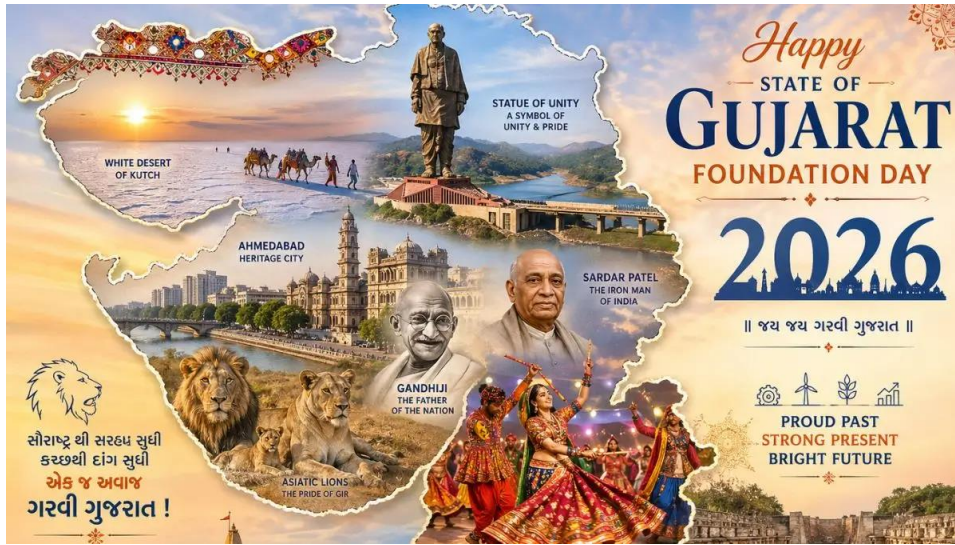


Monthly Current Affairs

May 2026

Gujarat Foundation Day 2026

- The Gujarat celebrates its Foundation Day on May 1st every year after the creation of the state in the year 1960 after its separation from the former Bombay State.
- The day is also known as Gujarat Gaurav Diwas and this occasion highlights the state's rich cultural heritage and the remarkable development journey.
- After the India's independence in 1947 the princely states in western India were reorganized into the,
 - Saurashtra
 - Kutch
 - Bombay State
- In the year 1956 these regions were merged into the larger administrative unit called the Greater Bombay State.
- This state has included both the Gujarati-speaking and Marathi-speaking populations.
- On May 1, 1960 Bombay State was officially divided under the Bombay Reorganization Act, 1960 into the,
 - Gujarat (for Gujarati-speaking population)
 - Maharashtra (for Marathi-speaking population)



Maharashtra Day 2026

- Maharashtra Day is celebrated on May 1st every year and it marks the formation of the state of the Maharashtra as the separate state in the year 1960.
- The reason behind the celebrating Maharashtra Day on May 1 lies in the historic political decision. On this day in the year 1960 this bilingual Bombay State was divided into two states.
- Maharashtra (Marathi-speaking regions)
- Gujarat (Gujarati-speaking regions)



2026 Whitley Award for Conservation Work

- The Indian scientist **Parveen Shaikh** has been awarded the prestigious 2026 Whitley Award by the Whitley Fund for the Nature.
- The Indian Skimmer is the unique and endangered bird species which is easily identified by its bright orange bill and distinctive feeding style and skimming river surfaces to catch fish.



Shreyas Iyer Named Brand Ambassador of

- The Mumbai Falcons Racing Limited (MFRL) have announced that the Shreyas Iyer will be the official brand ambassador for its F1 Programme in India. This announcement comes alongside the launch of the F1 Sim Racing India Open 2026.
- It is the national-level competition which aims at to discover and nurturing digital racing talent.
- The Mumbai Falcons Racing Limited has secured the rights to host the official F1 Sim Racing India Open 2026 and it marks the significant milestone for India's esports industry.
- This initiative aims to
 - Create the structured national platform for sim racing.
 - It will identify and nurture the emerging esports talent.
 - And also bridge the gap between gaming and professional motorsport.



Finland Launches Europe's First Fully Integrated Lithium Project

- Nordic country Finland marks the historic moment as the Europe's first fully integrated into the lithium mining project from extraction to the refining and it have begun the operations.
- This project is located near the Kokkola, and this project will strengthen Europe's push towards energy independence and electric vehicle (EV) production.
- Finland has become the first country in the Europe to establish the complete lithium production chain which is covering the,
 - Mining of lithium ore.
 - The concentration into the usable material.
 - And also, the refining into battery-grade lithium hydroxide.
- Lithium has become one of the most strategic resources in the world as it often compared to oil in the early 1900s because of the central role in the,
 - Electric vehicle (EV) batteries
 - Smartphones and electronics
 - Renewable energy storage systems
- This lithium project is widely known as the Keliber project, and it involves the investment of approximately €783 million (\$920 million).
- Key highlights include the,
 - Annual production of the 15,000 tonnes of battery-grade lithium hydroxide.
 - Also provide the contribution of around 10% of Europe's lithium demand.
 - Will help to employment generation with about 300 people.



