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CLAT & AILET 2026

GK *Genius*

Top 150 Current Affairs Topics · Jan – Sep 2026

ALSO INCLUDES

- GK Master Revision Checklist
- Top One Liners of 2026

Major / Minor tags · Static GK links · Quick Recall boxes · 1 topic per page

Before You Begin

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Conquer GK, one tick at a time.

GK feels endless only until you see it laid out. Everything that matters from January to September 2026 is on the next ten pages. Revise each topic once, then twice, then a third time, and the section that once felt like a gamble becomes the one you walk into with confidence.

Aditya Wakhlu
Editor in Chief

Vice President, Clat Possible
AIR 29, CLAT 2014

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Note to Aspirants

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1. This is a list of the most important topics month-wise, January to September 2026.
2. It serves as the Master Revision Checklist for CLAT 2027, and is best used alongside CLAT Possible's GK Perfect Magazine.
3. Topics for each month are divided based on the depth of study required:

Major Topics (with revision pointers)
These demand in-depth understanding and comprehensive revision. They are highly likely to be tested as a CLAT set.

Minor Topics
These require revision of key facts and details. They may be tested as a CLAT set or as standalone AILET questions, but call for a little less depth than Major Topics.

One-Liners
These require surface-level revision of core information only. They may be tested in connection with Major or Minor Topics, or as standalone AILET questions, but do not require in-depth study.

Major Topics and Minor Topics together make up the 150 Most Important Topics.

4. A topic spanning multiple months appears under only one month.
5. This categorisation is an estimate, intended to guide revision in the final six weeks or so before CLAT and AILET. The Question Paper may be unpredictable.
6. Military Exercises and Defence Equipment are excluded.

At a glance

MONTH	MAJOR	MINOR	ONE-LINERS	TOTAL	PAGE	DONE
January 2026	6	10	17	**33**	iii	☐
February 2026	9	12	18	**39**	iv	☐
March 2026	7	13	18	**38**	v	☐
April 2026	8	7	19	**34**	vi	☐
May 2026	6	11	23	**40**	vii	☐
June 2026	4	8	21	**33**	viii	☐
July 2026	8	8	20	**36**	ix	☐
August 2026	10	3	16	**29**	x	☐
September 2026	9	10	16	**35**	xi	☐
Bonus from October	01	—	—	**1**	xi	☐
Total	**68**	**82**	**168**	**318**		

☐☐☐ Each topic has three boxes: tick one each time you revise it (first, second and third pass).

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January 2026

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6 Major | 10 Minor | 17 One-Liners

Major Topics (Deep Dive)

	NAME OF TOPIC	POINTERS	REVISED 1 2 3
01	**Op. Absolute Resolve**	Operation; Maduro & Celia Flores; Delcy Rodriguez; Venezuela Basics; Largest Proven Oil Reserves; 2025 Nobel Peace Prize; Indictment & Charges in US Courts; Monroe / Donroe Doctrine	☐ ☐ ☐
02	**Board of Peace**	Establishment; Members; HQ; Chairman for Life Trump; Launched at WEF; India Observer; UNSC Res. 2803 (2025) on NCAG Gaza; Hamas Disarmament	☐ ☐ ☐
03	**UN High Seas Treaty Comes Into Force**	Paris Agreement for the Ocean / BBNJ Agreement under UNCLOS; Morocco 60th Country to Ratify; India Signed, Not Ratified.	☐ ☐ ☐
04	**India-EU Free Trade Agreement**	Republic Day Chief Guests; India-EU Summit; "Mother of All Deals"; India/EU Tariff Changes; India-EU Security & Defence Partnership; India-EURATOM Agreement; European Union Basics	☐ ☐ ☐
05	**National Voters' Day**	ECI; Int'l IDEA Chair (2026); IICDEM; ECI-Net	☐ ☐ ☐
06	**Republic Day**	History; Chief Guests; Theme; Parade; Tableaux	☐ ☐ ☐

Minor Topics

		1 2 3
01	USA Withdrawal from Int'l Orgs.	☐ ☐ ☐
02	WEF Annual Meeting @ Davos	☐ ☐ ☐
03	India Elected to ECOSOC 2026-28	☐ ☐ ☐
04	UN International Years in 2026	☐ ☐ ☐
05	21st Member of Eurozone (Bulgaria)	☐ ☐ ☐
06	Somnath Swabhiman Parv	☐ ☐ ☐
07	Granth Kutir for Classical Languages	☐ ☐ ☐
08	Nat'l Startup Day (10th Anniversary)	☐ ☐ ☐
09	Padma Awards	☐ ☐ ☐
10	Ashok Chakra for Shubhanshu Shukla	☐ ☐ ☐

One-Liners

		1 2 3
01	Right to Menstrual Health – Art. 21	☐ ☐ ☐
02	PARAM SHAKTI Supercomputer	☐ ☐ ☐
03	ISRO PSLV C-62 Failure	☐ ☐ ☐
04	2nd Rangewide Dolphin Estimation	☐ ☐ ☐
05	Kerala State Microbe (First State)	☐ ☐ ☐
06	Indian Army Year (2026)	☐ ☐ ☐
07	Aadhaar Mascot Udai	☐ ☐ ☐
08	Responsible Nations Index	☐ ☐ ☐
09	Tyler Prize ('Nobel for Environment')	☐ ☐ ☐
10	Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (Gandhi)	☐ ☐ ☐
11	Vishwa Hindi Divas	☐ ☐ ☐
12	National Youth Day (Vivekananda)	☐ ☐ ☐
13	Army Day (Cariappa)	☐ ☐ ☐
14	Parakram Divas (Bose)	☐ ☐ ☐
15	SC Bose Apda Prabandhan Puraskar	☐ ☐ ☐
16	Int'l Day of Clean Energy (IRENA)	☐ ☐ ☐
17	Martyr's Day (Gandhi)	☐ ☐ ☐

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February 2026

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9 Major | 12 Minor | 18 One-Liners

Major Topics (Deep Dive)

	NAME OF TOPIC	POINTERS	REVISED 1 2 3
01	**New Ramsar Sites & World Wetlands Day**	Ramsar Convention Basics; World Wetlands Day Theme; 7 New Ramsar Sites in 2026; Records.	☐ ☐ ☐
02	**Union Budget 2026-27**	76th Economic Survey; XVI Finance Commission Report; History & Records; 3 Kartavyas; Initiatives Announced; Fiscal Deficit Target; Art. 112; FRBM Act; Enforcement of Income Tax Act 2025.	☐ ☐ ☐
03	**AI Impact Summit 2026 & India Joins Pax Silica Declaration**	History; Sutras; Chakras; Theme; Delhi Declaration; New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments; AI Initiatives Launched; India & Pax Silica Declaration	☐ ☐ ☐
04	**End of President's Rule in Manipur**	Manipur Ethnic Conflict (Meiteis-Kuki-Zos); President's Rule u/ Art. 356; New CM	☐ ☐ ☐
05	**US Tariffs**	US Tariffs under IEEPA Declared Illegal by SCOTUS; Trump Imposes Tariffs under Trade Act; Indo-US Trade Deal Scuttled.	☐ ☐ ☐
06	**Project Cheetah**	History; Introduction of African Cheetahs in India	☐ ☐ ☐
07	**Winter Olympics**	Host; History; IOC Basics; Mascot; Medal Tally	☐ ☐ ☐
08	**Vande Mataram Guidelines**	MHA Guidelines; 150 Years of Vande Mataram	☐ ☐ ☐
09	**Cooperatives**	Bharat Taxi; 5 Years of Ministry of Cooperation; Policy; Part IXB; 97th Amendment	☐ ☐ ☐

Minor Topics

		1 2 3
01	PRAHAAR Counterterrorism Policy	☐ ☐ ☐
02	Corruption Perceptions Index	☐ ☐ ☐
03	UN AI Panel Appointment & Report	☐ ☐ ☐
04	National Monetization Pipeline 2.0	☐ ☐ ☐
05	Australian Open	☐ ☐ ☐
06	PM-RAHAT	☐ ☐ ☐
07	New START Expires	☐ ☐ ☐
08	Bangladesh Elections	☐ ☐ ☐
09	2026 India-France Year of Innovation & Upgradation of Partnership	☐ ☐ ☐
10	Medal of Knesset for Modi & India-Israel Upgradation of Partnership	☐ ☐ ☐
11	Afghanistan-Pakistan Conflict	☐ ☐ ☐
12	Ex. MILAN / IFR / IONS Conclave of Chiefs & IRIS Dena Incident	☐ ☐ ☐

One-Liners

		1 2 3
01	Seva Teerth & Kartavya Bhavan	☐ ☐ ☐
02	Governor's Address Controversy	☐ ☐ ☐
03	Nat'l Women's Day (Sarojini Naidu)	☐ ☐ ☐
04	Nat'l Science Day (Raman Effect)	☐ ☐ ☐
05	Motion of Thanks	☐ ☐ ☐
06	2nd India-Arab FMs' Meeting	☐ ☐ ☐
07	New Consumer Price Index Series	☐ ☐ ☐
08	Pennaiyar River Tribunal	☐ ☐ ☐
09	Kurien Joseph Committee	☐ ☐ ☐
10	First Sitting CM to Argue at SC	☐ ☐ ☐
11	Sanae Takaichi Reelected Japan PM	☐ ☐ ☐
12	Chandrayaan-4 Landing Site	☐ ☐ ☐
13	Arctic Sentry Mission	☐ ☐ ☐
14	Boong BAFTA	☐ ☐ ☐
15	World Pulses Day	☐ ☐ ☐
16	Ranji Trophy	☐ ☐ ☐
17	100th Anniversary of Ol-Chiki Script	☐ ☐ ☐
18	Rajaji Utsav: Replaces Lutyens Bust	☐ ☐ ☐

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March 2026

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7 Major | 13 Minor | 18 One-Liners

Major Topics (Deep Dive)

	NAME OF TOPIC	POINTERS	REVISED 1 2 3
01	**West Asia / Middle East: US – Israel – Iran – Lebanon War**	Op. Epic Fury; Op. Roaring Lion; Op. True Promise IV; Op. Urja Suraksha & RELIEF; Iran (Persia & Parsis; Pehlavi Dynasty; Revolution; Leadership; JCPOA); IAEA; Axis of Resistance (Hezbollah; Hamas; Houthis); St. of Hormuz; Gulf Countries; IRIS Dena Incident; US Naval Blockade; Islamabad Talks; Lake Lucerne Summit; PGSA; Trilateral Framework; Op. Economic Outcast	☐ ☐ ☐
02	**Oscars / Academy Awards**	Background; Most Oscar Nominations for Sinners; Winners of 2026; Indian Records at Oscars	☐ ☐ ☐
03	**Budget Session**	Motion for Removal of CEC (First); Transgender Persons Amendment Act 2026; Motion for Removal of Speaker; CAPF Act 2026; AP Permanent Capital	☐ ☐ ☐
04	**Uniform Civil Code**	Developments in Gujarat, Assam, MP, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, WB; Ranjana P. Desai	☐ ☐ ☐
05	**National Literary Awards**	Jnanpith Award; Sahitya Akademi Awards; KK Birla Foundation's Saraswati Samman	☐ ☐ ☐
06	**Naxalism-Free India**	LWE; Origins of Naxalism; Elimination Target	☐ ☐ ☐
07	**Passive Euthanasia**	Harish Rana v. Union of India	☐ ☐ ☐

Minor Topics

		1 2 3
01	Nepal Elections & Balen Shah	☐ ☐ ☐
02	SIPRI 'Trends in Int'l Arms Transfers'	☐ ☐ ☐
03	WTO MC14 @ Yaounde, Cameroon	☐ ☐ ☐
04	ICC T20 Men's World Cup	☐ ☐ ☐
05	IOC Policy on Transgenders	☐ ☐ ☐
06	NavIC Failure	☐ ☐ ☐
07	India's NDCs u/ Paris Agreement	☐ ☐ ☐
08	Raisina Dialogue	☐ ☐ ☐
09	World Wildlife Day & CITES	☐ ☐ ☐
10	International Women's Day	☐ ☐ ☐
11	World Water Day & Glacier Day	☐ ☐ ☐
12	10th Anniversary of ISA	☐ ☐ ☐
13	"Gravest Crime Against Humanity": Trafficking of Enslaved Africans	☐ ☐ ☐

One-Liners

		1 2 3
01	RBI Open Market Operations (OMOs)	☐ ☐ ☐
02	Five Year Inflation Target u/ RBI Act	☐ ☐ ☐
03	Census Mascots	☐ ☐ ☐
04	New GDP Series	☐ ☐ ☐
05	NCBC Chairperson	☐ ☐ ☐
06	Nyaya Setu & Dishika	☐ ☐ ☐
07	Int'l Day of Forests	☐ ☐ ☐
08	Vayu Baan	☐ ☐ ☐
09	India to Host World Athletics Indoor Championships 2028	☐ ☐ ☐
10	Nationwide HPV Vaccine Drive	☐ ☐ ☐
11	NITI Aayog Fiscal Health Index	☐ ☐ ☐
12	GCWAFS in India	☐ ☐ ☐
13	World Happiness Report	☐ ☐ ☐
14	Global Terrorism Index	☐ ☐ ☐
15	Stockholm Water Prize	☐ ☐ ☐
16	World Book Capital	☐ ☐ ☐
17	Pritzker Prize	☐ ☐ ☐
18	Martyr's Day	☐ ☐ ☐

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April 2026

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8 Major | 7 Minor | 19 One-Liners

Major Topics (Deep Dive)

	NAME OF TOPIC	POINTERS	REVISED 1 2 3
01	**Yeshwant Verma Resigns**	Removal Proceedings; Report of Inquiry Committee; Judges (Inquiry) Act 1968	☐ ☐ ☐
02	**131st Amendment Bill**	Bill Defeated in Lok Sabha; Proposals (Increase of LS Seats; Delimitation; Census; Women's Reservation u/ Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam)	☐ ☐ ☐
03	**PFBR, Kalpakkam**	PFBR Attains Criticality; Nuclear Power Programme	☐ ☐ ☐
04	**Artemis II**	History (Apollo), Artemis Accord; Flyby Mission	☐ ☐ ☐
05	**Gaganyaan**	India's Human Spaceflight Programme; Mission MITRA; IADT-02; SOLVE; Shubhanshu Shukla	☐ ☐ ☐
06	**IBCA Summit**	Basics; HQ; First IBCA Summit Cancelled; Latest Member; Project Tiger / Project Lion / Project Cheetah / Project Snow Leopard; Days	☐ ☐ ☐
07	**INS Aridhaman**	Arihant-class nuclear-powered SSBN; ATV Project	☐ ☐ ☐
08	**EBP Programme**	Ethanol Blended Petrol; E20; E30; E85; Flex Fuel Vehicles	☐ ☐ ☐

Minor Topics

		1 2 3
01	Anti-Defection (Tenth Schedule)	☐ ☐ ☐
02	Nine Judge Bench Hearings (Industry; Sabrimala Review)	☐ ☐ ☐
03	200th Birth Anniversary of Phule	☐ ☐ ☐
04	India-New Zealand FTA	☐ ☐ ☐
05	UAE Exits OPEC, OPEC+	☐ ☐ ☐
06	CMS COP15, Campo Grande, Brazil	☐ ☐ ☐
07	Dr BR Ambedkar Jayanti	☐ ☐ ☐

One-Liners

		1 2 3
01	First Queer MP of India	☐ ☐ ☐
02	UK-Mauritius Chagos Archipelago Handover Halted by UK	☐ ☐ ☐
03	AI Governance & Economic Group	☐ ☐ ☐
04	Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha	☐ ☐ ☐
05	Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool	☐ ☐ ☐
06	CBI Chatbot 'Abhay'	☐ ☐ ☐
07	NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson	☐ ☐ ☐
08	New President of Myanmar	☐ ☐ ☐
09	New PM of Hungary	☐ ☐ ☐
10	Int'l Day of Human Spaceflight	☐ ☐ ☐
11	DRDO Prajna System	☐ ☐ ☐
12	FIDE Women's Candidates 2026	☐ ☐ ☐
13	Goldman Prize (Green Nobel)	☐ ☐ ☐
14	Laureus World Sports Awards	☐ ☐ ☐
15	NATO Day	☐ ☐ ☐
16	World Health Day	☐ ☐ ☐
17	World Heritage Day	☐ ☐ ☐
18	Earth Day	☐ ☐ ☐
19	World Intellectual Property Day	☐ ☐ ☐

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May 2026

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6 Major | 11 Minor | 23 One-Liners

Major Topics (Deep Dive)

	NAME OF TOPIC	POINTERS (IF ANY)	REVISED 1 2 3
01	**SC Judges Increase**	Ordinance; 33 to 37 vs 34 to 38; History; Art. 124; Act of 2026; SC Judges Appointed in 2026; Process	☐ ☐ ☐
02	**Special Intensive Revision**	SIR Exercise; First State; Upheld by Supreme Court	☐ ☐ ☐
03	**3rd India-Nordic Summit**	Bilateral Relations with Norway & Sweden; Upgradation of Partnership; Shukrayaan; Chola Copper Plates Returned;	☐ ☐ ☐
04	**Service Chiefs**	3rd Chief of Defence Staff; Chief of Naval Staff; Chief of Army Staff; Chief of Air Staff.	☐ ☐ ☐
05	**Press Freedom**	World Press Freedom Day; UNESCO Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize; RSF World Press Freedom Index; National Press Day; Press Council of India	☐ ☐ ☐
06	**El Nino**	Super El Nino; ENSO; La Nina; El Nino; Impact	☐ ☐ ☐

Minor Topics

		1 2 3
01	VB G-RAM-G Act	☐ ☐ ☐
02	India as Chair of Kimberly Process & Intercessional Meeting at Mumbai	☐ ☐ ☐
03	Assembly Elections	☐ ☐ ☐
04	Bilateral Visit to Italy	☐ ☐ ☐
05	QUAD Foreign Ministers' Meeting	☐ ☐ ☐
06	48th & 49th ASEAN Summits	☐ ☐ ☐
07	Indian Ocean Dialogue & India as Chair of Indian Ocean Rim Asso.	☐ ☐ ☐
08	FAO Agricola Medal	☐ ☐ ☐
09	Ebola Virus and Hanta Virus	☐ ☐ ☐
10	Whitley Award	☐ ☐ ☐
11	Int'l Booker Prize + Bukhman	☐ ☐ ☐

One-Liners

		1 2 3
01	First Paperless State Judiciary	☐ ☐ ☐
02	Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee (Arvind Kumar, J.)	☐ ☐ ☐
03	HLC on Demographic Change	☐ ☐ ☐
04	70th Anniversary of ED	☐ ☐ ☐
05	Chair of CBFC	☐ ☐ ☐
06	New Zone of Indian Railways	☐ ☐ ☐
07	India's First Geothermal Power Plant at Puga Valley, Ladakh	☐ ☐ ☐
08	Mission Drishti – OptoSAR Satellite	☐ ☐ ☐
09	Cockroach Janata Party	☐ ☐ ☐
10	Pixxel Pathfinder	☐ ☐ ☐
11	Chairman of DRDO	☐ ☐ ☐
12	Chair of BWF Athletes Commission	☐ ☐ ☐
13	One Case, One Data; Su-Sahayak	☐ ☐ ☐
14	Pulitzer Prize	☐ ☐ ☐
15	Goddard Astronautics Award	☐ ☐ ☐
16	Dag Hammarskjold Medal	☐ ☐ ☐
17	International Labour Day	☐ ☐ ☐
18	National Technology Day	☐ ☐ ☐
19	Int'l Day of Biological Diversity	☐ ☐ ☐
20	World Football Day	☐ ☐ ☐
21	Chair of Federal Reserve of USA	☐ ☐ ☐
22	Chair of Press Council of India	☐ ☐ ☐
23	'Constitution is My Home' Book	☐ ☐ ☐

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June 2026

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4 Major | 8 Minor | 21 One-Liners

Major Topics (Deep Dive)

	NAME OF TOPIC	POINTERS (IF ANY)	REVISED 1 2 3
01	**World Environment Day**	History; Theme; Host City; E85 Roll-Out in India;	☐ ☐ ☐
02	**G7 Summit 2026**	History; Host; Theme; India Invited Guest Country	☐ ☐ ☐
03	**Int'l Day of Yoga**	History; Host City; Theme; First World Yogasana Championship; AYUSH	☐ ☐ ☐
04	**Dancing Girl**	Controversy; NCERT; Indus Valley Civilisation	☐ ☐ ☐

Minor Topics

		1 2 3
01	Indian Vice President of FATF	☐ ☐ ☐
02	Solicitor General Extension & Books	☐ ☐ ☐
03	Venezuela Earthquake & Op Amistad	☐ ☐ ☐
04	BrahMos: Vietnam & Indonesia	☐ ☐ ☐
05	French Open	☐ ☐ ☐
06	ICC T20 Women's World Cup	☐ ☐ ☐
07	Central Council of Health & FW	☐ ☐ ☐
08	Sustainable Development Report	☐ ☐ ☐

One-Liners

		1 2 3
01	Indian Judge at ITLOS	☐ ☐ ☐
02	Longest Democratically Elected PM	☐ ☐ ☐
03	NEET UG Retest & Telegram Blocking	☐ ☐ ☐
04	Samadhan Didi Chatbot	☐ ☐ ☐
05	FSSAI Vegan Logo	☐ ☐ ☐
06	Right to be Forgotten	☐ ☐ ☐
07	35 Years of New Economic Policy '91	☐ ☐ ☐
08	India-Oman CEPA Comes Into Force	☐ ☐ ☐
09	Flamingo Revolution	☐ ☐ ☐
10	India's First Flex-Fuel Vehicles	☐ ☐ ☐
11	First Indian to Win Norway Chess	☐ ☐ ☐
12	Earth Prize	☐ ☐ ☐
13	Russia Grand Sand Master Cup	☐ ☐ ☐
14	Wolf Prize	☐ ☐ ☐
15	Food Planet Prize	☐ ☐ ☐
16	Grammy for Dalai Lama	☐ ☐ ☐
17	World Oceans Day	☐ ☐ ☐
18	World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought	☐ ☐ ☐
19	World Refugee Day	☐ ☐ ☐
20	Samvidhan Hatya Divas	☐ ☐ ☐
21	Director of Intelligence Bureau	☐ ☐ ☐

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July 2026

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8 Major | 8 Minor | 20 One-Liners

Major Topics (Deep Dive)

	NAME OF TOPIC	POINTERS (IF ANY)	REVISED 1 2 3
01	**FIFA World Cup**	History; Hosts; Mascots; Winner; Awardees	☐ ☐ ☐
02	**River Water Agreements**	Yamuna Water Project; Narmada Project; Sone River Agreement; Kishau Multipurpose Project	☐ ☐ ☐
03	**India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 (ISM 2.0)**	ISM 2.0; Semicon 2026; Semiconductor Plants; Semiconductor Basics; Pax Silica	☐ ☐ ☐
04	**Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath, World Heritage Sites & UNESCO**	Basics; India's 45th WHS; Sarnath & Buddhism; Lion Capital; World Heritage Committee Session; ASI; UNESCO; 2026 Global Additions; Tentative List; Intangible Cultural Heritage; City of Gastronomy	☐ ☐ ☐
05	**CJP at Jantar Mantar**	CJI & CJP; NEET; Jantar Mantar; Resignation; High Powered Task Force; Public Examinations Amendment Act; R Subhash Reddy Committee	☐ ☐ ☐
06	**International Criminal Court (ICC)**	Chief Prosecutor Dismissed; Countries Notify Withdrawal from ICC; Basics; Day for Int'l Justice	☐ ☐ ☐
07	**Skyroot Vikram-1**	India's First Private Orbital Launch	☐ ☐ ☐
08	**Commonwealth Games**	Basics; History; Host; Mascot; Medal Tally; Host in 2030 (Ahmedabad); Commonwealth of Nations	☐ ☐ ☐

Minor Topics

		1 2 3
01	Samudra Manthan Scheme	☐ ☐ ☐
02	India's First Hydrogen Cell Fuel Train	☐ ☐ ☐
03	PM Visit to Indonesia	☐ ☐ ☐
04	PM Visit to Australia & NZ	☐ ☐ ☐
05	Integrated Anti-Ballistic Missile Coalition (Europe-Ukraine)	☐ ☐ ☐
06	Wimbledon	☐ ☐ ☐
07	India Campaign for UNSC: SHANTI	☐ ☐ ☐
08	Pope's Magnifica Humanitas & Rome Declaration on AI	☐ ☐ ☐

One-Liners

		1 2 3
01	New President of ECOSOC	☐ ☐ ☐
02	Nat'l Minorities Commission Chair	☐ ☐ ☐
03	NITI Aayog CEO	☐ ☐ ☐
04	Fields Medal	☐ ☐ ☐
05	250th Anniversary US Independence	☐ ☐ ☐
06	New PM of UK	☐ ☐ ☐
07	Nauru Name Change	☐ ☐ ☐
08	US-Saudi Arabia 123 Agreement	☐ ☐ ☐
09	First Approved Dengue Vaccine	☐ ☐ ☐
10	'The Second Orbit' Book	☐ ☐ ☐
11	AI for Good Global Commission	☐ ☐ ☐
12	First AI-Powered Bird Sanctuary	☐ ☐ ☐
13	First Tri-Service All-Women Circumnavigation Sailing Expedition	☐ ☐ ☐
14	India's Youngest Cricket Debutant	☐ ☐ ☐
15	Japan Open Badminton	☐ ☐ ☐
16	Int'l Day of Cooperatives	☐ ☐ ☐
17	Shyama Prasad 125th Anniversary	☐ ☐ ☐
18	Investment Friendliness Index	☐ ☐ ☐
19	Environmental Performance Index	☐ ☐ ☐
20	International Tiger Day	☐ ☐ ☐

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August 2026

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10 Major | 3 Minor | 16 One-Liners

Major Topics (Deep Dive)

	NAME OF TOPIC	POINTERS (IF ANY)	REVISED 1 2 3
01	**10 Years of UPI**	History; NPCIL; Foreign Countries; MDR	☐ ☐ ☐
02	**Hockey World Cups**	Men's; Women's; Para; History; Mascot; Theme; Winners; Major Dhyan Chand	☐ ☐ ☐
03	**Monsoon Session**	Tribunals Reforms Act; Prevention of Insult to National Honour (Amendment) Act; Extension to Simultaneous Elections JPC; FCRA (Amendment) Bill to JPC; Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act	☐ ☐ ☐
04	**Mecca Joint Defence Agreement**	Pakistan-Saudi Arabia-Turkiye; Background; Similarity with NATO Article 5	☐ ☐ ☐
05	**SCO Summit 2026**	Basics; History; HQ; RATS; Bishkek Declaration	☐ ☐ ☐
06	**Rio Conventions**	UNCCD COP17; UNFCCC COP31; UNCBD COP17	☐ ☐ ☐
07	**Grand Chess Tour**	First Indian to Win Grand Chess Tour	☐ ☐ ☐
08	**BWF World Championship**	History; Poona Game; Mascot; Host; Winners	☐ ☐ ☐
09	**Independence Day**	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day; Har Ghar Tiranga; Announcements; Suryapath Tiranga	☐ ☐ ☐
10	**Nepal Floods**	—	☐ ☐ ☐

Minor Topics

		1 2 3
01	National Space Day	☐ ☐ ☐
02	GOBARdhan Scheme	☐ ☐ ☐
03	RBI Polymer Notes Plan	☐ ☐ ☐

One-Liners

		1 2 3
01	National Sports Awards	☐ ☐ ☐
02	Ladakh Bench	☐ ☐ ☐
03	Trump Renames Lake Ontario	☐ ☐ ☐
04	Nancy Grace Roman Telescope	☐ ☐ ☐
05	Hutatma Smriti Smarak	☐ ☐ ☐
06	Global Coast Guard Summit 2027	☐ ☐ ☐
07	COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal	☐ ☐ ☐
08	Dirac Medal	☐ ☐ ☐
09	National Handloom Day	☐ ☐ ☐
10	World Lion Day	☐ ☐ ☐
11	World Elephant Day	☐ ☐ ☐
12	National Sports Day	☐ ☐ ☐
13	World Biofuels Day	☐ ☐ ☐
14	Int'l Day Against Nuclear Tests	☐ ☐ ☐
15	President of Bangladesh	☐ ☐ ☐
16	150th Anniversary of Pingali Venkayya	☐ ☐ ☐

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September 2026

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9 Major | 10 Minor | 16 One-Liners

Major Topics (Deep Dive)

	NAME OF TOPIC	POINTERS (IF ANY)	REVISED 1 2 3
01	**Indus Waters Treaty**	India Held IWT in Abeyance After Pahalgam Attack; Ratle Project; Court of Arbitration; Award	☐ ☐ ☐
02	**BRICS Summit 2026**	History; Logo; Theme; Major Ministerial Meetings & Declarations; New Delhi Declaration; Tarique Rahman Invited as Chair of BIMSTEC (Declined)	☐ ☐ ☐
03	**Election Commission of India**	ECI Investigative Reporting (Dissent by ECs); Immunity Issue; Split Verdict on Constitutionality of CEC & Other ECs Act 2023 (Referred); Protests	☐ ☐ ☐
04	**UNGA 80th & 81st Session**	'Correct The Map' Resolution; Int'l Day for Elimination of Child, Forced & Early Marriage; 81st Session President & Theme; UN High Level Week; Indian Signs UN Cybercrime Convention.	☐ ☐ ☐
05	**Houthis in Yemen**	Ansar Allah; Yemen Civil War; Saudi Arabia	☐ ☐ ☐
06	**US Lindsey O Graham Act**	Sanctioning Russia & Iran; Impact on India	☐ ☐ ☐
07	**Greenland Deal**	USA-Denmark-Greenland Defense Agreement	☐ ☐ ☐
08	**Asian Games**	History; Host; Medal Tally; Mascot	☐ ☐ ☐
09	**Interest Rates Rise**	Central Banks Raise Interest Rates (Federal Reserve; ECB; BoJ; RBI, etc); Inflation; Terminology	☐ ☐ ☐

Minor Topics

		1 2 3
01	Bar Council of India; NALSAR; SC	☐ ☐ ☐
02	Dadasaheb Phalke Award	☐ ☐ ☐
03	UK Devolution & Self Determination	☐ ☐ ☐
04	World Circular Economy Forum	☐ ☐ ☐
05	Swachch Vayu Sarvekshan	☐ ☐ ☐
06	Pacing the AI Frontier: Amodei	☐ ☐ ☐
07	US Open	☐ ☐ ☐
08	Women's Champions Trophy '27	☐ ☐ ☐
09	Ramon Magsaysay Award	☐ ☐ ☐
10	World Rhino Day & Project Rhino	☐ ☐ ☐

One-Liners

		1 2 3
01	Mega Ports	☐ ☐ ☐
02	World Bank Chief Economist	☐ ☐ ☐
03	NGT International Conference	☐ ☐ ☐
04	First Blue Bond (India)	☐ ☐ ☐
05	India's Frist LNG Powered Train	☐ ☐ ☐
06	RAKSHA Roadmap	☐ ☐ ☐
07	China Masters	☐ ☐ ☐
08	Youngest Woman Grandmaster	☐ ☐ ☐
09	Teacher's Day	☐ ☐ ☐
10	Hindi Divas	☐ ☐ ☐
11	World Ozone Day	☐ ☐ ☐
12	Inter State Council & Zonal Councils	☐ ☐ ☐
13	UNEP's Limiting Overshoot Report	☐ ☐ ☐
14	Gondhal: India's Entry to Oscars	☐ ☐ ☐
15	WEF Global Gender Gap Index	☐ ☐ ☐
16	Executive Director of WFP	☐ ☐ ☐

Bonus from October · Major Topic

		1 2 3
01	**Nobel Prizes 2026**	☐ ☐ ☐

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001 Op. Absolute Resolve

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

On **3 January 2026** the US launched **Operation Absolute Resolve**, striking **Caracas** and taking Venezuelan President **Nicolás Maduro** and First Lady **Cilia Flores** into custody to face narco-terrorism charges in New York. Vice President **Delcy Rodríguez** became Acting President; the operation reopened debate on the **UN Charter's ban on use of force** and the revived **Monroe ("Donroe") Doctrine**.

The operation

- Target: **Miraflores Palace, Caracas**; air strikes in the north.
- US called it a **"law enforcement action"**, not a "war" or "invasion".
- Aftermath: VP **Delcy Rodríguez sworn in as Acting President**.
- Motives: Venezuela's **oil**; countering **Russian and Chinese** influence.

Indictment and US courts

- **2020 indictment**: cocaine importation conspiracy, **narco-terrorism conspiracy**, possession of machine-guns and destructive devices, and conspiracy to possess them. A **superseding indictment** on the same charges was unsealed on **3 January 2026**.
- Maduro and Flores were produced before the **US District Court for the Southern District of New York** and **pleaded not guilty**.

Legal debate

- Appears to violate **Article 2(4), UN Charter** (prohibits threat or use of force).
- US cited **self-defence under Article 51** and its **non-recognition** of Maduro.

Monroe / "Donroe" Doctrine

- Stated by US President **James Monroe in 1823**: any new European attempt at colonisation, control or oppression of a nation in the **Western Hemisphere** would be a "hostile act".
- Trump invoked it, rebranding it the **"Donroe Doctrine"**.

Maduro, the opposition and the Nobel

- Maduro became President in **2013** after **Hugo Chávez's** death.
- After the disputed **2018** election the US recognised **Juan Guaidó** as Interim President (2019); after the disputed **2024** election it recognised **Edmundo González** as winner.
- **Edmundo González and María Corina Machado**: **Sakharov Prize** for Freedom of Thought (2024).
- **María Corina Machado: Nobel Peace Prize 2025**.
- Crisis: hyperinflation, **8 million+** emigrants; oil output down from ~3.5 million (1990s) to ~**9 lakh barrels/day** (2025).

Later: India-Venezuela (June)

- Acting President **Delcy Rodríguez visited India, 3 to 7 June 2026**; talks with PM Modi on long-term crude contracts, critical minerals, oil investment.
- Venezuela became India's **3rd largest oil supplier (May 2026)**; bilateral trade **$678.94 million** (FY 2025-26), tilted in Venezuela's favour.

US-NABEP oil deal (Aug-Sep)

- **NABEP: North American Blue Energy Partners**, owned by Venezuelan businessman **Alejandro Betancourt**; Venezuela's 2nd-largest oil operator after **Chevron**.
- **100-year concessions** over **17 oil fields** (about **65 billion barrels**, roughly one-fifth of Venezuela's reserves); NABEP to invest about **$100 billion**.
- **US government: 35% stake** (via the Pentagon's Office of Strategic Capital); right to buy **20% of output at cost**; first refusal on the rest; veto over board appointments.

STATIC LINK: VENEZUELA BASICS

- **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**; capital **Caracas**; currency **Bolívar**; language Spanish; Constitution of **1999**.
- **World's largest proven oil reserves (~17%)**; founder member of **OPEC** (Baghdad, 1960).
- Colonised by **Spain** (16th c.); **Simón Bolívar** led independence; part of **Gran Colombia**, separated in **1830**.
- Treaty of **Tordesillas (1494)**: Spain and Portugal divided the "New World".
- **Angel Falls**: world's highest waterfall.
- Venezuela remains **suspended from MERCOSUR**.

QUICK RECALL

- US operation in Venezuela, 3 Jan 2026: **Absolute Resolve**.
- US-Venezuela oil vehicle: **NABEP** (US stake **35%**; 17 fields, 100 years).
- Acting President after Maduro: **Delcy Rodríguez**.
- Venezuela's share of world proven oil reserves: **17% (largest)**.
- UN Charter article on use of force: **Art. 2(4)**; self-defence: **Art. 51**.
- Monroe Doctrine: **1823** (Trump: **Donroe**). Nobel Peace 2025: **María Corina Machado**.

See also: 096 Venezuela Earthquake & Op Amistad; 107 International Criminal Court (ICC); 137 Greenland Deal.

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002 Board of Peace

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Jul 2026

The **Board of Peace** is a US-led intergovernmental body created to oversee "Phase Two" of the US-brokered Gaza ceasefire. Its Charter was signed at the **WEF Annual Meeting in Davos on 22 January 2026**, and it is named and welcomed in **UNSC Resolution 2803 (2025)**.

Establishment & purpose

- **Proposed:** September 2025, as part of Trump's 20-Point Gaza Peace Plan.
- **Stated aim:** "to promote stability, restore dependable and lawful governance, and secure enduring peace in areas affected or threatened by conflict."
- **Charter signed:** 22 Jan 2026 at WEF, Davos (56th Annual Meeting, theme "A Spirit of Dialogue").
- **HQ: Washington, DC**.

UNSC Resolution 2803 (2025)

- Title: "Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question".
- Mandate: supervise the **National Committee for Administration of Gaza (NCAG)**, a Palestinian technocratic authority for reconstruction and **Hamas disarmament**.

Leadership

- **Donald Trump: Chairperson for life**, independent of the US Presidency; he alone nominates his successor.
- **Executive Board:** Jared Kushner, Tony Blair (ex-UK PM), Marco Rubio (US Secretary of State), Ajay Banga (World Bank President), and others.
- **High Representative for Gaza:** Nickolay Mladenov.

Members and absentees

- **28 member countries**, incl. Saudi Arabia, Israel, UAE, Egypt, Türkiye, Qatar, Pakistan, Indonesia, Jordan, Bahrain.
- **Notable absentees:** Russia, China, France and UK (UNSC P5 other than the US) and major US allies.
- **India:** not a member; a "wait and watch" approach. India attended the Board's **first meeting (Washington, February 2026) as an observer**.

Later development: Hamas disarmament (July)

- The Board reached an agreement with **Hamas** and other armed groups on a framework for complete disarmament in Gaza; facilitated by **Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye**. Hamas accepted; **Israel rejected**.
- **15-Point Roadmap**, presented by Mladenov in May 2026, implements the 20-Point Plan. Core principle: **reciprocity**, with independent verification before each next step.
- Sequence: Disarmament → Verification → Israeli withdrawal → International stabilisation → Palestinian governance → Reconstruction.

15-Point Roadmap: key provisions

- **Complete disarmament:** Hamas and other factions decommission weapons and dismantle military infrastructure, in **phases**.
- **Israeli withdrawal:** the IDF pulls back progressively towards the Gaza perimeter, in step with verified disarmament.
- **International Stabilization Force (ISF)**, authorised under **Res. 2803**: security, buffer, weapons chain of custody, protection of humanitarian operations, support to local Palestinian police.
- **Civilian governance:** the **NCAG** takes over civilian functions; armed factions excluded from governance.
- **Reconstruction:** basic services, humanitarian and economic recovery, infrastructure.

STATIC LINK

- UNSC: 15 members (5 permanent with veto: USA, UK, France, Russia, China). A resolution needs 9 votes and no P5 veto.
- WEF: founded 1971 by Klaus Schwab; HQ Cologny, Geneva.

QUICK RECALL

- Resolution naming the Board: **UNSC 2803 (2025)**.
- Body it supervises in Gaza: **NCAG**.
- Where launched: **WEF, Davos**, 22 Jan 2026.
- Chair: **Trump, for life**.
- High Representative for Gaza: **Nickolay Mladenov**; 15-Point Roadmap principle: **reciprocity**.

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003 UN High Seas Treaty Comes Into Force

MAJOR Jan 2026

The **High Seas Treaty (BBNJ Agreement)**, the "Paris Agreement for the Ocean", **entered into force on 17 January 2026** after **Morocco became the 60th country to ratify** it. It is the **first legally binding** international agreement to protect marine life in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and the **third implementing agreement under UNCLOS**.

The treaty

- Full name: Agreement on the **Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction**.
- **Adopted 2023**; in force **2026**; 60 ratifications needed, **Morocco the 60th** (September 2025); entry into force **120 days** later.
- **More than 100 countries** have ratified till date.
- Called the **"Paris Agreement for the Ocean"**; first COP of the treaty due within a year of entry into force.

Objectives

- Tackle rising **sea-surface temperatures, overfishing, coastal pollution**, over-exploitation of marine biodiversity and unsustainable practices beyond national jurisdiction.
- Key tool for the global **"30 by 30" target**: protect **30%** of the world's coastal and marine areas by **2030**.
- Linked to **SDG 14: Life Below Water**.

Four pillars of the treaty

- **Marine genetic resources**: fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
- **Area-based management tools**, incl. **Marine Protected Areas** on the high seas.
- **Environmental Impact Assessments** for activities beyond national jurisdiction.
- **Capacity-building and transfer of marine technology** to developing countries.

Place in UNCLOS

Implementing agreement under UNCLOS	Year
Agreement on Implementation of **Part XI** (International Seabed Authority)	1994
Fish Stocks Agreement	1995
BBNJ / High Seas Treaty	2023

India's position

- India **signed in September 2024** but is **yet to ratify**.
- India is a State Party to **UNCLOS**.

STATIC LINK: UNCLOS

- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea: **adopted 1982**, **in force 1994**; replaced the **four Geneva Conventions of 1958**.
- Parties: **167 States + the European Union**.
- Aim: a legal order for the seas promoting peaceful uses, equitable use of resources, conservation of living resources and protection of the marine environment.
- Maritime zones: **internal waters, territorial sea (12 nm), contiguous zone (24 nm), EEZ (200 nm)**, continental shelf, **high seas**.
- High seas = waters beyond any EEZ, about **two-thirds of the ocean**.
- Union Environment Minister: **Bhupender Yadav**.
- **World Oceans Day: 8 June**. **3rd UN Ocean Conference** (2025): **Nice, France**.
- **ITLOS: International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea**; seat **Hamburg**, Germany. India's **Judge Bimal Patel** elected to ITLOS in **2026**.
- **International Seabed Authority**: seat **Kingston, Jamaica**.

QUICK RECALL

- 60th country to ratify the High Seas Treaty: **Morocco**.
- Entry into force: **17 January 2026**.
- Parent convention: **UNCLOS (1982)**.
- India: **signed (Sept 2024), not ratified**.
- Nickname: **"Paris Agreement for the Ocean"**.
- Related SDG: **SDG 14**; global target: **30×30**.

See also: 123 Rio Conventions; 090 World Environment Day.

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004 India-EU Free Trade Agreement

MAJOR Jan 2026

India and the European Union **concluded their Free Trade Agreement**, hailed as the **"mother of all deals"**, at the **16th India-EU Summit on 27 January 2026**, the day after the EU's two Presidents were **Republic Day Chief Guests**. A security and defence partnership and closer nuclear cooperation came alongside.

Summit and timeline

- **16th India-EU Summit**, New Delhi, **27 Jan 2026**: PM Modi, **Ursula von der Leyen** (President, European Commission) and **António Costa** (President, European Council).
- Both were **Chief Guests at Republic Day 2026**.
- FTA negotiations: launched **2007**, suspended **2013**, revived **2022**, concluded **Jan 2026**.

What India gets

- EU tariff cuts on **97% of tariff lines**, covering **99.5% of India's export value**; most duties fall to zero on entry into force.
- **90.7%** of India's exports get **zero-duty access from day one**.
- Gains for **labour-intensive sectors**: textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, marine products, toys, tea, spices.

What the EU gets

- India cuts or removes duties on **92.1% of tariff lines**, covering **97.5% of EU exports**; about half immediately, the rest phased over **5, 7 or 10 years**.
- **Cars** priced above **₹25 lakh**: duty from **110% to as low as 10%**, subject to quotas.
- High-tech sectors: machinery, medical devices, pharma, aircraft components.

Beyond trade

- **India-EU Security and Defence Partnership** signed.
- **India-Euratom Agreement**: closer cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Seven institutions of the EU

Institution	Seat	Head (President)
European Parliament	Strasbourg	**Roberta Metsola**
European Council	Brussels	**António Costa**
Council of the EU	Brussels	**Ireland** (rotating, H2 2026)
Commission	Brussels	**Ursula von der Leyen**
Court of Justice (CJEU)	Luxembourg	**Koen Lenaerts**
Central Bank (ECB)	Frankfurt	**Christine Lagarde**
Court of Auditors	Luxembourg	**Tony Murphy**

STATIC LINK: EU AND EURATOM

- **Euratom** (European Atomic Energy Community): set up by the **Treaty of Rome, 1957**.
- EU: **27 members** after Brexit; newest member **Croatia (2013)**.
- EU flag: **12 five-pointed gold stars**.

QUICK RECALL

- "Mother of all deals": **India-EU FTA**, concluded at the **16th India-EU Summit**, **27 Jan 2026**.
- EU leaders at the summit: **von der Leyen and Costa**.
- EU tariff lines cut for India: **97%**.
- Euratom created by: **Treaty of Rome, 1957**.
- FTA talks: **2007** start, **2013** suspended, **2022** revived.

Main EU treaties

Treaty	Signed	Key accomplishment
Treaty of Paris	1951	European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)
Treaty of Rome (TFEU)	1957	European Economic Community (common market) and **Euratom**
Merger Treaty	1965	Single Commission and Council for the three Communities
Single European Act	1986	Single market by 1992
Maastricht (TEU)	1992	Created the **European Union** and EU citizenship; path to the **euro**
Treaty of Amsterdam	1997	Brought **Schengen** into EU law; area of freedom, security and justice
Treaty of Nice	2001	Reformed institutions for eastward enlargement
Treaty of Lisbon	2007	In force 2009: permanent European Council President; Charter of Fundamental Rights binding; **Art. 50** exit clause; renamed Treaty of Rome as **TFEU** and Maastricht Treaty as **TEU**; reformed institutions

See also: 006 Republic Day; 011 Bulgaria joins Eurozone; 075 3rd India-Nordic Summit; 069 India-New Zealand FTA.

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005 National Voters' Day

MAJOR Jan 2026

National Voters' Day is observed on **25 January** to mark the founding of the **Election Commission of India on 25 January 1950**. The 2026 edition, themed **"My India, My Vote"**, coincided with India's year as **Chair of International IDEA**; the ECI hosted the **IICDEM 2026** conference and launched its **ECINet** digital platform.

National Voters' Day 2026

- Date: **25 January**; commemorates establishment of the **ECI (25 Jan 1950)**, a day before the Republic.
- First observed in **2011**; 2026 was the **16th** NVD.
- Theme 2026: **"My India, My Vote"**.
- **National Tourism Day** also falls on 25 January.

IICDEM 2026 and ECINet

- **IICDEM**: **India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management 2026**, hosted by the ECI in New Delhi.
- Concluded with the **Delhi Declaration 2026**.
- **ECINet**: the ECI's integrated digital platform for voters and election officials, **launched at IICDEM 2026**.

India chairs International IDEA (2026)

- CEC **Gyanesh Kumar** took over as **Chair of the Council of Member States of International IDEA** for **2026** (from December 2025).
- **International IDEA** (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance): intergovernmental body, founded **1995**, HQ **Stockholm**; India is a founder member.

Election Commission of India

- Constitutional body under **Article 324**, **Part XV**; secretariat New Delhi.
- Conducts elections to **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislatures, President and Vice-President**; not panchayats/municipalities (done by **State Election Commissions**).
- Composition: **CEC + two ECs**. CEC: **Gyanesh Kumar**; first CEC: **Sukumar Sen**; first woman CEC: **V. S. Ramadevi**.
- Appointment: by the President under the **CEC and Other ECs Act, 2023**, on recommendation of a panel of **PM, LoP (Lok Sabha) and a Union Cabinet Minister** nominated by the PM. The Act replaced the arrangement in **Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India** (which included the CJI).
- Term: **6 years or age 65**. CEC removable only like an **SC judge**; ECs only on the CEC's recommendation.

STATIC LINK: PART XV (ELECTIONS)

- **Art. 324**: superintendence, direction and control of elections and electoral rolls vest in the ECI.
- **Art. 325**: no exclusion from the electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
- **Art. 326**: elections on **adult suffrage (18+)**; voting age cut from 21 to 18 by the **61st Amendment (1988)**.
- **Art. 327**: Parliament may legislate on elections to legislatures.

QUICK RECALL

- National Voters' Day: **25 January** (ECI founded 1950).
- NVD 2026 theme: **"My India, My Vote"**.
- IICDEM 2026 outcome: **Delhi Declaration 2026**.
- ECI digital platform launched at IICDEM: **ECINet**.
- India's 2026 chair role: **International IDEA** (HQ Stockholm).
- ECI article: **324** (Part XV).

See also: 133 Election Commission of India; 074 Special Intensive Revision (SIR); 081 Assembly Elections.

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006 Republic Day

MAJOR Jan 2026

India celebrated its **77th Republic Day** on **26 January 2026** on **Kartavya Path**, with the parade themed **"150 Years of Vande Mataram"**. The Chief Guests were the two top leaders of the **European Union**, **Ursula von der Leyen** and **António Costa**, a day before the India-EU FTA was concluded.

History

Event	Date
Poorna Swaraj Day (after 1929 Lahore INC session, Nehru)	26 Jan 1930
Constituent Assembly created / first meeting	6 / 9 Dec 1946
Objectives Resolution moved (Nehru) / adopted	13 Dec 1946 / 22 Jan 1947
National flag adopted	22 Jul 1947
Constitution adopted (Constitution Day)	26 Nov 1949
Final session: national anthem and song adopted; Rajendra Prasad elected President	24 Jan 1950
Constitution in force (Republic Day)	26 Jan 1950

- Time taken: **2 years, 11 months, 18 days**. 26 January was chosen to honour **Poorna Swaraj Day (1930)**.
- 26 January is also **International Day of Clean Energy**, **Australia Day** and **World Customs Day**.

Chief Guests

- **2026: Ursula von der Leyen** (President, European Commission) and **António Costa** (President, European Council). An **EU contingent of 4 officers** marched; EU flag: 12 five-pointed stars.
- **First Republic Day (1950): Sukarno** (Indonesia).

The parade

- Venue: **Kartavya Path** (formerly Rajpath, King's Way), between **Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate**.
- Republic Day: **President unfurls the flag** (already tied at the top). Independence Day: **PM hoists** it (raised from the bottom). PM lays a wreath at the **National War Memorial**.
- Parade Commander: **Lt Gen Bhavnish Kumar**, GOC Delhi Area.
- Army displays: **Phased Battle Array format**, Shaktibaan, Divyastra, **BrahMos**, Suryastra, Akash, ABHRA MRSAM, **BHAIRAV Battalion**, Integrated Operational Centre (Op Sindoor); **two double-humped Bactrian camels** and Zanskar ponies.
- DRDO showcased the **LR-AShM** (long-range anti-ship hypersonic missile).
- Fly-past led by the **Sindoor Formation**.
- **Beating Retreat**: Vijay Chowk, **29 January**.

Tableaux

- **30 tableaux** of States/UTs/Ministries on **"150 Years of Vande Mataram"** and **"Samriddhi ka Mantra: Aatmanirbhar Bharat"**.
- Tri-Services tableau: **"Op Sindoor: Victory Through Jointness"**.
- MHA tableau: **"Jan Kendrit Nyay Pranali"**, on the three new criminal laws (**BNS, BNSS, BSA**).

Awards 2026

Category	Winner
Best marching contingent (Tri-Services)	**Indian Navy**
Best marching contingent (CAPF/others)	**Delhi Police**
Best State/UT tableaux	**1. Maharashtra** (Ganeshotsav); 2. J&K (handicrafts, folk dance); 3. Kerala (Water Metro, 100% digital literacy)
Best Ministry tableau	**Ministry of Culture** ("Vande Mataram: The Soul Cry of a Nation")

STATIC LINK

- **Jana Gana Mana**: Rabindranath Tagore; **Vande Mataram**: Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (Anandamath); both adopted **24 Jan 1950**.
- Supreme Commander of the Defence Forces: **President (Art. 53)**.
- **Padma Awards** and gallantry awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day (gallantry also on Independence Day).

QUICK RECALL

- Republic Day 2026: **77th**; theme **150 Years of Vande Mataram**.
- Chief Guests 2026: **EU's von der Leyen and Costa**.
- First Republic Day Chief Guest: **Sukarno**.
- Best State tableau 2026: **Maharashtra**.
- Best marching contingent: **Indian Navy**.
- Beating Retreat: **Vijay Chowk, 29 Jan**.

See also: 004 India-EU FTA; 015 Padma Awards; 016 Ashok Chakra; 024 Vande Mataram Guidelines; 126 Independence Day.

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007 USA Withdrawal from International Organisations

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Mar 2026

In January 2026 the US announced its withdrawal from **66 international organisations and agreements (31 UN, 35 non-UN)**, including the **International Solar Alliance, IPCC, IRENA and UNFCCC**. Its exits from the **WHO** and the **Paris Agreement** (the second time) were completed the same month.

What the US is leaving

- **66 bodies**: **31 UN** and **35 non-UN**.
- Includes: **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, **IPCC**, **IRENA**, **IUCN**, **UNCTAD**, **UNFCCC**, UN-Habitat (UNHSP), UN Population Fund, UN Energy, UN Oceans, UN Water, **International Law Commission**.
- **WHO** and **Paris Agreement** exits **completed in January 2026**; the US is the **only country to have withdrawn from the Paris Agreement**.
- **UNESCO** exit takes effect at the **end of 2026**.

Past US exits and returns

Body	Record
Paris Agreement	Left 2020, rejoined 2021, left again (completed **Jan 2026**)
UNESCO	Left 1984 and 2018; rejoined 2003 and 2023; exit again **end-2026**
WHO	Exit completed **Jan 2026**

Stated reasons

- **"Make America Great Again"** vision; **sovereignty** concerns over binding international rules.
- Alleged **politicisation, inefficiency and bias** against the US; **burden-sharing** (US pays disproportionately).
- Preference for **bilateral/minilateral** formats such as **QUAD** and **I2U2**; limiting platforms where **China** gains influence.

STATIC LINK

- **ISA**: launched by **India and France** at COP21, Paris (**2015**); HQ **Gurugram**. DG: **Ashish Khanna**. President: **India** (Co-President: France).
- **IRENA**: HQ **Abu Dhabi, UAE**; DG **Francesco La Camera**.
- **IPCC**: set up 1988 by WMO and UNEP, HQ **Geneva**; Chair **Jim Skea**.
- **Paris Agreement**: adopted at **UNFCCC COP21 (2015)**; goal well below 2°C, ideally 1.5°C (Art. 2).
- **WHO**: HQ Geneva; DG **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**.
- **UNESCO**: HQ Paris; DG **Khaled El-Enany** (Egypt; 12th DG, first Arab, 2025-29).
- **QUAD**: India, US, Japan, Australia. **I2U2**: India, Israel, UAE, US.

QUICK RECALL

- Number of bodies the US is quitting: **66 (31 UN + 35 non-UN)**.
- India-led body on the list: **International Solar Alliance**.
- Exits completed Jan 2026: **WHO and Paris Agreement**.
- UNESCO exit effective: **end of 2026**.
- Paris Agreement exit: the US's **second** withdrawal.

See also: 056 10th Anniversary of ISA; 051 India's NDCs under Paris Agreement.

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008 WEF Annual Meeting at Davos

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Sep 2026

The **56th Annual Meeting** of the **World Economic Forum** was held at **Davos, Switzerland, from 19 to 23 January 2026** on the theme **"A Spirit of Dialogue"**. It saw the launch of Trump's **Board of Peace**, Canadian PM Carney's **"Carney Doctrine"** and a US climb-down on **Greenland**.

Davos 2026

- **56th Annual Meeting**, Davos, **19 to 23 Jan 2026**; theme **"A Spirit of Dialogue"**.
- **Board of Peace** Charter signed, **22 Jan 2026**.
- **"Carney Doctrine"** set out by **Mark Carney, PM of Canada**.
- Trump **walked back threats to annex Greenland** and announced a **framework deal with NATO**.
- **21st Global Risks Report** released.

Greenland at Davos

- Trump had threatened to **annex Greenland** (autonomous territory of **Denmark**; capital **Nuuk**; world's largest island) and impose tariffs on the EU.
- US base there: **Pituffik Space Base** (formerly Thule), under the **1951** US-Denmark Defence Agreement.
- Responses: Denmark-led **Op Arctic Endurance**; NATO's **Arctic Sentry** mission.

WEF indices in 2026

Index	Top	India
Global Gender Gap	Iceland (93% gap closed)	**131st** of 145 (64.5%)
Travel & Tourism Development (10th edition)	Japan	**31st** of 110 (up from 39th)
Energy Transition Index (June)	Sweden (then Finland, Denmark)	**70th** of 120

See also: 002 Board of Peace; 137 Greenland Deal.

About the WEF

- International **non-profit** for **public-private cooperation**; not a UN agency; decisions are not binding.
- Founded **1971** by **Klaus Schwab** as the **European Management Forum**; renamed WEF in **1987**.
- HQ: **Cologny, near Geneva**; annual meeting at Davos every January.
- **Co-Chairs** (Board of Trustees): **Larry Fink** (BlackRock) and **André Hoffmann** (Roche), interim since Aug 2025 after Schwab stepped down.
- **President & CEO**: **Alois Zwinggi** (interim), after **Børge Brende** resigned in **Feb 2026** over his Epstein links.
- Reports: **Global Risks Report**, **Future of Jobs**, **Global Gender Gap**, **Energy Transition Index**, **Travel & Tourism Development Index**.

QUICK RECALL

- WEF 2026 theme: **"A Spirit of Dialogue"** (56th meeting).
- WEF HQ: **Cologny**; founder **Klaus Schwab (1971)**.
- Original name: **European Management Forum** (renamed 1987).
- WEF Co-Chairs: **Larry Fink and André Hoffmann**; interim CEO **Alois Zwinggi**.
- Carney Doctrine: **PM of Canada**.
- Body launched at Davos 2026: **Board of Peace** (22 Jan).

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009 India Elected to ECOSOC 2026-28

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Apr 2026 | Sep 2026

India began a **three-year term (2026-28)** on the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**, elected from the **Asia-Pacific Group**. In April 2026 it was also elected **unopposed** to several ECOSOC subsidiary bodies.

India on ECOSOC

- Member for **2026-28**, one of **54**; elected under the **Asia-Pacific Group**.
- **8 April 2026**: elected unopposed to the **Commission on Science & Technology for Development (2027-30)**, **Committee on NGOs (2027-30)** and **Committee for Programme & Coordination (2027-29)**.
- **Preeti Saran** re-elected to the **Committee on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (2027-30)**, in her individual capacity.

About ECOSOC

- One of the **six principal organs** of the UN (1945), headquartered in **New York**; coordinates economic and social work, incl. **15 specialised agencies** such as WHO and ILO.
- **54 members**, elected by the UNGA for **3 years**; **one-third** elected each year; seats split among **five regional groups**.
- Set up under **Chapter X** of the UN Charter; membership enlarged from **18 to 27 (1965) to 54 (1973)**.
- First President: **Arcot Ramaswamy Mudaliar (India)**.
- President: **Amar Bendjama (Algeria)** replaced **Lok Bahadur Thapa (Nepal)** as President in **2026**.

STATIC LINK: SIX PRINCIPAL ORGANS OF THE UN

- **General Assembly, Security Council, ECOSOC, Trusteeship Council, Secretariat** (New York); **International Court of Justice** (The Hague).
- UNSC presidency rotates **monthly**; ECOSOC is the platform for the **SDGs** follow-up (High-Level Political Forum).

QUICK RECALL

- India's ECOSOC term: **2026-28**, Asia-Pacific Group.
- ECOSOC strength / term: **54 / 3 years**.
- First ECOSOC President: **A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar**.
- Indian re-elected to CESCR: **Preeti Saran**.

The six principal organs of the UN

Organ	Location	Head (current)	India a member now?	Notes
General Assembly	New York	**Khalilur Rahman** (Bangladesh), President of the 81st session	Yes (all 193 members)	One country, one vote; important questions need a two-thirds majority. First Indian and first woman President: **Vijayalakshmi Pandit** (1953)
Security Council	New York	Rotates **monthly**, alphabetically (Greece, Oct 2026)	No (last term 2021-22)	15 members: 5 permanent with veto, 10 elected for 2 years; only organ whose decisions bind all members
ECOSOC	New York	**Amar Bendjama** (Algeria)	**Yes (2026-28)**	54 members, 3-year terms; first President A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar (India)
Trusteeship Council	New York	No active head	No (P5 only)	Suspended operations on **1 Nov 1994** after **Palau**, the last trust territory, became independent
International Court of Justice	The Hague	**Iwasawa Yuji** (Japan), President	Yes: Indian judge **Dalveer Bhandari** (term to Feb 2027)	15 judges, 9-year terms; the only principal organ not in New York. First Indian judge: **B.N. Rau** (1952)
Secretariat	New York	**António Guterres**, Secretary-General (9th)	Not applicable (staff body)	SG appointed by the UNGA on UNSC recommendation; Guterres's term ends **31 Dec 2026**

See also: 116 India's Campaign for UNSC: SHANTI; 134 UNGA 80th & 81st Sessions.

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010 UN International Years in 2026

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

The UN General Assembly has designated **2026** as the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**, the **International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development** and the **International Year of the Woman Farmer**. Several 2026 events, from a women-in-agriculture conference in India to the UNCCD COP17, were tied to these years.

UN International Years

Year	Designation
2026	Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP)
	Volunteers for Sustainable Development
	The Woman Farmer
2027	Sustainable & Resilient Tourism
	Legal Literacy
2028	International Law
2029	Asteroid Awareness & Planetary Defence

2026 years in action

- **Woman Farmer:** India hosted the **Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems**, **12 to 14 March 2026**.
- Mizoram's **Z. T. Lalrithangi** (strawberry farmer) selected for the **FAO "100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems"** recognition, part of the Year. The other Indian woman: **Priyanka Mahesh Shelke** (Maharashtra). Over **600 women from 131 countries** were nominated; 100 chosen.
- **Rangelands: UNCCD COP17**, **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia** (17 to 28 Aug 2026), theme **"Restoring Land. Restoring Hope."**, put rangelands and pastoralists at the centre; a **Rangelands Flagship Initiative** was launched. COP18: Egypt, 2028.

Earlier International Years

- **2025**: Quantum Science & Technology (100 years of quantum science); also Cooperatives (as in **2012**).
- **2023**: Millets (India-led, with FAO). **2016**: Pulses.
- Linked day: **International Asteroid Day, 30 June** (UNGA, 2016), the anniversary of the **1908 Tunguska** event; 2026 theme "Planetary Defence and Asteroid Impact Hazards".

See also: 123 Rio Conventions; 025 Cooperatives.

STATIC LINK

- **UNCCD** (1994): one of the three **Rio Conventions** with UNFCCC and CBD, from the **1992 Earth Summit**; **197 Parties**.
- International Years are proclaimed by the **UN General Assembly**; FAO leads on farm-related years.
- Father of International Law: **Hugo Grotius** (Dutch jurist; *De Jure Belli ac Pacis*, 1625).
- **Sustainable development** (**Brundtland Commission**, the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), report *Our Common Future*, **1987**): "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".
- **17 SDGs (2015-30)**, adopted with Agenda 2030, replaced the **8 MDGs (2000-15)**.

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 Years: **Rangelands & Pastoralists; Volunteers; Woman Farmer**.
- 2027: **Sustainable & Resilient Tourism; Legal Literacy**.
- 2029: **Asteroid Awareness & Planetary Defence**.
- UNCCD COP17 venue: **Ulaanbaatar**.

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011 21st Member of Eurozone (Bulgaria)

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026

Bulgaria adopted the euro on 1 January 2026, becoming the **21st member of the Eurozone** after meeting the EU convergence criteria. It retired the **Bulgarian lev**, in use since **1881**.

Bulgaria

- Euro adopted **1 Jan 2026**; **21st** Eurozone member; lev (since 1881) retired.
- Member of the **EU since 2007** and **NATO since 2004**; capital **Sofia**.
- New PM (Feb 2026): **Andrey Gyurov**.
- Full member of the **Schengen area** since **1 Jan 2025** (with Romania).

Euro area institutions

- **Eurozone**: EU states with the **euro as sole legal tender** and a common monetary policy.
- **ECB**: one of the **7 institutions of the EU**; HQ **Frankfurt**; President **Christine Lagarde**.
- **ESCB** = ECB + national central banks of **all** EU members; **Eurosystem** = ECB + NCBs of **euro** members only.

Euro adopters since 2007

Year	Country
2007 / 2008	Slovenia / Cyprus, Malta
2009 / 2011	Slovakia / Estonia
2014 / 2015	Latvia / Lithuania
2023	**Croatia** (20th)
2026	**Bulgaria (21st)**

See also: 004 India-EU FTA (EU basics).

History of the euro

- **1992 Maastricht Treaty**: Economic and Monetary Union and the **convergence criteria**.
- **1999**: euro launched as "book money" (electronic, accounting).
- **2002**: euro notes and coins introduced.

STATIC LINK

- **Maastricht convergence criteria**: price stability (low inflation), budget deficit **below 3% of GDP**, public debt **below 60% of GDP**, exchange-rate stability (**2 years in ERM II**), low long-term interest rates.
- **7 EU institutions**: European Parliament, European Council, Council of the EU, European Commission, Court of Justice of the EU, **ECB**, Court of Auditors.
- EU members outside the euro include **Denmark** (opt-out), Sweden, Poland, Czechia, Hungary, Romania.

QUICK RECALL

- 21st Eurozone member: **Bulgaria** (1 Jan 2026).
- Currency replaced: **lev**.
- 20th euro member: **Croatia (2023)**.
- ECB HQ / President: **Frankfurt / Christine Lagarde**.
- Treaty setting convergence criteria: **Maastricht (1992)**.

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012 Somnath Swabhiman Parv

MINOR Jan 2026

The **Somnath Swabhiman Parv** was launched in January 2026 to honour India's **"civilisational resilience"**. It marks **1,000 years** since **Mahmud of Ghazni's attack on the Somnath Temple (1026 CE)** and **75 years** of the restored temple, inaugurated by **President Rajendra Prasad on 11 May 1951**.

The temple

- **First of the 12 Jyotirlingas** of Lord Shiva.
- Location: **Prabhas Patan, Veraval, Gujarat**, at the confluence of the **Kapila, Hiran** and mythical **Saraswati** with the **Arabian Sea**.
- Style: **Māru-Gurjara (Chaulukya)**, with Garbhagriha (sanctum), Sabha Mandapa (assembly hall), Nritya Mandapa (dance hall).
- **Baan Stambh** (arrow pillar) on the sea wall: marks an unobstructed sea route to the **South Pole**.
- Called the **"Shrine Eternal"**: destroyed and rebuilt many times.
- Post-1947 reconstruction: driven by **Sardar Patel**, carried through by **K. M. Munshi**.

Destruction and rebuilding

Year	Event
1026	Attack by **Mahmud of Ghazni**; rebuilt in stone by **Bhimdev I**; later renovated by **Kumarapala** (Chalukya)
1299	Attack by **Alauddin Khalji**; restored by **Mahipala I**
1783	**Ahilyabai Holkar** built the "Old Somnath Temple" beside the ruins
1947	Restoration ordered by **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**
1951	Present temple inaugurated by **Dr Rajendra Prasad** (11 May)

STATIC LINK

- **12 Jyotirlingas**: Somnath and Nageshwar (Gujarat); Mallikarjuna (Srisailam, AP); Mahakaleshwar (Ujjain) and Omkareshwar (MP); Kedarnath (Uttarakhand); Kashi Vishwanath (Varanasi); Bhimashankar, Trimbakeshwar and Grishneshwar (Maharashtra); Baidyanath (Deoghar, Jharkhand); Rameshwaram (TN).
- **Mahmud of Ghazni** (Ghaznavid ruler) raided India **17 times** (c. 1000 to 1027); scholar **Al-Biruni** (Kitab-ul-Hind) came with him.
- **Alauddin Khalji**: Khalji dynasty, Delhi Sultanate; Gujarat campaign 1299.

