

Date : 2026-06-04

Monthly Current Affairs -may-2026

English

## National

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares a Sanskrit Subhashitam reflecting the true spirit of public representatives

Celebrating National Panchayati Raj Day this April 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a powerful directive to local leaders by invoking a sacred Sanskrit Subhashitam. The Prime Minister clarified that a representative's true purpose transcends administrative titles or personal accolades. According to the verse, the true welfare of a public representative lies strictly in the welfare of the people. This 'People-First' mandate serves as a reminder that grassroots democracy flourishes only when leaders view their own success as a reflection of the community's prosperity and well-being



### Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare conducts North Zone Agriculture Conference in Lucknow

The North Zone Agriculture Conference 2026 concluded with a decisive mandate to accelerate 'Digital Agriculture' across the region's fertile belts. Central to this modernization drive is the integration of Digital Soil Health Cards and the e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) platform, which were identified as the primary engines for rural growth. By shifting from traditional manual oversight to data-driven insights,

the initiative aims to provide farmers with real-time soil nutrient analysis and seamless access to pan-India digital trade. This strategic pivot focuses on maximizing crop yields and ensuring price transparency through robust digital infrastructure in local mandis.



### Rural Development Ministry releases annual schedule for SARAS Aajeevika Melas for financial year 2026-27

The Ministry of Rural Development has officially released the national calendar for the SARAS Aajeevika Melas for the 2026-27 fiscal year, aiming to bolster women's entrepreneurship and rural livelihoods. According to the approved schedule, Gurugram will host the first major flagship event of the cycle at Leisure Valley Park, starting on October 22, 2026.

**DRIVING RURAL ECONOMY** This 17-day exhibition serves as a critical platform under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). By bringing together Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from across India, the mela allows rural artisans to bypass middlemen and connect directly with urban markets. Following the Gurugram event, the calendar includes a Food Festival in New Delhi this November, continuing the government's 'Vocal for Local' mission.

## Vice President urges youth to become job creators at Rajasthan University convocation

During the Rajasthan University convocation, the Vice President highlighted the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as a landmark shift in India's pedagogical landscape. Central to his address was the urgent transition of the youth from job seekers to 'job creators,' a vision directly supported by the policy's integration of vocational education and its heavy emphasis on multidisciplinary research and entrepreneurship. By dismantling rigid academic silos and prioritizing hands-on skill development over rote learning, the NEP provides the structural framework necessary for innovation.



## Karnataka Launches Digital Grievance System for Gig Workers

In a pioneering move for labor reform, Karnataka has launched **India's first digital grievance redressal mechanism specifically for gig workers** on May 1st, 2026. Developed by the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers' Board and the Department of e-Governance, the system allows delivery and ride-hailing partners to register complaints via the IPGRS portal. The platform addresses issues **like wage disputes and working conditions**, providing a formal institutional channel for a previously unregulated workforce. This initiative enhances regulatory oversight and transparency,

offering essential legal protection and structured dispute resolution for lakhs of workers in the rapidly growing gig economy.



## India hosts first BRICS Women's Working Group meet

Under India's 2026 BRICS Presidency, the Ministry of Women and Child Development On 1 May, 2026 held the **inaugural BRICS Women's Working Group preparatory meeting**. Centered on the theme **'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability'**, the virtual session prioritized women-led development, digital inclusion, and climate action. These discussions set the stage for upcoming ministerial meetings in Kochi, Kerala, July 8–9, 2026. Supported by partners like UN Women and FICCI, the initiative reflects the 'humanity-first' approach introduced at the 2025 Rio Summit, reinforcing India's commitment to positioning women as central drivers of global economic and social transformation.

## Prime Minister lauds GalaxEye for successful Mission Drishti launch

GalaxEye successfully launched Mission Drishti, the world's first OptoSAR satellite, aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg, California. Weighing 190 kilograms, the spacecraft is the largest privately developed Earth observation satellite in the country. It combines optical cameras and Synthetic Aperture Radar into a single platform, allowing all-weather

imaging capabilities that penetrate thick cloud cover and total darkness. This hybrid innovation provides three times more information than conventional platforms, ensuring consistent data collection for defence operations, disaster response, and agricultural planning. Following the successful orbital deployment, the startup plans to scale its infrastructure over the coming years.



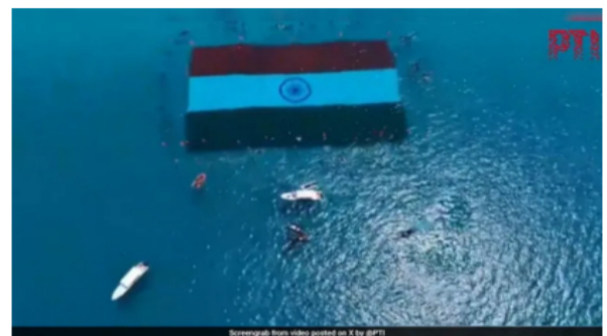
### Assembly Election Results of West Bengal

Current trends for the West Bengal Assembly elections indicate a decisive shift, with the **BJP leading in 194 seats**, well above the 148-seat majority mark on May 4, 2026. The **TMC, ahead in 91 seats**, faces potential defeat **after 15 years**. Following a record **92.47% voter turnout**, counting is underway for 293 of 294 constituencies; the Falta seat poll was countermanded until May 21. Key highlights include BJP leads in Jadavpur and Panihati, while Mamata Banerjee leads in Bhabanipur. This election, conducted under heavy CAPF security, marks a major challenge to TMC's fourth-term ambitions by a surging BJP.



### Andaman Sets Record with Largest Underwater Flag

On May 2, 2026, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration achieved a **Guinness World Record** by deploying the world's largest underwater national flag at **Radhanagar Beach, Swaraj Dweep**. Measuring roughly **60 x 40 metres**, the massive Tricolour was unfurled through a coordinated effort involving over 200 divers alongside the **Indian Navy and Coast Guard**. Formally certified by a Guinness adjudicator, this milestone underscores the region's rising status in marine adventure tourism. The administration intends to pursue additional records to further bolster the islands' global visibility and tourism appeal.



### Delhi Tops NCRB Data in Child Crimes

According to **NCRB** data released on May 7, 2026, Delhi reported the highest incidents of crimes against children (7,662 cases) and juvenile-led offenses (2,306 cases) among Indian metropolitan cities in 2024.

The city's crime rate against children, at 138.4 per lakh, is over triple the national average. **Kidnapping and abduction** constitute the largest portion of these crimes. Additionally, Delhi led in juvenile apprehensions, frequently involving theft and attempted murder. These statistics highlight the critical role of the **POCSO Act** and the **Juvenile Justice Act** in addressing the safety and rehabilitation of minors within the capital.



