

National News

India's First AI Monsoon System Launched: The India Meteorological Department (IMD), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, launched the nation's first AI-enabled block-level monsoon forecasting system. It provides hyperlocal, impact-based forecasts up to 4 weeks in advance.

First CCUS Field Lab: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated India's first Integrated Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) field laboratory facility under the 'Bharat Innovates 2026' initiative at IIT Bombay.

Base Year Revision Announced: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced a base year revision for major economic indices. The new base year for Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) will be shifted to 2022-23, while for the Consumer Price Index (CPI), it will be 2024.

10th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD): India hosted the 10th edition of the Track 1.5 dialogue in New Delhi under the theme "Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World, Marking the start of India's Chairship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for 2025-27.

International News

Strategic Agalega Islands: The Agalega Islands (a two-island dependency of Mauritius) emerged in the spotlight as India bolsters its maritime surveillance capabilities across the western and southern Indian Ocean.

UNDP Report on Sovereign Debt: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) published a report titled "Who Pays the Price? Gender Inequality and Sovereign Debt" under its EQUANOMICS initiative, flagging that high debt-servicing forces severe economic risks onto women in the Global South.

"Islamic NATO" Geopolitics: Deliberations intensified in West Asia as Pakistan signaled intention for a broader defense alignment involving Qatar and Turkey.

Economics & Banking

Launch of BMIP: The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, launched the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) worth USD 1.5 Billion (with a USD 1.4 Billion sovereign guarantee) to protect Indian vessels from shipping risks amid rising global conflicts. The first Marine Hull & Machinery War Policy was issued by New India Assurance to Hoyer Offshore.

India-IFAD Strategy: The Government of India and the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) launched an 8-year Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP 2026-2033) aligned with the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision to boost the rural economy.

Moody's GDP Revision: Moody's Ratings revised India's Calendar Year 2026 (CY26) GDP growth forecast downward by 80 basis points to 6%, citing global tightening and domestic headwinds.

Import Duty Hiked: The central government hiked the import tariffs on gold and silver to 15% in a strategic move to defend the Indian Rupee (\$INR\$) and preserve foreign exchange reserves.

(MoUs)

I4C and RBIH Partnership: The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) signed an MoU to deploy advanced AI models (like MuleHunter.ai) to trace and curb illegal financial mule accounts.

NABARD & IFAD: Alongside the rural strategy rollout, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) signed a strategic pact with IFAD to enhance rural financing.

Pharmacovigilance Expansion: The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) signed separate

MoUs with State Pharmacy Councils of Bihar, Maharashtra, and Mizoram to minimize adverse drug reactions (ADR) and scale the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI).

Defense News & Science

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) Report: The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) released a report titled "India's Nuclear Energy Vision: Strategic Pathways for SMR Deployments" stating India needs an investment of up to ₹25 lakh crore to hit 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047.

New Species Discovered: Botanists discovered a new alpine plant species named *Melanoseris pendryi* (Asteraceae family) in the high elevations of the Sikkim Himalayas. It is currently proposed to be classified as Critically Endangered.

Appointments, Awards & Honors

CII Leadership Transition: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) elected its new office bearers for the 2026–27 term. Suchitra Ella has been elected as the President-Designate, and Shashwat Goenka as the Vice President.

Assam Cabinet Administered: Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered oaths of office to state leaders under Article 164 of the Constitution.

Sports News

Thailand Open Progress: Ace Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth put up stellar performances to advance to the next rounds of the Thailand Open Badminton tournament.

Tennis Milestone: World No. 1 Jannik Sinner equaled Novak Djokovic's record of 31 consecutive match wins at the ATP Masters 1,000 level.

High-Yield Static Points Linked to Today's News:

IFAD Headquarters: Rome, Italy (Established in 1977, India is a founding member).

Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary: Located in the Kumaon Himalayas, Uttarakhand (In news due to a new scientific wildlife census initiated by the forest department).

Article 164 of Indian Constitution: Deals with provisions regarding State Ministers, including the appointment of the Chief Minister by the Governor.