Prasoon Joshi Named Chairman of Prasar Bharati

- The Government of India has appointed Mr. Prasoon Joshi as the new Chairman of the Prasar Bharati. This appointment was announced on 2nd May 2026 and it can be seen as step towards creativity and innovation into the India's public broadcasting system.
- He has strong background in literature, advertising and cinema and his leadership is expected to bring fresh energy in the digital age.
- It was established under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and it is operational since 1997. It is India's statutory autonomous public service broadcaster.
- All India Radio – Which is India's one of the largest radio networks worldwide and reaching millions in multiple languages.
- The Doordarshan – It offers news, entertainment, education and cultural programming across India.
- Prasar Bharati has also launched the Waves OTT platform and reflects its push toward free to air digital broadcasting services.



Sikkim First Paperless Judiciary in India

- Respectable Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has announced that Sikkim has become the **India's first fully paperless judiciary**. This declaration was made during a national conclave in Gangtok, Sikkim and highlighting the India's push towards digital justice delivery.
- This transformation has ensured that court processes are no longer dependent on physical paperwork and making justice more accessible and efficient.
- Major digital tools and systems have played an important role.
- e-Courts Project: Which have modernized court processes across India.
- Also, AI tools like SUPACE and SUVAS for research and translation.
- Virtual hearings and online case management systems have important roles.
- A paperless judiciary refers to the system where all court processes are conducted digitally without any physical documents.
- **Key Features**
 - E-filing of the cases
 - Digital records and documentation
 - Virtual hearings
 - Online access to judgments
- **Benefits**
 - The faster case processing
 - Will reduce the costs and paperwork
 - Also have greater transparency



World Press Freedom Index 2026

- India has been ranked at **157th out of 180 countries** in the latest World Press Freedom Index 2026. Press freedom has reached its weakest point in decades across the globe.
- The World Press Freedom Index evaluates the all countries based on these five key indicators.
- Political environment
- Legal framework
- Economic conditions
- Social context
- Safety of journalists
- **Top 10 Countries with the Best Press Freedom**
- Norway
- Netherlands
- Estonia
- Denmark
- Sweden
- Finland
- Ireland

- Switzerland
- Luxembourg
- Portugal
- **Top 10 Worst Countries (2026)**
- Azerbaijan (171)
- Russia (172)
- Turkmenistan (173)
- Vietnam (174)
- Afghanistan (175)
- Saudi Arabia (176)
- Iran (177)
- China (178)
- North Korea (179)
- Eritrea (180)
- **India and Its Neighbors Comparison**
- Nepal (87)
- Maldives (108)
- Sri Lanka (134)
- Bhutan (150)
- Bangladesh (152)
- Pakistan (153)



Hazaribag Set to Become India's First Pearl Farming Cluster

- The Hazaribag district in the state of the Jharkhand is set to emerge as the India's first and only pearl farming cluster. This initiative is driven by fisheries department with support from the government to promote scientific aquaculture and create employment.
- The Hazaribag district has been officially identified by the Government of India as the country's only pearl farming cluster. This recognition is based on the region's favorable water sources and potential for aquaculture development.
- Pearl farming involves cultivating pearls by inserting a nucleus into the oysters and nurturing them in controlled water conditions.
- **Types of Pearls**
- Freshwater pearls
- Saltwater pearls



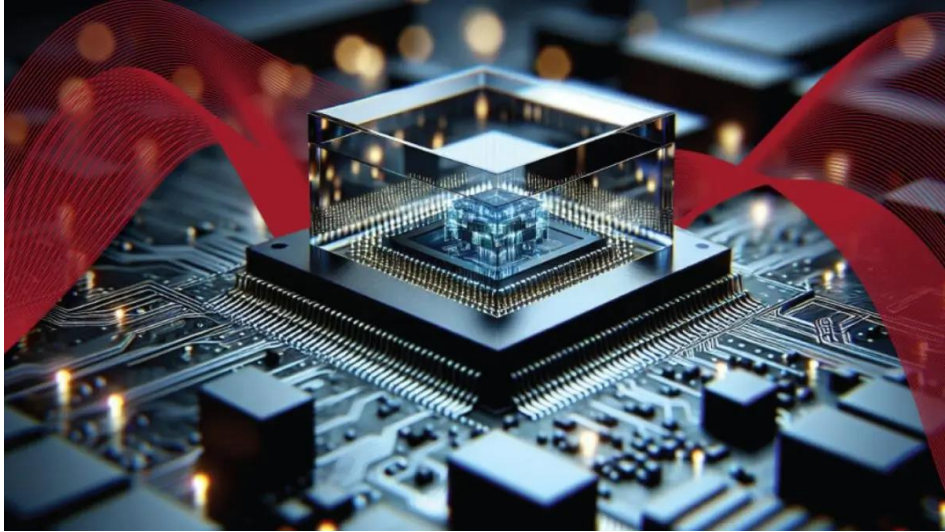
Cabinet Approval Expands Maritime Ambitions