### Thalapathy Vijay Sworn In as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

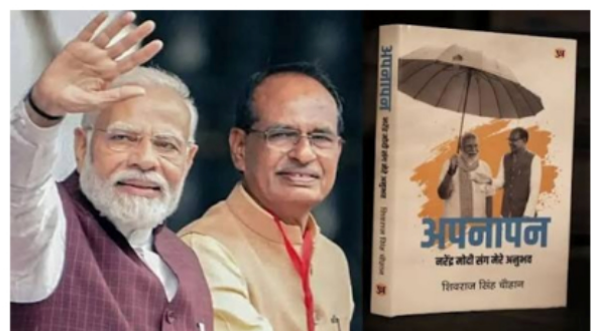
On May 10, 2026, **C. Joseph Vijay** (Thalapathy Vijay) was sworn in as Tamil Nadu's 9th Chief Minister. His party, **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)**, founded in 2024, secured 108 seats in the 234-member assembly, forming a **coalition government with Congress** and others. This landmark victory ended nearly 60 years of DMK and AIADMK dominance. Vijay, who retained the **Perambur** seat, immediately launched initiatives for free electricity, women's safety, and anti-drug measures. As the **17th Assembly convenes**, he must prove his majority by May 13. This transition marks the first non-Dravidian administration in the state since 1967.



### Shivraj Singh Chouhan Writes 'Apnapan' on PM Modi

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced the release of his new book, *Apnapan*, offering an intimate look at his three-decade-long association with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The author revealed that their enduring bond was first forged during the historic 1991 Ekta Yatra, led by Murli Manohar Joshi.

The memoir, scheduled for launch on May 26, 2026, captures their transition from grassroots organizational workers to high-level governance. Chouhan highlights the Prime Minister's leadership during the march from Kanyakumari to Srinagar as a transformative moment that ignited national consciousness and shaped their lifelong collaborative partnership in service to the nation.



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## NCB Holds Workshop on Concrete Quality Standards

In a major push toward specialized skill development, the National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB) launched the Advanced Concrete Technology (ACT) Certification Programme during its May 2026 workshop. Aligned with the Government of India's national skill development mission, this initiative aims to bridge the expertise gap in the infrastructure sector.

The programme focuses on modernizing construction practices by training professionals in high-performance and sustainable concrete solutions. By providing industry-standard certification, the NCB seeks to enhance technical proficiency and ensure the durability and quality of India's growing urban landscape and mega-infrastructure projects.

## Uttar Pradesh Launches River Rejuvenation Initiative

Uttar Pradesh has intensified river restoration through the 'One District-One River' campaign under the Namami Gange mission. The state has rejuvenated many rivers through the initiative of State Mission for Clean Ganga and allied agencies, officials said on Thursday (May 14, 2026), adding that community participation and collective action is helping restore rivers, sustain agriculture, and reconnect people with their cultural heritage.

Significant projects include reviving the Gomti (Pilibhit), Neem (Bulandshahr), and Tamsa (Azamgarh) rivers through desilting, encroachment removal, and pond revival. These initiatives, often integrated with MGNREGA, foster rural sustainability by providing extensive employment and promoting natural farming. Notably, the Noon River project in Jalaun created nearly six lakh person-days of work while raising groundwater levels. Techniques like recharge shafts and injection wells are being utilized to enhance water storage and ecological resilience across the state's rural landscape.



## ED arrests Kolkata Police DCP Shantanu Sinha Biswas for running an extortion syndicate

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Kolkata Police Deputy Commissioner Shantanu Sinha Biswas for allegedly operating an extortion syndicate in the late hours of 14th May. Following over ten hours of interrogation at the CGO Complex, Biswas was detained after previously ignoring multiple summons and a lookout notice. The money laundering probe centers on his financial ties to criminal suspect Sona Pappu and arrested businessman Joy Kamdar. Following recent raids on his residence, investigators identified suspicious transactions linking the high-ranking officer to the illegal network. Biswas is scheduled for a court appearance today as the agency intensifies its investigation into the syndicate.

## Amit Shah Opens Public Service Centre in Bastar to Support Local Citizens

In a landmark transition toward peace, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the 'Jan Jan Suvidha Kendra' model in Bastar, signaling a major shift from tactical operations to grassroots governance. Under this newly introduced roadmap for the post-extremism phase, exactly 70 security camps will be strategically repurposed into integrated tribal welfare and public service hubs over the next eighteen months. These newly transformed facilities will house schools, primary healthcare centers, and common service units to deliver essential administrative services directly to remote forest communities.



### India has overtaken the United States to become Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner in a significant trade shift

India has overtaken the United States to become Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner, contributing 8.47% of total trade, slightly ahead of the US at 8.46%, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data (Feb 2026). China remains dominant with 21.21%, driven by exports of machinery, raw materials, and consumer goods. India's rise is supported by geographical proximity, lower transport costs, and a strong supply of essential commodities and industrial inputs, making trade faster, cheaper, and crucial for Bangladesh's manufacturing and textile sectors.

### UN lowers India's 2026 GDP growth forecast to 6.4% amid global uncertainty

The United Nations (via UN DESA) has revised India's GDP growth forecast for 2026 to 6.4%, down from 6.6%, citing global uncertainty, West Asia tensions, and rising crude oil prices. Higher energy costs, inflation risks, and tighter financial conditions influenced the downgrade. Despite this, India remains one of the fastest-growing major economies, supported by strong domestic demand, infrastructure spending, and a resilient services sector, with growth expected to recover to 6.6% in 2027.



### International

### United States imposes anti dumping duty on Indian solar cells

In a move that could reshape global renewable energy trade, the U.S. Department of Commerce has imposed a preliminary anti-dumping duty of 123.04% on solar cells and modules imported from India. The decision follows an investigation into claims that Indian products were being sold below fair market value, undercutting American manufacturers. When combined with existing countervailing duties, the total tariff burden now exceeds 200%, effectively making Indian solar exports to the U.S. commercially unviable. Industry leaders in India have criticized the findings as 'fundamentally flawed,' noting that the decision threatens to lock Indian modules out of their primary export market. A final determination is expected by July 2026, as domestic firms prepare to contest the ruling through formal legal channels.



### Nigeria Green Tax Pushes Shift Towards Cleaner Vehicles

Nigeria has launched a **green tax surcharge** which will be **effective from July 1, 2026**, targeting high-emission vehicles to promote electric and fuel-efficient mobility. Under the new fiscal policy, engines between 2,000 cc - 2,999 cc face a 2% and engines between 3,000 cc - 4,000 cc and above will attract 4% levy, **while electric, mass transit, vehicles below 2,000 cc and locally made vehicles remain exempt**. To discourage polluting second-hand 'Tokunbo' imports, the government also adjusted import tariffs and introduced a 5% fuel surcharge. These reforms align with Nigeria's **NDC 3.0** goals of reducing emissions by 29% by 2030, fostering domestic manufacturing and air quality improvements ahead of its **2060 net-zero target**.

### Symbiosis International University launches Asia's first UNESCO Chair on gender inclusion and skills

Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU) has launched Asia's first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development. Spearheaded by Dr. Swati Mujumdar, the initiative focuses on empowering women in high-growth sectors like semiconductors, AI, and defense technology.

Inaugurated by Minister Jayant Chaudhary, the project includes the "Kushal Saathi" mentoring program and has already trained 10,000 underprivileged girls. By aligning skilling with Industry 4.0 demands, the Chair aims to bridge the gender gap and drive inclusive economic growth.