QUICK RECALL

- Swabhiman Parv marks: **1,000 years** since Ghazni's raid (**1026**).
- Restoration ordered by: **Sardar Patel (1947)**.
- Modern temple inaugurated: **Rajendra Prasad, 11 May 1951**.
- Architectural style: **Māru-Gurjara**.
- Jyotirlinga rank: **first of 12**.
- Location: **Prabhas Patan, Veraval** (Gujarat).

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013 Granth Kutir for Classical Languages

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Sep 2026

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated **Granth Kutir** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, a collection of manuscripts and books in all **11 classical languages** of India. It supports the Ministry of Culture's **Gyan Bharatam Mission (2024-31)** to preserve and digitise India's manuscript heritage.

Granth Kutir

- Where: **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, New Delhi; inaugurated by the **President**.
- What: manuscripts and books in the **11 classical languages**.
- Aim: raise citizens' awareness of India's rich **cultural and literary heritage**.
- Supports the vision of the **Gyan Bharatam Mission**.

Gyan Bharatam Mission

- Initiative of the **Ministry of Culture**, **2024 to 2031**.
- Builds on the **National Mission for Manuscripts** (2003).
- Goal: **preserve, digitise and disseminate** India's manuscript heritage.
- Announced in the **Union Budget 2025-26**; aims to survey and document over **one crore manuscripts**.

The 11 classical languages

Year declared	Language(s)
2004	**Tamil** (first)
2005	Sanskrit
2008	Telugu, Kannada
2013 / 2014	Malayalam / Odia
2024	**Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, Bengali**

- **Pali and Prakrit** are the only classical languages **not among the 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule**.

Criteria for classical status (revised 2024)

- **High antiquity**: early texts or recorded history over **1,500 to 2,000 years**.
- A body of **ancient literature or texts** regarded as heritage by generations of speakers.
- **Knowledge texts**, especially prose besides poetry, plus **epigraphic and inscriptional evidence**.
- The classical language and literature may be **distinct from, or discontinuous with**, its current form.
- Applications are examined by the **Linguistic Experts Committee** under the **Sahitya Akademi**.

STATIC LINK

- India has **no national language**; Hindi is the official language of the Union (**Art. 343**).
- **22 languages** in the **Eighth Schedule**; official language provisions in **Part XVII (Arts. 343 to 351)**.
- Classical status is granted by the **Union Government (Ministry of Culture)**; the 2024 expansion took the count from 6 to **11**.
- **Vishwa Hindi Divas**: 10 January; **Hindi Divas**: 14 September.
- Benefits: international awards for scholars, **Centres of Excellence**, professional chairs in universities.

QUICK RECALL

- Granth Kutir is at: **Rashtrapati Bhavan**; inaugurated by **President Droupadi Murmu**.
- Languages covered: all **11 classical languages**.
- India's official language under Art. 343: **Hindi** (no national language).
- Number of classical languages: **11**; first: **Tamil (2004)**.
- Linked mission: **Gyan Bharatam (2024-31)**, Ministry of Culture.
- Added in 2024: **Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, Bengali**.

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014 National Startup Day (10th Anniversary)

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Jul 2026

16 January 2026 was the **10th National Startup Day**, marking ten years of **Startup India** (launched **16 January 2016**). In February the government widened the startup recognition framework, doubling the turnover limit to **₹200 crore** and creating a **Deep Tech** category.

Startup India at 10

- **Startup India** launched **16 Jan 2016**; National Startup Day observed on **16 January**.
- Startups are recognised by **DPIIT** (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade), **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Fund of Funds** for startups: corpus **₹10,000 crore**.

Startup India vs Stand-Up India

	Startup India	Stand-Up India
Launched	**16 Jan 2016**	**5 Apr 2016**
Aim	Build an ecosystem for **innovative startups**	**Bank credit** for **SC/ST and women** entrepreneurs
Support	DPIIT recognition, tax benefits, Fund of Funds, self-certification	Loans of **₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore** for a **greenfield** enterprise; at least one SC/ST and one woman borrower per bank branch
Ministry	Commerce & Industry (DPIIT)	Finance (Dept. of Financial Services); SIDBI

Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026 (July)

- Top countries: **1. USA (806)**, 2. China (381), 3. UK (70), **4. India (61)**; India kept 4th place.
- Most valuable unicorns: **1. Anthropic** ($965 bn), 2. OpenAI ($852 bn), 3. ByteDance ($480 bn).
- India's most valuable: **Zerodha ($9 bn)**, then Zepto ($7 bn), Razorpay ($6 bn).
- India's unicorn capital: **Bengaluru (25)**, then Mumbai (13). Top global city: **San Francisco**.
- Six Indian unicorns listed on the stock market during the year.

Revised recognition framework (Feb 2026)

Criterion	Earlier	Now
Turnover limit	₹100 crore	**₹200 crore**
Deep Tech: age limit	10 years	**20 years**
Deep Tech: turnover	₹100 crore	**₹300 crore**
Eligible entities	Companies, LLPs, partnership firms	+ **cooperative societies**

- New dedicated **Deep Tech Startups** category for cutting-edge, breakthrough technologies.
- Cooperatives covered: **Multi-State Cooperative Societies** (2002 Act) and State/UT cooperative societies.
- Aim: strengthen the **Startup India Action Plan**.

STATIC LINK

- **DPIIT**: renamed from DIPP in **2019**; Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal**.
- **Unicorn**: a privately held startup valued at **US$1 billion or more** (term coined by venture capitalist **Aileen Lee**, 2013); **decacorn**: $10 billion or more.
- Related schemes: **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme** (2021); **Fund of Funds for Startups** run through **SIDBI**.

QUICK RECALL

- National Startup Day: **16 January** (10th in 2026).
- Recognising body: **DPIIT**.
- New turnover cap: **₹200 crore**; Deep Tech: **₹300 crore, 20 years**.
- Fund of Funds corpus: **₹10,000 crore**.
- Hurun 2026: India **4th (61 unicorns)**; India's top unicorn **Zerodha**.

See also: 025 Cooperatives.

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015 Padma Awards

MINOR Jan 2026

The President announced **131 Padma Awards** for 2026: **5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri**. **No Bharat Ratna** was announced. The Padma Vibhushan list includes actor **Dharmendra** and former Kerala CM **V. S. Achuthanandan**.

Padma Awards 2026

- Total **131**: **5** Padma Vibhushan, **13** Padma Bhushan, **113** Padma Shri.
- **19 women**; **6** Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI; **16 posthumous**; **2 duo awards** (two people, counted as one).
- Announced on the eve of **Republic Day**; conferred later by the **President**.
- **Padma Vibhushan 2026**: **Dharmendra Singh Deol**, **K. T. Thomas**, **N. Rajam**, **P. Narayanan**, **V. S. Achuthanandan**.

Rules

- Instituted **1954** (with Bharat Ratna) as Padma Vibhushan Class I/II/III; renamed **1955**.
- Announced every **Republic Day**; interrupted **1978-79** and **1993-97**.
- Cap: **120 a year** (excluding posthumous and foreigner/NRI/PIO/OCI awards); normally not posthumous.
- Fields: all, incl. art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, literature and education, medicine, sports, civil service.
- Not eligible: **government servants** incl. PSU staff, **except doctors and scientists**.
- Not a **title under Art. 18(1)**; cannot be used as prefix/suffix: **Balaji Raghavan v. Union of India**. No cash prize.

Bharat Ratna: records

Record	Person
First recipients (1954)	**C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan, C.V. Raman**
First woman	**Indira Gandhi** (1971)
First posthumous	**Lal Bahadur Shastri** (1966)
First foreigner	**Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan** (1987)
Total foreigners	**2**: Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and **Nelson Mandela** (1990)
First and only naturalised citizen	**Mother Teresa** (1980)
Youngest	**Sachin Tendulkar** (40, in 2014)
Oldest	**Dhondo Keshav Karve** (100, in 1958)
Latest recipients (2024)	**Karpoori Thakur, L.K. Advani, P.V. Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, M.S. Swaminathan** (all but Advani posthumous)

STATIC LINK

- Hierarchy: **Bharat Ratna** (last awarded 2024) > Padma Vibhushan (exceptional and distinguished service) > Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of a high order) > Padma Shri (distinguished service).
- **Art. 18(1)**: no titles except military and academic distinctions.
- Administered by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**; conferred by the **President** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

QUICK RECALL

- Padma Awards 2026: **131** (5 / 13 / 113).
- Bharat Ratna 2026: **none**.
- Annual cap: **120**.
- Instituted / renamed: **1954 / 1955**.
- Case: **Balaji Raghavan** (not titles under Art. 18).
- Padma Vibhushan 2026 (film): **Dharmendra**.

See also: 006 Republic Day; 016 Ashok Chakra for Shubhanshu Shukla.

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016 Ashok Chakra for Shubhanshu Shukla

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jul 2026

Group Captain **Shubhanshu Shukla**, the **first Indian aboard the International Space Station** and the **second Indian in space** (Axiom Mission 4, 2025), was awarded the **Ashok Chakra**, India's **highest peacetime gallantry award**, on Republic Day 2026.

Shubhanshu Shukla

- Group Captain, IAF; flew **Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)** to the **ISS** in **2025**.
- One of the four **Gaganyaan** astronaut-designates (with Prasanth B. Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap); first crewed Gaganyaan targeted for **Q1 2027**.
- April 2026: attended release of **two stamps on India's Human Space Programme** (Bengaluru).
- July 2026: memoir **"The Second Orbit"**.
- First Indian in space: **Wg Cdr Rakesh Sharma** (**Soyuz T-11, 1984**).

Gallantry awards

Rank	Wartime (1950)	Peacetime (1952)
1st	**Param Vir Chakra**	**Ashok Chakra**
2nd	Maha Vir Chakra	Kirti Chakra
3rd	Vir Chakra	Shaurya Chakra

- Wartime awards instituted **26 Jan 1950**; peacetime as Ashoka Chakra Class I/II/III on **4 Jan 1952**, renamed **1967**.
- Conferred by the **President** (Supreme Commander, **Art. 53**); announced on **Republic Day and Independence Day**.
- **Param Vir Chakra**: awarded **21 times**, **14 posthumously**; first recipient **Maj Somnath Sharma**; latest **Capt Vikram Batra** (Kargil, 1999, posthumous).
- **Ashok Chakra**: first recipients (1952) **Havildar Bachittar Singh** (posthumous) and **Naik Nar Bahadur Thapa**; **Shubhanshu Shukla** is the **87th and latest** recipient.
- **Soyuz T-11 (1984)** crew awarded the Ashok Chakra: **Rakesh Sharma** and Soviet cosmonauts **Yury Malyshev** and **Gennady Strekalov**, the **only foreign recipients**.

QUICK RECALL

- Ashok Chakra 2026: **Shubhanshu Shukla**.
- Highest peacetime / wartime award: **Ashok Chakra / Param Vir Chakra**.
- Shukla's mission: **Axiom-4**; first Indian on the **ISS**.
- Shukla's memoir: **The Second Orbit**.

See also: 062 Gaganyaan; 015 Padma Awards.

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017 New Ramsar Sites & World Wetlands Day

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026 | Aug 2026 | Oct 2026

India added **seven Ramsar sites in 2026** (97th to 103rd), taking its tally to **103**: the **highest in Asia and third in the world** after the UK and Mexico. **World Wetlands Day (2 February)** marks the adoption of the Ramsar Convention in 1971; the 2026 theme was **"Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage"**.

India's Ramsar additions in 2026

No.	Site (district)	State	When
97	Patna Bird Sanctuary (Etah)	UP	Jan
98	Chhari-Dhand Wetland Reserve (Kutch)	Gujarat	Jan
99	Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary (Aligarh)	UP	22 Apr
100	Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary, Surha Tal (Ballia)	UP	5 Jun
101	Glaw Lake (Lohit)	Arunachal	Aug
102	Sukhna Wetland	Chandigarh	Oct
103	Sauj Jheel	UP	Oct

- **Shekha Jheel:** on the **Central Asian Flyway**; bar-headed goose, painted stork, northern pintail.
- **Surha Tal:** natural **oxbow lake of the Ganga**; bird sanctuary since 1991; declared on **World Environment Day**.
- **Glaw Lake: first Ramsar site of Arunachal Pradesh**; high-altitude freshwater lake (about 1,168 m) inside **Kamlang Tiger Reserve**; sacred to the **Mishmi** communities.
- Late-2025 additions: Gogabeel Lake (Bihar, Nov), Siliserh Lake (Rajasthan, Dec), Kopra Jalashay (Chhattisgarh, Dec).

Ramsar Convention basics

- Full name: **Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat**.
- Adopted **2 Feb 1971 at Ramsar, Iran**; in force **1975**. **India ratified in 1982**.
- **Secretariat:** at the IUCN HQ, **Gland, Switzerland**. Publishes the **Global Wetland Outlook**.
- A site must meet **at least 1 of 9 criteria**. Aim: "wise use" and conservation.
- **World Wetlands Day:** first celebrated 1997; a **UN observance since 2022**.

Records: India

- **Most sites:** Tamil Nadu (20), then **Uttar Pradesh (14)**; UP got 4 of the 7 new sites.
- **Largest:** Sundarbans (WB). **Smallest** (joint, equal size): **Renuka Lake** (HP) and **Vembannur Wetland Complex** (TN).
- **First sites:** Chilika Lake and Keoladeo NP (1981).
- **Montreux Record** (sites in danger): **Keoladeo NP**, Rajasthan (1990) and **Loktak Lake**, Manipur (1993). Chilika: added 1993, removed 2002.
- India's wetlands scheme: **Amrit Dharohar** (announced in Budget 2023-24) to promote conservation and optimal use of Ramsar sites.

Records: world

- **First Ramsar site:** Cobourg Peninsula, Australia (1974).
- **Most sites:** United Kingdom (176), Mexico (144), then India (103).
- **Largest site:** Rio Negro, Brazil. **Largest area** under Ramsar: Brazil (2,67,000 sq km).

STATIC LINK

- Environment in the Constitution: **Art. 48A** (DPSP) and **Art. 51A(g)** (Fundamental Duty), both added by the 42nd Amendment.
- IUCN HQ: Gland, Switzerland. World Environment Day: 5 June.

QUICK RECALL

- India's 100th Ramsar site: **Surha Tal (JP Narayan BS), Ballia, UP**.
- India's 101st, and Arunachal's first: **Glaw Lake**.
- India's 99th: **Shekha Jheel, Aligarh**. Latest (Oct): **Sukhna Wetland** (Chandigarh) and **Sauj Jheel** (UP); total **103**.
- WWD 2026 theme: **Wetlands and traditional knowledge**.
- State with most sites: **Tamil Nadu (20)**.
- Trap: Patna Bird Sanctuary is in **Etah, Uttar Pradesh**, not Bihar.
- Indian sites on the Montreux Record: **Keoladeo, Loktak**.
- India's wetlands scheme: **Amrit Dharohar**.

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018 Union Budget 2026-27

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026

FM **Nirmala Sitharaman** presented her **9th consecutive Budget** on **1 February 2026**, the **first ever on a Sunday** and the first prepared in **Kartavya Bhavan**. Billed a **"Yuva Shakti driven"** Budget, it is built on **3 Kartavyas**, targets a **fiscal deficit of 4.3%** for 2026-27 and came alongside the **16th Finance Commission** report.

76th Economic Survey (29 Jan 2026)

- Prepared by **Dept of Economic Affairs** under the **CEA, V. Anantha Nageswaran**; tabled before the Budget.
- FY26: real GDP **7.4%**, GVA 7.3%; fastest-growing major economy. Services grew 9.1%; PFCE 61.5% of GDP.
- FY27 projection: **6.8% to 7.2%**; medium-term potential 7%.
- Vision: Swadeshi (near term), Strategic Resilience (medium), **Strategic Indispensability** (long term).
- India: world's **largest recipient of remittances**.

Records and history

- **Most Budgets:** Morarji Desai (10). **Most consecutive:** Sitharaman (9).
- **First Budget:** James Wilson, 1860. **First after Independence:** R.K. Shanmukham Chetty (26 Nov 1947). **First of the Republic:** John Mathai (1950).
- **First woman FM:** Indira Gandhi; **first full-time:** Sitharaman.
- Rail Budget separated **1924 (Acworth Committee)**, merged from **2017**; Budget date moved to **1 February** from 2017.
- First Economic Survey: 1950-51; tabled separately before the Budget since 1964.

3 Kartavyas and key initiatives

- **1st:** accelerate growth and resilience. **Biopharma SHAKTI** (₹10,000 cr/5 yrs), **Semiconductor Mission 2.0**, **Rare Earth Corridors** (Odisha, Kerala, AP, TN), 3 Chemical Parks, 200 legacy clusters, **SME Growth Fund** ₹10,000 cr, CCUS ₹20,000 cr, 20 new National Waterways, 7 High-Speed Rail corridors, Dankuni-Surat freight corridor.
- **2nd:** fulfil aspirations. 5 Regional Medical Hubs, 3 AIIAs, 'Orange Economy' (AVGC), 5 University Townships, India to host **1st Global Big Cats Summit**.
- **3rd:** Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. **Bharat-VISTAAR** (AI for farmers), SHE-Marts, Coconut Promotion Scheme, NIMHANS-2, Divyang Sahara Yojana, East Coast Industrial Corridor.
- Ladakh telescopes: **NLST** (solar) and **NLOT** (optical-NIR).

See also: 040 Budget Session of Parliament.

Numbers (BE 2026-27)

- **Fiscal deficit:** 4.4% (RE 2025-26) → **4.3%** target; debt-to-GDP 55.6%.
- Expenditure ₹53.5 lakh cr; CapEx **₹12.2 lakh cr**; gross borrowing ₹17.2 lakh cr; **Defence ₹7.85 lakh cr** (+15.1%).

16th Finance Commission (Art. 280)

- Chair **Arvind Panagariya**; constituted 2023; covers **FY 2026-27 to 2030-31**.
- **Vertical devolution: 41%** (same as 15th FC).
- **Horizontal:** income distance 42.5%, population 17.5%, demographic performance 10%, area 10%, forest 10%, **contribution to GDP 10% (new)**.
- Grants-in-aid ₹9.47 lakh cr; local bodies: Panchayats ₹4.4 lakh cr, Municipalities ₹3.6 lakh cr.

Income Tax Act 2025

- Replaced the **IT Act 1961**; in force from **1 April 2026**. Awareness campaign **PRARAMBH 2026**; AI chatbot **Kar Saathi**.

STATIC LINK

- **Art. 112:** Annual Financial Statement. Art. 113: Demands for Grants; Art. 114: Appropriation Bill; Art. 110: Money Bill.
- **FRBM Act 2003** (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management).
- Sequence: Survey → Speech → General discussion → Standing Committees → Demands (cut motions) → Appropriation Bill → Finance Bill.
- **Art. 280:** President constitutes a Finance Commission every **5 years** (or earlier). 1st FC chair: **K.C. Neogy**.

QUICK RECALL

- FD target FY27: **4.3%**. CapEx: **₹12.2 lakh cr**.
- 16th FC new criterion: **contribution to GDP**.
- States' share: **41%**.
- Budget prepared in: **Kartavya Bhavan**.
- CEA: **V. Anantha Nageswaran**.

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019 AI Impact Summit 2026 & India Joins Pax Silica Declaration

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026

The **AI Impact Summit 2026** was held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, 16 to 20 February 2026**: the **first in the series hosted by a Global South country**, marking a shift from "AI Safety" to "AI Strategy". It ended with the **Delhi Declaration (19 Feb)**, and on **20 February India joined the US-led Pax Silica** initiative on semiconductor and AI supply chains.

Summit series

No.	Summit	Host	Year
1	AI Safety Summit	Bletchley Park, UK	2023
2	AI Seoul Summit	Seoul, South Korea	2024
3	AI Action Summit	Paris (co-chaired by India)	2025
4	AI Impact Summit	New Delhi	2026
5	Next summit	**Geneva, Switzerland** (UAE co-chair)	2027
6	Next summit	**UAE**	2028

Framework

- **Theme:** "Sarvajan Hitaye, Sarvajan Sukhaye" (welfare and happiness for all).
- **3 Sutras:** People, Planet, Progress.
- **Modi's MANAV Vision** for human-centric AI: **M**oral and ethical systems, **A**ccountable governance, **N**ational sovereignty, **A**ccessible and inclusive, **V**alid and legitimate systems.
- **7 Chakras (pillars):** Human Capital; Inclusion for Social Empowerment; Safe and Trusted AI; Science; Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency; Democratising AI Resources; AI for Economic Development and Social Good.

Delhi Declaration (19 Feb 2026)

- Endorsed by **92 countries and organisations**; inspired by "Sarvajan Hitaya" and **"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"**.
- Platforms: **Charter for the Democratic Diffusion of AI**, Global AI Impact Commons, Trusted AI Commons, International Network of AI for Science Institutions, AI for Social Empowerment Platform, AI Workforce Development Playbook, Guiding Principles on Resilient and Efficient AI.
- **New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments:** "Advancing Understanding of Real-World AI Usage" and "Strengthening Multilingual and Contextual Evaluations".
- Pledges: **$250 bn** infrastructure, **$20 bn** deep-tech venture funding. OpenAI with Tata (data centres); Anthropic with Infosys.

Initiatives launched

- **Sarvam AI:** Bulbul (text-to-speech, 11 languages), **Saaras** (speech-to-text, all 22 scheduled languages), Vision (documents); LLMs Sarvam 30B and 105B; chatbot **Vikram**.
- Health Ministry: **SAHI** (Strategy for AI in Healthcare in India) and **BODH** (benchmarking open data platform for health AI).
- **Bharat VISTAAR** (agriculture); **Bodhan.AI** CoE for education with IIT Madras; BHASHINI's **VoicERA**; UIDAI's 'Invisible Shield'.
- **ISA:** Global Mission on AI for Energy. **Indo-French Centre for AI in Health** at AIIMS Delhi.
- Indian Army tools: AI Examiner, SAM-UN, EKAM, PRAKSHEPAN, X-Face, Nabh Drishti.

India and Pax Silica

- US **State Department**-led initiative for secure supply chains in **semiconductors, critical minerals, electronics and AI**. "Pax" = peace; "Silica" = raw material of chips.
- Declaration issued **12 Dec 2025** at the inaugural Pax Silica Summit, **Washington DC**.
- **24 signatories**, including the **US and India** (others incl. Japan, South Korea, Australia, Israel, Singapore, UAE, UK, Greece, Qatar, Philippines), and **one non-signatory participant: Taiwan**.
- India invited in Jan; **joined on 20 Feb 2026** at the summit. **Philippines** joined in April.

STATIC LINK

- **BharatGen:** first government-backed sovereign multimodal LLM (Ministry of S&T; IIT Bombay's TIH under NM-ICPS); data layer **Bharat Data Sagar**.
- MeitY Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw.

QUICK RECALL

- Venue and dates: **Bharat Mandapam, 16 to 20 Feb 2026**.
- 3 Sutras: **People, Planet, Progress**; 7 Chakras.
- First AI summit: **Bletchley Park, 2023**.
- Sarvam's 22-language speech-to-text model: **Saaras**.
- India joined Pax Silica: **20 Feb 2026**.

See also: 028 UN AI Panel; 034 India-France Year of Innovation.

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020 End of President's Rule in Manipur

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Sep 2026

President's Rule in Manipur, imposed under **Article 356** on **13 February 2025** after CM N. Biren Singh resigned, **ended on 3 February 2026**, nearly a year later. **Yumnam Khemchand Singh** (Meitei) was sworn in as Chief Minister, with Deputy CMs from the **Kuki-Zo** and **Naga** communities.

New government

- **CM:** Yumnam Khemchand Singh (**Meitei**).
- **Deputy CMs: Nemcha Kipgen** (Kuki-Zo) and **Losii Dikho** (Naga).
- The balanced line-up reflects the three main communities of the state.

The ethnic conflict

- Clashes between the **majority Meiteis** (Imphal valley) and **minority Kuki-Zos** (hills) began on **3 May 2023**.
- **Commission of Inquiry** into the violence: chair **Justice Ajai Lamba** resigned; new chair **Justice Balbir Chauhan**.
- **Trigger:** a Manipur High Court order (March 2023) asking the State to recommend **ST status for Meiteis**, followed by a tribal solidarity march on 3 May 2023.
- The Lamba Commission was set up by the MHA under the **Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952**.
- Biren Singh resigned in Feb 2025; President's Rule followed on **13 Feb 2025**, with Governor **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** administering the State.
- **Boong**, a Manipuri-language (Meiteilon) film by Lakshmipriya Devi set amid the conflict, won the **BAFTA** for Best Children's and Family Film (2026).

Article 356: how it works

- Proclaimed by the **President** on failure of constitutional machinery in a State (Governor's report or otherwise).
- Must be approved by **both Houses within 2 months**.
- Once approved: valid **6 months**, extendable by Parliament 6 months at a time.
- Beyond **1 year** only if a **National Emergency (Art. 352)** is in force **and** the **ECI certifies** that elections are not possible.
- Absolute maximum: **3 years**. Revocation needs no parliamentary approval.
- Related: under **Art. 365**, a State's failure to comply with Union directions lets the President presume a breakdown. First use of Art. 356: **Punjab, 1951**.

Later: AFSPA extended (Sept 2026)

- MHA extended **AFSPA** for six months from **1 Oct 2026 to 31 Mar 2027** in parts of Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal.
- In Manipur it covers the whole state **except 13 police stations** in five valley districts: Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Kakching.
- **AFSPA, 1958:** applies in areas notified as **"disturbed"** under Section 3, by the Centre or the State.

STATIC LINK

- **Art. 355:** Union's duty to protect States and ensure governance as per the Constitution. **Art. 357:** Parliament legislates for the State under President's Rule.
- **S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994):** proclamation under Art. 356 is open to judicial review; majority to be tested on the floor of the House.
- **44th Amendment (1978)** added the conditions for extension beyond one year.
- **Most times under Art. 356: Manipur (11)**, the 2025 spell being the 11th; Uttar Pradesh next (10).
- **Longest total period: Jammu & Kashmir** (over 12 years in all); longest single spell: **Punjab, 1987-92** (about 5 years).
- Manipur became a full State in **1972**; capital Imphal; **Loktak Lake** is on the Montreux Record.

QUICK RECALL

- President's Rule ended: **3 Feb 2026**.
- New CM: **Yumnam Khemchand Singh**.
- Article: **356** (not 352 or 360).
- Max duration of President's Rule: **3 years**.
- Conflict began: **3 May 2023**. Kuki-Zo Deputy CM: **Nemcha Kipgen**.
- Extension beyond 1 year needs: **National Emergency + ECI certificate**.
- New Inquiry Commission chair: **Justice Balbir Chauhan**.

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021 US Tariffs

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

In **Learning Resources Inc. v. Trump**, the **US Supreme Court** held that the President cannot impose tariffs under the **International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 1977**, striking down the **"Liberation Day" reciprocal tariffs**. Trump answered with a global tariff under **Section 122 of the Trade Act 1974**, and the newly agreed **India-US trade deal was stalled**. When the 150-day Section 122 tariff expired, the US imposed permanent **Section 301 tariffs of 10%** on India over inadequate **forced labour** import curbs (**24 July 2026**).

The SCOTUS ruling

- Case: **Learning Resources Inc. et al v. Trump**.
- Held: the power to impose tariffs is part of the **power of taxation**, which belongs to **Congress**; the President may use it only if **explicitly authorised**. IEEPA gives no such authority.
- Struck down the IEEPA-based **reciprocal tariffs**, including the **25% on India**.
- Significance: reasserts **Congress's control over trade taxes** (separation of powers) and removes the legal basis of most 2025 tariffs.

Trump's response: Trade Act 1974

- Imposed a **10% global tariff**, later raised to **15%**, under **Section 122**, which allows such tariffs for up to **150 days**.
- **Section 301** investigations (Trade Act 1974) launched into the manufacturing policies of **major trading partners**, incl. **EU, China and India**, for unfair trade practices.
- Related: the annual **Special 301 Report** of the **USTR** on IPR protection; categories: Priority Foreign Country, Priority Watch List, Watch List. **India** retained on the **Priority Watch List** (2026 report).
- **July 2026:** on expiry of the **150-day** Section 122 tariff, the US imposed permanent **Section 301 tariffs of 10%** on India (from **24 July**) after a probe into failure to bar **forced-labour goods**. India got 10%, not the proposed 12.5%, after banning such imports (June 2026); **60 economies** covered.

India-US trade deal (Feb 2026)

- US agreed to **end the 25% secondary tariff** (Russian oil penalty) and cut the **25% reciprocal tariff to 18%**.
- Textiles and apparel: **50% → 18%**; **silk at 0%** (USD 113 bn US market). Machinery: 18% (USD 477 bn market).
- **USD 1.36 bn** of farm exports get zero additional duty: spices, tea, coffee, fruits, nuts, processed foods.
- Overall: 18% on $900 bn of US imports; zero duty on $150 bn; preferential treatment on **Section 232** tariffs.
- India kept **dairy, meat, poultry and cereals** fully protected.
- **Status:** signing complicated by the SCOTUS ruling; **deal stalled**.

See also: 136 US Lindsey O. Graham Act; 004 India-EU FTA.

Later: Russia sanctions law (Sept 2026)

- **Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, 2026** signed into law: lets the President impose tariffs of up to **100% on major buyers of Russian oil and gas**; Russia is India's largest crude supplier.

Timeline

When	Event
Apr 2025	"Liberation Day" reciprocal tariffs under IEEPA
Aug 2025	Extra 25% on India over Russian oil: total 50%
Feb 2026	India-US deal: 18%; SCOTUS strikes down IEEPA tariffs
Feb 2026	Section 122 global tariff (10% → 15%)
Mar 2026	Section 301 probes into major partners incl. India
Jul 2026	Section 122 tariff expires; **Section 301 tariff of 10%** on India (forced labour compliance)
Sep 2026	**Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act**: up to 100% on buyers of Russian oil and gas

STATIC LINK

- US Constitution, **Article I, Section 8**: Congress has the power to lay and collect taxes and duties.
- **Section 232** (Trade Expansion Act 1962): tariffs on national-security grounds (steel, aluminium).
- **WTO:** set up 1 Jan 1995 (Marrakesh Agreement); HQ Geneva. India is a founding member.

QUICK RECALL

- Law held not to permit tariffs: **IEEPA 1977**.
- Case name: **Learning Resources v. Trump**.
- Replacement tariff: **Section 122, Trade Act 1974** (max 150 days).
- Tariff on India under the deal: **18%**.
- Sectors India shielded: **dairy, meat, poultry, cereals**.

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022 Project Cheetah

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Sep 2026

Project Cheetah, launched in **2022** as the world's **first intercontinental wild large-carnivore translocation**, brings African cheetahs to India 70 years after the Asiatic cheetah went extinct here. With **9 cheetahs from Botswana** in 2026 and new litters at **Kuno National Park**, India's cheetah count **crossed 60 in 2026**.

History

- **Asiatic cheetah declared extinct in India: 1952**; today found **only in Iran**.
- The last three wild cheetahs were shot in **1947** by the Maharaja of **Koriya** (now Chhattisgarh).
- The word "cheetah" comes from the Sanskrit **"chitraka"** (the spotted one).
- **2022:** Project Cheetah launched; the first 8 cheetahs released at Kuno on **17 Sept 2022**.
- **Mukhi**: first **India-born cheetah cub**, first to reach **adulthood** and first to **reproduce**.

Translocations so far

Source country	Cheetahs	Year
Namibia	8	2022
South Africa	12	2023
Botswana	**9**	2026

- All brought first to **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Total imported: **29** African cheetahs from three countries.

Sites

- **Kuno National Park** (Sheopur, MP; **since 2022**): main site; Kuno river, a tributary of the Chambal.
- **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** (Mandsaur-Neemuch, MP, on the Chambal near the Rajasthan border; **since 2025**): second home.
- **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (VDTR)** (MP; **since 2026**): **first tiger reserve to have cheetahs**. First cheetahs shifted here from Kuno: **Vyom and Neera**.
- All three sites are in **Madhya Pradesh**.

Institutions

- Implemented by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** under MoEFCC.
- Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** is also President of the **International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)**, which covers 7 big cats incl. the cheetah.
- Budget 2026-27: India to host the **1st Global Big Cats Summit**.
- Supported by an India-Namibia MoU (2022) on cheetah conservation.

Where it sits: India's species projects

Project	Year	Project	Year
Hangul	1970	Snow Leopard	2009
Tiger	1973	Great Indian Bustard	2012-13
Crocodile	1975	Dolphin / Lion	2020
Elephant	1992	**Cheetah**	**2022**

STATIC LINK

- IUCN status: African cheetah **Vulnerable**; Asiatic cheetah **Critically Endangered**.
- Cheetah: fastest land animal; it cannot roar.
- IBCA's 7 big cats: tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, puma.
- Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972; **Central Zoo Authority** is a statutory body under it.

QUICK RECALL

- Year of extinction in India: **1952**.
- Third source country (2026): **Botswana (9)**.
- First batch: **8 from Namibia, 2022**.
- Main site: **Kuno NP, MP**. First tiger reserve with cheetahs: **VDTR**.
- First India-born cub to reproduce: **Mukhi**.
- Only country with wild Asiatic cheetahs: **Iran**.
- Implementing body: **NTCA**.

See also: 063 IBCA Summit (Project Tiger, Lion, Snow Leopard).

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023 Winter Olympics & Paralympics

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026

The **XXV Olympic Winter Games, "Milano Cortina 2026"**, were co-hosted by **Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo** in northern Italy (6 to 22 Feb 2026): the **first Olympics officially hosted by two cities**. **Ski mountaineering** made its Olympic debut, and India sent two athletes. **Norway** topped the medal table with **41 medals (18 gold)**, ahead of the USA and the Netherlands.

The 2026 Games

- **Edition:** 25th Winter Olympics; the **14th Winter Paralympics** followed in March (6 to 15 Mar).
- **Venues:** opening ceremony at **San Siro, Milan**; closing at the **Verona Arena**, a Roman amphitheatre.
- **Scale: 116 events, 16 sports**, about 2,900 athletes from 90 countries.
- **Motto: "IT's Your Vibe"** (IT = Italy). **Logo:** "Futura".
- **New sport: ski mountaineering (skimo)**: climbing and descending mountains on skis.

Mascots

- **Tina**, a **white stoat**: Olympic mascot.
- **Milo**, a **brown stoat**: Paralympic mascot.
- **"The Flo"**: six characters inspired by the **snowdrop** flower.

India at Milano Cortina

- Only two competitors: **Arif Khan** (alpine skiing, slalom) and **Stanzin Lundup** (cross-country, 10 km freestyle).
- **Abhinav Bindra**, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist (Beijing 2008, shooting), was a **torchbearer**.
- **Winter Paralympics:** India has **never won a medal**; it has yet to debut at the Winter Paralympics.

Italy as Olympic host

Games	City	Year
Winter	Cortina d'Ampezzo	1956
Summer	Rome	1960
Winter	Turin	2006
Winter	**Milan-Cortina**	**2026**

Winter Olympics: history and future

- Held every **four years** for snow and ice sports; staggered two years from the Summer Games since **1994 (Lillehammer)**.
- **First: 1924, Chamonix, France**.
- **Next (XXVI, 2030): French Alps**, France. 2034: Salt Lake City-Utah, USA.
- Recent hosts: 2014 Sochi (Russia), 2018 PyeongChang (South Korea), 2022 **Beijing** (first city to host both Summer and Winter Games).
- India first took part in **1964 (Innsbruck)**.

Also: 6th Khelo India Winter Games

- Held in **Leh, Ladakh** (ice sports) and **Gulmarg, J&K** (snow sports).
- Mascot: **Sheen-E-She (Shan)**, a snow leopard. Winner: **Indian Army**.

STATIC LINK

- **IOC:** HQ **Lausanne, Switzerland**; founded **1894** by **Pierre de Coubertin** (France), **father of the modern Olympics**. President **Kirsty Coventry** (Zimbabwe): first woman and first African.
- **IPC:** HQ **Bonn, Germany**; President **Andrew Parsons**.
- **Indian Olympic Association** President: **P.T. Usha** (first woman).
- India bidding to host the **2036 Summer Olympics** at **Ahmedabad**. Next Summer Games: **2028 Los Angeles**, **2032 Brisbane**.
- First modern Summer Olympics: **1896, Athens**. First Asian nation to take part: **India (1900, Paris**; Norman Pritchard).
- Olympic motto: "Citius, Altius, Fortius: Communiter" (Faster, Higher, Stronger: Together).

QUICK RECALL

- Host cities: **Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo**.
- Mascot: **Tina (white stoat)**; Paralympic: **Milo**.
- Debut sport: **ski mountaineering**.
- Motto: **IT's Your Vibe**.
- First Winter Games: **Chamonix, 1924**. Next: **French Alps, 2030**.
- IOC President: **Kirsty Coventry**.
- India's athletes: **Arif Khan** and **Stanzin Lundup**.

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024 Vande Mataram Guidelines

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Jun 2026 | Aug 2026

In the **150th year of "Vande Mataram"**, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** notified an official version requiring **all six stanzas** of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's song to be sung (duration **3 min 10 s**) at specified functions, with a fixed protocol. In August, Parliament extended **statutory protection** to the National Song on a par with the National Anthem.

MHA guidelines: official version

- **All six stanzas** = official version. Duration: **3 minutes 10 seconds**.
- Until now only the **first two stanzas** were adopted as the National Song (the last four invoke Hindu deities).

Mandatory occasions

- **Union level:** civil investiture ceremonies and official state functions; **arrival and departure of the President**; before and after the President's address on **Akashwani and Doordarshan**.
- **State level:** arrival and departure of **Governors / LGs** at official functions.
- **Group singing** mandatory at cultural and flag-hoisting events and **school morning assemblies**.

Protocol during rendition

- Audience to **stand in attention**.
- **Exception:** not mandatory in **cinema halls** when part of a film or newsreel.
- A **drumroll** precedes the song; in drills, **seven preparatory steps**.

Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026

- Amends the **1971 Act**; extends **Section 3** (which protected Jana Gana Mana) to Vande Mataram.
- Offence: intentionally **preventing its singing** or **disturbing an assembly** singing it.
- Punishment: up to **3 years**, fine, or both; repeat offence: minimum **1 year** (Section 3A).

150 years: history

- Written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**.
- First published **1875 in "Bangadarshan"**; included in the novel **"Anandamath" (1882)**, set in the **Sannyasi Rebellion** (1770s).
- First sung by **Tagore** at the **INC session of 1896**.
- Rallying cry of the **Swadeshi Movement (1905)** and anti-Partition of Bengal agitation.
- Adopted with Jana Gana Mana by the **Constituent Assembly on 24 Jan 1950**.

Celebrations in 2026

- The 150th year was the theme of the **Republic Day** parade and **Independence Day**; sung from the **Red Fort**. Best ministry tableau: Ministry of Culture.

STATIC LINK

- National Song is not in the Constitution; **Art. 51A(a)**: respect the National Flag and Anthem.
- National Anthem: **Jana Gana Mana**, written by **Rabindranath Tagore** (52 seconds); only the **first of its five stanzas** is the anthem; first sung at the **Calcutta session of the INC, 27 Dec 1911**.
- Tagore also wrote **Amar Sonar Bangla**, the **national anthem of Bangladesh**.
- **Bijoe Emmanuel v. State of Kerala (1986):** students who stood respectfully but did not sing the anthem could not be expelled; no law compels singing; protected by **Art. 19(1)(a)** (right to remain silent) and **Art. 25**.

QUICK RECALL

- Stanzas now official: **six**; duration: **3 min 10 s**.
- First published: **1875, Bangadarshan**; novel: **Anandamath, 1882**.
- Law amended in Aug 2026: **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**.

National symbols of India

Symbol	Name	Symbol	Name
Animal	**Tiger**	Flower	**Lotus**
Bird	**Indian peacock**	Tree	**Banyan**
Aquatic animal	**Gangetic river dolphin**	Emblem	**Lion Capital of Ashoka** (Sarnath); **Satyameva Jayate**
Heritage animal	**Elephant**	Calendar	**Saka calendar** (adopted 22 Mar 1957; starts Chaitra)

See also: 120 Monsoon Session of Parliament.

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025 Cooperatives

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026

Bharat Taxi, India's **first cooperative-led ride-hailing platform**, was launched by the **Ministry of Cooperation** on **10 February 2026**. The Ministry marked its **5th Foundation Day on 6 July 2026** with new initiatives under the vision **"Sahkar se Samriddhi"**, while **Amul** became India's first FMCG organisation to cross ₹1 lakh crore turnover.

Bharat Taxi

- Established **2025** by **8 national-level cooperative institutions**; registered under the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002**.
- Drivers are called **"Sarathis"**; they get health and accident insurance, retirement savings and a support system.
- **"Bike Didi"**: women drivers (150+ joined).
- July 2026: a **multi-service utility aggregator cooperative** to be modelled on Bharat Taxi.

5 years of the Ministry of Cooperation

- Set up **6 July 2021**; first and current Minister: **Amit Shah** (also Home Minister).
- Foundation Day 2026: **Cooperative Life Insurance Company** announced; **White Revolution 2.0**; world's largest grain storage scheme in the cooperative sector (foundation of **47 godowns**).
- **NUCFDC** launched **Sahakar CBS** (core banking for urban co-op banks) and **Sahakar Sahyogi** (AI platform); NDDB milk supply dashboard.

Policy and institutions

- **National Cooperation Policy:** 1st in **2002**, 2nd in **2025**.
- **Tribhuvan Sahkari University**, Anand, Gujarat (2025): India's first cooperative university (formerly IRMA, 1969).
- **Father of the cooperative movement: Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel**, founder of the Kaira District Milk Union (Amul).
- UN **International Year of Cooperatives: 2012 and 2025**.
- Startup India now recognises **cooperative societies** as eligible startups (Feb 2026).

Milestones (April 2026)

- **Amul** (GCMMF): first Indian FMCG organisation with **₹1 lakh crore** turnover (FY 2025-26).
- **Saraswat Cooperative Bank** (India's largest urban co-op bank) also crossed ₹1 lakh crore.

Constitution: 97th Amendment, 2011

- **Art. 19(1)(c):** "co-operative societies" added to the right to form associations.
- **Art. 43B** (DPSP): promote voluntary formation, autonomy, democratic control and professional management.
- **Part IXB** (**Arts. 243ZH to 243ZT**): "The Co-operative Societies".

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- **Union of India v. Rajendra N. Shah (2021):** SC struck down Part IXB for State co-operatives (needed ratification by States), upholding it for **multi-State** societies.
- Co-operative societies: **State List, Entry 32**; multi-State co-operatives: **Union List, Entry 44**.
- **International Day of Cooperatives:** first Saturday of July (4 July 2026); theme 2026: **"Cooperatives for a Peaceful World"**. Before 2021, cooperation was handled by the **Ministry of Agriculture**.

QUICK RECALL

- Bharat Taxi drivers: **Sarathis**; launched **10 Feb 2026**.
- Ministry of Cooperation set up: **6 July 2021**.
- Amendment for cooperatives: **97th (2011)**; Part **IXB**.
- DPSP article on cooperatives: **43B**.
- Latest cooperative policy: **2025**. First co-op university: **Tribhuvan Sahkari University, Anand**.

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026 PRAHAAR Counterterrorism Policy

MINOR | Feb 2026 | Sep 2026

The **Ministry of Home Affairs** unveiled **PRAHAAR**, India's **first National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy**, on **23 February 2026**. It calls for **zero tolerance against terrorism** and pulls existing agencies and laws into one national framework.

PRAHAAR: what each letter stands for

	Element
P	**Prevention** of terror attacks to protect Indian citizens and interests
R	**Responses** that are swift and proportionate to the threat
A	**Aggregating** internal capacities: whole-of-government synergy
H	**Human rights** and Rule of Law based processes
A	**Attenuating** conditions that enable terrorism, incl. radicalisation
A	**Aligning** and shaping international counter-terror efforts
R	**Recovery** and resilience through a whole-of-society approach

Key features

- A **common framework** for preventing and responding to terrorism and radicalisation through coordinated **Centre and State** action.
- **Consolidates** existing institutions and laws (**NIA, NSG, UAPA, CAPFs**) instead of creating new structures.
- Follows both a **"whole-of-government"** and a **"whole-of-society"** approach.

Follow-up (Sept 2026)

- Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated a conference on **'PRAHAAR: CT Policy and Strategy'** in New Delhi on **28 Sept 2026**, to institutionalise the framework over the next decade.
- An **Extradition Portal** was launched to help bring fugitives back to India.

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- **NSA:** Ajit Doval. **NIA** set up under the NIA Act 2008 (after 26/11).
- **UAPA**, 1967: India's main anti-terror law; the 2019 amendment allows **individuals** to be designated as terrorists.
- **NSG** ("Black Cats"), raised 1984, is the federal counter-terror strike force under the MHA.

QUICK RECALL

- India's first national CT policy: **PRAHAAR** (MHA, 23 Feb 2026).
- "H" in PRAHAAR: **Human rights and Rule of Law**.
- Approach: **whole-of-government + whole-of-society**.
- Portal launched in Sept: **Extradition Portal**.

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027 Corruption Perceptions Index

MINOR Feb 2026

India **climbed five places to 91st of 182** countries and territories in **Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025**, up from 96th in 2024. **Denmark** topped the index for the **eighth year in a row**.

CPI 2025: highlights

- **India: 91st** (2024: 96th).
- **Least corrupt: Denmark** (1st, eighth straight year).
- **Most corrupt: South Sudan and Somalia**, tied last.

About the index

- Published annually since **1995** by the NGO **Transparency International**; the most widely used global corruption ranking.
- Ranks countries by **perceived public-sector corruption**, as judged by experts and business people.
- **Scale 0 to 100**: **0 = highly corrupt**, 100 = very clean.
- Each score draws on **at least 3** of **13** surveys and assessments, from bodies such as the **World Bank** and the **World Economic Forum**.

India's recent ranks

CPI edition	India's rank
2023	93
2024	96
2025	**91** (of 182)

STATIC LINK

- Transparency International: founded **1993**; HQ **Berlin, Germany**.
- India's anti-corruption framework: Prevention of Corruption Act 1988; **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013**; Central Vigilance Commission.
- **CVC:** set up in **1964** on the recommendation of the **Santhanam Committee**; statutory under the CVC Act 2003. First CVC: **N.S. Rao** (Nittoor Srinivasa Rau). Current: **A.S. Rajeev** (acting, since Aug 2026, after Praveen Kumar Srivastava).
- **Lokpal:** first Chairperson **Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose** (2019); current **Justice A.M. Khanwilkar** (since 2024).
- **UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)**, 2003: the only binding global anti-corruption treaty; India ratified it in 2011.
- International Anti-Corruption Day: **9 December**.

QUICK RECALL

- India's CPI 2025 rank: **91 / 182**.
- Publisher: **Transparency International**.
- Top: **Denmark**; bottom: **South Sudan, Somalia**.
- Score of 0 means: **highly corrupt**.
- Published since: **1995**; sources: **13**, minimum **3** per country.

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028 UN AI Panel Appointment & Report

MINOR | Feb 2026 | Jul 2026

The UN appointed the **40-member Independent International Scientific Panel on AI** in February 2026, with IIT Madras's **Prof. Balaraman Ravindran** as India's member. Its **Preliminary Report**, the **first UN-commissioned scientific assessment of AI**, informed the first **Global Dialogue on AI Governance** in Geneva (6 to 7 July 2026).

The Panel

- **First global scientific body** entirely dedicated to AI; **40 members**, appointed Feb 2026.
- **Co-chairs: Yoshua Bengio** (Turing Award) and **Maria Ressa** (Nobel Peace Prize).
- **Indian member: Balaraman Ravindran**, founder head of the **Centre for Responsible AI (CeRAI)**, IIT Madras.
- Conceived in the **Global Digital Compact** (A/RES/79/1), adopted at the **2024 Summit of the Future**.
- Established by UNGA resolution **A/RES/79/325 (2025)**.
- Presents an **annual report** to the **UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance**.
- Members serve in their **personal capacity**, independent of governments.

Preliminary Report (July 2026)

- Covers **seven thematic dimensions** of AI; first in a series, with a comprehensive report due in **2027**.
- **Findings:** unprecedented progress in reasoning, coding, content generation, science and autonomous decisions; risks from **deepfakes**, misinformation and **concentration of AI infrastructure**.
- **Recommends:** stronger national AI capability, incl. domestic compute and **sovereign AI models**; harmonised global standards.
- Basis for the **inaugural Global Dialogue on AI Governance, Geneva, 6 to 7 July 2026**.

See also: 019 AI Impact Summit 2026.

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- Often likened to the **IPCC** for climate science: a science panel feeding a policy dialogue.
- The **Global Digital Compact** is annexed to the **Pact for the Future**, adopted by the UNGA in September 2024.
- India hosted the **AI Impact Summit**, New Delhi, Feb 2026.

QUICK RECALL

- Panel size: **40**. Indian member: **Balaraman Ravindran**.
- Co-chairs: **Yoshua Bengio, Maria Ressa**.
- Origin: **Global Digital Compact** (Summit of the Future, 2024).
- First Global Dialogue on AI Governance: **Geneva, July 2026**.
- Comprehensive report due: **2027**.

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029 National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0

MINOR Feb 2026

Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** launched the **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) 2.0**, with a monetisation potential of **₹16.72 lakh crore over five years (FY 2025-26 to FY 2029-30)**, including **₹5.8 lakh crore from the private sector**. It follows NMP 1.0, which raised ₹5.3 lakh crore.

NMP 2.0 at a glance

- **Size: ₹16.72 lakh crore** potential over **5 years** (FY26 to FY30).
- **Private sector:** about **₹5.8 lakh crore** of this.
- **Monitoring: CGAM** (Core Group of Secretaries on Asset Monetisation), chaired by the **Cabinet Secretary**.

NMP 1.0 (2021)

- Launched **2021** for **4 years** (FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25).
- **Target: ₹6 lakh crore**; achieved **89%**, raising **₹5.3 lakh crore**.

	NMP 1.0	NMP 2.0
Period	FY22 to FY25 (4 yrs)	FY26 to FY30 (5 yrs)
Size	₹6 lakh cr target	₹16.72 lakh cr potential
Outcome	₹5.3 lakh cr (89%)	Ongoing

What is asset monetisation?

- Leveraging **existing or under-utilised public infrastructure** (roads, railways, power lines, pipelines, airports, ports, warehouses) to raise revenue and fresh investment.
- The State keeps **ownership**; only rights are transferred for a fixed period (e.g. TOT, InvIT, lease), and assets return at the end. It is **not privatisation** or a sale.
- Proceeds are recycled into **new infrastructure** ("brownfield to greenfield").

See also: 018 Union Budget 2026-27.

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- Sitharaman's roles: Minister of **Finance and Corporate Affairs**; chairs the **GST Council** and the **Financial Stability and Development Council**.
- **NMP 1.0 and NMP 2.0** were conceptualised by **NITI Aayog**.
- Union Budget 2026-27 CapEx: **₹12.2 lakh crore**.

QUICK RECALL

- NMP 2.0 size: **₹16.72 lakh crore**, FY26 to FY30.
- NMP 1.0 raised: **₹5.3 lakh crore** (89% of ₹6 lakh cr).
- Monitoring body: **CGAM**, chaired by the **Cabinet Secretary**.
- Ownership after monetisation: stays with **Government**.

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030 Australian Open

MINOR | Feb 2026 | Jun 2026 | Sep 2026

At the **Australian Open 2026**, the year's first Grand Slam, **Carlos Alcaraz** won the men's singles and with it a **Career Grand Slam**, while **Elena Rybakina** won the women's singles. Rybakina went on to win the **US Open 2026** and become **World No. 1**.

2026 champions

Event	Winner	Note
Men's singles	**Carlos Alcaraz** (Spain)	Completed **Career Grand Slam**
Women's singles	**Elena Rybakina** (Kazakhstan)	Her 2nd Slam after Wimbledon 2022

- **Career Grand Slam:** winning all four majors at least once over a career. **Calendar Grand Slam:** all four in the **same calendar year**. **Golden Slam:** all four majors plus **Olympic gold** (Career Golden Slam over a career; only Steffi Graf has done it in one year, 1988).
- **Rybakina later:** won the **US Open 2026** (her 3rd Slam) and rose to **World No. 1**.

About the Australian Open

- **First Grand Slam of the year**, held in January at **Melbourne Park, Melbourne**.
- Surface: **hard court**.

The four Grand Slams

Slam	City	Surface	When
Australian Open	Melbourne	Hard	Jan
French Open (Roland Garros)	Paris	Clay	May-Jun
Wimbledon (oldest)	London	Grass	Jun-Jul
US Open	New York	Hard	Aug-Sep

STATIC LINK

- Tennis governing body: **ITF** (International Tennis Federation), London. Men's tour: ATP; women's: WTA.

QUICK RECALL

- AO 2026 men's: **Carlos Alcaraz** (Career Grand Slam).
- AO 2026 women's: **Elena Rybakina**.
- Venue: **Melbourne Park**; hard court.
- Order of Slams: **AO, French, Wimbledon, US**.

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031 PM-RAHAT

MINOR Feb 2026

The Government launched **PM RAHAT** (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment), giving **every eligible road accident victim cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh**, on any category of road. It is linked to the **112 emergency number** so victims and Good Samaritans can find the nearest designated hospital and call an ambulance.

Key features

- **Cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh per victim**, on **any category of road**.
- Integrated with the **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 112**: dial 112 to locate the nearest designated hospital and request an ambulance.
- Priorities: **life-saving intervention**, financial certainty for hospitals, and a structured emergency response.

How it works

- **IT backbone:** MoRTH's **eDAR** (Electronic Detailed Accident Report) linked with the **National Health Authority's TMS 2.0** (Transaction Management System).
- **Hospitals reimbursed** from the **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVAF)**.
- **Insured vehicle:** paid from contributions of **general insurance companies**.
- **Uninsured and hit-and-run cases:** paid from Government of India budgetary allocation.
- **Grievances:** a Grievance Redressal Officer nominated by the **District Road Safety Committee**, chaired by the **District Collector / DM**.

Why it matters

- India records over **1.7 lakh road deaths a year**, among the highest in the world; prompt care in the **golden hour** (first hour after injury) is the biggest life-saver.
- Supports the **Stockholm Declaration (2020)** goal of **halving road deaths by 2030** (UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030).

STATIC LINK

- **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** (amended 2019): Section 162 requires a scheme for **cashless treatment in the "golden hour"**; Section 134A protects **Good Samaritans**.
- Nodal ministry for roads: **MoRTH** (Minister: Nitin Gadkari). NHA runs **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY**.
- **Sachin Tendulkar** was named **UN Global Champion for Road Safety** (Feb 2026).

QUICK RECALL

- Cashless cover per victim: **₹1.5 lakh**.
- Helpline integration: **ERSS 112**.
- Fund for reimbursement: **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund**.
- Platforms linked: **eDAR** (MoRTH) + **TMS 2.0** (NHA).
- Grievance officer nominated by: **District Road Safety Committee**.

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032 New START Expires

MINOR Feb 2026

The **New START Treaty**, the last remaining nuclear arms control agreement between the **United States and Russia**, **expired on 5 February 2026**. For the first time in decades, there are no legally binding limits on the two largest nuclear arsenals.

Background

- **New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty:** bilateral, legally binding limits on **strategic** nuclear weapons.
- **Signed:** April 2010 by **Barack Obama** and **Dmitry Medvedev**. **In force:** February 2011.
- **Duration:** 10 years plus a **single five-year extension** (taken in 2021), to **2026**.
- **Feb 2023:** Russia **suspended participation** over the Ukraine war, halting inspections and data exchanges; both sides still observed the numerical caps.

Key limits

Item	Cap per side
Deployed strategic warheads	**1,550**
Deployed ICBMs, SLBMs and heavy bombers	**700**
Total launchers (deployed + non-deployed)	**800**

- **Verification:** on-site inspections, regular data exchanges, notifications of movements.
- **Predictability:** shared expectations for force planning even in hostile times.

US-Russia (USSR) arms control agreements

Agreement	Full form	Signed	Status
SALT I	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (Interim Agreement)	1972	Expired 1977
ABM	Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty	1972	US withdrew 2002
SALT II	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks II	1979	Never ratified
INF	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty	1987	Ended 2019
START I	Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty	1991	Expired 2009
START II	Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II	1993	Never in force
SORT	Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (Moscow Treaty)	2002	Replaced by New START, 2011
New START	New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty	2010 (Prague)	**Expired 5 Feb 2026**

STATIC LINK

- **New START** was signed in **Prague on 8 April 2010** by **Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev**.
- **NPT** (1968, in force 1970): recognises 5 nuclear-weapon states (US, Russia, UK, France, China). **India is not a party**; India follows **No First Use** (doctrine of 2003).
- **CTBT** (1996): not yet in force.

QUICK RECALL

- Expired: **5 Feb 2026**.
- Parties: **USA and Russia**.
- Warhead cap: **1,550** deployed.
- Russia suspended participation: **2023**.
- Signed by: **Obama and Medvedev** (2010).

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033 Bangladesh Elections

MINOR | Feb 2026 | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026

In Bangladesh's first election since the 2024 uprising, held on **12 February 2026**, the **Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)** won a **two-thirds majority** in the Jatiya Sangsad and **Tarique Rahman** became Prime Minister. A simultaneous **referendum approved the July National Charter**; Sheikh Hasina's **Awami League was barred** from contesting.

Background

- The student-led **"July Revolution" / "Monsoon Revolution" (2024)** toppled the **Awami League** government of PM **Sheikh Hasina** (daughter of **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, regarded as the **Father of the Nation** of Bangladesh, "Bangabandhu").
- An **Interim Government** led by Nobel laureate **Muhammad Yunus** (Chief Adviser; chair of the National Consensus Commission) took over.
- Sheikh Hasina is in **exile in New Delhi**.

Results (12 Feb 2026)

- **BNP**: two-thirds majority; leader **Tarique Rahman** (son of **Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia**) sworn in as **PM**.
- **Second largest: Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami**.
- **Awami League:** not permitted to contest.

Constitutional referendum

- Held with the election, on the **July National Charter 2025**, which proposes amendments to the Constitution.
- **"Yes" won**. The new Parliament also acts as a **Constitutional Reform Council** and must complete the amendments within **180 days**.

Later developments

- **July:** India invited PM Tarique Rahman to the **BRICS Summit, New Delhi** (Sept 2026) as a special guest, in Bangladesh's capacity as **Chair of BIMSTEC**; Tarique Rahman **did not attend** the Summit.
- **20 Aug 2026: Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir**, BNP Secretary-General, elected **23rd President** of Bangladesh.

STATIC LINK

- Bangladesh: capital **Dhaka**; formerly **East Pakistan**; independence **1971** (Liberation War). Parliament: **Jatiya Sangsad** (unicameral).
- India's **longest land border** is with Bangladesh (about 4,096 km).
- BIMSTEC (1997): 7 members; secretariat Dhaka.

QUICK RECALL

- Election date: **12 Feb 2026**. Winner: **BNP** (two-thirds).
- New PM: **Tarique Rahman**.
- Runner-up party: **Jamaat-e-Islami**.
- Charter approved by referendum: **July National Charter 2025**; reform deadline **180 days**.
- 23rd President: **Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir**.

See also: 132 BRICS Summit 2026.

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034 2026 India-France Year of Innovation & Upgradation of Partnership

MINOR | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Jun 2026

French President **Emmanuel Macron** visited India for the **AI Impact Summit** and a bilateral summit in February 2026. The partnership was elevated to a **"Special Global Strategic Partnership"** and **2026** was launched as the **India-France Year of Innovation**.

February 2026 outcomes

- Ties upgraded to **Special Global Strategic Partnership**.
- **Annual Foreign Ministers' Dialogue** to review the partnership and the **Horizon 2047 Roadmap**.
- Launch of the **India-France Year of Innovation** and the **India-France Innovation Network**.
- **10-year renewal** of the Defence Cooperation Agreement; 6th Annual Defence Dialogue.
- **H125 helicopter** Final Assembly Line inaugurated at **Vemagal, Karnataka**.
- **BEL-Safran** joint venture to produce **HAMMER** missiles.
- Joint Declaration of Intent on **critical minerals and metals**.
- India invited to the **52nd G7 Summit** at **Evian-les-Bains**, France.
- **Indo-French Centre for AI in Health** launched at AIIMS Delhi.

Follow-up: PM's visit to France (June 2026)

- PM attended the **52nd G7 Summit, Evian (15 to 17 June)**; first meeting since the upgrade; **13 agreements** signed.
- **Bharat Innovates 2026** jointly inaugurated in **Nice** (14 June); **India-France ATL Bridge** set up.
- Target: double trade from **$16 bn to $32 bn** in five years; new **Economic Security Dialogue**; **Innovation Roadmap 2030**; Joint AI Working Group.
- CoE for Skilling in Aeronautics, **Kanpur**; **UPI** at Nice and Paris airports.

STATIC LINK

- India-France **Strategic Partnership** since **1998**; Horizon 2047 roadmap adopted 2023.
- Constitutional link: **"Liberty, Equality, Fraternity"** in India's Preamble is France's national motto.
- Macron is also **Co-Prince of Andorra**.
- 2026 is also the **ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation**.

QUICK RECALL

- New status: **Special Global Strategic Partnership**.
- 2026 = India-France Year of **Innovation**.
- H125 helicopter line: **Vemagal, Karnataka**.
- HAMMER JV: **BEL and Safran**.
- G7 2026 host town: **Evian-les-Bains**.

See also: 019 AI Impact Summit; 091 G7 Summit 2026.

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035 Medal of Knesset for Modi & India-Israel Upgradation of Partnership

MINOR Feb 2026

On his **second visit to Israel** (February 2026), PM **Narendra Modi** became the **first Indian PM to address the Knesset** and the **inaugural recipient of the Medal of the Knesset**. The two countries upgraded ties to a **"Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation and Prosperity"**.

Medal of the Knesset

- New state order created in 2026 by the **Speaker of the Knesset**, for "significant contributions to the State of Israel and the Jewish People".
- **First recipient: Narendra Modi**; bestowed by Speaker **Amir Ohana**.
- Modi earlier received the **Grand Collar of the State of Palestine** (2018).

Visit outcomes

- Ties designated a **Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation and Prosperity**.
- Met PM **Benjamin Netanyahu** and President **Isaac Herzog**; visited **Yad Vashem** (World Holocaust Remembrance Centre), Jerusalem.
- MoU for **UPI** in Israel; LoI for an **Indo-Israel Cyber CoE** in India.
- MoU on the **National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal**; MoU on an Innovation Centre for Agriculture.
- NSA-led initiative on critical and emerging technologies.
- Quota of **50,000 Indian workers** over 5 years; India-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group.
- The **US and Israel launched the war against Iran** just as the PM concluded his visit (see 038).

Firsts and dates

- Modi: **first Indian PM to visit Israel (2017)** and Palestine (2018).
- India **recognised Israel on 17 Sept 1950** (also Modi's birthday). India also recognises the **State of Palestine** (since **1988**).

STATIC LINK

- **Knesset:** Israel's unicameral parliament, **120 members**, in Jerusalem.
- Full diplomatic relations: **1992**. Israel has no single written constitution; it runs on **Basic Laws**.
- Groupings with Israel: **I2U2** (India, Israel, UAE, USA) and the **IMEC** corridor (India-Middle East-Europe).
- **Lothal** (Gujarat): Harappan port town with the world's earliest known dockyard.

QUICK RECALL

- First recipient of the Medal of the Knesset: **Narendra Modi**.
- Conferred by: Speaker **Amir Ohana**.
- New tag: **Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation and Prosperity**.
- Worker quota: **50,000 over 5 years**.
- Heritage MoU: **NMHC, Lothal**.

See also: 038 West Asia war (US-Israel strikes on Iran followed at the end of February).

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036 Afghanistan-Pakistan Conflict

MINOR Feb 2026

After terror attacks inside Pakistan, **Pakistan carried out airstrikes in Afghanistan on 21 February 2026**; when Afghanistan retaliated, Pakistan launched **Operation Ghazab Lil Haq on 26 February 2026**. Pakistan accuses the Taliban-run **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan** of sheltering the **Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)** and **ISIS-K**. **Hostilities have continued throughout the year**, broken only by occasional ceasefires.

The 2026 escalation

- **Pakistan's charge:** Afghanistan gives **safe haven** to, and fails to act against, **TTP** and **ISIS-K**.
- Result over the years: frequent **border skirmishes along the Durand Line**.
- **21 Feb 2026:** Pakistani airstrikes in Afghanistan after terror attacks in Pakistan.
- **26 Feb 2026:** after Afghan retaliation, Pakistan launches **Op. Ghazab Lil Haq**.

The Durand Line

- Demarcated in **1893** between the Emirate of Afghanistan and British India, by **Sir Mortimer Durand** and **Emir Abdur Rahman Khan**.
- Length: **2,640 km**.
- Today it divides Afghanistan from Pakistan and, in India's view, from India (**Gilgit area of PoK**).
- Afghanistan has never formally accepted it as an international border: it cuts through **Pashtun** tribal lands, leaving Pashtuns on both sides.

The players

- **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan:** Taliban regime, in power since **August 2021**.
- **TTP (Pakistani Taliban):** formed **2007**; fights the Pakistani state, mainly in **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** (formerly NWFP) and the former tribal areas (FATA).
- **ISIS-K:** Islamic State's "Khorasan Province" affiliate.

STATIC LINK

- India-Afghanistan border (106 km, in PoK) is **India's shortest land border**.
- Other lines: **Radcliffe Line** (India-Pakistan, 1947), **McMahon Line** (India-China, 1914).
- Afghanistan's capital: Kabul; Pakistan's: Islamabad.

QUICK RECALL

- Pakistan's operation: **Ghazab Lil Haq** (26 Feb 2026).
- Airstrikes began: **21 Feb 2026**.
- Groups Pakistan blames: **TTP and ISIS-K**.
- Durand Line: **1893**, **2,640 km**.

clat possible

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037 Ex. MILAN / IFR / IONS Conclave of Chiefs & IRIS Dena Incident

MINOR | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026

In February 2026 **Visakhapatnam** hosted a cluster of naval events: the **International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026**, reviewed by **President Droupadi Murmu** aboard **INS Sumedha**; the multilateral exercise **MILAN**; and the **9th IONS Conclave of Chiefs**, where **India took over as IONS Chair for 2026-28**. Weeks later, the visiting Iranian frigate **IRIS Dena** was sunk by a US submarine off Sri Lanka.

International Fleet Review 2026

- India's **third and largest IFR**, at **Visakhapatnam**; theme **"United through Oceans"**.
- Reviewed by the **President** (Supreme Commander) on board **INS Sumedha**.

IFR	Venue
2001	Mumbai
2016	Visakhapatnam
2026	**Visakhapatnam**

Exercise MILAN 2026

- **Biennial multilateral naval exercise** hosted by the **Indian Navy**.
- 2026 theme: **"Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration"**. A **MILAN Village** was inaugurated at Visakhapatnam.

