PAC-3)	Advanced surface-to-air defense for tactical ballistic missiles.
	THAAD	Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (intercepts missiles in their final phase).
Islamic Republic of Iran	Fattah (Hypersonic)	Iran's high-speed maneuverable missile designed to bypass shields.
	Shahed Drones	Low-cost, "suicide" drones used to saturate and overwhelm defenses.
	Sejjil & Khorramshahr	Long-range, solid-fuel ballistic missiles capable of reaching Israel.

Places in the News

Geography is a favorite for UPSC/SSC "Mapping" questions. Here are the key hotspots:

- **Ras Tanura (Saudi Arabia):** A major global oil hub. It gained headlines in March 2026 following a drone strike linked to Iranian retaliation, highlighting the conflict's spillover into energy security.
- **Kharg Island (Iran):** Iran's primary oil export terminal. It has been a target of threats (specifically by the U.S.) to cripple Iran's economy.
- **Strait of Hormuz:** The world's most sensitive oil chokepoint. Tensions here directly impact global oil prices and Indian energy imports.
- **Haifa (Israel):** A major Israeli port city and industrial hub (including oil refineries) that has been a frequent target of Iranian and Hezbollah missile strikes.
- **Litani River (Lebanon):** The strategic boundary in southern Lebanon where Israel has indicated it may establish a "security zone" to prevent anti-tank missile attacks.
- **Isfahan & Shiraz (Iran):** Locations of major Iranian military and missile manufacturing facilities targeted during Operation Roaring Lion.

Islamabad Memorandum (Islamabad Accord/Talks) of 2026

The **Islamabad Memorandum** is a dynamic, interim "framework agreement" designed to freeze the war and set up long-term peace talks. Its core clauses include:

- Grants a **60-day formal extension** of the ceasefire specifically to negotiate a permanent, comprehensive peace treaty.
- Reopening of the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz to **toll-free commercial shipping** for a minimum of 60 days to stabilize global oil flows.
- Immediate temporary **waivers on Iran's oil exports**, allowing Tehran to resume selling crude on the global market to recover lost revenue streams.

High-Yield Defence Exercises (Jan – Aug 2026)

Exercise & Edition	Participating Nations & Branch	Location / Venue	Key Exam-Relevant Highlights
Dharma Guardian 2026 <i>(7th Edition)</i>	India & Japan (Army)	Foreign Training Node, Chaubattia, Uttarakhand	- Indian Army contingent was drawn from the Ladakh Scouts. - Focused on tactical-level counter-terror operations, urban intervention drills, and heliborne missions.
MILAN 2026 <i>(13th Edition)</i>	Multilateral (75 Nations) (Navy)	Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam	Theme: "Camaraderie, Cohesion, and Collaboration". - Integrated MiG-29K fighters operating from the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. - Naval assets from Germany, the Philippines, and the UAE made their debut.
KAKADU 2026 <i>(17th Edition)</i>	Multilateral (19 Nations) (Navy)	Darwin & Western Pacific, Australia	- Hosted biennially by the Royal Australian Navy. - India was represented by INS Nilgiri (F33), the lead ship of the indigenous Project 17A stealth frigates.
DUSTLIK 2026 <i>(7th Edition)</i>	India & Uzbekistan (Army & Air Force)	Gurumsaray Field Training Area, Namangan, Uzbekistan	- Annual rotational exercise. - The Indian contingent comprised 60 personnel, primarily from the MAHAR Regiment and the IAF. - Focused on joint operations in semi-mountainous terrain.

Exercise & Edition	Participating Nations & Branch	Location / Venue	Key Exam-Relevant Highlights
CINBAX-II 2026 <i>(2nd Edition)</i>	India & Cambodia (Army)	Camp Basil, Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia	- Upgraded from a table-top exercise (2024) to a full company-level live Field Training Exercise (FTX). - Indian Army represented by the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment. - Conducted under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate.
PRAGATI 2026 <i>(Inaugural Edition)</i>	Multilateral (India + 12 Regional Nations) (Army)	Umroi Military Station, Meghalaya	PRAGATI stands for <i>Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region</i>. - Participants included Bhutan, Cambodia, Maldives, Nepal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. - Showcased indigenous equipment under <i>Atmanirbhar Bharat</i>.
KHAAN QUEST 2026 <i>(23rd Edition)</i>	Multilateral (Hosted by Mongolia) (Army)	Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	- Peace support and peacekeeping operations drill under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. - Indian Army represented by a 40-personnel battalion from the JAT Regiment.

Joint Military & Air Exercises

- **Exercise MAITREE-XV (2026):** The 15th edition of this joint military exercise between the **Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army** took place from August 18 to 31, 2026, in Surat Thani, Thailand. The Indian contingent was primarily represented by the 9 Gorkha Rifles.
- **Exercise Pitch Black & Udara Shakti:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully concluded its participation in two major international exercises: **Pitch Black 2026 (hosted by Australia)** and **Udara Shakti 2026 (hosted by Malaysia)**. Indian Rafale fighters were extensively deployed in these high-threat, multi-domain exercises.

Defence Technology & DRDO Milestones

- **High-Altitude Parachute Test:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the indigenous **Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS)** at a 22,000-feet altitude drop zone in Nyoma, Ladakh. The system was designed by the ADRDE (Agra) and DEBEL (Bangalore) for special forces.

Inductions, Procurement & Infrastructure

- **Delivery of 'Mangrol':** On August 21, 2026, the Indian Navy received *Mangrol*, the third **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**. It was built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and features over 80% indigenous content.

Independence Day Gallantry Awards 2026

President Droupadi Murmu approved **78 gallantry awards** (including 13 posthumous) for Armed Forces and CAPF personnel on August 15, 2026.

- **Kirti Chakra (India's 2nd highest peacetime gallantry award):** Awarded to nine personnel. The three Indian Army awardees (all from 21 and 2 Para Special Forces) are:
 - Lt Col Maneo Francis PF
 - Major Jitendra Rathee
 - Havildar Gajendra Singh (Posthumous)

Global Summits & International Organisations (July, 2026)

1. 36th NATO Summit (Ankara, Türkiye)

- **Dates & Host:** Held on **July 7–8, 2026**, in Ankara, Türkiye (Presidential Complex). This is the second time Türkiye has hosted a NATO summit since 2004.
- **Core Agenda:** Focus on enforcing long-term defence spending targets, ramping up industrial ammunition production, and strengthening security along the Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean regions.

2. FATF Vice-Presidency (Historic Milestone for India)

- **Appointee:** **Vivek Aggarwal** (Culture Secretary) assumed office as the **Vice-President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** for the term July 2026 – June 2027.
- **Exam Relevance:** Marks the **first time an Indian official holds a top leadership position.**

Bilateral Agreements & High-Level Diplomacy

1. US–Saudi Arabia Civil Nuclear Cooperation (123 Agreement)

- **Pact:** Signed under **Section 123 of the US Atomic Energy Act of 1954.**
- **Significance:** Establishes a formal legal baseline for the US to transfer civilian nuclear technology, reactors, and technical expertise to Saudi Arabia for peaceful energy generation.

2. PM Modi's Historic Visit to New Zealand

- **Historical Context:** First visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in **four decades.**
- **Cultural Welcome:** Honoured with a traditional **Māori Pōwhiri** ceremony featuring the **Haka** dance.
- **Key Bilateral Outcomes:**
 - Upgraded relations to a **Strategic Partnership.**
 - Agreed to double bilateral trade to **NZ\$7 billion** by 2030.
 - **Indo-Pacific Collaboration:** New Zealand formally adopted the *Maritime Security Pillar* of India's **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)** to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
 - Launched a **Kiwifruit Action Plan**, establishing two Centres of Excellence in **Nagaland and Uttarakhand.**

Geopolitics & International Treaties

- **Mecca Joint Defence Agreement (The "Mecca Pact"):** Signed on August 7, 2026, this is a historic trilateral collective defence agreement between **Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan**. Modeled similarly to NATO's Article 5, it stipulates that an armed attack on one member state is considered an attack on all three. Saudi Arabia will primarily provide defence financing, Turkey will supply deep-tech defence equipment, and Pakistan will provide military manpower.
- **Colombia State of Emergency:** The Colombian government declared a national State of Emergency following a devastating 7.4–7.5 magnitude earthquake that struck the Chocó department on August 10, 2026.

Major Global Summits

Global Summit on Blue Food Security 2026:

- **Hosted by the Government of Israel in Eilat.**
- **Theme:** *"Sea the Future"*.

Global Appointments & UN News

- **UN Human Rights Chief Reappointed:** The United Nations General Assembly reappointed **Volker Türk** (Austria) as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for a second four-year term.
- **Wasting Crisis in Afghanistan:** A new UN report highlighted a severe malnutrition crisis, stating that over 3.7 million children in Afghanistan are suffering from wasting, with nearly one million battling life-threatening severe acute malnutrition.

18th BRICS Summit 2026

Feature	Details
Event Name	18th BRICS Summit
Host Country	India (4th Chairship: previously 2012, 2016, 2021)
Summit Dates	September 12–13, 2026
Main Venue	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
Official Theme	<i>"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"</i>

Key BRICS Ministerial Meetings (2026)

The preparatory ministerial meetings are highly tested in SSC, UPSC, and Banking exams. Here are the most prominent ones held recently under India's chairship:

Ministerial Meeting	Host Date & Location
BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting	May 14–15, 2026 (New Delhi)
11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting	June 25–26, 2026 (Gurugram, Haryana)
12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting	August 18, 2026 New Delhi, Delhi
13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting	August 6, 2026 Bhubaneswar, Odisha
BRICS ICT Track & Communications Ministers' Meet	August 20, 2026 Pune, Maharashtra
1st BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' (FMCBG) Meeting	August 12, 2026 Mumbai
BRICS Tourism Ministers' Meeting	August 21, 2026 Jaipur, Rajasthan

The August 2026 Nepal Flash Floods: Key Context

- **The Event:** On August 26, 2026, a catastrophic flash flood and mudslide struck the Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts of Nepal.
- **Border Impact:** The flood completely destroyed the Gyirong Port complex on the Nepal–China (Tibet) border, halting a primary land trade and transit corridor.

Scientific & Geological Causes

- **Glacial Collapse (Not a Tectonic Earthquake):** The disaster was initially recorded by the USGS as a 4.4 to 5.2-magnitude earthquake. However, seismologists later confirmed the vibrations were caused by a massive **glacial collapse and ice-rock avalanche** near the Langtang Lirung glacier, not tectonic plate movement.
- **The "Cascading Hazard" Mechanism:**
 1. A massive chunk of ice and rock broke off and plummeted into the Lhende Khola river valley.
 2. The avalanche debris choked the narrow canyon, forming a temporary, unstable natural dam (Landslide Dam).
 3. Within minutes, the backed-up water breached this loose debris dam, sending a hyper-concentrated wave of mud, water, and boulders (a sediment slug) downstream at speeds up to 180 km/h.

Geography: River Systems & Impact on India

- **The Rivers Involved:** The debris flow tore through the transboundary **Bhote Koshi** and **Trishuli** river systems.
- **The Indian Connection (Gandak River):** The Bhote Koshi and Trishuli rivers merge downstream to form the **Narayani River**. The Narayani enters India as the **Gandak River**, flowing directly into northern Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Key Terminologies for Prelims & Mains

- **Cryosphere:** The parts of Earth's surface where water is in solid form, including sea ice, lake ice, snow cover, glaciers, and permafrost.
- **GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood):** A sudden release of water from a glacier-fed lake when its moraine (glacial debris) or ice dam fails. *(Note: The August 2026 event was primarily an ice-rock avalanche/collapse rather than a traditional GLOF, but both are critical high-altitude hazards).*
- **Supraglacial Lake:** A meltwater pool that forms on the surface of a retreating or melting glacier.
- **Run-of-the-River Project:** Hydroelectric systems that harvest the energy from flowing water to generate electricity without the need for a large reservoir or dam, making them highly vulnerable to sudden debris flows.

World Rankings / Indices 2026 – India Ranking

Index Name	Published By	India's Rank	Top Rank
Global Innovation Index (GII)	WIPO	38th	Switzerland
Henley Passport Index	Henley & Partners	81th	Singapore
World Happiness Report	SDSN	116th	Finland
Global Peace Index	IEP	127th	Iceland
World Press Freedom Index	Reporters Without Borders	157st	Norway
Global Gender Gap Index	World Economic Forum (WEF)	131st	Iceland
Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), 2026	Germanwatch	23th	Denmark (Ranks 1-3 vacant)
Global Hunger Index (GHI)	Concern Worldwide	102nd	Belarus (Low hunger group)
Global Firepower Index	Global Firepower	4th	United States
Corruption Perceptions Index	Transparency International	91rd	Denmark
Human Development Index (HDI)	UNDP	130th	Iceland
Global AI Vibrancy Ranking	Stanford	3rd	United States
Network Readiness Index	The Portulans Institute	45th	

➤ India ranks 13th in the Global Terrorism Index, 2026.

SIPRI Arms Transfers Report 2026 (Released March 9)

- **Largest Exporters:** 1. **USA** (42% share), 2. France, 3. Russia. (Russian exports fell by 64%).
- **Largest Importers:** 1. **Ukraine** (9.7% of total), **2. India**, 3. Saudi Arabia.
- **Key Trend:** Arms imports by European states more than tripled (+210%) due to the conflict in Ukraine.

World Air Quality Report 2025 (Released March 24, 2026)

- **Most Polluted Countries:** 1. Pakistan, 2. Bangladesh, 3. Tajikistan.
- **India's Rank:** **6th most polluted** country in the world.
- **Most Polluted Capital:** **New Delhi** (retained its status for the 4th consecutive year).
- **Most Polluted City in India:** **Loni** (Uttar Pradesh).

V-Dem Democracy Report 2026 (Released March 17)

- **Key Finding:** 74% of the world population now lives in autocracies.
- **US Status:** The report noted "unprecedented" democratic backsliding in the **United States**, reclassifying it as an "electoral democracy" rather than a "liberal democracy."

IMF World Economic Outlook (April 2026)

- **Global GDP Ranking:** India is currently the **6th largest economy** in the world (Nominal GDP).
 - **India's GDP:** ~\$4.15 trillion.
 - **Top 5:** USA, China, Germany, Japan, UK.
- **Growth Rate:** India remains the **world's fastest-growing major economy** with a projected growth rate of **6.48%** for 2026.
- **GDP Per Capita:** India's per capita income is estimated at **\$2,813** (Ranked significantly lower than total GDP due to population size).

Network Readiness Index (NRI):

India has moved up to 45th place. The report explicitly highlights that India ranks **1st globally** in specific key parameters: *Annual investment in telecommunication services, AI scientific publications, ICT services exports, and E-commerce legislation.*

Major Indices Released in July 2026

1. Henley Passport Index (July 2026 / 20th Anniversary Edition)

- **Publisher:** Henley & Partners (based on official IATA data)
- **Release Date:** July 21, 2026
- **India's Rank: 81st** (Access to **55 destinations** visa-free / visa-on-arrival)
- **Top Rank:** Singapore (1st — 192 destinations)
- **2nd Rank:** UAE, Japan, South Korea (188 destinations)
- **Bottom Rank:** Afghanistan (101st)

2. Global Passport Index 2026 (Global Citizen Solutions)

- **India's Rank: 125th out of 197 countries** (Slipped 1 spot from 124th). (*Azerbaijan ranks 126th, right behind India*).
- **Criteria (Multi-dimensional):**
 - Mobility (50%): Visa-free/VOA access to 26 destinations.
 - Investment (25%): Economic openness & tax conditions.
 - Quality of Life (25%): Safety, healthcare, and cost of living.

3. EIU Global Liveability Index 2026

- **Publisher:** Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- **Release Date:** July 10, 2026
- **Parameters Assessed (5 Categories):** Stability, Healthcare, Culture & Environment, Education, and Infrastructure.
- **Top Ranked City: Copenhagen (Denmark)**, followed by Vienna (Austria) and Melbourne (Australia).
- **Indian Cities' Performance:**
 - **New Delhi: 120th**
 - **Mumbai: 121st**
 - **Chennai: 123rd**
 - **Bengaluru: 127th**

3. UN Sustainable Development Report 2026 (SDG Index)

- **Publisher:** UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- **Release Date:** July 2, 2026
- **India's Rank:** 94th out of 167 countries (Score: 68.3 / 100)
- **Exam Significance:** Represents India's highest-ever position on the SDG Index since adoption in 2015.

4. UNCTAD World Investment Report 2026

- **Publisher:** UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- **Release Date:** July 7, 2026
- **Key Global Findings:** Global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rose by 6% to \$1.6 trillion.
- **Theme:** Highlights cross-border investments into renewable energy, high-tech manufacturing, and global AI technology supply chains.

5. World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update (July 2026)

- **Publisher:** International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- **Release Date:** July 2026
- **Global Growth Forecast:** Projected at 3.0% for 2026.
- **Key Driver:** High-tech manufacturing, semiconductor supply chains, and renewable energy investments.