### France Sets 2050 Deadline to End Fossil Fuels

At the Santa Marta conference, Colombia on April 28 **France** unveiled a pioneering roadmap to **achieve carbon neutrality by 2050**. Distinguishing itself from broad net-zero pledges, this plan sets explicit phase-out deadlines: **coal by 2030, oil by 2045, and gas by 2050**. Leveraging its strong nuclear foundation, France aims for a 5% annual emissions reduction through 2028 by prioritizing electrification and ending domestic fossil fuel production. This 'first mover' strategy emerged after global roadmaps stalled at COP30. Despite current energy security concerns due to international conflict, France's structured framework provides a measurable blueprint for global climate diplomacy and a just transition.

### US returns 657 antiquities collectively valued at nearly 14 million dollars to India

The United States has repatriated **657 antiquities** to India, valued at approximately **14 million dollars**. Announced by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, the artifacts were recovered through investigations into extensive trafficking networks. Notable pieces include a **2 million dollars bronze Avalokiteshvara** stolen from a Raipur museum and a **sandstone dancing Ganesha** from Madhya Pradesh. During an event in New York, Indian officials praised the collaborative efforts of the Manhattan DA's office and Homeland Security. This return underscores a shared commitment to restoring cultural heritage and combatting the illicit trade of historical treasures.

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### Canada becomes First non-European Country to Attend an EPC Summit

On May 4, 2026, Canada became the first non-European nation to attend a **European Political Community (EPC)** summit, with Prime Minister Mark Carney participating in the 8th meeting in Yerevan, Armenia. Established in 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the EPC facilitates dialogue between EU and non-EU European states like the UK and Turkey. Co-chaired by Nikol Pashinyan and Antonio Costa, the summit focused on security and infrastructure. While deepening strategic ties with Armenia, Canada clarified it is not seeking EU membership. This historic participation signals a broadening of the EPC's diplomatic reach beyond continental borders.

### India, EU launch 15.2 million Euro initiative to boost Circular Economy

India and the European Union on May 6, 2026 launched a **15.2 million Euro (Rs. 169 crore)** joint initiative to advance **EV battery recycling** and **boost Circular Economy** goals. Announced under the Trade and Technology Council, the program focuses on recovering critical minerals like lithium and cobalt through high-efficiency technologies. Key features include the establishment of a joint pilot line in India for industrial validation and a coordinated call for proposals due by **15 September 2026**. Funded by the EU's **Horizon Europe Initiative** and **India's Ministry of Heavy Industries**, this strategic partnership aims to ensure resource security and resilient green value chains.



### Rwanda Invites India to Participate in Africa Nuclear Energy Innovation Summit

Rwanda is set to host the high-profile 'Nuclear Energy Innovation Summit for Africa' (NEISA 2026) from May 18 to May 21 at the Kigali Convention Centre. The Government of Rwanda has officially extended an invitation to India's Union Minister Jitendra Singh to address the summit, which will focus on leveraging nuclear technology for Africa's industrialization and energy security. The event, organized in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), aims to transition nuclear ambition into bankable projects. India's participation underscores a growing partnership in emerging technologies and digital capacity building within the Global South. While acknowledging the invite, Indian officials confirmed a virtual address to discuss cooperation in atomic energy and AI integration.

### Assam's Baksa District Exports Twenty Metric Tons of ODOP Honey to United States

Achieving a major milestone under the 'One District One Product' (ODOP) initiative, Baksa district in Assam has successfully exported 20 metric tons of high-quality honey to the United States. This international trade breakthrough was facilitated under the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, a flagship central initiative aimed at

empowering local micro-entrepreneurs. The export highlights the growing global demand for indigenous Assamese products and underscores the government's efforts to integrate rural agricultural clusters with global supply chains. By providing technical support and financial credit under PMFME, the initiative continues to transform local specialties into competitive international brands.



### EU Approves Continued Import of Indian Aquaculture Products

Fresh trade data released in May 2026 confirms the European Union has secured its position as India's third-largest market for marine products. During the 2025-26 fiscal year, Indian seafood exports to the EU reached an approximate value of 1.593 billion US dollars.

This growth highlights the increasing global demand for Indian shrimp and frozen fish despite stringent quality regulations. Industry experts attribute this milestone to improved processing standards and a strategic focus on value-added products. The milestone reinforces India's status as a premier global supplier, following closely behind the United States and China in seafood trade volume.

### Ebola Outbreak Reported in Congo

On 15 May 2026, the Africa CDC confirmed an Ebola outbreak in the DR of Congo's Ituri province, with 246 suspected cases and 65 deaths. Initial testing by the INRB identified a non-Zaire strain of the *Filoviridae* family in 13 samples. Transmission occurs via direct contact with infected bodily fluids. To manage the crisis, regional health authorities from the DRC, Uganda, and South Sudan launched a high-level coordination effort. This marks another significant challenge for the DRC, where Ebola has surfaced repeatedly since its 1976 discovery. Confirmation typically relies on PCR testing or antigen detection.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Netherlands Release Joint Statement During Official Visit

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to the Netherlands, the host nation formally announced its decision to join the Indian-led Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). Under this strategic partnership, the Netherlands has agreed to co-lead the crucial Capacity Building and Resource Sharing pillar of the framework. The move aims to bolster maritime security, promote sustainable resource management, and ensure a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. Both nations issued a joint statement emphasizing a shared commitment to international law, rules-based maritime order, and enhanced collaborative naval research.



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## Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Begins Official Visit to Vietnam and South Korea

In a major step toward technological self-reliance, India and South Korea launched the Korea-India Defence Accelerator (KIND-X) during a high-level bilateral summit. The strategic initiative establishes a defense innovation bridge explicitly designed to connect start-ups, incubators, investors, research laboratories, and universities from both nations.

Jointly driven by India Defence Innovation Organisation and South Korea Defense Acquisition Program Administration, the platform transitions bilateral ties from conventional equipment procurement to high-tech co-development. KIND-X will pull investments and resources into pioneering futuristic military applications, focusing heavily on Artificial Intelligence, autonomous weapons, defense semiconductors, robotics, and space-based intelligence surveillance.

## India Sets Goal of One Trillion Export Value This Year, Says Piyush Goyal

Addressing the official website launch of the Bharatiya Vyapar Mahotsav, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal announced that India registered an all-time high cumulative export value of 863 billion USD during the financial year 2025-26. Despite severe global economic headwinds and geopolitical uncertainties, the country achieved an impressive five percent year-on-year growth driven heavily by a booming services sector. Bolstered by this historic momentum, the government has formalized a national mission to scale up operations, targeting 1 trillion USD in exports for the current fiscal year and aiming to touch 2 trillion USD over the next five years through aggressive market expansion and newly established Free Trade Agreements.

## Kami Rita Sherpa and Lhakpa Sherpa break their own summit records on Mount Everest once

Kami Rita Sherpa, known as the “Everest Man,” set a new world record by summiting Mount Everest for the 32nd time on May 18, 2026. The 56-year-old achieved this milestone while leading a guided expedition, showcasing exceptional endurance and expertise. On the same day, Lhakpa Sherpa set a women’s record with her 11th ascent. Their achievements highlight remarkable consistency and dominance in global mountaineering.