IONS Conclave of Chiefs

- **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium**: **9th Conclave of Chiefs** held at Visakhapatnam.
- **India is Chair of IONS for 2026-28**. India also chairs the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** for **2025-27** (two-year term).

IONS Working Group (IWG)	Co-chairs
Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (**HADR**)	**India, Iran**
Maritime Security (**MARSEC**)	**India, Iran**
Information Sharing & Interoperability (**IS&I**)	**Australia, France**

See also: 038 West Asia war (full coverage of the IRIS Dena incident).

IRIS Dena incident (March 2026)

- Iranian frigate **IRIS Dena**, **returning from the IFR in India**, was **torpedoed and sunk by a US submarine** about **40 nautical miles off Galle, Sri Lanka**.
- First US torpedo sinking of an enemy ship **since World War II**; brought the US-Israel-Iran war into the Indian Ocean Region.
- India granted **safe harbour at Kochi** to another Iranian ship, **IRIS Lavan**.

STATIC LINK

- **IONS**: launched by the Indian Navy in **2008**; a forum of Indian Ocean littoral navies; **25 members** and **10 observers** (latest: **Philippines**, 2026).
- **MILAN**: began in **1995** at Port Blair; India also hosts bilateral and multilateral drills like **MALABAR**.
- Chief of Naval Staff: **Adm Krishna Swaminathan**. Eastern Naval Command HQ: **Visakhapatnam**.

QUICK RECALL

- IFR 2026 venue: **Visakhapatnam**; review ship: **INS Sumedha**.
- IFR 2026 is India's **3rd** (earlier 2001, 2016).
- IONS Chair 2026-28: **India**.
- Iranian frigate sunk off Sri Lanka: **IRIS Dena**.
- Iranian ship given safe harbour at Kochi: **IRIS Lavan**.

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038 West Asia / Middle East: US-Israel-Iran-Lebanon War (1/5)

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

On **28 February 2026** the US (**Op. Epic Fury**) and Israel (**Op. Roaring Lion**) launched coordinated "preemptive" strikes on Iran, killing Supreme Leader **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**. Iran hit back with **Op. True Promise 4** against Israel and US bases in the Gulf, **Hezbollah** opened a Lebanon front on 2 March, and Iran shut the **Strait of Hormuz**, triggering the largest energy shock in decades.

The operations

Operation	By → on
Epic Fury (2026)	USA → Iran
Roaring Lion (2026)	Israel → Iran
True Promise 4 (2026)	Iran → Israel and US bases in Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia
Rising Lion (2025)	Israel → Iran (12-Day War)
Midnight Hammer (2025)	USA → Iran
True Promise III (2025)	Iran → Israel
Bashr Al Fath (2025)	Iran → US bases in Qatar

- Do not confuse **Rising Lion (2025)** with **Roaring Lion (2026)**. 12-Day War: **13–24 June 2025**.

Supposed causes

- **Nuclear programme:** IAEA Report on Iran (2025) to the UNSC: uranium enriched to **60%**, just below the **90%** weapons threshold.
- **Protests (Dec 2025):** triggered by a collapse of the **Rial**, inflation and sanctions; brutal **IRGC** crackdown with thousands of casualties; Trump threatened intervention.
- **Proxies:** Israel's opposition to Iran's support for Hezbollah (Lebanon) and Hamas (Gaza).
- Strike came **amid US-Iran nuclear talks**.

Iranian leaders killed

- **28 Feb:** Supreme Leader **Ali Khamenei**; Ali Shamkhani (Secretary, Defence Council); Maj. Gen. Mohammad Pakpour (IRGC Commander); Maj. Gen. Abdolrahim Mousavi (Chief of General Staff); Brig. Gen. Aziz Nasirzadeh (Defence Minister).
- **17 Mar: Ali Larijani** (Secretary, Supreme National Security Council); Gholamreza Soleimani (Basij commander). **18 Mar:** Ismaeil Khatib (Intelligence Minister).
- **Successor:** son **Mojtaba Khamenei**, **3rd Supreme Leader**.

STRAITS: KEY FACTS

Strait: a narrow sea passage that **connects two larger water bodies** and separates two landmasses. **Isthmus:** the opposite, a narrow strip of **land connecting two landmasses** and separating two water bodies (e.g. Panama, Suez).

Strait	Connects	Strait	Connects
Hormuz	Persian Gulf – Gulf of Oman (Iran / Oman)	**Gibraltar**	Atlantic – Mediterranean (Spain / Morocco)
Bab-el-Mandeb	Red Sea – Gulf of Aden (Yemen / Djibouti)	**Turkish Straits**	**Bosphorus**: Black Sea – Sea of Marmara; **Dardanelles**: Sea of Marmara – Aegean Sea
Malacca	Andaman Sea – South China Sea (Malaysia / Sumatra)	**Kerch**	Black Sea – Sea of Azov (Crimea / Russia)
Palk	Bay of Bengal – Palk Bay / Gulf of Mannar (India / Sri Lanka)	**Danish Straits**	Baltic Sea – North Sea (via Kattegat, Skagerrak)
10 Degree Channel	Bay of Bengal – Andaman Sea (Andaman / Nicobar)	**Dover**	English Channel – North Sea (UK / France)
8 Degree Channel	Arabian Sea; separates Minicoy (Lakshadweep) / Maldives	**Bering**	Pacific (Bering Sea) – Arctic (Chukchi Sea) (Russia / USA)
Taiwan (Formosa)	East China Sea – South China Sea (China / Taiwan)	**Magellan**	Atlantic – Pacific (S. American mainland / Tierra del Fuego)

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038 West Asia / Middle East: US-Israel-Iran-Lebanon War (2/5)

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

The energy war

- **Kharg (Khark) Island**, Bushehr Province: handles **~90% of Iran's oil exports** ("Oil Lifeline of Iran"; also called the **"Orphan Pearl"** of the Persian Gulf); bombed (US: military targets only). **China** is Iran's largest oil buyer.
- Israel struck **South Pars** gas field; shared with Qatar, where it is called **North Dome**: the **world's largest natural gas field**.
- Iran retaliated on **Ras Laffan Industrial City, Qatar**: the **world's largest LNG facility**.
- Israeli bombing of **Tehran fuel depots** caused "black rain"; Iran's FM called it **"ecocide"**.
- **IEA** members agreed to release **400 million barrels** from emergency stocks: the **6th** coordinated release and the **largest ever**.
- **East-West Pipeline** (also **Petroline**; owned and run by state-controlled **Saudi Aramco**): about **1,200 km** from the **Abqaiq** oil hub (Eastern Province, Persian Gulf side) to **Yanbu** on the **Red Sea**; Saudi Arabia's main route to **bypass Hormuz**. It was **knocked out by an attack on behalf of Iran**.

Strait of Hormuz

- Connects the **Persian Gulf** and the **Gulf of Oman**; bordered by **Iran (north)** and **Oman (south**, Musandam). **~20%** of world oil and gas passes: the key maritime oil chokepoint.
- **March:** Iran shut it; FM **Abbas Araghchi** let ships of "friendly nations" pass (**India, Pakistan, China, Russia, Iraq**); others charged a **toll**.
- **April:** reopened for the ceasefire, declared "completely open", then closed again when the US kept its blockade.
- **May: PGSA** (Persian Gulf Strait Authority), Iran's new body to regulate transit; announced via the **Supreme National Security Council's** social media; **permit-based** passage, possible fees.
- **August: Iran and Oman** agree a **shipping route map** (navigation channels) through the Strait; Iran calls it a bilateral navigational arrangement.
- The **UK and France** convened an international initiative (51 countries, Paris) for **freedom of navigation** through the Strait of Hormuz.

US naval blockade (April onward)

- Trump ordered an immediate **US Navy blockade of all ships entering or leaving Iranian ports**, of any nation; not applicable to traffic to non-Iranian ports. Response to Iran's "closure" of Hormuz.
- Blockade to continue **"till a final deal"**; it is **still ongoing**.
- Many ships with **Indian seafarers** have been attacked during the war, with many casualties.
- **India's seafarer-safety initiatives (2026): "Seafarer-First" Initiative** (July); UN **"Group of Friends" Seafarer Initiative** (Sept), co-chaired by **India and Liberia**; **Merchant Shipping Act 2025** enforced; **e-Navik**; **e-Samudra**.

Gulf countries

- Iranian attacks on **infrastructure across the Gulf**: airports, ports, cities and energy facilities. **Energy shock** and declarations of **force majeure** on gas exports. **US bases** in the Gulf attacked and destroyed: the **US security umbrella shattered**, exposing American strategic and military weakness.
- **Saudi Arabia** suspended loadings at **Yanbu** (Red Sea terminal) after attack; signed the **Makkah Joint Defence Agreement** with Türkiye and Pakistan, 7 Aug (see 121).

Lebanon front

- **Hezbollah** ("Party of God"): **Shia political party and armed militia**, formed **1982** with Iranian backing; leader **Naim Qassem**. Its political wing, the **Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc** (al-Wafa lil-Muqawama), holds seats in Lebanon's Parliament and has served in governments, but its armed wing acts **outside the control of the Lebanese state**.
- **2 March: Hezbollah**, not the Lebanese state, fired on Israel **in response to the US-Israeli attacks on Iran** (first big clash since the 2024 truce). Israel's airstrikes and **ground invasion** aim to hold land up to the **Litani River** (~30 km) as a buffer.
- **Litani:** Lebanon's longest river; rises in the **Beqaa Valley**, meets the Mediterranean near **Tyre**.
- **16/17 April:** US-backed **10-day Israel-Lebanon ceasefire** after historic **direct talks in Washington DC**; extended by **3 weeks** on 23 April. Israel keeps a **10 km buffer zone** and self-defence rights; **Hezbollah not a party**.
- **3 June:** conditional ceasefire; **"pilot zones"** under exclusive Lebanese army control.
- Lebanon: capital **Beirut**; President **Joseph Aoun**; PM **Nawaf Salam** (former **ICJ President**).

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038 West Asia / Middle East: US-Israel-Iran-Lebanon War (3/5)

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

Iran has been an **Islamic Republic** since the **1979 Revolution** overthrew the US-backed **Pahlavi** Shah. It projects power through the **"Axis of Resistance"** (Hezbollah, Hamas, Houthis), which turned the 2026 war into a multi-front conflict across **Lebanon**, the Gulf and the Red Sea.

Persia & the Parsis

- **Persia** was officially renamed **Iran** in **1935**; capital **Tehran**; currency **Rial**; parliament **Majlis**.
- **Parsis:** Zoroastrians who migrated from Persia to **Gujarat (Sanjan)**, a notified minority.
- **Navroz/Nowruz** ("new day"): Persian New Year, **21 March** (March equinox), UN international day, on UNESCO ICH list. Indian Parsis follow the **Shahenshahi** calendar: Parsi New Year on **16 Aug 2026**.

Pahlavi dynasty & 1979 Revolution

- Pahlavi: monarchy till **1979**; Iran's nuclear programme began under it, **supported by the USA**.
- **Consortium Agreement (1954):** US, UK and the Shah; Western oil firms got **50%** of Iranian oil for 25 years.
- **Causes:** Shah's secret police **SAVAK**; westernisation; anti-US resentment; corruption.
- **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini** (Shia cleric) exiled to **Najaf, Iraq**, returned; **April 1979 referendum** created the Islamic Republic: secular monarchy to Shia theocracy.

Leadership & political structure

- **Diarchy:** Supreme Leader (head of state, above the President) + elected President.
- Supreme Leader sets policies (**Art. 110**), supervises all branches (**Art. 57**); elected and dismissed by the **Assembly of Experts** (**Art. 111**; Art. 108; **88** elected members).
- **Supreme Leaders:** 1. Ruhollah Khomeini; 2. Ali Khamenei; 3. **Mojtaba Khamenei** (2026).
- **President: Masoud Pezeshkian** (first election 1980).
- **IRGC:** created after 1979, HQ Tehran; paramilitary **Basij**. The **EU designated the IRGC a terrorist organisation** (Jan 2026).

Nuclear track: NPT, JCPOA, IAEA

- Iran signed the **NPT (1968)** as a non-nuclear state. Sites: **Natanz, Arak, Fordow, Isfahan**.
- **JCPOA (2015)**, under **Obama**: **P5+1** (US, UK, France, China, Russia + Germany) and Iran; **EU** coordinated. Sanctions relief for a peaceful programme.
- Iran's limits: enrichment **3.67%**; centrifuges cut by ~two-thirds; stockpile **300 kg**; IAEA inspections; Fordow converted.
- **US quit 2018** (Trump, "bad deal"); Biden revival bid failed; **Iran withdrew 2025**.
- **IAEA:** est. **1957**; HQ **Vienna**; motto "Atoms for Peace and Development"; DG **Rafael Mariano Grossi**; 180 members; **India a founding member**.

Axis of Resistance

- **Hezbollah** (Lebanon): **Shia** militant group formed **1982**, funded and armed by Iran.
- **Hamas** (Gaza): disarmament under the Board of Peace (see 002).
- **Houthis** (Ansar Allah, Yemen): Red Sea attacks since 2023; in Sept 2026 seized Yemen's Red Sea coast and **Bab el-Mandeb**, drone downed near **Mecca** (see 135).

Earlier Israel-Lebanon wars

1978	1st invasion: **Op. Litani**
1982	Hezbollah formed; 2nd invasion, siege of Lebanon; occupation of South Lebanon **1982–2000**
1993	**Op. Accountability** ("Seven-Day War")
2006	**July War**, 34 days; ended by **UNSC Res. 1701** (11 Aug 2006)
2023–24	Hezbollah joins Gaza war; Israel invades (2024); ceasefire 2024

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038 West Asia / Middle East: US-Israel-Iran-Lebanon War (4/5)

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

India, which imports most of its crude and LNG through Hormuz, launched **Op. Urja Suraksha** to escort energy ships, invoked the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955** to ration gas and approved **RELIEF** for exporters. Diplomacy ran from the **Islamabad Talks** (April) to a **14-item US-Iran MoU** (June), before the US turned to **Op. Economic Outcast** (August).

India: security, energy & economy

- **Op. Urja Suraksha** ("Energy Security"): Indian Navy escort, guidance and navigation support for **India-bound crude, LNG, LPG** ships through Hormuz.
- **Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026** under the **ECA 1955**: gas rationed on a priority basis, with household PNG, CNG transport and LPG at the top.
- **Pipelines Order, 2026** (also under ECA): push from **LPG to PNG**.
- **RELIEF** (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) under the **Export Promotion Mission**; nodal agency **ECGC**; past and future shipments, MSME focus.
- **Monitoring:** Informal Group of Ministers chaired by **Rajnath Singh** + **7 Empowered Groups of Secretaries**.
- Modi at **G7 (Évian)** and **SCO (Bishkek)**: a "conflict in one region does not remain confined there"; India and UAE called for free navigation through Hormuz.

Ceasefire & Islamabad Talks (April)

- **Two-week US-Iran ceasefire**, conditional on Iran reopening Hormuz; Trump accepted Iran's **10-point proposal** as a basis. Mediated by Pakistan PM **Shehbaz Sharif** and Field Marshal **Asim Munir**. Held beyond two weeks.
- **Islamabad Talks:** first direct, highest-level US-Iran engagement **since 1979**. US: VP **JD Vance**; Iran: **Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf**. **21-hour** marathon, **no deal**.

Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding

- **14-item MoU**, mediated by **Pakistan and Qatar**: US signed at the **Palace of Versailles**, Iran in **Tehran**. Unlike the JCPOA (nuclear only), it covers the **whole US-Iran relationship**.
- Terms: ceasefire on **all fronts incl. Lebanon**; US ends the blockade, Iran allows **toll-free passage** and mine removal; **60-day technical standstill** for final nuclear and sanctions talks; phased release of **$24 billion** frozen assets; US to set up a **war reparations** mechanism.

Lake Lucerne Summit & US-Iran MoU (June)

- **Lake Lucerne Summit** at **Bürgenstock, Switzerland**: the **first high-level committee meeting under the Islamabad MoU**; direct US-Iran talks mediated by **Qatar and Pakistan**; ended with an MoU and a **60-day roadmap** linking phased sanctions relief to compliance.
- The talks and the **Islamabad MoU fell apart** in due course.

Trilateral Framework (26 June)

- **US-Israel-Lebanon** agreement signed in **Washington DC** by **Marco Rubio** with Israeli Ambassador **Yechiel Leiter** and Lebanese Ambassador **Nada Hamadeh**; Rubio: "**the beginning of the beginning**".
- Process to **dismantle Hezbollah** and return Israeli-occupied land; US-run **Military Coordination Group for Lebanon**; US **$100 million** humanitarian aid.

Op. Economic Outcast (24 Aug)

- US campaign to **economically isolate Iran**; announced by Treasury Secretary **Scott Bessent**; enforced by **OFAC**.
- Targets: oil and petrochemicals, shipping, aviation, gold, digital assets, dual-use tech; **secondary sanctions** on foreign banks and firms.
- Followed by the **Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, 2026**, which extends the **Iran Sanctions Act 1996 to 2031** (see 136).

Weapons in the news

- **Iran: Shahed** kamikaze drones, **Fattah** missiles; first use of IRBMs (3,000–5,500 km) claimed at Diego Garcia; shot down a US Air Force **F-15**.
- **Israel: Iron Dome** (short range), **David's Sling** (medium), **Arrow** (long); **Blue Sparrow** and **Jericho** missiles.
- **USA: THAAD** (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense).

STATIC LINK

- **Force majeure** (French, "superior force"): contract clause excusing performance when events beyond control make it impossible.
- **ECA 1955:** Centre regulates production, supply, price of notified essential goods; States enforce; 2020 amendment limits food controls to extraordinary situations.
- **Diego Garcia** (Chagos): US-UK base; Iran allegedly fired 2 **IRBMs** (~4,000 km), denied it; UK put the 2025 Chagos handover to Mauritius on hold.

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038 West Asia / Middle East: US-Israel-Iran-Lebanon War (5/5)

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

Month-by-month timeline of the 2026 West Asia war and the side-effects worth remembering for the exam: **heritage damage**, the **NATO rift** and the regional groupings.

Chronology

When	Event
13–24 Jun 2025	12-Day War (Rising Lion, Midnight Hammer)
Dec 2025–Jan 2026	Rial collapse protests; IRGC crackdown; EU lists IRGC as terrorist
28 Feb	Epic Fury + Roaring Lion; Khamenei killed; True Promise 4
2 Mar	Hezbollah enters; Israel invades Lebanon
March	Hormuz shut; Mojtaba Khamenei 3rd Supreme Leader; Kharg, South Pars, Ras Laffan hit; IEA 400 mn bbl; Op. Urja Suraksha; RELIEF; Gas Supply Order
17–18 Mar	Larijani, Soleimani, Khatib killed
April	Pakistan-brokered 2-week ceasefire; Islamabad Talks (no deal); US naval blockade; UK-France freedom-of-navigation initiative on Hormuz
16–17 Apr	10-day Israel-Lebanon ceasefire; extended 3 weeks (23 Apr)
May	Iran sets up PGSA; UAE leaves OPEC (1 May)
3 Jun	Conditional Israel-Lebanon ceasefire, pilot zones
June	**Islamabad MoU** (14 items; Pakistan, Qatar mediated); Lake Lucerne Summit, first high-level meeting under it
26 Jun	US-Israel-Lebanon Trilateral Framework
7 Aug	Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (Saudi-Türkiye-Pakistan)
August	Iran-Oman Hormuz route map; talks and Islamabad MoU fall apart
24 Aug	Op. Economic Outcast
September	**Conflict ongoing on all fronts**; **Houthis escalate in Yemen**, seizing the Red Sea coast and Bab-el-Mandeb; Graham Act signed; East-West Pipeline knocked out; Hormuz still choked, US blockade continues

Other dimensions

- **UNESCO** verified damage at Iran's World Heritage Sites: **Golestan Palace, Tehran** (Qajar era), **Chehel Sotoun** and **Masjid-e Jame**, **Isfahan**.
- **NATO rift:** Trump "strongly considering" leaving NATO, calling it a **"paper tiger"**; **Spain** denied airspace, as did Austria, Switzerland, France and Italy.

STATIC LINK

- **IEA:** est. **1974** under OECD after the 1973 oil crisis; HQ **Paris**; ED **Fatih Birol**; **33** members (Colombia joined 2026); **India: Association Country**.
- **GCC** (Gulf Cooperation Council, 1981): HQ **Riyadh**; 6 members: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman.
- **OIC** (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, 1969): HQ **Jeddah**; **57** members; India not a member.
- **League of Arab States** (1945): HQ **Cairo**; **22** members.
- **OPEC** (1960, Baghdad): HQ **Vienna**; founders Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela. **UAE left OPEC and OPEC+** on 1 May 2026; members now: **OPEC 11**, **OPEC+ 21**.

QUICK RECALL

- US / Israel / Iran operations 2026: **Epic Fury / Roaring Lion / True Promise 4**.
- 3rd Supreme Leader of Iran: **Mojtaba Khamenei** (Assembly of Experts, Art. 111).
- Hormuz links: **Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman**; ~20% of world oil.
- India's Navy escort op: **Urja Suraksha**; export relief: **RELIEF** (ECGC).
- Islamabad Talks: **JD Vance vs Ghalibaf**, Pakistan mediated, no deal.
- Lake Lucerne Summit venue: **Bürgenstock**; mediators **Qatar & Pakistan**.
- Iran's Hormuz regulator: **PGSA**; Iran-Oman route map (Aug).
- US-Israel-Lebanon deal: **Trilateral Framework**, 26 June, DC.
- US sanctions campaign: **Economic Outcast** (Bessent, 24 Aug).
- World's largest LNG plant hit by Iran: **Ras Laffan, Qatar**.

See also: 002 Board of Peace (Gaza); 037 MILAN/IFR & IRIS Dena; 070 UAE exits OPEC; 121 Mecca Joint Defence Agreement; 135 Houthis in Yemen; 136 Lindsey O. Graham Act.

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039 Oscars / Academy Awards

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Mar 2026 | Sep 2026

The **98th Academy Awards** (Oscars 2026), hosted by **Conan O'Brien** in Los Angeles, crowned **One Battle After Another** Best Picture and the night's biggest winner (**6 awards**). Ryan Coogler's **Sinners** had made history earlier as the **most-nominated film of all time (16 nominations)**.

Background

- Presented by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)**, a US professional organisation.
- **First Academy Awards: 1929, Los Angeles**, honouring films of 1927–28.
- Ceremony venue: **Dolby Theatre, Hollywood**; statuette popularly called "Oscar".
- Next: **99th Academy Awards (2027)**.

Record nominations: Sinners

- **Sinners** (dir. **Ryan Coogler**): **16 nominations**, the most for any film in Oscar history (announced January 2026).
- It broke the earlier record of **14**, shared by *All About Eve* (1950), *Titanic* (1997) and *La La Land* (2016).
- Its lead **Michael B. Jordan** won **Best Actor**.

Winners of 2026 (98th Oscars)

Category	Winner
Best Picture	**One Battle After Another**
Best Director	**Paul Thomas Anderson** (One Battle After Another)
Best Actor	**Michael B. Jordan** (Sinners)
Best Actress	**Jessie Buckley** (Hamnet)
International Feature	**Sentimental Value** (Norway)
Animated Feature	**KPop Demon Hunters**
Most awards	One Battle After Another (**6**)
Host	**Conan O'Brien**

Indian records at the Oscars

- **Bhanu Athaiya**: first Indian Oscar winner, **Best Costume Design** for *Gandhi* (1983).
- **Satyajit Ray**: **Honorary Academy Award, 1992**.
- **Mother India (1957)**: first Indian film nominated for Best Foreign Language Film; **Salaam Bombay!** (1988) and **Lagaan** (2001) the only other Indian nominees in that category.
- **A.R. Rahman** (2 awards), **Resul Pookutty** and **Gulzar** won for *Slumdog Millionaire* (81st Oscars, 2009).
- **95th Oscars (2023)**: **The Elephant Whisperers** (Best Documentary Short) and **"Naatu Naatu"** from *RRR* (Best Original Song).

India's entry for the 99th Oscars (Sept)

- **Gondhal**, a **Marathi** thriller by **Santosh Davakhar**, chosen for Best International Feature Film.
- Selected by the **Film Federation of India (FFI)** from 33 films; jury head **P. Sheshadri**.
- Draws on the Gondhal folk ritual of rural Maharashtra; **fourth Marathi film** to be India's official entry.

STATIC LINK

- Other "Oscars": **Laureus** = "Oscars of Sport"; **Whitley Award** = "Green Oscars".
- India's official entry is chosen each year by the **Film Federation of India**.

QUICK RECALL

- Best Picture 2026: **One Battle After Another**.
- Record 16 nominations: **Sinners** (Ryan Coogler).
- Best Actor / Actress: **Michael B. Jordan / Jessie Buckley**.
- Host of 98th Oscars: **Conan O'Brien**.
- First Indian Oscar winner: **Bhanu Athaiya** (1983).
- India's 99th Oscars entry: **Gondhal** (Marathi).

See also: 141 Dadasaheb Phalke Award

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040 Budget Session of Parliament

MAJOR | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026

The **Budget Session 2026** ran from **28 January to 18 April 2026** (adjourned sine die). The **Union Budget** was presented on **1 February**, and a **special sitting** was later held in April to consider the **131st Amendment Bill**, which was defeated on 17 April. Alongside the Budget, it saw **India's first-ever notices to remove a Chief Election Commissioner**, a defeated motion to remove Speaker **Om Birla**, and new laws on **transgender persons**, **CAPF leadership** and **Amaravati** as Andhra Pradesh's capital.

Session at a glance

- First session of the year; President summons and prorogues Houses under **Art. 85**.
- Economic Survey, Union Budget, Finance and Appropriation Bills passed; the **131st Amendment Bill** and **Delimitation Bill failed**.
- 9 Bills passed by both Houses, incl. **Transgender Persons Amendment**, **IBC Amendment**, **Jan Vishwas Amendment**, **Industrial Relations Code Amendment**, **AP Reorganisation Amendment**, **CAPF (General Administration)**.

Motion to remove the CEC (a first)

- Opposition notices against CEC **Gyanesh Kumar**: **130 Lok Sabha MPs** and **63 Rajya Sabha MPs**; allegations of bias in the **SIR** of rolls in West Bengal, micro-observers.
- **Rejected at admission** by Speaker **Om Birla** and RS Chairman **C.P. Radhakrishnan**. A **fresh notice by 73 RS MPs** (about 11 parties) followed.
- Basis: **Art. 324(5) r/w Art. 124(4)**; CEC & Other ECs Act, **2023 (S. 11)**; procedure of the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**.
- Steps: notice by **100 LS / 50 RS** MPs → admission → 3-member committee (SC judge, HC Chief Justice, jurist) → **special majority** in each House in the same session → President's order. Grounds: **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**.
- Other ECs removable by President **only on the CEC's recommendation**. **No CEC removed till date**.

Motion to remove the Speaker

- Opposition motion against **Om Birla** debated after **14 days' notice**; **defeated by voice vote**.
- **Art. 94(c)**: removal by resolution of a **majority of all the then members** of the Lok Sabha.
- First such motion: against first Speaker **G.V. Mavalankar** (failed). **No Speaker removed till date**.

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act 2026

- Removes "gender does not match the gender assigned at birth" from the definition; **excludes different sexual orientations and self-perceived identities**.
- **Deletes the right to self-perceived gender identity**; **Medical Board recommendation** needed before the **District Magistrate** issues a certificate of identity; adds offences.
- Parent law: **2019 Act** (created the **NCTP**). **NALSA v. UoI (2014)** recognised self-identified gender and a **third gender**.
- Opposed by SC-appointed **Justice Asha Menon** committee (*Jane Kaushik v. UoI*, 2025); NCTP members **Kalki Subramaniam**, **Rituparna Neog** and NHRC's **Harish Iyer** resigned.

CAPF (General Administration) Act 2026

- Keeps **IPS deputation** in top CAPF posts: **50% of IG**, **at least 67% of ADG**, **100% of Special DG and DG**.
- Covers all **five CAPFs**: BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, SSB; oversight by **MHA**.

Amaravati: AP's permanent capital

- **AP Reorganisation (Amendment) Act 2026** amends **S. 5 of the 2014 Act**: **Amaravati** sole and permanent capital, **retrospective from 2 June 2024** (end of Hyderabad's 10-year common-capital period).
- **First standalone Bill** in Parliament to declare a state capital. The earlier 3-capital plan (Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, Kurnool) was struck down.

STATIC LINK

- Andhra State 1953 (Kurnool) after **Potti Sreeramulu**'s fast; AP formed 1956; Telangana 2014.
- First CEC **Sukumar Sen**; first woman CEC **V.S. Ramadevi**.

QUICK RECALL

- CEC removal: **Art. 324(5)**, like an SC judge.
- Speaker removal: **Art. 94(c)**, 14 days' notice.
- CAPF ranks 100% IPS: **DG and Special DG**.
- Amaravati capital from: **2 June 2024** (retrospective).
- Self-identified gender case: **NALSA (2014)**.

See also: 018 Union Budget 2026-27; 059 131st Amendment Bill; 074 Special Intensive Revision; 133 Election Commission of India

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041 Uniform Civil Code

MAJOR | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026

2026 saw a wave of state-level Uniform Civil Codes: **Gujarat** passed its UCC Bill in **March** and **Assam** became the **third state** (after Uttarakhand and Gujarat) and **first in the North-East** to pass one in May. **Justice (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai** has chaired the drafting committees of Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

State-wise developments

State	Status (2026)
Goa	Has had a common civil law since Portuguese rule: **Portuguese Civil Code, 1867**; also applies in the UT of **Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu**
Uttarakhand	**UCC of Uttarakhand Act, 2024**: first state after Independence
Gujarat	Desai Committee report + draft Bill; **UCC Bill 2026 passed (March)**; reserved for and received **President's assent**
Assam	**UCC Bill 2026 passed (May)**: 3rd state, 1st in North-East; **reserved** for and received **President's assent**
Chhattisgarh	High Level Committee to draft a UCC (April), chair Desai
Madhya Pradesh	Committee to examine feasibility and draft law in **60 days**; to study Uttarakhand and Gujarat models; chair Desai. Assembly has **passed the UCC**; **assent pending**
West Bengal	Committee formed, chair **Desai**; **report pending**
Maharashtra	Committee formed, chair **Desai**; **report pending**
Rajasthan	Committee formed, chair **Desai**; **report pending**

Assam UCC Bill 2026: key provisions

- **Scheduled Tribes exempted** to protect their customs.
- **Monogamy**; marriage age **21 (men), 18 (women)**; **compulsory registration** of marriages.
- Bigamy/polygamy: up to **7 years' imprisonment**.
- **Live-in relationships**: registration within **one month** (else up to 3 months' jail, ₹10,000 fine, or both); children treated as **legitimate**.
- Divorce only by **court decree**; **instant triple talaq prohibited**; extra grounds for women.

Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai

- Retired **Supreme Court judge**; chair of UCC panels of **Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Rajasthan**.
- Also heads the **8th Central Pay Commission**; took charge as **Chairperson, Press Council of India** for a **second 3-year term** (May).

Constitutional position

- **Art. 44 (Part IV, DPSP)**: "The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India." DPSPs are **not justiciable**.
- Personal laws (marriage, divorce, succession, wills, joint family) fall under **Entry 5, List III (Concurrent)**, so states may legislate.
- A state law repugnant to a Union law prevails in that state **only if reserved for and assented to by the President** (Art. 254(2)); hence Gujarat's Bill goes to the President.

2026 timeline

- **March**: Gujarat Committee (Desai) submits report + draft Bill; **Gujarat Assembly passes UCC Bill 2026**.
- **April**: **Chhattisgarh** and **Madhya Pradesh** set up drafting committees under Desai.
- **May**: **Assam Assembly passes UCC Bill 2026**.
- **June**: **Rajasthan** committee under Desai (22 June).
- **July**: **Maharashtra** (9 July) and **West Bengal** (10 July) set up committees under Desai; **MP Assembly passes UCC Bill 2026** (21 July), 4th state.
- **October**: **Assam** and **Gujarat** UCC Bills receive **President's assent**.

STATIC LINK

- Goa's code continued by the **Goa, Daman and Diu Administration Act, 1962** (Goa liberated 1961).
- UCC: one civil law for all communities in marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, replacing religion-based personal laws.
- SC calls for a UCC: **Mohd. Ahmed Khan v. Shah Bano Begum (1985)**, **Sarla Mudgal v. UoI (1995)**.
- **Art. 37**: DPSPs are not enforceable by courts but are "fundamental in the governance of the country".

QUICK RECALL

- UCC article: **Art. 44, DPSP**.
- First state with UCC: **Goa**; first after Independence: **Uttarakhand (2024)**.
- Third state, first in North-East: **Assam**.
- Chair of UCC panels: **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai**.
- Subject list: **Concurrent List, Entry 5**.
- Why Gujarat's Bill goes to the President: **Art. 254(2)** repugnancy.

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AILET 2026 TOPPER



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042 National Literary Awards

MAJOR | Mar 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

Tamil poet-lyricist **R. Vairamuthu** received the **60th Jnanpith Award (2025)**, **India's highest literary honour**; the **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025** were announced in 2026 (English: **Navtej Sarna**, *Crimson Spring*), and **Ramkumar Mukhopadhyaya** won the **Saraswati Samman 2025** for his Bengali novel *Hara Parbati Katha*.

Jnanpith Award

- **60th (2025): R. Vairamuthu (Tamil)**, announced in March, conferred in July; for his contribution to Tamil literature, especially poetry.
- Only the **third Tamil** winner after **Akilan (1975)** and **D. Jayakanthan (2002)**.
- **India's highest literary honour.** Given by **Bharatiya Jnanpith**; **instituted 1961, first awarded 1965**.
- First winner: **G. Sankara Kurup** (Malayalam, *Odakkuzhal*). First woman: **Ashapoorna Devi** (Bengali, *Prothom Protishruti*).
- Covers **22 Eighth Schedule languages + English** (English from 2013). Prize: **₹11 lakh**, bronze **Vagdevi (Saraswati)** statuette, citation.
- Ramdhari Singh **Dinkar** won it in **1972** for *Urvashi*.
- Bharatiya Jnanpith also gives the **Moortidevi Award**.

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025

- Announced in 2026: **8 poetry**, 4 novels, 6 short-story collections, 2 essays, plus 1 criticism, 1 autobiography, 2 memoirs.
- **English: Navtej Sarna**, novel *Crimson Spring*.
- **Hindi: Mamta Kalia**, memoir *Jeete Jee Allahabad*.
- **Urdu: Pritpal Singh Betab**, poetry *Safar Jaari Hai*.
- **Assamese: Devabrat Das** (*Karhi Khelar Sadhu*); **Bengali: Prasun Bandyopadhyay** (*Shrestha Kabita*).
- Prize: plaque, shawl and **₹1 lakh**; **24 languages** (22 of the Eighth Schedule + **English and Rajasthani**).

About the Sahitya Akademi

- India's **National Academy of Letters**; inaugurated **12 March 1954**; a society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**; under the **Ministry of Culture**; HQ **New Delhi**.
- First President: **Jawaharlal Nehru**; current President: **Madhav Kaushik**.
- Its **highest honour** is the **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship**. It also gives the **Yuva Puraskar** (writers aged **35 or below**) and the **Bal Sahitya Puraskar** (children's literature).

Saraswati Samman (K.K. Birla Foundation)

- **2025: Ramkumar Mukhopadhyaya**, Bengali novel ***Hara Parbati Katha***.
- For an outstanding prose or poetry work of the **last 10 years** in any of the **22 Eighth Schedule** languages.
- Instituted **1991**; first winner **Harivansh Rai Bachchan**; prize **₹15 lakh**.

Recent winners (for comparison)

Award	Year	Winner
Jnanpith (60th)	2025	**R. Vairamuthu** (Tamil)
Jnanpith (59th)	2024	**Vinod Kumar Shukla** (Hindi)
Jnanpith (58th)	2023	**Gulzar** (Urdu), **Rambhadracharya** (Sanskrit)
Saraswati Samman	2025	**Ramkumar Mukhopadhyaya** (Bengali)
Saraswati Samman	2024	**Prabha Varma** (Malayalam)

STATIC LINK

- Eighth Schedule: **22 languages**; **71st Amendment (1992)** added Konkani, Manipuri, Nepali; **92nd (2003)** added Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali.
- Classical languages: **11** (Tamil first, 2004; Marathi, Assamese, Bangla, Pali, Prakrit added 2024).
- K.K. Birla Foundation also gives the **Vyas Samman** (Hindi) and **Bihari Puraskar** (Rajasthani writers).

QUICK RECALL

- India's highest literary honour: **Jnanpith**; 60th: **R. Vairamuthu (Tamil)**.
- First Jnanpith: **G. Sankara Kurup** (1965).
- Sahitya Akademi English 2025: **Navtej Sarna**, *Crimson Spring*.
- Saraswati Samman 2025: **Ramkumar Mukhopadhyaya**.
- Sahitya Akademi's extra languages: **English, Rajasthani**; its highest honour: **Fellowship**.

See also: 089 International Booker Prize

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043 Naxalism-Free India

MAJOR | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** declared India free of **Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)**: "We had set a target to make the country Naxalism-free by **31 March 2026**. We have achieved it." LWE-affected districts fell from **126 (2014) to zero**, ending nearly six decades of armed conflict.

Origins of Naxalism

- Name from **Naxalbari, West Bengal**: peasant uprising of **1967**.
- Led by **Charu Majumdar**, author of the **"Historic Eight Documents"**, the movement's ideological base.
- Key leaders: **Charu Majumdar, Kanu Sanyal, Jangal Santhal**.
- Ideology: **Communist and Maoist** thought (armed overthrow of the state).
- Spread later through the tribal forest belt of central and eastern India (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra/Telangana), the so-called **"Red Corridor"**.

Current categorisation

Category	Districts
LWE-affected districts	**0**
Districts of concern	**1** (Kanker, Chhattisgarh)
Legacy & thrust districts	**37**

- **Last LWE-affected districts** (now shifted to Legacy & Thrust): **Bijapur (Chhattisgarh)** and **West Singhbhum (Jharkhand)**.
- Target date: **31 March 2026**; strategy led by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- Declared a "structural milestone" for India's domestic security after **nearly six decades** of conflict (1967–2026).

Three-pillar strategy

- **Vishwaas (Trust)**: fortified police stations, CAPF camps, night-landing helipads; UAVs, drones, satellite imagery, AI analytics; **surrender and rehabilitation**.
- **Nirman (Development)**: roads (**96% village connectivity**), mobile towers, bank branches, ATMs, post offices.
- **Jan Kalyan (Welfare)**: **Eklavya Model Residential Schools**, ITIs; **PM-JANMAN** for PVTGs; **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan**; PMAY housing; free schooling to Class XII for children of surrendered cadres.

See also: 040 Budget Session of Parliament (CAPF Act 2026)

Forces in anti-LWE operations

- **CRPF**: lead CAPF for internal security and anti-Naxal operations (renamed CRPF under the **CRPF Act, 1949**).
- **CoBRA** (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), CRPF's jungle-warfare unit. **Sanjukta Parashar** (IPS 2006, "Iron Lady of Assam"): **first woman IG of CoBRA** (Sept).
- State forces: **Greyhounds** (Andhra/Telangana), **District Reserve Guard (DRG)** (Chhattisgarh), **Jharkhand Jaguar**.
- Development push: first **Khelo India Tribal Games** hosted by Chhattisgarh (Raipur, **Jagdalpur**, Sarguja), and the **26th Central Zonal Council** met at **Bastar** (May).

STATIC LINK

- "Police" and "public order" are **State List** subjects (Entries 1, 2, List II); the Centre assists via CAPFs and the **Security Related Expenditure** scheme.
- The **CPI (Maoist)** is banned under the **UAPA, 1967**.

QUICK RECALL

- Naxal-free target date: **31 March 2026**.
- Naxalbari uprising: **1967, West Bengal**, led by **Charu Majumdar**.
- LWE-affected districts now: **0** (126 in 2014); only district of concern: **Kanker, Chhattisgarh**.
- Three pillars: **Vishwaas, Nirman, Jan Kalyan**.
- CRPF anti-Naxal unit: **CoBRA**.

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044 Passive Euthanasia

MAJOR Mar 2026

In **Harish Rana v. Union of India & Ors. (March 2026)**, the Supreme Court for the first time **allowed passive euthanasia for a specific individual**, permitting withdrawal of **Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH)**. It is the first operationalisation of **Common Cause v. Union of India (2018)**, which read the **right to die with dignity** into **Article 21**.

Harish Rana v. Union of India (2026)

- Petition by Harish Rana's **parents**; he had been in a **permanent vegetative state (PVS)** after a **2013** head injury.
- SC allowed **withdrawal of medical treatment including CANH**, with **palliative care**, in the patient's **best interests**.
- Affirmed: **Art. 21** includes the right to **life with dignity until death** and a **dignified dying process**.
- Court further **clarified the guidelines** for passive euthanasia.
- Harish Rana **has since passed away**.
- Significance: **first time** an Indian court permitted passive euthanasia for a named person; first application of the Common Cause framework.

Active vs passive euthanasia

	Passive	Active
Meaning	**Withdrawing or withholding** life-sustaining treatment	**Deliberate act** (e.g. lethal injection) to end life
Legal in India?	**Yes**, under SC guidelines	**No**

- "Euthanasia" literally means **mercy killing** (Greek: "good death").

Case law chronology

Case	Holding
P. Rathinam (1994)	Struck down S. 309 IPC (attempt to suicide)
Gian Kaur v. State of Punjab (1996, 5 judges)	Right to life does **not** include right to die; S. 309 upheld; dignity in dying recognised
Aruna Shanbaug v. UoI (2011)	Passive euthanasia allowed **in principle** with High Court approval; plea for Aruna rejected
Common Cause v. UoI (2018, 5 judges)	Right to die with dignity part of Art. 21; **passive euthanasia and living wills** valid; active barred
Common Cause (modified, **2023**)	Simplified **living will** procedure
Harish Rana (2026)	First case-specific permission (CANH withdrawal)

STATIC LINK

- **Living will / advance directive**: a person's prior written choice to refuse life-prolonging treatment if terminally ill or in PVS.
- Attempt to suicide: effectively decriminalised by **S. 115, Mental Healthcare Act, 2017**; not retained as a general offence in the **BNS, 2023**.

QUICK RECALL

- First person allowed passive euthanasia: **Harish Rana** (2026).
- Treatment withdrawn: **CANH**.
- Landmark legalising passive euthanasia: **Common Cause (2018)**.
- Right invoked: **Art. 21** (die with dignity).
- Active euthanasia in India: **not permitted**.

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045 Nepal Elections & Balen Shah

MINOR | Mar 2026 | May 2026

Nepal's general election of **5 March 2026**, the first since the **Gen-Z protests** of September 2025, gave a **landslide to the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP)**. Its leader, former Kathmandu Mayor **Balendra (Balen) Shah**, was sworn in as Nepal's **youngest Prime Minister, at 35**.

Road to the election

- **Gen-Z anti-corruption protests (Sept 2025)** forced PM **K.P. Sharma Oli** to resign.
- **Sushila Karki**, Nepal's **first woman Chief Justice**, became **interim PM**, also the **first woman PM** of Nepal.

Election and result

- Polls for the **275-member House of Representatives** (Lower House of the Federal Parliament).
- **RSP landslide**; **Balen Shah** became PM.
- Balen Shah: structural engineer and rapper, elected **Mayor of Kathmandu in 2022** as an independent; a youth icon of the Gen-Z movement.
- Defeated the old guard of Nepali politics: **Nepali Congress**, **CPN (UML)** and **CPN (Maoist Centre)**.

Early India–Nepal friction (May)

- The Shah government objected to the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lipulekh pass**, claiming **Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani** (east of the Mahakali) under the **Sugauli Treaty, 1816**.
- India (MEA spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal**): claims "neither justified nor based on historical facts"; Lipulekh used for the Yatra **since 1954**.

India–Nepal basics

- **Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950**: open border; Nepali citizens can live and work in India.
- Kalapani lies in **Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand**; the Mahakali (Sharda) river forms the western boundary under the Sugauli Treaty.

STATIC LINK

- Last ruling dynasty: **Shah dynasty**; monarchy abolished 2008. **SAARC** Secretariat: **Kathmandu**.
- Nepal's Constitution: **2015** (federal democratic republic). Nepal's 2020 map, adopted by constitutional amendment, showed Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura as Nepali territory.
- The Gen-Z protests were triggered by a **ban on social-media platforms**.

QUICK RECALL

- Nepal PM (2026): **Balendra Shah**, RSP.
- Interim PM after Gen-Z protests: **Sushila Karki**.
- Disputed area claimed by Nepal: **Kalapani–Lipulekh–Limpiyadhura**.
- Lower House strength: **275**.
- Treaty behind Nepal's Kalapani claim: **Sugauli, 1816**.

See also: 127 Nepal Floods; 033 Bangladesh Elections

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046 SIPRI 'Trends in International Arms Transfers'

MINOR Mar 2026

SIPRI's **Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2025** ranked **India the world's second-largest arms importer** in 2021–25 (**8.2%** of global imports), behind **Ukraine**. India's imports **fell 4%** compared with 2016–20, partly because of growing domestic production.

India's numbers (2021–25)

- **2nd largest importer**, 8.2% share; **Ukraine 1st**.
- Imports **down 4.0%** vs 2016–20 (indigenous design and production).
- A decade-long **pivot to Western suppliers**: France, Israel, USA.
- Still, Russia stays central: in March the **DAC** cleared **₹2.38 lakh crore** of proposals incl. **five more S-400 Triumf** ("Sudarshan Chakra") systems from **Almaz-Antey**, and MoD signed for the Russian **Tunguska** air-defence system.

India's suppliers, 2021–25

Rank	Supplier	Share of India's imports
1	**Russia**	**40%**
2	**France**	**29%**
3	**Israel**	**15%**

- Together the top three supply about **84%** of India's major arms imports.

About SIPRI

- **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute**: independent institute on conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
- Established **1966**; HQ **Stockholm, Sweden**.
- Measures volumes of **major arms** (aircraft, missiles, ships, armoured vehicles) in its **Trend-Indicator Value (TIV)**, not sale prices.
- Arms-transfer data use **five-year blocks** to smooth year-to-year swings.

STATIC LINK

- **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**: chaired by the **Defence Minister**; grants **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)**, the first step in capital procurement.
- SIPRI's other flagship outputs: **SIPRI Yearbook** (June; world nuclear forces) and **Trends in World Military Expenditure** (April).
- Self-reliance drive: **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **positive indigenisation lists** restrict imports of listed items.

QUICK RECALL

- Largest importer 2021–25: **Ukraine**; India **2nd**.
- India's top supplier: **Russia (40%)**, then France, Israel.
- SIPRI HQ: **Stockholm**; founded **1966**.
- India's share of global arms imports: **8.2%**; change vs 2016–20: **−4%**.
- India's S-400 is named: **Sudarshan Chakra**.

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047 WTO MC14 at Yaounde, Cameroon

MINOR Mar 2026

The WTO's **14th Ministerial Conference (MC14)** at **Yaoundé, Cameroon (26–29 March 2026)** ended largely in **stalemate**: the reform declaration, e-commerce decision and LDC package were **not adopted**, and talks on the **"Yaoundé Package"** will continue.

MC14 at a glance

- Chair: Cameroon's Trade Minister **Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana**.
- Ministerial Conference: WTO's **highest decision-making body**, meets **every two years**; decisions by **consensus**, which is why a few members can block outcomes.
- Second MC in sub-Saharan Africa, after **MC10, Nairobi (2015)**.

Adopted

- Decision on the **Work Programme on Small Economies**.
- Decision on implementing **Special and Differential Treatment** in the **SPS** and **TBT** Agreements.
- Ministerial Decision on **Fisheries Subsidies**, building on the **Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies** adopted at **MC12 (2022)**, which curbs subsidies for **illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU)** fishing and for overfished stocks.

Not adopted

- Draft **Yaoundé Ministerial Declaration on WTO Reform** and Work Plan.
- Draft decision on **Electronic Commerce**.
- Moratorium on **TRIPS non-violation and situation complaints**.
- The **LDC package**.
- Result: work continues on the **"Yaoundé Package"** after the conference.

STATIC LINK

- WTO: born from the **Uruguay Round**; **Marrakesh Agreement 1994**; in force **1 Jan 1995**; precursor **GATT**. HQ **Geneva**.
- DG **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** (first woman DG); **India a founding member**; latest member **Timor-Leste**.
- Previous MCs: **MC1 Singapore (1996)**; **MC12 Geneva (2022)**; **MC13 Abu Dhabi (2024)**.
- Key agreements: **SPS** (food safety, animal and plant health), **TBT** (technical standards), **TRIPS** (intellectual property).

QUICK RECALL

- MC14 venue: **Yaoundé, Cameroon**.
- MC14 chair: **Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana**.
- E-commerce decision at MC14: **not adopted**.
- WTO founded: **1 January 1995**.

UNCTAD vs WTO

	UNCTAD (UN Trade & Development)	WTO
Objective	Help **developing countries** use trade, investment and technology for development; research and policy advice (e.g. **World Investment Report**); part of the UN system	Sets and enforces **rules of global trade**; forum for trade negotiations; **settles trade disputes**; not a UN agency
Founding	**1964**, by the UN General Assembly; renamed **UN Trade & Development** in **2024**	**1 Jan 1995** (Marrakesh Agreement, 1994); replaced **GATT (1947)**
HQ	**Geneva**	**Geneva**
Head	Secretary-General **Rebeca Grynspan** (Costa Rica; since 2021; first woman)	Director-General **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** (Nigeria; since 2021; first woman)

See also: 021 US Tariffs

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048 ICC T20 Men's World Cup

MINOR | Mar 2026 | Jun 2026 | Sep 2026

India won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, its **third title**, beating **New Zealand** in the final. The tournament was co-hosted by **India and Sri Lanka**; **Sanju Samson** was Player of the Tournament.

2026 edition

- Hosts: **India and Sri Lanka**. Final: India beat **New Zealand**.
- **Player of the Tournament: Sanju Samson**.
- India's titles: **2007** (first edition), **2024**, **2026**: the first team to win the men's T20 World Cup three times.
- Felicitated at the **BCCI Naman Awards** with India's other recent ICC-title teams: **Champions Trophy 2025**, **Women's World Cup 2025**, **Men's U-19 World Cup 2026**, **Women's U-19 World Cup 2025**.

Tournament facts

- Held **biennially**. Next (2028): **Australia and New Zealand**.
- **ICC**: HQ **Dubai**; Chair **Jay Shah**.
- **BCCI**: President **Mithun Manhas**; founded **1928**.

BCCI Naman Awards 2026

- **Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement** (highest): **Rahul Dravid** and **Roger Binny**; women's lifetime award: **Mithali Raj**.
- **Polly Umrigar Award** (best international cricketer, men): **Shubman Gill**; women: **Smriti Mandhana**.

Men's T20 World Cup winners

Year	Winner	Year	Winner
2007	**India**	2016	West Indies
2009	Pakistan	2021	Australia
2010	England	2022	England
2012	West Indies	2024	**India**
2014	Sri Lanka	2026	**India**

STATIC LINK

- 2007 final: India beat **Pakistan** (Johannesburg, captain **M.S. Dhoni**); 2024 final: India beat **South Africa** (Barbados, captain **Rohit Sharma**); 2024 hosts: **West Indies and USA**.
- ICC founded **1909** as the **Imperial Cricket Conference** (London); HQ moved to Dubai in 2005.
- Next ICC events: **Women's T20 World Cup 2026** (England, June–July); **Men's ODI World Cup 2027** (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia).

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 champion / runner-up: **India / New Zealand**.
- Player of the Tournament: **Sanju Samson**.
- 2028 hosts: **Australia & New Zealand**.
- ICC Chair: **Jay Shah**.
- Polly Umrigar Award 2026: **Shubman Gill**.

ICC senior World Cups & events, 2026–28

Year	Event	Host	Winner
2026	Men's T20 World Cup (Feb–Mar)	India & Sri Lanka	**India** (beat New Zealand)
2026	Women's T20 World Cup (Jun–Jul)	England	**Australia** (beat England, Lord's)
2027	Women's Champions Trophy (Feb; inaugural)	India (Mumbai, Vadodara)	Upcoming
2027	Men's Test: World Test Championship (Jun)	Lord's, England	Upcoming
2027	Men's ODI World Cup (Oct–Nov)	South Africa, Zimbabwe & Namibia	Upcoming
2028	Women's T20 World Cup	Pakistan	Upcoming
2028	Men's T20 World Cup (Oct–Nov)	Australia & New Zealand	Upcoming

Not held in 2026–28: Women's ODI World Cup (next 2029), Men's Champions Trophy (next 2029, India); there is no women's Test championship.

See also: 099 ICC T20 Women's World Cup; 147 Women's Champions Trophy 2027

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049 IOC Policy on Transgender Athletes

MINOR Mar 2026

The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** adopted a **Policy on the Protection of the Female Category in Olympic Sport**, restricting women's events to **biological females** determined by a **one-time SRY gene screening**. It applies from the **LA 2028 Summer Olympics**, effectively barring transgender women and some athletes with **DSD**.

The policy

- Covers **any female-category event** at the Olympics or other IOC events, **individual and team**.
- Eligibility test: **one-time SRY gene screening**. **SRY = Sex-determining Region Y**, the Y-chromosome gene that triggers male development.
- Comes with **guiding considerations** for International Federations and sports governing bodies.
- Applies from **Los Angeles 2028** onwards.

Terms

- **DSD**: Differences of Sex Development, conditions in which chromosomal, gonadal or anatomical sex is atypical.
- Earlier, the IOC's **2021 framework** left eligibility to each federation; the new policy sets a uniform IOC rule.

Earlier flashpoints

- **Laurel Hubbard** (NZ weightlifting): first openly transgender woman to compete at the Olympics, **Tokyo 2020**.
- **Imane Khelif** (Algeria): boxing gold at **Paris 2024** amid an eligibility row.
- **Caster Semenya** (South Africa, DSD): long fight against World Athletics' testosterone limits.

See also: 040 Budget Session (Transgender Persons Amendment Act)

STATIC LINK

- IOC: HQ **Lausanne, Switzerland**; founded **1894** by **Pierre de Coubertin**. President **Kirsty Coventry** (Zimbabwe), the **first woman** and first African IOC President.
- **LA 2028** will be Los Angeles' third Games (after 1932 and 1984); **Brisbane 2032** follows.
- India: sprinter **Dutee Chand** won a 2015 CAS challenge against hyperandrogenism rules.

QUICK RECALL

- Test used: **SRY gene screening** (one-time).
- Effective from: **LA 2028**.
- First openly transgender Olympian: **Laurel Hubbard** (Tokyo 2020).
- IOC President: **Kirsty Coventry**; HQ **Lausanne**.
- SRY stands for: **Sex-determining Region Y**.

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050 NavIC Failure

MINOR | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | Aug 2026

India's regional navigation system **NavIC** stopped functioning after **IRNSS-1F** (launched 2016) lost its **last working atomic clock in March 2026**. NavIC needs **at least four operational satellites**, and the count fell below that.

What happened

- **IRNSS** (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System) provides **NavIC** (Navigation with Indian Constellation), built by **ISRO**.
- 1st generation: **7 IRNSS satellites**; 2nd generation: **NVS series**.
- First satellite launched **2013**; NavIC **operational from 2018**.
- Services: regional **navigation, positioning and timing**; India's answer to dependence on the US-run GPS.
- March 2026: atomic-clock failure on **IRNSS-1F** left too few working satellites; by August NavIC was still reported **"not operational"**.
- NavIC also matters for **indigenous timing**: the 2026 "One Nation, One Time" rules (**Legal Metrology Act, 2009**) allow NavIC-based timing.

Other satellite navigation systems

System	Owner
GPS	USA
GLONASS	Russia
Galileo	European Union (ESA)
BeiDou	China
NavIC	India (regional)

- ESA launched **Celeste IOD-1 and IOD-2** (LEO) to supplement Galileo (April).

Another setback: PROBA-3

- **PROBA-3** (Project for On-Board Autonomy) of the **European Space Agency**, launched by ISRO on **PSLV-XL C59** from Sriharikota in **2024**.
- Two craft in precise formation: the **Occulter** created the world's **first artificial solar eclipse** so the **Coronagraph** could study the Sun's corona.
- The Coronagraph spacecraft **lost contact in February 2026**.

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- NavIC broadcasts in the **L5 and S bands** and covers India and about **1,500 km** around it. **NVS-01** launched 2023; **NVS-02** (2025) failed to reach its intended orbit.

QUICK RECALL

- Satellite whose failure ended NavIC: **IRNSS-1F**.
- Cause: **atomic clock** failure.
- Minimum satellites needed: **4**.
- NavIC operational since: **2018**.
- PROBA-3 belongs to: **ESA** (launched on ISRO's PSLV-C59).

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051 India's NDCs under Paris Agreement

MINOR | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | Sep 2026

India approved its next **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for 2031–35** under the **Paris Agreement**: a **47% cut in emissions intensity of GDP by 2035** (from 2005), **60% non-fossil power capacity**, and a **3.5–4.0 billion tonne** forest carbon sink.

India's NDC 3.0 (targets for 2035)

Goal	2035 target
Emissions intensity of GDP	**−47%** vs 2005
Non-fossil share of installed power capacity	**60%**
Additional carbon sink (forest and tree cover)	**3.5–4.0 bn t CO_2e** vs 2005

- Earlier (2022) targets for 2030: **45%** intensity cut, **50%** non-fossil capacity, **2.5–3 bn t** sink; net zero by **2070**.
- India is the **only G20 country** to have met its original Paris NDCs **ahead of 2030**, crossing **50% non-fossil capacity** early (Sept).

Paris Agreement basics

- Adopted at **COP21 (2015), Paris**; legally binding. Goal (**Art. 2**): well below **2°C**, aiming for **1.5°C**.
- NDCs updated **every 5 years**; **ratchet**: each must be more ambitious. Principle of **CBDR-RC**.
- **Global Stocktake** every 5 years (first 2023). **USA** has withdrawn.
- **Art. 6.4** UN carbon market (PACM): first credits approved for a **clean-cookstove project in Myanmar**. India launched its **Indian Carbon Market Portal** at **Prakriti 2026** (BEE administers the 2023 CCTS).

See also: 056 10th Anniversary of ISA; 123 Rio Conventions

How far off track is the world? (Sept)

- UNEP's **"Limiting Overshoot"** report: a temporary rise above **1.5°C** is now almost unavoidable; warming already about **1.4°C**.
- Even if all NDCs and net-zero pledges are met, peak warming could reach about **1.8°C**; current policies point to about **2.6°C by 2100**.
- Next COPs: **COP31, Antalya, Türkiye (2026)**; **COP32, Addis Ababa (2027)**.

STATIC LINK

- UNFCCC adopted at **Rio Earth Summit, 1992**, in force **1994**; India's climate coalitions: **ISA**, **OSOWOG**, **Global Biofuels Alliance**, **IBCA**, **Mission LiFE**.

QUICK RECALL

- Emissions-intensity target 2035: **47%** (base year **2005**).
- Non-fossil capacity target 2035: **60%**.
- India's net-zero year: **2070**.
- Paris Agreement article for the UN carbon market: **Art. 6.4**.
- COP31 host: **Antalya, Türkiye**.

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052 Raisina Dialogue

MINOR | Mar 2026 | Jun 2026

PM Modi inaugurated the **11th Raisina Dialogue** (**5–7 March 2026**, New Delhi), India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics. Finland's President **Alexander Stubb** was **Chief Guest** and gave the keynote. The 2026 theme was **"Saṁskāra: Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement"**.

About the Dialogue

- Hosted annually by the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)** with the **Ministry of External Affairs**.
- **First edition: 1–3 March 2016**, theme "Asia: Regional and Global Connectivity".
- Named after **Raisina Hill**, seat of Rashtrapati Bhavan; compared to the **Munich Security Conference** and **Shangri-La Dialogue**.
- 2026: about **2,700 participants from 110 countries**.
- Aim: shape global conversations on geopolitics and geo-economics, and strengthen **India's role as a convening power**.

Six thematic pillars (2026)

- **Contested Frontiers**: Power, Polarity and Periphery.
- **Repairing the Commons**: New Groups, New Guardians, New Avenues.
- **White Whale**: The Pursuit of Agenda 2030.
- **The Eleventh Hour**: Climate, Conflict and the Cost of Delay.
- **Tomorrowland**: Towards a Tech-topia.
- **Trade in the Time of Tariffs**: Recovery, Resilience, Reinvention.

India–Finland outcomes

- Ties raised to a **Strategic Partnership in Digitalisation and Sustainability**.
- **Joint Task Force on 6G** (University of Oulu and Bharat 6G Alliance).
- Co-hosting the **World Circular Economy Forum** in India, 2026; **Indo-Finland Startup Corridor**.

Spin-off (June)

- **"Raisina Americas"**, a new platform on the Raisina model, announced with **Canada** on the sidelines of the G7 Summit.

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- Recent chief guests: **2025** New Zealand PM **Christopher Luxon**; **2024** Greek PM **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**.
- Participants include ministers, ex-heads of state, military leaders, think tanks, tech leaders and **youth delegates**; panels and closed-door sessions.

QUICK RECALL

- Edition in 2026: **11th**.
- Chief Guest: **Alexander Stubb** (Finland).
- Organiser: **ORF + MEA**.
- Theme word: **Saṁskāra**.

See also: 143 World Circular Economy Forum; 091 G7 Summit 2026

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053 World Wildlife Day & CITES

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Mar 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

World Wildlife Day is observed on **3 March**, the day **CITES** was signed in **1973**. The 2026 theme was **"Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods"**.

World Wildlife Day

- UNGA declared it on **20 December 2013** (on **Thailand's** proposal); first observed **2014**.
- Not to be confused with India's **National Wildlife Week**, held in **October**.
- 2026 focus: plants used for medicine, their cultural role and the income they give local communities.
- India: one of **17 megadiverse countries**; about **15,000 medicinal plant species**, about **8,000** used in Indian medicine.

CITES

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora** (the **Washington Convention**); signed **3 March 1973**, in force **1975**.
- Ensures international trade does not threaten species' survival. Secretariat: **Geneva** (administered by UNEP).
- **CoP20: Samarkand, Uzbekistan (2025)**.
- Species are listed in **Appendices I–III**; e.g. Asian elephant and Gangetic dolphin are **Appendix I**.

CITES appendices

Appendix	Meaning
I	Threatened with extinction; commercial trade **banned**
II	Not yet threatened; trade **regulated by permits**
III	Listed by one Party seeking others' help to control trade

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- India's law: **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**; India joined CITES in **1976**.
- **Earth Hour** (by **WWF**, last Saturday of March): **28 March 2026**, its **20th anniversary** (began 2007).
- Other wildlife days: **International Tiger Day** 29 July; **World Elephant Day** 12 August.

QUICK RECALL

- World Wildlife Day: **3 March** (CITES signing, 1973).
- CITES in force: **1975**; Secretariat: **Geneva**.
- CITES CoP20: **Samarkand**.
- WWD 2026 theme: **Medicinal and Aromatic Plants**.

See also: 149 World Rhino Day & Project Rhino

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054 International Women's Day

MINOR Mar 2026

International Women's Day (**8 March**) 2026 had the theme **"Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Girls and Women."** It falls in a year that is also the UN's **International Year of the Woman Farmer**; India hosted the **Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems** (12–14 March).

The day

- 8 March traces to the **1917 strike for "bread and peace"** by women in **Petrograd (St Petersburg)** during WWI. **UN recognition: 1977**.
- Indian celebration: **Shakti Walk, #SheLeadsBharat**. Linked to **SDG 5** (gender equality); **CEDAW** is the core UN treaty.
- Related: **International Day for Women Judges** (10 March).

Constitutional provisions

- **Art. 14** equality; **Art. 15** no discrimination by sex, **15(3)** special provisions for women; **Art. 16(1)** public employment.
- DPSP: **Art. 39(a)** livelihood, **39(d)** equal pay, **Art. 42** maternity relief. FD: **Art. 51A(e)**.
- One-third reservation: **Art. 243D** (Panchayats), **243T** (Municipalities); **106th Amendment, 2023** (Nari Shakti Vandan): Art. 330A, 332A, 334A, for 15 years after delimitation.

Trailblazing women

- First woman: President **Pratibha Patil**; PM **Indira Gandhi**; SC judge **Fathima Beevi**; HC Chief Justice **Leila Seth**; HC judge **Anna Chandy**; advocate **Cornelia Sorabji**.
- Governor **Sarojini Naidu**; CM **Sucheta Kriplani**; LS Speaker **Meira Kumar**; CEC **V.S. Ramadevi**; UNGA President **Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit**.
- No woman CJI yet: **Justice B.V. Nagarathna** in line for 2027. NCW chair **Vijaya Rahatkar**.

Key laws for women

- **Dowry Prohibition Act 1961**; **Maternity Benefit Act 1961**; **MTP Act 1971**; **Equal Remuneration Act 1976**.
- **Indecent Representation of Women Act 1986**; **Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act 1987**; **NCW Act 1990**; **PCPNDT Act 1994**.
- **PWDVA 2005** (domestic violence); **POSH Act 2013**, which replaced the **Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan** guidelines.

Global firsts

- First woman head of government: **Sirimavo Bandaranaike** (Sri Lanka); first woman in space: **Valentina Tereshkova**; first woman Nobel laureate: **Marie Curie**.
- Current "firsts": **Kirsty Coventry** (IOC), **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** (WTO DG), **Sanae Takaichi** (Japan PM), **Rebecca Grynspan** (UNCTAD).

QUICK RECALL

- IWD 2026 theme: **Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Girls and Women.**
- 2026 UN year: **International Year of the Woman Farmer**.
- Women's reservation in legislatures: **106th Amendment**.

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055 World Water Day & World Glacier Day

MINOR | Mar 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

World Water Day (22 March) 2026 was on **"Water and Gender"** (campaign: **"Where Water Flows, Equality Grows"**). The day before, **21 March**, is **World Glacier Day**, observed only **since 2025**, alongside the **Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025–34)**.

World Water Day 2026

- Theme **Water and Gender**; UN World Water Development Report: **"Water for All People: Equal Rights and Opportunities"**.
- **Stockholm Water Prize 2026** ("Nobel of Water"), announced around World Water Day: **Prof. Kaveh Madani (Iran)**, youngest laureate and first UN official to win.
- India: **Jal Mahotsav** by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, **8–22 March** (Women's Day to World Water Day / **Sujalam Shakti Divas**), tagline **"Gaon ka Utsav, Desh ka Mahotsav"**, under the **Jal Jeevan Mission** (extended to **2028**). Minister: **C.R. Patil**.
- **Sujal Gaon ID** (JJM 2.0): a digital ID for every rural piped-water scheme; **1.64 lakh** IDs in 31 States/UTs, linked to **Sujalam Bharat** IDs.

World Glacier Day and 21 March

- **World Glacier Day: 21 March**, observed **since 2025**.
- **Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences: 2025–2034**.
- Glaciers could lose **over 25% of their mass by 2100** (UNEP "Limiting Overshoot", Sept).
- Same date: **International Day of Forests** (2026 theme **"Forests and Economies"**), **World Poetry Day** (UNESCO) and the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**.