- The Union Cabinet led by Honorable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has approved establishment of the state of the art ship repair facility at Vadinar in Gujarat.
- This decision was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and this project has backing of the investment around ₹1,570 crore and it will be implemented by Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- This initiative is expected to strengthen India's ship repair capabilities and position the India as a competitive global maritime hub.
- Vadinar has emerged as the strategic choice due to its natural deep draft and the close proximity to major ports such as Mundra and Kandla. Also the location of Vadinar is along key international shipping routes which makes it ideal for the handling of the large commercial and foreign flagged vessels.
- The project is expected to generate the substantial economic benefits by creating both direct and indirect employment opportunities. Nearly 290 direct jobs and nearly 1,100 indirect jobs are likely to be created across the ship repair, logistics and ancillary industries.



Union Cabinet Clears Two New Semiconductor Projects

- The Union Cabinet led by Honorable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has approved the two new semiconductor projects under the India's Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- Upcoming two projects have the combined investment of over ₹3,936 crore and these projects will be set up in the State of Gujarat and it expected to generate more than 2,200 skilled jobs.
- The Union Cabinet led by PM Narendra Modi has approved two key semiconductor manufacturing facilities in Gujarat. It marks the significant expansion of the India's semiconductor ecosystem under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- This newly approved projects includes,
 - A compound semiconductor fabrication facility with the Mini/Micro LED production.
 - And the semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) unit.
- One of the most important aspects is the project by Crystal Matrix Limited (CML), which will set to established in Dholera. And this facility will focus on compound semiconductor fabrication using Gallium Nitride (GaN) technology.
- This facility will produce Mini/Micro-LED display panels with the annual capacity of 72,000 sq. meters. It also produce GaN epitaxy wafers with a capacity of 24,000 RGB wafer sets every year.
- After these approvals the total number of projects under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) has reached to 12 with the cumulative investments of around ₹1.64 lakh crore.
- The government is also supporting the 315 academic institutions with semiconductor design infrastructure.



Shekhar Vempati Appointed as Chairperson of CBFC

- The Government of India, through a notification issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting dated May 6, 2026, has appointed Shashi Shekhar Vempati as the **Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**. He shall hold office for a period of three years from the date of joining.
- Consequent upon the elevation of **Prasoon Joshi** as Chairman of **Prasar Bharati**, he has stepped down from the position of Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), leading to the present appointment.
- The Central Board of Film Certification is a statutory film-certification body in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India. It is tasked with "regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952."
- The Cinematograph Act 1952 outlines a strict certification process for commercial films shown in public venues. Films screened in cinemas and on television may only be publicly exhibited in India after certification by the board and edited.
- The board currently issues four certificates. Originally, there were two: U (unrestricted public exhibition with family-friendly movies) and A (restricted to adult audiences but any kind of nudity not allowed).



CJI Surya Kant Launches One Case One Data Initiative

- Chief Justice of India Surya Kant launched the “One Case, One Data” initiative and the AI-powered chatbot “Su Sahay” at the Supreme Court of India on 11 May 2026. The initiative links judicial data from the Supreme Court, High Courts, district courts, and taluka courts into a unified digital system.
- “One Case, One Data” is a court data integration framework for judicial records across multiple levels of the Indian judiciary. It is designed to support case management, online verification of case information, and automated data retrieval.
- The initiative provides reciprocal access to case information for High Courts and government departments where required. It is linked with data integrity, accuracy, and transparency in court records.
- “Su Sahay” is an AI chatbot developed by the National Informatics Centre in collaboration with the Supreme Court Registry. It is integrated with the Supreme Court website and provides front-end guidance for citizens seeking court services.
- The Supreme Court of India is the apex court of the Indian judicial system under the Constitution of India.

- The Chief Justice of India is the head of the Supreme Court and the senior-most judge of the court.
- The National Informatics Centre is a government organisation under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Taluka courts function at the sub-district level in India's judicial structure.
- Surya Kant became the 53rd Chief Justice of India on 24 November 2025. His retirement is scheduled for 9 February 2027.



VB-GRAMG Act to Replace MGNREGA from July 1

- The Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAMG) Act, 2025, will replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) across India from 1 July 2026.
- The Act was notified on 11 May 2026, and the VB-GRAMG Bill, 2025, received Presidential assent on 21 December 2025 after passage in Parliament on 18-19 December 2025.
- MGNREGA was enacted in 2005 as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The VB-GRAMG Act will operate as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with shared financing between the Centre and the States. The funding ratio will be 60:40 for most States and 90:10 for North Eastern States, Himalayan States, and Union Territories.
- The new Act increases the guaranteed wage employment for eligible rural households from 100 days to 125 days in a financial year. The scheme applies to rural households and continues the framework of wage employment linked to demand-based work provision.