30 Multiple Choice Questions

Section I: National & International News

Q1. The 'Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor', recently seen in the news due to threats from logging and oil expansion, is located in which of the following regions?

- [A] Sahara Desert region
- [B] Himalayan region
- [C] Amazon Basin region
- [D] Arctic Circle region

Answer: [C] Amazon Basin region

- **Explanation:** The Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor is a massive indigenous reserve and protected ecological zone situated in the Amazon Basin (primarily across Peru and Brazil). It has garnered international attention recently due to massive environmental threats stemming from illegal logging, infrastructure development, and corporate oil expansion, which directly threaten uncontacted indigenous populations.

Q2. In May 2026, which country unveiled a prototype intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) named the 'Yildirimhan Missile' to boost its strategic military self-reliance?

- [A] Iran
- [B] Israel
- [C] Turkey
- [D] Russia

Answer: [C] Turkey

- **Explanation:** Turkey unveiled the 'Yildirimhan Missile', its newly developed prototype ICBM aimed at expanding its sovereign defence architecture. The liquid-fuelled missile is reported to achieve hyper-velocity speeds of up

to Mach 25 and is designed to project deterrence across intercontinental ranges.

Q3. A multi-country cluster of 'Hantavirus' (specifically the Andes virus strain) was recently flagged by the WHO, linked to which type of activity?

- [A] Wild migratory bird sanctuary tourism
- [B] Cruise ship travel
- [C] Frozen seafood consumption
- [D] Deforestation in Central Africa

Answer: [B] Cruise ship travel

- **Explanation:** The World Health Organization (WHO) reported a cluster of lab-confirmed Hantavirus cases (Andes virus variant) epidemiologically linked to international cruise ship travel touching Argentina and Chile. While Hantaviruses are typically transmitted through rodent excreta, the Andes variant is known for limited, close-contact human-to-human transmission.

Q4. India's first International Ophthalmology Research Conference was organized in May 2026 at which of the following venues?

- [A] Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi
- [B] IIT Madras, Chennai
- [C] NIMHANS, Bengaluru
- [D] LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad

Answer: [A] Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi

- **Explanation:** The historic first International Ophthalmology Research Conference commenced at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. It was hosted by the Department of Ophthalmology at the Army Hospital (Research & Referral) in collaboration with the All-India Ophthalmological Society to discuss high-tech advancements in eye care.

Q5. Which country's President, To Lam, undertook a high-profile 3-day official state visit to India from May 5 to May 7, 2026?

- [A] Cambodia
- [B] Vietnam
- [C] Laos
- [D] Thailand

Answer: [B] Vietnam

- **Explanation:** Vietnamese President To Lam visited India at the invitation of PM Narendra Modi. The high-level bilateral meet led to the elevation of ties to an 'Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' and the exchange of 27 cooperation agreements, with an aim to scale bilateral trade to \$25 billion by 2030.

Q6. Recently, a botanical discovery named 'Cyphostemma annamalaii' was made in the southern Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu. It belongs to which plant family?

- [A] Orchidaceae (Orchid family)
- [B] Vitaceae (Grape family)
- [C] Fabaceae (Legume family)
- [D] Solanaceae (Nightshade family)

Answer: [B] Vitaceae (Grape family)

- **Explanation:** Discovered by researchers from Annamalai University, *Cyphostemma annamalaii* is a newly cataloged climbing plant species with tuberous roots and distinct yellow berries. It is endemic to the tropical dry forests and open scrublands of Tamil Nadu's Eastern Ghats.

Q7. The historic Ulsoor Lake (also called Halasuru Lake), which was recently in the news for an extensive desilting project, is located in which Indian city?

- [A] Hyderabad
- [B] Chennai
- [C] Bengaluru
- [D] Kochi

Answer: [C] Bengaluru

- **Explanation:** Ulsoor Lake is one of Bengaluru's oldest and largest man-made lakes, dating back to 1648 (constructed by Kempe Gowda II). It hit the news cycles as environmental activists flagged concerns over an inadequate 0.6-meter deep desilting drive undertaken after nearly three decades.

