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May 2026

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THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

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Precision guidance for unguided warheads.

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1,200+ seconds

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Defence & security

TARA: precision from a glide kit

Trial: 7 May | reported 8 May
Source: PIB

DRDO and the IAF conducted the maiden flight-trial of the Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation weapon off Odisha.

• The modular range-extension kit converts unguided warheads into precision-guided glide weapons.

• Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad, designed it with other DRDO laboratories and Indian industry.

Remember: TARA is a glide-weapon kit; it is distinct from a powered cruise missile.

Open visual explainer



TARA flight-trial. DRDO / Ministry of Defence / PIB.

Advanced Agni demonstrates MIRV capability

Trial: 8 May | reported 9 May
Source: PIB

An Advanced Agni missile carrying Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicles was flight-tested from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.

• Multiple payloads were directed towards separate targets across the Indian Ocean region.

• Ground and ship-based tracking stations monitored the flight and payload impacts.

Remember: MIRV allows one missile to deliver independently targeted payloads. The release did not identify a numbered Agni variant.

Open visual explainer

Scramjet combustor runs for over 1,200 seconds

9 May
Source: PIB

DRDO's Defence Research and Development Laboratory completed a long-duration ground test of an actively cooled full-scale scramjet combustor in Hyderabad.

• The test exceeded 1,200 seconds, following a run of over 700 seconds in January.

• It used indigenous liquid hydrocarbon endothermic fuel, thermal-barrier coatings and advanced manufacturing.

Remember: This was a ground test of propulsion technology supporting hypersonic cruise-missile development, rather than a complete missile flight.

Open visual explainer



The ground-test combustor in operation. DRDO / PIB.

ULPGM-V3 completes development trials

19 May report
Source: PIB

DRDO completed final-configuration trials of its UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile-V3 near Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.

• Air-to-ground anti-tank and air-to-air engagements against drones, helicopters and other airborne targets were covered.

• RCI Hyderabad is the nodal laboratory; Bharat Dynamics and Adani Defence are production partners.

Remember: ULPGM-V3 is launched from an unmanned aerial platform; retain both tested engagement modes.

Agni-1 operational test

22 May
Source: PIB

The short-range ballistic missile Agni-1 was successfully test-launched from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.

• The Strategic Forces Command conducted the test.

• The launch validated the operational and technical parameters of the missile.

Remember: Keep the two Agni events separate: the Advanced Agni MIRV trial was on 8 May; Agni-1 was tested on 22 May.

ICGS Achal enters service

9 May
Source: PIB

The Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Achal, an Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel, at Goa Shipyard Limited.

• Designed and built by GSL, it incorporates more than 50% indigenous components.

• Roles include surveillance, search and rescue, anti-smuggling and marine-pollution response.

Remember: Achal is a Coast Guard patrol vessel. ICGS and INS refer to different services.



ICGS Achal commissioning. Indian Coast Guard / PIB.

Sanghmitra launched at GRSE

20 May
Source: PIB

GRSE launched Sanghmitra, Yard 3039, a Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel, in Kolkata.

• The programme comprises eleven NGOPVs being built at GRSE and Goa Shipyard.

• Their roles include surveillance, protection of offshore assets, search and rescue, disaster relief and anti-piracy.

Remember: Launching puts the hull into water; commissioning later brings a ship into operational naval service.

General NS Raja Subramani becomes CDS

31 May
Source: PIB

General NS Raja Subramani assumed charge as the third Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.

• Commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in December 1985, he previously served as Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

• His stated priorities included jointness, integration and induction of indigenous weapons.

Remember: CDS = tri-service integration; Chief of the Army Staff = leadership of the Army. These are separate offices.

Admiral Krishna Swaminathan becomes Navy Chief

31 May
Source: PIB

Admiral Krishna Swaminathan took over as the twenty-seventh Chief of the Naval Staff, succeeding Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi.

• He is a communication and electronic-warfare specialist and an NDA alumnus.

• His earlier appointments included Vice Chief of the Naval Staff and head of Western Naval Command.

Remember: Remember the appointment alongside the CDS handover: both assumed charge on 31 May.

Naval leadership: two further appointments

29-30 May
Source: PIB / PIB

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar became the forty-eighth Vice Chief of the Naval Staff on 29 May.

• Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan took over Western Naval Command on 30 May.

• Western Naval Command is headquartered in Mumbai; the Vice Chief serves at Naval Headquarters in New Delhi.

Remember: Pair the officer with the exact post; Vice Chief and Commander-in-Chief are distinct appointments.

PRAGATI: first multilateral Army exercise

20-30 May
Source: PIB / PIB

The inaugural Exercise PRAGATI was conducted at Umroi Military Station, Meghalaya, and ended with a 72-hour validation exercise.

• Training focused on counter-terrorism in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain.

• PRAGATI expands to Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region.

Remember: This is the military exercise PRAGATI, separate from the government's project-review platform of the same name.

CINBAX-II with Cambodia

4-17 May | advance report 3 May
Source: PIB

The second India-Cambodia bilateral military exercise was scheduled at Camp Basil in Kampong Speu province, Cambodia.

• The Indian contingent comprised 120 personnel, largely from the Maratha Light Infantry; Cambodia fielded 160.

• Company-level training covered counter-terrorism under the Chapter VII UN-mandate framework.

Remember: CINBAX pairs India with Cambodia; distinguish it from the multilateral PRAGATI exercise.

AMCA integration and flight-test centre

15 May
Source: PIB

Foundation stones were laid for an AMCA Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre at Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh.

• A Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility was also initiated at T Sirasapalli in Anakapalli district.