Summary Table for Quick Revision

Index / Report	Publisher	Top Rank / Global Status	India's Rank / Status
Henley Passport Index	Henley & Partners (IATA)	Singapore (1st)	81st (55 destinations)
SDG Index (SDR 2026)	UN SDSN	High European representation	94th (Score: 68.3)
World Investment Report	UNCTAD	Global FDI: \$1.6 Trillion (+6%)	Highlighted in tech & supply chain inflows

Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026

Report Overview & Framework

- **Publishing Bodies:** Compiled biennially by researchers at **Yale University** and **Columbia University**.
- **Scope:** Assesses **177 countries** across **47 performance indicators** grouped into 12 issue categories.
- **Core Pillars & Weights:**
 - **Ecosystem Vitality** (45% weight)
 - **Climate Change Mitigation** (30% weight)
 - **Environmental Health** (25% weight)

Global Leaderboard

Category	Country	Score	Highlights
Rank 1 (Top)	Estonia	74.79	Reached the top spot due to massive GHG reductions in electricity production and strong biodiversity protection.
Rank 176	India	22.46	Ranked 2nd from the bottom globally and last in South Asia.
Rank 177 (Lowest)	Laos	21.78	Finished last globally.

India's Performance Snapshot

- **Overall Rank: 176th / 177**
- **Regional Rank: 8th / 8** in South Asia (behind Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Maldives, and Bangladesh).
- **Pillar Breakdown:**
 - **Climate Change Mitigation:** 130th
 - **Ecosystem Vitality:** 171st
 - **Environmental Health:** 174th
- **Major Drag Factors:** Persistent urban air pollution (PM2.5), high coal dependency, and loss of tree cover in critical biodiversity areas.
- **Silver Lining:** India recorded a **+7.47** score in its 10-year trajectory metric, indicating gradual long-term structural improvement in specific emission trends despite low current overall standing.

Master Table: India's Global Rankings

Index / Report	Publishing Agency	India's Rank	Top Ranked Nation	Key Exam Highlight / Note
UN SDG Index 2026	UN SDSN	94th / 167	Finland	Highest-ever ranking for India (Score: 68.3/100).
Henley Passport Index (July 2026)	Henley & Partners (IATA)	81st	Singapore	Provides visa-free/visa-on-arrival access to 55 destinations.
Global Peace Index 2026	Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)	127th / 163	Iceland	Iceland remains the most peaceful nation.
World Press Freedom Index 2026	Reporters Without Borders (RSF)	157th / 180	Norway	Categorized under the "very serious" situation group.
World Happiness Report 2026	UN SDSN	116th / 136	Finland	Finland retained the top position for the 9th straight year.
Global Firepower Index 2026	Global Firepower (GFP)	4th	United States	Evaluates conventional war-making capability across land, air, & sea.
Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025	WIPO	38th / 139	Switzerland	Ranks 1st among Central & Southern Asian economies.
Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025	Transparency International	91st / 182	Denmark	Evaluates perceived public sector corruption levels.

Index / Report	Publishing Agency	India's Rank	Top Ranked Nation	Key Exam Highlight / Note
Human Development Index (HDR 2025)	UNDP	130th / 193	Iceland	Classified in the "Medium Human Development" category.
Global Gender Gap Index 2025	World Economic Forum (WEF)	131st / 148	Iceland	Measures parity across Economic, Education, Health, and Political pillars.
Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2025	Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe	102nd / 123	Belarus / Chile	Categorized in the "Serious" hunger score band (Score: 25.8).
Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI 2026)	Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute, CAN	23rd	Denmark (<i>4th spot</i>)	First 3 positions remained vacant; India slipped into the "Medium" band.
Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026	World Economic Forum (WEF)	70th	Denmark	Measures energy system performance and future transition readiness.
Logistics Performance Index 2025	World Bank	38th	Singapore	Evaluates trade logistics, customs efficiency, and infrastructure quality.
Global Liveability Index 2026	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)	120st (Delhi)	Copenhagen	Ranks 173 cities on stability, healthcare, culture, & infrastructure.

Categorized High-Yield Revision Tables

1. Economy, Innovation & Technology

Index	Publisher	India's Rank	Top Rank
Global Innovation Index (GII)	WIPO	38th	Switzerland
Logistics Performance Index	World Bank	38th	Singapore
International IP Index	US Chamber of Commerce	42nd	United States
Global Cyber Security Index	ITU	10th	United States
Remittance Inflows	World Bank	1st Globally	India

Key takeaway for Mains/SSC: India leads the world in **ICT Service Exports** (1st) and remains the **#1** recipient of global remittances (\$120B+ annual).

2. Environment, Energy & Sustainability

Index	Publisher	India's Rank / Status	Top Rank
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index	UN SDSN	94th	Finland
Energy Transition Index (ETI)	World Economic Forum	70th	Denmark
Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)	Germanwatch	23rd	Denmark (4th)
World Air Quality Report	IQAir	3rd Most Polluted	Chad (Most polluted)

3. Governance, Peace & Human Rights

Index	Publisher	India's Rank	Top Rank
Rule of Law Index	World Justice Project	86th	Denmark
Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)	Transparency International	91st	Denmark
Global Peace Index (GPI)	IEP	127th	Iceland
World Press Freedom Index	Reporters Without Borders	157th	Norway
Global Terrorism Index	IEP	13th Most Impacted	Burkina Faso

4. Human Capital, Health & Social Indicators

Index	Publisher	India's Rank	Top Rank
Global Hunger Index (GHI)	Concern Worldwide & WHH	102nd	Belarus
World Happiness Report	UN SDSN	116th	Finland
Human Development Index (HDI)	UNDP	130th	Iceland
Global Gender Gap Report	WEF	131st	Iceland

5. Defence & Strategic Operations

Report / Index	Publisher	India's Rank	Key Detail
Global Firepower Index	GFP	4th	USA (1st), Russia (2nd), China (3rd), India (4th).
Arms Imports Report	SIPRI	2nd Largest Importer	India accounts for ~9.8% of global arms imports.

State Affairs

Major State Schemes & Governance

- **Gujarat (Tech First):** Became the first state to establish a **National AI Research Institution (IAIRO)** at **GIFT City** (Operational from Jan 1, 2026).
- **Andhra Pradesh (Irrigation):** Proposed the "**Purvodaya**" Irrigation Plan (₹3,900 Cr) to revive projects in Vizianagaram.
- **Bihar (Environment):** The **Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary** received approval to be notified as the state's **2nd Tiger Reserve** (after Valmiki TR).
- **Tripura (Awards):** On Statehood Day (Jan 21), the state conferred the "**Tripura Bibhushan**" award (posthumous) to educationist **Dhirendra Chandra Dutta**.

Project / Scheme	Key Details
Vande Bharat Sleeper Train	The first Howrah-Guwahati Vande Bharat Sleeper train was flagged off on Jan 19, 2026.
Gangasagar Mela 2026	Held from Jan 9–17 at Sagar Island. The WB Govt reiterated its demand for " National Fair " status.

State	Scheme (June 2026)	Target	Core Administrative Fact
West Bengal	Annapurna Bhandar Scheme	Resident Women (25–60 Years)	Replaces <i>Lakshmir Bhandar</i> ; raises monthly support to ₹3,000 .
Punjab	VB-GRAM G Scheme	Rural Workforce	Replaces MGNREGA framework in the state to localize employment metrics.
Tamil Nadu	Anti-Discrimination ID Rollout	Class X & XII Students	Smart student identity cards mandated to strictly omit caste categories .
Tamil Nadu	Tamil Pudhalvan / Pudhumai Penn	Govt School Alumni	₹1,000/month allowance to sustain higher education enrollment.

Local Festivals

Match the festival with the State.

Festival	State	Occasion/Theme
Magh Bihu / Bhogali Bihu	Assam	Harvest Festival (Buffalo fighting is a traditional element).
Me-Dam-Me-Phi	Assam	Ancestor worship of the Ahom community (Jan 31).
Spitik Gustor	Ladakh	Masked dance festival at Spituk Monastery (Jan 19).
Kenduli Mela	West Bengal	Baul music festival in Birbhum (Makar Sankranti).
Tusu Puja	West Bengal/Jharkhand	Harvest festival worshipping Goddess Tusu (Rural Bengal).
Jallikattu	Tamil Nadu	Bull-taming sport held during Pongal (Madurai/Alanganallur).
Modhera Dance Festival	Gujarat	Classical dance at the Sun Temple (Jan 19).
Surajkund International Crafts Mela	Faridabad, Haryana	It is one of the world's largest crafts fairs.
Bastar Pandum Tribal Festival	Chattishgarh	Inaugurated by Droupadi Murmu
SARHUL (Worship of Sal tree)	Jharkhand	Tribal new year, Arrival of Spring.

Local Festivals & Cultural Events (April 2026)

April is the month of **New Years** across various Indian regions. For your exams, remember the specific names associated with each state:

Date	Festival Name	State / Region	Significance
April 1	Utkal Dibasa	Odisha	Commemorates the formation of Odisha as a separate province in 1936.
April 14	Baisakhi	Punjab	Harvest festival and the foundation day of the Khalsa Panth.
April 14	Vishu	Kerala	Malayalam New Year; famous for the <i>Vishukkani</i> (auspicious sight).
April 14	Puthandu	Tamil Nadu	Tamil New Year.
April 15	Pohela Boishakh	West Bengal	Bengali New Year; start of the financial year for traders (<i>Haal Khata</i>).
April 15	Bohag Bihu	Assam	Also known as Rongali Bihu; marks the Assamese New Year.

Special Cultural Events

- **Srinagar Tulip Festival:** Celebrated in the first two weeks of April at the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden (Asia's largest).
- **Thrissur Pooram (Kerala):** Observed in late April 2026; known as the "Festival of Festivals," featuring a grand assembly of caparisoned elephants and percussion music (*Panchavadyam*).
- **Ambubachi Mela (Guwahati, Assam):** This festival is deeply rooted in the *Tantric* traditions of Eastern India.
- **Hemis Festival (Leh, Ladakh) :** The Hemis Festival offers key insights into Himalayan Mahayana Buddhism and the monastic order of the region.
- **Saga Dawa (Sikkim):** Often dubbed the "Month of Merits," the entire fourth month of the Tibetan calendar requires practitioners to focus on charity and virtue.

Major State Schemes & Projects (2026)

Project / Scheme	State	Primary Objective	Key One-Liners for Exams
Project GANGA	Uttar Pradesh	Digital Connectivity	Aims to provide high-speed internet to 20 lakh rural homes ; signed MoU with One OTT Entertainment (March 2026).
Green Budget 2026	Delhi	Eco-Sustainability	Delhi presented its first "Green Budget" on March 24, 2026, allocating 21% of the total budget specifically for environmental protection.
Green Energy State	Himachal Pradesh	Renewable Energy	Himachal Pradesh officially aims to become India's first Green Energy State by late 2026 ; emphasizes Green Hydrogen and Solar targets.
Nijut Moina Asoni	Assam	Girl Education	Provides ₹1,000 to ₹2,500 monthly to 5.5 lakh girl students to prevent dropouts and child marriage.
Anbu Karangal	Tamil Nadu	Child Welfare	Launched in March 2026 to provide ₹2,000 monthly to children who lost their parents, ensuring education until age 18.
Free UG Education	Kerala	Higher Education	Kerala became the first state in India to offer completely free education up to the undergraduate level (Arts & Science) in 2026.
Annapurna Yojana (Annapurna Bhandar Scheme)	West Bengal	Women empowerment	It provides a flat ₹3,000 per month in financial assistance to eligible women, deposited directly into their Aadhaar-linked bank accounts via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)
Model Village Mission & Mahapurusha Adarsha Grama Yojana (MAGY)	Odisha	Rural development	Designed to bring urban-level infrastructure and amenities to rural areas

Project HANUMAN

>The name is an acronym for **Healing And Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid & Nursing of Wildlife**. By Govt. of **Andhra Pradesh**.

>To mitigate the rising **human-wildlife conflict** in forest-fringe villages, particularly involving elephants and leopards

Key State Schemes & Milestones

- **Bihar: Declared "Naxal-Free"**: On February 25, 2026, Bihar was officially declared a **Naxal-free state** following the surrender of top Maoist commanders and the absence of active armed squads.
- **Keralam (Kerala)**: The Union Cabinet approved the renaming of the state to **"Keralam"**.
 - Kerala became the first state to declare **"Tidal Flooding"** as a state-specific disaster to provide relief under the Disaster Management Act.
 - Kerala become first state to formulate an Urban Policy.
- **Jharkhand**: Launched the **"Fire Warrior"** drive to combat increasing forest fires and the **"Vanjeevi Didi"** initiative at Palamu Tiger Reserve to involve local women in conservation.
- **Uttar Pradesh**: The state secured investment commitments worth **₹1 Lakh Crore** during a high-level visit to Singapore and signed MoUs worth **₹11,000 Crore** with Japanese firms.

State	New Scheme Name	Key Objective & Benefit
West Bengal	Banglar Yubo Sathi	Monthly allowance of ₹1,500 for unemployed youth (Aged 21–40).
West Bengal	Nodi Bandhan	A new project for interconnecting rivers and wetlands to manage floods.
Bihar	Karpoori Thakur Kisan Samman Nidhi	Provides farmers an additional ₹3,000/year (on top of PM-KISAN).
Bihar	Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana	Up to ₹2 lakh financial assistance for women to start enterprises.
Kerela	Sthree Suraksha Scheme	Unemployed women & trans-women (Aged 35–60)
Madhya Pradesh	DWARAKA Scheme	A ₹5,000 crore investment plan for urban infrastructure development.
Himachal Pradesh	Padhai with AI	AI based digital learning.
Delhi	Lakhpati Bitya Yojna	Financial assistance to Girls from EWS family.

Major State Projects & Infrastructure

- **Industrial Corridors:** The Union Budget 2026-27 announced the development of the **East Coast Industrial Corridor** with a primary node at **Durgapur (West Bengal)**.
- **Integrated Manufacturing Clusters (IMC):** Several new nodes were highlighted under the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC), including:
 - **Raghunathpur** (West Bengal)
 - **Gaya** (Bihar)
 - **Bokaro** (Jharkhand)
 - **Prayagraj & Agra** (Uttar Pradesh)
- **India's First LIGO Observatory:** Significant progress reported on the **LIGO-India** project in **Hingoli, Maharashtra**, which will be the third such observatory in the world.
- **India's First State Innovation Mission (SIM):** Launched in **Tripura** by the Atal Innovation Mission (NITI Aayog) to build a region-specific innovation ecosystem.

State	Scheme Name	Objective
Hill states	Pride of Hills	Infrastructure & special development assistance.
Andhra Pradesh	YSR Jala Kala	Free borewells for farmers (extended/updated for 2026).
Assam	Orunodoi 3.0	Enhanced financial assistance for underprivileged women.
Bihar	Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan	Direct benefit transfer for girl child education and health.

Notes:

- **Keralam:** The Union Cabinet approved the proposal to rename the state of Kerala to 'Keralam'.
- **International Mother Language Day (Feb 21):** Observed with major events in **West Bengal** and Bangladesh to celebrate the Bangla language.

Major State Projects & Inaugurations

April 2026 saw the completion of two of India's most ambitious expressway projects, both inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

Project	State(s)	Details
Ganga Expressway	Uttar Pradesh	Inaugurated on April 29, 2026 in Hardoi. A 594-km long greenfield expressway connecting Meerut to Prayagraj. It is the longest expressway in UP.
Delhi-Dehradun Expressway	Delhi, UP, Uttarakhand	Inaugurated on April 14, 2026 . The 213-km corridor reduces travel time from 6 hours to 2.5 hours . Features a 12-km elevated wildlife corridor (Asia's longest).
Namo Bharat Rail	UP / NCR	Expansion of the Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor with new segments becoming operational in April, linking major industrial hubs in Western UP.
3D Chip Packaging Unit	Odisha	Foundation stone laid in Bhubaneswar ; India's first facility dedicated to high-end semiconductor packaging.

State Schemes & Policies

Other Key States

- Uttar Pradesh (Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana):** The grant amount was officially hiked in the April budget cycle to further support the education and health of girl children.
- Tamil Nadu (Thoovanam Scheme):** A new state-led initiative for climate-resilient agriculture focusing on traditional rice varieties.

Central Tracking Data: The PAIMANA Insights

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released its updated project monitoring insights via the **PAIMANA Portal** (Flash Report updated in late June 2026).

The Macro Picture: As of mid-2026, the PAIMANA platform is tracking **1,981 ongoing mega-infrastructure projects** across 17 Central Ministries, carrying a staggering cumulative revised cost of **₹42.78 lakh crore**.

Shabdlok

Shabdlok (popularly known as the **Museum of Word** or *Museum of Words*) is India's first immersive language museum.

Fact Sheet for Exams

- **Official Name:** Shabdlok — Museum of Word
- **Location:** Belvedere House, National Library Campus, Kolkata, West Bengal
- **Nodal Ministry:** Union Ministry of Culture
- **Key Visual Anchor:** *Word Pole* — an illuminated installation depicting the 22 scheduled languages of India.

Polity, Governance

- **e-Zero FIR System (SSC/UPSC):** Gujarat launched the *e-Zero FIR System* via the **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) / Helpline 1930**. It allows victims of financial cyber fraud to register complaints instantly without visiting a police station, enabling faster account freezing.
- **Mizoram Achieves Insurgency-Free Status:** Mizoram marked the end of a decades-long insurgency cycle following a final negotiated peace settlement and the formal surrender of cadres from the Hmar People's Convention (Democratic).
- **Maharashtra AI Policy 2026:** The Maharashtra state cabinet approved a comprehensive Artificial Intelligence policy targeting ₹10,000 crore in investments. The initiative aims to create 1.5 lakh jobs and establish dedicated AI cities and GPU infrastructure.
- **Assam Introduces UCC Bill:** The Assam state government officially introduced the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026, taking a major step toward standardizing personal laws within the state.
- **Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana:** Launched by Himachal Pradesh to provide direct financial assistance to fishermen during the seasonal fishing ban period.
- **PPI Replacing WPI as GDP Deflator (UPSC Core Economy):** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced a strategic shift to phase out the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** and adopt the **Output Producer Price Index (PPI)** as the primary GDP deflator to reduce growth estimation distortions.
- **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY):** Maharashtra became the first state in India to qualify for the second installment of RKVY funds by hitting the government's fund utilization benchmark.