Q8. President Vladimir Putin addressed the historic Victory Day parade on Red Square on May 9, 2026. This day marks the anniversary of which event?

- [A] The foundation of the Soviet Union
- [B] The defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945

- [C] The end of the First World War
- [D] The adoption of the Russian Constitution

Answer: [B] The defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945

- **Explanation:** Every year on May 9, Russia celebrates Victory Day to commemorate the capitulation of Nazi Germany to the Soviet Union in World War II (The Great Patriotic War). The 2026 address was highly combative, focusing heavily on NATO's current geopolitical role.

Section 2: Economy, Banking & Infrastructure

Q9. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoS&PI) has recently updated the base year of National Accounts and Gross State Value Added (GSVA) to which financial year?

- [A] 2011-12
- [B] 2018-19
- [C] 2022-23
- [D] 2024-25

Answer: [C] 2022-23

- **Explanation:** In a major statistical overhaul, the National Statistics Office (NSO) under MoS&PI notified uniform guidelines for compiling GSVA with 2022-23 as the new base year. This ensures the structural changes, digital transaction growth, and modern economic indicators of post-pandemic India are accurately reflected.

Q10. According to the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in May 2026 ('Crime in India 2024' report), India recorded how much of a decline in cognizable crimes compared to 2023?

- [A] 2%
- [B] 6%
- [C] 12%
- [D] 15%

Answer: [B] 6%

- **Explanation:** The NCRB released its annual statistical publication for 2024 data, showing that India recorded 58.86 lakh cognizable crimes, marking a 6% decline from the 62.41 lakh cases registered in the preceding year (2023).

Q11. As per the policy report 'School Education System in India' released by NITI Aayog in May 2026, which Indian state recorded the highest number of 'Zero-Enrolment Schools' (ghost schools)?

- [A] Telangana
- [B] Punjab
- [C] West Bengal
- [D] Bihar

Answer: [C] West Bengal

- **Explanation:** The NITI Aayog report revealed that nearly 8,000 schools nationwide operate with zero student enrolment. Out of these, West Bengal topped the chart with 3,812 zero-enrolment schools, followed by Telangana with 2,245 schools.

Q12. According to OECD and administrative data estimates discussed in recent public data infrastructure debates, resolving duplicate entries and data leakages can save how much of government spending annually?

- [A] 1% to 2%
- [B] 4% to 7%
- [C] 10% to 12%
- [D] 15%

Answer: [B] 4% to 7%

- **Explanation:** Recent fiscal governance reports indicate that structural leakages and fragmented tracking systems inflate public expenditure by 4% to 7% annually. Enhancing the National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP) is projected to inject up to 2.5% back into India's GDP.

Q13. In May 2026, the central government fully operationalized four new Labour Codes by finalising and publishing their central rules. These four codes consolidate how many central labour laws?

- [A] 15
- [B] 29
- [C] 44
- [D] 52

Answer: [B] 29

- **Explanation:** In a massive economic and industrial reform, the Union Government fully operationalized the four extensive Labour Codes



(Code on Wages, Industrial Relations Code, Social Security Code, and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code) by publishing final rules, modernizing and subsuming 29 archaic central labour legislations.

Section 3: Defence News

Q14. On May 7–8, 2026, DRDO and the Indian Air Force successfully conducted the maiden flight-trial of 'TARA' off the coast of Odisha. What does 'TARA' stand for?

- [A] Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation
- [B] Thermal Aerospace Reconnaissance Aircraft
- [C] Target Acquisition and Radar Alignment
- [D] Trajectory Adjusted Rocket Artillery

Answer: [A] Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation

- **Explanation:** Developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in Hyderabad, TARA is India's premier indigenous glide weapon system. It serves as a low-cost range extension kit designed to convert conventional unguided gravity bombs into high-precision, smart-guided standalone standoff weapons capable of striking over 80 km away.

Q15. India successfully flight-tested an advanced variant of which ballistic missile featuring Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology on May 8, 2026?