• The projects support fifth-generation combat-aircraft development and underwater naval systems respectively.

Remember: AMCA means Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft; a foundation-stone ceremony does not mean the aircraft has entered service.

Army electronic systems: BEL contract

5 May
Source: PIB

The Defence Ministry signed a Rs. 1,476 crore contract with BEL Hyderabad for five Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems for the Army.

• Procurement is under Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured).

• The contract specifies a minimum indigenous content of 72%.

Remember: Learn the pairing: BEL, five systems, Indian Army, Rs. 1,476 crore.

India-Vietnam defence technology cooperation

19 May | Hanoi
Source: PIB

India and Vietnam agreed to deepen defence cooperation, including maritime security, training and emerging technologies.

• An MoU covered AI and quantum technology between military telecommunications institutions.

• The ministers inaugurated an Indian-assisted language laboratory and announced an AI laboratory at Nha Trang.

Remember: Vietnam's capital is Hanoi; the technology agreements complement existing defence ties.

India-Republic of Korea defence agreements

20-21 May
Source: PIB / PIB

Defence talks in Seoul produced agreements on defence cyber cooperation, military education and UN peacekeeping.

• India's National Defence College and Korea National Defence University are the education partners.

• An Indian War Memorial was inaugurated at Imjingak Park, honouring the 60 Para Field Ambulance and Custodian Force of India.

Remember: Connect India's Korean War contribution with medical assistance and the custody/repatriation process.

Defence dialogues: Singapore, Australia, Algeria

5-28 May
Source: PIB / PIB / PIB

The sixteenth India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue took place in Singapore on 28 May.

• India-Australia held their tenth Defence Policy Talks in New Delhi on 8 May.

• The inaugural India-Algeria Joint Commission met in New Delhi on 5 May, covering training, exercises, medical cooperation and industry.

Remember: A defence-policy dialogue is a consultation mechanism; it is not a joint field exercise.

Joint Commanders' Conference

8 May | Jaipur
Source: PIB

The second Joint Commanders' Conference reviewed military readiness and lessons from Operation Sindoor.

• The Defence Minister emphasised inter-service synergy, innovation and preparedness for changing security conditions.

• AI, autonomous systems, analytics and secure communications were among the capability priorities.

Remember: Operation Sindoor's first anniversary fell in May 2026; avoid treating an anniversary review as a fresh operation.

President's Colour for NDRF

14 May | Ghaziabad
Source: PIB

The National Disaster Response Force received the President's Colour in recognition of its service, courage and disaster-response work.

• The ceremony took place in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

• NDRF's motto is Aapda Seva Sadaiv Sarvatra.

Remember: NDRF is an operational response force; NDMA is the national disaster-management authority.

Operation RAGEPILL

16 May report
Source: PIB

The Narcotics Control Bureau reported India's first seizure of Captagon during an investigation into a transnational drug-trafficking network.

• About 227.7 kg of tablets and powder were seized across the operation.

• Recoveries were linked to locations in Delhi and Mundra, Gujarat.

Remember: RAGEPILL = NCB drug enforcement, rather than an armed-forces combat operation.

Science & technology

GalaxEye launches Mission Drishti

3 May report
Source: PIB

GalaxEye's Mission Drishti was launched successfully, with the government describing it as the world's first OptoSAR satellite.

• The release also identified it as India's largest privately built satellite.

• OptoSAR brings optical and synthetic-aperture-radar observation into a combined system.

Remember: Optical sensors and radar provide complementary Earth-observation information; radar can operate without sunlight.

Open visual explainer

SkyCast for safer aviation

29 May | New Delhi
Source: PIB

India's first SkyCast integrated atmospheric remote-sensing system was inaugurated at Indira Gandhi International Airport under Mission Mausam.

• It combines a radar wind profiler, fog-aerosol spectrometer, lidar ceilometer and other sensors.

• Real-time observations support decisions during fog, turbulence, take-off and landing.

Remember: SkyCast is weather-monitoring infrastructure; it does not eliminate every delay or make aircraft immune to adverse weather.



SkyCast instrument demonstration. Ministry of Earth Sciences / PIB.

CLEAR: label, image, erase, repeat

26 May report
Source: PIB

Researchers at JNCASR Bengaluru developed Cleavable Light-Erased Antibody Reporter technology for multiplex protein imaging.

• A light-cleavable fluorescent tag allows repeated imaging cycles in the same sample and optical window.

• A 365 nm LED pulse erases the signal so another set of proteins can be labelled.

Remember: The platform supports spatial proteomics; potential medical applications do not mean routine clinical deployment has already begun.

Open visual explainer

SODAR technology reaches industry

12-14 May event | report 15 May
Source: PIB

CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal, transferred its indigenous SODAR technology to Meteoxperts Solutions of Noida.

• SODAR means Sound Detection and Ranging.

• Atmospheric monitoring supports climate research, forecasting, environmental assessment and disaster-risk reduction.

Remember: Compare the signals: SODAR uses sound; radar uses radio waves; lidar uses light.

Two semiconductor projects approved

5 May
Source: PIB

The Cabinet approved two Gujarat semiconductor projects with combined investment of about Rs. 3,936 crore.

• Crystal Matrix's Dholera facility covers GaN-based Mini/Micro-LED modules and related fabrication/ATMP capabilities.

• Suchi Semicon's Surat project is an outsourced assembly and test facility for discrete semiconductors.

Remember: Fabrication, assembly and testing are separate steps of the semiconductor value chain.

Rajasthan's first semiconductor plant

15 May | Bhiwadi
Source: PIB

Sahasra Semiconductors' ATMP/OSAT facility and the ELCINA electronics cluster at Salarpur, Bhiwadi, were inaugurated.