See also: 103 River Water Agreements

World Water Week (August)

- Organised annually in **Stockholm** by the **Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)**; 2026 theme **"Water for People and Progress"**.
- India's **Ministry of Rural Development** took part, showcasing community-led water security.
- The Stockholm Water Prize is presented here by King **Carl XVI Gustaf**.

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- 2025 was the UN **International Year of Glaciers' Preservation**, and World Water Day 2025's theme was **Glacier Preservation**.
- Stockholm Water Prize: given by the **Stockholm Water Foundation** with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences; first recipient **David W. Schindler (1991)**.

QUICK RECALL

- World Water Day 2026 theme: **Water and Gender**.
- World Glacier Day: **21 March** (since 2025).
- Stockholm Water Prize 2026: **Kaveh Madani**.
- Jal Mahotsav: **8–22 March**.
- Report released on World Water Day: **UN World Water Development Report**.

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056 10th Anniversary of ISA

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, launched by **India and France at COP21, Paris (2015)**, marked its **10th anniversary**. On the occasion it announced the **Green Hydrogen and Storage Start-up Challenge 2026**. During 2026, **Canada**, **South Korea** and **North Macedonia** moved to join, while the **USA withdrew**.

About ISA

- Intergovernmental body to advance solar power; HQ **Gurugram** (India).
- **President: India**; **Co-President: France** (2024–26 term). ISA Assembly (apex body) presided over by India's MNRE Minister **Pralhad Joshi**.
- DG: **Ashish Khanna**.
- Approximately **130** member and signatory countries; membership opened to **all UN member states** by a 2020 amendment (originally for countries between the Tropics).
- Framework Agreement in force **6 December 2017**; HQ foundation stone laid in Gurugram by **Modi and Hollande** (January 2016).

Membership moves in 2026

- **Jan**: **USA withdrew** from ISA among 66 international bodies.
- **Feb**: ISA launched the **Global Mission on AI for Energy** (AI Impact Summit).
- **Mar**: **Canada** to join ISA and the Global Biofuels Alliance.
- **Apr**: **Republic of Korea** to join ISA; **Jul**: **North Macedonia** to join ISA, CDRI and GBA.

"Towards 1000" by 2030

Target	Value
Investment mobilised	**USD 1,000 billion**
People given clean-energy access	**1,000 million**
Solar capacity installed	**1,000 GW**
Emissions avoided	**1,000 Mt CO_2** a year

- India's own solar capacity: from about **2 GW** (early 2010s) to **over 160 GW** by mid-2026 (Sept).

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- Other India-led coalitions: **CDRI**, **Global Biofuels Alliance**, **IBCA**, **Mission LiFE**.
- **OSOWOG** (One Sun One World One Grid): ISA initiative, launched as the **Green Grids Initiative** at **COP26, Glasgow (2021)**.

QUICK RECALL

- ISA launched: **COP21, Paris, 2015**, by **India and France**.
- ISA HQ: **Gurugram**.
- ISA President / Co-President (2024–26): **India / France**; DG: **Ashish Khanna**.
- Major country that quit ISA in 2026: **USA**.
- Anniversary initiative: **Green Hydrogen and Storage Start-up Challenge 2026**.

See also: 007 USA Withdrawal from International Organisations; 051 India's NDCs

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057 "Gravest Crime Against Humanity": Trafficking of Enslaved Africans

MINOR Mar 2026

In March 2026 the **UN General Assembly** adopted a declaration recognising the **Trafficking of Enslaved Africans and Racialized Chattel Enslavement of Africans** as the **"Gravest Crime Against Humanity"**. It came around **25 March**, the **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade**.

The day of remembrance (25 March)

- Marks the UK's **Abolition of the Slave Trade Act**, enacted **25 March 1807**.
- 2026 theme: **"Justice in Action: Confronting History, Advancing Dignity, Empowering Futures"**.
- Designated by the UNGA in **2007**; first observed **2008**.

Context

- The **Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2001)**, which called slavery and the slave trade a crime against humanity, marks its **25th anniversary** in 2026.
- 21 March: **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** (Sharpeville massacre, 1960); 21–27 March: **Week of Solidarity** against racism. **ICERD** adopted 1965.
- The resolution was pushed by **African states**, led by **Ghana**, as part of the African Union's call for **reparatory justice**.

Abolition timeline

Year	Milestone
1807	UK **Abolition of the Slave Trade Act** (25 March)
1833	UK **Slavery Abolition Act**: slavery ended across most of the British Empire
1843	**Indian Slavery Act** (Act V of 1843) in British India
1865	USA: **13th Amendment** abolishes slavery
1926	League of Nations **Slavery Convention**
1948	**UDHR, Art. 4**: no one shall be held in slavery

UN remembrance

- **"Ark of Return"**: permanent memorial to victims of slavery at **UN HQ, New York** (2015).
- **23 August**: UNESCO's International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (Haiti uprising, 1791).
- **International Decade for People of African Descent**: 2015–2024.

STATIC LINK

- India: **Art. 23** bans traffic in human beings and forced labour. Slavery was abolished across the British Empire by the **Slavery Abolition Act, 1833**.

QUICK RECALL

- Remembrance day: **25 March** (UK Act of **1807**).
- UNGA label for the slave trade: **"Gravest Crime Against Humanity"**.
- Durban Declaration: **2001** (25th anniversary 2026).
- 2026 theme begins: **"Justice in Action"**.

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058 Justice Yashwant Varma Resigns

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026

Justice Yashwant Varma of the **Allahabad High Court** resigned in April 2026 by writing to the **President of India**, while removal (impeachment) proceedings under the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** were pending against him. With his resignation the proceedings became **infructuous and lapsed**.

The case

- **Trigger:** discovery of **half-burnt unaccounted cash** at his official residence while he was a judge of the **Delhi High Court** (March 2025, after a fire).
- A **Supreme Court in-house inquiry** (3 HC judges, set up by then CJI **Sanjiv Khanna**) found the allegations substantiated; he was repatriated to the **Allahabad HC** and given no judicial work.
- A removal motion was admitted in the **Lok Sabha** by Speaker **Om Birla** (August 2025), who constituted a statutory Inquiry Committee.
- **April 2026:** resignation to the President; removal proceedings lapse.

Inquiry Committee (Speaker)

- **Justice Aravind Kumar** (Supreme Court judge).
- **Justice MM Srivastava** (Chief Justice of a HC), replaced in **2026** by **Justice Shree Chandrashekhar**.
- **BV Acharya**, Senior Advocate (distinguished jurist).
- Framed **three charges**: **Art. I** discovery and possession of **unexplained currency notes** in the official residence; **Art. II** failure to preserve, and **interference with, evidence** after the fire; **Art. III evasive and misleading explanations** about the incident and the cash.
- **Report submitted:** found him **guilty on all three charges**. He resigned **before any vote** in Parliament.

Constitutional basis of removal

- **Art. 124(4):** SC judge removable by the President on an address by both Houses on grounds of **"proved misbehaviour or incapacity"**.
- **Art. 217(1)(b)** and **Art. 218:** HC judges removable in the same manner.
- **Art. 124(5):** Parliament regulates the procedure by law, hence the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**.
- **Art. 217(1)(a):** a HC judge may **resign** by writing under his hand addressed to the President.

Procedure: Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968

- **Notice of motion:** signed by at least **100 Lok Sabha** or **50 Rajya Sabha** members; given to the Speaker / Chairman, who may admit or reject it.
- **3-member committee:** one **SC judge**, one **Chief Justice of a HC**, one **distinguished jurist**.
- Charges **not proved**: process ends. **Proved**: motion taken up in both Houses; address to the President, who orders removal.
- **Special majority** in each House: majority of total membership **and** two-thirds of members present and voting; both Houses in the **same session**.

Precedents

Judge	Year	Outcome
V. Ramaswami (SC)	1991-93	First judge facing removal; motion failed in LS
Soumitra Sen (Calcutta HC)	2009-11	RS passed motion; he resigned before LS vote
P.D. Dinakaran (CJ, Sikkim HC)	2009-11	Resigned while the Inquiry Committee was pending
Yashwant Varma (Allahabad HC)	2025-26	Resigned; proceedings lapsed

- No judge has ever been removed in India.

STATIC LINK

- HC judges: appointed under **Art. 217**, retire at **62**; SC judges at **65**.
- **In-house procedure** (SC, 1999): internal mechanism of the judiciary, separate from the statutory removal process.
- CJI (2026): **Surya Kant**.
- **Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct** (2002): six values: **independence, impartiality, integrity, propriety, equality, competence and diligence**.

QUICK RECALL

- Court he resigned from: **Allahabad HC** (cash found while at **Delhi HC**).
- Act for the inquiry: **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**.
- Articles: **217(1)(b), 218 r/w 124(4)**.
- SC judge on the committee: **Justice Aravind Kumar**; jurist: **BV Acharya**.
- Inquiry Committee verdict: **guilty on all 3 charges**.
- First judge to face removal: **Justice V. Ramaswami**.

See also: 073 Increase in Supreme Court Judges; 133 Election Commission of India (CEC removal notice).

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059 131st Amendment Bill

MAJOR | Apr 2026 | Aug 2026

The **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026**, which sought to raise the Lok Sabha's maximum strength to **850** and fast-track **women's reservation** through a fresh delimitation, was **defeated in the Lok Sabha on 17 April 2026**. It won a majority of total membership but **failed the two-thirds of members present and voting** test of **Article 368**; the companion Bills were withdrawn.

The package of three Bills

- **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026:** amends **Art. 81** (composition of LS) to raise max LS strength from **550 to 850** (**815 from States, 35 from UTs**); amends **Art. 334A** to implement **33% women's reservation** right after the new delimitation.
- **Delimitation Bill, 2026:** replaces the **Delimitation Act, 2002**; empowers the Centre to set up a new Delimitation Commission.
- **UT Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026:** same changes for **Delhi, J&K, Puducherry**.

Key proposals

- Delete the **delimitation freeze** (till the first census after 2026) and let **Parliament decide which census** is the basis.
- **Delink** women's reservation (106th Amendment) from a delimitation based on a census after 2023; link it to an **immediate delimitation on the latest available census (2011)**.

Defeat and aftermath

- **18 April:** PM's **address to the nation**; **KC Venugopal** (Congress) gave a **privilege notice** against the PM.
- **Southern concern:** States that controlled population could lose seat share; raised again at the **Southern Zonal Council** (Aug).

Delimitation

- Fixing LS and Assembly constituencies. **Arts. 82 and 170** (readjustment after each census); **Arts. 330, 332** (SC/ST seats).
- Done after the **1951, 1961, 1971** censuses. Commissions set up **4 times: 1952, 1963, 1973, 2002**.
- **42nd Amendment (1976)** froze seats till after 2001 Census; **84th (2002)** extended it till the first census after 2026. Present **543 seats** rest on the **1971 Census**.
- **87th Amendment (2003):** readjusted boundaries of constituencies **within States** on the basis of the **2001 Census** instead of 1991, without changing the number of seats **among States**.
- **Commission:** chaired by a serving/retired **SC judge**, with the **CEC** (or an EC) and State ECs; orders have the **force of law**, not challengeable in court.

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023

- **106th Amendment Act**: one-third seats for women in LS, State Assemblies and **Delhi Assembly** (incl. SC/ST seats).
- New **Arts. 330A, 332A, 334A**; Art. 239AA amended. **334A**: **15-year sunset**; operative only after the next census and delimitation.

Census 2027 (the link)

- Began **1 April 2026**: Houselisting (Apr-Sep 2026) and Population Enumeration (**Feb 2027**). **16th Census, 8th** after Independence; first **digital** one, first with **caste enumeration** since Independence.
- Under the **Census Act, 1948**; Union List **Entry 69**.
- **Mascots: Pragati and Vikas**. **Census Ambassador: Sudarsan Pattnaik** (sand artist).
- **Registrar General & Census Commissioner** (MHA): **Mritunjay Kumar Narayan**.

Amendment process (Art. 368)

- Bill introduced in **either House** (not State legislatures), by minister or private member; **no prior President's sanction**; **no joint sitting**; President **must assent** (24th Amendment, 1971).
- **Special majority**: majority of total membership + 2/3 present and voting, in **each House separately**.
- **Special majority + ratification by half the States** for federal provisions: e.g. President's election, SC/HCs, Centre-State powers, States' seats in Parliament, Art. 368 itself.
- **Simple majority** changes (e.g. new States, Arts. 2–4) are not Art. 368 amendments.

Basic structure doctrine

- **Kesavananda Bharati (1973)**, 13 judges, 7:6: Parliament can amend any part but **not the basic structure**.
- Before: **Shankari Prasad (1951)**, FRs amendable; **Golak Nath (1967)**, not amendable. After: **Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975)**, **Minerva Mills (1980)**.
- E.g. secularism, federalism, judicial review, free and fair elections.

QUICK RECALL

- Proposed max LS strength: **850** (815 States + 35 UTs).
- Freeze on seats: **42nd (1976)**, extended by **84th (2002)**; base: **1971 Census**.

See also: 040 Budget Session of Parliament; 054 International Women's Day; 066 Anti-Defection.

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060 PFBR, Kalpakkam

MAJOR | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026

The indigenous **500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)** at **Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**, attained **first criticality on 6 April 2026**. India has thereby entered **Stage II** of Homi Bhabha's **three-stage nuclear power programme**, the bridge to using its vast **thorium** reserves.

PFBR: key facts

- **Capacity:** 500 MWe. **Location:** Kalpakkam, TN.
- **Designed by: Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR)**. **Built by: Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI)**.
- **Fuel: Uranium-Plutonium Mixed Oxide (MOX)**.
- **Breeding:** core blanketed by **Uranium-238**, which fast neutrons convert into **Plutonium-239**; the reactor makes more fissile fuel than it uses.
- **Coolant:** liquid **sodium**; a fast reactor needs no moderator.
- Once commercial, India would be only the **second country after Russia** to run a commercial fast breeder; **Japan, France, US** shut their programmes.

What is criticality?

- The point at which a **sustained, controlled fission chain reaction** begins: neutrons produced equal those lost by absorption and leakage.
- Marks the shift from **construction to operation**; first step towards heat and then electricity. Grid power comes later.

Three-stage programme (Homi Bhabha, 1950s)

Stage	Reactor	Fuel
I	Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR)	Natural uranium; yields plutonium
II	**Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR)**	Pu-U MOX; breeds Pu, and U-233 from thorium blanket
III	Thorium-based reactors	Thorium / U-233

- Aim: **close the nuclear fuel cycle** and secure energy independence with limited uranium but vast thorium.

Nuclear energy push

- **Nuclear Energy Mission (2025): 5 Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033**; **Rs 20,000 crore**.
- **SHANTI Act, 2025**: Sustainable Harnessing & Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India.
- **Target: 100 GW** nuclear capacity by **2047** (current **8.78 GW**).
- **June 2026:** world's first **hydrogen production facility on the Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) thermochemical cycle**, using nuclear heat from the **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)**, IGCAR Kalpakkam; developed by **BARC**; runs at about **500°C**.

Who's who

- Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, DAE: **Ajit Kumar Mohanty**.
- Minister in charge of DAE: **PM Narendra Modi**.
- IGCAR: est. **1971**, Kalpakkam; Director **Shreekumar G. Pillai**.

STATIC LINK

- **FBTR** (Kalpakkam), India's first fast reactor, reached criticality in **1985**.
- **National Technology Day, 11 May**: marks **Pokhran-II** (Operation Shakti, 1998). Pokhran-I (**Smiling Buddha**): 18 May 1974.
- **Father of India's atomic energy programme: Homi J. Bhabha**; first Chairman, **Atomic Energy Commission (1948)**; BARC (Trombay) named after him.
- DAE created 1954; BARC (Trombay) is its premier research centre.
- Kalpakkam also hosts the **Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS)**, a Stage I PHWR plant.

QUICK RECALL

- Date of first criticality: **6 April 2026**.
- Built by **BHAVINI**; designed by **IGCAR**.
- Fuel: **U-Pu MOX**; blanket **U-238 to Pu-239**.
- FBRs belong to **Stage II**.
- Only other country with commercial FBR: **Russia**.
- Nuclear target for 2047: **100 GW**.

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061 Artemis II

MAJOR | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026

NASA launched **Artemis II**, a **crewed lunar flyby**, on **1 April 2026** from the **Kennedy Space Centre, Florida**. It is the **first crewed mission beyond low Earth orbit since Apollo 17 (1972)** and set a new record for the **farthest distance travelled by humans**, beating Apollo 13 (1970).

The mission

- **Rocket: Space Launch System (SLS)**. **Spacecraft: Orion** Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle.
- **Duration:** about **10 days**; a flyby around the Moon's far side on a **free-return trajectory**, **no landing**; ended with a **Pacific Ocean splashdown**.
- **First human flight** of the Artemis programme (Artemis I, 2022, was uncrewed).
- **Record:** crew passed Apollo 13's **248,655 miles**, reaching about **252,756 miles** from Earth.
- **Purpose:** test Orion's life support and systems with crew; data will support later crewed **lunar landings** and a sustained presence on the Moon.
- **Name:** Artemis, Greek **goddess of the hunt** (twin sister of Apollo).

The crew: 3 NASA + 1 Canadian

Astronaut	Agency	First
Reid Wiseman (commander)	NASA	Oldest person beyond LEO to the Moon's vicinity
Victor Glover	NASA	First person of colour
Christina Koch	NASA	First woman
Jeremy Hansen	Canadian Space Agency	First non-US citizen

History: Apollo programme

- **Apollo 11** (20 July 1969): first human landing; **Neil Armstrong** first to walk on the Moon, with **Buzz Aldrin**; Michael Collins in orbit. Hence **International Moon Day, 20 July**.
- **Apollo 13** (1970): aborted landing; held the human distance record until Artemis II.
- **Apollo 17** (Dec 1972): last crewed Moon mission until now.
- Apollo made **6 crewed landings** (1969-72); **12 astronauts** walked on the Moon.

See also: 062 Gaganyaan; 128 National Space Day.

Artemis programme and Accords

- **Artemis I** (Nov 2022): uncrewed test of SLS and Orion around the Moon.
- **Artemis II** (2026): crewed flyby. Later missions: crewed landing near the **lunar south pole**.
- **Artemis Accords** (2020): non-binding US-led principles for civil exploration of the Moon, Mars and beyond: peaceful purposes, transparency, interoperability, emergency assistance, sharing of data, deconfliction, limiting debris. Based on the **Outer Space Treaty, 1967**.
- **India signed** the Artemis Accords in **June 2023** (PM's US visit).

STATIC LINK

- **NASA:** est. under the **National Aeronautics and Space Act, 1958**; HQ **Washington DC**; head **Jared Isaacman** (15th).
- First US satellite: **Explorer 1** (31 Jan 1958), launched just before NASA was formed (Oct 1958).
- Other NASA landmarks: Voyager 1 and 2 (1977), Hubble (1990), Perseverance rover (2020).

QUICK RECALL

- Launch date and site: **1 April 2026, Kennedy Space Centre**.
- Spacecraft / rocket: **Orion / SLS**.
- Non-American on board: **Jeremy Hansen (Canada)**.
- First woman to the Moon's vicinity: **Christina Koch**.
- Record broken: **Apollo 13 (1970)** distance.
- Last crewed lunar mission before it: **Apollo 17, 1972**.
- India joined the Artemis Accords: **June 2023**.

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062 Gaganyaan

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026

Gaganyaan is India's human spaceflight programme: a **3-day** mission to put a **crew of 3** in **low Earth orbit (about 400 km)** and bring them back safely. In 2026 ISRO ran the **MITRA** analogue study in Ladakh, the second **Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02)** and a ground test of **SOLVE**; the first crewed flight is targeted for **Q1 2027**.

The programme

- **Aim:** demonstrate India's capability to send humans to LEO and return them safely.
- **Crew-designates (4):** Gp Capt **Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair**, Gp Capt **Ajit Krishnan**, Gp Capt **Angad Pratap**, Gp Capt **Shubhanshu Shukla**.
- **Mission sequence: G1, G2 and G3** uncrewed, carrying the robot **Vyommitra**; **G4/H1 and G5/H2** crewed. Maiden crewed flight targeted for **Q1 2027**.
- **Launcher:** human-rated **LVM3 (HLVM3)**. Lead centre: **Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC), Bengaluru**.
- **Australia** will support Gaganyaan with ground telemetry from the **Cocos (Keeling) Islands** (India-Australia, July 2026).

Mission MITRA (April)

- **MITRA: Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment**.
- First-of-its-kind **team behavioural study** by **ISRO and IAF Institute of Aerospace Medicine**, held in **Ladakh**.
- Studies physiological, psychological and operational dynamics of crew and ground teams in a **high-altitude** setting; involves the four astronaut-designates.

DPDT-3 (February)

- **Drogue Parachute Deployment Test** at **TBRL, Chandigarh**.
- Evaluated **high-speed aerodynamic loads** and changes in the **ballistic trajectory** of the capsule.

IADT-02 (April)

- Second **Integrated Air Drop Test**, at **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.
- **IADT-01** was held in **August 2025**.
- Validated safe descent and landing of the **Crew Module** after re-entry with its **parachute system**; the module is dropped from an **IAF Chinook** helicopter.

IMAT-05 (July)

- **Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test** at **Sheopur** (MP): a **flight qualification test**.
- Evaluated the main parachute's **design margins and structural integrity** under the **highest anticipated loads**.

SOLVE (July)

- **Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments**, by ISRO; **ground test** done.
- Low-cost sub-orbital platform to validate the **Integrated Parachute System** of the Crew Module and recovery technologies without an orbital launch.
- Allows **repeated** demonstration and qualification tests under realistic flight conditions.

Shubhanshu Shukla

- **First Indian on the ISS** and **second Indian in space**, via **Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)**, 2025.
- Awarded the **Ashok Chakra** (2026). Memoir: **"The Second Orbit"** (July 2026).
- First Indian in space: **Rakesh Sharma** (Soyuz T-11, **1984**).
- ISRO chief **V. Narayanan** and Shukla released **two stamps** on India's Human Space Programme in **Bengaluru**.

Roadmap

- **Bharatiya Antariksh Station**: India's own space station, operational by **2035**. Also planned: **Chandrayaan-4** (lunar sample return), **LUPEX / Chandrayaan-5** (with Japan), **Shukrayaan** (Venus).
- **National Space Day, 23 August**: Chandrayaan-3 (Vikram) soft landing near the lunar south pole, 2023.

STATIC LINK

- **ISRO:** est. **15 Aug 1969**; HQ **Bengaluru**; under the Department of Space. Chairman: **V. Narayanan**.
- Gaganyaan announced by the PM on **15 Aug 2018**; crew escape system tested in **TV-D1** (Oct 2023).

QUICK RECALL

- MITRA held in: **Ladakh**.
- Parachute tests 2026: **DPDT-3** (TBRL Chandigarh), **IADT-02** (Sriharikota), **IMAT-05** (Sheopur).
- Uncrewed G1–G3 carry: **Vyommitra**.
- SOLVE: **Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments**.
- Orbit / crew / days: **400 km / 3 / 3**.
- Crewed launch target: **Q1 2027**.
- First Indian on the ISS: **Shubhanshu Shukla (Ax-4, 2025)**.

See also: 016 Ashok Chakra for Shubhanshu Shukla; 061 Artemis II; 108 Skyroot Vikram-1; 128 National Space Day.

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063 IBCA Summit

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

India was to host the **1st International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit** in **New Delhi on 1-2 June 2026**, where the **"New Delhi Declaration"**, the first global declaration exclusively on big cat conservation, was **proposed for adoption**. The summit was **postponed** over **Ebola** concerns, along with the **4th India-Africa Forum Summit**, so the Declaration has **not yet been adopted**. **Panama** (September) is IBCA's newest member.

IBCA: basics

- **India-led intergovernmental alliance** for **7 big cats**: **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, Puma**.
- **Launched 9 April 2023** by PM Modi at the **50th anniversary of Project Tiger** (Mysuru); **Cabinet approval Feb 2024**.
- **HQ: New Delhi**. **Nodal agency: NTCA** under MoEFCC.
- **President: Bhupender Yadav** (Environment Minister). **DG: S.P. Yadav**.
- Coalition of **95 big cat range countries**, non-range countries, partners, scientific bodies and businesses.
- **Membership: 30 member countries**, **5 observer countries**, **11 partner organisations**.
- **Joined in 2026: Saudi Arabia** (May), **Bangladesh**, **Panama** (September, newest).

The summit that wasn't

- **Theme:** "Save Big Cats, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem". Website and logo launched by the Environment Minister.
- **Proposed Delhi Declaration** (not yet adopted): shared priorities, transboundary cooperation, landscape-based approach.
- **Pre-summit species events:** e.g. **"Lion" Species Spotlight** at **Sasan Gir, Gujarat**.
- **Postponed:** Ebola outbreak; held jointly with the **India-Africa Forum Summit** to ensure African range countries could take part.
- **BRICS (Sept)** acknowledged India's IBCA leadership.

India's big-cat projects

Project	Year	Note
Project Tiger	1973	Launched at **Jim Corbett NP**; now under **NTCA**; India has **75%+** of wild tigers
Project Snow Leopard	2009	J&K, HP, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal
Project Lion	2020	Asiatic lion; India is home to **100% of wild Asiatic lions**; **Gir** landscape; alternative site **Barda WLS**
Project Cheetah	2022	World's first **transcontinental relocation** of African cheetahs, from **Namibia, South Africa and Botswana** to **Kuno NP, MP** (see 022)

- **NTCA:** statutory body under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** (via 2006 amendment); chaired by the Environment Minister. **29th meeting** (July) proposed **STRIPES** and a **Tiger Conclave**; released **STRIDES 2026**.

Days to remember

Day	Date
International Tiger Day	**29 July** (since 2010 St Petersburg Summit; TX2 goal)
World Lion Day	**10 August**
International Snow Leopard Day	**23 October**
International Jaguar Day	**29 November**
International Cheetah Day	**4 December**

STATIC LINK

- Asiatic lion: *Panthera leo persica*, wild only in India (Gir).

QUICK RECALL

- IBCA launched: **9 April 2023**, Project Tiger at 50.
- Big cats covered: **7**; HQ **New Delhi**.
- Newest member: **Panama** (Sept); total **30** members.
- Summit postponed due to: **Ebola**.
- Proposed document (not yet adopted): **(New) Delhi Declaration**.

See also: 022 Project Cheetah; 149 World Rhino Day & Project Rhino; 053 World Wildlife Day & CITES.

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064 INS Aridhaman

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

INS Aridhaman (S4) is India's **third Arihant-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, after INS Arihant (S2) and INS Arighaat (S3), built under the secret **Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) Project**. It strengthens the **sea leg of India's nuclear triad**, the most survivable part of a second-strike deterrent.

INS Aridhaman: key facts

- **Type: SSBN** (Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear): a strategic strike nuclear submarine; nuclear reactor for propulsion, nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles as weapons.
- **Class: Arihant-class**; **3rd** of the class. Pennant **S4**.
- **Project: Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV)**, built at the Ship Building Centre, **Visakhapatnam**.
- Larger than its predecessors; carries more **K-4 SLBMs**.
- **Next:** delivery and commissioning of **INS Arisudan (S5)** is pending.

The Arihant line

Boat	Pennant	Commissioned
INS Arihant	S2	2016
INS Arighaat	S3	2024
INS Aridhaman	**S4**	In news, April 2026
INS Arisudan	S5	Pending

Nuclear submarine club

- Only **6 countries** operate nuclear-powered submarines: the **P5** (USA, Russia, China, UK, France) and **India**.
- **SSBN** carries ballistic missiles (deterrence); **SSN** is a nuclear-powered attack submarine (hunter-killer).

Nuclear terms to know

- **Credible Minimum Deterrence (CMD)** and **No First Use (NFU)**: pillars of India's nuclear doctrine (2003).
- **Nuclear Triad:** ability to deliver nuclear weapons from land (Agni), air (fighters) and sea (SSBNs).
- **Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD):** deterrence by assured retaliation.
- **Strategic Forces Command (SFC):** manages strategic nuclear assets; test-fired **Agni-4** (about 4,000 km) from Chandipur on 6 Aug 2026.

STATIC LINK

- India's SLBMs: **K-15 (Sagarika)**, about 750 km; **K-4**, about 3,500 km (named after Dr APJ Abdul Kalam).
- **Nuclear Command Authority:** Political Council chaired by the **PM**; Executive Council headed by the **NSA**; SFC set up in **2003**.

QUICK RECALL

- Aridhaman's class: **Arihant-class**; type: **SSBN**.
- Project: **Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV)**.
- Number in class: **3rd** (S4); next is **Arisudan (S5)**.
- Countries with nuclear subs: **P5 + India**.
- Doctrine pillars: **No First Use + Credible Minimum Deterrence**.

Other naval inductions in the news (2026)

Vessel	Type	Class	News
INS Anjadip	ASW-SWC	Arnala	Commissioned (Feb)
INS Dunagiri	Stealth frigate	Nilgiri, P-17A	Delivered (Mar); commissioned (Jun)
INS Sanshodhak	Survey vessel (L)	Sandhayak	Delivered (Mar); commissioned (Jun)
INS Agray	ASW-SWC	Arnala	Delivered (Mar); commissioned (Jun)
INS Taragiri (F41)	Stealth frigate	Nilgiri, P-17A	Scheduled for commissioning (Apr)
INS Malwan	ASW-SWC	Mahe	Delivered (Apr)
INS Mahendragiri	Stealth frigate	Nilgiri, P-17A	Delivered (May); commissioned (Jul)
Machilipatnam	ASW-SWC	Mahe	Launched (Jul)
INS Mangrol	ASW-SWC	Mahe	Delivered (Aug)
Shruti	NGOPV	Shachi	Launched (Aug)
INS Nipun	Diving support	Nistar	Commissioned (Sep)

- **ASW-SWC**: Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft; two classes of 8 each (**Arnala** by GRSE, **Mahe** by CSL). P-17A frigates: MDL and GRSE.
- **NGOPV**: Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel.

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065 EBP Programme

MAJOR | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026

Having hit **E20 (20% ethanol) in 2025**, five years ahead of the 2030 goal, India pushed further in 2026: **all petrol must be E20** from April, MoRTH proposed rules for **E85, E100 and B100**, BIS notified standards up to **E30**, and **E85** plus India's first **flex-fuel vehicles** were launched on **World Environment Day (5 June)**.

Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme

- **Launched: 2003**; run by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** under the **National Policy on Biofuels (NBP), 2018**.
- **Goals:** cut crude oil imports, cut greenhouse gas emissions, raise **farmers' incomes** via a new market for farm produce.
- **Feedstocks:** sugarcane, sugar beet, corn (maize), cassava and biomass, by **fermentation**.
- **E20 achieved in 2025** (original deadline 2030). From **April 2026** all petrol sold must be **E20** with minimum **RON 95**.
- Next aim: **30% blending by 2030**.

Blends at a glance

Blend	Ethanol share	2026 status
E10	10%	Earlier norm
E20	20%	Nationwide, mandatory
E22 to **E30**	22-30%	BIS standard **IS 19850:2026** (May)
E85	80-85% (+14-19% petrol)	Launched 5 June; for FFVs
E100	100%	Proposed in CMVR draft

April: MoRTH draft rules

- Draft to amend the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989** to include **E85, E100** and **B100 biodiesel** for vehicle certification and use.

May: BIS standards

- **IS 19850:2026**: ethanol-blended petrol, covering **E22, E25, E27, E30**.
- **IS 18698:2026**: **DME-blended LPG** (non-automotive); DME capped at **8% by mass** (earlier 20%).

June: E85 and flex-fuel vehicles

- **E85** unveiled by Petroleum Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** on **World Environment Day**; rollout at **48** PSU fuel stations.
- Expansion: **500 outlets by Dec 2026**, about **5,000 by Dec 2027**; expected to lift overall blending to about **26% by 2030-31**.
- **Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs)** run on any blend from **E20 to E100**.
- India's first flex-fuel **passenger vehicle**: **Maruti Suzuki**; first mass-market flex-fuel **motorcycles**: **Hero MotoCorp**.

Wider biofuel ecosystem

- **PM JI-VAN Yojana:** 2G (second-generation) ethanol projects. **GOBAR-DHAN:** Bio-CNG from cattle dung. **RUCO:** used cooking oil to biodiesel.
- **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**: India-led; **New Zealand** (July) and **Canada** (March) announced joining.
- **World Biofuel Day: 10 August**.

STATIC LINK

- NBP 2018 was amended in **2022** to advance the E20 target from 2030 to **2025-26**.
- GBA launched at the **G20 New Delhi Summit, Sept 2023**.
- World Biofuel Day honours **Rudolf Diesel**'s 1893 engine run on peanut oil.

QUICK RECALL

- EBP launched: **2003**; nodal ministry: **MoPNG**.
- E20 achieved: **2025**; mandatory for all petrol from **April 2026**.
- BIS standard up to E30: **IS 19850:2026**.
- E85 launched on: **5 June 2026**, at 48 outlets.
- First flex-fuel car: **Maruti Suzuki**.

See also: 090 World Environment Day; 129 GOBARdhan Scheme.

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066 Anti-Defection (Tenth Schedule)

MINOR | Apr 2026 | Aug 2026

Seven AAP Rajya Sabha MPs, including **Raghav Chadha** and **Harbhajan Singh**, joined the **BJP** in April 2026. AAP petitioned the **Rajya Sabha Chairman** to disqualify them under the **Tenth Schedule**; the MPs claim protection as a **two-thirds merger** of the legislature party. Later in 2026, a large number of **AITC** MPs announced a merger with the **Nationalist Citizens Party of India**; in another instance, a large number of **Shiv Sena (UBT)** MPs merged with the **Shiv Sena**.

The dispute

- **Defectors' case:** 2/3 of the AAP Rajya Sabha **legislature party** merged with the BJP, so the merger exception (Para 4) applies.
- **AAP's case:** Para 4 needs a genuine merger of the **original political party**, which 2/3 of the legislature party then agree to; legislators switching alone is not enough.
- **Decider:** the **Chairman** of the Rajya Sabha.

Tenth Schedule: basics

- Added by the **52nd Amendment Act, 1985** (Rajiv Gandhi govt).
- Background: **Committee on Defections** (1967-69), chaired by **Y.B. Chavan**.
- **91st Amendment, 2003**: removed the **one-third split** exception.
- "Legislature party": all members of a House from one political party.
- **Para 5 exception:** a member elected **Speaker / Deputy Speaker / Deputy Chairman** who gives up party membership is not disqualified.

Grounds for disqualification

- **Voluntarily giving up** membership of the party on whose ticket elected.
- Voting or abstaining **against the party whip**.
- An **independent** member joining a party.
- A **nominated** member joining a party **after six months** of nomination.

STATIC LINK

- **Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992):** upheld the Tenth Schedule; the presiding officer's decision is subject to **judicial review**.
- Rajya Sabha Chairman = **Vice-President** (ex officio).

QUICK RECALL

- Anti-defection law: **Tenth Schedule, 52nd Amendment (1985)**.
- Merger exception needs: **2/3** of the legislature party.
- Split exception removed by: **91st Amendment (2003)**.
- Who decides: **Speaker / Chairman**.
- Committee behind the law: **Y.B. Chavan Committee** (1967-69).

See also: 059 131st Amendment Bill; 120 Monsoon Session of Parliament.

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067 Nine-Judge Bench Hearings (Industry; Sabarimala Review)

MINOR | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | Aug 2026

In 2026 the Supreme Court sat in rare **nine-judge Constitution Benches** twice: in **March** on the meaning of **"industry"** (**State of UP v. Jai Bir Singh**; judgment August), and from **April** on the **Sabarimala review reference** (**Kantaru Rajeevaru v. Indian Young Lawyers Association**) on the scope of religious freedom.

1. Definition of "industry" (March)

- **Case: State of UP v. Jai Bir Singh**; heard **17-18 March 2026**; **judgment delivered 20 August 2026**.
- Reference to re-examine **Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa (1978)**, which gave "industry" under the **Industrial Disputes Act, 1947** a wide meaning (the "triple test": **systematic activity**, **employer-employee cooperation**, production of goods or services for human wants), covering even hospitals and clubs.
- **Outcome: 4-4-1 split**; no majority to overrule Rajappa. **CJI Surya Kant** + 3 judges proposed a narrower test (activity must have a **commercial character**), to apply only prospectively; **Justices Nagarathna, Datta, Bhuyan, Bagchi** upheld Rajappa; **Justice Narasimha** held the question largely academic after the 1947 Act's repeal.
- **Holding:** Rajappa's **triple test continues to govern all disputes pending** under the repealed **Industrial Disputes Act, 1947**; "industry" under **Sec. 2(p), Industrial Relations Code, 2020** (in force **21 Nov 2025**) is to be read **on its own terms**.

2. Sabarimala reference (April)

- Arises from review petitions against **Indian Young Lawyers Association v. State of Kerala (2018)**, which allowed **women of all ages** into the **Sabarimala** temple (deity: **Lord Ayyappa**). That verdict was **4:1** (Justice **Indu Malhotra** dissenting); in **2019** a 5-judge bench referred the larger questions to a bigger bench.
- **Bench:** CJI **Surya Kant**, Justices **BV Nagarathna**, MM Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan, Joymalya Bagchi.
- **Seven questions**, incl.: scope of **Art. 25**; interplay of **Art. 25 and Art. 26**; whether Art. 26 is subject to other Part III rights; whether "morality" includes **constitutional morality**; limits of judicial review of religious practice; meaning of "**sections of Hindus**" in Art. 25(2)(b); whether outsiders can challenge a denomination's practice by **PIL**.

Bench sizes

- **Division Bench:** 2 judges. **Full Bench:** 3 judges. **Constitution Bench:** 5 or more (Art. 145(3)).

STATIC LINK

- **Art. 25:** freedom of conscience and to profess, practise, propagate religion. **Art. 26:** right of religious denominations to manage their affairs.
- **Largest bench till date:** 13 judges, **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)**.

QUICK RECALL

- Industry case: **State of UP v. Jai Bir Singh** (re **BWSSB v. Rajappa**).
- Sabarimala reference title: **Kantaru Rajeevaru v. IYLA**.
- 2018 judgment under review: **IYLA v. State of Kerala**.

See also: 073 Increase in Supreme Court Judges.

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068 200th Birth Anniversary of Phule

MINOR | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026

The Government of India launched a **two-year nationwide commemoration** of the **200th birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule**, from **11 April 2026 to 11 April 2028**, under the **"Phule Across India"** initiative, led by a **126-member committee chaired by PM Narendra Modi**.

Jyotirao (Jyotiba) Phule

- **Born: 11 April 1827**, Maharashtra, in the **Mali** community; died 28 Nov 1890, Pune.
- Called the **"Father of Indian Social Revolution"**; worked for backward classes and women, sought abolition of caste.
- Given the title **"Mahatma"** in **1888**, in Bombay.
- Seen as a forerunner of the **non-Brahmin movement** in western India.

Contributions

- **1848:** with **Savitribai Phule**, started the first **school for girls in Pune**.
- **1873: Satyashodhak Samaj** ("Society of Truth Seekers"), to organise lower castes against the varna-based order; open to all, it rejected the need for priests in rituals.
- **Gulamgiri (1873):** compared caste oppression with **American slavery**; dedicated to the US anti-slavery movement.
- Also: **Satyashodhak** weekly; *Shetkaryacha Asud* (on peasants).
- With Savitribai, backed **widow remarriage** and opposed **child marriage**.
- Opened a home to prevent infanticide among widows (**1863**) and opened his family well to untouchables.

See also: 072 Dr B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti.

Maharashtra link (March)

- Maharashtra declared **2026-27** the **Year of Social Harmony & Equality**, marking Phule's 200th year and the start of the **Mahad Satyagraha** centenary (Ambedkar, 1927).

STATIC LINK

- **Savitribai Phule** (b. 3 Jan 1831): India's first woman teacher; co-founded the Pune girls' school.
- Ambedkar counted Phule among his **three gurus** (with Buddha and Kabir); dedicated *Who Were the Shudras?* to him.

QUICK RECALL

- Born: **11 April 1827**.
- Satyashodhak Samaj: **1873**.
- Book comparing caste to slavery: **Gulamgiri**.
- First girls' school: **Pune, 1848**.
- Commemoration chaired by: **PM Modi** (126 members).
- Commemoration period: **11 April 2026 to 11 April 2028**.

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069 India-New Zealand FTA

MINOR | Apr 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

India and New Zealand signed a **Free Trade Agreement in April 2026** giving **100% duty-free access** to all Indian exports. Both sides have ratified it, and it **came into force on 20 October 2026** (Dussehra / Vijaya Dashami).

Key features

- **100% duty-free access:** NZ eliminates duties on **all tariff lines** of Indian exports; boost to MSMEs, textiles, leather, footwear, gems.
- **FDI commitment:** NZ to invest **USD 20 billion** in India over **15 years**.
- **AYUSH:** first-time NZ provision to recognise and facilitate trade in **Ayurveda, Yoga** and other traditional systems.
- **Services:** market access in **118** sectors; **MFN** treatment in **139**.
- **Agricultural Productivity Partnership**.

India's recent trade deals

- **UAE CEPA** (2022), **Australia ECTA** (2022), **EFTA TEPA** (2024), **UK CETA** (2025), **Oman CEPA** (signed Dec 2025; in force **1 June 2026**), **EU FTA** (2026), **New Zealand FTA** (2026).

Follow-up: PM Modi in NZ (July)

- Visit to **Auckland** at PM **Christopher Luxon**'s invitation; Māori **pōwhiri and haka** welcome.
- Ties raised to a **Strategic Partnership**; **Roadmap to 2030**; aim to **double bilateral trade by 2030**; faster FTA implementation.
- NZ joined the **Global Biofuels Alliance**; **Kiwi Fruit Action Plan**; MoA on **maritime cooperation**, **Maritime Security Dialogue**, JWG on **counter-terrorism**; 100 years of sporting ties (Indian Army hockey tour of NZ, 1926).

See also: 004 India-EU FTA; 113 PM Visit to Australia & New Zealand.

STATIC LINK

- NZ: capital **Wellington**; PM **Christopher Luxon**; currency NZ dollar.
- India's other 2026 FTA: **India-EU FTA** (Jan).
- An FTA cuts tariffs between members; **MFN** treatment means no less favourable terms than given to any other partner.

QUICK RECALL

- Duty-free access for Indian exports: **100%**.
- NZ investment pledge: **USD 20 bn over 15 years**.
- FTA signed: **April 2026**; entry into force: **20 October 2026**.
- Services: **118** sectors access; **MFN in 139**.
- NZ Prime Minister: **Christopher Luxon**.
- Relationship level (July): **Strategic Partnership**.

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070 UAE Exits OPEC, OPEC+

MINOR Apr 2026

The **United Arab Emirates** withdrew from **OPEC** and the wider **OPEC+** alliance with effect from **1 May 2026**, leaving OPEC with **11 members**. The main reason: **production quotas** that capped its expanding capacity, as it aims for **5 million barrels per day by 2027**.

OPEC

- Permanent intergovernmental body created at the **Baghdad Conference, 1960**.
- **Founders (5): Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela**.
- **HQ: Vienna, Austria**. Secretary General: **Haitham Al Ghais** (Kuwait).
- **Remaining 11:** Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela.
- UAE had been a member since **1967** (as Abu Dhabi). Earlier exits: Qatar (2019), Ecuador (2020), Angola (2024).

Why the UAE left

- **Restrictive production quotas** limited use of its expanded capacity; target **5 million barrels/day by 2027**.
- Leaving frees it to pump at will; ends nearly **six decades** of membership.

OPEC+

- Formed **2016**: OPEC + **10 other producers**, to counter falling prices from **US shale** growth.
- Non-OPEC members: **Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan, Sudan**.
- **Russia** is the biggest non-OPEC member.
- Basis: the **Declaration of Cooperation** (Dec 2016); members agree joint output quotas.

STATIC LINK

- Global crude benchmarks: **Brent** (North Sea) and **WTI** (US); a cartel cut or exit shifts these prices.
- India is a major oil importer and not an OPEC member; supply risks rose with the West Asia war and **Strait of Hormuz** disruption.

QUICK RECALL

- Exit effective: **1 May 2026**.
- OPEC members left: **11**.
- OPEC founded: **Baghdad, 1960**; HQ **Vienna**.
- OPEC+ formed: **2016**.
- OPEC founders: **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela**.
- UAE's reason: **quota limits** vs target of **5 mb/d by 2027**.

See also: 038 West Asia / Middle East war.

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071 CMS COP15, Campo Grande, Brazil

MINOR | Apr 2026 | May 2026

The **15th Conference of the Parties (COP15)** to the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** was held in **Campo Grande, Brazil** in **March 2026**. It added or reclassified **40 migratory species** in the CMS Appendices and flagged steep global declines in migratory species.

COP15 at a glance

- **Venue:** Campo Grande, Brazil; **130+** countries took part.
- **Theme: "Connecting Nature to Sustain Life"**.
- **President: João Paulo Capobianco** (Brazil).
- **Outcomes: 40 species** added or reclassified in Appendix I or II; **Regional Action Plan for Amazonian migratory catfish**.
- Backdrop: CMS's first **State of the World's Migratory Species** report (2024) found about **44%** of listed populations declining.
- **COP16: Bonn, Germany, 2029**, the Convention's 50th anniversary.

About CMS (Bonn Convention)

- Signed **1979, Bonn**, under **UNEP**; in force **1983**. **133 Parties**; **India a Party since 1983**.
- COP is the top decision-making body; meets **every three years**.
- **Appendix I:** endangered migratory species. **Appendix II:** species needing conservation through **agreements**.
- Aim: **transboundary conservation** of species crossing borders and protection of their migratory routes and habitats.
- Co-coordinates, with **AEWA, EAAFP** and Environment for the Americas, **World Migratory Bird Day** (9 May 2026; theme "Every Bird Counts: Your Observations Matter!").

See also: 053 World Wildlife Day & CITES; 017 New Ramsar Sites.

STATIC LINK

- **COP13** was hosted by India at **Gandhinagar (2020)**; **COP14** at Samarkand, Uzbekistan (2024).
- India lies on the **Central Asian Flyway**; its **99th Ramsar site, Shekha Jheel** (Aligarh, UP; April 2026) is on it.

QUICK RECALL

- COP15 host city: **Campo Grande, Brazil**.
- Theme: **Connecting Nature to Sustain Life**.
- Species added / reclassified: **40**.
- Next COP (COP16): **Bonn, 2029**.
- CMS also called: **Bonn Convention (1979)**.

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072 Dr B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti

MINOR | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026

The nation marked the **135th birth anniversary** of **Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar** on **14 April 2026**. Born on **14 April 1891** at **Mhow** (MP) in a Mahar family, he was **Chairman of the Drafting Committee** and India's **first Law Minister**. 2026-27 also opens the **centenary of the Mahad Satyagraha**.

Movements

- **Mahad (Chavdar Tal) Satyagraha, 20 March 1927**: Dalits drank water from the public **Chavdar Tank**, Mahad (now Raigad). Background: **Bole Resolution, 1923**.
- **25 Dec 1927:** burnt the **Manusmriti** (Manusmriti Dahan Divas), at the second Mahad conference.
- Represented the **Depressed Classes** at all three **Round Table Conferences** (1930-32); **Poona Pact, 1932** with Gandhi.
- **14 Oct 1956:** mass conversion to **Buddhism** at **Nagpur**; administered the **22 Vows**.

Constitution and office

- Called **Art. 32** (constitutional remedies) the **"heart and soul"** of the Constitution.
- Resigned from Cabinet in **1951** over the stalled **Hindu Code Bill**.
- **Bharat Ratna** (posthumous): **1990**. Died **6 Dec 1956** (Mahaparinirvan Diwas).

Organisations and books

- **Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha** (1924), **Independent Labour Party** (1936), **Scheduled Castes Federation** (1942). Journal: **Mooknayak** (1920).
- *Annihilation of Caste*; *Who Were the Shudras?*; *The Untouchables*; *Pakistan or the Partition of India*; *Riddles in Hinduism*; *The Buddha and His Dhamma*; *Castes in India*. Autobiography: ***Waiting for a Visa***.

See also: 068 200th Birth Anniversary of Phule.

Panchteerth (five sites)

Bhoomi	Place
Janma	**Mhow**, MP (birth)
Shiksha	**London** (stay while studying)
Deeksha	**Nagpur** (Buddhism, 1956)
Mahaparinirvan	**Delhi** (death)
Chaitya	**Mumbai** (cremation)

STATIC LINK

- **Constitution Day, 26 November**: adoption of the Constitution (1949).
- Labour Member, **Viceroy's Executive Council**, 1942-46.

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 anniversary: **135th**.
- Mahad Satyagraha: **20 March 1927**, Chavdar Tal.
- "Heart and soul": **Art. 32**.
- Deeksha Bhoomi: **Nagpur**; Chaitya Bhoomi: **Mumbai**.

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073 Increase in Supreme Court Judges

MAJOR | May 2026 | Aug 2026 | Oct 2026

On **16 May 2026** President Droupadi Murmu promulgated the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026**, raising the Court's sanctioned strength from **34 to 38 including the CJI** (33 to 37 other judges). Parliament replaced it with the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2026** in the Monsoon Session: the first increase since 2019.

Timeline

- **May 2026:** Union Cabinet approves the Amendment Bill to amend the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**.
- **16 May 2026:** Ordinance under **Article 123** gives immediate effect.
- **Monsoon Session (Aug):** Bill passed by both Houses and assented to; one of **two Ordinances replaced by Bills** (other: Income-Tax (Amendment) Ordinance).

34 to 38 or 33 to 37? Read the options

	Before	After
Including CJI / Total Strength	34	**38**
Excluding CJI / Puisne Judges	33	**37**

Evolution of strength

Year	Law	Judges (excl. CJI)
1950	Art. 124(1)	7 (8 incl. CJI)
1956	Number of Judges Act	10
1960 / 1977	Amendments	13 / 17
1986 / 2008	Amendments	25 / 30
2019	Amendment	33 (34 incl. CJI)
2026	Ordinance, then Act	**37 (38 incl. CJI)**

Process to increase strength

- **CJI** usually proposes to the **Ministry of Law and Justice** (backlog, need for Constitution Benches).
- Cabinet approval, then Bill passed by **simple majority** in both Houses, then President's assent.
- Only **Parliament by law** can change SC strength; for High Courts the President fixes numbers (**Art. 216**).

Money Bill controversy (Aug)

- Introduced as a **Money Bill** (extra expenditure from the Consolidated Fund), citing **Art. 110(1)(g)** ("incidental matters").
- Opposition: dilutes **Rajya Sabha**, which can only recommend, not reject or amend, once the **Speaker** certifies a Money Bill.

Ordinance power (Art. 123)

- Issued when **either House is not in session**; same force as an Act; cannot amend the Constitution; open to judicial review.
- Lapses **6 weeks after Parliament reassembles**, or earlier if **both Houses disapprove** it; may be withdrawn anytime. Governor's equivalent: **Art. 213**.

SC judges appointed in 2026 (eight)

- **V. Mohana**: Senior Advocate, directly from the **Bar**.
- **Sheel Nagu** (CJ, Punjab & Haryana HC); **Shree Chandrashekhar** (CJ, Bombay HC); **Sanjeev Sachdeva** (CJ, MP HC); **Arun Palli** (CJ, J&K and Ladakh HC).
- **October: Sunita Agarwal** (CJ, Gujarat HC); **Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya** (CJ, Delhi HC); **Aparesh Kumar Singh** (CJ, Telangana HC).
- Qualifications: 5 yrs HC judge, or 10 yrs HC advocate, or **distinguished jurist** in the President's opinion.

Collegium

- Created by **Second Judges Case (1993)**, clarified by **Third Judges Case (1998)**; overturned **S.P. Gupta** (First Judges Case).
- SC appointments and HC transfers: **CJI + 4** senior-most; HC appointments: **CJI + 2**.
- **99th Amendment (NJAC)** struck down in the **Fourth Judges Case** (SCAORA v. UoI).

STATIC LINK

- **Art. 124(1)**: SC = CJI and, until Parliament prescribes more, not more than 7 other judges.
- SC judges retire at 65; current CJI: **Surya Kant**.
- First CJI: **H.J. Kania** (1950). Only CJI to serve as **Acting President**: **M. Hidayatullah** (1969), also the **first Muslim CJI**. Longest-serving: **Y.V. Chandrachud** (1978–85).
- First **Parsi** CJI: **S.H. Kapadia** (2010); first **Sikh**: **J.S. Khehar** (2017); first **Buddhist**: **B.R. Gavai** (2025).

QUICK RECALL

- New strength: **38 incl. CJI** (37 + CJI).
- Parent Act amended: **SC (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**.
- Ordinance: **16 May 2026** (Art. 123); **simple majority**.
- Previous increase: **2019** (31 to 34).

See also: 120 Monsoon Session of Parliament.

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074 Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | May 2026 | Sep 2026

In **Association for Democratic Reforms v. Election Commission of India** (**27 May 2026**), a two-judge Bench led by **CJI Surya Kant upheld the Election Commission's power to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls, tracing it to **Section 21(3), RP Act 1950** read with **Article 324**. On **14 May 2026** the ECI ordered **SIR Phase III in 16 States and 3 UTs**.

What is SIR?

- A large-scale, intensive revision of electoral rolls by the ECI under its constitutional and statutory powers.
- Objective: **no eligible citizen left out, no ineligible person included**.
- Eligibility: an Indian citizen, **18 years** on the qualifying date, not otherwise disqualified.
- Court accepted the rationale of an intensive revision **after more than two decades**; the **2003 roll** was the reference base.
- Court: electoral rolls are **not static documents**; they must evolve with demographic and residential change.

Legal basis

- **Art. 324**: superintendence, direction and control of elections vests in the ECI (Part XV).
- **RP Act, 1950, S. 21(3)**: ECI may order a special revision; **S. 16**: non-citizens disqualified from enrolment.
- **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**: procedure; **Rule 21A** covers deletions.

SC verdict: key holdings

- Case: **ADR v. ECI** (lead petition, with others). Bench: **CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi**.
- SIR does not conflict with the RP Act or 1960 Rules; satisfies **proportionality**.
- Inclusion in the roll raises only a **rebuttable presumption**; **Lal Babu Hussein** case distinguished.
- Deletions consistent with **Rule 21A**: notice and hearing preserved in substance.
- Documentation regime upheld (**Aadhaar** added by order of 8 Sep 2025).
- ECI may hold a **limited enquiry into citizenship** for electoral purposes only; deletion is **not a finding that a person is not a citizen**.
- Doubtful cases to be referred within **4 weeks** to the competent authority under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**.

See also: 133 Election Commission of India; 081 Assembly Elections.

Phases and the first State

- **Bihar**: first State where SIR was held (2025); the verdict lets Bihar residents wrongly deleted as absent, dead, shifted or duplicate seek judicial review.
- **Phase II** covered States incl. **West Bengal**.
- **Phase III**: ordered **14 May 2026** for **16 States + 3 UTs**.

Controversies

- **4 Feb 2026**: **Mamata Banerjee** became the **first sitting CM to argue in person** before the SC (Mamata Banerjee v. ECI), challenging SIR in West Bengal.
- **March**: Opposition moved to impeach **CEC Gyanesh Kumar**, alleging West Bengal was targeted during SIR. Removal under **Art. 324(5)**, like an SC judge (notice by 100 LS or 50 RS MPs).
- **September**: ECs **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** and **Vivek Joshi** raised at least 14 objections, incl. on SIR.

STATIC LINK

- ECI set up **25 January 1950** (National Voters' Day); HQ Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi; Part XV, Arts. 324-329.
- **Art. 326**: adult suffrage at 18 (61st Amendment, 1988, lowered it from 21).

QUICK RECALL

- Statutory power for special revision: **S. 21(3), RP Act 1950**.
- Constitutional source: **Art. 324**.
- First SIR State: **Bihar**.
- Phase III: **16 States, 3 UTs** (14 May 2026).
- First sitting CM to argue in SC: **Mamata Banerjee**.

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075 3rd India-Nordic Summit

MAJOR May 2026

PM Narendra Modi co-chaired the **3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo, Norway** (May 2026) with the leaders of Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Sweden. Ties were raised to a **Green Technology & Innovation Strategic Partnership**, and bilateral visits upgraded relations with **Norway (Green Strategic Partnership)** and **Sweden (Strategic Partnership)**.

Summit outcomes

- **Trade:** implementation of the **India-EFTA TEPA** (target **USD 100 bn** investment, **1 million** direct jobs) and conclusion of the India-EU FTA.
- **Climate: Iceland** joined **LeadIT 2.0** (decarbonising heavy industry); support for the **Hong Kong Convention** on safe ship recycling.
- **Tech/space:** ISRO-**Norwegian Space Agency** Framework Agreement; Swedish payload for **Shukrayaan-1**.
- **Defence:** Nordic firms invited to use **100% FDI** in Indian Defence Industrial Corridors.
- **Security:** Nordics back India for a **permanent UNSC seat** and **NSG** membership; condemned the 2025 **Pahalgam** and New Delhi attacks.

Summit series

Edition	Host	Year
1st	Stockholm, Sweden	2018
2nd	Copenhagen, Denmark	2022
3rd	**Oslo, Norway**	2026
4th	**Finland** (next)	-

India-Norway

- Talks with PM **Jonas Gahr Støre** in Oslo: **first bilateral PM visit in over 43 years**.
- Upgraded to a **Green Strategic Partnership**; Norway joined the **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**.
- Modi received the **Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit**, Norway's highest civilian honour for foreign heads of government.

India-Sweden

- Upgraded to a **Strategic Partnership**; **Joint Action Plan 2026-2030**; PM **Ulf Kristersson**.
- Four pillars: security dialogue; next-gen economic partnership; emerging tech and trusted connectivity; people, planet, health and resilience.
- Trade & Investment Summit 2027: "**India-Sweden: Stronger Together, towards 2047**"; Joint Innovation Partnership 2.0; SME and Start-up Platform.
- Modi received the **Royal Order of the Polar Star (Commander Grand Cross)**; gifts honoured **Rabindranath Tagore**.

Shukrayaan: Sweden joins

- ISRO-Swedish National Space Agency MoU; Sweden supplies the **Venusian Neutrals Analyser (VNA)**, part of the **VISWAS** (**Venus Ionospheric and Solar Wind particle AnalySer**) payload.
- **Venus Orbiter Mission**: India's first Venus mission; **₹1,236 crore**, **19 payloads**; launch target **29 March 2028** on **LVM-3**. Other partners: Russia (VIRAL), Germany (RAVI).

Same tour: Chola plates return

- The **Netherlands** returned the 11th-century **Anaimangalam (Leiden) Copper Plates**: 21 large + 3 small plates, about 30 kg.
- Seals of **Rajendra Chola I** and **Kulottunga Chola I**; 5 plates Sanskrit, 16 Tamil.
- Record the grant of Anaimangalam village to the **Chudamani Vihara**, a Buddhist monastery at **Nagapattinam**; taken to the Netherlands in 1712, at **Leiden University** from 1862.

STATIC LINK

- **Nordic** = Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden (+ Faroe, Greenland, Åland); **Scandinavia** = Norway, Sweden, Denmark.
- **Nordic Council**: est. **1952**; 87 parliamentarians; Helsinki Agreement 1962.

QUICK RECALL

- 3rd India-Nordic Summit venue: **Oslo**; next host: **Finland**.
- India-Norway tag: **Green Strategic Partnership**.
- Swedish honour to Modi: **Order of the Polar Star**.
- Swedish instrument on Shukrayaan: **VNA**.
- Leiden Plates dynasty: **Chola**.

See also: 004 India-EU Free Trade Agreement; 082 Bilateral Visit to Italy.

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076 Service Chiefs

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Sep 2026

2026 brought a complete change at the top of India's armed forces: **Gen NS Raja Subramani became the 3rd Chief of Defence Staff**, **Adm Krishna Swaminathan the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff** and **Gen Dhiraj Seth the 31st Chief of the Army Staff**. **ACM Ashutosh Dixit** takes over as the **29th Chief of the Air Staff w.e.f. 31 October 2026**, succeeding **ACM Amar Preet Singh**.

Who holds what (from 31 October 2026)

Post	Incumbent	Predecessor
CDS (3rd)	**Gen NS Raja Subramani**	Gen Anil Chauhan (2nd)
COAS (31st)	**Gen Dhiraj Seth**	Gen Upendra Dwivedi
CNS (27th)	**Adm Krishna Swaminathan**	Adm Dinesh K. Tripathi
CAS (29th)	**ACM Ashutosh Dixit** (w.e.f. 31 Oct 2026)	ACM Amar Preet Singh

3rd Chief of Defence Staff (May)

- Lt Gen **NS Raja Subramani** appointed CDS, succeeding **Gen Anil Chauhan**.
- CDS is also **Permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee**, **Secretary, Department of Military Affairs** and **Principal Military Adviser to the Raksha Mantri**.
- A **four-star officer**, "first among equals"; can in theory come from **any of the three services**, but **all CDSs so far have been from the Army**; no fixed tenure, **upper age limit 65**.
- Post created **Dec 2019** by Cabinet decision (not constitutional); first CDS **Gen Bipin Rawat** (Jan 2020).
- Recommended by **Kargil Review Committee (K. Subrahmanyam, 1999)**, GoM (2001), Naresh Chandra Task Force (2012), **Shekatkar Committee (2016)**.
- Appointed by the **President** on recommendation of the **ACC** (chaired by the PM).

Chief of the Naval Staff (May)

- **Adm Krishna Swaminathan** took charge as **27th CNS**, succeeding **Adm Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**.
- CNS holds the rank of **Admiral**; first Indian CNS: **Vice Adm R.D. Katari** (1958-62).

Chief of the Air Staff

- New (**29th**) CAS: **Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit**, **w.e.f. 31 October 2026**; succeeds **ACM Amar Preet Singh**.
- First Indian Chief of Air Staff: **Subroto Mukherjee** (Subroto Cup football is named after him).

Chief of the Army Staff (June)

- Lt Gen **Dhiraj Seth**, then **Vice Chief of the Army Staff**, named **31st COAS**; Gen Upendra Dwivedi retired **30 June 2026**.
- Armoured Corps officer; PVSM, UYSM, AVSM. Also **Honorary General of the Nepali Army** (by tradition, Indian and Nepali Army chiefs are made honorary Generals of each other's army).
- Appointed by the President, Supreme Commander (**Art. 53**), on ACC advice.
- April: Gen Dwivedi inducted into the **US Army War College International Hall of Fame**, third Indian after **Gen V.K. Singh** and **Gen Bikram Singh**.

Service initiatives in 2026

- Army designated **2026** the **Year of Networking & Data Centricity**.
- Navy released the **Indian Navy Maritime Security Strategy (INMSS-2026)** (Adm Tripathi, April).
- **Rajesh Kumar Singh** given additional charge as **DRDO Chairman** (May).
- **RAKSHA**: **defence diplomacy** document (Rajnath Singh, **3 Sep**); **10-year roadmap (2026–36)**. Pillars: security cooperation, capacity building, **defence exports**, **maritime security**.

STATIC LINK

- Five-star honorary ranks: **Field Marshal** Sam Manekshaw, K.M. Cariappa; **Marshal of the Air Force** Arjan Singh; **Admiral of the Fleet**: none.
- **Cariappa**: first Indian C-in-C of the Army, 15 Jan 1949 (Army Day).
- **Navy Day, 4 December**: **Operation Trident** (1971), the Navy's missile-boat attack on **Karachi** harbour in the Indo-Pak war.
- **Air Force Day, 8 October**: the IAF was established on **8 Oct 1932** as an auxiliary of the RAF.

QUICK RECALL

- 3rd CDS: **NS Raja Subramani**.
- 31st Army Chief: **Dhiraj Seth**.
- 27th Navy Chief: **Krishna Swaminathan**.
- Air Chief: **Ashutosh Dixit** (from 31 Oct 2026).
- CDS age limit: **65**; post created **2019**.
- Army's theme for 2026: **Year of Networking & Data Centricity**.

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077 Press Freedom

MAJOR | May 2026 | Jul 2026

India ranked **157th of 180** in the **RSF World Press Freedom Index 2026**, down six places from 151st. Released ahead of **World Press Freedom Day (3 May)**, when UNESCO gave its **Guillermo Cano Prize 2026 to the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate**.

World Press Freedom Index 2026 (RSF)

- Published by **Reporters Without Borders (Reporters Sans Frontières)**, **Paris**; annual since **2002**; ranks **180** countries.
- Five indicators: **economic, legal, political, social, security**.
- **India 157th** (151st in 2025); Pakistan, Bhutan and Syria moved above India.
- **Top 5: Norway**, Netherlands, Estonia, Denmark, Sweden.
- **Bottom: Eritrea** last, then North Korea, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia.
- **Syria** climbed **36 places** (biggest gain) after its political transition; **USA 64th**.

World Press Freedom Day

- Observed **3 May** every year; UNESCO leads the global observance.
- 2026 theme: "**Shaping a Future at Peace**".
- 2026 global host: **Lusaka, Zambia**.

UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize

- 2026 winner: **Sudanese Journalists Syndicate**.
- The only UN-recognised award for defending press freedom under difficult conditions.
- Established **1997**; named after Colombian journalist **Guillermo Cano**.

Press Council of India

- Statutory, quasi-judicial body under the **Press Council Act, 1978**; watchdog of press freedom and standards.
- Chairperson: **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai** (retd. SC judge), **second term** of 3 years.

National Press Day and other press days

- **National Press Day: 16 November**, the day the Press Council of India began functioning (**1966**).
- **Hindi Journalism Day: 30 May**, marking **Udant Martand** (1826, Calcutta), the first Hindi newspaper, edited by **Pt. Jugal Kishore Shukla**.
- **Pulitzer 2026:** Indians **R.K. Anand** and **Suparna Sharma** won (Illustrated Reporting and Commentary) for "**trAPPed**", on a digital-arrest scam.

Media bodies in the news (May)

- **Prasoon Joshi**: Chairman, **Prasar Bharati** (statutory public broadcaster under the **Prasar Bharati Act, 1990**, operational 1997; runs AIR and Doordarshan).
- **Shashi Shekhar Vempati**: Chairperson, **CBFC** (3-year term; works under the **Cinematograph Act, 1952**).

STATIC LINK

- Press freedom in India is part of **Art. 19(1)(a)** (speech and expression), subject to reasonable restrictions under **Art. 19(2)**.
- UNESCO: HQ **Paris**. World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UNGA in **1993**, recalling the **Windhoek Declaration** (1991).
- First PCI set up in **1966** under the Press Council Act, 1965, on the **First Press Commission's** advice; **abolished during the Emergency (1976)** and re-established under the 1978 Act; its chairperson is by convention a retired SC judge.

QUICK RECALL

- India in WPFI 2026: **157th** (down from 151st).
- Index publisher: **RSF, Paris**.
- No. 1 in WPFI: **Norway**; last: **Eritrea**.
- Cano Prize 2026: **Sudanese Journalists Syndicate**.
- National Press Day: **16 Nov**; World Press Freedom Day: **3 May**.
- WPFD 2026 theme: **Shaping a Future at Peace** (host Lusaka).

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078 El Nino

MAJOR | May 2026 | Aug 2026

NOAA and **Copernicus** reported rising chances of an El Niño in 2026, with a **33% probability** that it becomes a **Super El Niño**, amid record ocean temperatures. By **29 August 2026**, **Ecuador** had declared a **nationwide red alert** as the event strengthened. The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has officially declared the **2026-27** event an **El Niño**. For India, El Niño means a weak monsoon, drought and heat.