## Government Revises LPG Regulations to Support Shift Towards PNG Connections

In a major move to streamline supply chains during the transition toward Piped Natural Gas, the government has updated mandatory booking intervals for refilling standard domestic LPG cylinders. Under the newly implemented administrative guidelines, urban consumers face a mandatory waiting window of 25 days before booking their next refill. Meanwhile, the lock-in period for consumers residing in rural areas has been extended to 45 days. Officials state these changes aim to match realistic consumption patterns, discourage panic stockpiling, and prevent the illegal diversion of domestic cylinders for commercial use.



**Ranks/Reports/Indices**

**IMD releases heatwave preparedness advisory amid rising temperatures**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has reinforced its heatwave preparedness advisory for April 2026, clarifying the rigorous criteria for weather alerts. For stations situated in the plains, a 'heatwave' is officially declared when the maximum temperature reaches a minimum threshold of 40°C. This metric serves as the critical baseline for public health warnings and administrative action. In contrast, coastal regions use a 37°C benchmark, while hilly areas trigger alerts at 30°C. Since the criteria focus specifically on the plains, the 40°C mark remains the definitive atmospheric trigger for high-alert monitoring across central and northern corridors.

**Chief Justice of India announces Sikkim as the country's first fully paperless judiciary**

On May 1, 2026, Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant officially declared Sikkim as the first fully paperless state judiciary in the country. The announcement was made during the National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education in Gangtok. Developed in collaboration with the eCommittee, the transition eliminates physical paper trails across court processes, moving them to a digital platform. The paperless judiciary system features

electronic filing, digital case management, and AI-assisted research tools. This historic achievement aims to speed up justice delivery and improve transparency, particularly for residents in geographically challenging and remote terrains.

**India's Global Capability Centres network surpasses the 2,100 mark, reflecting rapid corporate expansion**

A joint report by Nasscom and Zinnov, titled 'GCC Value Orbit: From Delivery Engine to Enterprise Nerve Centre,' reveals that India's Global Capability Centre (GCC) network has grown to 2,117 centres. For the financial year 2025–26, these hubs generated an estimated dollars 98.4 billion in revenue, marking a significant 60% increase from FY21. This growth is driven by a fundamental shift toward high-value work, with nearly half of the centres established since 2021 focusing on artificial intelligence from their inception. Currently, the ecosystem employs 2.36 million professionals and supports 506 of the Forbes Global 2000 companies.



## India Releases April 2026 Wholesale Price Index Data

Wholesale inflation data released for May 2026 identifies the Fuel and Power category as the primary driver of rising costs. Driven by volatile global markets and the ripple effects of the ongoing West Asia conflict, this segment recorded the highest growth among all major commodity groups.

The surge reflects the mounting pressure on global energy supply chains, significantly impacting the landing cost of crude oil and natural gas. As industrial input costs rise, the government and Reserve Bank of India continue to monitor these inflationary pressures, which remain a critical challenge for maintaining domestic price stability and economic growth targets.

### Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

## Skill Development: Launch of Asia's First UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion

In a landmark development for India's vocational education landscape, Asia's first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development was officially inaugurated in Pune on April 24, 2026. The Chair, established at Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU), was formally launched by Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary during the International Conference on 'Women Leading the Future of Work.'

This center of excellence is designed to act as a global knowledge hub, focusing on increasing female participation in high-growth sectors like AI, Semiconductor Technology, and Defense Tech. By aligning technical education with international standards, the initiative aims to transform the skills ecosystem for women, moving from basic advocacy to ensuring meaningful, leadership-oriented employment in the modern workforce.



## Health Ministry unveils detailed guidelines on childhood diabetes at national best practices summit

The Union Health Ministry launched an awareness campaign in May 2026 to promote early detection of Type 1 Diabetes, focusing on the '4Ts' framework. These key warning signs stand for Toilet (frequent urination), Thirsty (excessive thirst), Tired (constant fatigue), and Thinner (unexplained weight loss). The guidelines are designed to help parents, school staff, and healthcare workers recognize symptoms early, preventing severe complications like diabetic ketoacidosis. With a rising number of cases, the initiative emphasizes that timely identification and intervention can significantly improve long-term health outcomes for children and adolescents across the nation.



## India to Host Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit

New Delhi will host the **Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV)** from May 28 to 31, 2026, marking the event's return after eleven years (the previous summit was held in 2015). Themed **'IA SPIRIT, India-Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience, and Inclusive Transformation'** the summit focuses on innovation, resilience, and inclusive transformation. It aims to synchronize India's 2047 vision with the AU's **Agenda 2063**, covering sectors like defense, digital transformation, and critical minerals. With bilateral trade hitting **82 billion Dollars** and India expanding its diplomatic presence to 46 missions, the summit reinforces deep economic ties, including over **10 billion Dollars** in Lines of Credit to more than 40 African nations.

## CII Annual Business Summit 2026

Addressing the **CII Annual Business Summit 2026 "Next-Gen Labour Reforms: Driving Industry Growth and Job Creation"**, on May 12th, **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** highlighted the government's success in expanding social security coverage from **29 crore to 94 crore people over the last decade**. He emphasized that upcoming **'Next-Gen' labor reforms** aim to balance worker protections with reduced industry compliance burdens. Mandaviya described the new labor codes as being both **labor-centric and industry-centric**, designed to foster economic growth and job creation. He reiterated the government's commitment to a pro-poor, industry-friendly approach, urging collaborative progress between labor and industry toward a shared, prosperous future.

## National conference on transforming patents into market-ready products launches IP Catalyst and new digital platform

At the 'From Patent to Product' national conference held in May 2026, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) revealed a remarkable 52 percent increase in patent filings within the Electronics and IT domain for

the fiscal year 2025–26. This surge highlights the sector's leading role in India's innovation journey, contributing significantly to the overall national record of 143,729 patent applications. Secretary S. Krishnan noted that the domain's contribution to total filings rose to 52 percent, up from 44 percent the previous year. To further this momentum, the Ministry launched the IP Catalyst initiative to accelerate the transition from prototypes to commercial products.



## Madhya Pradesh will use AI to power Simhastha 2028 in partnership with Google Cloud India

The Madhya Pradesh government has partnered with Google Cloud India to use AI for managing Simhastha Kumbh 2028 in Ujjain. Under the leadership of Mohan Yadav, the initiative will deploy AI for crowd monitoring, traffic prediction, and emergency response. It also includes setting up an AI innovation centre in Indore, aiming to enhance safety, planning efficiency, and the pilgrim experience.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

## Indigenous silicon photonics technology solutions introduced in Chennai to boost advanced communication systems

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) achieved a major milestone in India's deep-tech journey this April 2026 with the launch of two indigenous Silicon Photonics solutions at

IIT Madras. To facilitate large-scale chip manufacturing, the Secretary of MeitY officially unveiled the Silicon Photonics Process Design Kit (PDK).