• The government described Sahasra's plant as India's first SME-led semiconductor facility.

• ATMP covers assembly, testing, marking and packaging; OSAT refers to outsourced assembly and test.

Remember: This is a packaging/testing milestone, not a claim that every semiconductor-manufacturing step occurs at the site.

Tata Electronics-ASML agreement

16 May
Source: PIB

Tata Electronics and ASML signed an agreement supporting the semiconductor fab in Dholera, Gujarat.

• ASML is based in the Netherlands and supplies high-precision lithography equipment.

• The agreement was signed during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to the Netherlands.

Remember: Lithography transfers fine patterns during chip production; it differs from final packaging and testing.

BIRSA 101: gene-editing initiative

14 May workshop
Source: PIB

A Ministry of Tribal Affairs-CSIR workshop reviewed BIRSA 101, an indigenous CRISPR-based gene-therapy initiative for sickle-cell disease.

• CSIR-IGIB is the core research institution; the programme is named after Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

• The workshop covered clinical-trial infrastructure, regulatory processes and collaborative manufacturing development.

Remember: Sickle-cell disease is inherited. A workshop or technology transfer does not establish general clinical approval.

UMMID network dedicated to the nation

21 May
Source: PIB

The Department of Biotechnology presented the UMMID network for inherited and rare genetic disorders.

• UMMID expands to Unique Methods of Management of Inherited Disorders.

• Its focus includes early diagnosis, intervention and more affordable genetic healthcare.

Remember: Precision medicine considers an individual's biological profile; UMMID's May dedication is distinct from the programme's earlier origins.

IACS marks 150 years

26 May | Kolkata
Source: PIB

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science marked its 150-year legacy, with new research and incubation facilities inaugurated.

• Mahendralal Sircar founded IACS in 1876; C. V. Raman carried out his Nobel-winning work there.

• RETINA is its Research Entrepreneurship for Translation, Innovation and Navigation incubation centre.

Remember: Associate IACS with Kolkata and the Raman effect, which concerns inelastic scattering of light.

ANRF convergence research centres

20 May
Source: PIB

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation selected ten institutions for Convergence Research Centres of Excellence.

• The programme connects science and technology with social sciences and humanities.

• Thematic work includes traditional knowledge, digital humanities and interdisciplinary responses to societal challenges.

Remember: Convergence research combines methods across disciplines; ANRF supports research rather than acting as an examining body.

Artemis III: an Earth-orbit test plan

13 May announcement | clarified 15 May
Source: NASA

NASA outlined preliminary plans for Artemis III as a crewed Earth-orbit test of rendezvous and docking with commercial lunar-lander pathfinders.

• SLS would launch Orion with four astronauts; Blue Origin and SpaceX are the lander partners.

• The May plan positioned Artemis IV as the subsequent crewed lunar-landing mission.

Remember: These were prospective plans in May. Artemis III should not be described here as an already completed Moon landing.

International affairs

Third India-Nordic Summit

19 May | Oslo
Source: Government of Iceland / PIB

India and the five Nordic countries elevated their relationship to a Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership.

• The participants were Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, alongside India.

• Cooperation covered green transition, digitalisation, research, the blue economy and resilient supply chains.

Remember: Previous summits were in Stockholm in 2018 and Copenhagen in 2022.

Open visual explainer

India-Netherlands Strategic Partnership

16 May talks | roadmap published 17 May
Source: PIB

The two countries adopted a Strategic Partnership roadmap for 2026-2030 during talks in The Hague.

• The roadmap covers political engagement, investment, technology, sustainability and people-to-people links.

• A Foreign Ministers' mechanism will review progress and provide strategic guidance.

Remember: Amsterdam is the Netherlands' capital; The Hague is the seat of government and the venue of the talks.

India-Sweden Strategic Partnership

17 May visit | report 18 May
Source: PIB / PIB

India and Sweden elevated ties to a Strategic Partnership and adopted a Joint Action Plan for 2026-2030.

• The framework spans security, the economy, emerging technologies and shared health/environment priorities.

• Crown Princess Victoria conferred the Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross, on Prime Minister Modi in Gothenburg.

Remember: Pair the Swedish honour with Sweden; do not confuse it with Norway's Green Strategic Partnership.

India-Norway Green Strategic Partnership

18 May | Oslo
Source: PIB

India and Norway elevated ties to a Green Strategic Partnership, with attention to sustainability, energy transition and the blue economy.

• The leaders sought to double the value of bilateral trade by 2030.

• Areas reviewed included Arctic research, green shipping, fisheries, space, AI and talent mobility.

Remember: Norway is in EFTA; EFTA and the European Union are separate groupings.

India-Italy Special Strategic Partnership

20 May declaration
Source: PIB

India and Italy elevated relations to a Special Strategic Partnership during the Prime Minister's 19-20 May visit.

• A Foreign Ministers-led mechanism will guide the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029.

• The leaders reiterated an aim of bilateral trade reaching EUR 20 billion by 2029.

Remember: Rome is Italy's capital; the trade figure is a target, not trade already achieved.

India-UAE: energy and defence framework

15 May
Source: PIB

The visit produced a strategic defence framework covering industry, technology, training, interoperability and maritime/cyber security.

• ISPRL and ADNOC agreed to explore crude-storage cooperation, including potential storage of up to 30 million barrels in India.

• Cochin Shipyard and Drydocks World also agreed to cooperate on a ship-repair cluster at Vadinar.

Remember: A framework or potential storage arrangement does not mean every proposed facility is already operating.

