

1. Appointments & Defense News

Next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): The Government of India has appointed **Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani** (Retd.) as the 3rd Chief of Defence Staff. He will succeed General Anil Chauhan on May 30, 2026. He previously served as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff and Military Adviser to the National Security Council Secretariat.

Next Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS): **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** has been named the 26th Chief of the Naval Staff. He will succeed Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi on May 31, 2026. He is an expert in Communication and Electronic Warfare.

Maiden Trial of 'TARA': India successfully conducted the first flight-trial of **TARA (Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation)**, an indigenous modular glide weapon system. Developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), it converts unguided bombs into precision-guided smart weapons with a range of over 80 km.

CBRN Training Centre: DRDO inaugurated the **Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Field Training and Demonstration Centre** at Burari, Delhi, to enhance disaster response and defense preparedness.

2. International News

World Migration Report 2026: India remains the world's **top recipient of remittances**, receiving a record **\$137.67 billion** in 2024. The report by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) listed the USA as the largest source of outflows (\$100 billion).

IOC Lifts Belarus Restrictions: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has lifted all restrictions on Belarusian athletes, allowing them to compete under their national flag in qualifiers for the **Los Angeles 2028 Olympics**.

Europe Day: Observed on **May 9** to mark the anniversary of the 1950 Schuman Declaration, which led to the creation of the European Union (EU).

3. National News & Government Schemes

JANANI Platform: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched **JANANI** (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care), a QR-enabled digital platform to track maternal and child healthcare services across India.

Central Prabhari Officer Portal: NITI Aayog launched this portal to strengthen real-time governance and coordination under the **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)**.

Bihar Urban Development: The Bihar Cabinet approved a **\$500 million loan from the World Bank** to develop integrated urban economic regions and upgrade municipal infrastructure.

Skyroot Aerospace: Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace became **India's first space-tech unicorn** after raising funding that took its valuation to \$1.1 billion.

4. Economics & Banking

RBI Stake Approval: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed **Kotak Mahindra Bank** to increase its stake up to **9.99%** in both **AU Small Finance Bank** and **Federal Bank**.

Rural Banking Expansion: **Jio Payments Bank** partnered with **Ezeepay** to use its merchant network as Business Correspondents, expanding banking services to over 12,000 underserved PIN codes.

GDP Revision: S&P Global and CRISIL revised India's **FY27 GDP growth forecast** downward to **6.6%** (from 7.1%) due to supply chain disruptions and rising energy costs from global conflicts.

5. Sports, Awards, & Books

Commonwealth Table Tennis: Delhi is set to host the **22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship** from July 27 to August 2, 2026.

World Snooker: **Wu Yize** won the 2026 World Snooker Championship, defeating Shaun Murphy in the final.

Palk Strait Record: Ishank Singh became the youngest swimmer to cross the Palk Strait between India and Sri Lanka.

Pulitzer Prizes 2026: ProPublica was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its investigative reporting on judicial ethics.

New Book: *Geographies of Distance: Remembering Home* by Jhumpa Lahiri was released, exploring migration and identity.

6. Important Days

May 9: Victory Day: Commemorating the end of WWII in Europe (observed primarily in Russia and former Soviet states).

May 9: Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti: Celebrated as *Pochishe Boishakh* in the Bengali calendar (May 7 is the Gregorian date).

May 8: World Red Cross Day: Theme for 2026: "United in Humanity."

May 10 (Upcoming): World Lupus Day and Mother's Day (second Sunday of May).

7. MoUs & Agreements

Healthcare AI: IndiaAI and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) signed an MoU to promote the responsible adoption of Artificial Intelligence in medical research and diagnostics.

India-Vietnam Ties: Both nations elevated their relationship to an "Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" following 13 new agreements in defense, space, and digital technology.

Section 1: Appointments & Defense

Q1. Who has been appointed as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India, succeeding General Anil Chauhan?

- (a) Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi
- (b) Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani
- (c) Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
- (d) Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh

Answer: (b) Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani

Explanation: The Government of India has appointed Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani as the 3rd CDS. He will take charge on May 30, 2026. He previously served as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff and possesses extensive experience in military operations and strategic planning.

Q2. Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan has been named the 26th Chief of which wing of the Indian Armed Forces?

- (a) Indian Army
- (b) Indian Air Force
- (c) Indian Navy
- (d) Indian Coast Guard

Answer: (c) Indian Navy

Explanation: Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan will succeed Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi as the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) on May 31, 2026. He is currently the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command.

Q3. India successfully conducted the flight trial of the indigenous glide weapon system 'TARA'. Which institution developed it?

- (a) HAL
- (b) DRDO
- (c) ISRO
- (d) BDL

Answer: (b) DRDO

Explanation: TARA (Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation) is India's first indigenous "low-cost precision strike" glide weapon. Developed by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, it converts unguided bombs into precision-guided weapons with a range exceeding 80 km.