- Existing e-KYC verified MGNREGA job cards will remain valid during the transition period until Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards are issued.
- The VB-GRAMG framework links employment with productive asset creation, climate resilience, and convergence with other government schemes. The programme is aligned with the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision, which is a long-term national development framework for India's centenary of independence in 2047.
- The estimated annual outlay, including State shares, is projected to cross ₹1.51 lakh crore, and the Centre has allocated about ₹95,700 crore for 2026-27.
- MGNREGA was enacted in 2005 and provides a legal guarantee of wage employment in rural areas.
- The VB-GRAMG Act raises the annual employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days.
- Most States will follow a 60:40 Centre-State funding pattern under the new scheme.
- Northeastern States, Himalayan States, and Union Territories will follow a 90:10 funding pattern.

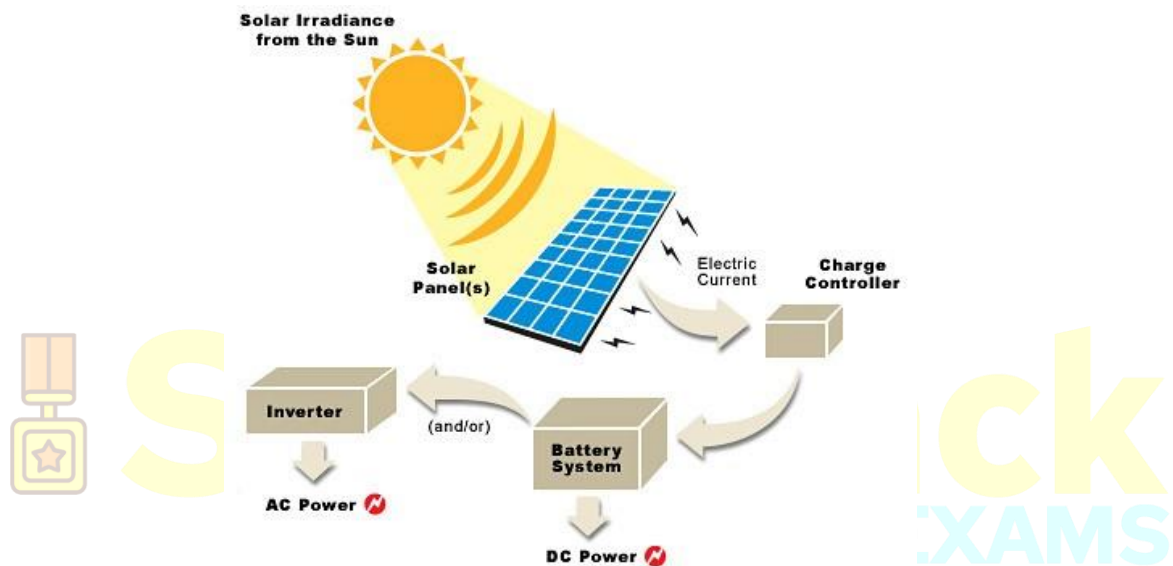


India Adds Record 44 GW Solar Capacity in 2025

- India added 44 GW of solar capacity in 2025, taking the total installed solar capacity to 150 GW. By March 2026, India's installed solar power capacity had reached 150.2 GW AC, and the country ranked as the world's third-largest producer of solar power.
- India's solar capacity refers to the installed electricity generation capacity from photovoltaic and related solar systems measured in gigawatts. The 44 GW

addition in 2025 placed India among the largest annual solar capacity expanders globally.

- The United States typically adds 30 GW to 40 GW of solar capacity in a year, while the European Union and China recorded higher annual additions.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is the Union ministry responsible for renewable energy policy in India. The expansion in solar capacity is linked with the PM Surya Ghar scheme for rooftop solar, the PM-KUSUM scheme for solar pumps and decentralised solar, and the Production Linked Incentive scheme for domestic manufacturing of solar equipment.



India Launches Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool

- India launched the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) in New Delhi on 12 May 2026. The pool provides insurance cover for Indian vessels on international sea routes, including war-risk and high-risk zones, and it has a total value of USD 1.5 billion with a sovereign guarantee of USD 1.4 billion.
- The Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool is a domestic insurance arrangement for maritime risks. It covers Hull and Machinery insurance, Cargo insurance, Protection and Indemnity (P&I) insurance, and War Risk insurance.
- The pool was approved by the Union Cabinet in April 2026. The approval came amid higher insurance premiums and uncertainty in maritime coverage linked to geopolitical instability.

- General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) administers the pool. Member insurers use their combined underwriting capacity to issue policies under the arrangement.
- The pool can service claims up to USD 100 million from its own capacity. Claims beyond this limit can use the sovereign guarantee as a contingent backstop after reserves and member contributions are exhausted.
- Hull and Machinery insurance covers physical damage to a ship and its machinery. Cargo insurance covers loss or damage to goods carried by sea. Protection and Indemnity insurance covers third-party liabilities, including injury, pollution, and collision-related claims.



Yoweri Museveni Sworn In for Seventh Term as Uganda President

- Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has created the landmark milestone as he has been sworn in as seventh term as President and extends one of the longest political regions in the modern Africa.
- According to the Uganda's Electoral Commission he had won 71.65% of the vote in the January presidential election.
- While his main challenger Mr. Bobi Wine has received the 24.72%.