This specialized library features over 50 verified components, serving as a critical blueprint for designers to create advanced Photonic Integrated Circuits (PICs). By providing a standardized domestic PDK, India aims to reduce its reliance on foreign proprietary tools, significantly lowering the entry barrier for startups and researchers in the semiconductor space. The launch also included a high-speed automated packaging tool, collectively positioning the country as a competitive player in high-speed data communications and quantum computing infrastructure.

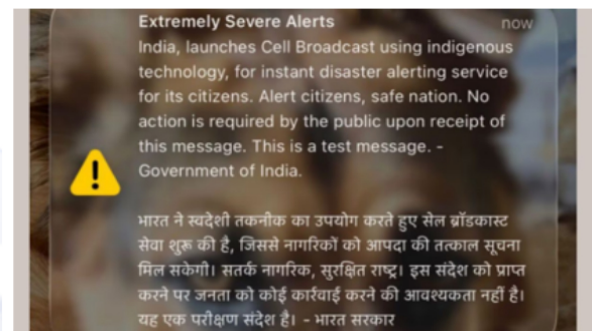


### ISRO Opens Gaganyaan Astronaut Selection to Civilians

ISRO is expanding its **Gaganyaan** mission by selecting a second astronaut batch, notably including civilian **STEM professionals** alongside military pilots for the first time. While the initial 2020 group consisted solely of Indian Air Force test pilots, this new cohort of approximately ten candidates aims to diversify India's spaceflight expertise. A specialized committee, supported by current astronauts, is currently designing the selection and training frameworks. This initiative is a cornerstone of India's long-term vision, which includes establishing a national space station and achieving a **human Moon landing by 2040**.

### India Tests New NDMA Cell Broadcast Emergency Alert System

India's Department of Telecommunications and NDMA are conducting nationwide trials of a Cell Broadcast-based emergency alert system. On May 2, 2026, mobile users across the country received 'Extremely Severe' test notifications in multiple languages. Officials clarify these are simulated drills, not real emergencies, aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness for events like earthquakes or gas leaks. Unlike standard SMS, this technology ensures near real-time, geo-targeted delivery to all devices in high-risk zones, significantly bolstering public safety infrastructure.



### Concerns rise over possible super El Niño in late 2026 triggering extreme climate events

The World Meteorological Organization and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have indicated that El Niño conditions are likely to emerge during the May to July 2026 period. After a period of ENSO-neutral conditions earlier in the year, rapidly rising sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific point to a clear shift. The climate phenomenon is expected to bring above-normal land surface temperatures and significantly alter global rainfall patterns. Forecasters note that while confidence in the onset is high, there is a degree of uncertainty regarding the exact strength of the emerging event as it develops over the year.



### Exercise CINBAX-II

On May 4, 2026, the Indian Army began the second edition of the bilateral exercise **CINBAX-II** in Kampong Speu, Cambodia. This joint training, held under a **UN Chapter VII mandate**, runs through May 17 at the Camp Basil training center. The exercise emphasizes sub-conventional operations and counter-terrorism within semi-urban environments. Participants will engage in specialized training involving **sniper tactics, drone operations, and mortar handling**. By facilitating the exchange of tactical best practices, CINBAX-II strengthens India-Cambodia defense ties and enhances their collective ability to address evolving regional security threats and global challenges.



### DRDO and Indian Air Force successfully conduct maiden flight-trial of indigenous TARA glide weapon

The DRDO and Indian Air Force successfully conducted the debut flight trial of the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)** glide weapon off Odisha's coast on 7th May 2026. Developed by the **Research Centre Imarat**, TARA is India's first indigenous system designed to transform unguided warheads into high-precision munitions. By utilizing cost-effective, state-of-the-art technology, it significantly boosts the accuracy and lethality of strikes against ground targets. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hailed the milestone as a major leap for domestic defense capabilities. Production has already commenced through collaboration between DRDO labs and various Indian industrial partners.



### NASA Tests Plasma Engine for Mars Travel

NASA's **Jet Propulsion Laboratory** successfully tested a record-breaking 120-kilowatt **lithium-fed magnetoplasmadynamic (MPD) thruster**, marking the highest power output for a U.S. electric propulsion system on May 7. This technology utilizes electromagnetic fields to accelerate ionized propellant, potentially reducing Mars travel time from nine months to just 30–60 days. While current missions like **Psyche** use lower-power thrusters, crewed Mars voyages require 2–4 megawatts of sustained power.

Integrating **Nuclear Electric Propulsion** could provide the necessary energy for these high-performance thrusters, enabling efficient, long-duration deep-space exploration and significantly faster interplanetary transit.

### TRAI Issues Digital Connectivity Rating Amendment Rules 2026

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has launched its new Digital Connectivity Rating framework, designed to standardize the quality of telecommunications infrastructure within buildings. Under this innovative system, buildings can achieve a maximum rating of 5 Stars, signaling superior indoor coverage and high-speed data availability.

This framework encourages real estate developers to prioritize digital readiness during construction, similar to green building certifications. By evaluating factors like signal strength and fiber-to-the-home capabilities, the rating system provides consumers with transparency regarding the connectivity performance of residential and commercial properties across the country.

### Rajnath Singh to Attend Aerospace Projects Event in Andhra Pradesh

In a landmark boost to India's aerial defense, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone for the Aircraft Integration and Flight Testing Centre on May 15, 2026. This facility is specifically designed to accelerate the development of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), India's premier indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter programme.

Spanning 650 acres with an investment of 15,803 crore, the complex will serve as a national hub for assembly, validation, and certification. By creating a dedicated ecosystem for stealth technology and advanced avionics, the project aims to achieve self-reliance in next-generation combat aviation and reduce dependence on foreign testing environments.

### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to lay foundation for AAMCA programme facility

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) facility in Puttaparthi on 15th May. This 15,803 crore rupee project, led by DRDO's ADA, establishes a 650-acre hub for integrating and testing India's indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter. The AMCA will feature twin-engine supercruise and advanced avionics, boosting self-reliance in aviation. Expected to create 7,500 direct jobs and attract one lakh crore rupees in ancillary investments, the event also saw foundation stones laid for twelve additional defense and drone projects, further driving regional economic growth.



### Amit Shah Inaugurates Innovation and Incubation Hub at National Institute of Design Ahmedabad

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the state-of-the-art Innovation and Incubation Centre at the National Institute of Design (NID) in Ahmedabad. During his address, the Minister highly praised the complex mathematical formulas and precise geometric design methodology embedded in Patan Patola weaving, a traditional double-ikat textile art form of Gujarat. He noted that the centuries-old craft seamlessly integrates advanced calculation, symmetry,

and artistic design, long before modern design software existed. The newly launched NID centre aims to bridge such rich traditional Indian craftsmanship with cutting-edge technological tools to foster sustainable global design startups.