Q4. Who has been appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of Vodafone Idea in May 2026?

- (a) Ravinder Takkar
- (b) Akshaya Moondra
- (c) Kumar Mangalam Birla
- (d) Himanshu Kapania

Answer: (a) Ravinder Takkar

Explanation: Ravinder Takkar has been appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of Vodafone Idea, effective May 2026, bringing his extensive telecom leadership experience back to the forefront of the company's board.

Q5. Where did the DRDO recently inaugurate the CBRN Field Training and Demonstration Centre?

- (a) Chandipur, Odisha
- (b) Burari, Delhi
- (c) Pokhran, Rajasthan
- (d) Bengaluru, Karnataka

Answer: (b) Burari, Delhi

Explanation: The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) facility was inaugurated in Burari to strengthen India's nuclear emergency preparedness and disaster response capabilities.

Section 2: International News

Q6. According to the World Migration Report 2026, which country topped the global remittance inflows in 2024?

- (a) Mexico
- (b) China
- (c) India
- (d) Egypt

Answer: (c) India

Explanation: India remains the top recipient of remittances globally, receiving a record **\$137.67 billion** in 2024. This highlight comes from the biennial report by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Q7. Which international organization recently lifted restrictions on Belarusian athletes for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics?

- (a) World Athletics
- (b) FIFA
- (c) IOC
- (d) BWF

Answer: (c) IOC (International Olympic Committee)

Explanation: The IOC ended the neutral status requirement for Belarusian athletes, allowing them to qualify and represent their country at the 2028 Games, reversing a policy in place since 2022.

Q8. India recently elevated its bilateral ties to an "Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" (CSP) with which country?

- (a) France
- (b) Vietnam
- (c) Japan

(d) Brazil

Answer: (b) Vietnam

Explanation: Following the official visit of Vietnamese President To Lam to India (May 5–7, 2026), both nations upgraded their diplomatic status to an Enhanced CSP, signing 13 MoUs in defense and digital technology.

Q9. Which country developed the 'Yildirimhan' Missile, recently tested in May 2026?

- (a) Iran
- (b) Turkey
- (c) Israel
- (d) Pakistan

Answer: (b) Turkey

Explanation: Turkey conducted a successful test of the Yildirimhan missile, enhancing its indigenous long-range ballistic missile capabilities.

Section 3: Economics & Banking

Q10. The RBI has allowed Kotak Mahindra Bank to raise its stake up to 9.99% in which two banks?

- (a) YES Bank and IDFC First
- (b) AU Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank
- (c) RBL Bank and Bandhan Bank
- (d) South Indian Bank and City Union Bank

Answer: (b) AU Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank

Explanation: The RBI granted approval for Kotak Mahindra Bank to increase its strategic investment in these two private lenders, allowing for greater consolidation within regulatory limits.

Q11. Which payment bank partnered with "Ezeepay" to expand rural banking services through a merchant network?

- (a) Airtel Payments Bank
- (b) Fino Payments Bank
- (c) Jio Payments Bank
- (d) India Post Payments Bank

Answer: (c) Jio Payments Bank

Explanation: Jio Payments Bank is leveraging Ezeepay's network to provide basic banking services like cash withdrawals and deposits to underserved rural populations in India.

Q12. The Ministry of Statistics (MoS&PI) updated the base year for National Accounts and GSDP to which year?

- (a) 2011-12
- (b) 2020-21
- (c) 2022-23
- (d) 2024-25

Answer: (c) 2022-23

Explanation: The base year has been revised to 2022-23 to more accurately reflect the current economic structure, incorporating modern data sources and international estimation standards.

Q13. S&P Global and CRISIL Ratings revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY27 to what percentage?

- (a) 6.2%
- (b) 6.6%
- (c) 7.1%
- (d) 7.6%

Answer: (b) 6.6%

Explanation: In their "India Forward" report, analysts projected a robust 6.6% growth rate, citing strong domestic demand and infrastructure spending.

Section 4: National News & Govt Schemes

Q14. The Ministry of Health launched which QR-enabled digital platform to track maternal and child healthcare?

- (a) MATRITVA
- (b) VANDANA
- (c) JANANI
- (d) SURAKSHA

Answer: (c) JANANI

Explanation: The JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care) platform uses QR codes to track health checkups and immunizations for mothers and infants.

Q15. NITI Aayog launched which portal to boost real-time governance in Aspirational Districts?

- (a) PRAGATI 2.0
- (b) Central Prabhari Officer Portal
- (c) District Vikas Portal
- (d) Gram Swaraj Portal

Answer: (b) Central Prabhari Officer Portal

Explanation: This portal allows for direct monitoring and coordination between central officials and district administrations to ensure the effective implementation of developmental schemes.

Q16. According to the "School Education System in India" report by NITI Aayog, which state has the highest number of "zero-enrolment" schools?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Telangana
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Bihar

Answer: (c) West Bengal

Explanation: The report identified roughly 8,000 ghost schools (zero enrolment) in India, with **West Bengal (3,812)** and **Telangana (2,245)** topping the list.