- [A] Prithvi-II
- [B] Agni Missile (Advanced Variant)
- [C] BrahMos-II
- [D] Shaurya

Answer: [B] Agni Missile (Advanced Variant)

- **Explanation:** India successfully flight-tested an advanced, high-capability variant of the Agni ballistic missile series integrated with MIRV technology from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. MIRV technology allows a single missile to carry multiple nuclear warheads, each capable of hitting separate, distinct targets.

Q16. The Indian Air Force (IAF) signed a major agreement with European missile manufacturing giant MBDA in May 2026 to establish a Maintenance,

Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility for which missile system in India?

- [A] Meteor missile
- [B] MICA missile
- [C] ASRAAM missile
- [D] Mistral missile

Answer: [B] MICA missile

- **Explanation:** Under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' defence localization drive, the IAF tied up with MBDA to set up an indigenous Maintenance, Repair, and Mid-Life Overhaul (MRO) base for MICA air-to-air missiles, which are heavily deployed on India's frontline fighter fleets like the Rafale and Mirage 2000.

Q17. Where did DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat inaugurate a new 'Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Field Training and Demonstration Centre' in May 2026?

- [A] Pokhran Plains, Rajasthan
- [B] Burari Plains, Delhi
- [C] Chandipur, Odisha
- [D] Mahajan Range, Rajasthan

Answer: [B] Burari Plains, Delhi

- **Explanation:** To bolster India's homeland security architecture and nuclear/biochemical emergency response readiness, the DRDO chief inaugurated a state-of-the-art CBRN Field Training and Demonstration Centre at the Burari Plains in New Delhi.

Section 4: Appointments & Governance

Q18. Who has been appointed by the Government of India as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in May 2026?

- [A] General Upendra Dwivedi
- [B] Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi
- [C] Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (Retd)
- [D] Air Chief Marshal AP Singh

Answer: [C] Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (Retd)

- **Explanation:** The Government of India appointed Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (Retd) as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). The CDS heads the Department of



Military Affairs (DMA) and acts as the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

Q19. Who took the oath of office as the Chief of West Bengal on May 9, 2026, leading the state's first BJP government?

- [A] Dilip Ghosh
- [B] Suwendu Adhikari
- [C] Sukanta Majumdar
- [D] Subrata Gupta

Answer: [B] Suwendu Adhikari

- **Explanation:** Following the highly contested state assembly elections, Suwendu Adhikari took the oath of office as the Chief Minister of West Bengal, heading the first-ever Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) administration in the state.

Q20. In the context of constitutional provisions regarding the state executive, which Article of the Constitution of India specifies that the Chief Minister holds office "during the pleasure of the Governor"?

- [A] Article 153
- [B] Article 163
- [C] Article 164(1)
- [D] Article 172

Answer: [C] Article 164(1)

- **Explanation:** Article 164(1) states that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister, and they shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor. However, the Supreme Court has ruled that this "pleasure" is subject to the ministry enjoying a majority on the floor of the House.

Section 5: Government Schemes & MoUs

Q21. The Maritime India Foundation (MIF) signed strategic MoUs with IIT Madras and IIT Bombay to implement which central government initiative?

- [A] PM Matsya Sampada Yojana
- [B] Sagarmala Startup Innovation Initiative
- [C] Deep Ocean Mission
- [D] PRAYAS Scheme

Answer: [B] Sagarmala Startup Innovation Initiative

- **Explanation:** The MoUs were signed under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW). The partnerships are designed to foster indigenous technology, maritime research, and maritime startup incubations under the broader 'Make in India' and Sagarmala blueprints.

Q22. Which apex scientific office signed an MoU with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in May 2026 to scale up India's public-private R&D ecosystem?

- [A] Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- [B] Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)
- [C] NITI Aayog Science Vertical
- [D] Department of Science and Technology (DST)

Answer: [B] Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)

- **Explanation:** The Office of the PSA to the Government of India formalized a strategic collaboration with FICCI. The objective is to co-develop frameworks that bridge the gap between academic/government R&D output and commercial industrial application.

Q23. The 'Jan Suraksha Schemes' recently completed another year of rollout. How many of the following are categorized under the Union Government's foundational Jan Suraksha Schemes?

1. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)
2. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)
3. Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- [A] Only one of the above
- [B] Only two of the above
- [C] All three of the above
- [D] None of the above

Answer: [C] All three of the above

- **Explanation:** Launched together to build a robust social security web for the unorganized sector, PMSBY (accident insurance), PMJJBY (life insurance), and APY (pension guarantees) collectively comprise the standard 'Jan Suraksha' triad of the central government.



Section 6: Awards, Honors, Books & Authors

Q24. Which District Panchayat was conferred the prestigious Best District Panchayat under the 'Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025' announced recently?

- [A] Ganjam District Panchayat, Odisha
- [B] Sepahijala District Panchayat, Tripura
- [C] Coimbatore District Panchayat, Tamil Nadu
- [D] Thiruvananthapuram District Panchayat, Kerala

Answer: [B] Sepahijala District Panchayat, Tripura

- **Explanation:** In the National Panchayat Awards 2025, the Sepahijala District Panchayat of Tripura bagged the top honor—the Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar—for exemplary work in sustainable local governance indicators.

Q25. The National Panchayat Awards 2025 carry financial incentives ranging between which brackets for the winning panchayats?

- [A] 10 lakh to 50 lakh rupees
- [B] 50 lakh to 5 crore rupees
- [C] 1 crore to 10 crore rupees
- [D] 5 lakh to 25 lakh rupees

Answer: [B] 50 lakh to 5 crore rupees

- **Explanation:** To motivate grassroots governance and localized implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj structures the winning financial rewards dynamically from 50 lakh up to 5 crore rupees across various categories.

Q26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid rich tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on May 8-9, 2026, marking 'Pochishe Boishakh'. In which year did Tagore win the Nobel Prize in Literature?

- [A] 1911
- [B] 1913
- [C] 1915
- [D] 1921

Answer: [B] 1913

- **Explanation:** Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary is widely celebrated as Pochishe Boishakh (based on the Bengali calendar). He became the first non-European

lyricist/author to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for his collection Gitanjali

Section 7: Sports & Important Days

Q27. The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) issued a show-cause notice and interim domestic competition ban expiring on June 26, 2026, to which prominent Indian wrestler over alleged anti-doping notice violations?

- [A] Antim Panghal
- [B] Vinesh Phogat
- [C] Sakshi Malik
- [D] Anshu Malik

Answer: [B] Vinesh Phogat

- **Explanation:** The WFI issued a formal show-cause notice to Olympian wrestler Vinesh Phogat on grounds of procedural indiscipline regarding anti-doping whereabouts/notice protocols, rendering her temporarily ineligible for domestic bouts until late June 2026.

Q28. India formalized a dual-track sports policy in May 2026, which explicitly maintains severe restrictions on bilateral sporting ties with which country?

- [A] China
- [B] Pakistan
- [C] Bangladesh
- [D] Sri Lanka

Answer: [B] Pakistan

- **Explanation:** In its updated administrative directive, India reinforced its dual-track sports policy, which allows Indian athletes to compete against Pakistan at multi-nation mega-events (like the Olympics or ICC multi-nation tournaments) but bars standalone bilateral sporting series with Pakistan.

Q29. World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed globally on May 8. What is the official international theme designated for the year 2026?

- [A] 'Everything we do comes from the heart'
- [B] 'Keeping Humanity Alive'
- [C] 'United in Humanity'
- [D] 'Compassion in Times of Crisis'



Answer: [C] 'United in Humanity'

- **Explanation:** Celebrated annually on May 8 to mark the birth anniversary of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) founder and first Nobel Peace Prize laureate Henry Dunant, the designated theme for 2026 is 'United in Humanity'.

Q30. World Athletics Day was observed globally on May 7, 2026. Which body initially introduced this day under the social responsibility theme "Athletics for a Better World"?

- [A] International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- [B] Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF)
- [C] International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF / World Athletics)
- [D] Sports Authority of India (SAI)

Answer: [C] International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF / World Athletics)

- **Explanation:** World Athletics Day was introduced by the IAAF (now known simply as World Athletics, originally founded in 1912 in Stockholm) to promote youth participation in track and field athletics.



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