### Scientists Develop Nano-Gold Thin Films for Self-Powered Sensors and Wearable Devices

Breaking major grounds in self-powered electronics, nanoscientists at the Institute of Nano Science and Technology have engineered an advanced, ultrathin flexible film that converts subtle, ambient room temperature variations directly into usable electricity. The cutting-edge device utilizes a specialized Polyvinylidene Fluoride (PVDF) polymer base embedded with tailored nanogold particles.

By leveraging the exceptional piezoelectric and pyroelectric properties of the PVDF matrix, the film generates instant electrical signals from minor thermal fluctuations. Researchers project this lightweight, scalable technology will soon power next-generation wearable health monitors, smart skins, and IoT sensors without needing external batteries.

### Exercise PRAGATI 2026 begins in Meghalaya with participation from 12 nations

India has launched the multinational military exercise Exercise PRAGATI 2026 at Umroi Military Station. Hosted by the Indian Army, the two-week drill involves forces from 12 nations, including Bhutan, Indonesia,

and Sri Lanka. Focused on counter-terrorism, jungle warfare, and tactical coordination, it aims to enhance interoperability, strengthen regional defence cooperation, and promote stability in the Indian Ocean Region.

### Sports

### Virat Kohli becomes first IPL player to hit 800 boundaries

Indian batting maestro Virat Kohli has etched his name deeper into the record books by becoming the first player in Indian Premier League history to smash 800 boundaries (fours). Achieving this unprecedented feat during the 2026 season, Kohli continues to pull away from his closest competitors, further cementing his status as the tournament's all-time leading run-scorer. This milestone highlights his remarkable longevity and consistency in the world's most competitive T20 league. Fans and analysts alike have hailed the achievement as a testament to his elite fitness and technical mastery, as he remains the only cricketer to cross the 800-four threshold. The landmark moment adds yet another illustrious chapter to his storied career, setting a towering benchmark for future generations of cricketers in the shortest format of the game.



## Shreyas Iyer Appointed F1 Programme Brand Ambassador

Mumbai Falcons Racing Limited (MFRL) has appointed Indian cricketer Shreyas Iyer as the brand ambassador for its F1 programme. This partnership coincides with the launch of the F1 Sim Racing India Open 2026, a national competition designed to identify digital racing talent. By leveraging Iyer's influence among youth, MFRL aims to bridge the gap between gaming and professional motorsports. This initiative fosters a structured multi-sport ecosystem in India, providing clear career pathways for aspiring tech-savvy athletes through global partnerships.

## Delhi to host Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026

Delhi Government on May 7 announced that it is set to host the **2026 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship** at Thyagraj Stadium **from July 27 to August 2, 2026**. Jointly organized by the Delhi government and the Table Tennis Federation of India, the seven-day event expects **athletes from over 35 nations**, including England, Australia, and Canada. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta emphasized that the tournament aligns with the **'Vision 2036 Olympics'** mission, showcasing the capital's world-class infrastructure and rich sporting culture. This international competition aims to solidify Delhi's global standing while providing an elite environment for both elite players and spectators.



## India to Participate in FIFA ASEAN Cup

India has officially agreed to participate in the inaugural **FIFA ASEAN Cup**, scheduled for **September 21 to October 6, 2026**. This two-division tournament will be hosted by **Indonesia (Division 1)** and **Hong Kong (Division 2)**, featuring 14 Southeast Asian and invited teams. Unlike the standard ASEAN Championship, this event aligns with the **FIFA international window**, ensuring clubs release players. With a **1 million Dollar** prize for Division 1 winners and guaranteed participation fees, the tournament marks a significant expansion of competitive football in the region following India's failure to qualify for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.



### Aparna Dahiya clinches Gold medal in Women's 52 kg category in Sanda World Cup

Indian wushu athlete Aparna Dahiya made history by securing India's first gold medal at the 11th Sanda World Cup in Macau on 14th May. Competing in the women's 52kg category, she defeated Vietnam's reigning world champion, Thi Phuong Nga Ngo, in a decisive straight-sets victory. This win served as redemption for Dahiya, who previously lost to the same opponent during the 2025 World Championships in Brazil. Wushu is categorized into Taolu, a movement-based discipline judged on gymnastics and martial arts forms, and Sanda, a full-contact combat style utilizing wrestling, kicks, and punches.



### India Secures 27 Medals at the 2026 Asian U15 Boxing Championships

India delivered an outstanding performance at the Asian Boxing U-15 Championships 2026, securing 27 medals, including 9 golds. The girls' team dominated with 7 gold medals, emerging as the top performers. The boys' team also contributed strongly, winning 2 golds along with several silver and bronze medals. Overall, India finished with 9 gold, 6 silver, and 12 bronze medals, highlighting the rise of young boxing talent and the country's growing strength across multiple weight categories on the international stage.

### Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Sets New IPL Record for Most Sixes by an Indian in One Season

Rajasthan Royals' teenage batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has scripted tournament history during a high-stakes clash against Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. The dynamic left-handed opener launched an aggressive assault against the host bowling lineup, smashing three massive sixes en route to a blistering 46 off just 21 deliveries.

This explosive performance took his seasonal tally to an incredible 43 maximums in just 12 innings, officially surpassing Abhishek Sharma's previous record of 42 sixes set in 2024 to become the Indian batter with the most sixes in a single season.

### Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Breaks IPL Six-Hitting Record with 65 Maximums in 2026 Season

During the high-stakes IPL 2026 Eliminator match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, 15-year-old Rajasthan Royals batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi rewrote cricket history by shattering the long-standing record for the most sixes hit in a single tournament edition.

The teenage prodigy surpassed the iconic milestone previously held by West Indian legend Chris Gayle, who smashed 59 sixes for Royal Challengers Bangalore back in the 2012 season. Sooryavanshi unleashed a breathtaking display of power-hitting, hammering 12 maximums in a single innings of 97 runs off just 29 balls, bringing his incredible tournament tally to 65 sixes.



Miscellaneous

**Indian Air Force opens registrations for third edition of Mehar Baba Competition**

Pushing the boundaries of indigenous defense innovation, the Indian Air Force (IAF) officially launched the third edition of the Mehar Baba Competition (MBC-3) this April 2026. This edition pivots toward advanced sensor technologies, focusing on the central theme of Collaborative Drone-Based Surveillance Radars.

The competition challenges the Indian industry and academia to develop low-cost, high-precision radar systems integrated into drone platforms. These 'flying radars' are designed to work in synergy, providing a distributed and resilient surveillance network that can detect low-observable targets across diverse terrains. By fostering a competitive ecosystem for 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) defense tech, MBC-3 aims to equip the IAF with cutting-edge, autonomous aerial monitoring capabilities that reduce reliance on traditional, fixed radar installations and enhance tactical situational awareness.



**MobiKwik gets Reserve Bank of India NBFC nod, enters digital lending**

Fintech firm One MobiKwik Systems has secured a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India, allowing it to enter the regulated lending market. To manage this expansion,

the company will launch a wholly-owned subsidiary, MobiKwik Financial Services Private Limited (MFSPL). This strategic move enables MobiKwik to offer direct loans and tailored credit products to its 18.6 crore users. By transitioning from payments to full-scale financial services, the company aims to enhance credit accessibility and drive scalable growth.