Geographical Indication (GI) tag is a sign or name used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, characteristics, or a reputation that are essentially due to that place of origin.

The Core Essentials

- **Purpose:** It acts as a certificate of authenticity. It ensures that only authorized users (or those residing in the geographic territory) are allowed to use the popular product name.
- **Protection:** It prevents unauthorized use, copying, or misleading imitation of a unique local product by third parties.
- **Validity:** Once granted, a GI tag is typically valid for a period of **10 years** (though it can be renewed indefinitely).

Important New GI Tags (2026)

As of June 2026, **Uttar Pradesh** and **Tamil Nadu** are in a close race for the most GI tags in India (both holding 70+). New registrations in early 2026 include:

- **Woraiyur Cotton Saree** (Tamil Nadu) - *Textile*
- **Mathura Zari Dress** (Uttar Pradesh) - *Handicraft*
- **Kavindapadi Nattu Sakkarai** (Tamil Nadu) - *Foodstuff (Organic Jaggery)*
- **Ponduru Khadi** (Andhra Pradesh) - *Textile (Fine hand-spun Khadi)*
- **Thooyamalli Rice** (Tamil Nadu) - *Agriculture (Pest-resistant traditional rice)*

Product Name	State	Type	Key Fact
Ponduru Khadi	Andhra Pradesh	Textile	Received GI Tag on Jan 16, 2026. Known as the "Fabric of Freedom" (favored by Mahatma Gandhi).
Wancho Wooden Craft	Arunachal Pradesh	Handicraft	Recently certified.
Tangsa Textile	Arunachal Pradesh	Textile	Recently certified.

State	Product Name	Product Category	Key Exam Facts & Unique Features
Assam	Bihu Pepa	Handicraft (Musical Instrument)	A traditional wind instrument crafted meticulously from buffalo horn. It is a core symbol of Assamese heritage and an inseparable part of Bihu festivities.
Assam	Bah Silpa	Handicraft	Traditional Assamese bamboo craft. It highlights centuries-old tribal skills where bamboo creations are deeply integrated into daily rural utility and rituals.
Assam	Karbi Anglong Handloom	Textile / Handicraft	Showcases the unique traditional weaving patterns, colors, and textile heritage native to the Karbi tribal community.
Assam	Deori Handloom Products	Textile / Handicraft	Recognizes the distinctive handloom motifs and indigenous dress styles woven by the Deori tribe of Assam.
Tripura	Tripura Sarinda	Handicraft (Musical Instrument)	An ancient, indigenous bowed string instrument handcrafted from a single block of wood with a hollow resonator. It is central to tribal folk music and marks the state's latest cultural heritage tag.
Madhya Pradesh	Indori Malwi Potato	Agriculture	Cultivated over 45,000 hectares in Indore. It features exceptionally low sugar and starch content, meaning it does not turn dark when fried—making it highly prized for industrial chips and fries.
Madhya Pradesh	Garadu Tuber (Ratlam)	Agriculture	A specialized, starchy winter root tuber native to the Ratlam district. It is traditionally deep-fried and heavily utilized in local MP street cuisine.

State	Product Name	Product Category	Key Exam Facts & Unique Features
Madhya Pradesh	Balam Kakdi <i>(Ratlam Cucumber)</i>	Agriculture	Cultivated in the Sailana area of Ratlam. This unique cucumber variety is celebrated for its unusually large size, high moisture/hydration profile, and crispness.
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpuri Matar <i>(Peas)</i>	Agriculture	Awarded in late June 2026. This marks a historic nationwide milestone as Jabalpur becomes the first region in India to secure a specific GI tag for green peas.
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur Singhada <i>(Water Chestnut)</i>	Agriculture	Granted alongside Jabalpur Matar. Legally safeguards local cultivators by ensuring third-party traders cannot counterfeit or mislabel regular water chestnuts under the prestigious 'Jabalpur' brand.

Jharkhand

In mid-June 2026, Jharkhand was granted GI tags for 11 traditional products. This recognition, supported by NABARD, aims to protect the state's indigenous heritage and boost its rural economy.

- **Key Products:** **Dokra Craft, Kuchai Silk**, Tussar Silk and Sarees, Munda Jewellery, Jharkhand Bamboo Craft, Bhoya Saree and Fabric, Kesaria Kalakand, Tumka Chadar, Baroni Paintings, Jadopatia Painting, and Pancho Saree and Fabric.

West Bengal

In June 2026, West Bengal successfully secured GI tags for 23 additional traditional products, bringing the state's total significantly higher.

- **Key Products:** Jalbhora sandesh (from Chandernagore), monohara (from Janai), Santiniketan batik, **Santiniketan ektara (from Birbhum)**, mecha sandesh (from Beliatare, Bankura), Banglar nolen gur, **kanakchur popped rice**, clay doll of Krishnanagar, and sitalpati of Cooch Behar, among others.

Environment & Ecology

New Additions (Ramsar Sites & Tiger Reserves)

These are potential "Direct Questions" in upcoming exams.

Name of Site	Location	Key Fact / News
Glaw Lake	Arunachal Pradesh	India's 101st Ramsar Site: On August 3, 2026, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced Glaw Lake as India's 101st Ramsar Site.
Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal)	Ballia, Uttar Pradesh	100th Ramsar site of India. With this historic "century," India now hosts the highest number of Ramsar Sites in Asia and ranks third globally (trailing only the United Kingdom with 176 and Mexico with 144)
Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh (Aligarh)	99th Site. A freshwater wetland on the Central Asian Flyway ; supports over 200 bird species including the Bar-headed goose.
Patna Bird Sanctuary	Etah, Uttar Pradesh	<i>Note:</i> Do not confuse with Patna, Bihar. Declared on Jan 31, 2026 .
Chhari-Dhand	Kutch, Gujarat	Famous for Flamingos and migratory birds.

National Parks & Sanctuaries in News (2026)

- **Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu):**
 - **News:** The **All-India Tiger Estimation 2026 (Census)** officially kicked off here on **Jan 6, 2026**.
 - *Why important:* This is the start of the quadrennial (once in 4 years) tiger census.
- **Kuno National Park (Madhya Pradesh):**
 - **News:** Continues to be in focus for the **Cheetah Reintroduction Project**, with new cubs reportedly sighted in late Jan (unconfirmed but widely discussed).

Key Species & Conservation Updates

- **Asian Waterbird Census 2026:**
 - **Update:** Kollam (Kerala) recorded a **60% jump** in waterbird count, signaling improved wetland health in the south.
- **Bio-Bitumen (Green Tech):**
 - **News:** CSIR announced that India has become the **1st country** to commercially produce **Bio-Bitumen from farm residue** (parali/stubble), aimed at reducing air pollution from crop burning.
- **Vulture Conservation:**
 - **News:** The Tamil Nadu Forest Department launched a synchronized **Vulture Census** in the Moyar Valley (Nilgiris Biosphere) in Jan 2026.

Total Protected Areas & State Rankings (July, 2026)

Protected Area Category	Total Count (India)	State/UT with Maximum Count
Ramsar Sites (Wetlands)	101	Tamil Nadu (20 Sites)
Tiger Reserves	58	Madhya Pradesh (9 Reserves)
National Parks	107	Madhya Pradesh (11 Parks)
Wildlife Sanctuaries	573	A&N Islands (97) (Among States: Maharashtra , 50)
Elephant Reserves	33	Assam & Tamil Nadu (5 each)
Biosphere Reserves	18	(Distributed; MP has 3)
Blue Flag Beaches	18	Maharashtra (5)

Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation

Project Cheetah: Third Batch & Successful Breeding

- **New Arrivals (Feb 28, 2026):** A third batch of **8–9 cheetahs from Botswana** arrived at **Kuno National Park (KNP), Madhya Pradesh**. This brings the total number of cheetahs in India to **48**.
- **Successful Breeding:** February saw a "baby boom" at Kuno.
 - **Aasha** (Namibian cheetah) gave birth to **5 cubs** (Feb 7).
 - **Gamini** (South African cheetah) gave birth to **3 cubs** (Feb 18).
 - Total Indian-born surviving cubs reached **27** this month, proving the success of the reintroduction program.

State of India's Environment 2026 (SOE 2026)

Released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on Feb 25.

- **Planetary Boundaries:** The report warns that **7 out of 9 planetary boundaries** (including Climate Change and Biodiversity) have now been transgressed.

The Breaching of Planetary Boundaries

The central theme of the 2026 report is the crossing of **Planetary Boundaries**—the safe limits within which humanity can continue to develop. Out of the nine identified boundaries, **seven have now been breached** (up from six in 2024):

1. **Climate Change:** The report warns that the world is on the verge of exceeding the 1.5 °C warming limit permanently.
2. **Biosphere Integrity:** Extinction rates are now **10 times higher** than the safe limit.
3. **Land-System Change:** Global forest cover has fallen to 59%, well below the 75% safe threshold.
4. **Freshwater Change:** Intense stress on both surface and groundwater reserves.
5. **Biogeochemical Flows:** Massive disruptions in nitrogen and phosphorus cycles due to industrial farming.
6. **Novel Entities:** Proliferation of microplastics, synthetic chemicals, and nuclear waste.
7. **Ocean Acidification (New):** Surface ocean acidity has increased by **30–40%** since the industrial era, threatening marine life and coral reefs.

Invasive Species: The invasive plant **Lantana camara** now occupies **50% of India's forest and scrublands**. It suppresses native grasses, driving away natural prey like Chital and Sambar.

➤ **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2026:** Held in New Delhi.

- **Act4Earth Manifesto:** Released to accelerate global climate action.
- **Him-CONNECT:** A new platform launched to link Himalayan researchers with startups and investors.

Climate Change & Policy (Budget 2026 Highlights)

- **Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS):** The Union Budget 2026-27 allocated **₹20,000 crore** (over 5 years) for CCUS technology.
 - **Focus Sectors:** Hard-to-abate industries like Steel, Cement, Power, Refineries, and Chemicals.
- **India-Germany Resilience Initiative (Feb 27, 2026):** A **€20 million** initiative was launched to boost climate resilience in high-risk zones: **Himalayas, Western Ghats, North-East, and Lower Gangetic floodplains.**

New Plant Species: Osbeckia zubeengargiana

- **Discovery:** Found in the grasslands of **Manas National Park**, Assam.
- **Naming:** Named after the legendary Assamese singer **Zubeen Garg** for his contributions to **environmental conservation.**
- **Features:** A perennial shrub with delicate **pinkish-purple flowers** and a tetramerous (four-petal) structure.
- **Status:** Classified as "**Data Deficient**" under the IUCN Red List.

New Wild Kiwi: Actinidia indica

- **Location:** Discovered in **Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **Significance:** It is a new wild relative of the commercial kiwi fruit, holding potential for crop improvement and climate resilience.

In NEWS:

- **Kanlaon** volcano located in Philippines.
- **Fuego** volcano located in Guatemala.
- Tropical cyclone **Gezani** caused destruction in **Madagascar.**

Species Discoveries & Sightings

- ***Trachischium lalremsangai***: A new species of burrowing snake discovered in Murlen National Park, Mizoram (part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot).
- ***Interfilum shuklaidii***: A newly identified species of green algae discovered by researchers in the Western Ghats of Kerala.
- ***Vaccinium piliferum***: A rare, endangered wild relative of the blueberry that was remarkably rediscovered in the remote forests of Vijaynagar in Arunachal Pradesh after 188 years.
- **Kashmir Flycatcher**: This rare, endemic bird of the northwest Himalayas was spotted migrating at the Chemmattamavayal wetlands in Kasaragod, Kerala.

Global Climate Frameworks: World Environment Day 2026

Celebrated globally on **June 5, 2026**, the event marked a major transition point from long-term climate targets to immediate, actionable field strategies.

- **Global Host City**: Baku, Azerbaijan.
- **Official Theme**: *"Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future"*
- **Global Campaign**: Executed under the umbrella hashtag **#NowForClimate**, focusing heavily on nature-based solutions to combat ecosystem degradation.
- **Azerbaijan's Green Mandate**: As the host nation, Azerbaijan showcased its transition strategy, including its commitment to slash greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2035 and scale up its domestic renewable capacity via massive solar and wind installations.

National Milestones & Wildlife Conservation (India)

The 100th Ramsar Site Designation

India hit a historic milestone on World Environment Day by designating its **100th Ramsar Site**—the **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal)** in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.

- **Significance**: India now possesses the highest number of Ramsar sites in Asia and ranks third globally. Surha Tal is a massive, perennial oxbow lake formed by a natural shift in the Ganges River channel, serving as a critical sanctuary along the Central Asian Flyway.

Crucial Revision Core: The Montreux Record

While India now celebrates 100 Ramsar sites, remember for statement-based options that **only two** Indian sites currently remain listed on the **Montreux Record** (the specialized register for Ramsar wetlands facing severe ecological degradation due to human interference or pollution):

1. **Loktak Lake** (Manipur)
2. **Keoladeo National Park** (Rajasthan)

Gujarat Dolphin Census Success

- **The Data:** The latest coastal ecological survey revealed that **Gujarat's wild dolphin population has topped 680.**
- **Takeaway:** This surge reflects successful community-led marine sanctuary enforcement and strict regulations on heavy fishing and industrial effluent discharge across the Gulf of Khambhat and Kutch.

Environment & Biodiversity Updates (July, 2026)

1. Arunachal Pradesh — Rare Alpine Flower Rediscovered (*Cyananthus hookeri*)

- **Event:** Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) recorded the rare Himalayan flowering plant *Cyananthus hookeri* in **Tawang district**.
- **Historical Significance:** This marks the first confirmed sighting of the species in India in **158 years** (last documented by British botanist Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker in Sikkim in 1867).
- **IUCN Status Proposal:** Recommended for **Endangered** status due to a small population (fewer than 50 mature plants found near Chuna Valley).

2. Odisha — Satkosia Tiger Reserve Reintroduction Approved

- **Event:** The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) granted in-principle approval to restart the **tiger reintroduction project** in Odisha's **Satkosia Tiger Reserve**.
- **Geographical Significance:** Satkosia is situated at the meeting point of two biogeographic zones — the **Deccan Peninsula** and the **Eastern Ghats** — with the Mahanadi River flowing through its gorges.

3. Assam — Borjuli Site Declared Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)

- **Event:** The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) notified the **Borjuli site in Sonitpur district, Assam** as a designated Biodiversity Heritage Site.
- **Objective:** Preserves unique flora/fauna ecosystems under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Environment & Biodiversity Updates (AUG,2026)

Biodiversity & Conservation (New Ramsar Site)

- **India's 101st Ramsar Site:** On August 3, 2026, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced **Glaw Lake** as India's 101st Ramsar Site.
- **Location:** Glaw Lake is located in **Arunachal Pradesh**, situated within the **Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- **Significance:** This is a highly probable MCQ for upcoming exams as it marks a major milestone for India's wetland conservation under the Ramsar Convention.

Major Government Schemes (Renewable Energy)

- **PM Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY):** Approved by the Union Cabinet just before August, this scheme dominated environmental and economic current affairs throughout the month.
- **Objective:** It is a massive ₹5,070-crore central sector scheme aimed at building **5,000 MW of floating solar power projects** (Floating Solar PV) on India's reservoirs, lakes, and industrial ponds.
- **The "Storage" Catch:** For exams, note that PM-SSY makes energy storage mandatory. Every project must include a co-located energy storage system of at least two hours (10,000 MWh total for the scheme) to ensure grid stability.
- **Why it matters:** It completely bypasses the biggest bottleneck in Indian solar projects—land acquisition—while simultaneously reducing water evaporation in reservoirs.

State of India's Environment (SOE) 2026

- **The Publisher:** The report was released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and *Down To Earth* magazine.
- **Planetary Boundaries Breached:** The report issued a severe warning that humanity has now breached **seven out of the nine "planetary boundaries"** (which are safe ecological limits for human survival). The transgressed boundaries include climate change, biodiversity loss, freshwater depletion, and ocean acidification.
- **Wildlife Focus:** The 2026 report specifically highlighted that ecological degradation, prey depletion, and habitat loss are intensifying **human-tiger conflicts** across India by altering tiger behavior.

The Bird: Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*)

- **Significance:** The world's only high-altitude alpine crane and the official State Bird of Ladakh.
- **Status:** Listed as "Near Threatened" on the IUCN Red List.
- **Appearance:** Whitish-gray body with a black head/neck and a distinct red crown.
- **Cultural Importance:** A revered symbol of peace and good fortune in Tibetan and Ladakhi Buddhist traditions.

The 2026 Festival (August)

- **First of its Kind:** While Bhutan celebrates the birds in winter, this was Ladakh's inaugural global-scale festival celebrating their summer breeding grounds.
- **Locations:** Held across Leh, Tso Kar basin, and Hanle.
- **Habitat:** Focused on the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, where the cranes breed at altitudes of 2,500–5,000 meters.
- **Key Themes:** Combined scientific conservation (Crane Conference) with community celebrations, highlighting the indigenous nomadic Changpa heritage.