Cyprus ties elevated to Strategic Partnership

22 May
Source: PIB

India and Cyprus announced a Strategic Partnership during President Nikos Christodoulides' state visit.

• Outcomes included counter-terrorism, search-and-rescue cooperation and a defence roadmap for 2026-2031.

• Cyprus joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative's Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport pillar.

Remember: Cyprus is an eastern Mediterranean island country; its capital is Nicosia.

Canada-India trade forum launched

29 May statement
Source: PIB

The partners launched the Canada-India Trade and Investment Forum to connect businesses and encourage new commercial partnerships.

• The ministers reaffirmed their intention to advance CEPA talks and conclude negotiations by year-end.

• Priority sectors included clean energy, critical minerals, agri-food, advanced manufacturing and digital technologies.

Remember: CEPA negotiations are distinct from an agreement already signed and in force.

India-Vietnam digital-payments MoU

Signed 5 May | reported 29 May
Source: PIB

RBI and the State Bank of Vietnam signed an MoU on financial innovation and digital payments.

• It provides a framework for information sharing, regulatory coordination and potential joint projects.

• Possible QR-based cross-border merchant-payment connectivity is a central focus.

Remember: The State Bank of Vietnam is Vietnam's central bank; an MoU does not by itself launch universal payment connectivity.

India-IFAD strategy for 2026-2033

12 May
Source: PIB

India and the International Fund for Agricultural Development launched an eight-year Country Strategic Opportunities Programme.

• The priorities are rural resilience and wider use of proven development approaches.

• The strategy covers livelihoods, market opportunities and knowledge sharing, including with the Global South.

Remember: IFAD is the UN's specialised agricultural-development fund; retain COSOP and the 2026-2033 period.

WHO declares Ebola PHEIC

17 May
Source: WHO

WHO determined that the Bundibugyo-virus Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda was a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

• The decision was made under the International Health Regulations framework.

• WHO explicitly stated that the event did not meet the criteria for a pandemic emergency.

Remember: PHEIC and pandemic emergency are different designations. Use the formal determination date, 17 May, rather than the outbreak-declaration date.

UN announces award for Major Abhilasha Barak

28 May announcement
Source: United Nations

The UN announced Major Abhilasha Barak of India as recipient of its Military Gender Advocate Award.

• Germany's Inspector Stephanie Königs was named Woman Police Officer of the Year.

• The New York presentation ceremony was scheduled for 5 June; the international observance remains 29 May.

Remember: Keep the May announcement and June presentation separate. The 2026 Peacekeepers Day theme is Invest in Peace.

National affairs & economy

ECLGS 5.0 approved

5 May
Source: PIB

The Cabinet approved Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0 to support eligible businesses facing liquidity pressures from the West Asia situation.

• Guarantee coverage is 100% for MSMEs and 90% for non-MSMEs and airlines, through NCGTC.

• The targeted additional credit flow is Rs. 2.55 lakh crore, including Rs. 5,000 crore for airlines.

Remember: A credit guarantee protects lenders against specified defaults; it is not an unconditional cash grant to every firm.

Mission for Cotton Productivity

5 May
Source: PIB

A Rs. 5,659.22 crore mission was approved for 2026-27 to 2030-31 to improve cotton yield, quality and competitiveness.

• Priorities include climate-resilient seeds, improved cultivation, testing infrastructure and cleaner processing.

• Kasturi Cotton Bharat supports branding and traceability.

Remember: Cotton is a fibre crop; extra-long-staple cotton refers to fibre length, not the height of a plant.

Kharif MSPs for 2026-27

13 May
Source: PIB

The CCEA approved higher Minimum Support Prices for fourteen kharif crops for the 2026-27 marketing season.

• Common paddy MSP is Rs. 2,441 per quintal; Grade A is Rs. 2,461.

• Sunflower seed had the largest absolute increase, Rs. 622 per quintal.

Remember: MSP is crop-specific. The largest rupee increase is different from the highest percentage margin over cost.

Sugarcane FRP: Rs. 365 per quintal

5 May
Source: PIB

The Fair and Remunerative Price for the 2026-27 sugar season was set at Rs. 365 per quintal at 10.25% basic recovery.

• The price changes by Rs. 3.56 per quintal for each 0.1 percentage-point change in recovery, subject to the stated floor.

• The new season begins on 1 October 2026.

Remember: Sugarcane FRP is linked to sugar recovery; distinguish it from the kharif MSP schedule.

SARTHAK-PDS umbrella scheme

27 May
Source: PIB

The CCEA approved continuation and integration of foodgrain-transport/dealer-margin assistance and SMART PDS under SARTHAK-PDS.

• The central-share outlay is Rs. 25,530 crore for the five-year period ending 31 March 2031.

• Technology-enabled monitoring and interoperable systems aim to improve last-mile delivery under NFSA.

Remember: PDS = Public Distribution System; NFSA = National Food Security Act, 2013.

Coal/lignite gasification support

13 May
Source: PIB

The Cabinet approved a Rs. 37,500 crore scheme for new surface coal and lignite gasification projects.

• The scheme targets roughly 75 million tonnes of feedstock gasification, contributing to the national 100 MT by 2030 goal.

• Syngas can become feedstock for products such as fertiliser inputs, methanol and synthetic natural gas.

Remember: Gasification converts coal into gas; it is not the same as combustion and is not automatically carbon-neutral.

Supreme Court judge-strength proposal

5 May Cabinet decision
Source: PIB

The Cabinet approved introducing a Bill to increase Supreme Court judges from 33 to 37, excluding the Chief Justice of India.