Q17. Which state cabinet approved a \$500 million World Bank loan for "Urban Economic Development" on May 8, 2026?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Karnataka

Answer: (c) Bihar

Explanation: The Bihar cabinet, led by CM Samrat Choudhary, approved the loan to improve urban infrastructure and economic resilience in its major cities.

Section 5: MoUs & Science

Q18. IndiaAI signed an MoU with which body to boost AI adoption in the healthcare sector?

- (a) AIIMS
- (b) ICMR
- (c) NHA
- (d) ISRO

Answer: (b) ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)

Explanation: The partnership aims to foster responsible AI innovation for early disease detection, clinical trials, and healthcare logistics.

Q19. Which Indian startup became the first space-tech "Unicorn" with a valuation of \$1.1 billion in May 2026?

- (a) Agnikul Cosmos
- (b) Pixxel
- (c) Skyroot Aerospace
- (d) Dhruva Space

Answer: (c) Skyroot Aerospace

Explanation: Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace reached unicorn status following a \$60 million funding round, marking a milestone for India's private space industry.

Q20. The US National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) signed a contract with which Indian startup for hyperspectral remote sensing?

- (a) Skyroot
- (b) Pixxel
- (c) Bellatrix
- (d) Agnikul

Answer: (b) Pixxel

Explanation: Pixxel was selected for its high-resolution hyperspectral imagery, which will be used for environmental and security monitoring by the US agency.

Section 6: Sports, Awards & Books

Q21. Which city was announced as the host for the 2026 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship?

- (a) Birmingham
- (b) Singapore
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Colombo

Answer: (c) Delhi

Explanation: The tournament is scheduled to take place at the Thyagaraj Stadium, Delhi, from July 27 to August 2, 2026.

Q22. Who won the Madrid Open 2026 Women's Singles Title?

- (a) Iga Swiatek
- (b) Aryna Sabalenka
- (c) Elena Rybakina
- (d) Coco Gauff

Answer: (a) Iga Swiatek

Explanation: (Based on May 2026 results) World No. 1 Iga Swiatek secured her victory in a hard-fought final to claim the prestigious clay-court title.

Q23. Indian chess player Apara Saxena was recently awarded which title by FIDE?

- (a) Grandmaster (GM)
- (b) Candidate Master (CM)
- (c) International Master (IM)
- (d) FIDE Master (FM)

Answer: (a) Grandmaster (GM)

Explanation: Apara Saxena became India's latest Grandmaster after crossing the 2500 ELO rating mark and completing the final GM norm in May 2026.

Q24. Who was honored with the "Pulitzer Prize 2026" for Public Service?

- (a) The New York Times
- (b) The Washington Post
- (c) Associated Press
- (d) ProPublica

Answer: (d) ProPublica

Explanation: ProPublica won for its investigative journalism uncovering ethical lapses in the judiciary, continuing its streak of high-impact reporting.

Q25. "Geographies of Distance: Remembering Home" is a recently released book authored by whom?

- (a) Jhumpa Lahiri
- (b) Amitav Ghosh
- (c) Salman Rushdie
- (d) Arundhati Roy

Answer: (a) Jhumpa Lahiri

Explanation: Jhumpa Lahiri's new collection of essays and stories explores themes of migration, memory, and the concept of "home."

Section 7: Important Days

Q26. What was the theme for World Red Cross Day observed on May 8, 2026?

- (a) Everything we do comes #fromtheheart
- (b) Keeping Humanity Alive
- (c) United in Humanity
- (d) Be Human Kind

Answer: (c) United in Humanity

Explanation: The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross. The 2026 theme emphasizes global solidarity in humanitarian action.

Q27. When is "Victory Day" observed to mark the end of WWII in Europe?

- (a) May 1
- (b) May 5
- (c) May 9

(d) May 11

Answer: (c) May 9

Explanation: Victory Day is an annual holiday in Russia and several other nations, commemorating the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945.

Q28. What is the theme for World Athletics Day 2026 (May 7)?

- (a) Athletics for Everyone
- (b) Athletics for a Better World
- (c) Run for Health
- (d) The Future of Sport

Answer: (b) Athletics for a Better World

Explanation: Introduced by World Athletics (formerly IAAF), the day promotes youth engagement in sports and physical activity.

Q29. On which date is Mother's Day celebrated in 2026?

- (a) May 8
- (b) May 9
- (c) May 10
- (d) May 12

Answer: (c) May 10

Explanation: Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May. In 2026, the second Sunday falls on May 10.

Q30. "World Lupus Day" is observed every year on which date?

- (a) May 1
- (b) May 5
- (c) May 10
- (d) May 15

Answer: (c) May 10

Explanation: World Lupus Day is observed to raise awareness about the chronic autoimmune disease and advocate for better healthcare and research.