Key Notes

- India's first virtual zoo was inaugurated on **August 16, 2026**, at the **Kamla Nehru Prani Sangrahalaya (Indore Zoo)** in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- On August 17, 2026, India launched its first-ever **Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs)** at the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- In **August 2026**, the nearly 140-year-old **Parichha Dam (Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh)** was officially recognized as a **World Heritage Irrigation Structure (WHIS)** by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID). It is built across the **Betwa River**.

Miscellaneous

Most Important Days

Memorize the **Themes** in this table specifically.

Date	Day	Theme of 2026 / Significance
Jan 4	World Braille Day	Focus: <i>Digital Inclusion for the Visually Impaired.</i>
Jan 9	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	Focus: <i>Indian Diaspora in AI & Technology.</i>
Jan 10	World Hindi Day	"Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence."
Jan 12	National Youth Day	"Ignite the Self, Impact the World" (Viksit Bharat Youth Dialogue).
Jan 15	Indian Army Day	"In Service of the Nation – Strong & Capable."
Jan 16	National Startup Day	Marking 10 Years of Startup India. (Focus: A Decade of Innovation).
Jan 23	Parakram Diwas	Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (129th).
Jan 24	National Girl Child Day	"Empowering Girls for a Sustainable Future."
Jan 25	National Voters Day	"My India, My Vote – Citizen at the Heart of Democracy."
Jan 25	National Tourism Day	Focus: <i>Sustainable & Experiential Tourism.</i>
Jan 26	Republic Day	"150 Years of Vande Mataram" & " <i>Viksit Bharat</i> ".
Jan 30	World Leprosy Day	"Beat Leprosy" (Observed on last Sunday of Jan).

February 2026: Key Dates & Themes

Date	Important Day	Theme (2026)
Feb 1	Indian Coast Guard Day	49th Raising Day: "Vayam Rakshamah" (We Protect)
Feb 2	World Wetlands Day	"Wetlands and Human Wellbeing"
Feb 4	World Cancer Day	"Close the Care Gap: Everyone Deserves Access to Cancer Care"
Feb 4	International Day of Human Fraternity	"Bridging Divides, Building Peace"
Feb 10	World Pulses Day	"Pulses: Nourishing Soils and People"
Feb 11	Intl. Day of Women & Girls in Science	"Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us"
Feb 12	National Productivity Day	"Artificial Intelligence: The Catalyst for Productivity Growth"
Feb 13	National Women's Day (India)	Commemorating the Birth Anniversary of Sarojini Naidu
Feb 20	World Day of Social Justice	"Global Coalition for Social Justice: Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances"
Feb 21	International Mother Language Day	"Multilingual Education: A Pillar of Learning and Intergenerational Learning"
Feb 22	World Thinking Day	"Our World, Our Thriving Future: The Environment and Global Poverty"
Feb 24	Central Excise Day	To honor the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944
Feb 27	World NGO Day	"Role of NGOs in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals"
Feb 27	National Protein Day	"Solve with Protein: Addressing India's Nutrition Gap"
Feb 28	National Science Day	"Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat"

Date	Day	Official / Expected Theme for 2026
March 1	Zero Discrimination Day	"To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights"
March 3	World Wildlife Day	"Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation"
March 8	International Women's Day	"Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress"
March 16	National Vaccination Day	"Vaccines Work for Everyone"
March 20	International Day of Happiness	"Reconnecting for Resilience"
March 20	World Sparrow Day	"I Love Sparrows" (Focus on Urban Biodiversity)
March 21	International Day of Forests	"Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World"
March 22	World Water Day	"Water for Peace" (High Probability for UPSC)
March 23	Shaheed Diwas (Martyr's Day)	<i>Commemorating Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev</i>
March 24	World TB Day	"Yes! We Can End TB!"
March 28	Earth Hour (Last Saturday)	"Give an Hour for Earth"

International Days & Themes (April 2026)

Date	Day	Theme for 2026
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day	<i>Empowering Autistic Voices</i>
April 7	World Health Day	<i>Together for health. Stand with science</i>
April 10	World Homeopathy Day	<i>Homeopathy for Sustainable Health</i>
April 17	World Haemophilia Day	<i>Access for All: Partnership</i>
April 18	World Heritage Day	<i>Discover and Experience Diversity</i>
April 19	World Liver Day	<i>Be Vigilant, Get Regular Liver Check-ups</i>
April 22	World Earth Day	Our Power, Our Planet
April 23	World Book & Copyright Day	<i>You Are A Reader</i>
April 25	World Malaria Day	<i>Zero Malaria – Draw the line against malaria</i>
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day	<i>IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future</i>

National Days & Themes (April 2026)

Date	Day	Significance / Theme
April 5	National Maritime Day	Theme: <i>Maritime India – Empowering Progress</i>
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day	Awareness for maternal health and reducing MMR.
April 14	Ambedkar Jayanti	135th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
April 21	National Civil Services Day	Commemorating Sardar Patel's "Steel Frame" speech.
April 24	National Panchayati Raj Day	Theme: <i>Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas</i>
April 30	Ayushman Bharat Diwas	Promoting affordable universal health coverage.

Key Observances for May 2026

Date	Important Day / Observance	Significance / Key Focus
May 1	International Labour Day (May Day)	Honors workers' rights and the global labor movement.
May 3	World Press Freedom Day	Promotes media independence and freedom of expression.
May 7	Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti	Celebrates the birth anniversary of the Nobel laureate.
May 11	National Technology Day	Commemorates India's 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests and tech achievements.
May 12	International Nurses Day	Celebrates Florence Nightingale's birth and the nursing profession.
May 15	International Day of Families	Highlights the importance of families in social development.
May 16	National Dengue Day	Led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to combat dengue.
May 18	International Museum Day	Highlights the role of museums in cultural exchange and preservation.
May 21	National Anti-Terrorism Day	Observed in memory of former Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi.
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity	Raises awareness for biodiversity conservation and environmental sustainability.
May 29	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	Honors the personnel serving in United Nations peacekeeping missions.
May 31	World No Tobacco Day	Organized by the WHO to highlight the health risks of tobacco use.

June 2026: Master Table of Days & Themes

Date	Important Day	Official Theme (2026)	High-Yield Exam Context
June 5	World Environment Day	"Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future"	Top Priority: Hosted by Baku, Azerbaijan . Focuses deeply on nature-based solutions and climate action.
June 7	World Food Safety Day	"From burden to solutions – safe food everywhere"	Co-led by WHO & FAO; emphasizes using illness data to guide cost-effective solutions.
June 8	World Oceans Day	"Reimagine"	Celebrated alongside the landmark entry into force of the BBNJ (High Seas) Agreement.
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour	"Red Card to Child Labour: Fair play for children, decent work for adults"	Focuses on accelerating the implementation of the <i>Marrakech Global Framework for Action</i> .
June 14	World Blood Donor Day	"One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives."	Commemorates the birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner (discovered ABO blood groups).
June 20	World Refugee Day	<i>Honoring Resilience and Inclusion</i>	Focuses on systemic shifts in global internal displacement agendas.
June 21	International Day of Yoga	"Yoga for Healthy Ageing" / "Yoga for Wellness, Wisdom, and World Peace"	12th Edition: The Ministry of Ayush launched <i>Yoga Sangam 2026</i> targeting active aging and longevity.
June 27	MSME Day (Today)	<i>Leveraging AI and Digital Tech for Small Business</i>	Promotes the integration of micro-enterprises into global supply chains.
June 29	National Statistics Day (India)	"Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data"	UPSC Core: Marks the birth anniversary of Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis . Released by MoSPI to focus on data harmonization.

Important Days in July, 2026

Date	Day / Event	Level / Body	Official Theme & Key Significance
July 1	National Doctor's Day	National (IMA / MoHFW)	Theme: <i>"Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?"</i> Honours Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (Bharat Ratna, physician, & former CM of West Bengal).
July 1	Chartered Accountants Day	National (ICAI)	Commemorates the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on July 1, 1949.
July 1	GST Day	National (CBIC)	Marks the historical rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India on July 1, 2017.
July 6	World Zoonoses Day	Global	Highlights diseases transmitted from animals to humans. Marks Louis Pasteur's first successful rabies vaccine in 1885.
July 11	World Population Day	UN (UNFPA)	Theme: <i>"Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future."</i> Focuses on demographic challenges and reproductive rights.
July 12	World Malala Day	UN	Birthday of Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai; advocates for women and children's right to education.
July 17	World Day for International Justice	International (ICC)	Commemorates the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998 establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC).
July 18	Nelson Mandela International Day	UN	Theme: <i>"It's Still in Our Hands to Combat Poverty and Inequity."</i> Encourages 67 minutes of community service (reflecting Mandela's 67 years of public service).

Date	Day / Event	Level / Body	Official Theme & Key Significance
July 20	International Moon Day	UN (UNOOSA)	Commemorates humanity's first landing on the Moon (Apollo 11 mission in 1969).
July 20	World Chess Day	FIDE / UN	Marks the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924.
July 22	National Flag Adoption Day	National (India)	Commemorates the Constituent Assembly adopting the present Indian National Flag (<i>Tiranga</i>) in 1947.
July 24	Income Tax Day (Aaykar Diwas)	National (CBDT)	Marks the introduction of Income Tax in India by Sir James Wilson on July 24, 1860.
July 26	Kargil Vijay Diwas	National (Indian Armed Forces)	Honours India's victory over Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil War (<i>Operation Vijay</i>).
July 28	World Hepatitis Day	WHO	Theme: <i>"Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down."</i> Spreads awareness about viral hepatitis B and C.
July 28	World Nature Conservation Day	Global / ENVIS	Theme: <i>"Restoration, Resilience, and Responsibility."</i> Promotes sustainable resource management and habitat restoration.
July 29	International Tiger Day	Global (NTCA)	Established at the St. Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010 to double wild tiger populations (<i>Tx2 goal</i>).
July 30	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	UNODC / UN	Theme: <i>"Trapped Behind the Scam."</i> Focuses on human trafficking linked to forced cyber-fraud and scam compounds.
July 30	International Day of Friendship	UN	Promotes the role of friendship in fostering peace across cultures and communities.

Important Days in August 2026

Date	Observance
1 August	World Lung Cancer Day
2 August	Friendship Day (<i>Observed on the first Sunday of August in India</i>)
6 August	Hiroshima Day
7 August	National Handloom Day (India)
8 August	Quit India Movement Day (India)
9 August	Nagasaki Day
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
12 August	International Youth Day
15 August	Independence Day (India)
19 August	World Humanitarian Day
19 August	World Photography Day
20 August	Sadbhavana Diwas (India)
20 August	World Mosquito Day
23 August	National Space Day (India)
26 August	Women's Equality Day
29 August	National Sports Day (India)
29 August	International Day against Nuclear Tests

Key Themes for 2026

- **International Youth Day (12 August):** *"Different Contexts, Common Aspirations"* – focusing on youth empowerment, inclusion, and advancing health and well-being for young people navigating complex realities.
- **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August):** *"Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being"* – paying tribute to indigenous caregivers and traditional healers who serve as essential healthcare providers in their communities.
- **World Humanitarian Day (19 August):** The 2026 global campaign focuses on *"Families of Fallen Humanitarians"* under the broader #ActForHumanity banner, honoring aid workers who lost their lives in the line of duty.
- **National Handloom Day (7 August):** While there isn't a single overarching theme, the Indian Ministry of Textiles marked the 2026 observance by launching a national hackathon centered around the theme of *"Weaving Innovation"*

National Space Day (August 23, 2026)

- **2026 Theme:** *"Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership"*
- **Significance:** This marks the 3rd edition of National Space Day, celebrated to commemorate the historic soft landing of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander on the lunar south pole in 2023. The main 2026 inaugural event was held in Ahmedabad.

National Sports Day (August 29, 2026)

- **2026 Theme/Campaign:** *"Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat"*
- **Significance:** Celebrated on the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. In 2026, the UGC and the Fit India Movement expanded it into a three-day national campaign (Aug 28–30) built on three pillars: *Tribute, Play, and Move*.

Mixed CA (Dec, 2025)

➤ Rashtra Prerna Sthal

Location: Vasant Kunj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

- **Inaugurated By:** PM Narendra Modi on **December 25, 2025** (Good Governance Day).
- **Key Feature:** Three **65-foot statues** of:
 1. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
 2. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
 3. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya
- **Significance:** It was built on a former **garbage dump**, serving as a "Waste to Wealth" model. Includes a **Lotus-shaped museum** (approx. 98,000 sq ft) showcasing the lives and contributions of these leaders using digital technology.

➤ 3 New Airlines

Three New Airlines approved by the government in December 2025:

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Civil Aviation (granted NOCs).
- **Purpose:** To break the duopoly of IndiGo and Air India and boost regional connectivity.
- **The 3 New Airlines:**
 1. **Shankh Air:** Based in Uttar Pradesh (First scheduled airline from UP).
 2. **Al Hind Air:** Based in Kerala (Kochi).
 3. **FlyExpress:** Based in Telangana (Hyderabad).

➤ Sahakar Sarathi

Sahakar Sarathi (Shared Service Entity – SSE) has been set up to enable **Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs)** to provide modern banking services.

- Following the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Sahakar Sarathi was established and registered on 21 July 2025. It has an authorised capital of ₹1,000 crore, with the shareholding of NABARD, NCDC, and Rural Cooperative Banks fixed at 33.33% each.
- It offers shared modern banking infrastructure and digital services including: **Common Core Banking Solutions (CBS), Digital payments like AePS and UPI, Cybersecurity, IT governance etc.**

AI Highlights

AI Models & Their Companies

AI Model / Product	Company	Notes (in Short)
Meta AI	Meta (Facebook)	Real-time AI assistant integrated into WhatsApp, Instagram, and Messenger.
Gemini	Google	Advanced multimodal AI family; successor to Google Bard.
ChatGPT (GPT-4o / GPT-5)	OpenAI	Flagship generative AI model with advanced reasoning, vision, and voice capabilities.
Copilot	Microsoft	Enterprise and personal AI assistant built into Windows, M365 Office, and Azure.
Claude (3 / 3.5 / 3.7)	Anthropic	Leading model family focused on high reasoning accuracy, safety, and long context windows.
Sora	OpenAI	Text-to-video model capable of generating realistic and complex videos.
Grok	xAI (Elon Musk)	Real-time conversational AI integrated into the X (Twitter) platform.
Stable Diffusion / Stable Video	Stability AI	Popular open-source text-to-image and video generation models.
DALL·E 3	OpenAI	High-precision text-to-image generator integrated with ChatGPT.

AI Model / Product	Company	Notes (in Short)
Perplexity AI	Perplexity	AI-powered conversational search engine with real-time web citations.
Mistral AI Models (Mistral / Mixtral)	Mistral AI (France)	European leading lightweight, open-weight, and highly efficient LLMs.
Ernie Bot	Baidu (China)	One of China's largest commercial conversational AI models.
DeepSeek (V3 / R1)	DeepSeek (China)	Open-source reasoning & foundational model family known for extreme cost-efficiency.
Llama (Llama 3 / 3.3)	Meta	The world's most widely used open-weight foundational large language model series.
Qwen (Tongyi Qianwen)	Alibaba Cloud (China)	Leading open-weight multimodal model family capable of handling 100+ languages.
Midjourney	Midjourney, Inc.	State-of-the-art text-to-image platform renowned for photorealism and artistic output.
Runway (Gen-2 / Gen-3 Alpha)	Runway AI	Leading commercial generative video platform for motion graphics and film production.
ElevenLabs	ElevenLabs	Industry-standard platform for hyper-realistic AI voice cloning and speech synthesis.

Landmark Event: India-AI Impact Summit 2026

- **Venue & Date:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (February 16–20, 2026).
- **Historic Milestone:** First major global AI summit hosted in the **Global South**.
- **Ethos / Motto:** "*Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya*" (Welfare for all, happiness for all).
- **Strategic Shift:** Shifted the global technology narrative from "**AI Safety & Risk**" (the West's focus) to "**AI for Development & Impact**" (the Global South's focus).

The 3 Sutras (Pillars):

- **People:** Empowering citizens via healthcare, education, and financial inclusion.
- **Planet:** Precision farming, resource optimization, and climate-smart grid management for India's **2070 Net Zero** target.
- **Progress:** Driving economic growth and public service delivery via Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).
- **The 7 Chakras (Working Groups):** Health, Agriculture, Safe & Trusted AI, Science, Inclusion, Democratizing AI Resources, and Economic Development.

IndiaAI Mission & Infrastructure Expansion

Under the **₹10,372 crore IndiaAI Mission**, major domestic AI infrastructure milestones were achieved:

1. Compute Infrastructure Expansion:

- Union MeitY Ministry announced expanding national compute capacity by adding **20,000 high-end GPUs** to the existing **38,000+ GPU pool**.
- Subsidized compute access is provided to Indian startups, researchers, and academic institutions via the **IndiaAI Compute Portal**.

2. AI Safety Institute (AISi) India:

- Established under MeitY to develop open-source safety standards, evaluate frontier models, and address deepfakes and synthetic media threats.

3. Bhashini Mission Expansion:

- Deep integration of AI-driven voice-to-voice translation in 22 scheduled Indian languages across judiciary, banking, and citizen service portals.