- The proposal would amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.
- Including the CJI, the proposed total is 38.

Remember: This May item records Cabinet approval to introduce legislation, rather than assuming that enactment and appointments were already complete.

Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool launched

12 May
Source: PIB

The Department of Financial Services launched a USD 1.5 billion pool to support continuity of maritime insurance amid Middle East tensions.

- The sovereign guarantee is USD 1.4 billion, reported as Rs. 12,980 crore.
- Cover includes hull/machinery, cargo, protection and indemnity, and war risks for eligible voyages/vessels.

Remember: The total pool and government-guarantee amounts differ; do not interchange them.

Unclaimed financial assets: common portal

29 May
Source: PIB

DFS launched a common landing portal to help citizens find search facilities for unclaimed financial assets.

- It brings together access to bank deposits, insurance claims, shares, dividends and mutual-fund searches.
- PSB Alliance collaborated in developing the platform.

Remember: The portal helps trace assets; entitlement and claim settlement remain subject to the relevant institution's process.

Public-sector banks report record profits

12 May | FY 2025-26 results
Source: PIB

Public-sector banks reported aggregate net profit of Rs. 1.98 lakh crore for 2025-26.

- Gross and net NPA ratios were 1.93% and 0.39% respectively at 31 March 2026.
- Aggregate business reached Rs. 283.3 lakh crore.

Remember: Annual bank results published in May are not profits earned during May alone.

Retail inflation: April data

12 May release
Source: PIB

Provisional all-India CPI inflation for April was 3.48% year-on-year on the new 2024=100 base.

- Food inflation measured by CFPI was 4.20%.
- Rural and urban CPI inflation were 3.74% and 3.16% respectively.

Remember: The data month is April; the release month is May. CPI inflation measures price changes, not absolute price levels.

Open visual explainer

Wholesale inflation: April data

14 May release
Source: PIB

WPI inflation was 8.30% year-on-year in April in the release using the 2011-12 base.

- Fuel and power inflation was 24.71%; manufactured products recorded 4.62%.
- Mineral oils, crude petroleum/natural gas and basic metals contributed to the increase.

Remember: This is the May-vintage WPI release. Do not mix it with later rebased or revised figures.

Open visual explainer

PLFS: April employment indicators

15 May release
Source: PIB

For people aged fifteen and above, the Current Weekly Status unemployment rate was 5.2% in April.

- Labour Force Participation Rate was 55.0%; Worker Population Ratio was 52.2%.
- Urban unemployment eased to 6.6%; urban female unemployment was 8.5%.

Remember: UR uses the labour force as denominator; LFPR and WPR use the population in the relevant age group.

IIP base-year revision report

25 May
Source: PIB

MoSPI released the Technical Advisory Committee report for rebasing the Index of Industrial Production from 2011-12 to 2022-23.

• The committee was chaired by Dr Mridul K. Saggar.

• Expanded coverage includes minor/rare-earth minerals, gas supply, water supply, sewerage and waste management.

Remember: A revised base year refreshes the basket and weights; the report's release is distinct from the later release of the new index series.

Record foodgrain advance estimate

27 May
Source: PIB

The third advance estimate put India's 2025-26 foodgrain production at 376.563 million tonnes.

• Rice was estimated at 154.024 MT and wheat at 120.657 MT.

• Maize output was estimated at 55.093 MT.

Remember: Advance estimates can change; record the crop year and estimate stage alongside the number.

BHAVYA industrial-parks guidelines

23 May
Source: PIB

DPIIT issued operational guidelines for the BHAVYA scheme to develop investment-ready industrial infrastructure.

• It envisages one hundred parks over 2026-27 to 2031-32, with an outlay of about Rs. 33,660 crore.

• Up to fifty parks are planned for the first phase through competitive selection.

Remember: Plug-and-play infrastructure concerns site readiness, utilities and connectivity; these are planned parks, not one hundred completed sites.

Vadinar ship-repair facility approved

5 May
Source: PIB

A Rs. 1,570 crore brownfield ship-repair facility was approved at Vadinar, Gujarat.

• Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard will implement it jointly.

• The plan includes two floating dry docks and capability to repair vessels up to 300 metres long.

Remember: Brownfield means developing an existing site; Vadinar is on India's western coast.

Barrier-less tolling begins

1 May implementation | reported 2 May
Source: PIB

NHAI launched its first Multi-Lane Free Flow tolling system at Chorayasi on NH-48 in Gujarat.

• The system combines Automatic Number Plate Recognition with FASTag electronic toll collection.

• Vehicles can pass through without stopping at a physical barrier.

Remember: Barrier-less does not mean toll-free; the change concerns collection and traffic flow.

Hydrogen train approved for pilot route

27 May
Source: PIB

Indian Railways approved a ten-car hydrogen fuel-cell trainset for the Jind-Sonipat section in Haryana.

• The 1,200 kW propulsion system is approved for operation at a maximum of 75 km/h.

• A hydrogen storage/refuelling facility was set up at Jind.

Remember: The release said the service was set to start. A fuel cell's water-vapour exhaust does not by itself establish low emissions across hydrogen production.

Open visual explainer

JANANI and Swasth Bharat platforms

6-7 May reports
Source: PIB / PIB

The Health Ministry reported new digital tools for continuity and integration of public healthcare.

• JANANI, Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care, provides longitudinal maternal/child-health records.

• Swasth Bharat is an aggregator designed to connect existing programme systems through APIs.

Remember: JANANI concerns the care journey; Swasth Bharat concerns interoperability across programme systems.

ABHA-linked records cross 100 crore

22 May
Source: PIB

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission reported more than one billion linked health records.