India Plans ₹40,000 Crore Subsea Gas Pipeline

- India is planning to construct a massive ₹40,000 crore subsea gas pipeline from Oman to Gujarat. This decision comes at that time when Strait of Hormuz crisis disrupted global energy flows in 2026.
- The central government directed major PSUs to prepare a feasibility report for this ambitious project. If this project implemented it will take 5 to 7 years for construction.
- The major reason behind this decision is the 2026 Hormuz crisis which have exposed the India's heavy dependence on a single maritime route.
- Nearly 88% of the India's crude oil imports and significant share of LNG supplies pass through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Estimated Cost: ₹40,000 crore
- Length: 2,000 km
- Route: Oman → Arabian Sea → Gujarat
- Timeline: 5-7 years after approval
- Expected Completion: Around 2033–2035
- Depth: Over 3,000 metres (deepwater route)
- The Indian government has assigned key roles to major public sector companies of India

- GAIL – Lead operator and feasibility planner
- Engineers India Limited – Technical feasibility
- Indian Oil Corporation – End-user and participant



Henley Passport Index 2026

- India's passport ranked slipped to 78th position in the latest Henley & Partners Passport Index 2026. India's rank dropped three places from its earlier rank of 75. As per current ranking Indians can travel to 56 visa free destination or simplified processes.
- It ranks 199 passports worldwide.
- The data is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- It measures the visa-free or visa on arrival access.
- **India's Current Passport Ranking**
- Latest Status
- Rank: 78th (2026)
- Previous Rank: 75th (February 2026)
- Access: 56 destinations
- Despite the drop in rankings, India's passport has improved compared to the,
- 85th rank in 2025

- 90th rank in 2021 (lowest)



India and UAE Sign Key Strategic Agreements

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the United Arab Emirates and both nations announced several important agreements aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in energy, trade, infrastructure, and technology.
- One of the major outcomes was a strategic collaboration agreement between **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)**. The agreement may allow ADNOC to store up to 30 million barrels of crude oil in India's strategic petroleum reserves, including facilities in Visakhapatnam and future reserves planned in Odisha.
- The agreements are expected to improve India's energy security by ensuring stable crude oil supplies during global disruptions. The partnership also reflects growing trust between India and the UAE in strategic sectors.
- Apart from energy cooperation, both countries discussed expanding investments, strengthening digital and technological collaboration, and improving trade connectivity. The visit further reinforced the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership shared by India and the UAE.
- **Growing Global Role of India**
- These developments show India's increasing emphasis on becoming a global manufacturing and strategic power. While defence projects aim to strengthen military self-reliance, international partnerships like the UAE agreements help secure energy supplies and expand economic cooperation.
- Together, the announcements demonstrate how India is simultaneously focusing on domestic industrial growth and stronger international strategic partnerships to support long-term national development.



PM Modi Receives Sweden's Top Civil Honour

- Honorable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has been awarded with the Sweden's prestigious **Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross**. This is the highest honor that the Scandinavian country can confer upon any Head of Government.
- The award was presented during the PM Modi's visit official visit to Sweden where he is holding the bilateral talks with the Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson.
- The Royal Order of the Polar Star is one of the Sweden's most historic and prestigious honors.
- It was established in the year 1748 by King Frederick I of Sweden.
- The Commander Grand Cross is among the highest grades of the Royal Order.
- It is the top distinction which is generally awarded to senior foreign dignitaries and Heads of Government.



PM Modi Receives Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi conferred with the Norway's highest civilian honor which is the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit during his official visit to Oslo. With this recognition, it marks the 32nd international honor.
- PM Narendra Modi has received the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit on the May 18 during his official visit to Norway.
- This award is considered as the highest grade of Norway's Royal Norwegian Order of Merit.
- This visit is politically significant for another reason. As it marks the Prime Minister Modi's first ever visit to Norway.
- It is also the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the Norway in 43 years.
- The trip is also seen as the major step in deepening India-Norway bilateral engagement.



International Booker Prize 2026

- **Taiwan Travelogue** wins the prize of the **International Booker Prize 2026**, put the Taiwan's storytelling, history and literary culture firmly on the world map. It was written by the **Yang Shuang-zi** and **translated by Lin King** and this novel has made the first work translated from Mandarin Chinese to win the prestigious award.
- The novel presents the inventive and layered storytelling structure.
- It is written as a fictional memoir of a supposed Japanese writer named Aoyama Chizuko, set in the year 1938 during that period when Taiwan was under Japanese colonial rule.