Global AI Governance & Regulatory Landscape

- **EU AI Act Enforcement Phase:** 2026 marks the operational enforcement stage of the EU's risk-based legal framework (strictly penalizing non-compliant prohibited and high-risk AI applications).
- **South Korea AI Basic Act:** First comprehensive standalone statutory framework for AI governance operationalized in Asia.
- **Global "AI Commons" Initiative:** Advocated by India to prevent tech monopolies by ensuring developing nations get open access to compute resources, datasets, and base models.

Global Summits & Multilateral Alliances

Bletchley Park (UK, 2023) → Seoul Summit (2024) → Paris AI Action Summit (2025) → India AI Impact Summit (2026)

1. Paris AI Action Summit

- **Co-Chairs:** France (President Emmanuel Macron) and India (Prime Minister Narendra Modi).
- **Core Shift:** Shifted focus from purely "Catastrophic Safety Risks" (Bletchley Park theme) to **practical innovation, democratization, and Global South inclusion.**
- **Key Deliverables:**
 - **"Current AI" Foundation:** \$400 million global fund created to build open-source AI public goods, datasets, and public infrastructure.
 - **Five Core Pillars:** AI in Public Services, Future of Work, Innovation & Culture, Trust in AI, and Inclusive Global Governance.
 - **First International AI Safety Report:** Released prior to the summit, providing a scientific benchmark on general-purpose AI risks.

Global AI Regulations & Laws (Enforcement Era)

1. European Union AI Act (Full Enforcement Phase)

The world's first comprehensive horizontal legal framework for AI classifies systems into **4 Risk Tiers**:

Risk Tier	Examples	Legal Requirement
Unacceptable Risk	Social scoring by governments, real-time biometric identification in public spaces, cognitive behavioral manipulation	Completely BANNED
High Risk	Critical infrastructure, healthcare diagnostic AI, recruitment/HR algorithms, law enforcement tools	Strict conformity assessments, fundamental rights impact assessments, human oversight
General Purpose AI (GPAI)	Foundational Large Language Models (LLMs)	Transparency obligations, copyright compliance, safety testing for systemic risk
Minimal / Low Risk	Spam filters, AI-enabled video games	Voluntary codes of conduct

2. South Korea AI Basic Act

- **Significance:** The **first comprehensive standalone statutory AI law in Asia** to be operationalized.
- **Focus:** Establishes clear legal obligations for high-risk AI applications while incentivizing the growth of domestic AI innovation hubs.

3. G7 Hiroshima AI Process

- **Objective:** Developed an **International Code of Conduct** and voluntary guidelines for organizations developing advanced AI systems, focusing on watermarking, deepfake detection, and dual-use risk evaluations.

Key Global AI Paradigms for Exams

1. Sovereign AI

Definition: A nation's capacity to build, own, and operate its own artificial intelligence infrastructure—including hardware (compute/GPUs), foundational models, data, and local talent—without relying solely on foreign tech monopolies.

- **Examples:** France, UAE (Falcon LLM), Japan, and India (IndiaAI Mission) investing heavily in national sovereign compute grids.

2. Agentic AI

- **Concept:** Evolution from passive "prompt-and-response" models (like basic chatbots) to **autonomous AI agents** capable of executing multi-step complex workflows, decision-making, and software interactions with minimal human oversight.
- **Exam Relevance:** Raises new legal questions regarding **AI liability and accountability** when an autonomous agent makes financial or operational errors.

3. "Green AI" & Energy Transition

- **The Challenge:** Training and running advanced AI models consumes vast amounts of electricity and cooling water, straining national power grids.
- **Global Action:** Development of energy-efficient chip architectures, nuclear-powered data centers (Small Modular Reactors / SMRs), and algorithmic optimization to reduce carbon footprints.

Notes:

- **Kimi K3 is Moonshot AI's** (by Chinese Start-up company) flagship open-weights multimodal reasoning model. It is the world's first open 3-trillion-class AI model (scaling at 2.8 trillion total parameters) designed for frontier intelligence across complex coding, agentic reasoning, and long-horizon knowledge tasks.

28 States of India (As on August, 2026)

State	Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	N. Chandrababu Naidu	S. Abdul Nazeer
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Lakshman Prasad Acharya
Bihar	Patna	Samrat Choudhary	Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Vishnu Deo Sai	Ramen Deka
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju
Gujarat	Gandhinagar	Bhupendra Patel	Acharya Devvrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Nayab Singh Saini	Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla (<i>Summer</i>) / Dharamshala (<i>Winter</i>)	Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu	Kavinder Gupta
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Santosh Kumar Gangwar
Karnataka	Bengaluru	D. K. Shivakumar	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	V. D. Satheesan	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Mohan Yadav	Mangubhai C. Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Devendra Fadnavis	Jishnu Dev Varma

State	Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Manipur	Imphal	Yumnam Khemchand Singh	Ajay Kumar Bhalla
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Sangma	C. H. Vijayashankar
Mizoram	Aizawl	Lalduhoma	Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	Nand Kishore Yadav
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Mohan Charan Majhi	Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
Punjab	Chandigarh	Bhagwant Mann	Gulab Chand Kataria
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Bhajan Lal Sharma	Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde
Sikkim	Gangtok	Prem Singh Tamang (<i>P. S. Golay</i>)	Om Prakash Mathur
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	C. Joseph Vijay	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar (<i>Addl. Charge</i>)
Telangana	Hyderabad	A. Revanth Reddy	Shiv Pratap Shukla
Tripura	Agartala	Manik Saha	N. Indra Sena Reddy
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun (<i>Winter</i>) / Gairsain (<i>Summer</i>)	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
West Bengal	Kolkata	Suvendu Adhikari	R. N. Ravi

8 Union Territories of India

Union Territory	Capital	CM (If Applicable)	Lt. Governor / Administrator
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair	—	Admiral (Retd.) D. K. Joshi (<i>Lt. Governor</i>)
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	—	Gulab Chand Kataria (<i>Administrator</i>)
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	Daman	—	Praful Khoda Patel (<i>Administrator</i>)
Delhi (NCT)	New Delhi	Rekha Gupta	Taranjit Singh Sandhu (<i>Lt. Governor</i>)
Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar (<i>Summer</i>) / Jammu (<i>Winter</i>)	Omar Abdullah	Manoj Sinha (<i>Lt. Governor</i>)
Ladakh	Leh / Kargil	—	Vinai Kumar Saxena (<i>Lt. Governor</i>)
Lakshadweep	Kavaratti	—	Praful Khoda Patel (<i>Administrator</i>)
Puducherry	Puducherry	N. Rangasamy	K. Kailashnathan (<i>Lt. Governor</i>)

Name Change (Old to New)

Cities, Districts, and Geographical Places

Old Name	New Name	State / UT
Port Blair	Sri Vijayapuram	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
Ahmednagar	Ahilyanagar	Maharashtra
Khairthal–Tijara District	Bhartrihari Nagar	Rajasthan
Jalalabad (Shahjahanpur)	Parashurampuri	Uttar Pradesh
Islampur	Ishwarpur	Maharashtra
Mount Abu	Aburaj	Rajasthan
Kaman	Kamvan	Rajasthan
Jahazpur	Yagyapur	Rajasthan
Kerala	Keralam	Kerala

Airports, Railway Stations, and Infrastructure

Old Name	New Name	Location / State
Navi Mumbai International Airport	Loknete D.B. Patil International Airport	Maharashtra
Pakyong Airport	Trilochan Pokhrel Airport	Sikkim
Ahmednagar Railway Station	Ahilya Nagar Railway Station	Maharashtra
Carnac Bridge (Mumbai)	Sindoor Bridge	Maharashtra

Government Buildings, Schemes, and National Institutions

Old Name	New Name	Implementing Authority	Core Exam Context & Significance
Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Complex	Seva Teerth	Central Government	Re-designated to emphasize governance rooted in <i>Seva</i> (Service) and <i>Kartavya</i> (Duty).
Old Parliament House	Samvidhan Sadan	Parliament of India	Officially updated by structural decree following the definitive shifting of all legislative sessions to the New Parliament House.
MGNREGA (<i>Rural Employment Act Framework</i>)	VB-G RAM-G	Ministry of Rural Development	Rebranded and integrated into the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission - Gramin framework.
National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)	Savitribai Phule National Institute for Women and Child Development	Ministry of Women & Child Development	Renamed to honor the legacy of Savitribai Phule, India's pioneer of women's education and cross-caste social reform.
FIDE Chess World Cup Trophy	Viswanathan Anand Cup	FIDE / All India Chess Federation	Renamed to permanently honor India's first Grandmaster and multi-time World Champion for his contribution to global chess.

Important One-liners (January, 2026)

National & Governance

1. **77th Republic Day Chief Guests:** Mr. Antonio Costa (President of the European Council) and Ursula von der Leyen (President of the European Commission).
2. **77th Republic Day Theme:** "150 Years of Vande Mataram."
3. **Census 2027:** The Centre notified the first phase of Census 2027; house listing will be conducted from April 1 to September 30, 2026.
4. **Aadhaar Mascot:** UIDAI launched "Udai," a new resident-facing mascot to simplify public understanding of Aadhaar services.
5. **National Sports Governance Rules 2026:** New rules mandate 50% women's quota for "Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit" (SOMs) in governing bodies.
6. **PRAGATI Meeting:** PM Modi chaired the 50th meeting of PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation) in January.
7. **Samagra Shiksha 3.0:** The next generation of India's Integrated School Scheme was launched to upgrade school infrastructure.
8. **EPI Index:** Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat topped the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) released in January.

Economy & Banking

11. **GDP Projection:** NSO's first advance estimates projected India's GDP to grow by **7.4%** in FY26.
12. **Consumer Optimism:** India ranked second globally in consumer optimism in January 2026, per the LSEG-Ipsos PCSI.
13. **RBI Financial Stability Report:** Real GDP growth for Q2 FY26 was recorded at **8.2%**, exceeding initial estimates.
14. **First LNG-Diesel Train:** Indian Railways operationalized the country's first LNG-Diesel dual-fuel DEMU train.
15. **Namo Laxmi Scheme:** Gujarat announced ₹1,250 crore for this scheme to support the education of secondary school girls.
16. **Economic Survey 2025–26:** Highlighting Karnataka's lead, the survey noted the state hosts **39%** of India's GenAI startups.
17. **Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana:** Punjab launched this scheme providing free health treatment up to **₹10 lakh** per family.
18. **India-EU FTA:** Negotiations for the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement were fast-tracked in January 2026.
19. **Capital Adequacy for UCBs:** RBI mandated a minimum **12%** Capital Adequacy Ratio for Urban Co-operative Banks seeking new licenses.

Science & Technology

21. **Hypersonic Missile Program:** DRDO's Hyderabad laboratory (DRDL) successfully conducted ground tests for the Hypersonic Missile Program.
22. **Pralay Missiles:** A successful "salvo launch" of Pralay missiles was conducted by DRDO at the Odisha coast.
23. **LignoSat:** Japan successfully launched "LignoSat," the world's first **wooden satellite**.
24. **AlphaGenome:** Google DeepMind launched "AlphaGenome," an AI tool to analyze DNA mutations.
25. **GPT-5.2:** OpenAI announced GPT-5.2 as the new professional standard, retiring the older GPT-4o models.
26. **Solar-Powered ATM Van:** Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB) launched India's first fully solar-powered mobile ATM van.
27. **Z-Morh/Sonamarg Tunnel:** PM Modi inaugurated the Z-Morh Tunnel, providing all-weather connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir.
28. **Indigenous Submarine:** Taiwan conducted the first underwater sea trial of its indigenous submarine, "Narwhal."

International Affairs

31. **21st Eurozone Member:** Bulgaria officially joined the Eurozone on January 1, 2026, replacing the lev with the euro.
32. **US-WHO Withdrawal:** The United States officially completed its withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO) in January 2026.
33. **2026 International Years:** The UN declared 2026 as the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists** and the **International Year of the Women Farmer**.
34. **New PM of Lebanon:** Nawaf Salam was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Lebanon.
35. **Dev's Law:** The UK unveiled "Dev's Law," a stricter road safety regulation named after an Indian-origin child.
36. **Chabahar Port Contract:** Concerns rose over the 10-year contract as new US tariffs were imposed on countries trading with Iran.
37. **Burevestnik Missile:** Russia tested "Burevestnik," the world's first nuclear-powered cruise missile.
38. **Dosti 17:** The 17th edition of the trilateral coast guard exercise between **India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka** commenced.
39. **US-Israel Arms Deal:** The US approved a **\$3.8 billion** sale of 30 Apache attack helicopters to Israel.
40. **UNESCO Nominations:** India nominated Meghalaya's **Living Root Bridges** for UNESCO World Heritage evaluation 2026–27.

Sports, Awards & Environment

41. **Highest Run Scorer:** Virat Kohli became the second-highest run-scorer in international cricket, surpassing Kumar Sangakkara.
42. **Goodwill Ambassador:** MS Dhoni was named the Goodwill Ambassador for the Pune Grand Tour 2026 (international cycling race).
43. **WPL Centurion:** Nat Sciver-Brunt scored the first century of the 2026 Women's Premier League for Mumbai Indians.
44. **IEEE Medal of Honor:** Awarded to NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang, including a \$2 million prize.
45. **MISHTI Workshop:** A national-level workshop on the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) was held in Vijayawada.
46. **Official Butterfly:** Chandigarh declared the **Striped Tiger** as its official territory butterfly.
47. **Khelo India Winter Games:** The 2026 edition was organized in Ladakh.
48. **Arnalam Wildlife Sanctuary:** Officially declared as Kerala's first butterfly sanctuary.
49. **National Startup Day:** Celebrated on January 16 to honor India's startup ecosystem.
50. **Martyrs' Day:** Observed on January 30 to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Important One-liners (February, 2026)

National & State Affairs

1. **Anti-Terror Policy:** India launched its first-ever National Anti-Terrorism Policy named '**PRAHAAR**'
National Affairs & Governance
2. **Keralam:** The Union Cabinet officially approved the proposal to rename the state of Kerala to 'Keralam'.
3. **CM Shri Schools:** Haryana announced the launch of "CM Shri" schools, modeled after the central PM Shri initiative.
4. **Rah-Veer Scheme:** The Delhi government implemented a new accident assistance scheme to provide immediate medical help to victims.
5. **Seva Teerth:** The first Union Cabinet meeting of February was held at the newly inaugurated "Seva Teerth" office in New Delhi.
6. **State Innovation Mission:** Tripura became the first state to launch a State Innovation Mission (SIM) in collaboration with NITI Aayog.
7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Northeast's first Emergency Landing Facility (ELF)** at the **Moran Bypass** in the Dibrugarh district of Assam
8. **North East Spring Festival:** Held in Dimapur, Nagaland, to showcase the cultural heritage of the eight sister states.
9. **Rail Parcel App:** Launched by the South Central Railway zone to digitize and track parcel shipments.
10. **Srinagar Civil Enclave:** The Cabinet sanctioned ₹1,677 crore for a new terminal at Srinagar International Airport.
11. **India's First "Caste-Free" Village: Soundala.** the village of **Soundala**, located in the Ahilyanagar district (formerly Ahmednagar) of **Maharashtra**.
12. In a historic move toward "decolonizing" India's public spaces, the bust of British architect **Sir Edwin Lutyens** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** was replaced by a bust of **Chakravarti Rajagopalachari** (widely known as **Rajaji**).
13. India's first Musical Road- Mumbai.
14. **Gender Budget allocation** in the Union budget 2026-27 was **5.01 Lakh Crore**.
15. **Paradip port authority** gets first prize at the Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025 as India's cleanest performing port.
16. Gujarat ranks first in India's **total Renewable energy capacity** with 42.583 GW as of Dec,2025.

International Relations & Summits

17. **Knesset Medal:** PM Narendra Modi was honored with Israel's highest parliamentary honor, the "Speaker of the Knesset Medal".
18. **India-Israel "Special Strategic Partnership":** Both nations elevated ties to a "Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation & Prosperity".
19. **New Delhi Declaration on AI:** Signed by 88 countries during the "India AI Impact Summit" to regulate global AI ethics.
20. **Spain** Ban Social media access to Children below 16 years.
21. **India-GCC FTA:** India and the Gulf Cooperation Council signed a joint statement to finalize a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
22. **Munich Security Conference: (G4- India, Germany, Japan, Brazil)** The 62nd edition focused on the theme: *"Under Destruction: The Erasing of Rules-based Order."*
23. **India-Nepal Environmental MoU:** Signed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in forestry and wildlife conservation.
24. **Walmart Inc** become first retail firm to achieve a market capitalization of USD 1 trillion.
25. **BioAsia 2026 International Summit held In Hyderabad.**
26. World Sea food Congress 2026 host by- Chennai

Science, Technology & Environment

27. **World's Oldest Rock Art:** Scientists identified a 67,800-year-old hand stencil in Sulawesi, Indonesia, as the oldest known rock art.
28. Ministry of health launched **SAHI & BODH** Platforms for the healthcare.
29. **Vikko Sat-1:** A mini-satellite developed by students in Tamil Nadu was launched to detect fungal spores in the stratosphere.
30. **Methane-to-Medicine:** Spanish scientists successfully converted methane gas directly into the drug *dimestrol*.
31. **Impatiens nagorum:** A new species of flowering plant discovered in the Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary, Nagaland.
32. **NHAI** launched Bee Corridors to support honeybees & other Pollinators.
33. **Moltbook – A social network exclusively for AI agents.**
34. **Terafab** launched by Elon Musk to manufacture AI chips.