• NHA implements ABDM; ABHA supplies a digital health identity for linking and accessing records.

• The architecture supports consent-based information exchange among registered providers.

Remember: One person can have multiple records. One hundred crore linked records does not mean one hundred crore unique people.

Samadhan Didi voice chatbot

30 May
Source: PIB

DARPG launched an AI-enabled voice chatbot for CPGRAMS in collaboration with BHASHINI.

• Citizens can describe grievances in their own language and receive support in routing them to the relevant department.

• The initiative aims to make public-grievance access more inclusive.

Remember: A chatbot assists filing and routing; it does not guarantee that every grievance is resolved automatically.

PM-AJAY portal and mobile app

26 May
Source: PIB

The Social Justice Ministry launched digital tools for Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana.

• They support field surveys, village plans, monitoring and milestone-linked fund flow.

• The programme covers Adarsh Gram, grants-in-aid and hostel components.

Remember: PM-AJAY focuses on Scheduled Caste socio-economic development; distinguish it from similarly named housing programmes.

Census 2027 houselisting operations

1 and 17 May phases
Source: PIB / PIB

Houselisting and Housing Census fieldwork began in additional states and areas during May.

• The 1 May phase included Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

• A later phase covered Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and the MCD area of Delhi.

Remember: Houselisting is the first phase of the Census; it is different from population enumeration.

New chief ministers: May handovers

9-18 May reports
Source: PIB / PIB / PIB

Suvendu Adhikari took office as West Bengal Chief Minister, C. Joseph Vijay as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, and V. D. Satheesan as Keralam Chief Minister.

• The Prime Minister's congratulatory releases were dated 9, 10 and 18 May respectively.

• These are state-government leadership changes following Assembly elections.

Remember: Pair each leader with the correct state; Chief Minister and Governor are different constitutional posts.

National Technology Day

11 May event
Source: ISRO

National Technology Day commemorated India's 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests and highlighted indigenous technological capabilities.

• ISRO displayed technologies alongside other science and technology departments at the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi.

• The event links strategic autonomy with research, industry and domestic innovation.

Remember: Remember 11 May for National Technology Day; National Science Day is observed on 28 February.

Environment & climate

India's first integrated CCUS field laboratory

11 May | IIT Bombay
Source: PIB

IIT Bombay inaugurated an end-to-end pilot platform for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage.

• The indigenous capture/utilisation pilot has capacity up to three tonnes per day.

• Scientific drilling in Deccan Traps basalt supports studies of geological storage and mineral trapping.

Remember: Capture removes carbon dioxide from a stream; utilisation makes products; storage aims at durable isolation.

Open visual explainer



CCUS pilot inauguration at IIT Bombay. Education Ministry / PIB.

Biodiversity Day: local action

22 May | Bhopal
Source: PIB

India's national observance at IIFM highlighted community-led conservation under the theme Acting Locally for Global Impact.

• Biodiversity Management Committees and access-and-benefit-sharing were key governance links.

• Project Cheetah was discussed as part of habitat conservation and scientific wildlife management.

Remember: Biological diversity covers genetic, species and ecosystem diversity; conservation needs local participation.

Access and benefit sharing: Rs. 21.26 crore

30 May | FY 2025-26 report
Source: PIB

The National Biodiversity Authority reported Rs. 21.26 crore realised through its ABS mechanism during 2025-26.

• The seed sector contributed Rs. 11.75 crore and AYUSH Rs. 5.56 crore.

• ABS links utilisation of biological resources and associated knowledge with fair sharing of benefits.

Remember: ABS is a mechanism under biodiversity law, distinct from ordinary corporate social responsibility spending.

IBCA summit rescheduled

21 May announcement
Source: PIB

The first International Big Cat Alliance summit, originally scheduled for 1 June in New Delhi, was deferred.

• It had been planned alongside the fourth India-Africa Forum Summit, which was also postponed.

• Fresh dates were to be announced after consultation with partners.

Remember: Do not list the originally scheduled June summit as an event that actually took place.

India-EU EV-battery recycling call

Launched 5 May | reported 6 May
Source: PIB

A coordinated call under the Trade and Technology Council's Working Group 2 supports battery recycling and critical-material recovery.

• The combined funding pool is EUR 15.2 million, approximately Rs. 169 crore.

• Horizon Europe funds the EU side; India's Ministry of Heavy Industries supports the Indian component.

Remember: Recycling can recover lithium, graphite and cobalt; recovery, second-life use and safe collection serve different purposes.

Plastic waste becomes road geocells

6 May report
Source: PIB

CSIR-CRRI and BPCL received record recognition for a roadblock section using technical-textile geocells made from end-of-life plastic.

- The collaboration turns difficult-to-manage plastic into value-added infrastructure material.
- Performance evaluation checks structural integrity, durability and field suitability.

Remember: This is a geocell application; it should not be described simply as adding plastic to every asphalt road.

IMD updates monsoon forecast

29 May
Source: PIB

IMD forecast June-September 2026 rainfall at 90% of the Long Period Average, with model error of plus/minus four percentage points.

- The LPA for 1971-2020 is 87 cm; the forecast assigned 84% combined probability to below-normal or deficient rainfall.
- El Nino conditions were expected to develop during the southwest monsoon, with neutral IOD conditions likely to continue.

Remember: This is a probabilistic forecast issued in May, not measured rainfall for the completed season.

Sport, culture & awards

Thomas and Uber Cup champions

3 May finals | Horsens, Denmark
Source: Badminton Europe

China won the men's Thomas Cup and the Republic of Korea won the women's Uber Cup.