India Overtakes US to Become Bangladesh's 2nd-Largest Trading Partner

- India has surpassed the United States to become Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner as per the latest trade data. This development highlights the economic influence of the region, but the China still remains the Bangladesh's biggest trading partner.
- According to the latest trade data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), India has just narrowly surpassed the United States in Bangladesh's overall trade rankings by February 2026.
- India had accounted for the 8.47% of Bangladesh's total external trade and it is equivalent to approximately Tk 123.28 billion.
- The United States has followed very closely with 8.46%, which is roughly Tk 123.17 billion.
- The margin is extremely narrow, but the symbolic significance of this number is important.
- China accounted for the nearly 21.21% of Bangladesh's total trade, which is worth around Tk 308.79 billion in February.
- China's dominance is largely driven by the Bangladesh's dependence on Chinese industrial imports.
- Also, Bangladesh imports the several critical items from India, including the,
 - Rice, Onions, Sugar
 - Food commodities, Cotton
 - Yarn, Industrial intermediate goods



Gurindervir Singh Becomes Fastest Indian Sprinter

- India's Gurindervir Singh became the fastest ever Indian sprinter as he clocked an incredible 10.09 seconds in the men's 100m final at the Federation Cup in Ranchi, Jharkhand. With this record, he became the first Indian athlete to break into the 10.0-second range and scripted the history in the Indian Athletics.

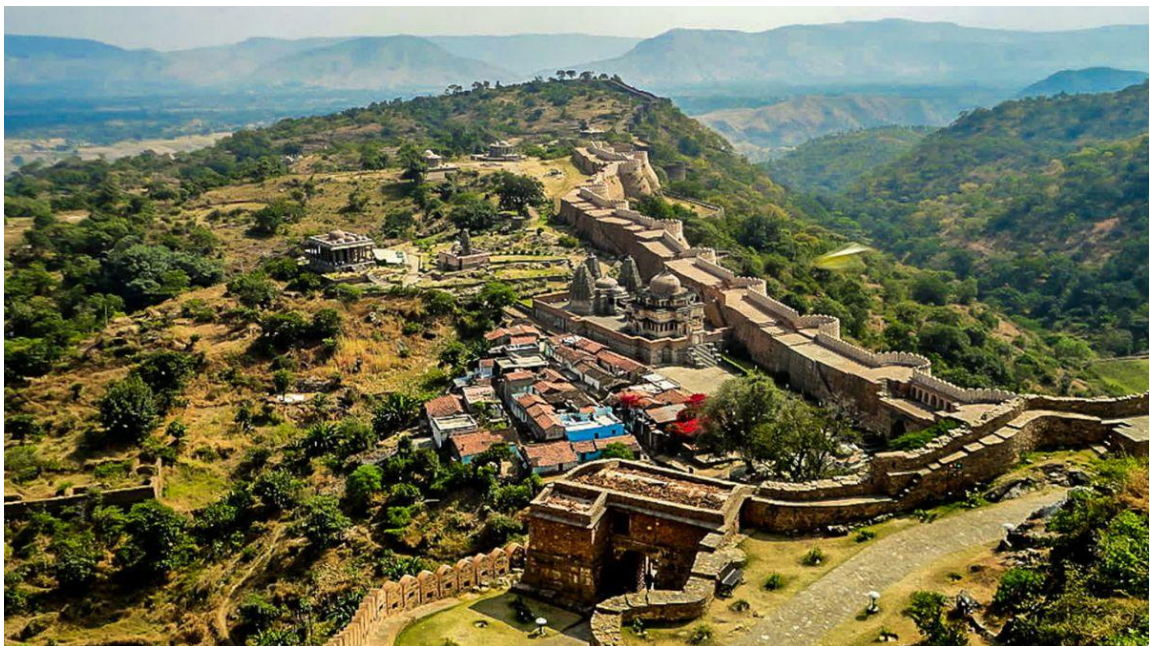
- For the final race at Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium in Ranchi and the atmosphere was electric. Just a day before the final, he had clocked the 10.17 seconds in the semifinals and he briefly breaking the national record.
- After some minutes, **Animesh Kujur** his fellow sprinter responded with the 10.15 seconds and reclaimed the record.



Kumbhalgarh Fort Recognized as World's Second Longest Continuous Wall

- UNESCO survey has recognized the Kumbhalgarh Fort as the second longest continuous intact wall in the world after the Great Wall of China.
- This fort is located in Rajsamand district of the Rajasthan and it one of the medieval architecture marvel which showcases the Rajput engineering, military strategy and cultural heritage.
- Kumbhalgarh Fort stands as one of the greatest examples of the Rajput military architecture. It is located around 84 km from Udaipur, deep within the Aravalli Hills and this fort was strategically designed for the defense and resilience.
- It was built by Rana Kumbha, who was the powerful ruler of Mewar and he ruled between 1443 and 1458 AD.
- Chief architect of the fort was Mandan, who was a renowned architect of medieval India.
- Due to its strong defensive planning and difficult terrain, this fort was considered nearly impossible to conquer.
- Kumbhalgarh Fort already enjoys the international recognition as part of UNESCO's Hill Forts of Rajasthan, which declared a World Heritage Site in 2013.