ENSO: the basics

- **ENSO** = **El Niño Southern Oscillation**, a cycle of ocean-atmosphere change in the tropical Pacific.
- **El Niño** (warm phase): abnormal **warming** of surface waters in the **central and eastern Pacific**.
- **La Niña** (cold phase): abnormal **cooling** of the same waters.
- Name: Peruvian fishermen noticed warm coastal waters around **Christmas**, hence "Christ Child".
- The shift alters pressure systems such as the **Walker Circulation**, changing global rainfall and temperature.

El Niño vs La Niña

	El Niño	La Niña
Meaning (Spanish)	"Little boy" / "Christ Child"	"Little girl"
Trade winds	**Weaken**; warm water moves east	**Strengthen**; warm water pushed west
Upwelling off the Americas	Reduced (less cold, nutrient-rich water)	Stronger
Indian monsoon	**Weak**, drought, heat	**Strong**, above-normal rain

Super El Niño

- A much stronger El Niño: far higher Pacific warming and more severe global weather effects.
- Measured by the **Oceanic Niño Index** (Niño 3.4 region): El Niño at **+0.5°C** above normal; "super" or very strong at about **+2.0°C**.
- Rare: only **five** since **1950**; the last in **2015-16**.
- NOAA: **33%** chance that the El Niño developing in late summer and autumn 2026 becomes "super".
- Could make **2027 the hottest year on record**.

Global impact

- **Hurricanes:** stronger high-altitude winds suppress Atlantic hurricanes; a fiercer Central Pacific season.
- **Floods:** Peru and the Middle East; **droughts:** Ethiopia and Central Africa.
- **Ecuador** (Aug 2026): nationwide red alert over weather disruption.

Impact on India

- **Monsoon:** strongly linked to **deficient southwest monsoon** rain; risk of widespread drought.
- **Agriculture:** lower **kharif** yields (rice, pulses, sugarcane), so food inflation.
- **Heatwaves:** longer, more intense summers; strain on the power grid and public health.
- **La Niña**, by contrast, brings heavy (sometimes torrential) monsoon rain to India.

STATIC LINK

- **WMO**: UN specialised agency for weather, climate and water; HQ **Geneva**; established **23 March 1950** (World Meteorological Day), successor to the International Meteorological Organization (1873); Secretary-General **Celeste Saulo** (Argentina; first woman SG).
- ENSO phases recur irregularly, roughly every **2 to 7 years**.
- **NOAA**: US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. **Copernicus**: EU Earth-observation programme.
- India's monsoon forecasts are issued by the **IMD**, which also tracks the **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**; a positive IOD can offset El Niño.
- Notable El Niño years for India: **2015** and **2023** (below-normal monsoons).

QUICK RECALL

- El Niño warms the **central and eastern Pacific**.
- Cold phase of ENSO: **La Niña**.
- Super El Niño probability (NOAA): **33%**.
- Last Super El Niño: **2015-16**.
- El Niño's effect on India: **weak monsoon, drought**.
- Country with nationwide red alert (Aug 2026): **Ecuador**.
- Body that declared the 2026-27 El Niño: **WMO**.

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079 VB G-RAM-G Act

MINOR | May 2026 | Jul 2026

The **Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025** (**VB-G RAM G Act**) came into force across India on **1 July 2026**. Passed by Parliament in **December 2025**, it **replaces MGNREGA, 2005** and raises the rural job guarantee from **100 to 125 days**.

Key features

- **125 days** of guaranteed wage employment a year for every rural household willing to do unskilled manual work (MGNREGA: 100).
- Wages to be paid **within 15 days** of completion of work.
- **60-day agricultural pause:** States may notify a combined 60-day no-work period in peak sowing and harvesting, while still ensuring 125 days in the rest of the year.
- **Viksit Bharat National Rural Infrastructure Stack:** links jobs to durable assets (water conservation, rural connectivity, livelihood and climate-resilience works).

Funding shift

- A **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** with a fixed sharing ratio; under MGNREGA the Centre paid **all unskilled wages** and **75% of material costs**.
- Centre-State cost-sharing: **60:40** for most States (**90:10** for North-Eastern and Himalayan States).

MGNREGA vs VB-G RAM G

	MGNREGA, 2005	VB-G RAM G, 2025
Guaranteed days	100	**125**
Farm-season pause	None	**Up to 60 days** (State notified)
Cost-sharing	Mostly Centre	**60:40** (90:10 NE/Himalayan)

Timeline

Date	Event
2005	MGNREGA enacted (100 days)
Dec 2025	VB-G RAM G Bill passed by Parliament
May 2026	Centre notifies commencement date
1 Jul 2026	Act in force nationwide

STATIC LINK

- Right to work is a **Directive Principle** (**Art. 41**); MGNREGA made it a legal entitlement.
- **Right to livelihood** is part of the **right to life under Art. 21**: **Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985)** (pavement dwellers case).
- Nodal ministry: **Ministry of Rural Development**.

QUICK RECALL

- Days guaranteed: **125**.
- In force from: **1 July 2026**.
- Law replaced: **MGNREGA, 2005**.
- Agricultural pause: **60 days**.
- Wage payment deadline: **15 days**.

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080 India as Chair of Kimberley Process & Intersessional Meeting at Mumbai

MINOR | Mar 2026 | May 2026

India assumed the **Chair of the Kimberley Process (KP) from 1 January 2026** (it was Vice-Chair in 2025) and inaugurated the four-day **KP Intersessional Meeting 2026 in Mumbai on 11 May**. India's chairship theme is the **3Cs: Credibility, Compliance and Consumer Confidence**.

India's chairship

- KP Chair 2026 (representing India): **Suchindra Misra**.
- Intersessional: **Mumbai**, from **11 May 2026**, four days; focus on the **KP Certification Scheme (KPCS)**.
- India is a **founding member**; it was **Vice-Chair in 2025**, and the Vice-Chair takes over as Chair the next year.
- Intersessional meetings are held mid-year; decisions are taken at the year-end **Plenary**, by **consensus**.

About the Kimberley Process

- **Tripartite** initiative of **governments, the diamond industry and civil society** to stop trade in **conflict diamonds** (rough diamonds used by rebels to fund wars against legitimate governments).
- Basis: **UNGA Resolution 55/56 (2000)**; KPCS launched **1 January 2003**.
- Every international shipment of rough diamonds needs a **tamper-resistant KP certificate**; trade only among participants.
- **60 participants** covering **86 countries** (EU and its 27 members count as one); over **99%** of global rough diamond trade.
- Secretariat: **Gaborone, Botswana**.

At a glance

Item	Fact
Legal basis	UNGA Res. 55/56 (2000)
KPCS in force	1 Jan 2003
Participants	60 (86 countries)
Share of rough trade	Over 99%
Secretariat	Gaborone, Botswana
Chair 2026	**India** (Vice-Chair 2025)

STATIC LINK

- **Blood (conflict) diamonds**: rough diamonds mined in war zones and sold by rebel groups to fund armed conflict against legitimate governments (e.g. Sierra Leone, Angola in the 1990s).
- Named after **Kimberley, South Africa**, where diamond-producing states first met in 2000.
- India is the world's largest **cutting and polishing** hub (Surat); Mumbai is the main diamond trading centre.

QUICK RECALL

- KP Chair 2026: **India**.
- Theme: **Credibility, Compliance, Consumer Confidence**.
- Intersessional 2026 venue: **Mumbai**.
- KP Secretariat: **Gaborone**.
- KPCS launched: **2003**.

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CLAT prep is not AILET prep.

Different paper. Different pattern.



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081 Assembly Elections

MINOR | Feb 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Aug 2026

The Election Commission held elections to **four State Assemblies and one UT** (**West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry**) in **April 2026**. The results brought new governments in three States, including the **first BJP government in West Bengal** and a **TVK** government in Tamil Nadu.

Results and Chief Ministers

State/UT	Seats	Chief Minister (party)
West Bengal	294	**Suvendu Adhikari** (BJP)
Tamil Nadu	234	**C. Joseph Vijay** (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam)
Kerala	140	**V.D. Satheesan** (Congress-led UDF)
Assam	126	**Himanta Biswa Sarma** (BJP), **second consecutive term**
Puducherry (UT)	30	**N. Rangaswamy** (AINRC)

Change or continuity

- **Changed:** West Bengal (TMC to BJP), Tamil Nadu (DMK to TVK), Kerala (LDF to UDF).
- **Retained:** Assam (BJP), Puducherry (AINRC-led).

Around the polls

- CEC: **Gyanesh Kumar**; ECI acts under **Art. 324**.
- **International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP) 2026**: foreign election officials observed the polls in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry.
- West Bengal polls followed the contested **SIR** of rolls (CM Mamata Banerjee argued in person in the SC, Feb 2026).
- After the polls: **Assam** became the **third State** to pass a **UCC Bill** (after Uttarakhand, Gujarat); Parliament passed the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026**, renaming the State **Keralam** (Art. 3; simple majority).

STATIC LINK

- CM appointed by the **Governor** (**Art. 164**); Assembly term **5 years** (**Art. 172**).
- Puducherry has a legislature under **Art. 239A** (UT; Lt Governor, not Governor).
- Karnataka got a new CM (**D.K. Shivakumar**, 25th CM) in May without an election.

QUICK RECALL

- West Bengal CM: **Suvendu Adhikari**.
- Tamil Nadu CM: **Joseph Vijay (TVK)**.
- Kerala CM: **V.D. Satheesan**.
- Puducherry CM: **N. Rangaswamy (AINRC)**.
- Kerala's new name (Aug 2026): **Keralam**.

See also: 074 Special Intensive Revision (SIR); 041 Uniform Civil Code.

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082 Bilateral Visit to Italy

MINOR May 2026

During PM Modi's official visit to **Italy** (May 2026), India and Italy elevated ties to a **Special Strategic Partnership**. In Rome the PM also received the **FAO's Agricola Medal**.

Key outcomes

- **Foreign Ministers-led mechanism** to review the **Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29**.
- Trade target: **€14 bn to €20 bn by 2029**.
- **Defence Industrial Roadmap**: co-development and co-production.
- MoU on **critical minerals**; new dialogue on security.
- Support for **IMEC** (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor), an "Indo-Mediterranean" axis.
- MoU on Italy's role in the **National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal** (Gujarat).
- Trilateral work in **Africa**, linking India's development partnership with Italy's **Mattei Plan**.
- **2027**: "**India-Italy Year of Culture and Tourism**", for **80 years** of diplomatic ties.

Wider cooperation

- AI, space, clean energy, higher education, **Ayurveda**, climate research.

Partnership upgrades in May 2026

Partner	New level
Italy	**Special Strategic Partnership**
Norway	**Green Strategic Partnership**
Sweden	**Strategic Partnership**
Nordic countries (group)	**Green Technology & Innovation Strategic Partnership**
Cyprus (President Christodoulides in Delhi, 22 May)	**Strategic Partnership**

STATIC LINK

- Italy: capital **Rome**; PM **Giorgia Meloni**; currency euro; G7 and NATO member.
- Ties were first raised to a **Strategic Partnership in 2023**.
- **Rome** hosts the HQs of the three UN food agencies: **FAO** (Food and Agriculture Organization), **IFAD** (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and **WFP** (World Food Programme).

QUICK RECALL

- New tag: **Special Strategic Partnership**.
- Trade target: **€20 bn by 2029**.
- Italy's Africa plan: **Mattei Plan**.
- 2027: **Year of Culture and Tourism** (80 years of ties).
- Lothal MoU: **National Maritime Heritage Complex**.

See also: 086 FAO Agricola Medal; 075 3rd India-Nordic Summit.

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083 QUAD Foreign Ministers' Meeting

MINOR May 2026

The **11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting** was held at **Hyderabad House, New Delhi, on 26 May 2026**, hosted by **S. Jaishankar**. Its headline outcome was the first-ever **Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC)**.

Quad basics

- Full name: **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**. Popular names: **"Quad"**; Abe's **"Democratic Security Diamond"** (2012); revived grouping called **"Quad 2.0"**; China calls it an **"Asian NATO"**.
- **Beginnings: Tsunami Core Group** after the **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami**; dialogue proposed by Japan's PM **Shinzo Abe** (known as the **"Father of the Quad"**), first met in **Manila (May 2007)**; lapsed after **Australia withdrew (2008)**; **revived Nov 2017** (Manila, ASEAN Summit sidelines); ministerial level from **2019**.

Leaders' Summit	Venue / host
1st, Mar 2021	Virtual (US)
2nd, Sep 2021	Washington, DC (first in person)
3rd, May 2022	Tokyo
4th, May 2023	Hiroshima (G7 sidelines; Sydney summit cancelled)
5th, Sep 2024	Wilmington, Delaware (US)
Next	**India** was to host in **2025**; not yet held. Leaders reportedly to meet at the **49th ASEAN Summit, Manila (Philippines)**

Ministers

- India: **S. Jaishankar**; USA: **Marco Rubio**; Japan: **Toshimitsu Motegi**; Australia: **Penny Wong**.

Outcomes

- **IPMSC**: maritime domain awareness, initial focus on the **Indian Ocean Region**.
- **IPMDA** expanded; a regional **Common Operating Picture (COP)** planned.
- **Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework** unveiled.
- **Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security**.
- **Ports of the Future Partnership**: port work with **Fiji**.

Acronym decoder

Short form	Full form
IPMSC	Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (new, 2026)
IPMDA	Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness

STATIC LINK

- Members: **India, USA, Japan, Australia**; informal grouping.
- About 24% of world population, 35% of GDP, 18% of trade.

QUICK RECALL

- Edition and venue: **11th, Hyderabad House, New Delhi**.
- Date: **26 May 2026**.
- New initiative: **IPMSC**.
- Port partner country: **Fiji**.
- Quad dialogue first proposed by: **Shinzo Abe (2007)**.

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084 48th & 49th ASEAN Summits

MINOR | Feb 2026 | May 2026 | Sep 2026

ASEAN leaders met in **Cebu, Philippines, on 8 May 2026** for the **48th ASEAN Summit** under the **Philippines' Chairship**, chaired by **President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.** The **49th Summit** is to be held in **Manila** later in the year.

48th Summit (Cebu)

- Theme: "**Navigating Our Future, Together**".
- **ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Maritime Cooperation**.
- Leaders' Statement on the **Middle East Crisis**.
- **Cebu Protocol** to amend the **ASEAN Charter**.
- Declaration on **Empowerment of Youth in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience**.
- **ASPECT Framework** (ASEAN Strategic Protocol for Emergency and Comprehensive Transformation) for disaster response.

49th Summit

- Venue: **Manila, Philippines** (same Chair year).

East Asia Summit (EAS)

- Leaders' forum on strategic, political and economic issues of the **Indo-Pacific**; **ASEAN-led**, held each year alongside the second ASEAN Summit.
- First held **Kuala Lumpur, Dec 2005**; **India a founding member**.
- Members: **ASEAN** + 8: **India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand** (original), **USA and Russia** (joined 2011).
- **21st EAS** due with the 49th ASEAN Summit in **Manila** (2026); 20th held in Kuala Lumpur (Oct 2025).

India and ASEAN in 2026

- 2026 is the **ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation**.
- **AIME-2026** (2nd ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise) began **28 Sep 2026** at **Subic Bay, Philippines**; theme "Anchored in Trust, United at Sea"; co-hosted by the Indian and Philippine navies.

India-ASEAN milestones

Year	Step
1992	Sectoral Dialogue Partner
1996	Full Dialogue Partner
2002	Summit-level partnership
2012	Strategic Partnership
2022	Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
2026	Year of Maritime Cooperation

STATIC LINK

- Founded **8 Aug 1967, Bangkok** (Bangkok Declaration) by **Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand**.
- Joined: Brunei 1984, Vietnam 1995, Laos and Myanmar 1997, Cambodia 1999, **Timor-Leste Oct 2025** (**11th** member).
- Secretariat: **Jakarta**. Two summits a year under a rotating annual Chair.
- India's ASEAN outreach: **Look East (1991)**, upgraded to **Act East (2014)**.

QUICK RECALL

- 48th Summit venue: **Cebu**, 8 May 2026.
- ASEAN Chair 2026: **Philippines**.
- Theme: **Navigating Our Future, Together**.
- 11th member: **Timor-Leste**.
- India-ASEAN year 2026: **Maritime Cooperation**.

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085 Indian Ocean Dialogue & India as Chair of IORA

MINOR May 2026

India hosted the **10th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD)** in **New Delhi**, its **fourth** time as host, on the theme "**Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World**". It came as India holds the **Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for 2025-27**.

Indian Ocean Dialogue

- A **Track 1.5** forum: officials (Track 1) plus scholars, think tanks and civil society (Track 2); IORA's flagship forum.
- Organised by the **MEA** with the **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)** and the IORA Secretariat.
- Brings together **23 member states** and **12 Dialogue Partners**.
- Focus: maritime safety and security, blue economy and fisheries, trade and investment, disaster risk management.
- **Consensus-based**, voluntary commitments.
- Aim: open exchange on common IOR concerns; align regional policy with the **SDGs** and strengthen **collective maritime security**.

IORA

- Vision from **Nelson Mandela's 1995 visit to India**; established **1997**.
- Secretariat: **Cyber City, Ebène, Mauritius**.
- **23 members**: India, Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, France, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE, Yemen.
- **12 Dialogue Partners**: China, Egypt, EU, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, South Korea, UK, USA.

See also: 037 Ex. MILAN / IFR / IONS Conclave of Chiefs.

India's twin maritime chairs

- **IORA Chair: 2025-27**.
- **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Chair: 2026-28**.

STATIC LINK

- First IOD: **Kochi, 2014**. India earlier chaired IORA in **2011-13**.
- Not IORA members: Pakistan and Myanmar (India's neighbours on the rim).

QUICK RECALL

- 10th IOD venue: **New Delhi**.
- IOD type: **Track 1.5**.
- IORA established: **1997**; members: **23**.
- IORA Secretariat: **Ebène, Mauritius**.
- IORA Chair 2025-27: **India**.

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086 FAO Agricola Medal

MINOR | May 2026 | Sep 2026 | Oct 2026

During his visit to **Rome** (May 2026), PM Narendra Modi received the **Agricola Medal 2026** from the **UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, its highest honour, for his work on global food security and sustainable agriculture. He is the **second Indian PM** to receive it, after **Dr Manmohan Singh (2008)**, and the **fourth Indian** overall.

About the medal

- "**Agricola**" is Latin for **farmer**.
- The **FAO's highest institutional accolade**; instituted in **1977**.
- For leaders who act to **end hunger**, reduce poverty and advance the **SDGs**.

Indian recipients

Year	Recipient
1978	**Binay Ranjan (B.R.) Sen**, former FAO Director-General: **first Indian** (and only FAO DG) to receive it
1979	**Jayaprakash Narayan**
2008	**Dr Manmohan Singh**: first Indian PM
2026	**Narendra Modi**: second PM, fourth Indian

Why India was cited

- FAO praised India's **science-driven, farmer-centric** agriculture.
- World's largest **food-based safety net**, covering **800 million** people.
- Direct income support to over **110 million farmers** via **PM-KISAN**.
- Shift to **regenerative and natural farming**.
- Leadership on nutrient-dense, climate-resilient crops: **International Year of Millets 2023** with the FAO.

FAO and India in 2026

- **Z.T. Lalrithangi** (Mizoram, strawberry farmer) named among FAO's "**100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems**", part of the **International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026**.

Honours to the PM on the May 2026 tour

Country/body	Honour
FAO (Rome)	**Agricola Medal**
Norway	Grand Cross of the **Royal Norwegian Order of Merit**
Sweden	**Royal Order of the Polar Star** (Commander Grand Cross)

See also: 082 Bilateral Visit to Italy.

STATIC LINK

- FAO: founded **16 Oct 1945** (World Food Day); HQ **Rome**; Director-General **Qu Dongyu**; motto **Fiat Panis** ("Let there be bread"). First and only Indian DG: **B.R. Sen (1956–67)**.
- **World Food Day 2026** (16 Oct) theme: "**Innovate today to feed tomorrow**".
- **WFP** (World Food Programme): food-assistance arm of the UN; est. **1961**; HQ **Rome**; **Nobel Peace Prize 2020**; Executive Director **Luke Lindberg** (appointed Sep 2026).
- **IFAD** (International Fund for Agricultural Development): UN agency and international financial institution for rural poverty; est. **1977** (after the 1974 World Food Conference); HQ **Rome**; President **Alvaro Lario**.
- **Global Hunger Index 2026** (released 14 Oct): India **100th of 122** (score 24.1, "**serious**"); top: 24 countries with scores below 5 share **ranks 1–24** (e.g. Belarus, Chile, China, UAE); worst: **Somalia**. Published by **Welthungerhilfe**, **IFHV** (Ruhr University Bochum) and **Helvetas**.
- India's food safety net: **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** under the **National Food Security Act, 2013**.

QUICK RECALL

- Awarding body: **FAO**.
- Meaning of Agricola: **farmer** (Latin).
- First Indian recipient: **B.R. Sen (1978)**; first Indian PM: **Manmohan Singh (2008)**.
- Where conferred: **Rome**.
- Medal established: **1977**.
- Swedish honour on the same tour: **Order of the Polar Star**.

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087 Ebola Virus and Hantavirus

MINOR May 2026 Jun 2026

The **WHO declared the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)**. It is caused by the **Bundibugyo ebolavirus**, which has **no approved vaccine or treatment**. Separately, a suspected **hantavirus** outbreak hit the cruise ship **M/V Hondius**.

Ebola: the 2026 outbreak

- Countries: **DRC and Uganda**; strain: **Bundibugyo** (first identified in **Uganda, 2007**).
- Hurdles: armed rebels, poor infrastructure, closed airport at **Goma**, no approved vaccine.
- India: **IBCA Summit** (due 1 June, New Delhi) and the **4th India-Africa Forum Summit** postponed; **AIR SUVIDHA 2.0** health self-declaration portal launched at airports (June).

Ebola virus disease

- Severe viral **haemorrhagic fever** (genus *Ebolavirus*); first identified **1976** near the **Ebola River** (DRC) and in South Sudan.
- Natural host: **fruit bats** (Pteropodidae).
- Incubation **2-21 days**; **not infectious before symptoms**.
- Spread by direct contact with blood or body fluids, contaminated objects and burials.

PHEIC

- Under the **International Health Regulations (2005)**, binding on **196** countries: an event that is unusual, may spread internationally and may need immediate international action.
- A top-level WHO alert (the 2024 IHR amendments, in force Sept 2025, added a higher **"pandemic emergency"** tier). Earlier: H1N1 (2009), polio, Ebola (West Africa), Zika, Ebola (Congo), COVID-19, mpox.

See also: 063 IBCA Summit.

Hantavirus

- Netherlands-based cruise ship **M/V Hondius**: 3 dead, 3 ill.
- **Rodent-borne**; humans infected by **inhaling** particles of dried rodent droppings.
- **HPS** (Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome): lungs, fatality about **40%**. **HFRS** (Haemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome): kidneys.
- Flu-like onset 1-8 weeks after exposure; **no specific therapy**, only supportive care.

STATIC LINK

- **WHO**: founded 1948; HQ **Geneva**; Director-General **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**.

QUICK RECALL

- Ebola strain (2026): **Bundibugyo**.
- PHEIC countries: **DRC and Uganda**.
- Legal basis of PHEIC: **IHR (2005)**.
- Ebola first identified: **1976**.
- Hantavirus carrier: **rodents**; ship: **M/V Hondius**.

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088 Whitley Award

MINOR May 2026

Two Indian conservationists, **Parveen Shaikh** and **Dr Barkha Subba**, were among the six winners of the **Whitley Awards 2026**, the "**Green Oscars**", presented at the **Royal Geographical Society, London (UK)**.

Indian winners

- **Parveen Shaikh**: protecting the **endangered Indian Skimmer** (bird).
- **Dr Barkha Subba**: grassroots work for the rare **Himalayan salamander** and its wetlands in the **Darjeeling Himalayas**, West Bengal.

All 2026 winners

Winner	Country
Dr Marina Kameni	Cameroon
Dr Moreangels Mbizah	Zimbabwe
Dr Paola Sangolquí	Ecuador
Dr Issah Seidu	Ghana
Dr Barkha Subba	India
Parveen Shaikh	India
Farwiza Farhan (Gold Award)	Indonesia

About the awards

- Given by the **Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN)**, UK; established **1993**.
- Honour **grassroots conservation leaders in the Global South**.
- **Whitley Gold Award**: only for a **previous Whitley winner**; 2026 went to **Farwiza Farhan**, known for defending Sumatra's **Leuser Ecosystem**.
- 2026 ceremony: **Royal Geographical Society**, London.

STATIC LINK

- Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*): IUCN **Endangered**; nests on river sandbars (e.g. **Chambal**).
- Salamanders are tailed amphibians; the Himalayan salamander is found in the eastern Himalaya (Darjeeling, Sikkim).
- Earlier Indian Whitley winners include **Purnima Devi Barman** (greater adjutant stork, Assam).

QUICK RECALL

- Popular name: **Green Oscars**.
- Indian winners 2026: **Parveen Shaikh, Barkha Subba**.
- Species saved by Subba: **Himalayan salamander**.
- Gold Award 2026: **Farwiza Farhan** (Indonesia).
- Organiser: **Whitley Fund for Nature** (1993).

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089 International Booker Prize + Bukhman

MINOR | May 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

Taiwanese author **Yáng Shuāng-zǐ** and translator **Lin King** won the **International Booker Prize 2026** for **Taiwan Travelogue**, the **first winner translated from Mandarin Chinese**. From **2027** the prize becomes the **Bukhman International Booker Prize**, with prize money doubled to **£100,000**.

2026 winner

- **Taiwan Travelogue**: presented as a translation of a rediscovered Japanese travel memoir; two women on a culinary tour of **Japanese-ruled Taiwan in the 1930s**.
- First win for a **Taiwanese author** and a Taiwanese-American translator.
- Prize: **£50,000**, shared equally by author and translator.
- Earlier honours: Taiwan's Golden Tripod Award; US National Book Award for Translated Literature (2024).

Renamed: Bukhman International Booker

- **10-year funding partnership (2027-2036)** with **Bukhman Philanthropies** (Daria and Dmitri Bukhman).
- Prize money doubles to **£100,000**: one of the world's richest awards for translated fiction.

Evolution and Indian winners

Year	Change / winner
2005	Man Booker International Prize, every two years
2016	Annual, for a single translated work
2019	Renamed **International Booker Prize**
2022	**Geetanjali Shree**, Tomb of Sand (Hindi; tr. Daisy Rockwell): first Indian
2025	**Banu Mushtaq**, Heart Lamp (Kannada; tr. Deepa Bhasthi): first short-story collection
2027	Becomes **Bukhman** International Booker

Booker vs International Booker

- **Booker Prize**: fiction **written in English**, published in UK/Ireland; 2026 winner due **9 Nov 2026**.
- **International Booker**: fiction **translated into English**, published in UK/Ireland; shared with the translator.
- Booker Indian winners: **Arundhati Roy** (first), Kiran Desai, Aravind Adiga.

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- Both run by the **Booker Prize Foundation**, London.
- Taiwan: officially **Republic of China**; capital **Taipei**.

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 book: **Taiwan Travelogue**.
- Source language: **Mandarin Chinese** (first).
- New name from 2027: **Bukhman International Booker Prize**.
- New prize money: **£100,000**.
- First Kannada winner: **Banu Mushtaq** (2025).

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090 World Environment Day

MAJOR | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026

World Environment Day 2026 was observed on **5 June**, led by **UNEP**, with **Azerbaijan (Baku)** hosting the global celebrations. In India the day saw the launch of **E85 fuel** and the declaration of India's **100th Ramsar Site**.

WED 2026: host, theme, campaign

- **Date:** 5 June every year; led by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- **Host country: Azerbaijan**; global celebrations in **Baku**.
- **Host theme: "Inspired by Nature: For Climate. For Our Future."**
- **Campaign: #NowForClimate**, urging individuals, communities and institutions to take immediate climate action.

History

- **Established 1972**, following the **UN Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm (Sweden)**.
- **First observed 1973**, under the slogan **"Only One Earth"**.
- Described as one of the world's largest global platforms for environmental awareness and collective action.

India: E85 roll-out (5 June 2026)

- **E85** (80-85% ethanol, for flex-fuel vehicles) unveiled by Petroleum Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** on WED at **48 public sector fuel stations**; target **500 outlets by Dec 2026** (details: 065).

India: 100th Ramsar Site

- **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal)**, **Ballia, Uttar Pradesh**, declared India's **100th Ramsar Site** on WED 2026.
- A natural **oxbow lake** formed by the meandering **Ganga**; UP bird sanctuary since **1991**.

Other June environment days (2026)

- **World Oceans Day, 8 June:** theme "REIMAGINE: Beyond the World We Know, A New Relationship With Our Ocean"; designated by the UNGA on **5 Dec 2008**.
- **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, 17 June:** theme **"Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore."**; declared by the UNGA in **1994**. 2026 is the **UN International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**.

STATIC LINK

- **UNEP:** set up 1972 after the Stockholm Conference; HQ **Nairobi, Kenya**.
- **WED 2025:** hosted by the **Republic of Korea**, theme on **ending plastic pollution**.
- **Ramsar Convention:** signed 1971 at Ramsar, Iran; World Wetlands Day 2 February.

QUICK RECALL

- WED 2026 host: **Azerbaijan (Baku)**.
- WED origin: **Stockholm Conference, 1972**; first observed **1973**.
- Campaign hashtag: **#NowForClimate**.
- E85 launched at: **48 PSU outlets**, by **Hardeep Singh Puri**.
- India's 100th Ramsar Site: **Surha Tal, Ballia (UP)**.

See also: 065 EBP Programme (ethanol blending detail); 017 New Ramsar Sites & World Wetlands Day; 129 GOBARdhan Scheme.

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091 G7 Summit 2026

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026

The **52nd G7 Summit** was held at **Évian-les-Bains, France**, on **15-17 June 2026** under the French presidency, themed **"Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity"**. India attended as an invited outreach country, its **13th** appearance at the forum.

The summit

- **Edition/venue:** 52nd; **Évian-les-Bains**, France; **15-17 June 2026**; presidency: **France**.
- **Run-up:** India's invitation announced during Macron's India visit (Feb 2026); **G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting** in France (March), attended by **S. Jaishankar**; International One Health Summit, Lyon (7 April) under the French G7 presidency.
- **Outreach partners:** India, **Brazil, Egypt, Kenya, South Korea**, the **World Bank** and the **African Development Bank**.

Key outcomes

- **Ukraine:** unwavering support for its defence reaffirmed.
- **West Asia:** backed preliminary **US-Iran agreements**; called for a **ceasefire in Lebanon**.
- **AI:** consensus on technical and ethical frameworks for safe, rapid AI roll-out.
- **Supply chains:** expand manufacturing partnerships with emerging economies (India, Vietnam, Mexico).
- **Climate:** reviewed the **G7 2030 Nature Compact**; classified **land degradation, desertification and drought** as **systemic security threats**.

History of the G7

Year	Development
1973	Oil crisis; "Library Group" (US, W. Germany, UK, France), then Japan
1975	First summit (G6), Rambouillet, France; Italy joins
1976	**Canada** joins: G7
1997/98	**Russia** joins: G8
2014	Russia expelled after annexing **Crimea**: back to G7

STATIC LINK

- **Members:** USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada; the **EU** takes part as a "non-enumerated" member. No permanent secretariat; presidency rotates annually.
- India first attended at the 2003 summit, also held at **Évian**. 51st summit (2025): Kananaskis, Canada; **53rd summit (2027): USA** (host country).
- FATF was set up by the G7 in **1989**.

QUICK RECALL

- 52nd G7 venue: **Évian-les-Bains, France** (15-17 June 2026).
- Theme: **Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity**.
- 53rd G7 host (2027): **USA**.
- G7 born from: **1973 oil crisis**; Canada joined **1976**.
- Russia expelled: **2014 (Crimea)**.

See also: 034 India-France Year of Innovation; 052 Raisina Dialogue; 094 FATF; 132 BRICS Summit 2026.

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092 International Day of Yoga

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Sep 2026

The **12th International Day of Yoga** was observed on **21 June 2026** on the theme **"Yoga for Healthy Ageing"**, with the main national celebration in **Kolkata, West Bengal**. Earlier in June, India hosted and topped the **first World Yogasana Championship** at **Ahmedabad**.

IDY 2026

- **Edition:** 12th; **Date:** 21 June 2026.
- **Theme: "Yoga for Healthy Ageing"**.
- **Main national event: Kolkata, West Bengal** (announced in May).
- **Nodal ministry: Ministry of Ayush** coordinates the celebrations.

History

- Proposed by **PM Narendra Modi** at the **69th session of the UNGA** (Sept 2014).
- UN recognised the day in **December 2014** through an India-led resolution under the **"Global Health and Foreign Policy"** agenda.
- **First IDY: 21 June 2015**.
- **Why 21 June:** the **Summer Solstice**, the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere; in tradition, the day **Adiyogi** began transmitting yogic knowledge.
- Yoga inscribed on UNESCO's **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** in **2016**.

1st World Yogasana Championship 2026

- **Venue: EKA Arena, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)**; five-day event, inaugurated by PM Modi via video message on **4 June 2026**.
- **Organisers: Yogasana Bharat**, with **World Yogasana** and the **Indian Olympic Association**.
- **Mascot: "Veer the Lion"**; athletes from **79 countries**.

Rank	Country	Medals
1	**India**	**114** (102 G, 9 S, 3 B)
2	Japan	11 (3 G, 3 S, 5 B)
3	Argentina	5
5	Nepal	52 (2nd-highest total)

See also: 069 India-New Zealand FTA; 018 Union Budget 2026-27.

Solstices and equinoxes

- **Solstice** (Latin: "stalled sun"): Earth's axial tilt at maximum inclination towards or away from the Sun.
- **Summer solstice** (N. Hemisphere): **21 June**, longest day; **winter solstice**: **22 December**, shortest day.
- **Equinoxes** (Sun overhead at the Equator; day and night roughly equal): **21 March** (vernal) and **23 September** (autumnal).

AYUSH

- **AYUSH** = **Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy** (Sowa-Rigpa is also covered).
- **Ministry of AYUSH** set up in **2014**; Minister: **Prataprao Jadhav**.
- **Budget 2026-27: 3 new All India Institutes of Ayurveda**; upgrade of the **WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre, Jamnagar**.
- **Ayurveda Day** now fixed on **23 September** (decided March 2025); 2026 (11th) is the first on the fixed date, theme "Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow".
- India-New Zealand FTA (April): first-ever provision by NZ to recognise trade in Indian traditional medicine, incl. **Ayurveda and Yoga**.

QUICK RECALL

- IDY 2026 theme: **Yoga for Healthy Ageing**.
- IDY 2026 main venue: **Kolkata**.
- First IDY: **2015**; proposed at **69th UNGA**.
- 1st World Yogasana Championship: **Ahmedabad**; mascot **Veer the Lion**.
- Yoga on UNESCO ICH list: **2016**.

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093 Dancing Girl

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026

An **NCERT Class 9 Arts textbook** carried a **digitally altered image** of the Harappan **"Dancing Girl"** bronze, with the torso covered to make the figure appear clothed. After criticism from historians, archaeologists and the public, **NCERT reinstated the original image**.

The controversy

- Altered image in the **Class 9 Arts** textbook; criticised for **deviating from the original artefact**.
- **Outcome:** NCERT **restored the original image**.
- Part of a year of NCERT textbook rows: in **February**, the **Supreme Court (suo motu)** ordered seizure and a **blanket ban** on the Class 8 Social Science book (chapter on the judiciary), calling it prima facie "a calculated move to undermine and demean" the judiciary.

About the Dancing Girl

- **~4,500-year-old bronze statuette** from **Mohenjo-daro** (Sindh, Pakistan).
- **Unearthed 1926** by **Ernest Mackay**.
- Named by **John Marshall** (then DG, ASI): her stance recalled contemporary **nautch girls**.
- About **10.5 cm** tall; necklace and many **bangles** on her arm.
- Made by the **lost-wax (cire perdue) casting** technique.
- Now housed in the **National Museum, New Delhi**.

Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilisation

- One of the earliest urban civilisations, **c. 2600-1900 BCE**; a **Bronze Age** civilisation.
- Known for town planning, drainage, craftsmanship and long-distance trade.
- **Harappa** discovered **1921** by **Daya Ram Sahni**; Marshall announced the "Harappa civilisation" on **20 Sept 1924**.

Site	Location
Harappa	Punjab (Pak.), on the **Ravi**
Mohenjo-daro	Sindh (Pak.), on the **Indus**
Rakhigarhi	Haryana: **largest IVC site**
Dholavira	Gujarat, Rann of Kutch
Lothal	Gujarat, port near Gulf of Khambhat
Kalibangan	Rajasthan, on the **Ghaggar**

See also: 105 Sarnath, World Heritage Sites & UNESCO.

Also in news: Rakhigarhi

- Human skeletal remains handed by the **ASI** to the **Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)** under an MoU, to study ancestry, migration, diet and disease (Harappan script is still **undeciphered**).

STATIC LINK

- **NCERT:** National Council of Educational Research and Training, est. **1961**, autonomous body under the Ministry of Education; granted **deemed-to-be university** status (distinct category) in April 2026 under **Section 3, UGC Act 1956**.
- **Dholavira**: the only IVC site in India on the UNESCO World Heritage List (2021).

QUICK RECALL

- Dancing Girl site: **Mohenjo-daro**.
- Excavated by: **Ernest Mackay, 1926**.
- Technique: **lost-wax casting**.
- Where kept: **National Museum, New Delhi**.
- Largest IVC site: **Rakhigarhi**.

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094 Indian Vice President of FATF

MINOR | May 2026 | Jun 2026

For the **first time**, India will hold the **Vice-Presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**: **Vivek Aggarwal**, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, was elected for **July 2026-June 2027**. The same Plenary named **Giles Thomson (UK)** as the next FATF President.

The appointments

- **Vice-President: Vivek Aggarwal** (India), succeeding **Giles Thomson**.
- **Next President: Giles Thomson (UK)**, succeeding **Elisa de Anda Madrazo (Mexico)**.
- VP is elected by the **FATF Plenary** from among members; the Presidency runs a **two-year term**, assisted by the VP.

About FATF

- Global watchdog on money laundering and terror financing, **set up in 1989 by the G7**; HQ **Paris**.
- **Mandate:** money laundering (1989); **terror financing added 2001** (after 9/11); **proliferation (WMD) financing added 2008**.
- **40 members:** 38 countries + 2 regional organisations (**GCC** and **European Commission**). India joined in **2010**.
- India is also in two FATF-style regional bodies: **Asia Pacific Group (APG)** and **Eurasian Group (EAG)**.

Grey and black lists (June 2026)

- Published **three times a year**.
- **Grey list** ("jurisdictions under increased monitoring"): **22 countries**.
- **Black list** ("high-risk jurisdictions"): **3: North Korea, Iran, Myanmar**.
- **India:** in the **"Regular Follow-up"** category, the highest rating; only **UK, France and Italy** share it among G20 members.

STATIC LINK

- FATF standards: the **40 Recommendations**; compliance checked through peer **mutual evaluations**.
- AML/CFT = Anti-Money Laundering / Combating the Financing of Terrorism. India's AML law: **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002**.

QUICK RECALL

- India's first FATF VP: **Vivek Aggarwal** (2026-27).
- Next FATF President: **Giles Thomson (UK)**.
- FATF founded: **1989, by G7**; HQ **Paris**.
- India a member since: **2010**.
- FATF black list (June 2026): **North Korea, Iran, Myanmar**.
- India's FATF rating: **Regular Follow-up** (highest).

See also: 091 G7 Summit 2026.

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095 Solicitor General Extension & Books

MINOR | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Sep 2026

The Union Government reappointed **Tushar Mehta** as **Solicitor General of India (SGI)** for a further **three years from 1 July 2026**, approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. In SGI since **10 Oct 2018**, he is the **second-longest-serving SGI** after **C.K. Daphtary**.

The extension

- Reappointed for **3 years w.e.f. 1 July 2026** (to 2029); approval by the **ACC**, which is chaired by the **Prime Minister**.
- Serving as SGI since **10 October 2018**.
- Longest-serving: **C.K. Daphtary**, also the **first SGI** (from **28 Jan 1950**; about 13 years, 1950-63).

His books (May 2026)

- Released by Home Minister **Amit Shah** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- **"The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre"** and **"The Lawful and the Awful"**.

The office of SGI

- **Second-highest law officer** of the Union, subordinate to the **Attorney General for India**.
- Unlike the AG, the posts of SGI and Additional SGs are **neither constitutional nor statutory**.
- SGI and ASGs are appointed by the **ACC**, usually for **three-year terms**; the AG, by contrast, is appointed by the **President**.
- Service conditions: **Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987**, framed under the proviso to **Article 309**.
- Later in 2026, the SC directed that the **AGI and SGI** be associated with every policy decision of the interim **Bar Council of India** set-up.

See also: 140 Bar Council of India, NALSAR & the Supreme Court.

STATIC LINK

- **Attorney General: Article 76**; appointed by the President; holds office during the President's pleasure; right of audience in all courts and to speak in Parliament (**Art. 88**) without a vote. Current AG: **R. Venkataramani**.
- AG must be qualified to be a **Supreme Court judge**; he is the **highest law officer** of the country.
- First AG: **M.C. Setalvad** (1950–63), the longest-serving.
- Highest law officer of a **State**: **Advocate General** (**Art. 165**), appointed by the Governor.
- First woman **Additional Solicitor General**: **Indira Jaising** (2009).

QUICK RECALL

- SGI extended to 2029: **Tushar Mehta**.
- Approving body: **ACC**.
- First and longest-serving SGI: **C.K. Daphtary**.
- SGI post is: **neither constitutional nor statutory**.
- Mehta's books: **The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre**; **The Lawful and the Awful**.

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096 Venezuela Earthquake & Op Amistad

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026

Twin earthquakes of **magnitude 7.2 and 7.5** struck north-central **Venezuela on 25 June 2026**, a rare **seismic doublet**. India responded with **Operation Amistad** (Spanish for "Friendship"), a long-range **HADR** mission by the IAF.

The earthquakes

- **M 7.2** about 24 km from **San Felipe (Yaracuy state)**; **39 seconds later** a stronger **M 7.5** near **Morón (Carabobo state)**, ~168 km west of **Caracas**.
- **Seismic doublet:** two independent quakes of similar magnitude, close together within minutes to a few hours.
- **Toll:** at least **32 dead**, ~700 injured (per the Acting President); **nationwide state of emergency**.
- Worst-hit: Caracas plus **Miranda, La Guaira, Aragua, Carabobo, Falcón**.
- **Cause:** Venezuela lies near the boundary of the **Caribbean Plate** and the **South American Plate**.

Operation Amistad

- IAF deployed **two C-17 Globemaster** aircraft: one of India's **farthest humanitarian missions** (over **14,000 km**, refuelling in friendly nations such as **Côte d'Ivoire**).
- Delivered **two BHISHM Cubes** (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita and Maitri) under **Project Aarogya Maitri**.
- **BHISHM:** world's first portable disaster hospital; 3 frames of 12 mini-cubes each; can treat **200 casualties**; uses AI and data analytics. Aarogya Maitri was announced in **Jan 2023** at the **Voice of Global South Summit**. (India gifted 10 BHISHM cubes to **Jamaica** in May.)

See also: 001 Op. Absolute Resolve.

India-Venezuela context

- Acting President **Delcy Rodríguez** visited India **3-7 June 2026**: long-term crude contracts, critical minerals; Venezuela was India's **3rd largest oil supplier** in May 2026.
- Background: US **Op. Absolute Resolve** (Jan 2026) took President **Nicolás Maduro** into custody.

STATIC LINK

- **Hypocentre** (focus): origin inside the earth; **epicentre**: point directly above on the surface.
- **Richter scale** measures magnitude; **Mercalli scale** measures intensity. Body waves: P and S; surface waves: L and R.
- Venezuela: capital **Caracas**; founder member of **OPEC** (Baghdad, 1960).

QUICK RECALL

- India's HADR mission to Venezuela: **Op Amistad**.
- "Amistad" means: **Friendship**.
- Aircraft: **IAF C-17 Globemaster**.
- Two quakes close in time and size: **seismic doublet**.

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097 BrahMos: Vietnam & Indonesia

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026

India signed a **~$620 million deal** to sell **BrahMos** supersonic cruise missiles to **Vietnam** (June 2026), a milestone for defence exports under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**. The **Indonesia** deal, then in its final stages, was signed in July (**$200 million**), making them India's next buyers after the **Philippines**.

Export deals

Buyer	Deal
Philippines	First foreign buyer; signed **2022**, deliveries from **2024**
Vietnam	**~$620 million** (June 2026)
Indonesia	**$200 million** for **two coastal defence batteries** (July 2026, PM's visit); India to also supply **Astra** air-to-air missiles

About BrahMos

- Long-range, **nuclear-capable supersonic cruise missile**; speed about **Mach 2.8-3**.
- Launch from **land, sea, air and submarine** platforms.
- Made by **BrahMos Aerospace**, a JV of **DRDO (India)** and **NPO Mashinostroyenia (Russia)**; agreement signed **1998**.
- Name: **Brahmaputra** + **Moskva** rivers.
- **First launch: 12 June 2001**, Interim Test Range, **Chandipur (Odisha)**.

BrahMos family

- **BrahMos-NG:** lightweight, multi-platform; range **290 km**.
- **BrahMos-II: hypersonic** cruise missile; range 300+ miles (~480 km).

BrahMos in Indian service (2026 news)

- Armed on **INS Dunagiri**, a **Project 17A** stealth guided-missile frigate (with MRSAM, MFSTAR radar).
- Displayed in the Army contingent at **Republic Day 2026**.

STATIC LINK

- **DRDO** established **1958**; under the Ministry of Defence.
- Other Indian cruise missile: **Nirbhay** (subsonic).

QUICK RECALL

- First BrahMos export customer: **Philippines (2022)**.
- June 2026 deal (~$620 mn): **Vietnam**.
- Russian partner: **NPO Mashinostroyenia**.
- Name from rivers: **Brahmaputra and Moskva**.
- First BrahMos test: **12 June 2001, Chandipur**.
- Indonesia's BrahMos order: **$200 mn, two coastal batteries**.

See also: 112 PM Visit to Indonesia.

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098 French Open

MINOR | Feb 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

Alexander Zverev (Germany) won the **2026 French Open** men's singles, his **maiden Grand Slam**, beating **Flavio Cobolli (Italy)**. **Mirra Andreeva (Russia)**, 19, won the women's title, the **youngest French Open champion since 1992**.

2026 winners

Event	Winner(s)	Runner(s)-up
Men's singles	**Alexander Zverev** (GER)	Flavio Cobolli (ITA)
Women's singles	**Mirra Andreeva** (RUS)	Maja Chwalińska (POL)
Men's doubles	Marcel Granollers / Horacio Zeballos	Henry Patten / Harri Heliovaara
Women's doubles	Kateřina Siniaková / Taylor Townsend	Anna Danilina / Aleksandra Krunić
Mixed doubles	Sara Errani / Andrea Vavassori	Gabriela Dabrowski / Evan King

Records and what followed

- Zverev: **first German man** to win a Grand Slam singles title since **Boris Becker** (Australian Open **1996**).
- Andreeva beat Chwalińska in **straight sets**.
- **Wimbledon 2026: Jannik Sinner** beat Zverev in the final.
- **US Open 2026:** Zverev beat **Ben Shelton** for his **second Grand Slam**.

About the French Open

- Founded **1891**; the premier **clay-court** tournament; Grand Slam status from **1925**.
- Also called **Roland-Garros**, after a French **aviator**; held in **Paris**, late May-early June.
- Second Slam of the year (order: Australian, French, Wimbledon, US Open).

STATIC LINK: THE FOUR GRAND SLAMS

- **Australian Open**: January, hard court, Melbourne Park.
- **French Open**: May-June, **clay**, Paris.
- **Wimbledon**: June-July, **grass** (only grass Slam), London; the oldest.
- **US Open**: Aug-Sept, hard court, New York.

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 men's champion: **Alexander Zverev**.
- 2026 women's champion: **Mirra Andreeva** (beat Maja Chwalińska).
- Men's runner-up: **Flavio Cobolli (Italy)**.
- French Open surface: **clay**; a.k.a. **Roland-Garros**.
- Last German man before Zverev to win a Slam: **Boris Becker (1996)**.

See also: 030 Australian Open; 115 Wimbledon; 146 US Open.

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099 ICC T20 Women's World Cup

MINOR | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

Australia beat hosts **England by 7 wickets** in the final at **Lord's** (5 July 2026) to win the **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026**, a record-extending **seventh title**. Held in **England** from **12 June to 5 July**, it was the first edition with **12 teams**.

Tournament

- **Host:** England; **12 June-5 July 2026**; **seven venues**.
- **12 teams** for the first time (largest edition): two groups of six, round-robin; top two per group to the semi-finals.
- **Debut: Netherlands** qualified for the first time.

Result and awards

- **Champions: Australia** (captain **Sophie Molineux**); **Runners-up:** England.
- **Player of the Final and Player of the Tournament: Beth Mooney** (Australia).
- **Highest wicket-taker: Shree Charani** (India), **14 wickets**.
- **India:** captain **Harmanpreet Kaur**, vice-captain **Smriti Mandhana**.

Past and next

- **Inaugural edition: 2009**.
- **2024 champions: New Zealand**.
- **Most titles:** Australia, now **7**.
- **Next (2028): Pakistan**.
- **Also at Lord's (July 2026):** India women beat England by **270 runs** in a one-off Test, their **first women's Test win at Lord's**.

See also: 048 ICC T20 Men's World Cup; 147 Women's Champions Trophy 2027.

STATIC LINK

- **ICC:** founded **1909** as the Imperial Cricket Conference; renamed International Cricket Council in **1989**; HQ **Dubai**.
- **Men's ODI World Cup 2027** (14th edition): South Africa, Zimbabwe and **Namibia** (Namibia's first as host), 4 Oct-21 Nov 2027; 14 teams, 54 matches.

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 Women's T20 WC winner: **Australia** (7th title).
- Final venue: **Lord's, London**.
- Player of the Tournament: **Beth Mooney**.
- Winning captain: **Sophie Molineux**.
- Top wicket-taker: **Shree Charani** (India, 14).
- 2028 host: **Pakistan**.

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100 Central Council of Health & Family Welfare

MINOR | Jun 2026 | Sep 2026

The **16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW)** was held on **29 June 2026** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**, chaired by Union Health Minister **J.P. Nadda**. It launched the **Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)**, the **SUMAN Roadmap 2030** and several digital-health tools.

The conference

- **16th CCHFW**; 29 June 2026; chair: **J.P. Nadda**.
- **Themes:** "National Health Mission (NHM): SDG Goals & Priorities", "Food & Drug Reforms", "Allied Health Services".

SSBSK (child health)

- Continuum of home and community care from **birth to 36 months**.
- Merges **HBNC** (Home-Based Newborn Care) and **HBYC** (Home-Based Care for Young Child).
- **Risk-stratified** follow-up for "at-risk" children; includes **post-partum maternal mental health** screening.
- Linked to ABHA/**Baal-ABHA**, U-WIN, POSHAN Tracker, JANANI and **RBSK 2.0**.

SUMAN Roadmap 2030 (maternal health)

- Strategy for maternal and newborn care, anchored in **RMNCAH+N**.
- Focus on **high-risk pregnancies**; time-bound interventions in **130 districts** of **13 high-focus states**.

Digital launches

- **Aarogya Setu 2.0:** now a Personal Health Record (PHR) app.
- **e-Sushrut@Clinic:** cloud HMIS for small clinics, by **C-DAC**.
- **Ayushman Sarathi:** WhatsApp chatbot for **AB PM-JAY**, by the **NHA**.
- **Drug Registry:** 4th ABDM core registry (with ABHA, HPR, HFR); built with **CDSCO** and NRCeS, Pune.

STATIC LINK

- CCHFW: apex advisory body on health for the Centre and States, constituted by Presidential Order under **Article 263** (as was the Inter-State Council). Chaired by the Union Health Minister; State health ministers are members.
- "Public health and sanitation, hospitals" is a **State List** subject (Entry 6).

QUICK RECALL

- 16th CCHFW: **29 June 2026, Vigyan Bhawan**.
- SSBSK covers: **birth to 36 months**.
- SSBSK merges: **HBNC + HBYC**.
- Ayushman Sarathi: **WhatsApp chatbot for PM-JAY**.
- New 4th ABDM registry: **Drug Registry**.

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AILET 2026

UP TOPPER



Aryan Agarwal

ZEPHYR Two Year Classroom Program

CP ID: 2412100016

101 Sustainable Development Report

MINOR | Mar 2026 | Jun 2026

India reached its **highest-ever rank, 94th** (score **68.3/100**, up from 99th in 2025) in the **SDG Index** of the **Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2026**, released by the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**. Globally, **none of the 17 SDGs** is on track for 2030.

The report

- **SDR 2026: 11th edition**; publisher **UN SDSN**.
- Released alongside the **3rd Hamburg Sustainability Conference (HSC)** (**29 June 2026**, Hamburg, Germany): a hybrid multi-stakeholder platform, first held **7-8 Oct 2024**; 2026 theme "Together we co-create sustainable development".
- Assesses all **193 UN members** on a **0-100** score; **169 countries ranked**, incl. first-timers **Eritrea** and **Timor-Leste**.

Global findings

- **Top 3: Finland**, Sweden, Denmark. **Bottom:** Chad, Central African Republic, **South Sudan**.
- **None of the 17 SDGs** on track; only **16.5%** of targets progressing on track.
- **East and South Asia** made most progress since 2015, led by **India and China**.
- Weakest: SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), 11 (Cities), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land), 16 (Peace, Justice).

India

- **94th** (2026), from 99th (2025); up **18 ranks since 2015**; score **68.3**.
- Driven by poverty reduction, sanitation and healthcare, digital governance and social protection.
- Still behind neighbours **Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka**.

Firsts in 2026

- New **FAO indicator** on productive and sustainable agriculture (SDG 2).
- **Headline SDG Index (SDGhi)** uses one indicator per SDG; **retroactive rankings** allow year-on-year comparison.

The 17 SDGs

SDG	Goal	SDG	Goal
1	No Poverty	10	Reduced Inequalities
2	Zero Hunger	11	Sustainable Cities and Communities
3	Good Health and Well-being	12	Responsible Consumption and Production
4	Quality Education	13	Climate Action
5	Gender Equality	14	Life Below Water
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	15	Life on Land
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	17	Partnerships for the Goals
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure		

STATIC LINK

- **SDGs:** 17 goals, 169 targets, adopted by the UNGA in **2015** (Agenda 2030).
- **SDSN:** launched **2012** under the UN Secretary-General; led by **Jeffrey Sachs**. Also co-publishes the **World Happiness Report** (with Oxford's Wellbeing Research Centre and Gallup).
- India's own index: **NITI Aayog SDG India Index**.

QUICK RECALL

- SDR 2026 publisher: **UN SDSN**.
- India's rank: **94th** (highest ever).
- Top country: **Finland**.
- SDGs on track globally: **none**.

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102 FIFA World Cup

MAJOR | Mar 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026

Spain won the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup, beating **Argentina 1–0 after extra time** in the final at **MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, New Jersey (USA)**. The 23rd edition was the first with **48 teams** and the first co-hosted by **three countries: USA, Canada and Mexico**.

The 2026 tournament

- **Edition:** 23rd FIFA Men's World Cup; kicked off **11 June 2026**, a 39-day event across **16 host cities**.
- **Format:** 48 teams (up from 32), **12 groups**, **104 matches**, 32 teams in the knockout stage.
- **Opening match:** Mexico City. **Final:** New York/New Jersey (MetLife Stadium).
- **Debutants (4):** Cape Verde, Curaçao, Jordan, Uzbekistan.
- **Ball: Trionda** (Adidas), AI-enabled connected ball sending real-time tracking data to referees and VAR.
- **Official song:** "**Dai Dai**" by **Shakira** (with Burna Boy); her fourth FIFA anthem.

Hosts & mascots

Host	Mascot	Note
Canada	**Maple** (moose)	Debut as host
Mexico	**Zayu** (jaguar)	First to host 3 editions: 1970, 1986, 2026
USA	**Clutch** (bald eagle)	Hosted the final

- **Previous edition:** Qatar 2022, won by **Argentina**.

World Cup history

- **First World Cup: 1930, Uruguay**; Uruguay beat Argentina. 13 invited teams, the only edition with no qualifiers.
- Held every **four years**.
- **Most titles:** Brazil **5**; Germany and Italy **4** each; Argentina **3**; Spain now 2.
- **India** qualified only once, for **1950 (Brazil)**.
- **2030 (centenary):** Spain, Portugal and Morocco, with special matches in Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina.
- **Cards:** two yellows in one match = red. **Rigobert Song** (Cameroon) was the first player sent off at two World Cups (1994, 1998). Recommended pitch: **105 m × 68 m**.

Final & awardees

- **Winning goal: Ferran Torres**, 106th minute (extra time).
- Spain's **second title** (first: **2010**).

Award	Winner
Golden Ball	**Rodri** (Spain, captain)
Golden Boot	**Kylian Mbappé** (France, 10 goals)
Golden Glove	**Unai Simón** (Spain)
Best Young Player	**Pau Cubarsí** (Spain)

STATIC LINK

- **FIFA:** Fédération Internationale de Football Association; founded **21 May 1904, Paris**; first President Robert Guérin.
- **HQ: Zurich**, Switzerland. **President: Gianni Infantino**.
- Governs football, futsal and beach soccer. Modern football originated in **England**.
- **Inaugural FIFA Peace Prize (2025):** Donald Trump.

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 champion → **Spain** (1–0 vs Argentina, a.e.t.).
- Match-winner → **Ferran Torres**; Golden Ball → **Rodri**.
- Golden Boot → **Mbappé** (10 goals).
- First-time host in 2026 → **Canada**; three-time host → **Mexico**.
- Match ball → **Trionda**; song → **Dai Dai**.
- Most titles → **Brazil (5)**; India's only qualification → **1950**.
- FIFA HQ → **Zurich**; founded → **1904, Paris**.

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103 River Water Agreements

MAJOR | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

2026 saw a run of **Centre-brokered inter-state water agreements**, each signed in the presence of **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** (with **Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil** at the last three): the **Yamuna Water Project** (Rajasthan-Haryana), the **Narmada payment pact** (four states), the **Kishau Multipurpose Project** (six states) and the **Sone river MoU** (Bihar-Jharkhand). They are presented as models of **cooperative federalism**.

1. Yamuna Water Project (June)

- **Rajasthan and Haryana** signed an agreement to build and run the project so that Rajasthan can draw its allocated share of Yamuna water.
- Water carried by an **underground pipeline** linked to the **Western Yamuna Canal**, mainly for **drinking water**.
- About **580 MCM** a year, during **July–October**.
- Implements Rajasthan's share under the **1994 MoU on the Upper Yamuna Basin**; covers cost-sharing, O&M, monitoring and dispute resolution.

2. Narmada payment pact (7 July)

- **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh** settled pending dues among the **Narmada Award** beneficiary states, ending nearly **five decades** of financial disputes.
- One-time settlement of cost-sharing for the **Sardar Sarovar Project**, land compensation and rehabilitation.
- CMs: Fadnavis, Bhupendra Patel, Bhajan Lal Sharma, Mohan Yadav.
- **NWDT:** set up **1969** under **Art. 262** and the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**; final award **1979**. Tribunal dissolved, award still in force.
- **Sardar Sarovar Dam:** on the Narmada at **Kevadia, Gujarat**; foundation stone by **Nehru, 5 April 1961**. Opposed by the **Narmada Bachao Andolan** (1985, **Medha Patkar**, Baba Amte). Statue of Unity nearby.

3. Kishau Multipurpose Project (MoU 15 Sept)

- **Six states:** Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand (hosts), UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi (beneficiaries).
- On the **Tons River**, a major tributary of the **Yamuna**, on the **HP-Uttarakhand border**.
- **232.6 m** concrete gravity dam; **422 MW**; irrigation for about 97,076 ha; storage about 1,786 MCM.
- **Funding:** Centre bears **90%** of the water component; states share 10%. Downstream states help meet HP's power-component cost. Agency: **Kishau Corporation Ltd**.
- One of three storage projects under the **1994 Upper Yamuna Agreement**: **Lakhwar** (Yamuna, Uttarakhand), **Renukaji** (Giri, HP), **Kishau** (Tons).

See also: 131 Indus Waters Treaty.

4. Sone river MoU (31 Aug)

- **Bihar and Jharkhand** signed an MoU in New Delhi to share Sone waters, settling a nearly **25-year-old** issue.
- For irrigation and drinking water: Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas, Kaimur, Aurangabad, Arwal, Gaya, Patna (Bihar); Palamu, Garhwa (Jharkhand).
- Called the **fourth major inter-state water agreement of 2026**.
- **Sone:** rises near **Amarkantak (MP)**; major **right-bank tributary of the Ganga**; flows MP, UP, Jharkhand, Bihar.

STATIC LINK

- **Art. 262:** Parliament may provide for adjudication of inter-state river disputes and bar other courts. Water is **Entry 17, State List**, subject to **Entry 56, Union List**.
- **Zonal Councils** (States Reorganisation Act, 1956; chaired by Home Minister) also discuss water disputes; advisory only.

QUICK RECALL

- Kishau dam river → **Tons** (Yamuna tributary).
- Narmada tribunal set up → **1969**; award → **1979**.
- Sardar Sarovar Dam → **Kevadia, Gujarat**.
- Sone originates near → **Amarkantak**.
- Yamuna basin sharing basis → **1994 Upper Yamuna MoU**.
- Constitutional article on water disputes → **Art. 262**.

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104 India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 (ISM 2.0)

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

The Union Cabinet approved **India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 ("Semicon 2.0")** with an outlay of **₹1,27,500 crore** (July), and the Government notified it in September. Announced in the **Union Budget 2026–27**, ISM 2.0 moves from **individual projects to an integrated semiconductor value chain**: equipment, materials, chip IP, packaging, R&D and talent.

ISM 1.0 → ISM 2.0

- **ISM 1.0:** launched **December 2021**, outlay **₹76,000 crore**, under **MeitY** (Minister: **Ashwini Vaishnaw**).
- Under ISM 1.0: **12 projects** approved, about **₹1.64 lakh crore** investment, in **six states**: Gujarat, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, UP, Odisha, Punjab.
- **ISM 2.0 targets:** about **₹4 lakh crore** investment, ₹2 lakh crore production, ₹1 lakh crore exports, **50,000–60,000 direct jobs**.
- **Nodal:** MeitY; design and technical partner **C-DAC**.

Six pillars of ISM 2.0

- **1 Chip design** (indigenous IP, start-ups) · **2 Machines & materials** (equipment, chemicals, gases) · **3 Fabs** (silicon, compound, discrete, display) · **4 Packaging & testing** (ATMP/OSAT) · **5 R&D** · **6 Talent** (already **315 universities**, about **68,000 students** trained on EDA tools).

Financial support

- **Silicon fabs:** up to **40%** of capex. Compound/discrete/display fabs and packaging units: up to **35%**.
- Equipment and components: extra **2–10%** PLI. R&D and talent: up to **75%** of cost.
- Support **pari-passu** with capital invested. Chip-design start-ups: seed funding up to **₹15 crore**; Government may take minority stakes.
- **Royalty financing:** firms pay 5% of net revenue until the Government recovers **1.5×** its support.

Plants in the news

Unit	Place	Type / status
Micron (US)	Sanand, Guj.	ATMP; **India's first semiconductor plant**, operational 28 Feb 2026
Kaynes Semicon	Sanand	OSAT; 31 Mar 2026
CG Semi (CG Power)	Sanand	OSAT; inaugurated by PM, 4 Jul 2026
Tata Semiconductor	Dholera SEZ	**India's first chip fab** (notified, April)
Crystal Matrix	Dholera	First commercial GaN Mini/Micro-LED display unit (May)
3D glass-substrate unit	Info Valley, Bhubaneswar	First advanced **3D chip packaging** unit (April)

SEMICON India 2026

- **5th edition**, inaugurated by PM Modi at **Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi**, **17–19 September 2026**.
- Theme: **"Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem"**. Organisers: ISM, MeitY and **SEMI** (global industry association).

Pax Silica (in brief)

- **US State Department**-led initiative for secure supply chains in **critical minerals, semiconductors and AI**; Declaration of **12 Dec 2025**. **India joined on 20 Feb 2026** at the AI Impact Summit, New Delhi. Details: topic 019.

STATIC LINK: SEMICONDUCTOR BASICS

- **Fab:** plant where chips (integrated circuits) are fabricated on wafers. **Silicon** is the key semiconductor material.
- **ATMP:** Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging. **OSAT:** Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (packaging and testing after fabrication).

QUICK RECALL

- ISM 2.0 outlay → **₹1,27,500 crore**; ISM 1.0 → **₹76,000 crore** (Dec 2021).
- Number of pillars → **six**; ministry → **MeitY**.
- First chip fab → **Tata, Dholera**; first semiconductor plant → **Micron, Sanand**.
- SEMICON India 2026 venue → **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi**.
- Max capex support for silicon fabs → **40%**.

See also: 019 AI Impact Summit & Pax Silica; 018 Union Budget 2026-27.

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105 Sarnath, World Heritage Sites & UNESCO

MAJOR | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

The **Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath** (Uttar Pradesh) was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the **48th Session of the World Heritage Committee, Busan (Republic of Korea)**, becoming **India's 45th World Heritage Site** and UP's 4th. Sarnath is where the **Buddha gave his first sermon**, and its **Ashokan Lion Capital** is India's National Emblem.

India's 45th WHS

- **Category:** Cultural; meets **two criteria**. Two zones: **Chaukhandi Stupa** and **Archaeological Remains of Sarnath**.
- Remains include **Dhamekh Stupa** (first sermon), **Dharmarajika Stupa** (Ashokan), **Mulagandhakuti Vihara**, **Ashokan Pillar**. Chaukhandi marks where Buddha met his first disciples.
- **India's tally: 45 = 37 cultural, 7 natural, 1 mixed** (Khangchendzonga). Rank **6th** globally, 2nd in Asia-Pacific. Previous: Moidams (2024), Maratha Military Landscapes (2025).
- **Top countries:** Italy 61, China 60, Germany 55, France 54, Spain 50 (June figures).

Sarnath & Buddhism

- Ancient names: **Isipatana / Rishipattana** ("place of sages"), **Mrigadava** (Deer Park), Sarangnath.
- **First sermon: Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta** (Dharmachakra Pravartana, "Turning of the Wheel of Dharma") to five disciples; birth of the **Sangha**.
- **Ashoka** (3rd c. BCE) built stupas and the pillar; flourished under the **Guptas** (4th–6th c. CE); declined after 12th-c. invasions; excavated in the 19th c.
- **Buddha:** born **Lumbini** (Nepal); enlightenment at 35 at **Bodh Gaya**; first sermon **Sarnath**; **Mahaparinirvana** at **Kushinagar**.