- China defeated France 3-1 in the Thomas Cup final.
- Korea defeated China 3-1 in the Uber Cup final.

Remember: Both are badminton team championships; Thomas = men and Uber = women.

Esha Singh's world-record gold

27 May | Munich
Source: ISSF

Esha Singh won women's 25 m pistol gold at the ISSF World Cup with 43 hits.

- ISSF recorded both senior and junior world records for the performance.
- Germany's Doreen Vennekamp took silver; Bulgaria's Miroslava Mincheva won bronze.

Remember: This is the 25 m pistol event, distinct from 10 m air pistol and mixed-team competitions.

Munich mixed-team silver for India

30 May
Source: ISSF

Manu Bhaker and Samrat Rana won silver in the 10 m air pistol mixed-team final at the Munich World Cup.

- Their 483.6 points were 0.3 behind China's Yao Qianxun and Hu Kai.
- China topped the event's overall medal table.

Remember: World Cup events, World Championships and Olympic medals are different competition categories.

Almaty trap mixed-team bronze

10 May
Source: ISSF

Vivaan Kapoor and Neeru won bronze for India in the trap mixed-team event at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Almaty.

- Chinese Taipei's Yang Kun-Pi and Liu Wan-Yu won gold with a world-record 36 hits.
- Italy's Silvana Maria Stanco and Mauro De Filippis took silver.

Remember: Trap is a shotgun discipline; Almaty is in Kazakhstan.

U23 Asian wrestling: team titles

28 May report | Da Nang, Vietnam
Source: PIB

India won the men's freestyle and women's team titles at the U23 Asian Championships.

- The men's freestyle team won nine medals including four gold; the women won ten including six gold.
- Greco-Roman wrestlers won eight medals, taking the reported three-style total to twenty-seven.

Remember: Keep the U23 age category distinct from the senior Asian Wrestling Championships.

Taipei Capital Cup skills awards

26-28 May | report 29 May
Source: PIB

India earned two silver medals and three merit awards at the international skills competition.

- Muskan won silver in Painting and Decorating; Arjun Sumathi Vijayabashkar won silver in Mobile Applications Development.
- Merit awards covered software applications, digital construction and automobile technology.

Remember: This is a skills competition, not a sporting medal table.

Cannes: Fjord wins Palme d'Or

23 May | seventy-ninth edition
Source: Festival de Cannes

Fjord, directed by Cristian Mungiu, won the Palme d'Or at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival.

- Andrey Zvyagintsev's Minotaur won the Grand Prix.
- Marie-Clementine Dusabejambo's Ben'Imana received the Camera d'Or.

Remember: The Palme d'Or is Cannes' top competition prize; the Camera d'Or recognises a first feature.

Padma Awards investiture

25 May
Source: PIB

President Droupadi Murmu presented the 2026 Padma awards at Civil Investiture Ceremony-I in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

• The ceremony covered Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

• These civilian honours recognise distinguished achievement and service in different fields.

Remember: The May presentation is distinct from the earlier announcement of the annual award list.

Florence Nightingale Awards

12 May
Source: PIB

The President honoured fifteen nursing professionals with the 2026 National Florence Nightingale Awards.

• The presentation took place at Rashtrapati Bhavan on International Nurses Day.

• The awards recognise nursing service and contribution to public health.

Remember: Nightingale honours concern nursing; they are different from medical research or gallantry awards.



National Florence Nightingale Awards ceremony. Health Ministry / PIB.

Three temple bronzes return from the US

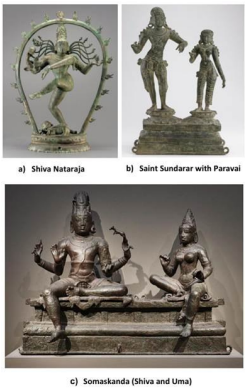
13 May report
Source: PIB

The Culture Ministry reported repatriation of three historic bronzes from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art.

• They include a Chola Nataraja, a twelfth-century Somaskanda and a Vijayanagara-period Sundarar with Paravai.

• ASI used provenance research and historical temple photographs to trace the works to Tamil Nadu.

Remember: Nataraja = dancing Shiva; Somaskanda depicts Shiva with Uma and Skanda.



Repatriated temple bronzes. Ministry of Culture / PIB.

Buddhist relic exposition in Mongolia

31 May opening
Source: PIB

Relics of Arhat Sariputra and Arhat Mahamoggallana were enshrined at Gandantegchenling Monastery in Ulaanbaatar.

• The exposition was announced for 31 May to 10 June.

• The relics are associated with Buddha's two chief disciples and India-Mongolia cultural ties.

Remember: These are disciples' relics; do not identify them as relics of the Buddha himself.

New cultural-institution appointments

1-6 May
Source: PIB / PIB / PIB

Prasoon Joshi was appointed Chairman of Prasar Bharati and Shashi Shekhar Vempati Chairperson of the CBFC.

• Ashutosh Gowariker was appointed Festival Director for the fifty-seventh International Film Festival of India.

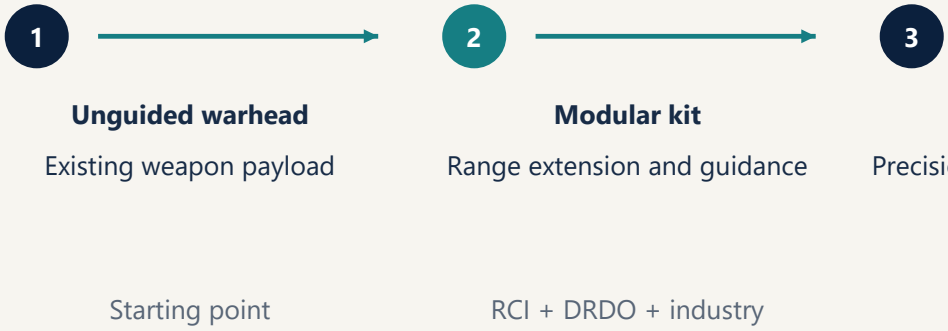
• The appointments concern public broadcasting, film certification and film-festival leadership respectively.