Sports & Games

- 35. **Super Bowl LX:** Held in Santa Clara, California; it is one of the most-watched sporting events globally.
- 36. **Taqball** officially included 2026 Asian games.
- 37. **Fastest player to scored 10000 runs in Ranji Trophy – Paras Dogra**
- 38. **FIDE Freestyle Chess:** Magnus Carlsen defeated Fabiano Caruana to win the 2026 World Championship title.
- 39. **Delhi Open 2026:** Greek tennis player Stefanos Sakellaridis won his maiden ATP Challenger title in New Delhi.
- 40. **Winter Paralympics:** The IPC allowed Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete under national flags for **Milano Cortina 2026**.

Miscellaneous

- 41. **Dividend Tax Revision:** The Indian government revised dividend tax rates to a two-tier system (5% and 15%) based on investment levels.
- 42. Bharat Bhusahan Award started by **Isha Foundation**.
- 43. **RAMP Programme:** The 5th National Council meeting for MSME performance (RAMP) was chaired by the MSME Ministry.
- 44. **Alwar** district of Rajasthan become first district to achieve **100% Insurance Coverage**.
- 45. Rajasthan ranks 1st in Wool Production. Then 2nd Jammu & Kashmir.
- 46. Recently central govt set new target to achieve **Malnutrition Free India** by 2030.

Important One-liners (March, 2026)

National & Governance

1. **Noida International Airport:** PM Modi inaugurated Phase I of the Noida International Airport at Jewar, UP, developed at a cost of ₹11,200 crore.
2. **Hydrogen Train:** India's first hydrogen-powered train successfully completed its oscillation trials, announced by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
3. **Paperless Judiciary:** Kerala inaugurated India's first paperless district court in **Kalpetta**, Wayanad.
4. **Port of Refuge:** Adani Ports (APSEZ) operationalized India's first "Port of Refuge" to support vessels in distress along the 11,000 km coastline.
5. **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0:** Meghalaya became the 12th state to sign the MoU for reforms under JJM 2.0 for sustainable water supply.
6. Gujarat become 2nd state to pass Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill after Uttarakhand.
7. **Gruh Sugam Portal:** The National Housing Bank launched "Gruh Sugam," a unified digital marketplace for streamlined housing loans.
8. **ECI Digital Vouchers:** The Election Commission of India introduced digital time vouchers for political parties to access airtime on Doordarshan and AIR.
9. **GI Tag:** Rajasthan's **Nagauri Ashwagandha** was officially granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
10. **Vanjeevi Didi:** A new community-led conservation initiative launched in the **Similipal Tiger Reserve**, Odisha.
11. **Lighthouse Festival:** The 3rd Indian Lighthouse Festival was hosted in **Visakhapatnam**.
12. **World Book Fair:** The New Delhi World Book Fair 2026 concluded with **Germany** as the Guest of Honour.
13. **World Buddhist Peace Conference:** A major international summit on Buddhist peace and philosophy was hosted in **Telangana**.
14. **Bharat Steel Summit 2026- New Delhi.**
15. **Bharat Tex,2026-** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
16. GOI aims to achieve **Universal Health Insurance** by 2033.
17. **Kalinjar Fort** region declared **National Geo heritage site** located Banda district of UP.

Economy & Reports

16. **Payments Vision 2028:** The RBI published the "Payments Vision 2028" document focusing on cross-border efficiency and user empowerment.
17. **PLFS 2025 Report:** The Periodic Labour Force Survey showed youth unemployment (15-29 years) decreased to **9.9%**.
18. **Health Insurance Growth:** The sector recorded a 9% surge, with premiums crossing **₹1.2 lakh crore** in FY 2024-25.
19. **UPI Dominance:** UPI now accounts for nearly **83%** of all retail digital payments by volume in India.
20. **Agri-Exports:** India's agricultural exports reached **\$51.1 billion** in FY25, recording an **8.2% CAGR** since 2020.
21. **Hurun Rich List 2026:** **Elon Musk** retained his position as the world's richest person.
22. **Corruption Perception Index:** Denmark emerged as the top-performing (least corrupt) nation in the 2025-26 report.

International & Defence

26. **IONS Chairmanship:** India officially assumed the Chairmanship of the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)** for the 2026–2028 cycle.
27. **IMEX TTX 2026:** The Indian Navy conducted the Maritime Exercise Tabletop Exercise 2026 at **Kochi, Kerala**.
28. **'Freedom Shield'** joint Military exercise b/w **USA & South Korea**.
29. **MILAN 2026:** The mega multilateral naval exercise was hosted by the Indian Navy at **Visakhapatnam**.
30. **Tunguska Contract:** India signed a ₹445 crore contract with Russia for the procurement of **Tunguska Air Defence** systems.
31. **India-EU Aviation Pact:** Signed to boost industrial aviation manufacturing and align safety standards with the EU.
32. **Ras Tanura Oil Refinery located in Saudi Arabia.** Recently hit by Drone Strike by Iran.
33. **United Arab Emirates (UAE),** that launched the **SFCSI (Sovereign Financial Cloud Services Infrastructure)**. It is recognized as the **world's first** dedicated sovereign financial cloud ecosystem specifically for a national financial sector.
34. **UN Task Force:** UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres formed a task force to safeguard trade in the **Strait of Hormuz**.
35. **Krafton-DPIIT MoU:** DPIIT signed a deal with Krafton India to support deep-tech and gaming startups.
36. **Japan** approved the world's first Stem-Cell therapy '**Amchepry**' for Parkinson's disease in 2026.

37. The **Ashmolean Museum** (University of Oxford) officially handed over a 16th-century bronze statue of **Saint Tirumankai Alvar** to the Government of India on March 3, 2026.
38. In march, 2026 Inia sent 1000 MT of Rice to Cyclone affected **Malawi** country.

Environment & Science

36. **Updated NDC:** India raised its climate targets, committing to **60% non-fossil fuel** power capacity by 2035.
37. **Emissions Intensity:** India's new NDC targets a **47% reduction** in emissions intensity from 2005 levels.
38. **Carbon Sink:** The government expanded its target to create a carbon sink of **3.5–4 billion tonnes** of CO₂ equivalent.
39. **Oilseeds Mission:** National Mission on Edible Oils aims to reach **69.7 MMT** production by 2030-31.
40. **Bird Atlas:** Kerala became the second state in India (after Nagaland) to have its own comprehensive **Bird Atlas**.
41. **Mount Abu** renamed as **Aburaj** in Rajasthan.
42. Romania become 118th Member of International Solar Alliance.

Sports & Miscellaneous

41. **T20 World Cup 2026:** India won the Men's T20 World Cup after defeating New Zealand in the final at Ahmedabad.
42. **Para Archer of the Year:** India's **Sheetal Devi** was named the "World Archery Para Archer of the Year 2025."
43. Mayank Chakraborty become 94th Grand Master.
44. **Khelo India Tribal Games, 2026 Hosted by-** Chattisgarh.
45. **Winter Olympics 2026:** Norway topped the final medal tally of the Winter Games.
46. **Flamingo Festival:** Celebrated at the **Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary** in Andhra Pradesh.
47. **Aadi Parab:** The traditional tribal festival began in **Ranchi**, Jharkhand.
48. **TIME Women of the year 2026-** Safeena Husain
49. **Stuti Pradhan** represent India the world Youth Parliament 2026.
50. India's first Gas vending machine (**LPG ATM**)- Gurugram.

Important One-liners (April, 2026)

National & Governance

1. **NCRB Report:** The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released the "Crime in India 2024" report, showing a **6% decline** in cognizable crimes nationwide.
2. **Ghost Schools:** A NITI Aayog report revealed approximately **8,000 zero-enrolment schools** in India, with West Bengal and Telangana having the highest numbers.
3. **Supreme Court Expansion:** The Union Cabinet approved increasing the Supreme Court's judge strength from **34 to 38** to tackle case pendency.
4. **GSVA Guidelines:** The National Statistics Office (NSO) notified uniform guidelines for compiling Gross State Value Added (GSVA) with **2022-23** as the new base year.
5. **Green Hydrogen:** Gujarat became the first state to launch a dedicated "**Green Hydrogen Policy 2026**" to attract ₹10 lakh crore in investment.
6. **Siachen Day:** The Indian Army observed the 42nd Siachen Day on **April 13** to honor the success of "Operation Meghdoot."
7. **Karmayogi Sadhana Saptah:** PM Modi launched this national learning week in April 2026 to enhance the civil services' capacity.
8. **BHAVYA Scheme:** The Cabinet approved the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna** with ₹33,660 crore to develop 100 plug-and-play industrial parks.

Economy & Banking

11. **RBI Deputy Governor:** **Rohit Jain** was appointed as the Deputy Governor of RBI for three years, succeeding T. Rabi Sankar.
12. **Trading Partner:** China overtook the USA to become India's **largest trading partner** for the financial year 2025-26.
13. **Online Gaming Rules:** MeitY notified the **PROG (Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming) Rules 2026** to regulate the sector.
14. **Mission SAKSHAM:** Launched by RBI as a mission-mode initiative for capacity building in **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**.
15. **Utkarsh 2029:** RBI introduced its medium-term strategy framework, **Utkarsh 2029**, to strengthen regulatory supervision.
16. **Startup India 2.0:** The government notified the **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0** with a total corpus of ₹10,000 crore.
17. **Retail Lending Caps:** RBI set a cap of **₹1 crore per individual** for loans against financial assets like shares and REITs.
18. **IPPB Network:** India Post Payments Bank achieved a milestone by integrating its network with 100% paperless biometric banking.

International Affairs

21. **World Press Freedom Index:** India ranked **157th** out of 180 countries in the 2026 report.
22. **India-NZ FTA:** India and New Zealand signed a landmark **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** focused on agriculture and tech.
23. **World Migration Report:** Confirmed **India** as the world's largest diaspora and the top recipient of global remittances.
24. **U6GHz Network:** The **UAE** launched the world's first commercial upper 6GHz (U6GHz) network.
25. **Artemis II Mission:** NASA's mission set a new record for the **longest distance** traveled by humans in space.
26. **UNESCO Geoparks:** UNESCO designated **12 new Global Geoparks** in 2026, expanding the global network.
27. **Hantavirus Outbreak:** India issued health alerts in May 2026 to monitor a suspected Hantavirus outbreak on a merchant ship.
28. **ECOCIDE Debate:** Global discussions intensified at the ICC regarding recognizing "**Ecocide**" as an international crime.
29. **Global Economic Outlook:** The IMF's April 2026 report projected India's GDP growth at **6.8%** for the fiscal year.

Defense & Science

31. **Missile MRO:** India's IAF and MBDA signed an agreement to establish an **MRO facility for MICA missiles** in India.
32. **BrahMos Sale:** Indonesia finalized a deal to purchase **BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles** from India.
33. **Exercise DUSTLIK 2026:** The joint military exercise between **India and Uzbekistan** was held in Namangan, Uzbekistan.
34. **Yard 1280 (Shachi):** The first of eleven Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) was launched at Goa Shipyard.
35. **CBRN Centre:** DRDO inaugurated a new Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) training centre in **Delhi**.
36. **Exercise Varuna 2026:** The 24th edition of the naval exercise between **India and France** took place in the Arabian Sea.
37. **Samudra Sahas:** The Indian Army flagged off its first **blue-water sailing expedition** from Mumbai to Kochi.
38. **PACE Satellite:** NASA successfully launched the **PACE (Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem)** satellite mission.

Appointments & Awards

41. **Prasar Bharati Chairman:** Renowned ad-guru and lyricist **Prasoon Joshi** was appointed as the new Chairman of Prasar Bharati.
42. **NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman:** Veteran economist **Ashok Lahiri** succeeded Suman Bery as the new Vice-Chairman.
43. **First NE NITI Member:** **Dr. Joram Aniya** from Arunachal Pradesh became the first full-time member from Northeast India in NITI Aayog.
44. **Jnanpith Award:** The 60th Jnanpith Award was conferred upon the Tamil poet and lyricist **R. Vairamuthu**.
45. **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award:** Social activist **Kailash Satyarthi** received this prestigious award in April 2026.
46. **High Commissioner to UK:** Senior diplomat **Periasamy Kumaran** was appointed as India's next envoy to the United Kingdom.
47. **MS Swaminathan Award:** Conferred upon **Ch Srinivasa Rao** for his contribution to dryland agriculture.

Sports, Books & Environment

51. **FIDE Candidates:** **R. Vaishali** became the first Indian woman to win the FIDE Women's Candidates tournament.
52. **Women's Asian Cup:** **Japan** defeated Australia 1-0 to claim the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup title.
53. **New Book:** Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi released his new book titled '**Karuna: The Power of Compassion**'.
54. **Mushroom Mission:** Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the state's first **Mushroom Mission** in April.
55. **Mission Mausam:** The Ministry of Earth Sciences launched **Mission Mausam** in May 2026 to improve long-range weather forecasting accuracy.

Important One-liners (May, 2026)

National News & Government Schemes

1. The Union Cabinet approved the **SARTHAK-PDS Scheme** to fully modernize and automate India's Public Distribution System.
2. The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the **28% retrospective GST** levied on online gaming platforms.
3. The Central Government released India's **First National Report on the Nagoya Protocol**, detailing the collection of ₹216.31 crore under the biodiversity Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) mechanism.
4. India launched the **SEEDS (Supply of Equipment for Efficient Development of SMEs)** initiative to support small and medium enterprises across the Global South.
5. The **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)** reported the generation of 25.79 crore Soil Health Cards, successfully reducing chemical fertilizer usage by up to 10%.
6. The government proposed the **Four-Dimensional Grid Border Security Model** to establish foolproof security against cross-border infiltration and drone threats.
7. The Assam government formally introduced the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026** in the state assembly, explicitly exempting Scheduled Tribes from its purview.
8. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways unveiled the nationwide **"Maritime Reform Utsav"** to commemorate 12 years of structural maritime reforms.
9. The Ministry of Earth Sciences accelerated the **Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar Campaign** to reduce marine litter under the overarching PRITHVI Scheme.
10. The state government of **Mizoram** officially launched the "Ginger Mission" to boost agricultural production and farmer incomes.

Banking, Finance & Economy

16. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the **MoRE (Modernization of Rural Enterprises) Programme** on SIDBI's 37th Foundation Day to support 10,000 rural micro and artisan units.
17. SIDBI launched a **Micro Credit Card Scheme** for MSMEs, enabling Udyam-registered micro-enterprises to access credit up to ₹5 lakh with 75% guarantee coverage.
18. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched two new joint life insurance savings plans for couples: **'New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium'** and **'Limited Premium'**.
19. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved the appointment of Amit Mahajan and Nayana Ovalekar as Executive Directors of the **Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL)**.
20. The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** successfully launched Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) for trading.

International Affairs & Summits

28. The President of Cyprus, **Nikos Christodoulides**, undertook a 4-day official visit to India, resulting in a 5-Year Roadmap for Defence Cooperation.
29. India and the US signed a strategic framework targeting the **Mining and Processing of Critical Minerals and Rare Earths**.
30. India and **Sweden** officially moved to elevate their bilateral ties to a comprehensive "Strategic Partnership."
31. The World Health Organization (WHO) formally declared a new **Ebola Outbreak** as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.
32. India and **Tanzania's** robust bilateral trade successfully crossed the significant \$9 billion threshold.

Science, Technology & Environment

37. **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** commissioned the world's largest single-location Battery Energy Storage System (3.37 GWh capacity) outside China, located in Khavda, Gujarat.
38. Botanists rediscovered the critically endangered plant ***Vaccinium piliferum***, a rare wild relative of the blueberry, in Arunachal Pradesh after 188 years.
39. Oil India Limited discovered a massive new natural gas-bearing zone in the shallow **Sanu Formation** located in Rajasthan's Dandewala field.
40. Global astronomers detected a massive fast radio burst, named **FRB 20240304B**, which originated nearly 10 billion years ago during the "cosmic noon."
41. **TCS** partnered with **French AI startup Mistral AI** to build advanced enterprise generative AI systems tailored for global banking and healthcare sectors.
42. A new oral antiviral drug named **Ensitrelvir** emerged as a highly effective inhibitor of the SARS-CoV-2 main protease for treating COVID-19.
43. The **Mission Divyastra** successfully executed a flight test of the Agni-5 intercontinental ballistic missile, demonstrating its three-stage solid-fuel engine capabilities.
44. The **Kawrthah North Village Council** in **Mizoram** was awarded the prestigious 'Clean and Green Panchayat Award' under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

Important One-liners (June, 2026)

National Appointments & Governance

1. **New IB Director:** 1993-batch IPS officer **Maresh Dixit** has been appointed as the Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for a two-year tenure, succeeding Tapan Deka.
2. **Chief of Naval Staff:** Admiral Krishna Swaminathan officially assumed charge as the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff of India.
3. **Project Hawk Eye:** Launched by the Jammu & Kashmir Police to enhance security frameworks and automated surveillance for the annual **Shri Amarnath Yatra 2026**.
4. **Prasar Bharati Chairman:** Renowned lyricist and ad-guru **Prasoon Joshi** was appointed as the new Chairman of Prasar Bharati.
5. **Nasha Mukh Bharat Saptah:** Observed nationwide from **June 17 to June 26, 2026**, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to tackle drug abuse.
6. **Revised Passport Fee Structure:** The Ministry of External Affairs notified a price adjustment; standard 36-page passport fees will rise from ₹1,500 to **₹2,500** effective July 1.
7. **Model Solar Village:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the transformation of **Pahadpur village in Odisha** into a Model Solar Village.
8. **Digital Policing Apps:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched four new digital applications to seamlessly integrate with the **Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)**.
9. **SOP for Threatened Species:** The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) issued a strict Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) under Section 36 of the Biological Diversity Act for identifying threatened species.
10. **Statehood Day:** **Telangana** celebrated its 12th State Formation Day on June 2, 2026.
11. **Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan:** Former Governor **Banwarilal Purohit** was unanimously elected as the President of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

Banking, Economy & Business

13. **S&P GDP Revision:** S&P Global Ratings trimmed India's FY27 GDP growth forecast to **6.6%** (down from 7.7%) citing global energy pressures and monetary tightening.
14. **Record May GST Collection:** India's gross GST collection for May 2026 recorded an impressive jump, reaching **₹1.94 lakh crore**.
15. **Unclaimed Assets Portal:** The Department of Financial Services (DFS) launched the **Common Landing Portal for Unclaimed Financial Assets** to help citizens track forgotten deposits across banks.
16. **First Fintech in Canada:** Indian cross-border payments startup **Skydo** became the first fintech in the country to secure a payment license from the Bank of Canada.