**World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2026**

Observed annually on April 28, World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2026 emphasizes creating secure global work environments. Led by the International Labour Organization (ILO), this year's theme, 'Good psychosocial working environments,' highlights the importance of mental well-being, stress reduction, and supportive leadership alongside physical safety. The observance honors workers affected by workplace hazards while advocating for stronger safety standards. Ultimately, it fosters collaboration between governments and employers to ensure dignity, health, and inclusivity for employees worldwide.

**Indian Skimmer Conservationist Wins Whitley Award 2026**

Conservationist **Parveen Shaikh** on May 1, 2026 received the **2026 Whitley Award**, or 'Green Oscar,' for her grassroots efforts to protect the endangered Indian skimmer. Working with the Bombay Natural History Society, Shaikh's community-led model along the Chambal River nearly tripled the local bird population between 2017 and 2025. By involving local 'guardians' to monitor nests on vulnerable sandbars, the initiative has significantly improved survival rates. With award funding, this successful conservation strategy, integrating local participation with GPS monitoring, will expand to Prayagraj to mitigate threats from pollution and river traffic, securing a future for this rare riverine species.



### India–Tanzania trade crosses 9 billion dollar

India and Tanzania on 1 May reaffirmed their economic ties during the **5th Joint Trade Committee session in Dar es Salaam**, noting bilateral trade reached **9.02 billion dollars** in 2025–26. Co-chaired by officials from both nations, the meeting focused on local currency settlements, digital infrastructure like India Stack, and expanding healthcare through telemedicine. Key highlights included **India’s 1.1 billion dollar investment in Tanzanian water projects** and the strategic role of **IIT Madras Zanzibar**. Both sides committed to enhancing cooperation in agriculture, mining, and renewable energy, while addressing regulatory barriers to further boost private sector engagement and trade efficiency.

### Ashutosh Gowariker appointed Festival Director of 57th International Film Festival of India in Goa

Renowned filmmaker **Ashutosh Gowariker** has been named the Festival Director for the **57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**, set to take place in Goa. Expressing significant pride and a deep sense of responsibility, Gowariker emphasized the honor of upholding **a legacy that began in 1952**. He committed to collaborating with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Goa government to ensure the event's success. This appointment marks a major milestone for IFFI, as it leverages the expertise of a veteran director to lead one of Asia's most prestigious cinematic celebrations.

### Aarogya Maitri Deployment Strengthens India-Caribbean Ties

India has expanded its humanitarian reach by deploying the **Aarogya Maitri** portable healthcare system in **Jamaica** on April 30, 2026. This initiative, a collaboration between the National Security Council Secretariat, the Ministry of External Affairs, and partners like RailTel, utilizes modular technology similar to the **BHISHM Cube**. These portable units provide rapid diagnostics and emergency care in disaster-prone regions. This deployment strengthens **India-CARICOM** ties and reinforces India’s role as a global leader in technology-driven disaster relief, blending 'strategic altruism' with institutional support to enhance healthcare resilience across the Caribbean.



### Oldest Municipal Corporation in India

The Greater Chennai Corporation is the oldest municipal corporation in India. Established on September 29, 1688, during British rule via a charter issued in 1687, it is the world’s second-oldest municipal body after the City of London. Originally formed to manage Madras, it introduced organized urban governance for infrastructure, water supply, and public health. This model later expanded to Mumbai and Kolkata in 1726. Today, it remains a cornerstone of India’s urban administration under the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act.



### NSE Launches Electronic Gold Receipts

The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** on May 4, 2026 has introduced **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)** to standardize India's gold market. These tradable, dematerialized instruments represent ownership of physical gold stored in regulated, approved vaults. Designed to enhance transparency, EGRs allow investors to hold gold in electronic form, similar to securities. As a major global gold consumer, India's shift toward exchange-traded EGRs complements existing instruments like **Sovereign Gold Bonds** and **ETFs**. This framework integrates vaulting and settlement mechanisms into the commodity market, providing a secure, regulated alternative to physical gold ownership within India's capital market infrastructure.

### Delhi Faces Ground-Level Ozone Pollution

Research done (data released on Tuesday May 5) by the think tank **Envirocatalysts**, using CPCB data, reveals a shifting pollution landscape in Delhi-NCR. While nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide levels have gradually declined since 2015, **ground-level ozone** has emerged as a critical threat, peaking during hot summer months like May. **Ground-level ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)** is a harmful **secondary pollutant** formed near the Earth's surface when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react under intense sunlight and heat. Unlike the protective stratospheric ozone layer,

this surface-level version is a primary component of photochemical smog. In Delhi, annual ozone averages rose significantly between 2021 and 2025, with similar spikes in Meerut and Noida. This transition highlights that while traditional combustion emissions are decreasing, sunlight-driven chemical reactions are intensifying regional air quality challenges.



### Royal Enfield to Set Up Manufacturing Hub in Andhra Pradesh

Eicher Motors-owned **Royal Enfield** is set to invest Rs. 2,200 crore to establish a new manufacturing plant and vendor park in **Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh**. Located at Satyavedu, this marks the brand's first major expansion outside Tamil Nadu. The project, approved by the state's Investment Promotion Board, will be developed in two phases, concluding by 2032. It aims to boost annual production capacity by **nine lakh units** and create **approximately 5,000 jobs**. This strategic hub will occupy up to 450 acres, strengthening the region's industrial ecosystem and supporting India's two-wheeler manufacturing growth.

### India and Algeria Hold First Joint Defence Commission Meeting

On **May 5, 2026**, New Delhi hosted the inaugural **India-Algeria Joint Commission** meeting to strengthen bilateral defense ties. Co-chaired by officials from both nations, the meeting followed a **2024 Memorandum of Understanding** and focused on military training,

joint exercises, and defense industrial collaboration. A key outcome was the signing of the **Rules of Procedure**, establishing a formal framework for future institutional cooperation. The Algerian delegation also engaged with Indian defense stakeholders, including the **DRDO** and tri-service representatives, marking a significant milestone in defense diplomacy between these long-standing **Non-Aligned Movement** partners.

### BIS hosts global meet on Space Systems Standards

The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** hosted the **35th Plenary of ISO TC 20/SC 14** at New Delhi's **Bharat Mandapam** from May 4 - 8 2026, focusing on global space systems and operations standards. Bringing together **131 delegates from 13 nations**, the conference emphasizes space safety, sustainability, and interoperability. Officials, including Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare and **IN-SPACE Chairman Dr. Pawan Goenka**, noted that India's role as a global space hub is expanding through private sector reforms. By aligning domestic standards with international frameworks, India aims to bolster its private industry's competitiveness while addressing critical issues like mission safety and debris mitigation.



### India marks National Technology Day

Observed annually on May 11, **National Technology Day** commemorates India's landmark **1998 nuclear tests in Pokhran, Rajasthan**. This day honors the nation's scientific community and milestones like the launch of the indigenous **Hansa-3** aircraft. Beyond

celebrating strategic achievements, it highlights the impact of innovation on daily life and societal growth. By showcasing advancements in AI, biotechnology, and quantum computing, the event inspires the youth to pursue science. Ultimately, it serves as a powerful reminder of how technological progress drives India's global standing and its journey toward a developed future.