- The Hill Forts group includes the sites like,
- Chittorgarh Fort
- Ranthambore Fort
- Gagron Fort
- Amber Fort
- Jaisalmer Fort, Kumbhalgarh Fort



Oil India Finds New Gas-Bearing Zone in Rajasthan

- India has discovered the new natural gas bearing zone in the Rajasthan's Dandewala field. This breakthrough is achieved by the state run Oil India Limited (OIL) and it marks the important step to reducing the India's on imported energy.
- This is significant because it expands the hydrocarbon potential of the Dandewala field and it opens the fresh opportunities for domestic gas production.
- The Dandewala field is located in the Rajasthan, within the hydrocarbon-rich Rajasthan sedimentary basin.
- This basin is one of the India's major onshore oil and gas producing regions.
- As India remains heavily dependent on imported energy.
- Current dependence includes the,
- Over 85% of crude oil imports

- Around 50% of natural gas imports
- Oil India Limited (OIL) is one of the India's leading upstream energy public sector companies.
- The company has been actively expanding the exploration efforts across multiple sedimentary basins.
- The discovery comes at the crucial time.
- As the global energy markets have faced the uncertainty due to the,
- Geopolitical tensions in the West Asia
- Supply disruptions
- Crude oil price volatility
- Rising international gas demand



Government Launches PM-AJAY Portal

- Government of India has launched the PM-AJAY portal and AJAY mobile app to improve the implementation of the welfare schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY).
- This initiative aims to enhance the transparency, accountability and real time monitoring of socio economic development program which are targeted at the Scheduled Castes (SCs).
- The PM-AJAY portal acts as the centralized digital platform which connecting the stakeholders across different welfare components.
- The core purpose is to improve the coordination, fund management, progress monitoring and beneficiary tracking.
- The AJAY Mobile App extends the PM-AJAY services to mobile users and specially field level workers and administrators.

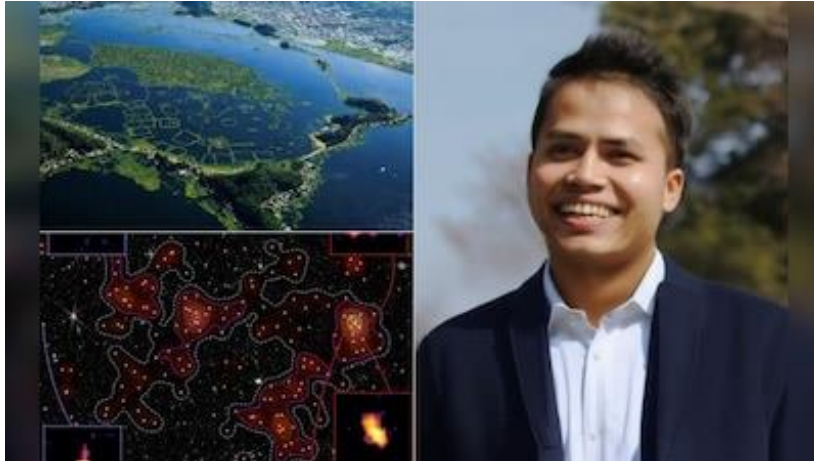
- The app is also designed for the real-time reporting and monitoring.



Indian Scientist Discovers Loktak Protocluster

- A Manipuri astrophysicist, Ronaldo Laishram, led an international team that discovered a galaxy protocluster dated to 12.6 billion years ago. The structure was named the Loktak Protocluster after Loktak Lake in Manipur, and it existed when the Universe was about 1.2 billion years old.
- A protocluster is an early-stage concentration of galaxies that later develops into a galaxy cluster. Galaxy clusters are among the largest gravitationally bound structures in the Universe and can contain hundreds or thousands of galaxies.
- The Loktak Protocluster contains four connected concentrations of galaxies. The structure was compared with the interconnected floating phumdis of Loktak Lake, which are masses of vegetation, soil, and organic matter found in the lake. Ronaldo Laishram is a researcher at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.
- The discovery used observations from the Subaru Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope.
- Loktak Lake is the largest freshwater lake in north-eastern India and is located in Manipur.
- Phumdis are floating masses of vegetation, soil, and organic matter found in Loktak Lake.

- The James Webb Space Telescope is a space-based infrared observatory launched in 2021.
- The Subaru Telescope is an 8.2-metre optical-infrared telescope operated in Hawaii.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

SSBCrack
EXAMS

1. Gujarat and Maharashtra were formed under which Act?

- A. States Reorganisation Act, 1956
- B. Indian Independence Act, 1947
- C. Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960
- D. Government of India Act, 1935

Answer: C. Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960

2. Who received the 2026 Whitley Award for conservation?

- A. Medha Patkar
- B. Sunita Narain
- C. Parveen Shaikh
- D. Vandana Shiva

Answer: C. Parveen Shaikh

3. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for F1 Sim Racing India Open 2026?

- A. Virat Kohli
- B. Rohit Sharma
- C. Hardik Pandya
- D. Shreyas Iyer

Answer: D. Shreyas Iyer

4. The Thomas Cup is organized by:

- A. IOC
- B. BCCI
- C. Badminton World Federation
- D. FIFA

Answer: C. Badminton World Federation

5. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati in May 2026?