17. **World Bank \$1.5B Loan:** The World Bank approved a **\$1.5 billion financing package** to support India's structural economic reforms and low-carbon energy transition.
18. **Cooperative Bank Regulations:** The RBI mandated a strict **3-year cooling-off period** for directors of cooperative banks before they can be eligible for re-appointment.
19. **Mega Capital Raise:** **Union Bank of India** announced a major fundraising initiative to clear up to ₹8,000 crore via institutional placements and bonds.
20. **Amazon India Investment:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed e-commerce giant Amazon's massive **\$48 billion** long-term investment roadmap for India.
21. **E-PRAAPTI Portal:** The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) rolled out the **E-PRAAPTI portal** to automate digital data exchange between employers and the body.
22. **Provisional GDP Estimates:** The Statistics Ministry's provisional figures pegged India's final FY26 economic growth slightly higher than the initially projected **7.6%**.

International Relations & Summits

23. **Operation Amistad:** India launched this humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) mission to send emergency IAF relief supplies to **earthquake-hit Venezuela**.
24. **BRICS Asset Recovery:** Under India's 2026 presidency, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) hosted the inaugural **BRICS expert network meeting** on cross-border asset recovery.
25. **New NDB Member:** **Uzbekistan** officially became the first Central Asian nation to join the New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS.
26. **IORA Meeting:** India hosted the 28th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** in New Delhi.
27. **SCO Women's Forum:** The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Women's Forum 2026 concluded successfully in **Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**.
28. **Slovakia's Highest Honour:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the **Order of the White Double Cross, First Class**, Slovakia's top civilian award.
29. **Global AI Opportunity Pact:** India along with 34 other nations signed the **AI Opportunity Statement** in Washington to protect critical semiconductor supply chains.
30. **India-Afghanistan Trade Roadmap:** ASSOCHAM and the Afghanistan Chamber signed an MoU to double bilateral trade to a target of **\$2 billion**.
31. **BRICS Agriculture Declaration:** The 16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting adopted a landmark declaration establishing a network for **Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture**.
32. **Danish Shipwreck Project:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) teamed up with Denmark to archaeologically explore the 17th-century Danish shipwreck **Oresund** off the Indian coast.

Defence, Science & Technology

- 33. **Nuclear-Process Hydrogen Facility:** India inaugurated the world's first commercial hydrogen production plant utilizing nuclear process heat at **IGCAR Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**.
- 34. **OpenAI India Entry:** OpenAI named **Prabhjeet Singh** as its first Managing Director for India to lead local AI regulatory and corporate operations.
- 35. **Project 18:** The Indian Navy accelerated its Next-Generation Destroyer (NGD) program under the strategic codename '**Project 18**'.
- 36. **E85 Flex-Fuel Launch:** India launched the high-ethanol **E85 fuel blend**, enabling modified Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) to cut fossil-fuel dependency.
- 37. **Andaman Gas Discovery:** Oil India Limited (OIL) successfully struck substantial natural gas reserves at the **Vijayapuram-3 exploratory well** in the Andaman shallow offshore block.
- 38. **Netra AEW&C System:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) received final operational clearance for the completely indigenous **Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control** system.
- 39. **Climate Station Uttarakhand:** IITM Pune and ARIES partnered via an MoU to build an advanced, high-altitude **Climate Observation Station at Devasthal, Uttarakhand**.

Sports, Awards & Culture

- 42. **IPL 2026 Champions: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** lifted their maiden Indian Premier League title by defeating Gujarat Titans in the final.
- 43. **Tripura Sarinda GI Tag:** The traditional stringed folk musical instrument '**Tripura Sarinda**' was officially granted India's Geographical Indication (GI) tag as the state's fourth product.
- 44. **Assam GI Influx:** Four unique indigenous products from Assam—**Bah Silpa** (bamboo craft), **Karbi Anglong Handloom**, **Bihu Pepa**, and **Deori Handloom**—received GI tags.
- 45. **First Trillionaire Recorded:** Centibillionaire tech mogul **Elon Musk** was officially recorded as the world's first-ever individual to cross the trillion-dollar wealth mark.
- 46. **Raja Parba Festival:** The famous 3-day agricultural festival celebrating womanhood and Mother Earth's fertility was celebrated with traditional fervor across **Odisha**.
- 47. **Ambubachi Mela 2026:** The historic annual monsoon festival commenced at the revered **Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam**.
- 48. **Ronaldo's World Record:** Portuguese football legend **Cristiano Ronaldo** made history by becoming the first male player to score goals across **six different FIFA World Cups**.
- 49. **Poornankuppam Pond Project:** The historical 400-year-old **Muzhiyankulam** agricultural pond in **Puducherry** underwent a massive ecological restoration and desilting drive.
- 50. Meta appointed **Kunal Shah** (best known for creating **CRED**) the global head and **CEO of WhatsApp**.

Important One-liners (July, 2026)

Polity, Governance & National Initiatives

1. **Public Examinations Amendment Bill 2026:** Lok Sabha passed the bill prescribing 5 to 10 years imprisonment and up to ₹10 crore fines for organized paper leak syndicates.
2. **Special Fast-Track Courts:** States and UTs were mandated to set up Special Fast-Track Courts for time-bound 3-month trials in national examination paper leak cases.
3. **Nandan Nilekani Task Force:** PM Narendra Modi constituted a High-Powered Tech Task Force headed by Nandan Nilekani to engineer a leak-proof digital exam framework.
4. **Ayushman Sarathi PM-JAY Chatbot:** Union Health Ministry launched WhatsApp-based AI assistant 'Ayushman Sarathi' for scheme eligibility checks and hospital locating.
5. **5th Foundation Day of Cooperation Ministry:** Union Minister Amit Shah announced India's first Cooperative Life Insurance Company under 'Sahkar Se Samridhi'.
6. **BHAVYA-Rasayan Scheme:** Union Cabinet approved a ₹3,030 crore scheme to set up 3 large chemical parks across India over 5 years.

State Schemes & Regional Current Affairs

11. **Parashurampuri Renaming:** The Uttar Pradesh government officially approved the renaming of Jalalabad town to Parashurampuri.
12. **PM Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana:** West Bengal approved a ₹313.3 crore scheme for financial aid, housing, and social security for tea garden workers.
13. **AI-Ready Data Center Policy 2026:** Uttar Pradesh approved a policy targeting ₹2 lakh crore in private investments for AI-enabled data hubs.
14. **India's First Inflatable Rubber Dam:** Gujarat commissioned India's first South Korean-backed air-filled rubber dam for smart river water regulation.
15. **NSTI-W & SIIC Patna:** Bihar & MSDE announced a permanent National Skill Training Institute for Women (NSTI-W) and Skill India International Centre in Patna.
16. **Greenfield Refinery at Pachpadra:** PM Modi inaugurated HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited's Greenfield Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex in Rajasthan.
17. **Emergency Helicopter Relief:** Arunachal Pradesh launched emergency helicopter relief operations for flood-isolated mountain villages.

Economy, Banking & Commerce

19. **Output PPI as GDP Deflator:** MoSPI announced phasing out WPI in favor of the Output Producer Price Index (PPI) as the primary GDP deflator.
20. **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY):** Maharashtra became the 1st state to qualify for the 2nd installment of RKVY funds by hitting fund utilization benchmarks.
21. **FDI Policy Relaxation for E-Commerce:** DPIIT permitted foreign-funded e-commerce platforms to operate inventory models exclusively for exporting Indian goods.
22. **SBI Life - PCI Partnership:** SBI Life Insurance became the "Principal Partner" of the Paralympic Committee of India for the 2026 Para Sports season.
23. **Aseem Infrastructure Acquisition:** TPG, GIC, and ICICI Bank acquired Aseem Infrastructure Finance Limited from NIIF.
24. **Infosys Leadership Succession:** Jayesh Dash appointed as MD & CEO of Infosys for a 5-year term starting April 2027.

Science, Technology & Environment

28. **Moonshot Kimi K3:** Released as the world's first open 2.8-trillion parameter MoE multimodal AI model with a 1-million token context window.
29. **IMD NOVA & WINGS App:** MoES launched 'IMD NOVA' for thunderstorm nowcasting and 'WINGS' app for numerical weather prediction.
30. **Green Urea Pilot Plant:** NTPC NETRA announced setting up a 150 TPD Green Urea plant at Pudimadaka, Andhra Pradesh using CCUS technology.
31. **DeepDATA Mobile App:** ICAR-CMFRI launched 'DeepDATA' under the Deep Ocean Mission for scientific deep-sea marine tracking.
32. **Tigidia singhal:** A newly discovered trapdoor spider species from the semi-arid grasslands of the Deccan Plateau, Maharashtra.
33. **Caridina sharmai:** A newly discovered freshwater shrimp species found in the Gomti River near Lucknow, UP.
34. **PRAXIS Mission:** NASA proposed the PRAXIS space mission aimed at direct sampling of Saturn's ring particles.
35. **SHetA2 Oral Therapy:** Scientific breakthrough reported for SHetA2, an oral molecule preventing HPV from progressing into cervical cancer.
36. **Anhydrous Ammonia in Agriculture:** MoA&FW permitted agricultural use of Anhydrous Ammonia fertilizer under Clause 20A of FCO 1985.

Defence & Security

37. **INS Mahendragiri Commissioning:** The 6th and final Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate was commissioned into the Indian Navy.
38. **Astra BVR Missile Export:** Indonesia signed a procurement deal for India's indigenous DRDO-developed Astra Beyond Visual Range missiles.
39. **Missile Manufacturing Hub in MP:** Adani Defence & Aerospace inaugurated a ₹2,500 crore missile manufacturing facility in Madhya Pradesh.
40. **Capt. Shivani Sehrawat:** Became the first woman officer in the Indian Army appointed as Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to Chief of Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth.
41. **Lt Gen Sandeep Jain:** Assumed charge as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS) of the Indian Army.

International Relations & Global Reports

42. **EPI 2026 Ranking:** Estonia topped the Environmental Performance Index 2026; India ranked 176th out of 177 countries.
43. **Henley Passport Index July 2026:** Singapore retained 1st position (192 visa-free destinations); India ranked 81st.
44. **President Murmu Europe Visit:** President Droupadi Murmu conducted state visits to Moldova, North Macedonia, and Romania.
45. **2nd BRICS Science Academies Forum:** Hosted at IIT Hyderabad, Telangana, focusing on sustainable technological collaboration.
46. **India-Saudi Water Management Pact:** Signed an MoU at the Saudi Water Forum for desalination and sustainable water resource security.
47. **MoT & Air India MoU:** Ministry of Tourism signed an MoU with Air India to promote the 'Incredible India' brand globally.

Art, Culture & Places in News

48. **Sarnath - 45th UNESCO Site:** Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath in UP was inscribed as India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site at the 48th WHC in Busan.
49. **Shabdlok (Museum of Word):** India's first immersive language museum 'Shabdlok' was inaugurated at Belvedere House, Kolkata.
50. **Pithora Painting GI Tag:** Pithora sacred ritual wall art of the Rathwa/Bhil tribes in Gujarat received Geographical Indication protection.

51. **Koldam Hydro Power Project:** NTPC-operated 800 MW hydroelectric project on the Satluj River in Bilaspur, HP featured in national grid operational news.
52. **Kikai Caldera:** Active underwater volcanic caldera in the East China Sea (Japan) featured in global volcanology studies.
53. **Word Pole Installation:** Shabdlok language museum unveiled the 'Word Pole' installation representing all 22 Scheduled Languages of India.

Sports & Appointments

54. **Anahat Singh - World Junior Champion:** Became the 1st Indian ever to win the Girls' Singles title at the World Junior Squash Championship 2026 in Canada.
55. **Viswanathan Anand - FIDE Interim President:** Took charge as Interim President of FIDE following Arkady Dvorkovich's suspension of powers.
56. **Sonam Zomba:** Athlete from Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh became the first-ever Karma Fight League (KFL) World Strawweight Champion in Sri Lanka.
57. **Anurag Jain:** Appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog.
58. **CWG Glasgow 2026 Roster:** CGF confirmed Glasgow 2026 will feature 10 sports, with Athletics and Swimming as the only compulsory sports.
59. **ISSF World Cup 2026 Hangzhou:** Esha Singh won the Gold Medal in the Women's 25m Pistol event.

Important One-liners (Aug, 2026)

National News & Government Schemes

1. **PM Narendra Modi** launched the 100-week *Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan* on August 2, 2026.
2. India celebrated its 80th Independence Day with the theme **“Yuva Shakti: Leading the journey to Viksit Bharat”**.
3. The Union Cabinet approved the **Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana** with a total financial outlay of Rs. 570 crore.
4. Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched **Mission Samriddh Gaon** to develop poverty-free, employment-rich rural communities.
5. The **Annapoorni Super Six LPG Scheme** was introduced by Tamil Nadu, offering cylinder reimbursements via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
6. The Centre launched **Kanda Express** trains from Nashik to Delhi, Chennai, Kochi, and Guwahati to transport onions and stabilize rising prices.
7. VP C. P. Radhakrishnan launched India's first indigenous non-GMO high-expansion **Popcorn Maize hybrid seed** in Eluru, Andhra Pradesh.
8. The **PMFME Conclave 2026** was inaugurated by Union Minister Chirag Paswan in New Delhi to promote micro food processing enterprises.
9. The National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums in Mysuru saw the launch of the **Adi Vaani** platform and the AI bot **Jago**.
10. The **Expanded Khelo India Scheme** was officially extended to cover the five-year developmental period from 2026 to 2031.
11. The **Sprite Tejas Express** is India's first-ever privately branded train. Launched in August 2026, it is the result of a unique partnership between the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Coca-Cola India. **The Route: The branded train operates on the Lucknow–New Delhi–Lucknow route (Train No. 82501/82502).**

Banking, Economy & Business

12. **SEBI** introduced the IT Resilience Index (ITRI) Framework to evaluate the robustness of critical IT systems in Market Infrastructure Institutions.
13. The Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) granted in-principle approval for the **3rd round of privatization** of 11 Indian airports.
14. India's consumption of finished steel witnessed a strong growth of **7.9% to 56 million tonnes** between April and July 2026.
15. UNDP India and Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) advanced **Project Circular Bharat** to strengthen the plastic circular economy across 50 cities.

16. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved an US\$850 million loan to support India's PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.
17. **Jio Protecht General Insurance Ltd.** became the first insurer to receive a Certificate of Registration from IRDAI in 2026.
18. WAE collaborated with the UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) to integrate sustainable **water management technologies** into industrial practices.
19. India's FDI limit in the insurance sector currently stands at **74%**.
20. India's Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) has jumped seven spots to become the **21st ranked container port globally**, moving up from its 28th position in 2025.

International Affairs

21. The **2026 SCO Summit** will be hosted in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, commemorating the organization's 25th anniversary.
22. **Mumbai** emerged as the sole Indian city to be included in the global Work From Anywhere Index 2026.
23. The 2nd **India-New Zealand Defence Strategic Dialogue** took place in Wellington to outline Roadmap 2030 and maritime security goals.
24. The UAE formally launched **ALTERRA**, a USD 30 billion climate fund focused on financing clean energy projects in developing nations.
25. **Lebanon** recently made history by becoming the **first Arab country to formally abolish the death penalty**.
26. On **August 24, 2026**, the United States officially removed Syria from its list of **State Sponsors of Terrorism**, ending a designation that had been in place for 47 years (since 1979).

Science, Technology & Space

28. The Union Cabinet cleared the first module of the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS-1)** under the Gaganyaan Programme for a 2028 launch.
29. **IBM** partnered with the Indian AI firm **Krutrim** to develop Sovereign AI solutions under the national BharatGen initiative.
30. India successfully tested its first indigenous **5 kN Air-Breathing Rotating Detonation Engine (RDE)**.
31. CSIR-NAL unveiled three new indigenous gas turbine engines (**NJ-05, NJ-50, NJ-100**) designed specifically for UAVs and missiles.
32. A new 512-MW **Green AI Data Centre** was announced for Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
33. China introduced **Tiangong Ultra**, an advanced humanoid robot capable of running a 100-meter dash in 9.39 seconds.
34. Astronaut **Sophie Adenot** made history as the first French woman to walk in space during an ISS maintenance mission.