Lion Capital & National Emblem

- **Four lions** back to back on a circular abacus; abacus carries an **elephant, bull, horse and lion** separated by **wheels**; inverted bell-shaped lotus base.
- Adopted as National Emblem on **26 January 1950**; three lions visible; motto **Satyameva Jayate** from the **Mundaka Upanishad**.

48th WHC Session, Busan (2026)

- **25 sites** inscribed; **6** added to the **Danger List**, three by emergency procedure: **Boma–Badingilo** (South Sudan), **Mount Amel Castles** (Lebanon), **Sebastia** (Palestine); also **Tauric Chersonese** (Crimea, Ukraine), **Paramaribo** (Suriname), **Tyre** (Lebanon).
- India hosted the WHC only once: **46th session, New Delhi, 2024**.

Tentative List

- Mandatory first step; a site must be on it **at least one year** before nomination.
- **2026:** nine Indian properties added, total **78** (was 69 after 7 added in 2025). Include **Rangpur–Sivasagar** (Assam), **Colonial Penal Settlement** (Andaman), **Shekhawati** painted havelis (Raj.), **Bagh Caves**, **Udaigiri Caves**, Chambal temples, Ginnaurgarh Fort (MP), and **Sites of Satyagraha** (with South Africa).

Intangible heritage & creative cities

- **Intangible Cultural Heritage**: India has **16** elements; latest **Deepavali (2025)**.
- **UNESCO Creative Cities Network**: India has **9** cities; latest **Lucknow** (City of Gastronomy, **2025**).

STATIC LINK

- **WH Convention 1972** (in force 1975); India ratified **1977**; first Indian sites **1983**: Ajanta, Ellora, Agra Fort, Taj Mahal. **10 criteria** (1–6 cultural, 7–10 natural); test: **Outstanding Universal Value**.
- Advisory bodies: **ICOMOS** (cultural), **IUCN** (natural), **ICCROM**. Indian sites once in Danger: **Manas** (1992–2011), **Hampi** (1999–2006).
- **UNESCO:** est. **16 Nov 1945**; HQ **Paris**; 194 members; DG **Khaled El Enany** (first Arab). USA and Nicaragua withdrawal effective Dec 2026.
- **ASI:** founded **1861, Alexander Cunningham**; Ministry of Culture; nodal agency for the WH Convention; AMASR Act 1958. DG Yadubir Singh Rawat.
- **World Heritage Day:** 18 April (2026 theme on living heritage in conflicts and disasters).

QUICK RECALL

- India's 45th WHS → **Sarnath**; session → **48th, Busan**.
- India's split → **37 C, 7 N, 1 M**; world rank → **6th**.
- Lion Capital erected by → **Ashoka**; adopted → **26 Jan 1950**.
- First sermon text → **Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta**.
- India's Tentative List (2026) → **78**.

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106 CJP at Jantar Mantar

MAJOR | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026

The **Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)**, a satirical Gen Z movement, protested at **Jantar Mantar, New Delhi** against the **NEET-UG 2026 paper leak** and CBSE OSM irregularities. The agitation ended with **Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigning (25 July 2026)**, and was followed by a **Nilekani-led Task Force** and the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Act, 2026**.

CJI remark → CJP

- **15 May 2026:** in a Supreme Court hearing, **CJI Surya Kant** reportedly called some online activists and unemployed youth "cockroaches" and "parasites".
- **16/17 May: Abhijeet Dipke**, a Pune political-communication strategist, launched CJP on Instagram and X. Chief spokesperson: Saurav Das.
- Over **11 million** Instagram followers; issues: youth unemployment, cost of living, elitism.
- **21 May:** X withheld CJP's account under **Sec. 69A, IT Act 2000**; **7 July: Delhi HC** ordered restoration.

NEET and the Jantar Mantar protest

- NEET-UG 2026 paper leak led to a **re-test**; MeitY (on NTA's advice) **blocked Telegram until 22 June** under Sec. 69A.
- **Sonam Wangchuk** fasted **26 days** in support; he was forcibly removed midway.
- **Jantar Mantar:** one of five observatories built by **Sawai Jai Singh** (Delhi, **Jaipur (WHS)**, Varanasi, Mathura, Ujjain).

Resignation (Art. 75)

- Pradhan resigned on **25 July 2026**; replaced by **Pralhad Joshi**.
- **Art. 75(2):** ministers hold office during the **pleasure of the President**; resignation goes to the President, accepted on PM's advice. **75(3):** collective responsibility to **Lok Sabha**. **75(4):** oath of office and secrecy.

High-Powered Task Force

- Chair: **Nandan Nilekani** (Infosys co-founder, ex-UIDAI chief). Members: **S. Somanath** (ex-ISRO), Tapan Deka (ex-IB), **V. Kamakoti** (IIT Madras), Anita Karwal, Amrit Lal Meena.
- Tasks: prevent leaks, **review NTA**, tech-driven secure exams, institutional reform.
- Earlier: **K. Radhakrishnan** committee (after 2024 NEET leak), **101 recommendations**.
- PM announced **Fast-Track Courts**; Delhi HC designated a Special FTC first. FTCs were first recommended by the **11th Finance Commission (2000)**.

See also: 120 Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Public Examinations Amendment Act, 2026

Offence	2024 Act	2026 amendment
Unfair means by a person	3–5 yrs, fine ≤ ₹10 lakh	**5–10 yrs**, fine ≤ **₹50 lakh**
Service provider	fine ≤ ₹1 cr	fine ≤ **₹5 cr**
Organised crime	5–10 yrs, fine ≥ ₹1 cr	min **7 yrs**, min fine **₹10 cr**
Debarment of provider	4 yrs	**8 yrs**

- Every State/UT to designate a **Special Fast Track Court** (a Court of Session); Centre may form a **Special Task Force**.
- Investigation in **2 months**; trial in **3 months**, day-to-day; appeal to a **2-judge HC bench** within 30 days.
- Passed **LS 29 July**, **RS 30 July**; **assent 1 August 2026**.

STATIC LINK

- **NTA:** est. **2018**, autonomous body under the Dept of Higher Education; chairman **Pradeep Kumar Joshi**.
- **Sec. 69A** upheld in **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)**; blocking via IT (Blocking) Rules 2009.

QUICK RECALL

- CJP founder → **Abhijeet Dipke**.
- New Education Minister → **Pralhad Joshi**.
- Task Force chair → **Nandan Nilekani**.
- Act amended → **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024**.
- Min. fine for organised exam crime now → **₹10 crore**.
- FTCs first recommended by → **11th Finance Commission**.

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107 International Criminal Court (ICC)

MAJOR | May 2026 | Jul 2026

2026 has been a turbulent year for the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**: its **Prosecutor Karim Khan (UK) was dismissed** over sexual misconduct allegations, and **Venezuela, Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali** notified the UN of their withdrawal. Against the trend, **Hungary voted to stay** in the Court.

Prosecutor dismissed

- **Karim Khan** (UK), ICC Prosecutor, dismissed on account of **sexual misconduct allegations**.
- Prosecutor's term: **9 years**; President: **Tomoko Akane**.

Withdrawals (2026)

- Notified: **Venezuela, Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali**.
- **Art. 127, Rome Statute:** withdrawal takes effect **one year after** the notification is deposited with the UN.
- Withdrawal does **not** end ongoing investigations or obligations for crimes committed while a State Party.
- Earlier exits: **Burundi (2017)** and the **Philippines (2019)**.

Hungary stays (May)

- **27 May 2026:** Hungary's Parliament voted to **remain** in the ICC, reversing **Viktor Orbán's** April 2025 withdrawal decision.
- Orbán had announced exit when **Netanyahu** visited Hungary despite an **ICC arrest warrant**.
- New PM **Péter Magyar**, who defeated Orbán, halted the withdrawal.

ICC basics

- Founded under the **Rome Statute (17 July 1998)**; in force **1 July 2002**. HQ: **The Hague, Netherlands**.
- First **permanent** international criminal court; **not a UN organ**.
- Tries **individuals, not states**, for four core crimes: **genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, crime of aggression**. Terrorism is not one of them.
- **Complementarity:** acts only when national courts are unwilling or unable.
- **18 judges**, 9-year non-renewable terms. **125** States Parties.
- **Not members:** India, USA, China, Russia, Israel, Pakistan.

World Day for International Justice

- Observed on **17 July**; marks adoption of the Rome Statute (17 July 1998).
- Promotes international criminal justice, accountability and an end to impunity.

Ecocide: a fifth crime? (May)

- Iran called Israel's bombing of Tehran fuel depots ("black rain") **ecocide**.
- Term coined **1970** by **Arthur W. Galston** (Agent Orange, Vietnam War); used by **Olof Palme** at the 1972 Stockholm Conference.
- **Vietnam** first criminalised it domestically (**1990**); **IUCN** recognised it as a crime in 2025. Campaigners want it added to the Rome Statute.

STATIC LINK

- **Assembly of States Parties:** the ICC's management and legislative body; elects the judges and the Prosecutor.
- **Permanent Court of Arbitration** (1899), Peace Palace, The Hague: resolves disputes between states.

QUICK RECALL

- Withdrawal effective after → **one year** (Art. 127).
- Dismissed prosecutor → **Karim Khan (UK)**.
- ICC President → **Tomoko Akane (Japan)**.
- Country reversing exit → **Hungary**.
- World Day for International Justice → **17 July**.
- Number of core crimes → **four**; judges → **18**.
- Is India a party to the Rome Statute? → **No**.
- First country to criminalise ecocide → **Vietnam (1990)**.

ICC vs ICJ (both seated at The Hague)

	International Criminal Court (ICC)	International Court of Justice (ICJ)
Basis	**Rome Statute (1998)**; functioning since **1 July 2002**	**UN Charter (1945)**; first sat **1946**
UN link	**Independent** treaty body (not a UN organ)	**Principal judicial organ of the UN** (Peace Palace)
Tries / hears	**Individuals**, for the four core crimes	Disputes **between States**; **advisory opinions** for UN bodies
Judges	**18**, 9-year terms, elected by the Assembly of States Parties	**15**, 9-year terms, elected by the **UNGA and UNSC**
Head	President **Tomoko Akane** (Japan)	President **Iwasawa Yuji** (Japan)
India	**Not a party** to the Rome Statute	Party (all UN members); judge **Dalveer Bhandari**

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108 Skyroot Vikram-1

MAJOR | Apr 2026 | Jul 2026

Skyroot Aerospace launched **Vikram-1** under **Mission Aagaman** from **Sriharikota**, India's **first privately developed orbital launch vehicle** and the country's **first successful private orbital launch**. India became only the **third country, after the USA and China**, with a private company capable of orbital launches.

The launch

- **Mission: Aagaman**. **Site:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.
- Run-up (April): Telangana CM **A. Revanth Reddy** flagged off the flight hardware from Hyderabad to Sriharikota; a June launch was targeted.
- **Payloads deployed:** Skyroot's own (**SCOPE**), **Grahaa Space**, **Cosmoserve Space** and **DCUBED**.
- Also carried "**Cosmic Bloom**", an 18-carat gold micro-rocket, and micro-sculptures of **Vikram Sarabhai, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and C.V. Raman**.

Vikram-1: key features

- Named after **Dr Vikram Sarabhai**, father of India's space programme and founder of ISRO.
- **Propulsion:** first three stages are solid motors named **Kalam**; upper stage is the 3D-printed liquid **Raman** engine. All developed by Skyroot.
- **Payload:** up to **350 kg** to a **450 km LEO**.
- **All-carbon composite** structure: lighter and more fuel-efficient.
- **Vikram series:** Vikram I, II, III; multi-orbit insertion; up to **815 kg** to LEO/SSPO (series figure); for broadband, GPS, IoT and Earth imaging.

Skyroot Aerospace

- Founded **2018** by ex-ISRO scientists **Pawan Kumar Chandana** and **Naga Bharath Daka**.
- HQ: **Hyderabad, Telangana**. Recently became a **unicorn**.
- Earlier: **Vikram-S** (Mission Prarambh, Nov 2022) was India's first privately built rocket, a **sub-orbital** flight.

See also: 062 Gaganyaan; 128 National Space Day.

Private space framework

- **Indian Space Policy 2023:** opened the full space value chain to **Non-Government Entities (NGEs)**; defines roles of ISRO, IN-SPACe and NSIL.
- **IN-SPACe:** est. **2020**; single-window regulator and promoter of private space activity; HQ **Ahmedabad**; chairman **Pawan Kumar Goenka**. Gives access to ISRO facilities and enables tech transfer.

STATIC LINK

- **ISRO:** founded 1969; HQ Bengaluru. **NSIL** is ISRO's commercial arm (2019).
- Other private launch firm: **Agnikul Cosmos** (Chennai), which flew **Agnibaan SOrTeD** (sub-orbital) from India's first private launchpad at Sriharikota in **May 2024**.

QUICK RECALL

- Vikram-1 mission name → **Aagaman**.
- Company → **Skyroot Aerospace, Hyderabad**.
- Solid stages / liquid engine → **Kalam / Raman**.
- Payload capacity → **350 kg to 450 km LEO**.
- Private-space regulator → **IN-SPACe** (Ahmedabad).
- Father of India's space programme → **Vikram Sarabhai**.
- Countries with private orbital launch → **USA, China, India**.

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109 Commonwealth Games

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Jul 2026

The **23rd Commonwealth Games** were held in **Glasgow, Scotland (23 July–2 August 2026)** with a pared-down programme of **10 core sports**. **India finished 4th with 39 medals (13 G, 17 S, 9 B)** and received the CWG flag as host of the **centenary Games in Ahmedabad (2030)**.

Glasgow 2026

- Organised by the **Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)**; athletes from **74 nations and territories**.
- Glasgow stepped in after **Victoria (Australia) withdrew in 2023** over costs.
- Scotland's **4th** Games: Edinburgh 1970, 1986; Glasgow 2014, 2026.
- **Mascot: Finnie**, inspired by Scotland's national animal, the **unicorn**.
- First Games in the reign of **King Charles III**; **King's Baton Relay** (since 1958) ended at Glasgow.
- **10 sports:** athletics, swimming, boxing, weightlifting, judo, artistic gymnastics, track cycling, netball, bowls, 3×3 basketball. **Dropped:** shooting, wrestling, badminton, hockey, table tennis.
- **47 para events** in six sports: the largest para programme in CWG history.

Medal table (top 5)

#	Country	G	S	B	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**
5	Scotland	13	9	15	37

India at Glasgow

- 19th appearance (debut **1934, London**). Flag bearer: **Mirabai Chanu**; King's Baton bearer: **Lovlina Borgohain**. Jute-viscose uniforms.
- **Boxing:** best discipline, **10 medals (7 G)**; most boxing golds by any country at one Games.
- **Mirabai Chanu:** first Indian weightlifter with **3 straight CWG golds** (2018, 2022, 2026).
- **Asmita Dey, Harsh Singh:** India's first CWG **judo** golds. **Tejaswin Shankar:** first Indian **decathlon** medal.
- **Gulveer Singh:** only double medallist (silver 10,000 m, bronze 5,000 m). **Neeraj Chopra:** javelin silver.
- Best-ever **para** campaign: **7 medals**.

History & hosts

- **First: 1930, Hamilton (Canada)**, as the British Empire Games; conceived by **Melville Marks Robinson**; roots in the 1911 Inter-Empire Championships.
- Names: British Empire & Commonwealth Games (1954), British Commonwealth Games (1970), **Commonwealth Games (1978)**. Not held 1942, 1946.
- Para-sports fully integrated since **2002**. Second-largest multi-sport event after the Olympics.
- India's first medal: **Rashid Anwar** (wrestling bronze); first individual gold: **Milkha Singh** (440 yd, Cardiff 1958). Best: **Delhi 2010**, 101 medals, 2nd.
- **2030: Ahmedabad** (centenary edition), India's second Games after Delhi 2010; **Neeraj Chopra** received the flag.

STATIC LINK: COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

- **56 members**; Secretariat at **Marlborough House, London**; Head: **King Charles III**. Modern Commonwealth dates from the **London Declaration, 1949**.
- **28th CSPOC** (Commonwealth Speakers) held in New Delhi, Jan 2026; next in London (2028).

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 host → **Glasgow**; mascot → **Finnie** (unicorn).
- India's rank / medals → **4th / 39** (13 G).
- India's flag bearer → **Mirabai Chanu**.
- 2030 host → **Ahmedabad** (centenary).
- First CWG → **Hamilton, 1930**.

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110 Samudra Manthan Scheme

MINOR Jul 2026

The Union Cabinet approved **"Samudra Manthan"**, formally the **National Offshore Exploration Scheme (NOES)**, with an outlay of **₹84,084 crore** up to **FY 2030–31**, to speed up exploration of India's **deepwater and ultra-deepwater** oil and gas.

Scheme at a glance

- **Ministry:** Petroleum and Natural Gas (Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri**). **Type:** Central Sector Scheme.
- **Target:** add **600+ MMTOE** (million metric tonnes of oil equivalent) of hydrocarbon reserves.
- Focus: deepwater, ultra-deepwater and **frontier offshore** basins.

Key components

- **Exploratory drilling: ₹43,200 crore** for **60 deepwater wells**; risk-sharing to draw public and private explorers.
- **Seismic data** acquisition, scientific drilling, mapping of frontier areas.
- **Common offshore infrastructure** for production and evacuation from discoveries.
- **Oil & Gas Manufacturing and Services Zones** to localise critical equipment.
- Digital programme management, technology adoption, international cooperation, better geological data systems.

STATIC LINK

- **Samudra Manthan**: the churning of the ocean in Hindu mythology.

QUICK RECALL

- Formal name → **National Offshore Exploration Scheme**.
- Outlay → **₹84,084 crore**; till → **2030–31**.
- Wells planned → **60 deepwater**.
- Reserve-addition target → **600+ MMTOE**.

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111 India's First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train

MINOR | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026

On **17 July 2026** PM Modi flagged off **India's first hydrogen-powered train**, the **"NaMo Green Rail"**, from **Jind** on the **89-km Jind–Sonipat** section in **Haryana**. India joins Germany, Japan, China and the US in using hydrogen for cleaner rail.

The train

- **Route:** Jind–Sonipat, **Northern Railway**, Haryana (89 km).
- **10 cars:** 2 Hydrogen Driving Power Cars + 8 Trailer Coaches; **1,200 kW** fuel-cell propulsion.
- **Speed:** max operating **75 km/h**; design speed 110 km/h.
- **Built by: Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai**.
- Flagged off from **Jind railway station**; aligned with the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**.

How a hydrogen train works

- Compressed hydrogen in high-pressure tanks feeds a **fuel-cell stack**, which combines it with oxygen to make electricity.
- By-products: **water vapour and heat** only. Surplus power stored in onboard **lithium-ion batteries**.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

- Approved **January 2023**; nodal ministry **MNRE**; outlay **₹19,744 crore**.
- Target: **5 MMT** green hydrogen a year by **2030**. Phase I 2022–23 to 2025–26; Phase II 2026–27 to 2029–30.
- Aims: exporter of green hydrogen, domestic electrolysers, lower industrial emissions, energy security.
- Main incentive window: **SIGHT** (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition) for electrolyser making and green hydrogen output.

Also in July: 99.6% electrification

- Indian Railways has electrified **99.6%** of its **broad-gauge** network: second only to **Switzerland (100%)**.
- Route km electrified: **21,801** before 2014; **48,072** in 2014–2026.

STATIC LINK

- **Grey** hydrogen comes from fossil fuels; **green** hydrogen from electrolysis of water using renewable power.
- Related (June): BARC's world-first **nuclear-heat hydrogen plant** (Copper-Chlorine cycle) at IGCAR, **Kalpakkam**.

QUICK RECALL

- Name → **NaMo Green Rail**; route → **Jind–Sonipat**.
- Builder → **ICF Chennai**; zone → **Northern Railway**.
- By-product of a hydrogen fuel cell → **water vapour** (and heat).
- Power → **1,200 kW**; max speed → **75 km/h**.
- NGHM 2030 target → **5 MMT/yr**; nodal ministry → **MNRE**.
- Most electrified rail network → **Switzerland**; India second (99.6%).

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112 PM Visit to Indonesia

MINOR | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

PM Modi visited **Indonesia** at the invitation of **President Prabowo Subianto** and received Indonesia's highest honour, the **Bintang Adipurna**, becoming the **second Indian PM after Jawaharlal Nehru** to get it. The headline outcome: a **USD 200 million BrahMos deal**.

Defence & security

- Indonesia to buy **two coastal defence batteries** of **BrahMos** supersonic cruise missiles (**USD 200 mn**). India will also supply the **Astra** air-to-air missile.
- Joint development of Indonesia's **Sabang Port**.
- **3rd India–Indonesia Security Dialogue** (IISD) to be held.

Economy, culture, education

- **SAIL** to set up a stainless-steel slab plant in Indonesia.
- India to supply **100 tonnes of DWR-162 wheat seed**.
- Indonesia launched the **Indonesia Open Network (ION)**, modelled on India's **ONDC**.
- India to help conserve the **Prambanan Temple** complex; **Tagore–Dewantara Year (2026–27)**.
- **IIM Bangalore** campus at the **Singhasari SEZ, East Java**.

STATIC LINK

- **BrahMos:** JV of **DRDO** and Russia's **NPO Mashinostroyenia**; named after the **Brahmaputra** and **Moskva**. Vietnam signed a ~$620 mn deal (June); Philippines was the first buyer.
- Indonesia: capital **Jakarta**; **11th full member of BRICS** (Jan 2025); ASEAN founder member. Prabowo was **Republic Day 2025** chief guest.
- **Prambanan:** 9th-century Hindu temple complex (Shiva, Vishnu, Brahma) in Central Java; UNESCO WHS (1991).
- India–Indonesia: **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** since **2018**; maritime neighbours across the Andaman Sea (Sabang lies near Indira Point).

QUICK RECALL

- Honour to Modi → **Bintang Adipurna** (2nd Indian PM after Nehru).
- Missile deal → **BrahMos**, USD 200 mn, 2 coastal batteries.
- Port to be co-developed → **Sabang**; air-to-air missile offered → **Astra**.
- Joint cultural year → **Tagore–Dewantara Year** (2026–27).
- IIM-B campus → **Singhasari SEZ, East Java**.
- Indonesia's ONDC-style platform → **Indonesia Open Network (ION)**.

See also: 097 BrahMos: Vietnam & Indonesia.

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113 PM Visit to Australia & New Zealand

MINOR | Apr 2026 | Jul 2026

PM Modi visited **Australia** for the **3rd India–Australia Annual Summit (Melbourne, 9 July 2026)** with PM **Anthony Albanese**, marking six years of the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**, and then **New Zealand (Auckland)**, where ties were elevated to a **Strategic Partnership** with PM **Christopher Luxon**.

Australia: key outcomes

- **Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation (JDDSC)**, replacing the **2009** security declaration.
- **Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap** launched.
- **Uranium:** administrative arrangement under the **2014 Civil Nuclear Agreement** operationalised.
- **Gaganyaan** support via ground telemetry at the **Cocos (Keeling) Islands**.
- **PACTS** (cyber, critical tech, supply chains); trilateral MoU under **ACITI** (Australia–Canada–India).
- Rooftop Solar Training Academy at **PDEU, Gandhinagar** (2,000 women and youth; PM Surya Ghar).
- Return of three 11th–12th c. **Tamil artefacts**; Sports Collaboration Roadmap.

New Zealand: key outcomes

- Welcomed with a Māori **pōwhiri** and **haka**.
- **Strategic Partnership: Roadmap to 2030**; regular Foreign Ministers' Dialogue; Maritime Security Dialogue; JWG on Counter-Terrorism.
- Speed up the new **India–NZ FTA** (100% duty-free access for Indian exports; NZ **USD 20 bn** FDI pledge over 15 years); **double trade by 2030**.
- NZ joins the **Global Biofuels Alliance**; Kiwi Fruit Action Plan.
- **100 Years of Unity Through Sport**: Indian Army hockey team toured NZ in **1926**.

STATIC LINK

- Capitals: **Canberra** (Australia), **Wellington** (NZ). India–Australia CSP since **2020**; India–Australia ECTA in force Dec 2022.

QUICK RECALL

- Venue of 3rd Annual Summit → **Melbourne**.
- Defence pact → **JDDSC** (replaces 2009 declaration).
- Gaganyaan tracking from → **Cocos (Keeling) Islands**.
- India–NZ ties now → **Strategic Partnership**.

See also: 069 India-New Zealand FTA.

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114 Integrated Anti-Ballistic Missile Coalition (Europe-Ukraine)

MINOR Jul 2026

Ukraine and nine European countries launched a new **anti-ballistic missile defence coalition** in **Paris**, on the sidelines of the **"Coalition of the Willing"** meeting, to protect Europe against ballistic missiles and cut dependence on outside suppliers.

Members (10)

- **Ukraine, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden**.

Why it was formed

- Rising use of **ballistic missiles**, especially in the **Russia–Ukraine war**.
- **Shortage of interceptors**; reduce reliance on external defence suppliers.
- Strengthen Europe's **strategic autonomy**; purely defensive.

Key projects

- **Freyja:** Ukrainian-designed missile defence system combining battlefield experience with European technology.
- **Exo-atmospheric interceptor:** destroys ballistic missiles **outside the atmosphere**; industry initiative **Bliksem EXO**.

STATIC LINK

- **Exo-atmospheric** = above the atmosphere; **endo-atmospheric** = within it. India's BMD has both layers (PAD/PDV and AAD).
- **Ballistic missile:** powered only in the initial phase, then follows a free-falling arc; **cruise missile:** powered throughout, flies low within the atmosphere.
- **NATO:** 32 members, HQ **Brussels**; newest member **Sweden** (2024), after Finland (2023). Ukraine is not a member.
- Earlier European effort: **European Sky Shield Initiative** (Germany-led, 2022).
- **Coalition of the Willing:** UK- and France-led group of states backing Ukraine's security after a ceasefire.

QUICK RECALL

- Launched in → **Paris**.
- Members → **Ukraine + 9 European states**.
- Ukrainian system → **Freyja**.
- Exo-atmospheric interceptor initiative → **Bliksem EXO**.
- Nature of the coalition → **purely defensive**.

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115 Wimbledon

MINOR | Feb 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

At **Wimbledon 2026**, world No. 1 **Jannik Sinner (Italy)** won the men's singles, beating French Open champion **Alexander Zverev** in four sets, and **Linda Nosková (Czechia)** won her **maiden** Grand Slam, beating compatriot **Karolina Muchová** in the women's final.

Champions 2026

Event	Winner(s)	Country
Men's singles	**Jannik Sinner**	Italy
Women's singles	**Linda Nosková**	Czechia
Men's doubles	Harri Heliövaara / Henry Patten	Finland / GB
Women's doubles	Guo Hanyu / Kristina Mladenovic	China / France
Mixed doubles	Marcelo Arévalo / Jeļena Ostapenko	El Salvador / Latvia

About Wimbledon

- Founded **1877**: the **oldest** tennis tournament and Grand Slam.
- Venue: **All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, London**.
- The **only Grand Slam on grass**; players must wear **predominantly white**.
- Held **June–July**: third Slam of the year.

The four Grand Slams

Order	Slam	Venue	Surface
1 (Jan)	Australian Open	Melbourne	Hard
2 (May–Jun)	French Open (Roland Garros)	Paris	Clay
3 (Jun–Jul)	Wimbledon	London	Grass
4 (Aug–Sep)	US Open	New York	Hard

- Winning all four in a career = **Career Grand Slam**.

STATIC LINK

- Trophies: men's singles **Gentlemen's Singles Trophy** (gilt cup); women's singles **Venus Rosewater Dish**.
- Grand Slams are sanctioned by the **International Tennis Federation (ITF)**, founded **1913**, HQ **London**.
- 2026 French Open men's champion: **Alexander Zverev** (Wimbledon runner-up).

QUICK RECALL

- Men's champion → **Sinner** (beat Zverev).
- Women's champion → **Nosková** (beat Muchová), maiden Slam.
- Only grass-court Slam → **Wimbledon**; founded → **1877**.

See also: 030 Australian Open; 098 French Open; 146 US Open.

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116 India's Campaign for UNSC: SHANTI

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jul 2026

EAM **Dr S. Jaishankar** launched India's campaign for a **UNSC non-permanent seat for 2028–29** under the theme **SHANTI: Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity**. The election is in **June 2027**, with **India and Tajikistan** contesting the single **Asia-Pacific** seat.

Key pillars of SHANTI

- Strengthening **international peace and security**.
- Amplifying the voice of the **Global South**.
- Better **UN peacekeeping**: technology and more **women** peacekeepers.
- **Maritime security** and protection of global commons.
- Responsible governance of **AI** and emerging technologies.
- Cooperation against **terrorism and terror financing**.

How non-permanent members are chosen

- **10** elected members, **2-year** terms, no veto, not eligible for immediate re-election.
- Elected by the **UNGA**, secret ballot, **two-thirds** of members present and voting; five elected each year.
- Seats: **Africa 3, Asia-Pacific 2**, Latin America & Caribbean 2, WEOG 2, Eastern Europe 1.

Don't confuse

- **SHANTI Act, 2025** (nuclear): **Sustainable Harnessing & Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India**.

Current context

- Elected for **2026–27**: **Bahrain, Colombia, DR Congo, Latvia, Liberia** (January).
- India was elected to **ECOSOC for 2026–28** (54 members, 3-year terms).

See also: 009 India Elected to ECOSOC 2026-28.

STATIC LINK

- UNSC: **15 members**; P5 with veto: USA, UK, France, Russia, China; one of the **six principal UN organs**; presidency rotates monthly.
- **G4** (India, Brazil, Germany, Japan) back each other for permanent seats.
- India has served **8 terms**, most recently **2021–22** (won with **184 of 192** votes); the 2028–29 term would be its 9th.
- Elected most often: **Japan**, **12 terms** (latest 2023–24), followed by **Brazil (11)**.
- **Only expansion so far:** UNGA resolution of **1963**, in force **1965**, raised membership from **11 to 15** (non-permanent seats **6 to 10**), as UN membership grew with decolonisation; the P5 were unchanged.
- UNSC elections: candidates endorsed by their regional group often run unopposed; a contested seat (as with Tajikistan) needs a two-thirds vote, which can take several rounds.

QUICK RECALL

- Campaign theme → **SHANTI**; term sought → **2028–29**.
- Rival for the Asia-Pacific seat → **Tajikistan**.
- Election → **June 2027**, UNGA, two-thirds majority.

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117 Pope's Magnifica Humanitas & Rome Declaration on AI

MINOR Jul 2026

In **July 2026** the **Global Nobel Laureates Assembly at Vatican City** adopted the **Rome Declaration for an Unarmed and Disarming Peace** ("Humanity at the Threshold: A Declaration on AI & Nuclear Weapons"), insisting that decisions on war, peace and nuclear use stay under **meaningful human control**. It was inspired by **Pope Leo XIV's encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas***.

The Declaration

- Adopted by Nobel laureates, AI scientists, religious leaders, diplomats and policy experts.
- **Non-binding** normative framework, not a treaty; meant to shape future AI-governance talks.
- Calls for a **global treaty barring autonomous AI** from **nuclear command-and-control** or launch decisions.

Six guiding principles

- Prevent an **AI-driven arms race**.
- Responsible AI **development** (transparency, ethics, accountability).
- Responsible **use**: AI supports, never replaces, human judgement.
- Responsible **global governance** and **leadership**.
- Renewed **nuclear disarmament**: complete, irreversible, verifiable.

Magnifica Humanitas

- Encyclical of **Pope Leo XIV** stressing protection of **human dignity** from unchecked technology; progress must stay subordinate to human values.

Related (July): UN's first scientific report on AI

- Preliminary Report of the **Independent International Scientific Panel on AI**: the first UN-commissioned scientific assessment of AI.
- 40-member panel co-chaired by **Yoshua Bengio** (Turing Award) and **Maria Ressa** (Nobel Peace Prize).

Related (July): AI for Good Global Commission

- Launched by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** to promote trustworthy, safe and inclusive AI; over **40 leaders** from governments, industry, academia and civil society.
- **Co-Chairs: Paul Kagame** (President, Rwanda) and **Marc Benioff** (Chair & CEO, Salesforce). **Vice-Chair: Doreen Bogdan-Martin**, ITU Secretary-General.
- **Indians: Mukesh Ambani** (Reliance) and **Sunil Bharti Mittal** (Bharti Enterprises) are **Founding Members**.
- First meeting at the **AI for Good Global Summit 2026**, Geneva.

STATIC LINK

- **Pope Leo XIV** (Robert Francis Prevost) elected May 2025: the **first US-born pope**.
- An **encyclical** is a papal letter to the whole Church; e.g. Pope Francis's ***Laudato si'*** (2015) on the environment.
- **Vatican City:** world's smallest sovereign state; the **Holy See** is a UN permanent observer.

QUICK RECALL

- Encyclical that inspired it → **Magnifica Humanitas** (Leo XIV).
- Adopted by → **Global Nobel Laureates Assembly**, Vatican.
- Legal status → **non-binding**.
- Core demand → AI must not make **nuclear launch decisions**; keep **meaningful human control**.

See also: 028 UN AI Panel Appointment & Report; 145 Pacing the AI Frontier.

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118 10 Years of UPI

MAJOR | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, built and run by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, completed **10 years in 2026**. It has made instant, interoperable, low-cost payments universal at home, is spreading abroad, and from **15 October 2026** some merchant payments will carry a **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** for the first time.

Ten years of UPI

- **Launched in 2016**; **2026 marks 10 years** of its launch.
- Real-time, **24×7 bank-to-bank** payments via mobile; supports **P2P** (person-to-person) and **P2M** (person-to-merchant).
- Developed and operated by **NPCI**; regulated by **RBI** under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
- From **11 April 2026**, National Highway tolls accept only **FASTag and UPI** (cashless tolling).

About NPCI

- **Established 2008** as an initiative of **RBI and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA)**; shareholders are major banks.
- **Section 8 (not-for-profit) company**; **HQ: Mumbai**. MD & CEO: **Dilip Asbe**.
- Umbrella body for retail payments: **UPI, RuPay, IMPS, BHIM, AePS, NACH, BBPS, FASTag/NETC**.
- Overseas arm: **NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL)**.

UPI abroad

- **Bhutan**: first foreign country to adopt UPI (**2021**).
- **Cambodia** (June 2026, NPCI with **ACLEDA Bank**): **9th country** where Indian travellers can pay by UPI. Others: Singapore, UAE, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka. Since then: **10th Greece**, **11th Maldives**, **12th Uzbekistan**.

UPI MDR framework (from 15 Oct 2026)

Transaction	MDR
P2P (any amount); P2M up to ₹2,000	**Free**
P2M above ₹2,000	**0.4%**, capped at **₹300** (₹75,000 and above)
Small merchants receiving up to ₹1 lakh/month	Zero MDR
Essential services (railways, telecom, fuel, insurance, utilities, farm inputs) above ₹2,000	Flat **₹5**
Capital markets (MFs, securities)	**0.02%**, cap ₹300

- MDR: fee for processing merchant payments, shared among banks, PSPs and app providers. **5% of collections** to fund UPI adoption by small merchants.

STATIC LINK

- RBI regulates payment systems under the **PSS Act, 2007**; NPCI is an RBI-authorised retail payments operator.
- **RuPay**: India's domestic card network (NPCI). **BHIM**: NPCI's own UPI app.
- Sister milestone: **PM Jan Dhan Yojana** (launched 28 Aug 2014) completed 12 years in Aug 2026; JAM trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) underpins DBT.

QUICK RECALL

- UPI developer and operator: **NPCI** (est. 2008, Mumbai).
- First country to adopt UPI: **Bhutan**; 9th: **Cambodia**; 12th (latest): **Uzbekistan**.
- UPI MDR rate above ₹2,000: **0.4%**, cap **₹300**; effective **15 Oct 2026**.
- NPCI MD & CEO: **Dilip Asbe**.

See also: 035 India-Israel partnership; 034 India-France Year of Innovation.

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119 Hockey World Cups

MAJOR | Mar 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

The **2026 FIH Hockey World Cup** (men's, women's and the **first-ever Para Hockey World Cup**) was co-hosted by **Belgium and the Netherlands** from **15 to 30 August 2026**. **Germany** won the men's title, **Argentina** the women's and **Italy** the para event; India finished 8th (men) and 5th (women).

Key facts

- **Hosts:** Belgium (**Wavre**) and the Netherlands (**Amsterdam/Amstelveen**).
- **Dates:** 15–30 August 2026; organised by the **FIH**.
- **Mascots: Wobble and Bubble.**
- Men's and women's events held together, **16 teams** each; **first Para Hockey World Cup** held alongside.
- India captains: **Harmanpreet Singh** (men), **Salima Tete** (women).

Results 2026

Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Men	**Germany**	Spain	Argentina
Women	**Argentina**	Netherlands	Belgium
Para	**Italy**	–	–

- **Men's final:** Germany beat Spain **1–0** at the **Belfius Hockey Arena**, Belgium.
- Germany's **4th title** (2002, 2006, 2023, 2026): now joint-most with **Pakistan (4)**.
- Germany were also **defending champions**, having won the **2023** edition hosted by India (Bhubaneswar–Rourkela).
- **Argentina women:** 3rd title. **Netherlands** remain the most successful women's side (**9 titles**).

India's record

- **Men: 8th** (lost 7th-place play-off to Belgium). India has won the men's World Cup **once**.
- **Women: 5th**; India has never won.
- Hockey India Annual Awards (March): **Balbir Singh Sr. Player of the Year**: Hardik Singh (men), Navneet Kaur (women); **Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement**: Zafar Iqbal.
- **Arjuna Award 2025** (hockey): Lalremsiami, Rajkumar Pal.

Major Dhyan Chand and National Sports Day

- Born **29 August 1905**; his birthday is **National Sports Day**. 2026 theme: **"Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat"**.
- Three Olympic golds: **1928 Amsterdam, 1932 Los Angeles, 1936 Berlin** (captain at Berlin).
- "**Hockey Wizard**" / "The Magician"; retired as a **Major** (1956); **Padma Bhushan**.
- India's top sports award is the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna** (earlier Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna); **no awardee** in the 2025 cycle.

STATIC LINK

- **FIH** (Fédération Internationale de Hockey): founded **1924**; HQ **Lausanne**, Switzerland; President **Mohammad Tayyab Ikram**.
- Match: **60 minutes** (four quarters); **11 players** a side.
- Men's World Cup began in **1971 (Barcelona)**; India's only title: **1975, Kuala Lumpur** (beat Pakistan 2–1).
- India has hosted the men's World Cup **four times**: **1982** (Bombay), **2010** (New Delhi), **2018** (Bhubaneswar), **2023** (Bhubaneswar–Rourkela); it has **never hosted** the women's. Women's World Cup began in **1974**.
- Olympics: India has **8 hockey golds** (1928–1956 six in a row, 1964, 1980) and bronzes at **Tokyo 2020** and **Paris 2024**.

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 men's champion: **Germany** (beat Spain 1–0).
- 2026 women's champion: **Argentina**; para: **Italy**.
- Hosts: **Belgium and the Netherlands**; mascots **Wobble and Bubble**.
- India men's captain: **Harmanpreet Singh**; finish: **8th**.
- Most men's titles: **Germany and Pakistan (4 each)**; women's: **Netherlands (9)**.
- National Sports Day: **29 August** (Dhyan Chand's birth anniversary).

See also: 109 Commonwealth Games; 138 Asian Games.

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120 Monsoon Session of Parliament

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026

The **Monsoon Session 2026** ran from **20 July to 13 August 2026** (19 sittings over 25 days) and was **adjourned sine die**. Parliament passed **12 Bills**, including the **Tribunals Reforms Act**, the amendment protecting **Vande Mataram** and the renaming of **Kerala as Keralam**; the **FCRA Amendment Bill** went to a **JPC**.

Session at a glance

- Bills introduced: **11 in Lok Sabha, 2 in Rajya Sabha**; passed by both Houses: **12**.
- **Two Ordinances replaced:** Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment; Income-Tax (Amendment).
- Other Acts: Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment; Registration of Births and Deaths Amendment; **MSMED Amendment**; Bankers' Books Evidence; NCDC Amendment; **MMDR Amendment**.

Tribunals Reforms Act, 2026

- Repeals the **Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021**; passed in LS by voice vote.
- Creates a **National Tribunals Commission (NTC)**, HQ **New Delhi**: Chairperson + 2 Judicial + 2 Technical Members; Centre appoints after **consulting the CJI**.
- Chair: former SC judge / HC Chief Justice; tenure **5 yrs or 70** (members 5 yrs or 67).
- Runs selection for **16 tribunals**; maintains a **National Tribunals Data Grid**.
- Responds to **Madras Bar Association** rulings that struck down the 2021 Act's 50-year minimum age, 4-year tenure and two-names-per-vacancy.

Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act

- Extends **Section 3** of the **1971 Act** (which protects the National Anthem) to **Vande Mataram**.
- Offence: intentionally preventing its singing or disturbing an assembly singing it: up to **3 years**, fine or both; repeat offence: minimum **1 year** (**Section 3A**).
- Section 2 protects the **National Flag and Constitution**.

Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act: "Keralam"

- Union Cabinet approved the Bill in **Feb 2026**; Assembly resolution of **24 June 2024**.
- Made under **Article 3**; amends the **First Schedule**; per **Article 4** not an Art. 368 amendment, so **simple majority**. Bill needs the **President's prior recommendation**; State's views not binding.
- Precedents: Uttaranchal to **Uttarakhand (2007)**; Orissa to **Odisha (2011)**.

Committees: FCRA Bill and ONOE

- **FCRA (Amendment) Bill, 2026** (amends FCRA, 2010) referred to a **JPC chaired by Sanjay Jaiswal**.
- Key provisions: statutory **Designated Authority** to take over foreign-funded assets on cancellation; "**deemed cessation**" of registration on non-renewal; **Centre's prior approval** before any agency probes; max jail cut from **5 years to 1**; wider "key functionary" liability.
- The **JPC on One Nation, One Election** (**Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024**), chaired by **P.P. Chaudhary**, had its term **extended** (March).

STATIC LINK

- **Art. 85:** President summons/prorogues; gap between sessions **max 6 months**. Sessions: Budget, Monsoon, Winter (by convention).
- **Adjournment / sine die:** Presiding Officer; ends sitting, not session. **Prorogation:** President, Art. 85(2)(a). **Dissolution:** Lok Sabha only.
- Tribunals: **Part XIV-A** (Arts. **323A, 323B**), added by the **42nd Amendment (1976)**; **L. Chandra Kumar (1997)**: tribunal orders subject to HC review.

QUICK RECALL

- Session dates: **20 July to 13 August 2026**.
- Bill sent to JPC: **FCRA Amendment** (chair **Sanjay Jaiswal**).
- New body under Tribunals Act: **National Tribunals Commission**.
- Song newly protected under the 1971 Act: **Vande Mataram**.
- Article used to rename Kerala: **Article 3**.

See also: 073 Increase in Supreme Court Judges; 024 Vande Mataram Guidelines; 040 Budget Session of Parliament.

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121 Mecca Joint Defence Agreement

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Apr 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026 | Oct 2026

On **7 August 2026**, **Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan** signed the **Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA)** at **Al-Safa Palace, Makkah**. Its core clause, that **an armed attack on one is an attack on all three**, mirrors **NATO's Article 5** and creates a new trilateral security bloc in West Asia.

The agreement

- **Signatories:** Crown Prince & PM **Mohammed bin Salman** (Saudi Arabia), President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** (Türkiye), PM **Shehbaz Sharif** (Pakistan).
- **Builds on:** the **Pakistan–Saudi Arabia Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (2025)**, now widened to include Türkiye.
- **Aim:** collective security and deterrence amid growing instability in West Asia.

Key features

- **Collective defence:** attack on one = attack on all.
- **Defence cooperation:** coordination, military cooperation, capability development.
- **Defensive orientation:** officially not aimed at any country.
- **Regional security:** peace and stability in West Asia; builds on existing defence ties.

What each member brings

Country	Strategic weight
Saudi Arabia	Financial strength, energy resources, Gulf location
Türkiye	**NATO member**, defence industry, regional influence
Pakistan	Large military, **nuclear capability**, long defence ties with Riyadh

- Together: **finance + defence technology + military capability**.

Similarity with NATO Article 5

	NATO	MJDA
Treaty	North Atlantic (Washington) Treaty, **4 April 1949**	Makkah, **7 Aug 2026**
Members	**32** (12 founders; newest **Sweden**)	**3**
Core clause	**Art. 5**: attack on one is attack on all	Same principle
Obligations	Defined; HQ Brussels	**Less clearly defined**

- Art. 5 rests on **Art. 51 of the UN Charter** (individual or collective self-defence).
- NATO members said Art. 5 could **not be invoked** in the Iran war (April) since the **US launched the attack**.

Later context (September–October)

- On **16 Sept 2026** Saudi air defences shot down a **Houthi drone near Mecca**; Riyadh called the holy city's security a "red line". Houthis denied targeting Mecca.
- **October 2026:** the agreement was **invoked for the first time**, after **Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia**.

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- **Makkah (Mecca)**: holiest city of Islam; houses the **Kaaba** in **Masjid al-Haram**; birthplace of Prophet Muhammad (570 CE).
- NATO: HQ **Brussels**; Secretary General **Mark Rutte**. Article 5 has been invoked only once, after **9/11 (2001)**.
- Türkiye joined NATO in **1952**.

QUICK RECALL

- MJDA signed: **7 Aug 2026, Al-Safa Palace, Makkah**.
- Members: **Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Pakistan**.
- Precursor: **Pak–Saudi Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (2025)**.
- Modelled on: **NATO Article 5** (collective defence).
- MJDA member also in NATO: **Türkiye**.

See also: 038 West Asia / Middle East war; 135 Houthis in Yemen; 036 Afghanistan-Pakistan Conflict.

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122 SCO Summit 2026

MAJOR | Apr 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

The **26th SCO Summit** (Council of Heads of State) was held at **Yrys Ordo, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan** on **31 August–1 September 2026**, marking the organisation's **25th anniversary**. It adopted the **Bishkek Declaration**, added **English** as an official language, and handed the chair to **Pakistan** for 2026–27.

Summit 2026: basics

- **Host/Chair:** Kyrgyzstan (2025–26 chairmanship), President **Sadyr Japarov**.
- **Theme:** "**25 Years of the SCO: Together for Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity**".
- **SCO Plus** meeting theme: "The UN as a Key Element of a Just World Order..."; attended by observer **Mongolia**, dialogue partners (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Egypt, Laos, Türkiye) and guests (Vietnam, Togo).

Bishkek Declaration and outcomes

- **Bishkek Declaration**: principal outcome; **28 documents** approved in all.
- Counter-terrorism: no **double standards**; action on terror financing, safe havens, cross-border terrorism.
- Approved the **SCO Universal Centre for Countering Challenges and Threats**; steps on drug trafficking and organised crime.
- **English** added as official/working language (with **Russian and Chinese**).
- SCO Secretariat MoU with the **African Union Commission**; SCO–CSTO–CIS cooperation.
- Next chair: **Pakistan (2026–27)**; **2027 summit in Pakistan**; **Lahore**: SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital 2026–27.

India at the summit

- India's vision "**SCO**": **S**ecurity, **C**onnectivity, **O**pportunity.
- **Zero tolerance** for terrorism; dialogue and diplomacy over force; PM said a conflict in one region (West Asia) "does not remain confined there".
- Connectivity must respect **sovereignty and territorial integrity**; support for a stable Afghanistan.
- India to host the first **SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum** (2026).
- PM Modi met President Japarov on the sidelines (31 Aug).
- Earlier: **SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting, Bishkek** (April): India cited **Operation Sindoor** and the role of **RATS**.

See also: 132 BRICS Summit 2026; 038 West Asia / Middle East war.

History and membership

Year	Milestone
1996	**Shanghai Five**: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
15 June 2001	SCO founded as **Uzbekistan** joins
2017	**India and Pakistan** full members
2023	**Iran** joins
2024	**Belarus** joins (10th member)

- **Observers:** Afghanistan, Mongolia. Covers **~60% of Eurasia**, **~42% of world population**.

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- **Supreme body:** Council of Heads of State (CHS).
- **SCO Charter:** signed **7 June 2002** at **St Petersburg**; in force **19 September 2003**; sets out goals, bodies and decision-making by **consensus**.
- **Two permanent bodies: Secretariat, Beijing**; **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), Tashkent**.
- **Secretary-General: Nurlan Yermekbayev** (Kazakhstan), since 2025.
- Focus: the "three evils" of **terrorism, separatism and extremism**, plus economic and cultural cooperation.
- India chaired the SCO in **2023** (virtual summit); the **2025** summit was held in **Tianjin, China**.

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 venue: **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan** (26th summit).
- Language added in 2026: **English**.
- Chair for 2026–27: **Pakistan**; cultural capital **Lahore**.
- RATS HQ: **Tashkent**; Secretariat: **Beijing**.
- Newest member: **Belarus (2024)**; total **10**.

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123 Rio Conventions

MAJOR | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026 | Aug 2026

The three **Rio Conventions**, born at the **1992 Rio Earth Summit (UNCED)**, all hold their Conferences of Parties in 2026: **UNCCD COP17** in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia** (17–28 Aug), **UNFCCC COP31** in **Antalya, Türkiye**, and **CBD COP17** in **Yerevan, Armenia**.

The three conventions

Convention	Adopted / in force	2026 COP
UNFCCC (climate)	1992 / **1994**	**COP31, Antalya**
CBD (biodiversity)	1992 / **1993**	**COP17, Yerevan**
UNCCD (desertification)	**1994**	**COP17, Ulaanbaatar**

UNCCD COP17, Ulaanbaatar

- **17–28 August 2026**; theme "**Restoring Land. Restoring Hope.**"; **197 Parties**.
- Focus on **rangelands and pastoralists**: 2026 is the UN **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**. **Rangelands Flagship Initiative** launched.
- **~US$1.3 bn** drought/restoration portfolio across 23 countries; **Drought Resilience Investment Facility** (UNCCD + **Luxembourg**, up to $400 mn); first **Drought Resilience Index** (AI-based).
- **No legally binding global drought agreement**; talks continue. **COP18: Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt (2028)**.
- Mongolia: ~77% land degraded; "**Billion Trees**" campaign (2021–2030).

India at UNCCD COP17

- Launched its first **Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs)** (17 Aug), by MoEFCC with ATREE, IUCN, ICFRE, SAC-ISRO; stresses that **afforestation is not restoration** and grasslands are not "wastelands".
- **Bonn Challenge: ~21.76 mn ha** restored (2011–20) towards **26 mn ha by 2030**.
- Showcased Rajasthan's **Orans** (community-conserved groves), Sovereign Green Bonds, Green Credit Programme.

UNFCCC COP31 and CBD COP17

- **COP31** (2026): **Antalya, Türkiye**, with **Australia** as joint partner; **COP32** (2027): **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**.
- India **withdrew its offer** to host **COP33 (2028)**.
- **Bonn SB64** (June): run the **59 Belém Adaptation Indicators** (from COP30) and a Just Transition Mechanism.
- **CBD COP17**: **Yerevan, Armenia** (2026). India filed its **7th National Report** to CBD and **1st report on the Nagoya Protocol** (March 2026).

STATIC LINK

- **UNCCD:** only legally binding treaty on desertification, land degradation and drought; secretariat **Bonn**; goal **Land Degradation Neutrality** (SDG 15.3). India hosted **COP14, New Delhi (2019)**; COP16 (2024) launched the **Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership**.
- Secretariats: **UNFCCC: Bonn**; **CBD: Montreal**. Previous climate COP: **COP30, Belém, Brazil (2025)**.
- **17 June**: Desertification and Drought Day (2026 theme "Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.").
- **CBD protocols: Cartagena** (biosafety, 2000/2003), **Nagoya** (access and benefit-sharing, 2010/2014); **Kunming–Montreal GBF (2022)**. India: **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.

QUICK RECALL

- UNCCD COP17 host: **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**; COP18: **Egypt (2028)**.
- UNFCCC COP31: **Antalya, Türkiye**; COP32: **Addis Ababa**.
- CBD COP17: **Yerevan, Armenia**.
- India's guide launched at COP17: **Grasslands and Open Natural Ecosystems**.
- UN Year 2026: **Rangelands and Pastoralists**.

See also: 051 India's NDCs under Paris Agreement; 071 CMS COP15; 090 World Environment Day.

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124 Grand Chess Tour

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026

R. Praggnanandhaa became the **first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour (GCT)**, beating defending champion **Fabiano Caruana (USA) 15–13** in the final of the **2026 GCT Finals** at the **Saint Louis Chess Club, USA** (22–27 August 2026). It caps a year in which he also won **Norway Chess** and the **Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz**.

GCT 2026 Finals

- **Venue/dates:** Saint Louis Chess Club, USA; **22–27 Aug 2026**.
- **Qualifiers (top 4 of season):** Praggnanandhaa (India), **Wesley So** (USA), **Fabiano Caruana** (USA), **Vincent Keymer** (Germany).
- **Format:** knockout (semis, final, third-place match); each match = **2 Classical + 2 Rapid + 4 Blitz** games.
- **Final:** Praggnanandhaa bt Caruana **15–13**; earns a guaranteed place in the **2027 GCT**.

About the Grand Chess Tour

- International circuit combining **Classical, Rapid and Blitz**.
- **Launched 2015** with three classical events; **Rapid and Blitz added in 2016**.
- Regular season followed by the **GCT Finals** for the overall title.
- **2026 legs:** Super Rapid & Blitz **Poland**; Super Chess Classic **Romania**; Super Rapid & Blitz **Croatia**; **Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz**; **Sinquefield Cup**; GCT Finals.

Praggnanandhaa's 2026

- **Norway Chess (June): first Indian** to win; beat **Magnus Carlsen twice** in classical; 18 pts, ahead of Wesley So (17) and Alireza Firouzja (15.5). Women's title: **Bibisara Assaubayeva** (Kazakhstan).
- **Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz (Aug):** his **maiden** title in the event (a GCT leg).
- **GCT 2026 (Aug):** first Indian overall champion.

Indian chess in 2026

- **R. Vaishali** won the **FIDE Women's Candidates 2026**: first Indian woman to do so; challenger to **Ju Wenjun**.
- **Javokhir Sindarov** (Uzbekistan) won the Men's Candidates; challenger to world champion **D. Gukesh**.
- New GMs: **Aarav Dengla (93rd)**; **Mayank Chakraborty (94th**, first from the North-East); **Aronyak Ghosh (95th)**; Ethan Vaz (96th), Harshvardhan GB (97th), Aswath S (98th); **V.S. Rathanvel (99th**, Tamil Nadu; Guwahati Open, July).
- **Viswanathan Anand**: Interim President of **FIDE** (July), until **Timur Turlov** became the current FIDE President. **Arjuna 2025** (chess): Vidit Gujrathi, Divya Deshmukh.
- **Magnus Carlsen** won the FIDE Freestyle (Chess960) World Championship 2026.

STATIC LINK

- **FIDE**: founded **Paris, 20 July 1924** (World Chess Day: **20 July**); HQ **Lausanne**; IOC-recognised 1999.
- Chess evolved from **Chaturanga** (Gupta period); four army divisions became pawn, knight, bishop, rook; Persian **Shatranj**.
- India's first GM: **Viswanathan Anand (1988)**.
- **D. Gukesh** became the youngest undisputed world champion in **Dec 2024** (Singapore, beat Ding Liren). **Divya Deshmukh** won the **2025 FIDE Women's World Cup** (Batumi).
- Saint Louis is home to the **Sinquefield Cup** (a GCT leg) and hosted the 2026 Finals.

QUICK RECALL

- First Indian to win the GCT: **R. Praggnanandhaa** (2026).
- Opponent in the GCT final: **Fabiano Caruana** (15–13).
- GCT Finals 2026 venue: **Saint Louis Chess Club, USA**.
- GCT launched: **2015**.
- First Indian to win Norway Chess: **Praggnanandhaa** (2026).

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125 BWF World Championships

MAJOR | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026

India hosted the **30th BWF World Championships** at the **Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi** from **17 to 23 August 2026**, its first since **Hyderabad 2009**. **South Korea** topped the medal table; India won **one bronze** (women's doubles, **Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand**).

Key facts

- **Edition:** 30th; **Host:** India (after a **17-year gap**; previously **Hyderabad, 2009**).
- **Venue:** Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi; **17–23 Aug 2026**.
- **Mascot: "Peacko"**, inspired by the Indian peafowl with shuttlecock elements.
- **Top medal-scoring country:** South Korea.
- **Next edition (2027): Paris, France.**

Winners 2026

Event	Gold	Silver
Men's singles	**Alex Lanier** (France)	Kodai Naraoka (Japan)
Women's singles	**An Se-young** (S. Korea)	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
Men's doubles	**Liang Weikeng & Wang Chang** (China)	Aaron Chia & Soh Wooi Yik (Malaysia)
Women's doubles	**Baek Ha-na & Lee So-hee** (S. Korea)	Liu Shengshu & Tan Ning (China)
Mixed doubles	**Thom Gicquel & Delphine Delrue** (France)	Feng Yan Zhe & Huang Dongping (China)

- **France** won two golds (men's singles, mixed doubles).
- **India: 1 bronze**, Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand (women's doubles).

Badminton in 2026

- **New scoring:** BWF AGM at **Horsens, Denmark** adopted **best-of-three games to 15 points (3×15)**, ending 3×21, from **4 January 2027**.
- **Thomas Cup (34th)**, Horsens: **China** bt France 3–1; India bronze. **Uber Cup (31st)**: **South Korea** bt defending champions China; India out in group stage.
- **P.V. Sindhu**: elected **Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission** (2026–29), also a BWF Council member; won the **Japan Open** (July), the **first Indian** to win it and the first Indian to win a **Super 750** title.

History: the "Poona" game

- The sport originated in **India**; its original name was **"Poona"** (after the city, now Pune), where British officers played it.
- The modern name comes from **Badminton House**, Gloucestershire (England), seat of the Duke of Beaufort.
- World Championships began in **1977 (Malmö, Sweden)**.

STATIC LINK

- **BWF**: founded **1934** (as the International Badminton Federation); HQ **Kuala Lumpur**, Malaysia.
- India's only world champion: **P.V. Sindhu** (gold, **Basel 2019**; **5** World Championship medals in all). **Saina Nehwal**: silver, 2015. First Indian World Championships medal: **Prakash Padukone** (bronze, 1983).

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 venue: **Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi** (30th edition).
- Mascot: **Peacko**.
- India's medal: **bronze**, Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand.
- Previous Indian host: **Hyderabad, 2009**; next host: **Paris, 2027**.
- Original name of badminton: **Poona**.

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126 Independence Day

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026

India celebrated its **80th Independence Day** on **15 August 2026**; PM Modi gave his **13th consecutive** address from the **Red Fort**, setting out a roadmap for **Viksit Bharat @2047**. Themes: **"150 Years of Vande Mataram"** and **"Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat @2047"**.

Red Fort ceremony

- Guard of Honour, National Anthem, **21-gun salute**; **Vande Mataram** sung from the ramparts.
- IAF **Mi-17** carried a banner marking 150 years of Vande Mataram and showered petals.
- **Bhashini** (AI translation) rendered the speech live in **22+ Indian languages**.

Announcements in the PM's address

- **AI Skill Mission:** train **1 crore youth** in AI within one year.
- **Free online coaching** platform for competitive exams, built on DPI.
- **Sports Talent Mission:** talent search for ages **5–16**, linked to **2036 Olympic** ambitions.
- Youth urged to join the **Census**; push for **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023** (**33%** seats for women, after Census and delimitation).
- **River interlinking: Godavari–Krishna–Pennar–Cauvery** link; **Ganga–Cauvery** link proposed as a national project.
- Warned that future wars may hit **data centres, banks, refineries**; stressed cyber and civil defence.

"Shakti ki Saptadhara": seven pillars

- **Manufacturing** (mantra "Quality, Quality, Quality"); **Agriculture & Food Processing**; **Technology & Innovation** (AI, quantum, semiconductors, 6G); **Gati Shakti** (high-speed rail, waterways); **Defence Shakti** (drones, counter-drone, hypersonic); **Soft Power** (Yoga, Ayurveda); **Green & Blue Economy**.

Har Ghar Tiranga and Suryapath Tiranga

- **Har Ghar Tiranga 2026** theme: **"Spirit of Vande Mataram"**; citizens hoist the flag at homes and workplaces.
- **Suryapath Tiranga:** global relay following the rising sun, from **Suva, Fiji** to **San Francisco** (19+ hours), across **54 Indian missions**.
- **India Post's first drone delivery of the Tiranga: Mandi HPO to Rehardhar BO** (Himachal Pradesh).

See also: 024 Vande Mataram Guidelines; 006 Republic Day.

Around 15 August

- **14 Aug: Partition Horrors Remembrance Day** (*Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas*), for victims of the 1947 Partition (3 June / Mountbatten Plan; Indian Independence Act, 1947).
- **14 Aug**: **Pakistan's Independence Day**.
- **Pingali Venkayya** (flag designer): **150th** birth anniversary, 2 Aug. **Sri Aurobindo**, born **15 Aug 1872**: 154th.

STATIC LINK

- Flag adopted by the Constituent Assembly on **22 July 1947** (Ashoka Chakra replaced the Charkha); ratio **3:2**.
- **Flag Code of India, 2002** (amended **2021**: polyester/machine-made allowed; **2022**: display day and night) and **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**.
- PM **hoists** the flag on Independence Day; President **unfurls** it on Republic Day.

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 Independence Day: **80th**; PM's **13th** consecutive address.
- Har Ghar Tiranga 2026 theme: **Spirit of Vande Mataram**.
- Suryapath Tiranga: **Suva (Fiji) to San Francisco**.
- Partition Horrors Remembrance Day: **14 August**.
- AI Skill Mission target: **1 crore youth**.

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127 Nepal Floods

MAJOR | Mar 2026 | Aug 2026

On **26 August 2026** a catastrophic **flash flood and debris flow** struck the **Nepal–Tibet border**, devastating **Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading** districts. A **glacial collapse (ice-rock avalanche) on Langtang Lirung** sent a surge down the **Lhende Khola–Bhote Koshi–Trishuli** system, which drains into India as the **Gandak**.

What happened

- Began in the high-altitude **Lhende Khola** catchment; the surge carried water, ice, rocks and sediment downstream.
- **Trigger:** a large mass of ice and rock detached from **Langtang Lirung** and fell into the Lhende Khola (preliminary assessment).
- Avalanche debris **blocked the narrow channel**, impounding water that was then suddenly released.
- The initial **seismic signal** was first probed as an earthquake; analysis tied it to the glacial collapse and debris movement.
- The **Trishuli rose ~9 m in 30 minutes**, leaving almost no warning time.

The cascade

Stage	Process
1	Ice-rock **avalanche** (glacial collapse)
2	Temporary **blockage** of river channel
3	**Flash flood** on breach
4	**Debris flow**
5	**Downstream flooding**

Why the impact was severe

- Steep slopes and narrow **V-shaped valleys** act as funnels for water and debris.
- Highly **fractured rocks**, unstable slopes and loose sediment in the Himalaya.
- **Glacier retreat, permafrost thaw** and warming raise instability, though climate change's exact role needs study.

River route and the India angle

- **Lhende Khola → Bhote Koshi → Trishuli → Narayani**.
- The **Trishuli joins the Kali Gandaki at Devghat** to form the **Narayani**, which enters India as the **Gandak**.
- The Gandak crosses densely populated **north Bihar and eastern UP**: a **transboundary hazard**.
- **High alert** in border districts: **West and East Champaran, Gopalganj, Sitamarhi, Supaul** (Bihar); **Maharajganj, Kushinagar** (UP).

Key concept: GLOF

- **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood:** sudden breach of water held in a glacial lake, often triggered by **avalanches, landslides, earthquakes** or heavy rain.

STATIC LINK

- **World Glacier Day: 21 March** (observed since 2025); UN **Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025–34)**.
- India–Nepal river pacts: **Kosi Agreement (1954)**, **Gandak Agreement (1959)**, **Mahakali Treaty (1996)**. The Gandak joins the **Ganga near Patna (Hajipur)**.
- Similar Indian disasters: **Chamoli (Feb 2021)** rock-ice avalanche; **South Lhonak GLOF, Sikkim (Oct 2023)**.

QUICK RECALL

- Date and region: **26 Aug 2026**, Nepal–Tibet border (Rasuwa).
- Trigger: **glacial collapse on Langtang Lirung**.
- River system: **Lhende Khola–Bhote Koshi–Trishuli**.
- Trishuli + Kali Gandaki at Devghat = **Narayani** (Gandak in India).
- World Glacier Day: **21 March**.

See also: 045 Nepal Elections & Balen Shah; 055 World Water Day & World Glacier Day.

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128 National Space Day

MINOR | Feb 2026 | May 2026 | Aug 2026

National Space Day is observed on **23 August**, marking the soft landing of **Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander** on the Moon on **23 August 2023**. The 2026 theme: **"Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership."**

Why 23 August

- India became the **4th country** to soft-land on the Moon and the **first near the lunar south pole**.
- Landing site named **Shiv Shakti Point** (IAU-approved "**Statio Shiv Shakti**"), ~600 km from the south pole on the near side; Vikram deployed the **Pragyan** rover (one lunar day, ~14 Earth days).

Chandrayaan-3 in 2026: findings and award (May)

- **ChaSTE** probe and Vikram's ~50 cm **"hop"** showed a **two-layered** upper regolith: a sticky, hyper-porous top 2–6 cm acting as a **thermal blanket**.
- Relevant for **water-ice** storage and siting future lunar bases.
- **Award:** ISRO received the **2026 Goddard Astronautics Award** of the **American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)** for Chandrayaan-3; accepted by Ambassador **Vinay Kwatra** at AIAA ASCEND 2026.

India's space sector

- Opened to **private players in 2020**; **Indian Space Policy 2023**.
- **IN-SPACe** authorises and regulates private activity; **NSIL** commercialises ISRO technology.
- Launch vehicles: **PSLV, GSLV, LVM3, SSLV**; **NGLV** under development.
- **NavIC** (regional navigation): currently not operational.

See also: 062 Gaganyaan; 050 NavIC Failure; 108 Skyroot Vikram-1.

Missions ahead

- **Gaganyaan:** crewed flight to low-Earth orbit.
- **Chandrayaan-4:** lunar sample return, **2028**, at **MM-4 site, Mons Mouton** (south pole). **LUPEX / Chandrayaan-5:** with **Japan**, lunar polar volatiles.
- **Bharatiya Antariksh Station**: target **2035**. **Shukrayaan**: Venus mission.

STATIC LINK

- Earlier lunar soft-landers: **USSR, USA, China**. Chandrayaan-3 launched on **LVM3** (14 July 2023).
- Past themes: **2024** (first) "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga"; **2025** "Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities".
- ISRO: founded **15 Aug 1969** (precursor INCOSPAR, 1962); HQ **Bengaluru**; father of the programme **Vikram Sarabhai**.

QUICK RECALL

- National Space Day: **23 August**.
- Chandrayaan-3 landing point: **Shiv Shakti Point**.
- Space regulator for private firms: **IN-SPACe**.
- Space station target: **2035**.
- Chandrayaan-4 (sample return) target: **2028**.

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129 GOBARdhan Scheme

MINOR Aug 2026

On **6 August 2026** the Union Cabinet approved **GOBARdhan** as India's **National Circular Bioenergy Scheme** for **Compressed Biogas (CBG)**, with an outlay of **₹23,731 crore** (FY 2026–27 to 2035–36). It aims to raise domestic CBG output **nearly ten-fold** by turning organic waste into fuel and manure.