### 2nd India-Japan Economic Security Dialogue

The second **India-Japan Economic Security Dialogue** took place in New Delhi on May 11, 2026, advancing the **2025 Economic Security Initiative**. Both nations aimed to strengthen strategic partnerships by focusing on semiconductor manufacturing, critical minerals, AI, and clean energy. A primary objective was **establishing resilient supply chains to navigate geopolitical volatility**. The session also integrated private-sector insights from the CII and Keidanren to boost industrial cooperation. This dialogue underscores a mutual commitment to trusted technologies, reinforcing economic stability and technological synergy within the broader Indo-Pacific framework.



### BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting 2026

During the 2026 BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar emphasized India's commitment to effective multilateralism and the urgent reform of global

financial structures. On the sidelines, he held strategic bilateral talks with counterparts from Iran, Cuba, and Uganda. Key discussions included West Asian stability with Iran, health and development partnerships with Cuba, formalized by a new Memorandum of Understanding, and food security and technological cooperation with Uganda. These engagements highlight India's proactive role in strengthening international ties and fostering diverse developmental partnerships within a shifting global landscape.

### National Endangered Species Day 2026

Observed on the third Friday of May (15th May this year), National Endangered Species Day 2026 highlights global wildlife conservation efforts. This year's theme, 'Celebrating America's Wildlife Comeback Stories,' honors the 1973 Endangered Species Act, credited with recovering the bald eagle and American alligator. In India, the observance features biodiversity programs and Big Cat Conservation Events covering five species, including tigers and leopards. Notably, Project Tiger (1973) has helped India house over 70 percent of wild tigers. Recent international cooperation was furthered by the 'Shared Stripes – Shared Future' workshop in Hyderabad, uniting global delegates to discuss conservation strategies.



### Advance Authorisation Scheme

To address rising import bills and prevent scheme misuse, the government has capped gold imports under the Advance Authorisation (AA) scheme at 100 kg. This follows a sharp increase in total effective gold duty to 18.45 percent. New regulations mandate physical inspections for first-time applicants and a 50 percent fulfillment of prior export obligations before issuing new permits. With precious metal imports reaching USD 102.5 billion in FY 2025-26, these measures aim to protect foreign exchange reserves and curb non-essential inflows during the ongoing West Asia crisis.

### Bhajan Lal Sharma Launches Rajasthan's First Semiconductor Manufacturing Cluster

Rajasthan has entered the fast-growing semiconductor and electronics sector with its first cluster in Bhiwadi. Inaugurated by Bhajan Lal Sharma, the project has attracted Rs. 1,200 crore in investment and may generate 2,500 jobs. Semiconductors are vital for modern technologies like smartphones, EVs, and AI. Bhiwadi's location near NCR boosts connectivity and industrial growth, strengthening Rajasthan's role in advanced manufacturing while supporting supply chains, investment, and high-value employment opportunities.

### Sikkim Statehood Day 2026 Marks 51 Years of Statehood in India

Sikkim celebrates Statehood Day on May 16, marking its integration into India in 1975. In 2026, the state completes 51 years of statehood, reflecting its democratic progress, cultural diversity, and environmental leadership. Formerly a monarchy under the Namgyal dynasty, Sikkim joined India after a 1975 referendum. The 36th Constitutional Amendment Act formalized its status as the 22nd state. The day is observed with ceremonies, cultural events, and public celebrations across the state.



### India Releases First Satellite-Tagged Ganges Softshell Turtle in Kaziranga National Park

India has released its first satellite-tagged Ganges softshell turtle in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve on Endangered Species Day. This endangered freshwater species will now be tracked to study movement, habitat use, and breeding patterns. Led by the Wildlife Institute of India along with the Environment Ministry and Assam Forest Department, the initiative aims to strengthen conservation efforts in the Brahmaputra basin through scientific data and improved habitat management strategies.

### S-VYASA Holds Special Yoga Event Ahead of International Day of Yoga 2026

Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) successfully organized a major mass yoga event at its Prashanti Kutiram campus, marking the 36th day of the 100-day countdown to the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026. Held in collaboration with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, the event drew over 650 participants practicing the Common Yoga Protocol. Alongside the sessions, an expert seminar titled Yoga for Health and Wisdom addressed youth wellness and digital-age stressors. S-VYASA Founder Chancellor Dr. H.R. Nagendra highlighted the scientific dimensions of yoga in treating modern chronic lifestyle diseases.

### National Testing House to Open Advanced Footwear Testing Centre in Ghaziabad

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs announced that the National Test House (NTH), Northern Region, in Ghaziabad, has established a state-of-the-art Shoe Testing Laboratory. Equipped with advanced technical instruments, the new facility is designed to evaluate multiple footwear categories—including sports, safety, leather, and industrial protective shoes—in accordance with strict Indian Standards (IS). Located strategically near major northern manufacturing clusters like Delhi-NCR, Agra, and Kanpur, the laboratory aims to drastically reduce sample testing turnaround times and logistics costs. This highly accessible infrastructure will significantly empower local MSMEs, bolster national quality assurance, and enhance India's global export competitiveness.

### Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister B. C. Khanduri passes away, with the nation mourning the loss of a veteran BJP leader

Major General (Retd.) Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri passed away on May 19, 2026, in Dehradun after prolonged illness. A former Army officer, he later joined Bharatiya Janata Party and served twice as Uttarakhand's Chief Minister (2007–09, 2011–12). Known for discipline and clean governance, he also represented Garhwal in Lok Sabha. His death, confirmed by his son, has drawn nationwide condolences, marking the loss of a respected military and political leader.

### Narendra Modi was awarded the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, Norway's highest civilian honour, during his May 18, 2026 visit to Oslo. This marks his 32nd international award, reflecting India's growing global influence. The honour recognises efforts in strengthening international

relations. The visit, first by an Indian PM to Norway in over four decades, highlights deepening India-Nordic ties and expanding diplomatic cooperation.



**Amit Shah launches AI-powered Dial 112 emergency response vehicles in Chhattisgarh**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off an advanced Dial 112 emergency fleet in Raipur, expanding services to all 33 districts of Chhattisgarh. The initiative includes 400 response vehicles, 33 surveillance units, and 60 highway patrol vehicles to enhance real-time emergency handling. Attended by Vishnu Deo Sai and others, the upgrade aims to improve response time, strengthen public safety, and ensure statewide access to emergency services.

**Indian Railways has announced a Rs. 238 crore modernisation plan for the Jammu-Katra rail section**

Indian Railways has approved Rs. 238 crore for safety and infrastructure upgrades on the Jammu-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra rail section. The project includes slope stabilisation, tunnel repairs, seepage control, and bridge protection to address geological and environmental risks. This route, vital for pilgrims and regional connectivity, passes through challenging mountainous terrain. The initiative aims to enhance passenger safety, improve operational reliability, and ensure long-term durability of the rail corridor against harsh weather and unstable conditions.