Defence & Security

38. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the full Transfer of Technology (ToT) for all **DRDO conventional missile systems** to Indian private manufacturers.
39. The 2nd edition of the India-Vietnam joint maritime exercise, **Sahyog HOP TAC**, was conducted by the respective Coast Guards in Chennai.
40. **Nipun**, the second Diving Support Vessel of the 'Nistar' class built entirely by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), joined the Indian Navy.

Sports & Awards

42. India officially secured the unanimous hosting rights for the **2030 Commonwealth Games (Ahmedabad 2030)** in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
43. The city of Ahmedabad will also host the upcoming **2029 World Police and Fire Games**.
44. **Neeraj Chopra** won the Silver medal in the Men's Javelin Throw at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow with a throw of 85.83m.
45. **Yash Vir Singh** secured the Bronze medal in Men's Javelin at the CWG 2026 on his debut with a personal best of 85.41m.
46. Sri Lanka's **Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage** won the Gold in Men's Javelin at the CWG 2026, securing his country's first athletics gold at the Games.
47. Indian shuttler **Tanvi Sharma** clinched her maiden BWF World Tour title at the Taipei Open Super 300.
48. **Lando Norris** claimed victory in the dramatic Formula 1 Dutch Grand Prix 2026.
49. The **M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)** has been selected to receive the prestigious **Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Award for 2026**.
50. **French literary Prize -Grand Prix Strasbourg Crédit Mutuel (Main Award): Won by Roman Badanin and Mikhail Rubin**, two exiled Russian investigative journalists, for their book *Le Tsar en personne* (The Tsar in Propria Persona: How Vladimir Putin Deceived Us All)

Appointments, Obituaries

51. **Satish Golcha** was appointed as the Director General (DG) of Delhi Home Guards, effective October 1, 2026.
52. **Ketan Merchant** was granted a three-month extension as the interim MD and CEO of Fino Payments Bank.
53. **Arvind Panagariya** continues to lead as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission of India.
54. **Kaziah Liz Mejo** from Kerala was crowned Miss Universe India 2026 in Jaipur.
55. Legendary American country music singer **Dolly Parton** passed away at the age of 80.

Question & Answer (QnA)

[Jan to Aug, 2026]

Section 1: Polity, Governance & National Milestones

Q1: Which major demographic exercise was soft-launched in April 2026 as India's first-ever fully digital census?

A: Census-2027.

Q2: What are the names of the two official mascots unveiled for Census-2027?

A: "Pragati" and "Vikas".

Q3: Who was sworn in as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI), serving throughout 2026?

A: Justice Surya Kant.

Q4: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena approved the creation of how many new districts in Ladakh in April 2026?

A: 5 new districts (Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass), bringing the total to 7.

Q5: Which state cabinet approved an ordinance in April 2026 granting full official language status to Khasi and Garo alongside English?

A: Meghalaya.

Q6: From which city did the Union Health Ministry launch the national Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign to prevent cervical cancer?

A: Ajmer, Rajasthan (launched on February 28, 2026).

Q7: Attendance verification became mandatory through facial recognition for workers under which scheme starting March 1, 2026?

A: MGNREGS (via the updated National Mobile Monitoring System application).

Q8: The historic 150th anniversary of which national song served as the central motif for India's 77th Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2026?

A: Vande Mataram.

Q9: Which state officially declared Amaravati as its sole capital following legislative amendments in early 2026?

A: Andhra Pradesh.

Q10: Who was appointed as the Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog in April 2026, succeeding Suman Bery?

A: Dr. Ashok Lahiri.

Q11: Who took over additional charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog in early 2026?

A: Nidhi Chhibber.

Q12: Which high-altitude animal unit made its public debut under the "Him Yodha" contingent during the 2026 Republic Day parade?

A: Bactrian camels (from the Galwan and Nubra valleys).

Q13: Which endangered indigenous horse breed marched for the first time in the 2026 Republic Day parade for extreme-terrain logistics?

A: Zanskari Ponies.

Q14: As per the June 2026 NFHS-6 data release, what is India's current stable Total Fertility Rate (TFR)?

A: 2.0 (below the replacement level of 2.1).

Q15: According to NFHS-6, childhood stunting in India has dropped to what percentage?

A: 29.3% (down from 35.5% in NFHS-5).

Q16: Which health indicator saw a concerning spike to 27.2% nationwide in the NFHS-6 factsheet?

A: Caesarean-section (C-section) deliveries, particularly in the private sector (54.1%).

Q17: What core health testing component was officially omitted from the NFHS-6 field data collection criteria?

A: Blood-drawn anaemia testing.

Q18: Who was appointed as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in June 2026?

A: Lokhande Prashant Sitaram.

Q19: Who is the current Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) leading the Central Information Commission through 2026?

A: Raj Kumar Goyal.

Q20: The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) restored comprehensive data tracking for social representation in central services after a gap of how many years?

A: 6 years.

Section 2: Economy, Banking & Infrastructure

Q21: Who took over as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), steering the monetary policies through 2026?

A: Sanjay Malhotra.

Q22: In which city did the RBI set up its second major Greenfield Data Centre and Cybersecurity Academy in February 2026?

A: Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Q23: What is the current Repo Rate as determined unanimously by the RBI Monetary Policy Committee in June 2026?

A: 5.25%.

Q24: Who was appointed as the new Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in 2026, succeeding Madhabi Puri Buch?

A: Tuhin Kanta Pandey.

Q25: Indian Railways launched its first-ever compliance-ready LNG-Diesel Dual-Fuel DEMU train at which station?

A: Sabarmati in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Q26: Which station marked the newest operational activation node of India's first Nam0 Bharat RRTS corridor in early 2026?

A: Shatabdi Nagar Nam0 Bharat Station in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

Q27: Who was appointed as the Chairman of the GIFT City regulatory zone framework in February 2026?

A: Uday Kotak.

Q28: Which digital single-window investor platform was upgraded to version 3.0 by the Uttar Pradesh government in March 2026?

A: Nivesh Mitra 3.0.

Q29: What is the name of the digital portal launched by the Ministry of Railways to accelerate and digitize approval pipelines for Road Over Bridges (ROBs)?

A: PRISM-SG Portal.

Q30: Who serves as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, which governs vertical tax devolutions through 2026?

A: Dr. Arvind Panagariya.

Q31: What percentage of vertical tax devolution to states was maintained by the 16th Finance Commission framework?

A: 41%.

Q32: Which digital payments giant integrated biometric 2-Factor Authentication (2F) for UPI payments matching RBI's April 1, 2026 directives?

A: Paytm (One 97 Letters).

Q33: Which Indian cross-border fintech became the first to secure an international payment license in Canada in June 2026?

A: Skydo.

Q34: Which railway coaching depot became India's first certified "Water Neutral" depot in April 2026?

A: Kankaria Coaching Depot (Ahmedabad Division, Western Railway).

Q35: What natural wastewater treatment methodology allows the Kankaria depot to recycle 1.60 lakh liters of water daily?

A: Phytoremediation.

Q36: Who is the current Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI) in 2026?

A: Challa Sreenivasulu Setty.

Q37: Who was reappointed as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for a fresh two-year term in June 2026?

A: Swaminathan Janakiraman.

Q38: According to NITI Aayog's 8th Trade Watch Quarterly, India's pharma sector accounts for what percentage of manufacturing GVA?

A: 7.2% (contributing 1.7% directly to national GDP).

Q39: Which financial entity became a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) corporate sustainability initiative on March 23, 2026?

A: L&T Finance Ltd.

Q40: Who was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of GAIL (India) Limited in March 2026?

A: Deepak Gupta.

Section 3: Defense, Aerospace & Internal Security

Q41: Who assumed charge as India's third Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on May 31, 2026?

A: General NS Raja Subramani (succeeding General Anil Chauhan).

Q42: Who was appointed as the next Chief of Army Staff (COAS) in June 2026, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi?

A: Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth.

Q43: Who took charge as the Chairman of DRDO and Secretary of the Department of Defence R&D on May 31, 2026?

A: Rajesh Kumar Singh (IAS), holding additional charge alongside his portfolio as Defence Secretary.

Q44: Who succeeded S. Somanath as the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?

A: Dr. V. Narayanan (former Director of LPSC).

Q45: The Indian Army successfully test-fired which infrared heat-seeking VSHORADS missile at Pokhran in February 2026?

A: Strela-10.

Q46: Which multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy in February 2026 stood out as India's largest-ever with 74 participating nations?

A: Exercise MILAN-2026 (13th Edition).

Q47: Which Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard was formally delivered to the Indian Navy in April 2026?

A: INS Malwan.

Q48: Who took over as the 20th Commander-in-Chief of the strategically critical Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN) in June 2026?

A: Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty.

Q49: The 7th edition of the India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise, held in April 2026, is named what?

A: Exercise DUSTLIK 2026 (conducted in Namangan, Uzbekistan).

Q50: Which indigenous prototype fast breeder nuclear reactor achieved its historic maiden criticality checkpoint at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu?

A: PFBR (Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor).

Q51: Who was appointed as the Inspector General (IG) in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in June 2026?

A: Sundarraj P (2003-batch IPS).

Q52: Which offshore patrol vessel was deployed by India under the IO-SAGAR maritime security monitoring mission in early 2026?

A: INS Sunayna.

Q53: Who was appointed as the Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA) in February 2026?

A: Divakar Jayant.

Q54: What is the name of the advanced, precision-enabled long-range tactical combat weapon platform that made its public debut on Republic Day 2026?

A: Shaktibaan (alongside Divyastra).

Q55: The Indian Navy assumed tactical command of which international combined naval training task force under the multi-nation CMF architecture in early 2026?

A: Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154).

Q56: Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry took over as the new Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of which specific wing in June 2026?

A: Central Air Command.

Q57: What was the name of the special precision tactical flypast formation executed by Rafales and Sukhois during the 2026 Republic Day parade?

A: "Sindoor" formation.

Q58: Which state police force was honored with the prestigious President's Colour for Service Excellence in April 2026?

A: Odisha Police.

Q59: India added a historic, all-time record of how much wind power generation capacity during the trailing financial year cycle ending 2026?

A: 6.05 GW.

Q60: Who was appointed as the new Chief of Israel's intelligence agency, Mossad, in April 2026?

A: Roman Gofman.

Section 4: International Relations & Global Summits

Q61: Where was the 52nd G7 Leaders' Summit held from June 15 to 17, 2026?

A: Évian-les-Bains, France.

Q62: What was the historic name of the bilateral U.S.-Iran ceasefire agreement signed remotely on June 17, 2026?

A: The Islamabad Memorandum (brokered by Pakistan).

Q63: Who was elected as the President of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in June 2026?

A: Khalilur Rahman (Foreign Minister of Bangladesh).

Q64: To Lam was elected as the head of state/President of which Southeast Asian nation in April 2026?

A: Vietnam.

Q65: Which strategic intelligence and technological cooperation framework was proposed by Israeli PM Netanyahu to India in early 2026?

A: The Hexagon of Alliance.

Q66: Where was the first-ever Global AI Impact Summit hosted within the Global South in February 2026?

A: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Q67: Who was appointed as India's next Ambassador to Saudi Arabia in June 2026?

A: Vipul (Senior IFS officer).

Q68: Who was appointed as India's next Ambassador to Türkiye in June 2026?

A: Rudra Gaurav Shresth.

Q69: Which anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was celebrated on April 4, 2026?

A: 77th Anniversary.

Q70: India signed a bilateral agreement in April 2026 with Taiwan-linked Allegiance International to set up an industrial park in which region?

A: Sanand-Dholera region, Gujarat.

Q71: Mia Mottley secured a historic fresh mandate as the Prime Minister of which Caribbean nation in February 2026?

A: Barbados.

Q72: What was the name of the localized border and air military operation launched by Pakistan against safe havens in Afghanistan in February 2026?

A: Operation Ghazab lil-Haq.

Q73: Which global financial monitoring body elected India's Vivek Aggarwal to a core operational leadership workflow steering role in June 2026?

A: Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Q74: The ongoing geopolitical energy crisis of 2026 concerning global LPG supplies erupted due to maritime container disruptions in which chokepoint?

A: Strait of Hormuz (West Asia).

Q75: India dispatched 1,000 metric tonnes of rice as humanitarian aid to which drought-hit East African nation in April 2026?

A: Zambia.

Section 5: Environment, Science & Technology

Q76: Which wetland was designated as India's historic 100th Ramsar Site on June 5, 2026?

A: Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.

Q77: What geological origin explains the formation of the Surha Tal oxbow lake?

A: It is a perennial oxbow lake formed by a natural path shift/meander of the Ganges River.

Q78: Which wetland was designated as India's 99th Ramsar Site in April 2026?

A: Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.

Q79: Which state leads India with the highest absolute number of Ramsar sites (20) as of June 2026?

A: Tamil Nadu (followed by Uttar Pradesh with 13).

Q80: What is India's first compliance-based carbon market framework launched in early 2026 called?

A: Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).

Q81: Which city hosted the global center for World Environment Day on June 5, 2026?

A: Baku, Azerbaijan.

Q82: What was the official theme for World Environment Day 2026?

A: "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future"

Q83: Which Indian state remains the first to implement Gross Environment Product (GEP) index indicators to calculate the value of ecosystem services alongside GDP?

A: Uttarakhand.

Q84: According to the latest coastal marine census concluded in June 2026, the wild dolphin population in which state has topped 680?

A: Gujarat (Gulf of Khambhat and Kutch).

Q85: A major wildlife reintroduction and tracking programme for Blackbucks was initiated in which sanctuary in April 2026?

A: Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary, Chhattisgarh.

Q86: What agricultural soil additive and stable carbon-sink material was pushed via central subsidies to curb stubble burning in H1 2026?

A: Biochar (produced via agricultural biomass pyrolysis).

Q87: Under which international protocol does India lead globally in issuing Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCC)?

A: The Nagoya Protocol.

Q88: World Glacier Day 2026 was observed globally on March 21 with which urgent theme?

A: "Beyond the Melt".

Q89: India ranks 23rd in the latest Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI 2026). Which country stands at the highest position?

A: Denmark (Ranks 1–3 remain vacant).

Q90: Which university's annual assessment positioned India 3rd globally in its Global AI Vibrancy Index rankings?

A: Stanford University.

91.Question: Who won the Men's Singles title at the 2026 Wimbledon Championships in July 2026?

- **Answer: Jannik Sinner** (Italy — Defeated Alexander Zverev 6–7, 7–6, 6–3, 6–4)

92.Question: Who became the first Indian ever to win the Girls' Singles title at the World Junior Squash Championships in July 2026?

- **Answer: Anahat Singh** (Defeated Egypt's Ruqayya Salem 3–0)

93. Question: Which historical site was officially inscribed as India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2026?

- **Answer: Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath** (Uttar Pradesh)

94. Question: Where was India's first immersive language museum, 'ShabdaloK' (Museum of Word), inaugurated in July 2026?

- **Answer: Belvedere House, National Library Campus, Kolkata** (West Bengal)

95.Question: What is the maximum fine for organized cheating syndicates under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 passed in July 2026?

- **Answer: Fine of up to ₹10 crore** (along with 7 to 10 years imprisonment)

96.Question: Who became the first female officer in the Indian Army appointed as Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the Chief of the Army Staff in July 2026?

- **Answer: Captain Shivani Sehrawat** (Serving under COAS General Dhiraj Seth)

97. Question: What is India's position in the July 2026 update of the Henley Passport Index?

- **Answer: 81st Place** (Singapore ranked 1st)

98. Question: Who took charge as the Interim President of FIDE (International Chess Federation) in July 2026?

- **Answer: Viswanathan Anand** (Assumed charge following the suspension of duties by Arkady Dvorkovich)

99. Question: Who was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog in July 2026?

- **Answer: Anurag Jain** (1989-batch IAS officer)

100. Question: Which country ranked 1st in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026 released in July 2026?

- **Answer: Estonia** (India ranked 176th out of 177 countries)

Section 6: Sports, Culture & Global Rankings

Topic	Key Question	Verified Answer (2026)
BCCI	Who is serving as the 37th President of the BCCI through 2026?	Mithun Manhas (<i>Elected unopposed</i>)
Football	Which country won the SAFF Women's Championship 2026 in Goa?	India (<i>Defeated Bangladesh 3–1</i>)
Tennis	Who won the Men's Singles title at the French Open 2026?	Alexander Zverev (<i>Germany - First major slam</i>)
Tennis	Who became the youngest women's French Open champion since 2020?	Mirra Andreeva (<i>Russia - 19 years old</i>)
World Cup	Who became the outright all-time top scorer in World Cup history with 22 goals?	Kylian Mbappé (<i>Surpassed Messi, Klose and Marta on 2026</i>)
Cricket	Which bowler made history by becoming the first to take 700 T20 wickets?	Rashid Khan (<i>Afghanistan, during the T20 World Cup</i>)
Awards	Which state civilian honor did Slovakia confer upon PM Modi in June 2026?	Order of the White Double Cross, First Class
Awards	Who received the posthumous Padma Vibhushan for Art in June 2026?	Dharmendra Singh Deol
Culture	Which cultural veteran was appointed as the Chairperson of the CBFC (Censor Board)?	Shashi Shekhar Vempati (<i>Former Prasar Bharati CEO</i>)
Rankings	What is India's position in the latest Henley Passport Index (July 2026)?	81th Place (<i>Singapore ranked 1st</i>)



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