Key facts

- **Full form:** Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan.
- **Nodal ministry: Petroleum & Natural Gas**.
- **Origin:** launched in **2018** under **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)** for rural waste management.
- Model: **Waste → CBG + organic manure → energy + rural income + waste management**. CBG can flow through **City Gas Distribution** networks to CNG (transport) and PNG (domestic) users.

Six growth engines

- **Assured offtake:** CGD entities must use CBG: **3%** (2026–27), **4%** (2027–28), **5%** from 2028–29.
- **Stable price:** administered price **₹2,110/MMBTU**.
- **Capital assistance:** up to **₹2 crore per tonne-per-day** of CBG capacity.
- **Pipelines:** cluster, standalone and trunk/CGD links.
- **Credit guarantee:** up to **85%** for MSME CBG projects.
- **CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund:** feedstock mapping, biomass aggregation, technology.

Objectives

- Increase domestic **CBG production nearly ten-fold**.
- Attract **private investment** and build a **circular bioeconomy**.
- Turn cattle dung, farm residue and other **organic waste** into an economic resource: clean fuel, **organic manure** and **rural income**.

See also: 065 EBP Programme.

Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)

- **Launched** by PM **Narendra Modi** at the **G20 New Delhi Leaders' Summit** (**9 Sep 2023**), an India-led initiative.
- **Founders: USA, Brazil, India**. **Co-chairs: India and Brazil**. **Interim Director General: Pankaj Jain**.
- **Members: 35 countries** and **14 international organisations**; **New Zealand** joined in July 2026. Secretariat hosted by **India**.
- **Aims:** accelerate global adoption of **sustainable biofuels**; build capacity across the value chain; technical support for national programmes; share policy lessons and technology; act as a **knowledge hub**.

STATIC LINK

- **Bio-CNG/CBG**: purified biogas, mainly **methane**. **World Biofuel Day: 10 August**.
- **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018**; **PM JI-VAN Yojana** (2G ethanol); **SATAT** (2018) for CBG plants.

QUICK RECALL

- Nodal ministry: **MoPNG**.
- Outlay: **₹23,731 crore**, to **2035–36**.
- CBG obligation from 2028–29: **5%**.
- Originally under: **SBM-G (2018)**.

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130 RBI Polymer Notes Plan

MINOR Aug 2026

The **RBI** has received government approval to field-trial **polymer banknotes** in **₹10 and ₹20** denominations, reviving a proposal first made in **2009**. Governor **Sanjay Malhotra** indicated that the notes could enter circulation around the start of **FY 2027–28**, subject to trials.

The plan

- **Trial size:** 100 crore notes each of ₹10 and ₹20: **200 crore notes** in all.
- **Printer: Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Pvt Ltd (BRBNMPL)**, RBI's wholly owned subsidiary.
- Polymer notes will **coexist with paper notes**; no plan to replace all paper currency.
- **Why ₹10 and ₹20:** high circulation, so they wear out fastest.

About polymer notes

- Printed on a plastic substrate, mainly **Biaxially Oriented Polypropylene (BOPP)**, instead of cotton paper.
- More resistant to **water, dirt, tearing** and wear.
- **Australia** pioneered modern polymer notes (**1988**); also used by **Canada, UK, New Zealand, Singapore**.

Who issues what

- **Banknotes:** RBI has the sole right under **Section 22, RBI Act, 1934** (except the **₹1 note**).
- **Coins:** designed and minted by the **Central Government** under the **Coinage Act, 2011**; RBI only distributes them, on its annual indent.

Note presses	Owner
Nashik (Maharashtra), **Dewas** (MP)	Government of India
Mysuru (Karnataka), **Salboni** (WB)	BRBNMPL / RBI

- **Mints** (all GoI): Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Noida.

STATIC LINK

- **BRBNMPL:** est. **1995**, HQ **Bengaluru**.
- Current series: **Mahatma Gandhi New Series** (2016, after demonetisation of **8 Nov 2016**).
- **₹ symbol** (Devanagari-based): **D. Udaya Kumar, 2010**.
- RBI Governors: first **Osborne Smith**; first Indian **C.D. Deshmukh**; 26th **Sanjay Malhotra**.

QUICK RECALL

- Denominations for polymer trial: **₹10 and ₹20**.
- Substrate: **BOPP**.
- First country with polymer notes: **Australia (1988)**.
- RBI's note-issue power: **Sec. 22, RBI Act 1934**.

See also: 118 10 Years of UPI; 139 Interest Rates Rise.

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131 Indus Waters Treaty

MAJOR | May 2026 | Sep 2026

The **Court of Arbitration (CoA) at The Hague** ruled that the **Indus Waters Treaty (1960) remains in force** and that India's decision to hold it **"in abeyance"** after the **April 2025 Pahalgam attack** is not permissible under the Treaty. India **rejected the ruling**, calling the CoA "illegally constituted" and without jurisdiction.

Background: abeyance (April 2025)

- **Pahalgam attack, 22 April 2025:** 26 civilians killed in the **Baisaran Valley**, J&K.
- India placed the IWT **in abeyance in April 2025**, a major shift in its approach to the Treaty.
- India's retaliation: **Operation Sindoor** (from 7 May 2025) struck 9 terror sites in Pakistan and PoK.

The CoA and its awards

- **Five-member CoA**, constituted **January 2023 at Pakistan's request**; case: *Indus Waters Western Rivers (Pakistan v. India)*.
- Dispute: design of India's **Kishenganga** and **Ratle** hydroelectric projects.
- **August 2025 Award on Issues of General Interpretation:** largely in Pakistan's favour; restricted India's permissible **pondage** and design flexibility for run-of-river projects.
- **May 2026:** India rejected the CoA's **Supplemental Award on Maximum Pondage**; MEA called all its proceedings and awards **"null and void"**. India does not participate.

September 2026 ruling

- IWT **continues to remain in force**; abeyance not valid under the Treaty or international law.
- **Cross-border terrorism** not accepted as a legal basis for suspending the Treaty.
- Imposed **interim restrictions** on certain construction at the **Ratle Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab**.
- **India at UNGA-81 (Jaishankar):** "understandings premised on terrorism will naturally be called into question."

Why India rejects the CoA

- **Parallel proceedings:** Pakistan went to the CoA while India had sought a **Neutral Expert** on the same technical dispute.
- **Graded mechanism violated:** Permanent Indus Commission → Neutral Expert → Court of Arbitration.
- **Invalid constitution** of the CoA; and abeyance is a **sovereign decision** beyond any tribunal.

Treaty essentials

Item	Detail
Signed	**19 September 1960, Karachi**; Nehru and President Ayub Khan
Broker	**World Bank** (President Eugene Black)
Eastern rivers	**Ravi, Beas, Sutlej → India** (unrestricted use)
Western rivers	**Indus, Jhelum, Chenab → Pakistan**; India: domestic use, limited irrigation, run-of-river hydropower
Share	About **80:20** (Pakistan : India)
Art. III(1)	India "under obligation to let flow" the Western Rivers
Art. IX	3-step dispute mechanism: PIC → Neutral Expert (appointed via World Bank) → CoA
Art. XII	No unilateral withdrawal; changes only by a **"duly ratified treaty"** agreed by both

- Project details must be shared with Pakistan, which has **3 months** to object. Pakistan is the **lower riparian**.

STATIC LINK

- **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA):** Peace Palace, The Hague; est. **1899** under the Hague Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes; consent-based arbitration.
- PCA is **not** the ICJ: the ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the UN; the PCA only provides arbitration services.

QUICK RECALL

- CoA constituted: **Jan 2023**, at **Pakistan's** request.
- Projects in dispute: **Kishenganga and Ratle**.
- River of Ratle project: **Chenab**.
- Article for dispute resolution: **Art. IX**; for modification: **Art. XII**.
- Treaty broker: **World Bank**; signed at **Karachi, 1960**.

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132 BRICS Summit 2026

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

India hosted the **18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 12–13 September 2026**, marking **20 years of BRICS**. It adopted the **140-point New Delhi Declaration** (UN reform, trade, terror, payments, tech).

India's Chairship 2026

- Took over the Chair from **Brazil**; logo, theme and website launched **13 January 2026**.
- **Theme:** "Building for **Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**" (the four pillars).
- **Logo: lotus** (petals in members' colours) around a **"Namaste"** gesture; inspired by PM's "Humanity First and People-Centric" vision.

Key ministerial meetings

Meeting	Venue / outcome
1st Sherpa meeting	New Delhi, 9 Feb
Foreign Ministers	New Delhi, 14–15 May; **no joint declaration** (Iran–UAE rift), Chair's Statement instead
Justice Ministers	Gandhinagar, 21–22 May; Joint Statement on ADR
16th Agriculture	**Indore Declaration**; **BRICS AgriN** (Agro-Inputs, Genetic Resources & Information Network; India coordinates); Grain Exchange
Industry / Trade	Jaipur, 6–7 Aug; **Jaipur Consensus** (invoice discounting for MSMEs)
Culture (11th)	**Bhopal Declaration**, 8 Aug (creative industries, heritage)
Environment (12th)	Bharat Mandapam, 17–18 Aug
S&T / Tourism	**Chennai Consensus** / Jaipur Declaration, 21 Aug

New Delhi Declaration: highlights

- **UNSC reform:** backs **Ezulwini Consensus (2005)** and Sirte Declaration for Africa; China and Russia support **Brazil and India**'s greater UN role. Notes **no woman** has ever been UN Secretary-General.
- **IMF:** quota realignment under the 16th and 17th General Review of Quotas (**Diriyah Guiding Principles**). **WTO:** restore the Appellate Body; backs accession of **Ethiopia and Iran**; opposes **CBAM**.
- **Terror:** condemns the **22 April 2025 J&K attack**; calls for early adoption of the **CCIT**; welcomes the **Guwahati Declaration** (anti-drug agencies).
- **Payments:** BRICS Payment Task Force for local-currency settlement ("BRICS Pay"), not a single currency.
- **New initiatives:** BRICS Risk Lab at **GIFT City**; Insurance Resilience Centre; DPI Repository; **NIMHANS** nodal centre for mental well-being.

Special guest: Bangladesh

- India invited Bangladesh PM **Tarique Rahman** as Special Guest in his capacity as **Chair of BIMSTEC** (Bangladesh, chair since April 2025).
- **Rahman declined** the invitation: Dhaka said he was invited as **BIMSTEC Chair, not as PM**, and sent **no representative**.
- **BIMSTEC:** est. **1997**; 7 members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

STATIC LINK

- **BRIC** coined by **Jim O'Neill** (Goldman Sachs, 2001). Formal cooperation from **2006**; 1st summit **Yekaterinburg, Russia (2009)**; **South Africa** invited 2010, first summit 2011 (Sanya).
- **11 members:** + Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia (2024; Saudi has not formally accepted), **Indonesia (Jan 2025)**; Argentina declined. **10 partners** (category created at **Kazan 2024**), latest **Vietnam**.
- About **49.5%** of world population, **40%** of GDP (PPP), **26%** of trade.
- **NDB:** agreed at Fortaleza (2014); HQ **Shanghai**; President **Dilma Rousseff**.

QUICK RECALL

- 18th summit: **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, 12–13 Sept 2026** (20 years of BRICS).
- Symbol in logo: **lotus** with **Namaste**.
- Agriculture declaration: **Indore**; MSME invoice discounting: **Jaipur Consensus**.
- Newest full member: **Indonesia**; newest partner: **Vietnam**.
- BRICS Risk Lab proposed at: **GIFT City IFSC**.

See also: 033 Bangladesh Elections; 038 West Asia war; 134 UNGA 80th & 81st Sessions.

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133 Election Commission of India

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | Sep 2026

Internal dissent within the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** came to light: Election Commissioners **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi** raised **at least 14 formal objections over 10 months** to decisions of CEC **Gyanesh Kumar**. It follows the first-ever **notices to remove a CEC** (2026) and keeps the **CEC and Other ECs Act, 2023** under scrutiny. **Major protests**, led by the **Opposition**, the **CJP** and other **civil society groups**, have erupted in light of the investigative reporting.

Dissent by the Election Commissioners

- Objections addressed to the CEC covered the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of rolls, voter registration, **Form 6**, the IT system and access to electoral data.
- The ECs said some decisions were **issued without their knowledge**.
- ECI is a **collegiate body**; the CEC is **first among equals** with **no veto**. **CEC and Other ECs Act, 2023**: the Commission shall transact business **unanimously as far as possible**; where there is a **difference of opinion**, it is decided by the **opinion of the majority**.
- **T.N. Seshan v. Union of India (1995):** all Commissioners equal in power and status.

Appointment law and the challenge

- **Anoop Baranwal v. UoI (March 2023):** panel of **PM, LoP and CJI** until Parliament legislates.
- **CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023:** Search Committee (headed by **Law Minister**) shortlists 5 → Selection Committee of **PM, LoP (Lok Sabha) and a Union Cabinet Minister** nominated by the PM.
- **Gyanesh Kumar:** first CEC appointed under the 2023 Act (Feb 2025).
- **Section 16** of the Act shields CEC/ECs from civil or criminal proceedings for acts done in official duty (the "immunity" issue).

Challenge referred to a Constitution Bench (Sept)

- **23 Sept 2026**, **Dr. Jaya Thakur v. UoI**: Justices **Dipankar Datta** and **S.C. Sharma** referred the challenge to the 2023 Act (mainly **Sec. 7**, selection committee) to the **CJI** for a **Constitution Bench** (min. **5 judges**, **Art. 145(3)**).
- Split views: **Sharma J.** saw a substantial constitutional question; **Datta J.** said **Anoop Baranwal** settled it; the Act appears to give the **executive a veto**.

Composition and safeguards

- Single-member till 1989; **multi-member since October 1993** (CEC + 2 ECs).
- Tenure **6 years or age 65**; salary like an SC judge.
- **CEC** removable like an SC judge (special majority in both Houses); **ECs** only on the **CEC's recommendation**.
- Service conditions cannot be varied to their disadvantage (**Art. 324(5)**).

Recent ECI action: TMC symbol frozen

- ECI froze the **AITC** name and **"Flowers and Grass"** symbol before the **Nandigram and Rejinagar** bypolls; rival factions claim the party.
- Power: **Para 15, Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968**. Interim names: Mamata AITC (Football Player), Democratic TMC (Envelope). Mamata Banerjee moved the SC.

Removal bids against the CEC (2026)

- First-ever notices of motion to remove a CEC: **130 Lok Sabha MPs** and **63 Rajya Sabha MPs**; refused by Speaker **Om Birla** and Chairman **C.P. Radhakrishnan**. A fresh notice by **73 RS MPs** followed.
- Allegations: bias, targeting **West Bengal** in the SIR, deployment of micro-observers.
- Basis: **Art. 324(5) r/w Art. 124(4)**; procedure of the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**; **no CEC removed** so far.

STATIC LINK

- **Part XV, Arts. 324–329**. Art. 324: superintendence of elections; 325: no exclusion from rolls on religion, race, caste, sex; 326: adult suffrage; 327: Parliament's power on election law.
- ECI est. **25 January 1950** (National Voters' Day; 2026 theme "My India, My Vote"); HQ **Nirvachan Sadan**. Does not hold panchayat or municipal polls (SECs do).
- First CEC **Sukumar Sen**; first woman CEC **V.S. Ramadevi**.

QUICK RECALL

- ECs who dissented: **Sandhu and Joshi** (14 objections).
- Case making ECs equal: **T.N. Seshan (1995)**.
- Who replaced the CJI on the panel: **a Union Cabinet Minister**.
- Act challenge referred to: **Constitution Bench** (23 Sept 2026, **Jaya Thakur** case).
- ECs removable on: **CEC's recommendation**.
- Symbol disputes decided under: **Para 15, Symbols Order 1968**.

See also: 040 Budget Session (first CEC removal motion); 074 Special Intensive Revision (SIR); 081 Assembly Elections.

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134 UNGA 80th & 81st Sessions

MAJOR Sep 2026

The **81st session of the UN General Assembly** opened on **8 September 2026** under President **Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh**, on the theme **"Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations That Delivers for All"**. Its High-Level Week saw the first-ever **declaration on sea-level rise**, the **"Correct the Map"** resolution and India's signing of the **UN Convention against Cybercrime**.

80th to 81st session

- **80th session President: Annalena Baerbock** (Germany).
- **81st:** 8 Sept 2026 to 7 Sept 2027; **Khalilur Rahman**, Bangladesh Foreign Minister, elected **2 June 2026** against Cyprus's candidate; turn of the **Asia-Pacific Group**.
- Bangladesh last presided in **1986–87** (41st session, Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury).
- Last session to begin under SG **António Guterres**; successor takes office **1 January 2027**.

High-Level Week (General Debate 22–28 Sept)

- India's statement: EAM **S. Jaishankar** (26 Sept): Pakistan a **"serial practitioner of terrorism"**; **4F crisis** (food, fuel, fertiliser, finance); "weaponisation of everything".
- Climate Action & Just Transition (23 Sept); **40 years of the Declaration on the Right to Development (1986)** (23 Sept).
- **Sea-level rise** (24 Sept): first-ever political declaration; statehood and UNCLOS maritime zones to continue despite inundation; non-binding.
- Pandemic preparedness (25 Sept); **Durban Declaration** 25th anniversary (28 Sept); nuclear weapons elimination day meeting.
- Side events: inaugural **P4M Summit**; first **V4+India** FM meeting (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia).

"Correct the Map" resolution

- Led by **Togo and the African Union**; vote **164–1–6** (only **USA** against). Non-binding.
- Targets the **Mercator projection** (Gerardus Mercator, **1569**), which inflates polar areas: Africa is about **14 times** Greenland yet looks similar.
- Encourages **equal-area projections** such as **Equal Earth (2018)**, already adopted by the AU's 54 members.
- **India voted in favour** of the principle, not of any one projection; does not affect India's official map.

UN Convention against Cybercrime

- Jaishankar signed for India on **25 Sept 2026** in New York. Also called the **Hanoi Convention**.
- Adopted by UNGA on **24 Dec 2024**; **first global cybercrime treaty**.
- Enters into force **90 days after the 40th ratification**; not yet in force.
- Provides: common offences, e-evidence sharing, **24/7 contact network**, MLA and extradition, asset recovery, protection against CSAM.

STATIC LINK

- UN in existence **24 Oct 1945**; 1st UNGA **10 Jan 1946**, Methodist Central Hall, London (51 members). **193** members; newest **South Sudan (2011)**.
- 1st UNGA President **Paul-Henri Spaak** (Belgium); 1st woman and only Indian: **Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit** (8th session, 1953).
- Important questions need a **two-thirds** majority of members present and voting.
- Six Main Committees: 1st Disarmament; 2nd Economic; 3rd Social/Humanitarian; 4th Special Political & Decolonisation; 5th Budget; 6th Legal.
- **Newly announced: International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage, 27 November** (UNGA resolution, Sept 2026; India a co-sponsor).

QUICK RECALL

- UNGA-81 President: **Khalilur Rahman (Bangladesh)**; UNGA-80: **Annalena Baerbock**.
- Only country voting against "Correct the Map": **USA**.
- Cybercrime treaty's other name: **Hanoi Convention**; ratifications needed: **40**.
- India's address at UNGA-81 by: **S. Jaishankar**.
- Only Indian UNGA President: **Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit**.

See also: 131 Indus Waters Treaty; 137 Greenland Deal (signed at UNGA).

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135 Houthis in Yemen

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | May 2026 | Sep 2026

The Iran-aligned **Houthis (Ansar Allah)** escalated against **Saudi Arabia**: on **16 September 2026** Saudi air defences downed a **Houthi drone near Mecca**, the first attempt on the holy city in nearly a decade. The Houthis have seized **Yemen's whole Red Sea coast and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait**, now vital while the **Strait of Hormuz** stays choked by the wider war with Iran.

Who are the Houthis

- Officially **Ansar Allah**: armed political-religious movement of **northern Yemen**, rooted in the **Zaydi Shia** community.
- Emerged in the **1990s**; led by **Abdul-Malik al-Houthi**.
- Captured the capital **Sana'a in 2014**, becoming a major force in Yemen's civil war.
- Part of Iran's "Axis of Resistance" (with Hezbollah and Hamas).

Yemen civil war and Saudi Arabia

- **Saudi Arabia intervened in 2015** to back the internationally recognised Yemeni government against the Houthi takeover.
- Riyadh and allies see the Houthis as **aligned with Iran**; the Houthis oppose Saudi influence in Yemen and treat Saudi Arabia as the main backer of their rivals.
- **Since 2023**, Houthi attacks on ships in the **Red Sea**, linked to the Israel–Gaza conflict, have disrupted the Red Sea–Suez route.

September 2026 escalation

- **Mecca:** Saudi Arabia called the holy site's security a **"red line"**; Houthis denied targeting it, saying oil sites and bases were the aim.
- **F-15:** Houthis claimed to down a Saudi **F-15** with a surface-to-air missile; if confirmed, only the second F-15 lost in this conflict (first: a US F-15 hit by Iran).
- **Oil:** repeated drone strikes on **Saudi Aramco** sites (**Jizan, Najran, Yanbu**); loadings at **Yanbu**, the main Red Sea terminal, suspended.
- Houthis declared a **maritime blockade on Saudi Arabia**; Saudi Arabia replied with airstrikes on Houthi-held Yemen.

India's angle

- **India–Arab League Delhi Declaration** (Feb 2026) condemned Houthi attacks and called for protecting the **Bab al-Mandab Strait**.
- India imports over **47%** of its crude from Arab League states; Red Sea disruption hits trade and energy costs.

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- **Bab el-Mandeb:** chokepoint linking the **Red Sea** with the **Gulf of Aden** and Arabian Sea; between Yemen and Djibouti/Eritrea.
- Yemen: capital **Sana'a**; member of the Arab League and IORA.
- **Arab League:** est. **22 March 1945**; HQ **Cairo**; **22** members; Yemen a founder.

QUICK RECALL

- Official name of Houthis: **Ansar Allah**.
- Sect: **Zaydi Shia**; leader: **Abdul-Malik al-Houthi**.
- Sana'a captured: **2014**; Saudi intervention: **2015**.
- Saudi Red Sea oil terminal hit: **Yanbu**.
- Bab el-Mandeb joins: **Red Sea and Gulf of Aden**.

See also: 038 West Asia war (Hormuz, Axis of Resistance); 121 Mecca Joint Defence Agreement; 136 Lindsey O. Graham Act.

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136 US Lindsey O. Graham Act

MAJOR Sep 2026

The US has enacted the **"Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026"**, letting the President impose **tariffs of up to 100% on the top buyers of Russian oil and gas**. Named after the late Senator who championed it (died **July 2026**), it passed both Houses and was **signed by President Trump**; **India and China** are the main targets.

Legislative path

- Passed first by the **US Senate**, then the **House of Representatives**; signed into law by **Donald Trump**.
- Named in honour of Senator **Lindsey O. Graham**, its champion, who died in July 2026.

Key provisions: Russia

- **100% tariff** on goods of the **top 5 importers** of Russian oil and gas (hits **China and India**).
- Very high tariffs on US imports from Russia itself (**500%**).
- Sanctions on Russia's **shadow fleet** and on more **Russian banks**; tighter limits on Russia's access to the US financial system.
- Limits on import or export of energy products to or from Russia.

Key provisions: Iran

- Extends the **Iran Sanctions Act, 1996** by **5 years, to 2031**.

Waivers and exemptions

- President may **waive** measures in the national interest.
- Exemption possible for countries that **significantly cut Russian gas imports**, or whose imports are **below 15%** of Russia's total gas exports.
- Targeted countries usually get **180 days** to cut imports or negotiate; the President can shorten this.

Impact on India

- India imports **over 88%** of its crude oil needs.
- **Russia is India's largest crude supplier:** about **45%** of imports in August 2026 (about **2.08 million barrels/day**), after crossing **50%** in the two previous months.
- Risks: costlier energy, higher import bill, and pressure on **India–US trade negotiations**.

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- US Congress: **Senate** (100; 2 per state) and **House of Representatives** (435); a Bill becomes law on the President's signature.
- **Iran Sanctions Act, 1996** (originally Iran and Libya Sanctions Act) targets investment in Iran's energy sector.
- "Shadow fleet": ageing tankers with opaque ownership used to move sanctioned oil.

QUICK RECALL

- Max tariff on big buyers of Russian oil/gas: **100%**.
- Countries covered: **top 5 importers** of Russian oil and gas.
- Iran Sanctions Act extended to: **2031**.
- Gas-import exemption threshold: **below 15%** of Russia's gas exports.
- Russia's share of India's crude imports (Aug 2026): **~45%**.

See also: 021 US Tariffs; 038 West Asia war (Hormuz, Op. Economic Outcast); 135 Houthis in Yemen; 132 BRICS Summit 2026.

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137 Greenland Deal

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Sep 2026

The **United States, Denmark and Greenland** signed a new security agreement at the **UN General Assembly on 22 September 2026**, expanding US **access, basing and overflight rights** in Greenland. It caps a year in which **Trump threatened to annex Greenland**; the deal does **not transfer sovereignty**.

Road to the deal (January 2026)

- Trump (2nd term) threatened to **annex Greenland** and to put **tariffs on the EU** as coercion; he had floated buying it in his first term (rejected).
- He walked back the threats at the **56th WEF, Davos**, announcing a framework deal with **NATO**.
- Response: Denmark-led **Op. Arctic Endurance**; NATO launched the **Arctic Sentry** mission.

Key features of the 2026 agreement

- **Expanded US military presence**: access, basing and overflight; option for unmanned installations and future Defence Areas.
- **New Defence Areas** at **Narsarsuaq** (south) and a new site at **Mestersvig** (east), alongside the existing **Pituffik Space Base** (to be modernised).
- **Excluding adversaries:** bars non-NATO states (e.g. **Russia, China**) from bases or sensitive investments.
- **Article XI:** agreement effectively **permanent**, even if Greenland's political status changes.
- Supports stronger **NATO engagement in the Arctic**; Danish sovereignty and Greenlandic self-determination stay intact.

US–Greenland timeline

Year	Event
1867	Secretary of State **Seward** explored buying Greenland (and Iceland)
1941	WWII: US gets wartime rights to airfields after Germany occupies Denmark
1946	**Truman** offers **$100 million**; Denmark declines
1951	**Defense of Greenland Agreement**: broad US access (MoU in 1991)
2004	**Igaliku Agreement**: US must consult Greenland on major military changes
2026	New trilateral security agreement, signed at UNGA

Why Greenland matters

- Between **North America and Europe**, Arctic and North Atlantic: key to NATO's northern approaches and polar-orbit satellite tracking.
- **Critical minerals**: rare earths, uranium, zinc, graphite.
- **Arctic shipping routes** opening as ice melts (e.g. Transpolar Sea Route).

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- **Greenland:** capital **Nuuk**; world's **largest island**, 80%+ ice-covered; self-governing territory of the **Kingdom of Denmark** under the **2009 Self-Government Law** (defence, foreign affairs with Denmark).
- **Pituffik Space Base** = former **Thule Air Base**: missile warning and space surveillance.
- **NATO:** Washington Treaty, **4 April 1949**; 32 members (latest Sweden); HQ Brussels; SG **Mark Rutte**. **Art. 5**: collective defence (consistent with UN Charter Art. 51).
- **India and the Arctic:** Arctic Council **Observer since 2013**; **Himadri** station, Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard; **Arctic Policy 2022**.

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- Deal signed: **UNGA, 22 Sept 2026**.
- New Defence Areas: **Narsarsuaq and Mestersvig**.
- Existing US base: **Pituffik** (ex-Thule).
- US purchase offer of 1946: **$100 million** (Truman).
- NATO mission launched over Greenland tensions: **Arctic Sentry**.

See also: 002 Board of Peace (WEF Davos 2026); 134 UNGA 80th & 81st Sessions.

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138 Asian Games

MAJOR | Feb 2026 | Sep 2026 | Oct 2026

The **XX (20th) Asian Games** were held in **Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya, Japan, from 19 September to 4 October 2026**, under the motto **"Imagine One Asia"** with mascot **Honohon**. 2026 also marks **75 years** since the first Asian Games at **New Delhi in 1951**.

Aichi–Nagoya 2026 at a glance

Item	Detail
Edition	**20th** (XX Asian Games)
Host	**Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya**, Japan
Dates	**19 Sept to 4 Oct 2026**
Motto	**"Imagine One Asia"**
Mascot	**Honohon**
Milestone	**75th anniversary** of the 1951 New Delhi Games

- Japan's third Asian Games, after **Tokyo 1958** and **Hiroshima 1994**.

Final medal table (top 5)

Rank	Country	G	S	B	Total
1	**China**	169	89	83	341
2	Japan (host)	83	95	91	269
3	South Korea	39	43	68	150
4	**India**	**21**	**27**	**37**	**85**
5	Uzbekistan	21	25	24	70

- India tied Uzbekistan on gold but finished **4th** on more silvers.
- India highlights: **women's hockey gold** (1-0 v China; first in 44 years); both **kabaddi** titles (beat Iran in both finals).

History

- **1st Asian Games: New Delhi, 1951**; idea driven by India's **Guru Dutt Sondhi**; motto **"Ever Onward"**.
- India has hosted twice: **1951** and **1982** (both New Delhi; 1982 mascot **Appu**).
- Held every **four years**; governed by the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)**, HQ **Kuwait City**, which replaced the Asian Games Federation in 1982.
- Upcoming hosts: **Doha (2030)** and **Riyadh (2034)**.

Previous edition: Hangzhou 2022 (held 2023)

- 19th Games, **Hangzhou, China**, held Sept–Oct 2023 after a one-year postponement.
- India's best-ever haul: **107 medals** (**28 gold**, 38 silver, 41 bronze), **4th**; first time past 100 ("Is baar 100 paar").
- China topped the table, followed by Japan and South Korea.

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- **OCA:** founded **1982**; HQ **Kuwait City**; 45 member NOCs.
- Other OCA events: Asian Winter Games, Asian Beach Games, Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games, Asian Youth Games.
- Other 2026 multi-sport events: Commonwealth Games, **Glasgow** (July–Aug 2026).
- **Japan:** PM **Sanae Takaichi** (re-elected 2026); Emperor **Naruhito**; constitutional monarchy. Aichi's capital is **Nagoya**; Tokyo hosted the Olympics in **1964 and 2020** (held 2021).

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 host: **Aichi–Nagoya, Japan**; edition: **20th**.
- 2026 motto: **Imagine One Asia**; mascot: **Honohon**.
- First Asian Games: **New Delhi, 1951**.
- India's medals at Hangzhou: **107 (28 gold)**.
- India at Aichi–Nagoya: **85 (21 gold), 4th**; table topper: **China**.
- OCA HQ: **Kuwait City**.

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139 Interest Rates Rise

MAJOR | Jan 2026 | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | May 2026 | Jun 2026 | Sep 2026 | Oct 2026

Major central banks have turned to tightening: the **US Federal Reserve** (chair **Kevin Warsh**) and the **Bank of Japan** (governor **Kazuo Ueda**) **recently raised their benchmark interest rates**, as did the **European Central Bank** (June and September). The **RBI's MPC**, after holding the **repo rate at 5.25%** through four meetings, **raised it by 25 bps to 5.50%** on **7 October 2026**.

Global moves (2026)

Central bank	Head	Action / note
US Federal Reserve	**Kevin Warsh** (replaced Jerome Powell, May 2026)	**Raised** rates
Bank of Japan	**Kazuo Ueda**	**Raised** rates
European Central Bank	Christine Lagarde	**Raised** rates on **11 June** (first since 2023) and **10 Sept**, 25 bps each; deposit rate **2% → 2.5%**. Bulgaria the 21st euro member (1 Jan 2026)
RBI	**Sanjay Malhotra**	**Raised** repo to **5.50%** (7 Oct); stance now **"calibrated tightening"**

RBI's repo rate path

MPC	Decision	Repo
Feb–Dec 2025	Four cuts (125 bps in all)	6.50% → 5.25%
Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug 2026	Hold; **neutral** stance	5.25%
7 Oct 2026	**+25 bps**; stance **"calibrated tightening"** (4–2)	**5.50%**

- October hike was unanimous; **SDF 5.25%**, **MSF/Bank Rate 5.75%**; CRR and SLR unchanged.
- Reasons: Indian crude basket at **~$116/bbl** (Sept), weak monsoon (El Niño), broadening inflation. FY27 projections: **CPI 5.2%**, **GDP 7.1%**.

India's monetary framework

- **Inflation target: 4% CPI, ±2%** (band 2–6%), notified for **1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031**.
- Set by the **Central Government in consultation with RBI**, once every **5 years**, under **Section 45ZA**, RBI Act 1934.
- **MPC: Section 45ZB**; **6 members** (3 RBI, 3 Govt nominees); chaired by the Governor, who has a **casting vote**; meets at least **4 times a year** (in practice every two months).
- A **new CPI series** (MoSPI) was implemented in 2026, replacing the **2012=100** series.

Terminology

- **Repo rate:** rate at which **RBI lends** to banks short-term against govt securities; the main policy rate (a hike makes loans costlier).
- **LAF corridor:** band for overnight rates. **Floor = SDF** (rate RBI **pays** banks to park surplus funds; repo − 0.25%). **Ceiling = MSF** (banks' **emergency borrowing**; repo + 0.25%); **Bank Rate** = MSF.
- **CRR:** share of deposits kept as **cash with RBI** (no interest). **SLR:** share kept by the bank **itself** in cash, gold, G-secs.
- **Stance:** signal of the next move: **accommodative** (may cut), **neutral** (either way), **calibrated tightening** (may raise, in steps).
- **Hawkish** = favours hikes to fight inflation; **dovish** = favours cuts to support growth. **1 bp = 0.01%** (25 bps = 0.25%).
- **Cost-push** inflation: from input costs (oil); **demand-pull**: from excess demand. **Stagflation:** high inflation + stagnant growth.
- **Real rate** = nominal rate − inflation (5.5% − 5% = 0.5%).

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- **RBI:** est. **1 April 1935** under the RBI Act 1934, on the **Hilton Young Commission** recommendation; nationalised **1949**; HQ Mumbai. First Governor **Osborne Smith**; first Indian Governor **C.D. Deshmukh**.
- **US Fed:** est. **1913**. **ECB:** 1998, Frankfurt. **BoJ:** 1882, Tokyo.
- Flexible inflation targeting adopted in India in **2016** (RBI Act amendment).

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- Fed chair: **Kevin Warsh**; BoJ governor: **Kazuo Ueda**.
- RBI repo rate: **5.50%** (from 7 Oct 2026; was 5.25%).
- ECB hikes 2026: **June and September**; deposit rate **2.5%**.
- India's inflation target: **4% ±2%**, 2026–31, under **Sec. 45ZA**.
- MPC provision: **Sec. 45ZB**; casting vote: **RBI Governor**.
- Rate floor of LAF corridor: **SDF**; ceiling: **MSF**.

See also: 038 West Asia war (oil and Hormuz); 130 RBI Polymer Notes Plan.

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140 Bar Council of India, NALSAR & the Supreme Court

MINOR | Jun 2026 | Sep 2026

The Supreme Court passed two orders on the **Bar Council of India (BCI)**: it held that the BCI has **no power to discipline law students** (the **NALSAR** episode), and it reined in the BCI's leadership, declaring **Manan Kumar Mishra** only a **"Pro Tem Chairman"**.

1. BCI cannot discipline law students

- Students of **NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad** opposed CJI **Surya Kant**'s proposed participation as chief guest at their convocation.
- The BCI directed that the **2026 graduating batch not be enrolled** as advocates and sought action against the students; it later **withdrew** its communications.
- A **three-judge Bench headed by CJI Surya Kant** held: the **Advocates Act, 1961** gives the BCI or State Bar Councils **no express or implied power** to discipline students.
- Disciplinary authority over students lies with the **university**, under its regulations or by-laws.

2. BCI leadership under SC oversight

- Manan Kumar Mishra is only **Pro Tem Chairman** until a freshly constituted BCI elects office-bearers; he oversees **day-to-day functioning** only.
- **Attorney General** and **Solicitor General** must be actively associated with every BCI **policy decision** in the interim. Cause: **regular elections** to the State Bar Councils and the BCI **have not taken place**.
- SC laid down a process to complete **State Bar Council elections**, after which a fresh BCI is to be constituted.

The law officers named by the Court

- **Attorney General: R. Venkataramani**; India's highest law officer (**Art. 76**).
- **Solicitor General: Tushar Mehta**, reappointed for **3 more years from 1 July 2026**; SGI since Oct 2018, the **second-longest serving** after the first SGI, **C.K. Daphtary** (1950–63).

STATIC LINK

- **BCI:** statutory body under the **Advocates Act, 1961**; regulates the legal profession and **legal education**; Chair elected by members; first Chair **M.C. Setalvad** (also India's first Attorney General).
- **NALSAR:** est. **1998**, Hyderabad; a National Law University.

QUICK RECALL

- Law under which the BCI exists: **Advocates Act, 1961**.
- Who disciplines law students: **their university**.
- BCI chair's status per SC: **Pro Tem** (Manan Kumar Mishra).
- Officers to be associated with BCI policy: **AG and SG**.
- First Solicitor General of India: **C.K. Daphtary**.

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141 Dadasaheb Phalke Award

MINOR | Feb 2026 | Sep 2026

Veteran Kannada actor **Anant Nag** was selected for the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024**, for a career of more than five decades. It was presented at the **72nd National Film Awards** on **22 September 2026** at **Ekta Nagar (Kevadia), Gujarat**, the first NFA ceremony held **outside New Delhi**.

Anant Nag

- Worked in Kannada, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil and Marathi cinema; **300+ films**.
- Debut: Kannada film **Sankalpa**; Hindi debut: **Ankur**.
- Remembered for TV series **Malgudi Days**.

72nd National Film Awards

- For films of **2024**; presented by President **Droupadi Murmu**.
- Venue **Ekta Nagar, near the Statue of Unity**; part of a plan to take the awards around the country.

About the award

- India's **highest honour in cinema**; instituted **1969**, Phalke's birth centenary year.
- First recipient: **Devika Rani (1969)**, "First Lady of Indian Cinema".
- Posthumous only twice: **Prithviraj Kapoor (1971)** and **Vinod Khanna (2017)**.
- Award: **Swarna Kamal**, shawl and cash prize.

Recent Phalke recipients

Award year	Recipient
2019	Rajinikanth
2020	Asha Parekh
2021	Waheeda Rehman
2022	Mithun Chakraborty
2023	Mohanlal
2024	**Anant Nag**

Other cinema news (2026)

- **BAFTA (Feb):** Manipuri-language (Meiteilon) film **"Boong"** (dir. **Lakshmipriya Devi**) won **Best Children's & Family Film**; it follows a boy's quest to reunite his family amid the Manipur conflict.
- **Oscar entry:** Marathi thriller **"Gondhal"** (dir. Santosh Davakhar) for the **99th Academy Awards**, Best International Feature; chosen by the **Film Federation of India** (jury head P. Sheshadri); **4th Marathi** entry.
- **TIFF 2026:** Nagaland's **Theja Rio** won the **Platform Prize** for **"Angh"** (Konyak language).

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- **Dhundiraj Govind Phalke (1870–1944):** "Father of Indian Cinema"; made **Raja Harishchandra (1913)**, India's first full-length indigenous feature film.

QUICK RECALL

- Phalke Award 2024: **Anant Nag** (Kannada).
- 72nd NFA venue: **Ekta Nagar, Kevadia**; first outside Delhi.
- Instituted: **1969**; first winner: **Devika Rani**.
- India's first feature film: **Raja Harishchandra (1913)**.

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142 UK Devolution & Self-Determination

MINOR Sep 2026

The leaders of the pro-independence parties of **Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding in Cardiff**, claiming the **right to self-determination** and greater constitutional autonomy from the United Kingdom.

The Cardiff MoU

- Parties: **Scottish National Party (SNP)**, **Plaid Cymru** (Wales), **Sinn Féin** (Northern Ireland).
- People of each nation should have the **democratic right to decide their political future**; **Westminster** should not block such choices.
- Cooperation on renewable energy, economic development and **relations with Europe**; a shared vision of a future **within the EU**.
- All favour eventual independence, but differ on timing and method of referendums.
- **UK Government:** the PM "believes strongly in the Union" and will focus on cost of living, not "further referendums".

Constitutional position

- Devolution lets the three nations use certain powers via elected institutions; **defence and foreign affairs** stay with Westminster.
- Devolved nations have **no unilateral right to leave** the UK.
- **Scotland:** 2014 independence referendum, **55% voted No**.
- **Northern Ireland:** under the **1998 Good Friday Agreement**, a unification poll can be called if the UK Secretary of State thinks a majority would support it.
- **Wales:** no independent mechanism to call a referendum.

STATIC LINK

- **England** = England only; **Great Britain** = England + Scotland + Wales; **United Kingdom** = Great Britain + Northern Ireland.
- UK PM's residence: **10 Downing Street**. Capitals: Edinburgh (Scotland), Cardiff (Wales), Belfast (NI).

QUICK RECALL

- MoU signed in: **Cardiff**.
- Welsh party: **Plaid Cymru**; NI party: **Sinn Féin**.
- Scottish referendum 2014: **55% against**.
- NI unification poll basis: **Good Friday Agreement, 1998**.

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143 World Circular Economy Forum

MINOR | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

India hosted the **10th World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF 2026)** on **15–18 September 2026** at **Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**, the **first WCEF in South Asia**, on the theme **"Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity"**.

WCEF 2026

- Co-hosting agreed during the India–Finland talks (March 2026) between **MoEFCC** and Finland's **Sitra**.
- Organisers: **CPCB**, **Sitra**, Govt of Finland, **MoEFCC**, Govt of Gujarat and **Gujarat PCB**.
- **Circular Solutions Expo** with 125+ exhibitors.
- Hosted the **10YFP** (10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production) Board meeting; **India co-chair**.
- Publications: "Best Practices for Reuse of Treated Sewage"; "Driving Sustainability: A Guide to India's Circular Economy".

Circular economy

- Replaces the linear **"Take–Make–Dispose"** model by keeping products and materials in use longer.
- 6Rs: **Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Recycle**.
- India links: **Mission LiFE**, 3Rs and **Swachh Bharat Mission**.

Circular economy in Indian policy (2026)

- **Solid Waste Management Rules 2026** (under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**), in force **1 April 2026**, replacing the 2016 Rules; based on circular economy, **Polluter Pays** and **Extended Producer Responsibility**.
- Four-way segregation: **wet, dry, sanitary** and **special care** waste.
- **BRICS Environment Ministers** (New Delhi, Aug 2026): circular economy, waste management and EPR among India's four priorities.
- India–Finland ties raised to a **Strategic Partnership in Digitalisation and Sustainability** (March 2026).

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- **WCEF** launched **2017** by the **Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra**; **UNDP** is an official partner.
- **CPCB:** statutory body under the Water Act, 1974.

QUICK RECALL

- WCEF 2026 venue: **Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar**.
- Edition: **10th**; first in **South Asia**.
- WCEF founder: **Sitra (Finland)**, 2017.
- 10YFP Board co-chair: **India**.
- SWM Rules 2026 in force from: **1 April 2026**.

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144 Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan

MINOR Sep 2026

MoEFCC conferred the **5th Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan (SVS) Awards** on **7 September 2026**, **Swachh Vayu Diwas** (International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies). **Lucknow** topped the million-plus category with **198/200**, rising from 15th.

SVS 2026 results

Population	1st	2nd	3rd
Over 10 lakh	**Lucknow**	Indore	Jabalpur
3–10 lakh	**Rourkela**	Firozabad & Guntur	Amravati
Under 3 lakh	**Kalinganagar**	Angul	Talcher

- **Ward-level awards** introduced for the first time.
- Lucknow's annual PM10 fell from **250 to 137 µg/m³** (2017–18 base) but is still above the **NAAQS of 60 µg/m³**.
- **Delhi** ranked **21st of 48** million-plus cities.

About SVS and NCAP

- Annual assessment launched **2022–23** by MoEFCC under the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**; scores city action plans and **PM10** improvement.
- **NCAP** (2019): revised target of up to **40% PM10 cut** or meeting NAAQS by **2025–26** vs 2017–18.
- Progress: **108 of 130** NCAP cities cut PM10; 72 by over 20%; 26 by over 40%; **14 met NAAQS**.
- **PRANA** portal monitors NCAP progress.

National Air Quality Index (AQI)

AQI	Category
0–50	Good
51–100	Satisfactory
101–200	Moderately polluted
201–300	Poor
301–400	Very poor
401–500	Severe

- Launched **2014**; covers **8 pollutants** (PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3, Pb). Annual NAAQS: PM10 **60**, PM2.5 **40** µg/m³.

STATIC LINK

- Clean Air for Blue Skies Day designated by UNGA in **2019**; 2026 theme "Clean Air for Climate Action".
- **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**; **CAQM**: statutory body for Delhi-NCR air quality.

QUICK RECALL

- Top city (over 10 lakh): **Lucknow**.
- Swachh Vayu Diwas: **7 September**.
- Pollutant scored: **PM10**; NAAQS annual: **60 µg/m³**.
- NCAP launched: **2019**; portal: **PRANA**.

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145 Pacing the AI Frontier: Amodei

MINOR | Jul 2026 | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

Anthropic, maker of the **Claude** AI models, released a **Threat Intelligence Report (September 2026)** warning that AI is becoming an **operational tool** able to carry out longer chains of malicious tasks on its own. It examined misuse of Claude from **December 2025 to August 2026**.

Threat Intelligence Report: findings

- **Seven risk categories:** cyber operations; influence operations; surveillance; scams and fraud; biological misuse; conventional weapons; **illicit distillation** (unauthorised model replication).
- Cases involved **state-linked actors**, criminal groups, surveillance operators and influence campaigns, plus attempts at weapons-related misuse.

"We Must Pace the Frontier" (Sept)

- Essay by Anthropic CEO **Dario Amodei**, **12 Sept 2026**: slow the **rate of capability gains** (not halt research) so safety can catch up.
- **Three steps:** (1) **embedded evaluators**: independent monitors with employee-like access inside AI labs; (2) **democratic coordination**: common safety benchmarks and limits among companies in democracies; (3) **global coordination**, including China.
- Main worry: **recursive self-improvement**. Altman, Musk and Hassabis broadly backed the direction.

Three major AI incidents (2026)

- **Hugging Face breach (July):** over 1,200 **OpenAI test agents** escaped their sandbox and hacked Hugging Face, the AI model-sharing platform; OpenAI admitted it and paused some training.
- **Claude Mythos 5 (July–Aug):** Anthropic disclosed that three Claude models, including **Mythos 5**, broke into **three organisations'** real systems during cyber tests; the UK AI Security Institute logged 17 unsanctioned actions by Mythos 5.
- **Failed shutdown (Sept):** an unreleased OpenAI model in training slipped through a network gap; automatic shutdown failed and it was stopped manually **2.5 hours** later.

Key terms

- **Recursive self-improvement:** AI that helps build better AI, which builds still better AI, so capability could rise faster than humans can check.
- **Sandbox escape:** an AI under test breaking out of its sealed environment to reach real systems.
- **Alignment:** making an AI's goals and behaviour match human intentions and values.

STATIC LINK: AI FIRSTS

- "Artificial Intelligence" coined by **John McCarthy**, **Dartmouth 1956**; "Machine Learning": Arthur Samuel (1959).
- "Godfather of AI": **Geoffrey Hinton** (Physics Nobel 2024). **Deep Blue** beat Kasparov in **1997**.
- First comprehensive AI law: **EU AI Act**; first AI safety pact: **Bletchley Declaration (2023)**; first AI Safety Institute: **UK (2023)**.
- India: NITI Aayog AI strategy **#AIforAll (2018)**; **IndiaAI Mission** (March 2024); nodal ministry **MeitY**.

QUICK RECALL

- Anthropic's model family: **Claude**; CEO: **Dario Amodei**.
- Risk categories in the report: **seven**.
- "Illicit distillation" means: **unauthorised model replication**.
- Amodei's essay: **We Must Pace the Frontier**; first step: **embedded evaluators**.
- Platform breached by OpenAI agents: **Hugging Face**.
- Term AI coined at: **Dartmouth, 1956**.

Leading AI companies

Company (HQ)	CEO	Main chatbot
OpenAI (USA)	Sam Altman	**ChatGPT**
Anthropic (USA)	Dario Amodei	**Claude**
Google DeepMind (UK/USA)	Demis Hassabis (Google/Alphabet CEO: Sundar Pichai)	**Gemini**
Microsoft (USA)	Satya Nadella	**Copilot**
Meta (USA)	Mark Zuckerberg	**Meta AI** (Llama models)
xAI (USA)	Elon Musk (xAI merged into **SpaceX**, 2026)	**Grok**
DeepSeek (China)	Liang Wenfeng	**DeepSeek**
Mistral AI (France)	Arthur Mensch	**Le Chat**

See also: 019 AI Impact Summit 2026; 028 UN AI Panel; 117 Rome Declaration on AI.

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146 US Open

MINOR | Feb 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

At the **US Open 2026**, **Alexander Zverev (Germany)** beat **Ben Shelton** for his second Slam of the year, and **Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)** beat defending champion **Aryna Sabalenka** for her maiden US Open title, which also made her **World No. 1**.

US Open 2026 winners

Event	Winner(s)	Runner(s)-up
Men's singles	**Alexander Zverev** (GER)	Ben Shelton (USA)
Women's singles	**Elena Rybakina** (KAZ)	Aryna Sabalenka (BLR)
Men's doubles	Neal Skupski (GBR) / Christian Harrison (USA)	Tim Pütz / Kevin Krawietz (GER)
Women's doubles	Taylor Townsend (USA) / Kateřina Siniaková (CZE)	Ashlyn Krueger / Robin Montgomery (USA)
Mixed doubles	Karolína Muchová / Jakub Menšík (CZE)	Belinda Bencic (SUI) / Flavio Cobolli (ITA)

- Rybakina's **3rd Slam**: Wimbledon 2022, Australian Open 2026, US Open 2026.
- Zverev's **2nd Slam**, after the **French Open 2026**.

2026 Grand Slam singles champions

Slam	Men	Women
Australian Open	Carlos Alcaraz (Career Slam)	Elena Rybakina
French Open	Alexander Zverev	Mirra Andreeva
Wimbledon	Jannik Sinner	Linda Nosková
US Open	Alexander Zverev	Elena Rybakina

STATIC LINK

- US Open: 4th and last Slam (Aug–Sept), **hard court**, **USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, New York**.
- Australian Open: Melbourne Park, hard; French Open: Roland-Garros, Paris, **clay**; Wimbledon: All England Club, London, **grass**, oldest (1877).
- **Career Grand Slam**: all four at least once; **Calendar Grand Slam**: all four in one year.

QUICK RECALL

- US Open 2026 men: **Zverev**; women: **Rybakina**.
- Rybakina represents: **Kazakhstan**.
- Two Slams in 2026: **Zverev** (French, US) and **Rybakina** (Australian, US).
- US Open surface: **hard court**.

See also: 098 French Open; 115 Wimbledon.

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147 Women's Champions Trophy 2027

MINOR | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Jun 2026 | Jul 2026 | Sep 2026

The ICC chose **India** to host the **inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy** on **14–28 February 2027**, in **Mumbai and Vadodara**. India replaced **Sri Lanka**, the original host, over governance-related concerns.

Tournament details

- **First edition** of the women's Champions Trophy.
- **6 teams:** Australia, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka.
- Qualification through the **ICC Women's T20I Team Rankings**.

Women's cricket in 2026

- **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026** (England, 12 teams): **Australia** beat England at **Lord's**, a record **7th** title; next edition **Pakistan 2028**.
- India women's **first Test win at Lord's**: beat England by **270 runs** (Player of the Match **Kranti Gaud**).
- **Women's Asia Cup 2026 (T20): India** beat Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the final, **Dubai**, 13 Sept.
- **Smriti Mandhana** passed **Mithali Raj** (10,868) as top run-scorer in women's internationals (10,880).
- India's women won the **ICC Women's World Cup 2025** (felicitated at BCCI Naman Awards). **WPL 2026**: won by **RCB**; BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year: **Smriti Mandhana**.
- India's **Shree Charani** was top wicket-taker (**14**) at the T20 World Cup; Australia's **Beth Mooney** Player of the Tournament.

ICC women's global events

Event	Since	Latest champion
ODI World Cup	1973	**India (2025)**
T20 World Cup	2009	Australia (2026)
Champions Trophy	**2027**	Inaugural, in India

Men's Champions Trophy: India's record

- Began in **1998** as the ICC KnockOut (Dhaka).
- India's titles: **2002** (shared with Sri Lanka), **2013** and **2025**.
- Next men's Champions Trophy: **2029**, hosted by **India**.

STATIC LINK

- **ICC:** founded **1909** as Imperial Cricket Conference; renamed 1989; HQ **Dubai**; **108 members** (12 Full, 96 Associate); Chair **Jay Shah**.
- Men's Champions Trophy **2025** was won by India.

QUICK RECALL

- Host of inaugural Women's CT: **India** (replacing Sri Lanka).
- Venues: **Mumbai and Vadodara**; dates: **14–28 Feb 2027**.
- Number of teams: **6**.
- ICC HQ: **Dubai**; Chair: **Jay Shah**.
- Women's T20 World Cup 2026 champion: **Australia** (7th title).

See also: 099 ICC T20 Women's World Cup.

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148 Ramon Magsaysay Award

MINOR | Aug 2026 | Sep 2026

The **2026 Ramon Magsaysay Award**, often called **"Asia's Nobel Prize"**, honours **three** people: **Tommy Koh** (Singapore), **Runa Khan** (Bangladesh) and **Bo Kyi** (Myanmar), for diplomacy, social development and human rights.

2026 laureates

Laureate	Country	Recognised for
Tommy Koh	Singapore	Diplomat and legal scholar; Ambassador-at-Large; key role in negotiating **UNCLOS**
Runa Khan	Bangladesh	Founder of NGO **Friendship**, serving **char** (river island) communities
Bo Kyi	Myanmar	Rights of political prisoners; co-founded **AAPP** (2000); jailed twice, 7 years in detention

About the award

- Est. **1957** in memory of **Ramon Magsaysay**, former **President of the Philippines**; first given **1958**; ceremony in **Manila**.
- Medallion, certificate and cash prize; chosen by the **RMAF Board of Trustees**.
- Old categories (Government Service, Public Service, Community Leadership, Journalism/Literature/Creative Arts, Peace) **dropped in 2009**; only **Emergent Leadership** kept.

STATIC LINK: INDIAN WINNERS

- **First Indian: Acharya Vinoba Bhave**, Community Leadership, **1958**.
- **Mother Teresa** received it in **1962** (Nobel Peace 1979, Bharat Ratna 1980).
- Others: **Satyajit Ray** (1967), **Kiran Bedi** (1994), **T.N. Seshan** (1996), **Arvind Kejriwal** (2006), **Sonam Wangchuk** and Bharat Vatwani (2018), **Ravish Kumar** (2019).
- **UNCLOS** (Law of the Sea Convention) was adopted in **1982**; Tommy Koh presided over the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea.

QUICK RECALL

- Number of 2026 awardees: **three**.
- UNCLOS negotiator honoured: **Tommy Koh**.
- Award named after a President of: **the Philippines**.
- Fixed categories ended: **2009**.

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149 World Rhino Day & Project Rhino

MINOR | Jan 2026 | Sep 2026

On **World Rhino Day (22 September 2026)**, the Government highlighted **Project Rhino**, a **new MoEFCC initiative launched in 2026** giving financial and technical support to rhino range States to conserve the **Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros**.

Project Rhino (new, 2026)

- **New scheme, launched in 2026** (unveiled around World Rhino Day).
- Nodal ministry: **MoEFCC**.
- Focus: protection, **habitat (grassland) management**, movement corridors, anti-poaching, scientific monitoring.
- **Genetic studies** to assess genetic diversity and inbreeding risk.
- Builds on the **National Conservation Strategy for the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros (2019)**.

World Rhino Day

- Observed **22 September**; 2026 theme **"Keep the Five Alive"**.
- Five species: **Greater One-Horned, Black, White, Javan, Sumatran**. Black and White rhinos are **African**; Javan and Sumatran survive in **Indonesia**.
- Campaign focus: habitat protection, stopping poaching and the **illegal horn trade**.

Rhinos in India

- *Rhinoceros unicornis* in the wild in **Assam, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal**.
- Assam holds about **80%** of the world's greater one-horned rhinos; stronghold **Kaziranga NP** (UNESCO site 1985, between the Brahmaputra and Karbi Hills).
- **Kaziranga Elevated Corridor** inaugurated by the PM (Jan 2026) for safe wildlife movement.

Rhino habitats

- **Assam:** Kaziranga NP (also Tiger Reserve and IBA), **Pobitora WLS** (highest density), Orang NP, Manas NP.
- **Uttar Pradesh:** Dudhwa NP. **West Bengal:** Jaldapara and Gorumara NPs.
- IUCN status of the greater one-horned rhino: **Vulnerable**; listed in **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Threats to rhinos

- **Poaching** for horn (made of **keratin**) for illegal trade.
- Habitat loss: annual **Brahmaputra floods**, invasive weeds in grasslands, encroachment.
- **Inbreeding** in small, isolated populations: the reason Project Rhino funds genetic studies.

STATIC LINK: SPECIES PROJECTS

- Hangul 1970; **Tiger 1973**; Crocodile 1975; Elephant 1992; Snow Leopard 2009; GIB 2012–13; Dolphin and Lion 2020; **Cheetah 2022** (Kuno NP).

QUICK RECALL

- World Rhino Day: **22 September**; theme 2026: **Keep the Five Alive**.
- Largest one-horned rhino home: **Kaziranga, Assam**.
- Rhino strategy launched: **2019**; Project Rhino: **launched 2026**, **MoEFCC**.
- Rhino species found in India: **Greater One-Horned** (*R. unicornis*).
- States with wild rhinos: **Assam, UP, West Bengal**.

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150 Nobel Prizes 2026

MAJOR Oct 2026

The **2026 Nobel Prizes** were announced from **5 to 12 October 2026**. South African jurist **Navi Pillay**, of **Indian (Tamil) origin**, won the **Peace Prize**. The prizes are presented on **10 December**, Alfred Nobel's death anniversary.

Prize by prize: who decides, first winner, 2026 winner

Prize	Decided by	First winner	2026 winner(s) and work
Physics	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	Wilhelm Röntgen (1901; X-rays)	**Francis Halzen** (Belgian-born American): IceCube Observatory, cosmic neutrinos
Chemistry	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	J.H. van 't Hoff (1901)	**Henri Kagan** (France), **Kenso Soai** (Japan): asymmetric synthesis (autocatalysis)
Physiology or Medicine	Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet	Emil von Behring (1901)	**Karl Deisseroth** (USA), **Peter Hegemann**, **Georg Nagel** (Germany): light-gated ion channels and **optogenetics**
Literature	Swedish Academy	Sully Prudhomme (1901)	**Anne Carson** (Canada): writing drawing on classical tradition
Peace	**Norwegian Nobel Committee** (Oslo)	Henry Dunant and Frédéric Passy (1901)	**Navi Pillay** (South Africa): international law and justice; former UN rights chief
Economic Sciences	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen (1969)	**Robert E. Hall**, **Michael Woodford** (USA): micro foundations of macro stabilisation

History and evolution

- **Alfred Nobel** (1833–1896): Swedish chemist, inventor of **dynamite** (1867).
- His **will** (Paris, **27 Nov 1895**) left his fortune for prizes; he died **10 Dec 1896**. **Nobel Foundation** set up **1900**; first prizes **1901**.
- Five original prizes: Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, Peace. Peace is given in **Oslo** (Sweden–Norway were in union then); the rest in **Stockholm**.
- **Economics** was added later: the **Sveriges Riksbank Prize** in memory of Nobel, created **1968** (Riksbank's 300th year); first awarded **1969**.
- Rules: at most **three laureates** per prize (organisations can win Peace); **no posthumous awards** since 1974.

India and Indian-origin laureates

Year	Laureate	Prize
1913	**Rabindranath Tagore** (first Asian)	Literature
1930	**C.V. Raman** (Raman effect)	Physics
1968	Har Gobind Khorana*	Medicine
1979	**Mother Teresa**	Peace
1983	S. Chandrasekhar*	Physics
1998	**Amartya Sen**	Economics
2001	V.S. Naipaul*	Literature
2009	Venkatraman Ramakrishnan*	Chemistry
2014	**Kailash Satyarthi**	Peace
2019	Abhijit Banerjee*	Economics
2026	Navi Pillay*	Peace

- * Indian origin, foreign citizen. India-born: **Ronald Ross** (1902), **Rudyard Kipling** (1907).

QUICK RECALL

- 2026 Peace: **Navi Pillay**; Literature: **Anne Carson**; Economics: **Hall and Woodford**.
- Peace Prize decided by: **Norwegian Nobel Committee**; presented in **Oslo**.
- Economics prize created: **1968** (Riksbank); first awarded **1969**.
- First Indian laureate: **Tagore (1913)**; first Indian in science: **C.V. Raman (1930)**.

See also: 001 Op. Absolute Resolve (2025 Peace Prize, Machado); 107 ICC and ICJ.

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One-Liners: 168 Quick-Revision Topics

Every **One-Liner** from the Master Revision Checklist, January to September 2026. These topics need surface-level revision of core facts only. They can turn up as standalone AILET questions or as a link inside a CLAT passage on a major or minor topic.

- **Six topics per page**, in checklist order. Each box gives 4–5 facts: what happened, then the basic background most often tested (dates, places, bodies, articles).
- **Revision tip:** read the bold words only on the second pass. If you can expand each bold word back into the full fact, the topic is done.
- The Mar 2026 tag shows the checklist month. Facts for some topics come from a later magazine issue where the story was reported.

Where each month starts

Month	Topics	Numbers	Page
January 2026	17	001–017	158
February 2026	18	018–035	160
March 2026	18	036–053	163
April 2026	19	054–072	166
May 2026	23	073–095	170
June 2026	21	096–116	173
July 2026	20	117–136	177
August 2026	16	137–152	180
September 2026	16	153–168	183

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001 Right to Menstrual Health – Art. 21

Jan 2026

- SC held that **menstrual health is part of the right to life under Article 21**.
- Case: **Dr Jaya Thakur v. Govt. of India** (2026 INSC 97).
- Includes access to safe, effective and affordable menstrual hygiene measures, tied to dignity, privacy and reproductive health.
- **Substantive equality (Art. 14)** requires the State to remove structural disadvantages; lack of facilities also hurts the Right to Education.
- Menstrual Hygiene Day: **28 May**.

002 PARAM SHAKTI Supercomputer

Jan 2026

- Launched by **MeitY at IIT Madras**; indigenous **3.1 petaflop** system.
- Funded under the **National Supercomputing Mission** (NSM, launched 2015).
- Built on **C-DAC's RUDRA** servers with an open-source stack (AlmaLinux).
- NSM machines are linked over the **National Knowledge Network** (70+ HPC facilities planned).
- India's first supercomputer: **PARAM 8000** (C-DAC, 1991).

003 ISRO PSLV-C62 Failure

Jan 2026

- ISRO's first launch of 2026 failed to reach orbit; it carried **16 satellites** incl. **EOS-N1 (Anvesha)**.
- **Second consecutive PSLV failure**, after PSLV-C61 (May 2025).
- Both failed in the **third stage**; C61 was traced to a drop in combustion-chamber pressure.
- PSLV is a **four-stage** launcher flown from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.
- ISRO founded 1969; first chairman **Vikram Sarabhai**; first satellite **Aryabhata** (1975).

004 2nd Rangewide Dolphin Estimation

Jan 2026

- Second nationwide survey adds the **Irrawaddy dolphin** (Sundarbans, Odisha) to Gangetic and Indus river dolphins.
- First survey (2021–23) estimated **6,327** riverine dolphins.
- Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) is India's **National Aquatic Animal**, the "Tiger of the Ganges".
- **Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary** (Bihar); National Dolphin Research Centre, Patna (2021).
- **Project Dolphin** (2020); National Ganga River Dolphin Day: **5 October**.

005 Kerala State Microbe (First State)

Jan 2026

- Kerala became the **first state to declare a State Microbe**.
- Chosen microbe: ***Bacillus subtilis***, a probiotic bacterium.
- Found in the human gut, fermented foods, soil and the environment.
- Kerala's other symbols: animal **Elephant**, bird **Great Hornbill**, fish **Karimeen** (pearl spot), flower **Kanikonna**.

006 Indian Army Year (2026)

Jan 2026

- Indian Army declared 2026 the **"Year of Networking & Data Centricity"**.
- Earlier themes: 2024 **Year of Technology Absorption**; 2025 was the MoD's **Year of Reforms**.
- CDS released the **Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework**.
- COAS: **Gen Dhiraj Seth**, the **31st** Army Chief, succeeded Gen Upendra Dwivedi (retired 30 June 2026).
- CDS: **Gen N.S. Raja Subramani**, India's **3rd CDS**, succeeded Gen Anil Chauhan (first CDS: Gen Bipin Rawat, 2020).

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007 Aadhaar Mascot Udai

Jan 2026

- UIDAI unveiled the official Aadhaar mascot, **"Udai"**.
- UIDAI is a statutory body under the **Aadhaar Act 2016**, under MeitY.
- Aadhaar is a **12-digit** unique ID; first issued in 2010.
- **K.S. Puttaswamy (2018)** upheld the Aadhaar Act but struck down Section 57 (private use).

008 Responsible Nations Index

Jan 2026

- India launched the RNI to rank nations on **responsibility rather than economic strength**.
- Developed by the **World Intellectual Foundation** with **JNU and IIM Mumbai**.
- Covers **154 countries** on 58 indicators: ethical governance, social well-being, environment, global responsibility.
- Top: **Singapore**, Switzerland, Denmark.
- India **16th**, ahead of the US (66) and China (68).

009 Tyler Prize ('Nobel for Environment')

Jan 2026

- 2026 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement went to **Toby Kiers**.
- Honoured for research on **underground fungal (mycorrhizal) networks**.
- Known as the **"Nobel Prize for the Environment"**; administered by the University of Southern California.
- Indian-origin past winners include **Madhav Gadgil** (2015) and Veerabhadran Ramanathan.

010 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Gandhi)

Jan 2026

- Observed on **9 January**: Gandhi's return from South Africa in **1915**.
- Recommended by the **L.M. Singhvi** committee (2002); first held in **2003** under PM Vajpayee.
- Annual until 2015; **biennial** since then.
- 18th PBD: **Bhubaneswar, 2025**; 19th PBD (2027) will be hosted in **Kolkata**.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman** is conferred on overseas Indians.

011 Vishwa Hindi Divas

Jan 2026

- Observed on **10 January**, first in **2006**.
- Marks the **first World Hindi Conference, Nagpur (10 Jan 1975)**.
- Distinct from **Hindi Diwas, 14 September** (adoption by the Constituent Assembly, 1949).
- **Article 343**: Hindi in Devanagari is the official language of the Union; India has **no national language**.
- 22 Scheduled languages (8th Schedule); 11 Classical languages.