- A. Amitabh Bachchan
- B. Prasoos Joshi
- C. Anurag Thakur
- D. Shashi Tharoor

Answer: B. Prasoos Joshi

6. Prasar Bharati was established under which Act?

- A. Broadcasting Act, 1985
- B. Prasar Bharati Act, 1990
- C. Media Regulation Act, 1992
- D. Communication Act, 1988

Answer: B. Prasar Bharati Act, 1990

7. The World Press Freedom Index is released by which organization?

- A. UNESCO
- B. Reporters Without Borders
- C. Amnesty International
- D. World Bank

Answer: B. Reporters Without Borders

8. What is India's rank in the World Press Freedom Index 2026?

- A. 150
- B. 155
- C. 157
- D. 160

Answer: C. 157

9. Which country ranked first in the World Press Freedom Index 2026?

- A. Sweden
- B. Finland
- C. Netherlands
- D. Norway

Answer: D. Norway

10. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification in May 2026?

- A. Prasoon Joshi
- B. Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- C. Anurag Thakur
- D. Rajkumar Hirani

Answer: B. Shashi Shekhar Vempati

11. The “One Case, One Data” initiative launched in 2026 is related to:

- A. Digital land records
- B. Unified judicial data integration
- C. National population database
- D. Digital university framework

Answer: B. Unified judicial data integration

12. “Su Sahay,” recently seen in news, is:

- A. A defence missile system
- B. A satellite navigation project
- C. An AI-powered chatbot for judicial services
- D. A healthcare mobile application

Answer: C. An AI-powered chatbot for judicial services

13. The VB-GRAMG Act, 2025, is intended to replace:

- A. National Rural Livelihood Mission
- B. PMGSY
- C. MGNREGA
- D. DAY-NULM

Answer: C. MGNREGA

14. Hantaviruses mainly spread to humans through:

- A) Mosquito bites
- B) Contaminated water
- C) Rodent contact and contaminated dust
- D) Food poisoning

Answer: C) Rodent contact and contaminated dust

15. Yoweri Museveni was sworn in for which term as Uganda's President?

- A. Fifth
- B. Sixth
- C. Seventh
- D. Eighth

Answer: C. Seventh

16. India's proposed subsea gas pipeline will connect Oman with which Indian state?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Kerala
- C) Gujarat
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: C) Gujarat

17. What is the estimated cost of the proposed Oman–India subsea gas pipeline project?

- A) ₹20,000 crore
- B) ₹30,000 crore
- C) ₹40,000 crore
- D) ₹50,000 crore

Answer: C) ₹40,000 crore

18. Which organization has been assigned as the lead operator for the subsea gas pipeline project?

- A) ONGC
- B) GAIL
- C) BPCL
- D) NTPC

Answer: B) GAIL

19. India's passport was ranked at which position in the Henley Passport Index 2026?

- A) 65th
- B) 70th
- C) 75th
- D) 78th

Answer: D) 78th

20. According to the Henley Passport Index 2026, Indian citizens can travel to how many destinations visa-free or with visa-on-arrival access?

- A) 45
- B) 56
- C) 72
- D) 90

Answer: B) 56

21. Prime Minister Narendra Modi received which prestigious Swedish honour in 2026?

- A) Order of Liberty
- B) Royal Order of the Polar Star
- C) Nobel Peace Medal
- D) Scandinavian Crown Award

Answer: B) Royal Order of the Polar Star

22. The Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit is:

- A) Norway's military medal
- B) Norway's highest civilian honour
- C) A sports award
- D) A scientific award

Answer: B) Norway's highest civilian honour

23. Which novel won the International Booker Prize 2026?

- A. The Silent Forest
- B. Taiwan Travelogue
- C. Island of Memories
- D. The Eastern Wind

Answer: B. Taiwan Travelogue

24. Which state is India's largest kiwi-producing state?

- A. Himachal Pradesh

- B. Sikkim
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: D. Arunachal Pradesh

25. Indian sprinter Gurindervir Singh created history by clocking what timing in the men's 100m final?

- A) 10.25 seconds
- B) 10.17 seconds
- C) 10.09 seconds
- D) 9.99 seconds

Answer: C) 10.09 seconds

26. Kumbhalgarh Fort is located in which Indian state?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Maharashtra

Answer: C) Rajasthan

27. Kumbhalgarh Fort was built by which ruler?

- A) Maharana Pratap
- B) Rana Kumbha
- C) Prithviraj Chauhan
- D) Raja Man Singh

Answer: B) Rana Kumbha

28. Which company discovered a new gas-bearing zone in Rajasthan's Dandewala field?

- A) ONGC
- B) GAIL
- C) Oil India Limited
- D) Reliance Industries

Answer: C) Oil India Limited

29. The Loktak Protocluster was discovered by which Indian astrophysicist?

- A) Jayant Narlikar
- B) Ronaldo Laishram
- C) Meghnad Saha
- D) Vikram Sarabhai

Answer: B) Ronaldo Laishram

30. The Loktak Protocluster was named after Loktak Lake located in which state?

- A) Assam
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Manipur
- D) Tripura

Answer: C) Manipur