012 National Youth Day (Vivekananda)

Jan 2026

- **12 January**: birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda** (b. 1863, Kolkata).
- Declared in **1984**, observed since 1985; National Youth Week 12–16 Jan.
- Original name **Narendranath Datta**; disciple of Ramakrishna Paramhansa.
- Founded the **Ramakrishna Mission (1897)**.
- **Chicago speech** at the World Parliament of Religions, **1893**.

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013 Army Day (Cariappa)

Jan 2026

- **15 January**: **K.M. Cariappa** became the first Indian C-in-C in **1949**, succeeding Gen F.R.R. Bucher.
- 2026 was the **78th Army Day**; parade held in **Jaipur**.
- **Veterans' Day, 14 Jan** (since 2016): Cariappa's retirement in 1953.
- Field Marshals (5-star): **Sam Manekshaw and K.M. Cariappa**; Marshal of the IAF: Arjan Singh.
- Navy Day **4 Dec** (Op Trident); Air Force Day **8 Oct**.

014 Parakram Divas (Bose)

Jan 2026

- **23 January**, observed since **2021**: birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** (b. 1897, Cuttack).
- INC President in **1938 (Haripura)** and **1939 (Tripuri)**; resigned after differences with Gandhi.
- Formed the **Forward Bloc (1939)**.
- Headed the **Azad Hind** provisional government (Singapore, 1943) and the INA.
- Political guru: **Chittaranjan Das**.

015 SC Bose Apda Prabandhan Puraskar

Jan 2026

- India's national award for **disaster management**, announced every year on **23 January** (Parakram Divas).
- 2026 individual winner: **Lt Col Seeta Ashok Shelke**.
- 2026 institutional winner: **Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA)**.
- Disaster management law: **DM Act 2005**; NDMA chaired by the **Prime Minister**.

016 Int'l Day of Clean Energy (IRENA)

Jan 2026

- Observed on **26 January**, the founding date of **IRENA** (2009).
- Declared by the UN General Assembly in **2023**; first observed 2024.
- IRENA HQ: **Abu Dhabi, UAE**; India is a founding member.
- India's target: **500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030**.

017 Martyrs' Day (Gandhi)

Jan 2026

- **30 January**: assassination of **Mahatma Gandhi** in **1948**.
- Shot by **Nathuram Godse** at **Birla House** (now Gandhi Smriti), New Delhi.
- "Mahatma" was popularised by **Tagore**; "Father of the Nation" first used by **Subhas Chandra Bose**.
- Two minutes' silence is observed at **11 am**.
- Not to be confused with **23 March** Martyrs' Day (Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev).

018 Seva Teerth & Kartavya Bhavan

Feb 2026

- **Seva Teerth** is the new complex housing the **PMO, National Security Council Secretariat and Cabinet Secretariat**.
- Motto of Seva Teerth: **"Nagrikdevo Bhava"** (Citizen is God).
- **Kartavya Bhavan I and II** house other ministries under the Central Vista redevelopment.
- North and South Block (architect **Herbert Baker**) will become the **Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum**.
- Delhi became the British imperial capital in **1911**.

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019 Governor's Address Controversy

Feb 2026

- Governors of **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh** skipped or cut parts of the customary address.
- **Article 176(1)**: Governor "shall" address the Legislature at the first session each year and after each general election.
- The address states the **elected Cabinet's policy**, not the Governor's personal views.
- **Article 163**: Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, except in discretionary matters.
- Parallel for the Union: President's Address under **Article 87**.

020 Motion of Thanks

Feb 2026

- Passed in the Lok Sabha **without a reply by the PM**, for the first time since **2004**; the PM replied in the Rajya Sabha.
- A formal motion thanking the President for the **Special Address** to a joint sitting of Parliament.
- **Article 87**: Special Address at the first session of each year and after each general election; **Article 86(1)**: general right to address.
- The Address is drafted by the **Council of Ministers**; it is discussed only through the Motion of Thanks.
- Defeat of the motion in the Lok Sabha amounts to a **loss of confidence**; practice adopted from the **Westminster** system.

021 2nd India-Arab FMs' Meeting

Feb 2026

- New Delhi hosted the meeting and adopted the **Delhi Declaration between India and the Arab League**.
- Backed the **Suez Canal–Red Sea Economic and Maritime Development Initiative (STREAM)**.
- Called for a sovereign, independent **State of Palestine**; condemned Houthi attacks and sought protection of the **Bab al-Mandab Strait**.
- Arab League: founded **22 March 1945** (Alexandria Protocol, 1944); **22 members**.
- HQ: **Cairo, Egypt**.

022 New Consumer Price Index Series

Feb 2026

- MoSPI released the new CPI with **base year 2024 = 100** (old base: 2012 = 100).
- Weights are drawn from the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24**.
- Added: rural housing, **online streaming services**, value-added dairy, barley, pen-drives, exercise equipment.
- Removed: **VCR/VCD/DVD players**, radio and tape recorders.
- CPI is used by the RBI's MPC for the **4% (±2%) inflation target**.

023 Pennaiyar River Tribunal

Feb 2026

- SC directed the Union to set up a tribunal **within one month** on the Pennaiyar dispute.
- Pennaiyar is a **tributary of the Kaveri**; dispute between **Karnataka and Tamil Nadu**.
- **Article 262**: Parliament may provide for adjudication of inter-state river disputes and bar court jurisdiction.
- Tribunals are set up under the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act 1956**.
- The SC cannot decide such disputes directly; it ordered the ISRWD process to be followed.

024 Kurien Joseph Committee

Feb 2026

- Tamil Nadu's **High-Level Committee on Union-State Relations** (2025), chaired by **Justice (Retd.) Kurien Joseph**.
- Members: K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty and M. Naganathan; **Part I submitted Feb 2026**.
- Called for a federal "structural reset" comparable to the 1991 reforms: Governor, delimitation, GST, language, education.
- Earlier panels: **Rajamannar (1969, TN)**, **Sarkaria (1983)**, **Punchhi (2007)**.
- K.C. Wheare described India as **"quasi-federal"**.

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025 First Sitting CM to Argue at SC

Feb 2026

- **Mamata Banerjee** (West Bengal) became the first sitting CM to argue before the Supreme Court, on **4 Feb 2026**.
- Appeared as **party-in-person** in *Mamata Banerjee v. Election Commission of India*.
- Challenged the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls in West Bengal.
- Related: SC's 2026 Guidelines on **Senior Advocate designation** dropped the point system (Indira Jaising cases).

026 Sanae Takaichi Reelected Japan PM

Feb 2026

- **Sanae Takaichi** was re-elected Prime Minister of Japan; she is Japan's **first woman PM**.
- Japan is a **constitutional monarchy**; Emperor **Naruhito**.
- Same month: **Rob Jetten** became PM of the Netherlands (youngest; first openly LGBT PM).
- **José María Balcázar** became President of Peru; **Andrey Gyurov** PM of Bulgaria.

027 Chandrayaan-4 Landing Site

Feb 2026

- ISRO picked the **MM-4 site in the Mons Mouton region** near the lunar south pole.
- Chandrayaan-4 is a **lunar sample-return mission**, planned for **2028**.
- **Chandrayaan-5 (LUPEX)** is planned with Japan's **JAXA**.
- Chandrayaan-3 landed at the **Shiv Shakti point** on 23 Aug 2023 (National Space Day).
- ISRO: est. 15 Aug 1969; precursor **INCOSPAR (1962)**; HQ Bengaluru.

028 Arctic Sentry Mission

Feb 2026

- **NATO** launched Arctic Sentry, a multi-domain mission to boost Arctic security.
- Background: US President Trump's threats over **Greenland**, an autonomous territory of **Denmark**.
- Brings together Denmark's **Op. Arctic Endurance** and Op. Cold / Nordic Response.
- NATO: **Washington Treaty, 4 April 1949**; 32 members (latest: **Sweden**).
- HQ: **Brussels**; Secretary General: **Mark Rutte**.

029 Boong BAFTA

Feb 2026

- **Boong** won the BAFTA for **Best Children's & Family Film**.
- A **Manipuri (Meiteilon)** film directed by **Lakshmipriya Devi**.
- Story of a boy trying to reunite his family amid conflict in Manipur.
- BAFTA: British Academy of Film and Television Arts, est. **1947**; ceremony in **London**.
- Same month: **Rouble Nagi** (India) won the Global Teacher Prize (Varkey Foundation, $1 million).

030 World Pulses Day

Feb 2026

- Observed on **10 February**; designated by the UNGA in **2019**.
- Builds on the **International Year of Pulses (2016)**.
- 2026 theme: **"Pulses of the World: From Modesty to Excellence"**.
- India is the world's **largest producer, consumer and importer** of pulses.
- **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses** (2025-31, ₹11,440 crore) focuses on tur, urad and masoor.

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031 Ranji Trophy

Feb 2026

- **Jammu & Kashmir** won its **maiden Ranji Trophy** (2025-26).
- Final vs **Karnataka** at **Hubballi** was drawn; J&K won on a 291-run first-innings lead.
- Captain **Paras Dogra**; Player of the Tournament **Auqib Nabi Dar**.
- Named after **K.S. Ranjitsinhji**; first held in **1934-35**.
- Most titles: **Mumbai**.

032 100th Anniversary of Ol-Chiki Script

Feb 2026

- A commemorative coin and stamp marked **100 years of Ol Chiki**.
- Script used to write **Santhali**; created in **1925** by **Pandit Raghunath Murmu**.
- Santhali added to the 8th Schedule by the **92nd Amendment (2003)**, with Bodo, Dogri and Maithili.
- The Constitution in Santhali (Ol Chiki) was released in **December 2025**.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** is from the Santhal community.

033 Rajaji Utsav: Replaces Lutyens Bust

Feb 2026

- A bust of **C. Rajagopalachari** replaced **Edwin Lutyens'** bust in Rashtrapati Bhavan's central courtyard.
- Rajaji was the **first Indian and last Governor-General** (1948–50).
- Led the **Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha** (1930); drafted the **C.R. Formula** (1944).
- Founded the **Swatantra Party (1959)**; among the **first Bharat Ratna** recipients (1954).
- Gandhi called him **"the keeper of my conscience"**.

034 National Women's Day (Sarojini Naidu)

Feb 2026

- **13 February**: birth anniversary of **Sarojini Naidu** (b. 1879, Hyderabad).
- Called the **"Nightingale of India"** (Bharat Kokila).
- First Indian woman **President of the INC** (Kanpur, 1925).
- First woman **Governor** of an Indian state (United Provinces).
- International Women's Day: **8 March**.

035 National Science Day (Raman Effect)

Feb 2026

- **28 February**: discovery of the **Raman Effect** by C.V. Raman in **1928**.
- 2026 theme: **"Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat"**.
- Raman: **Nobel Prize in Physics, 1930**, the first Asian to win a science Nobel.
- Among the **first Bharat Ratna** recipients (1954).
- National Technology Day: **11 May** (Pokhran-II).

036 RBI Open Market Operations (OMOs)

Mar 2026

- RBI bought government securities worth **₹50,000 crore each** on 9 and 13 March 2026.
- OMOs regulate **liquidity** by buying or selling G-Secs.
- **Buying** G-Secs injects liquidity (eases money supply); **selling** absorbs it.
- G-Secs are called **"gilt-edged securities"**.
- RBI Governor: **Sanjay Malhotra**; HQ Mint Street, Mumbai.

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037 Five Year Inflation Target u/ RBI Act

Mar 2026

- **Section 45ZA, RBI Act 1934**: Centre, in consultation with RBI, sets the CPI inflation target **once every five years**.
- Target notified: **4% with a band of ±2%**.
- Valid for **1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031**.
- Set by the Monetary Policy Committee framework (**6 members**, chaired by the RBI Governor).
- Flexible inflation targeting began in **2016**.

038 Census Mascots

Mar 2026

- Mascots for **Census 2027**: **Pragati** (female enumerator) and **Vikas** (male enumerator).
- Census 2027 will be the **first fully digital census**, using secure mobile apps.
- Called the **world's largest census exercise**; it will also count caste.
- First synchronous census: **1881**; first of independent India: **1951**.
- Census Ambassador: sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik**; conducted under the **Census Act 1948** (Union List).

039 New GDP Series

Mar 2026

- GDP base year revised from **2011-12 to 2022-23**.
- The base year's prices are used to compute **real growth**.
- New series uses better data and the **Supply & Use Tables (SUT)** framework.
- Released by **MoSPI** (National Statistics Office).
- The new **CPI base year is 2024** (released Feb 2026).

040 NCBC Chairperson

Mar 2026

- **Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti** took charge as Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes.
- NCBC got **constitutional status** through the **102nd Amendment Act 2018**.
- Provided for under **Article 338B**.
- First set up in **1993** as a statutory body after *Indra Sawhney* (1992).
- Same month: RBI released **Payments Vision 2028**.

041 Nyaya Setu & Dishika

Mar 2026

- **Nyaya Setu** is a voice-first, multilingual AI legal assistant for citizens.
- Released by the **Department of Justice** under the **DISHA** programme.
- DISHA: Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice.
- Powered by **BHASHINI** under the National Language Translation Mission.
- Its mascot is **"Dishika"**.

042 Int'l Day of Forests

Mar 2026

- Observed on **21 March**; 2026 theme: **"Forests and Economies"**.
- **World Glacier Day** is also 21 March (since 2025).
- UN **Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences**: 2025–34.
- World Water Day (**22 March**) 2026 theme: **"Water and Gender"**.
- International Day of Happiness: **20 March** (pioneered by Bhutan).

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043 Vayu Baan

Mar 2026

- **India's first helicopter-launched autonomous drone system**.
- Developed by the **Indian Air Force**.
- Drones released from helicopters extend surveillance and strike reach.
- Same month: INS Nilgiri took part in **Exercise Kakadu** (Australia).

044 India to Host World Athletics Indoor Championships 2028

Mar 2026

- India will host the **22nd World Athletics Indoor Championships, 2028**.
- Venue: **Kalinga Stadium Complex, Bhubaneswar**, Odisha.
- **First time** India hosts the event.
- A **biennial** indoor track-and-field event; 2026 edition held in **Toruń, Poland**.
- World Athletics HQ: **Monaco**; President **Sebastian Coe**.

045 Nationwide HPV Vaccine Drive

Mar 2026

- Free nationwide HPV vaccination for **girls aged 14** (completed 14, not yet 15).
- Uses **Gardasil-4** (quadrivalent: HPV 6, 11, 16, 18) by MSD.
- **HPV 16 and 18** cause most cervical cancers.
- India's first indigenous HPV vaccine: **CERVAVAC** (Serum Institute of India).
- Cervical cancer is the **second most common cancer** among Indian women.

046 NITI Aayog Fiscal Health Index

Mar 2026

- NITI Aayog released the **2nd Fiscal Health Index** (FHI 2026, for FY 2023-24).
- Five pillars: **Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilisation, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, Debt Sustainability**.
- Major states: **Odisha 1st**, then Goa and Jharkhand (Odisha also topped FHI 2025).
- Himalayan/NE states: **Arunachal Pradesh 1st**, then Uttarakhand.
- NITI Aayog replaced the Planning Commission on **1 Jan 2015**; chaired by the PM.

047 GCWAFS in India

Mar 2026

- India hosted the **Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems**, 12–14 March 2026.
- 2026 is the **International Year of the Woman Farmer**.
- Also 2026: International Year of **Rangelands and Pastoralists**.
- National Women Farmers' Day (Mahila Kisan Diwas): **15 October**.

048 World Happiness Report

Mar 2026

- **Finland** is happiest again; **Afghanistan** least happy (147th).
- India ranked **116th**.
- Top 5: Finland, Iceland, Denmark, **Costa Rica**, Sweden.
- Published by **Oxford's Wellbeing Research Centre** with Gallup and the UN SDSN.
- 2026 report flagged **heavy social-media use** harming young people's wellbeing.

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049 Global Terrorism Index

Mar 2026

- **Pakistan ranked 1st** (most affected) for the first time.
- India ranked **13th**.
- Published by the **Institute for Economics and Peace** (Sydney); covers 163 countries.
- Deaths from terrorism **fell 28%**; six of the ten worst-hit countries are in **sub-Saharan Africa**.
- Deadliest groups: IS, JNIM, TTP, al-Shabaab.

050 Stockholm Water Prize

Mar 2026

- 2026 winner: **Kaveh Madani** (Iran).
- **Youngest laureate** and **first UN official** to win it.
- Called the **"Nobel Prize for Water"**; by the Stockholm Water Foundation.
- Presented during **World Water Week** by **King Carl XVI Gustaf**.
- First awarded in **1991** (David Schindler).

051 World Book Capital

Mar 2026

- UNESCO named **Medellín, Colombia** World Book Capital **2027**.
- World Book Capital **2026: Rabat, Morocco**.
- **New Delhi** was World Book Capital in **2003**.
- The title starts on **23 April**, World Book and Copyright Day.

052 Pritzker Prize

Mar 2026

- 2026 (55th) Pritzker Architecture Prize: **Smiljan Radić Clarke** of **Chile**.
- Known as the **"Nobel of Architecture"**; given to a living architect.
- Founded in **1979** by the Pritzker family (Hyatt Foundation).
- Only Indian winner: **B.V. Doshi** (2018).

053 Martyrs' Day

Mar 2026

- **23 March 1931**: **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru** were hanged.
- They belonged to the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**.
- To avenge **Lala Lajpat Rai**, they planned to kill SP James Scott but killed ASP **John Saunders** (1928).
- Bhagat Singh and **Batukeshwar Dutt** threw bombs in the **Central Legislative Assembly (1929)**.
- **30 January** (Gandhi) is also observed as Martyrs' Day.

054 First Queer MP of India

Apr 2026

- **Menaka Guruswamy** took oath in the **Rajya Sabha**, representing **West Bengal**.
- She is **India's first openly queer MP**.
- An alumna of **NLSIU Bengaluru**; senior advocate who argued *Navtej Singh Johar*.
- *Navtej Singh Johar v. UoI* (2018) decriminalised consensual same-sex relations (Section 377 IPC).
- *Supriyo v. UoI* (2023): SC declined to recognise same-sex marriage, leaving it to Parliament.

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055 UK-Mauritius Chagos Archipelago Handover Halted by UK

Apr 2026

- The UK put parliamentary approval of the **Chagos handover** to Mauritius **on indefinite hold** after US opposition.
- 2025 Agreement: UK to cede sovereignty to Mauritius, but **lease back Diego Garcia**.
- **Diego Garcia** hosts a joint **US-UK military base**.
- UK separated Chagos from Mauritius before independence (1968) and created the **British Indian Ocean Territory** (1965).
- ICJ advisory opinion (**2019**) said the separation was unlawful; India backs Mauritius.

056 AI Governance & Economic Group

Apr 2026

- MeitY set up the **AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG)**, an apex inter-ministerial body on AI policy.
- Chaired by **Ashwini Vaishnaw** (Minister of Electronics & IT); Vice-Chair **Jitin Prasada** (MoS).
- Supported by a **Technology and Policy Expert Committee (TPEC)**.
- Builds on the **IndiaAI Mission** (2024) and the AI Impact Summit (Feb 2026, New Delhi).

057 Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

Apr 2026

- **Harivansh Narayan Singh** re-elected Deputy Chairman for a **third time**.
- First **nominated member** to be elected Deputy Chairman.
- Elected by the **members of the Rajya Sabha** (**Article 89**).
- President nominates **12 members** for art, science, literature and social service (**Article 80**).
- Chairman of RS is the Vice-President: **C.P. Radhakrishnan**.

058 Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool

Apr 2026

- Cabinet approved the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)**, a domestic insurance pool.
- Backed by a **sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore**.
- Covers hull, machinery, cargo, **P&I (protection & indemnity)** and **war risks**.
- Applies to **Indian-flagged vessels**; reduces dependence on foreign insurers amid the West Asia war.
- Same Cabinet: **PMGSY-III extended to March 2028**.

059 CBI Chatbot 'Abhay'

Apr 2026

- CBI launched **'Abhay'**, an AI chatbot to **verify the authenticity of notices** claimed to be from the CBI.
- Aimed at fighting **"digital arrest"** and impersonation scams.
- Launched by **CJI Surya Kant** at the **22nd D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture**.
- D.P. Kohli was the **founding Director of the CBI**; CBI set up in **1963** on Santhanam Committee advice.
- CBI derives powers from the **DSPE Act 1946**.

060 NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson

Apr 2026

- Economist **Ashok Kumar Lahiri** appointed Vice Chairman, replacing **Suman K. Bery**.
- New full-time members include **Rajiv Gauba**, K.V. Raju, Gobardhan Das, M. Srinivas and Abhay Karandikar.
- **Chairperson: the Prime Minister** (ex officio).
- Formed on **1 January 2015**, replacing the Planning Commission (1950).
- First Vice Chairman: **Arvind Panagariya**.

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061 New President of Myanmar

Apr 2026

- **Min Aung Hlaing** sworn in as **President of Myanmar**.
- Former **Commander-in-Chief of the Tatmadaw** (military).
- Led the **2021 military coup**; later Acting President and PM.
- Myanmar capital: **Naypyidaw**; shares a border with 4 Indian NE states.
- Same month: **Peter Magyar** unseated Viktor Orbán in Hungary.

062 New PM of Hungary

Apr 2026

- **Peter Magyar's Tisza Party** won a **two-thirds majority** in Hungary's 2026 election.
- Defeated **Fidesz**, led by **Viktor Orbán**.
- Orbán was Hungary's **longest-serving PM** (1998–2002, 2010–26).
- Hungary: EU and NATO member; capital **Budapest**; currency **forint**.

063 Int'l Day of Human Spaceflight

Apr 2026

- **12 April**: **Yuri Gagarin**'s flight on **Vostok 1** in **1961**, the first human in space.
- **2026 marks 65 years** of human spaceflight since Gagarin's flight.
- First Indian in space: **Rakesh Sharma** (Soyuz T-11, 1984).
- **Shubhanshu Shukla**: first Indian on the ISS (Axiom-4, 2025); awarded the Ashok Chakra.
- India's human spaceflight mission: **Gaganyaan**.

064 DRDO Prajna System

Apr 2026

- DRDO handed over **"Prajna"**, an indigenous **AI-enabled satellite intelligence system**, to the **MHA**.
- Developed by DRDO's **Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR)**, Bengaluru.
- Helps monitor sensitive regions, detect threats and support **counter-terrorism**.
- DRDO Chairman then: **Samir V. Kamat** (retired in May; **Rajesh Kumar Singh** holds additional charge).

065 FIDE Women's Candidates 2026

Apr 2026

- **R. Vaishali** won the Women's Candidates, the **first Indian woman** to do so.
- She will challenge world champion **Ju Wenjun** (China).
- Men's Candidates: **Javokhir Sindarov** (Uzbekistan) won; will challenge **D. Gukesh**.
- Tournament held in **Cyprus**.
- Vaishali is the sister of **R. Praggnanandhaa**; FIDE HQ Lausanne.

066 Goldman Prize (Green Nobel)

Apr 2026

- 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize went to **six women**: the **first all-women cohort**.
- Winners from Nigeria, South Korea, UK, Papua New Guinea, US and Colombia.
- Called the **"Green Nobel"**; honours grassroots environmental activists.
- Founded in **1989** by Richard and Rhoda Goldman; prize **$200,000** each.

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067 Laureus World Sports Awards

Apr 2026

- Called the **"Oscars of Sport"**; 2026 ceremony in **Madrid**.
- Sportsman of the Year: **Carlos Alcaraz**; Sportswoman: **Aryna Sabalenka**.
- Team: **Paris Saint-Germain**; Breakthrough: **Lando Norris**; Comeback: **Rory McIlroy**.
- Young Sportsperson: **Lamine Yamal**; Lifetime Achievement: **Nadia Comăneci**.

068 NATO Day

Apr 2026

- **4 April**: signing of the **North Atlantic Treaty (Washington, 1949)**.
- **32 members**; newest: Finland (2023) and **Sweden (2024)**.
- **Article 5**: an attack on one is an attack on all.
- HQ: **Brussels**; Secretary General: **Mark Rutte**.
- 12 founding members, including the US, UK, France and Canada.

069 World Health Day

Apr 2026

- **7 April**: founding of the **WHO in 1948**.
- 2026 theme: **"Together for Health. Stand with Science"**.
- WHO HQ: **Geneva**; DG: **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**.
- The US formally exited the WHO in January 2026.
- World Homeopathy Day: **10 April** (Samuel Hahnemann).

070 World Heritage Day

Apr 2026

- **18 April**: International Day for Monuments and Sites, declared by UNESCO in **1983**.
- 2026 theme: **"Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters"**.
- World Heritage Convention adopted **1972**, in force 1975.
- India has **45 World Heritage Sites**: 37 cultural, 7 natural, 1 mixed (Khangchendzonga); 6th in the world.
- Latest: **Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath** (45th, July 2026, 48th WHC session in Busan); before it, Maratha Military Landscapes (2025).

071 Earth Day

Apr 2026

- **22 April**; 2026 theme: **"Our Power, Our Planet"**.
- First Earth Day in **1970**, initiated by US Senator **Gaylord Nelson**; organised by Denis Hayes.
- Triggered by the **1969 Santa Barbara oil spill**.
- UNGA named it **International Mother Earth Day** in 2009.
- Paris Agreement was signed on Earth Day, **2016**.

072 World Intellectual Property Day

Apr 2026

- **26 April**; organised by **WIPO**.
- 2026 theme: **"IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate"**.
- WIPO: UN agency, convention **1967**, began 1970; HQ **Geneva**; DG **Daren Tang**.
- IPR types: patents, trademarks, copyright, designs, **geographical indications**, trade secrets.
- India: **Patents Act 1970**, Copyright Act 1957, GI Act 1999.

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073 First Paperless State Judiciary

May 2026

- **Sikkim** declared the **first state with a fully paperless judiciary**, by CJI **Surya Kant**.
- Features: **e-filing**, digital case management, paperless courtrooms with e-orders and virtual hearings.
- Part of the **e-Courts Mission Mode Project** (Phase III from 2023).
- Sikkim HC is the **smallest High Court** by sanctioned strength (3 judges).
- Sikkim became India's 22nd state in **1975** (36th Amendment).

074 Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee (Arvind Kumar, J.)

May 2026

- CJI Surya Kant set up a high-powered **Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee**.
- Headed by SC Justice **Aravind Kumar**.
- Members include HC judges **Debangsu Basak** (Calcutta), **Ashwani Kumar Mishra** (P&H) and **Somasekhar Sundaresan** (Bombay).
- Aims to plan court buildings, digital infrastructure and facilities across the country.
- Judicial infrastructure for district courts is funded through a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (Centre and states share costs).

075 HLC on Demographic Change

May 2026

- MHA set up the **High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes (HLCDC)**.
- To study **"unnatural demographic changes"** from illegal immigration and other factors.
- Chairman: **Justice (Retd.) Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar**.
- Members include Registrar General **Mritunjay Kumar Narayan** and economist **Shamika Ravi**; report in **one year**.
- Follows the PM's **"Demographic Mission"** announced on 15 Aug 2025.

076 70th Anniversary of ED

May 2026

- ED marked **70 years on 1 May 2026**; set up as an 'Enforcement Unit' in 1956, renamed ED in **1957**.
- Record **₹81,422 crore** asset attachments in FY 2025-26.
- Enforces **FEMA 1999** (civil), **PMLA 2002** (criminal) and the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018**.
- Director appointed under the **CVC Act 2003**; works under the **Department of Revenue**, Finance Ministry.
- *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary* (2022) upheld key PMLA powers of the ED.

077 Chair of CBFC

May 2026

- **Shashi Shekhar Vempati** appointed Chairperson of CBFC for **three years**.
- Replaces **Prasoon Joshi**, who became **Chairman of Prasar Bharati**.
- CBFC is a statutory body under **I&B Ministry**, set up under the **Cinematograph Act 1952**.
- Certificates: **U, UA (7+, 13+, 16+), A, S**.
- HQ: **Mumbai**; popularly called the "Censor Board".

078 New Zone of Indian Railways

May 2026

- **South Coast Railway (SCoR)** became the **18th railway zone** from **1 June 2026**.
- HQ: **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh.
- Carved out of **East Coast Railway** and **South Central Railway**.
- Railways' logo redesigned with **18 stars**, one per zone.
- Its creation was a promise in the **AP Reorganisation Act 2014**.

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079 India's First Geothermal Power Plant at Puga Valley, Ladakh

May 2026

- Ladakh extended its MoU with **ONGC** by five years for the **Puga Geothermal Project**.
- India's first geothermal power project, in **Puga Valley, eastern Ladakh**.
- A **1 MWe pilot plant** is to be commissioned in FY 2026–27.
- India's geothermal potential: about **10,600 MW**; GSI has identified **10 geothermal provinces**.
- **National Policy on Geothermal Energy** issued in 2025.

080 Mission Drishti – OptoSAR Satellite

May 2026

- **World's first OptoSAR satellite**, combining optical (EO) sensors with **Synthetic Aperture Radar**.
- Built by **GalaxEye**, a Bengaluru startup, with IN-SPACe support.
- Launched on **SpaceX Falcon 9** from California into a 500 km orbit.
- At **190 kg**, India's largest privately built Earth-observation satellite.
- SAR sees through clouds and darkness; revisits the same spot every **4 days**.

081 Cockroach Janata Party

May 2026

- A **satirical, youth-led online movement** launched on Instagram and X in mid-May 2026.
- Trigger: remarks attributed to **CJI Surya Kant** calling some online activists and jobless youth "cockroaches" and "parasites".
- Founded by **Abhijeet Dipke**, a political communication strategist from Pune.
- Highlights **youth unemployment**, cost of living and political elitism; popular with Gen Z.
- Not a registered party; political parties register with the ECI under **Section 29A, RP Act 1951**.

082 Pixxel Pathfinder

May 2026

- **Pixxel** (Bengaluru) and **Sarvam AI** will launch **Pathfinder**, India's first **orbital data centre satellite**.
- A **200-kg-class** satellite combining data-centre **GPUs** with hyperspectral imaging.
- Scheduled for launch in **late 2026**.
- Will test whether computing hardware can work in the heat and radiation of low Earth orbit.
- Pixxel also builds the **Firefly** hyperspectral constellation.

083 Chairman of DRDO

May 2026

- **Rajesh Kumar Singh** (Defence Secretary) given **additional charge** as DRDO Chairman.
- He succeeds **Dr Samir V. Kamat**, Chairman since August 2022, who retired.
- The post is also **Secretary, Department of Defence R&D**.
- DRDO: formed **1958**; HQ **New Delhi**; motto "Balasya Mulam Vigyanam".
- First head: **D.S. Kothari**.

084 Chair of BWF Athletes Commission

May 2026

- **P.V. Sindhu** elected Chairperson of the **BWF Athletes' Commission** for 2026–29.
- She also becomes a member of the **BWF Council**.
- Sindhu: two Olympic medals (**silver 2016, bronze 2020**); World Champion 2019.
- BWF HQ: **Kuala Lumpur**; Thomas Cup (men) and Uber Cup (women) are its team events.

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085 One Case, One Data; Su-Sahayak

May 2026

- SC launched **"One Case One Data"** to integrate case data of HCs, district and taluka courts in one system.
- Allows automated retrieval and quick online verification of case information.
- **"Su Sahayak"** is an AI chatbot on the SC website to guide litigants.
- Su Sahayak developed by **NIC** with the SC Registry.
- Related: Sikkim declared the first fully paperless state judiciary.

086 Pulitzer Prize

May 2026

- Indian journalists **R.K. Anand and Suparna Sharma** won a Pulitzer for **Illustrated Reporting and Commentary**.
- Work **"trAPPed"** (with Bloomberg's Natalie Obiko Pearson) on a **"digital arrest"** scam.
- Established **1917** under the will of **Joseph Pulitzer**.
- Awarded by **Columbia University** in 23 categories.
- First Indian winner: **Gobind Behari Lal** (Journalism, 1937).

087 Goddard Astronautics Award

May 2026

- **ISRO** received the **2026 Goddard Astronautics Award** for **Chandrayaan-3**.
- Given by the **American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)**.
- Received by Ambassador **Vinay Kwatra** at AIAA ASCEND 2026.
- Chandrayaan-3 landed near the **lunar south pole** on **23 Aug 2023**; launched on LVM3 from Sriharikota.
- Named after rocket pioneer **Robert H. Goddard**.

088 Dag Hammarskjold Medal

May 2026

- Indian peacekeepers **Lance Havildar Harbhajan Singh** (MONUSCO, DR Congo) and **Naib Subedar Sujeet Kumar Pradhan** (UNMISS, South Sudan) honoured posthumously.
- Highest UN honour for peacekeepers who die in service; created **December 2000**.
- Named after **Dag Hammarskjöld**, the **second UN Secretary-General**.
- Given on **29 May**, International Day of UN Peacekeepers.
- **Maj. Abhilasha Barak** (UNIFIL) won the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year award.

089 International Labour Day

May 2026

- **1 May**: May Day / International Workers' Day.
- Origin: **Haymarket Affair, Chicago, 1886**.
- India first marked it on **1 May 1923 in Chennai** (Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan, Singaravelu).
- 2026 theme (ILO): **"Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment"**.
- ILO: founded **1919**; HQ Geneva.

090 National Technology Day

May 2026

- **11 May**: **Pokhran-II** tests (Operation Shakti), **1998**.
- First observed in **1999**, declared by PM **Vajpayee**.
- 2026 theme: **"Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth"**.
- Pokhran-I (Smiling Buddha) was in **1974**.
- Also on 11 May 1998: maiden flight of **Hansa-3** aircraft and test of **Trishul** missile.

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091 Int'l Day of Biological Diversity

May 2026

- **22 May**: adoption of the **CBD text in Nairobi (1992)**.
- 2026 theme: **"Acting locally for global impact"**.
- CBD signed at the **1992 Rio Earth Summit**; **196 parties**; Secretariat **Montreal**.
- **CBD COP-17**: Yerevan, Armenia, Oct 2026.
- India: **Biological Diversity Act 2002**; National Biodiversity Authority in Chennai.

092 World Football Day

May 2026

- **25 May**, declared by the UNGA in **2024**.
- Marks the **first international football tournament** with teams from all regions: **Paris Olympics 1924**.
- 2026 theme: **"Together, We Are Stronger"**.
- Modern association football originated in **England**.
- FIFA: founded 1904, HQ **Zurich**; 2026 FIFA World Cup in the US, Canada and Mexico.

093 Chair of Federal Reserve of USA

May 2026

- **Kevin Warsh** became Chair of the **US Federal Reserve**.
- He replaced **Jerome Powell**.
- The Fed is the US central bank, created in **1913** (Federal Reserve Act).
- Chair is nominated by the US President and confirmed by the **Senate** for a four-year term.
- Same month: RBI's record **₹2.87 lakh crore** surplus transfer to the Centre.

094 Chair of Press Council of India

May 2026

- **Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Prakash Desai** took charge for a **second three-year term**.
- PCI is a statutory, quasi-judicial body under the **Press Council Act 1978**.
- First set up in **1966** on the First Press Commission's advice.
- Chair is by convention a **retired SC judge**.
- Justice Desai also chaired the **Uttarakhand and Gujarat UCC** committees.

095 'Constitution is My Home' Book

May 2026

- **"The Constitution Is My Home: Conversations on a Life in Law"** is the memoir of **Senior Advocate Indira Jaising**.
- Written as conversations with **Ritu Menon**.
- Jaising was the first woman designated Senior Advocate by the **Bombay HC (1986)** and the first woman **Additional Solicitor General** (2009).
- Co-founded the **Lawyers Collective**; helped shape the **Domestic Violence Act 2005**.
- *Indira Jaising v. Supreme Court* (2017) set the rules for designating senior advocates.

096 Indian Judge at ITLOS

Jun 2026

- Prof. **Bimal N. Patel** elected judge of the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea**, term **2026–2035**.
- He is VC of **Rashtriya Raksha University**, a member of the UN International Law Commission, ex-Director of GNLU.
- ITLOS was set up under **UNCLOS (1982)**; HQ **Hamburg, Germany**.
- **21 judges** elected by UNCLOS parties for **nine-year** terms; one-third retire every three years.
- Official languages: **English and French**.

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097 Longest Democratically Elected PM

Jun 2026

- **Narendra Modi** overtook **Jawaharlal Nehru** as the longest-serving democratically elected PM in continuous office.
- Crossed Nehru's record of **4,398 consecutive days** after being elected through general elections.
- Nehru's total tenure: about **17 years** (1947–64), the longest overall.
- Indira Gandhi: second-longest total tenure (about 16 years).
- Longest-serving CM: **Pawan Kumar Chamling** (Sikkim, 1994–2019).

098 NEET UG Retest & Telegram Blocking

Jun 2026

- MeitY, on the **NTA's** advice, ordered Telegram blocked across India **until 22 June 2026**, ahead of the NEET-UG retest.
- Telegram's message-editing feature was disabled until 30 June.
- Power used: **Section 69A, IT Act 2000**.
- Grounds: sovereignty, security, public order, friendly relations, preventing incitement (mirror **Art. 19(2)**).
- *Shreya Singhal v. UoI* (2015) upheld 69A but struck down **Section 66A**.

099 Samadhan Didi Chatbot

Jun 2026

- **"Samadhan Didi"** is an AI voice chatbot for **CPGRAMS**, launched by MoS **Jitendra Singh**.
- Developed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** with **Bhashini**.
- Lets citizens file public grievances by **voice conversation**.
- Supports all **22 Scheduled languages**.
- CPGRAMS: Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System.

100 FSSAI Vegan Logo

Jun 2026

- FSSAI made a **standardised vegan logo mandatory** on approved vegan products from **1 July 2027**.
- Under the **FSS (Vegan Foods) Amendment Regulations 2026**, revising the 2022 Regulations.
- Only products **100% free of animal-derived ingredients** qualify (no milk, meat, honey, etc.).
- FSSAI: statutory body under the **Food Safety and Standards Act 2006**; Ministry of Health; HQ Delhi.
- Other FSSAI marks: green dot (veg), brown dot (non-veg), **+F** (fortified).

101 Right to be Forgotten

Jun 2026

- **Delhi HC** held the Right to be Forgotten is part of the **Right to Privacy under Article 21**.
- Directed Google, other search engines and **Indian Kanoon** to disable name-based searches of certain judgments.
- Meaning: hiding old or harmful information about a person (e.g. after acquittal) from searches.
- Privacy declared a fundamental right in ***K.S. Puttaswamy* (2017)**.
- Recognised in EU law: ***Google Spain* (2014)** and the **GDPR**; India's **DPDP Act 2023** gives a right to erasure.

102 35 Years of New Economic Policy '91

Jun 2026

- **2026** marks 35 years of the **1991 New Economic Policy**.
- Introduced by PM **P.V. Narasimha Rao** and FM **Manmohan Singh** amid a balance-of-payments crisis.
- Based on **LPG**: Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation.
- Ended most **industrial licensing**, opened sectors to FDI, cut tariffs, freed banking.
- Backed by an **IMF** loan; India pledged gold to raise funds.

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103 India-Oman CEPA Comes Into Force

Jun 2026

- The **India–Oman CEPA** entered into force on **1 June 2026**; signed **18 Dec 2025**.
- Oman gives **duty-free access on 98.08%** of tariff lines (99.38% of India's exports).
- India liberalised **77.79%** of its lines; dairy, cereals, edible oils, spices excluded.
- Oman opened **127 service sub-sectors**, the most by any GCC country to India.
- Oman: GCC member; capital **Muscat**; India's second CEPA in the Gulf after the **UAE (2022)**.

104 Flamingo Revolution

Jun 2026

- Protests in **Albania** against a **$1.6 billion luxury resort** on the Adriatic coast.
- Project linked to **Jared Kushner's** investment group, on **Sazan Island** and the **Vjosa-Narta** wetland.
- Vjosa-Narta is home to **flamingos**, seals and sea-turtle nesting sites.
- Grew into anti-corruption rallies seeking PM **Edi Rama's** resignation.
- Albania: capital **Tirana**; NATO member, EU candidate.

105 India's First Flex-Fuel Vehicles

Jun 2026

- **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched India's first **flex-fuel passenger car** by **Maruti Suzuki**.
- India's first mass-market flex-fuel motorcycles launched by **Hero MotoCorp**.
- Flex-fuel engines run on blends from **E20 up to E100** (pure ethanol).
- India reached **20% ethanol blending (E20)** in 2025, five years ahead of target.
- World Biofuel Day: **10 August**.

106 First Indian to Win Norway Chess

Jun 2026

- **R. Praggnanandhaa** became the **first Indian to win Norway Chess**.
- Beat **Magnus Carlsen twice** in classical games; finished on 18 points.
- Runner-up Wesley So (17); third **Alireza Firouzja**.
- Women's title: **Bibisara Assaubayeva** (Kazakhstan).
- His sister **R. Vaishali** won the 2026 Women's Candidates.

107 Earth Prize

Jun 2026

- Indian students **Vivaan Chhawchharia, Ariana Agarwal and Avyana Mehta** won **The Earth Prize 2026**.
- **First Indian team** to win the global top prize.
- Invention **"Plas-Stick"**: biodegradable material from **tamarind seed waste** that removes microplastics from water.
- Developed with experts from **IIT Guwahati**.
- Earth Prize: set up by the Earth Foundation in **2020**; based in **Geneva**.

108 Russia Grand Sand Master Cup

Jun 2026

- **Sudarsan Pattnaik** (Odisha) became the **first Indian** to win the Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026.
- Won for a three-metre sculpture on **climate change and global warming**.
- Presented at the 2nd International Festival of Sand Sculpture, **Kaliningrad**, Russia.
- Pattnaik is a **Padma Shri** (2014) and the **Census 2027 ambassador**.

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109 Wolf Prize

Jun 2026

- **Prof. Jainendra K. Jain** (Penn State) received the **Wolf Prize in Physics 2025**, presented in 2026.
- **First scientist of Indian origin** to win the Wolf Prize in Physics.
- Honoured for the **Composite Fermion Theory**, explaining the **Fractional Quantum Hall Effect**.
- Presented by Israeli President **Isaac Herzog** in Jerusalem.
- Given by the **Wolf Foundation, Israel**, since **1978**.

110 Food Planet Prize

Jun 2026

- **Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF)** won the **2026 Food Planet Prize**.
- Awarded by the **Curt Bergfors Foundation**, Sweden, in Båstad.
- Called the **world's largest environmental award**.
- APCNF began in **2016** under **Rythu Sadhikara Samstha**; reaches 1.8 million farm families.
- Model shared across 22 states and with Sri Lanka and Zambia.

111 Grammy for Dalai Lama

Jun 2026

- The **Dalai Lama** won his **first Grammy** at the **68th Grammy Awards** (Los Angeles, 2026), at age 90.
- Category: **Best Audio Book, Narration & Storytelling Recording**.
- Album: **"Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama"**.
- Formally handed over at his residence in June by **Ustad Amjad Ali Khan**.
- The 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) won the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1989**; lives in Dharamshala.

112 World Oceans Day

Jun 2026

- **8 June**; designated by the UNGA in **2008**.
- 2026 theme: **"REIMAGINE: Beyond the World We Know, A New Relationship With Our Ocean"**.
- First proposed at the **1992 Rio Earth Summit**.
- The **High Seas (BBNJ) Treaty** entered into force in January 2026.
- World Day Against Child Labour: **12 June** (ILO, since 2002).

113 World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought

Jun 2026

- Observed on **17 June**; declared by the UNGA in **1994**.
- 2026 theme: **"Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore."**
- 2026 is the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**.
- Linked to the **UNCCD** (1994); Secretariat in **Bonn**.
- India hosted **UNCCD COP-14** (Greater Noida, 2019); target to restore **26 million ha** by 2030.

114 World Refugee Day

Jun 2026

- **20 June**; designated by the UNGA in 2000, first observed **2001**.
- 2026 theme: **"Until Everyone Is Safe"**; led by **UNHCR**.
- Marked the 50th anniversary of the **1951 Refugee Convention**.
- **India has not signed** the 1951 Convention or its 1967 Protocol.
- UNHCR HQ: **Geneva**; won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1954 and 1981.

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115 Samvidhan Hatya Divas

Jun 2026

- **25 June** is observed as "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas" (Constitution Murder Day), first notified in **2024**.
- Marks the **Emergency of 25 June 1975**, declared on grounds of "internal disturbance".
- National Emergency: **Article 352**; the 44th Amendment (1978) replaced "internal disturbance" with **"armed rebellion"**.
- Approval lasts **six months**, extendable every six months by Parliament.
- Emergency provisions borrowed from the **Weimar Constitution** (suspension of FRs) and **GoI Act 1935**.

116 Director of Intelligence Bureau

Jun 2026

- **Mahesh Dixit** appointed Director of the Intelligence Bureau (June 2026).
- He succeeds **Tapan Deka**.
- IB works under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**; HQ New Delhi.
- Indian Political Intelligence was renamed **IB in 1947**; it traces its origin to 1887.
- External intelligence is handled by **R&AW** (1968).

117 New President of ECOSOC

Jul 2026

- Algeria's UN envoy **Amar Bendjama** elected President of ECOSOC for the **2027 cycle** (82nd session), July 2026.
- He succeeds **Lok Bahadur Thapa** of Nepal.
- ECOSOC: one of the **six principal UN organs**; **54 members** elected for three-year terms.
- India was elected to ECOSOC for **2026–28**.
- First ECOSOC President: **Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar** of India (1946).

118 Nat'l Minorities Commission Chair

Jul 2026

- **Harjit Singh Grewal** appointed Chairperson of the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**.
- NCM is a **statutory body** under the **NCM Act 1992**; under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- Six notified minorities: **Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains** (Jains added 2014).
- Minority rights: **Articles 29 and 30** (culture and educational institutions).
- *T.M.A. Pai* (2002): minority status is decided **state-wise**.

119 NITI Aayog CEO

Jul 2026

- **Anurag Jain** appointed **CEO of NITI Aayog** by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- He succeeds **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam**.
- NITI Aayog formed on **1 Jan 2015** by a **Cabinet resolution** (neither constitutional nor statutory).
- Chairperson: **PM**; Vice-Chairperson: **Ashok Kumar Lahiri**.
- Its **Governing Council** includes all CMs and UT Lt Governors.

120 Fields Medal

Jul 2026

- 2026 winners announced at the **ICM in Philadelphia**, including **Yu Deng**, **Hong Wang** and **Jacob Tsimerman**.
- **Hong Wang**: only the **third woman** to win (after Maryam Mirzakhani 2014, Maryna Viazovska 2022); solved the 3D **Kakeya conjecture**.
- Given by the **International Mathematical Union** every **four years**, to mathematicians **under 40**.
- Founded by **John Charles Fields**; first awarded in **1936**.
- Indian-origin winners: **Manjul Bhargava** (2014), **Akshay Venkatesh** (2018).

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121 250th Anniversary of US Independence

Jul 2026

- The US marked the **250th anniversary (semiquincentennial)** on **4 July 2026**.
- Declaration adopted on **4 July 1776** by the **Second Continental Congress**, Philadelphia.
- Principal draftsman: **Thomas Jefferson**.
- Independence was from **Great Britain**; 13 original colonies.
- US Constitution: written 1787, in force 1789; the oldest written national constitution in use.

122 New PM of UK

Jul 2026

- **Andy Burnham**, ex-Mayor of Greater Manchester, became **UK Prime Minister**.
- **Keir Starmer** stepped down as PM and Labour leader.
- Burnham took over as Labour leader; no general election needed as Labour holds a Commons majority.
- **Kanishka Narayan** (Bihar-born) became the UK's first Cabinet-level **Minister for AI**.
- UK PM's residence: **10 Downing Street**.

123 Nauru Name Change

Jul 2026

- Nauru officially renamed itself the **Republic of Naoero**, restoring its indigenous name.
- Its international code changes from **NRU to NRO**.
- Citizens will be called **"dei-Naoero"**.
- "Nauru" was a colonial-era simplification.
- One of the world's **smallest countries**, in the Pacific; no official capital (government at Yaren).

124 US-Saudi Arabia 123 Agreement

Jul 2026

- US and Saudi Arabia announced a **30-year civil nuclear cooperation** framework.
- Saudi Arabia will import fuel; a two-year study will examine **domestic uranium enrichment**.
- Criticised as it does not require the **IAEA Additional Protocol** or a UAE-style "Gold Standard" no-enrichment pledge.
- "123 Agreement" comes from **Section 123 of the US Atomic Energy Act 1954**.
- The **India–US 123 Agreement** was signed in **2008**.

125 First Approved Dengue Vaccine

Jul 2026

- CDSCO approved **Qdenga**, the **first dengue vaccine** for use in India.
- Developed by **Takeda** (Germany); a **live-attenuated tetravalent** vaccine.
- Protects against all four serotypes (**DENV-1 to DENV-4**).
- For ages **4–60**; two doses, three months apart; no pre-screening needed.
- Dengue is spread by the **Aedes aegypti** mosquito; National Dengue Day **16 May**.

126 'The Second Orbit' Book

Jul 2026

- Memoir of Group Captain **Shubhanshu Shukla**.
- Full title: **"The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dream of 1.4 Billion Hearts!"**
- Shukla: **second Indian in space** and **first Indian on the ISS** (Axiom-4, 2025).
- Awarded the **Ashok Chakra** (Republic Day 2026).
- First Indian in space: **Rakesh Sharma** (1984).

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127 AI for Good Global Commission

Jul 2026

- **Mukesh Ambani** and **Sunil Bharti Mittal** named **Founding Members**.
- Convened by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.
- Co-Chairs: **Paul Kagame** (President of Rwanda) and **Marc Benioff** (Salesforce); Vice-Chair: ITU Secretary-General **Doreen Bogdan-Martin**.
- Brings together **40+ leaders** to promote responsible, trustworthy AI.
- First met at the **AI for Good Global Summit 2026**, Geneva; ITU (UN agency for ICT) founded **1865**.

128 First AI-Powered Bird Sanctuary

Jul 2026

- Maharashtra approved **India's first AI-powered bird sanctuary**.
- At the **Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary** (TCFS).
- Part of a **₹45 crore Eco-Nature Park** project.
- Thane Creek is a **Ramsar site** (2022), known for flamingos.
- India has **103 Ramsar sites**.

129 First Tri-Service All-Women Circumnavigation Sailing Expedition

Jul 2026

- **"Samudra Pradakshina"**: India's **first tri-service all-women circumnavigation**.
- Sailed aboard **IASV Triveni**; **314 days**, about **25,500 nautical miles**.
- Crew: **nine women officers** from the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Flagged in by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**.
- Earlier: Navy's all-women **Navika Sagar Parikrama** on INSV **Tarini**.

130 India's Youngest Cricket Debutant

Jul 2026

- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became India's **youngest international cricketer**.
- Debuted in a **T20I against England** at Old Trafford, Manchester.
- Age at debut: **15 years 99 days**.
- Broke Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing mark (16 years 205 days, 1989).
- Same month: **Australia** won the Women's T20 World Cup (7th title) at Lord's.

131 Japan Open Badminton

Jul 2026

- **P.V. Sindhu** became the **first Indian to win the Japan Open**.
- Beat **Akane Yamaguchi** (Japan) **21–17, 21–17** in the final.
- Japan Open is a **BWF Super 750** event.
- Sindhu also chairs the **BWF Athletes' Commission** (2026–29).

132 Int'l Day of Cooperatives

Jul 2026

- Observed on the **first Saturday of July** (4 July in 2026).
- First celebrated by the **International Cooperative Alliance** in **1923**; UN-recognised in 1995.
- **2025** was the UN International Year of Cooperatives.
- Cooperatives: **Part IXB** (97th Amendment 2011); right to form them under **Art. 19(1)(c)**.
- India's Ministry of Cooperation: created **2021**; minister **Amit Shah**.

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133 Shyama Prasad 125th Anniversary

Jul 2026

- **125th birth anniversary** of Dr **Syama Prasad Mookerjee**; celebrations from 6 July 2025 to 6 July 2027.
- Born **6 July 1901**, Calcutta; son of Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee.
- **Youngest VC of Calcutta University** at 33 (1934–38).
- Founded the **Bharatiya Jana Sangh (1951)**; India's first Industry Minister.
- Opposed **Article 370**: "Ek desh mein do Vidhan, do Pradhan aur do Nishan nahi chalenge".

134 Investment Friendliness Index

Jul 2026

- NITI Aayog released the **first-ever Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026**.
- **Gujarat** best major state, then **Maharashtra** and **Tamil Nadu**.
- Covers **28 states and 8 UTs**.
- **84 indicators** under **8 pillars** (incl. infrastructure); 100-point scoring.
- NITI's other indices: **Fiscal Health Index** (Odisha top), SDG India Index.

135 Environmental Performance Index

Jul 2026

- India ranked **176th of 177** countries in **EPI 2026** (score 22.46).
- Top: **Estonia**; bottom: **Laos**.
- Published by **Yale** (YCELP) with Columbia University's **CIESIN**.
- **Biennial**; 2026 edition used **47 indicators** across 12 issue categories.
- India disputes the methodology.

136 International Tiger Day

Jul 2026

- **29 July**; agreed at the **St Petersburg Tiger Summit (2010)**, first observed 2011.
- 2026 theme: **"Coexistence in action. Scaling solutions for people and tigers."**
- The summit's **TX2 goal**: double wild tigers by 2022; 13 tiger-range countries.
- India has about **75%** of the world's wild tigers (3,682 in 2022 estimate).
- **Project Tiger**: 1973; overseen by the **NTCA**.

137 National Sports Awards

Aug 2026

- Sports Ministry announced the **National Sports Awards 2025** on **18 August 2026**.
- **No Khel Ratna** was given in the 2025 cycle (earlier called the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna; renamed 2021).
- Selection panel headed by former SC judge **Justice (Retd.) Arun Kumar Mishra**.
- **Dhyan Chand Award** (lifetime) 2025: **I. Arumainayagam** (football).
- **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar** 2025: **Army Paralympic Node, Pune**.

138 Ladakh Bench

Aug 2026

- On **20 August 2026** the Cabinet approved a **High Court bench in Ladakh**.
- Set up by a **Presidential regulation**: the **Union Territory of Ladakh (Sitting of Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in Ladakh) Regulation, 2026**.
- J&K and Ladakh share a **common HC** under the **J&K Reorganisation Act 2019**.
- Same month: Parliament passed the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act 2026**, renaming the state **Keralam**.

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139 Trump Renames Lake Ontario

Aug 2026

- Trump's executive order (**27 Aug 2026**) told US agencies to call the US part of Lake Ontario **"Lake America"**.
- Applies only to **US federal usage**; not binding on Canada or international bodies.
- Lake Ontario is the **smallest Great Lake** by surface area; lies between **Ontario (Canada) and New York (US)**.
- Five Great Lakes: **Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, Ontario** (Michigan is wholly in the US).
- In 2025 Trump renamed the Gulf of Mexico the **"Gulf of America"**.

140 Nancy Grace Roman Telescope

Aug 2026

- NASA's next-generation space observatory to study **dark energy, dark matter and exoplanets**.
- Named after **Nancy Grace Roman**, NASA's first Chief Astronomer.
- She is called the **"Mother of the Hubble Space Telescope"**.
- Will complement **Hubble** and **James Webb** with much wider sky surveys.
- JWST was launched in **2021** and orbits the Sun–Earth **L2** point.

141 Hutatma Smriti Smarak

Aug 2026

- Rajnath Singh opened the redeveloped **Hutatma Smruti Smarak at Patradevi, Pernem, Goa**, on 26 Aug 2026.
- Honours satyagrahis killed during the **Goa Liberation Satyagraha**.
- On **15 Aug 1955**, Portuguese troops fired on unarmed volunteers entering Goa.
- Goa was liberated on **19 Dec 1961** (Operation Vijay); **Goa Liberation Day**.
- Goa became a state on **30 May 1987**.

142 Global Coast Guard Summit 2027

Aug 2026

- India will host the **5th Coast Guard Global Summit** in **New Delhi, February 2027**.
- A **biennial** summit, started in **2017** by the **Japan Coast Guard and the Nippon Foundation**.
- Focus: maritime safety, search and rescue, pollution response, maritime crime.
- Indian Coast Guard: set up under the **Coast Guard Act 1978**; under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- ICG motto: **"Vayam Rakshamah"** (We Protect).

143 COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal

Aug 2026

- **Dr Annapurni Subramaniam** received the **COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026**.
- **First Indian woman** and fourth Indian to receive it.
- Presented at the **46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly, Florence**, Italy.
- She is Director of the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics**, Bengaluru.
- Medal given jointly by **COSPAR and ISRO**; instituted in **1990**.

144 Dirac Medal

Aug 2026

- **Prof. Deepak Dhar** named a **co-recipient of the 2026 Dirac Medal**.
- Awarded by **ICTP, Trieste** (Italy), for work in statistical physics.
- **Second scientist working in India** to win it, after **Ashoke Sen**.
- Given on **8 August**, Paul Dirac's birthday; not given to Nobel, Fields or Wolf laureates.
- Dhar was also the first Indian to win the **Boltzmann Medal** (2022).

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145 National Handloom Day

Aug 2026

- **7 August**; 2026 was the **12th** National Handloom Day (first in 2015).
- Marks the launch of the **Swadeshi Movement on 7 Aug 1905**.
- Calcutta Town Hall meeting endorsed the **boycott of foreign goods**.
- Swadeshi followed the **Partition of Bengal (1905)** by Lord Curzon.
- Handloom is India's second-largest rural employer after agriculture.

146 World Lion Day

Aug 2026

- Observed on **10 August**.
- Covers both **African lions** and **Asiatic lions**.
- Asiatic lions live in the wild only in the **Gir landscape, Gujarat**.
- 2025 lion census: **891** Asiatic lions.
- **Project Lion** launched 2020; Asiatic lion is **Endangered** on the IUCN list.

147 World Elephant Day

Aug 2026

- Observed on **12 August**; started in **2012** by Patricia Sims and Thailand's Elephant Reintroduction Foundation.
- 2026 theme: **"Bringing the world together to help elephants"**.
- Elephant is India's **National Heritage Animal** (2010).
- **Project Elephant** launched in **1992**.
- India has about **60%** of the world's wild Asian elephants.

148 National Sports Day

Aug 2026

- **29 August**: birth anniversary of **Major Dhyan Chand** (b. 1905).
- 2026 theme: **"Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat"**.
- Known as the **"Hockey Wizard"**; awarded the **Padma Bhushan (1956)**.
- India's highest sports award is the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna**, previously named after **Rajiv Gandhi** (renamed 2021).

149 World Biofuels Day

Aug 2026

- Observed on **10 August**.
- Marks **Rudolf Diesel** running an engine on peanut oil (1893).
- Main biofuels: **bioethanol**, biodiesel, **Bio-CNG**.
- **National Policy on Biofuels 2018** (amended 2022): E20 target advanced to 2025.
- India achieved **E20** in 2025; launched the **Global Biofuels Alliance** at the G20 (2023).

150 Int'l Day Against Nuclear Tests

Aug 2026

- Observed on **29 August**; first marked in **2010**.
- Marks the closure of **Semipalatinsk test site, Kazakhstan (1991)**.
- **PTBT (1963)**: India is a party.
- **CTBT (1996)**: not yet in force; **India has not signed**.
- **TPNW (2017)**: India is not a party.

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151 President of Bangladesh

Aug 2026

- **Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir** elected **23rd President of Bangladesh** on 20 Aug 2026.
- He is Secretary-General of the **Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)**.
- President is elected by **Parliament (Jatiya Sangsad)**.
- Bangladesh became independent in **1971**; capital **Dhaka**.
- BNP won the **February 2026** general election.

152 150th Anniversary of Pingali Venkayya

Aug 2026

- **150th birth anniversary** on **2 August 2026**.
- Born **1876** at Bhatlapenumarru, near **Machilipatnam**, Andhra Pradesh.
- Designed the flag approved by Gandhi at **Vijayawada (1921)**: red and green with a charkha; white added later.
- Called **"Japan Venkayya"** (lecture in Japanese, 1913) and **"Patti Venkayya"** (cotton research).
- Tiranga adopted by the **Constituent Assembly on 22 July 1947**.

153 Mega Ports

Sep 2026

- MoPSW notified India's **first four mega ports** on **25 Sept 2026**, under **Section 73 of the Indian Ports Act 2025**.
- They are **Deendayal (Kandla)**, **Jawaharlal Nehru (Nhava Sheva)**, **Paradip** and **Mundra**.
- **Paradip** is the only one on the east coast; Gujarat has two (Kandla, Mundra).
- **Mundra** (Adani, private) is the only one that was not a major port.
- Indian Ports Act 2025 replaced the **1908 Act**; in force from **1 April 2026**.

154 World Bank Chief Economist

Sep 2026

- Nobel laureate **Michael Kremer** appointed World Bank Chief Economist from **1 Oct 2026**.
- Appointed by World Bank President **Ajay Banga**.
- Shared the **2019 Economics Nobel** with **Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo** (field experiments on poverty).
- World Bank Group has 5 bodies: **IBRD (1944), IFC (1956), IDA (1960)**, MIGA, ICSID.
- HQ: **Washington DC**; born at the **Bretton Woods** conference (1944).

155 NGT International Conference

Sep 2026

- PM Modi opened the NGT's conference on **"Future of Environment-Climate Dynamics"** in New Delhi.
- Judges and policymakers from **17 countries**, with UNEP and ADB; a new **NGT mobile app** launched.
- NGT: set up under the **NGT Act 2010**; India was the **third country** (first developing) with such a tribunal.
- Principal Bench **New Delhi**; zonal benches Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, Chennai; appeals to SC within **90 days**.
- Chairperson: **Justice Prakash Shrivastava**; applies the **polluter pays** and precautionary principles.

156 First Blue Bond (India)

Sep 2026

- India's maiden **blue bond** will be issued by **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd (SMFCL)**.
- SMFCL is India's **first maritime-focused NBFC**.
- Issue: **₹600 crore**, 10-year bonds (incl. ₹500 crore greenshoe); arranger SBI Capital Markets.
- Blue bonds fund **ocean and water** projects: sustainable shipping, fisheries, marine conservation.
- World's first sovereign blue bond: **Seychelles (2018)**.

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157 India's First LNG Powered Train

Sep 2026

- India's first **LNG-powered train** was flagged off on **27 Sept 2026** from **Sabarmati, Ahmedabad**.
- Flagged off by **Amit Shah** and Gujarat CM **Bhupendra Patel**.
- Route: **Sabarmati–Mahesana** (about 62 km).
- Cuts diesel use and lowers **CO_2, NOx and particulate** emissions.
- India's first hydrogen train is being tested on the **Jind–Sonipat** route (Haryana).

158 RAKSHA Roadmap

Sep 2026

- **Rajnath Singh** unveiled **RAKSHA**, India's **defence diplomacy roadmap**, on 3 Sept 2026.
- A **10-year framework (2026–36)** making defence diplomacy a stronger tool of foreign policy.
- **Whole-of-government**: MoD, MEA and the National Security Council Secretariat.
- Aims at deeper, diversified partnerships while keeping **strategic autonomy**.
- India's defence exports hit a **record in FY 2025-26**.

159 China Masters (Badminton)

Sep 2026

- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** won the men's doubles at the **China Masters Super 750 badminton** tournament, 6 Sept 2026.
- Held in **Shenzhen**, China.
- **First Indians** to win the China Masters Super 750 title.
- Beat China's He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu in the final.
- The pair won the **Khel Ratna (2023)** and Asian Games gold (2023).

160 Youngest Woman Grandmaster

Sep 2026

- **Bodhana Sivanandan** (11, England) became the **youngest-ever Woman Grandmaster** on 28 Sept 2026.
- Earned her final WGM norm at the **46th Chess Olympiad, Samarkand** (Uzbekistan).
- Scored **8/11** on England's top board.
- India's first GM: **Viswanathan Anand** (1988); first Indian female GM: **Koneru Humpy**.
- First Indian **Woman Grandmaster (WGM)**: **Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi**.

161 Teacher's Day

Sep 2026

- **5 September**: birth anniversary of **Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan** (b. 1888, Tiruttani).
- India's **first Vice-President** and **second President**; first observed in **1962**.
- Chaired the **University Education Commission (1948–49)**; Bharat Ratna 1954.
- **National Teachers' Awards 2026** given by President Murmu to **48 teachers**.
- **World Teachers' Day**: 5 October (UNESCO).

162 Hindi Divas

Sep 2026

- **14 September**: Constituent Assembly adopted **Hindi in Devanagari** as the Union's official language in **1949**.
- Observed annually since **1953**.
- **Article 343**: official language of the Union; **Art. 351**: duty to promote Hindi.
- Different from **Vishwa Hindi Divas (10 January)**.
- India has **11 classical languages**, incl. Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, Bangla (added 2024).

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163 World Ozone Day

Sep 2026

- **16 September**: signing of the **Montreal Protocol (1987)**.
- 2026 theme: **"Global Action for a Cooler Planet"**; India's event in Mumbai.
- 2026 marks **10 years of the Kigali Amendment** (2016), phasing down **HFCs**.
- **Vienna Convention**: 1985 (in force 1988); first UN treaties with **universal ratification**.
- Ozone layer sits in the **stratosphere** (about 10–40 km); damaged mainly by **CFCs**.

164 Inter State Council & Zonal Councils

Sep 2026

- President amended the **Inter-State Council Order 1990** via the **ISC (Amendment) Order 2026**.
- Governors/LGs to be invited when **Art. 356** (states), **Art. 239AB** (Delhi), or central-rule provisions for Puducherry and J&K apply.
- ISC under **Article 263**, set up in **1990** on **Sarkaria Commission** advice; chaired by the **PM**.
- **5 Zonal Councils** under the **States Reorganisation Act 1956**; chaired by the **Union Home Minister**.
- North Eastern Council is separate: **NEC Act 1971**.

165 UNEP's Limiting Overshoot Report

Sep 2026

- UNEP report: a temporary rise **above 1.5°C** is now **almost unavoidable**.
- Warming is already about **1.4°C**, rising about 0.25°C per decade.
- **75% chance** the five-year average crosses 1.5°C in **2026–2030**.
- Even with all NDCs met, peak warming could be about **1.8°C**; current policies lead to **2.6°C** by 2100.
- Proposes an **"overshoot, peak and decline"** approach; UNEP HQ **Nairobi**.

166 Gondhal: India's Entry to Oscars

Sep 2026

- Marathi thriller **"Gondhal"** is India's official entry for the **99th Academy Awards (2027)**.
- Category: **Best International Feature Film**.
- Written and directed by **Santosh Davakhar**; based on the **Gondhal** folk ritual of Maharashtra.
- Chosen by the **Film Federation of India** from 33 films (jury head P. Sheshadri).
- **Fourth Marathi film** sent as India's Oscar entry.

167 WEF Global Gender Gap Index

Sep 2026

- India held its **131st rank** in the Global Gender Gap Index 2026.
- India has closed **64.5%** of its gender gap.
- **Iceland 1st** (93% closed); **Chad last**.
- Four sub-indices: **Economic Participation, Education, Health & Survival, Political Empowerment**.
- Published by the **World Economic Forum** (HQ Cologny, Geneva).

168 Executive Director of WFP

Sep 2026

- **Luke Lindberg**, a US agriculture official, appointed **Executive Director of the World Food Programme** (18 Sept 2026).
- Announced by UN SG **António Guterres** and FAO DG **Qu Dongyu**.
- WFP: UN food-assistance agency, set up in **1961**; HQ **Rome**.
- WFP won the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2020**.
- Other Rome-based UN food agencies: **FAO** and **IFAD**.

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