Remember: Prasar Bharati, CBFC and IFFI have different functions; learn the name-institution pairings.

Visual explainers

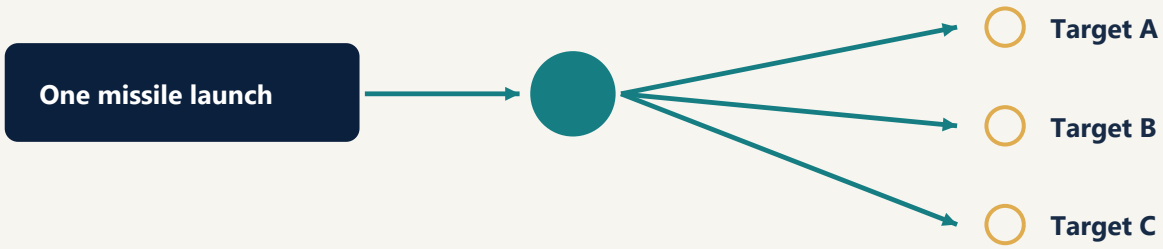
Build the concept behind the news. Each panel links back to its story.

TARA: ADD A KIT, GAIN PRECISION



Return to TARA: precision from a glide kit

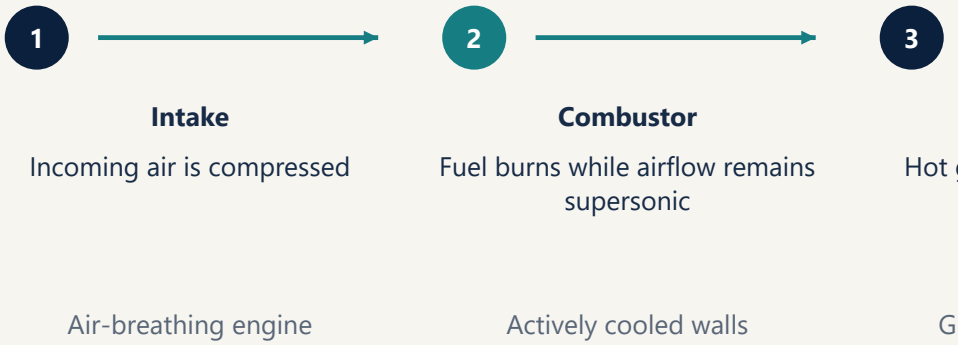
MIRV: ONE LAUNCH, INDEPENDENT PAYLOAD TARGETING



Concept only; not to scale. Payload count shown is illustrative, not a disclosed test count.

Return to Advanced Agni demonstrates MIRV capability

SCRAMJET: COMBUSTION IN A SUPERSONIC AIRFLOW



Return to Scramjet combustor runs for over 1,200 seconds

MISSION DRISHTI: COMPLEMENTARY VIEWS OF EARTH

OPTICAL	SYNTHETIC-APERTURE RADAR
Reflected-light observations reveal visible features and spectral information. Clouds and lighting can limit observations.	Active microwave sensing can observe without sunlight and through cloud cover, providing complementary surface information.

OptoSAR combines the two sensing approaches; this is a conceptual comparison.

Return to GalaxEye launches Mission Drishti

CLEAR: REPEAT THE CYCLE TO MAP MORE PROTEINS

1	2	3
Label + image	**Erase signal**	**Label again**
Antibodies mark selected proteins	365 nm light cleaves the reporter	Image another set in the same window
One fluorescent marker	Sample remains available	Combine the protein maps

Return to CLEAR: label, image, erase, repeat

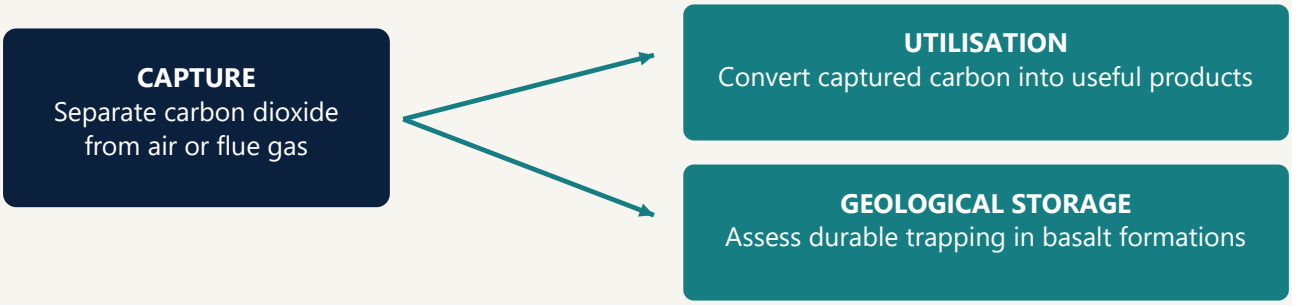
FIVE NORDIC COUNTRIES | THIRD SUMMIT: OSLO

Denmark	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Sweden
Copenhagen	Helsinki	Reykjavik	Oslo	Stockholm

Nordic group and EFTA have different memberships; do not interchange them.

Return to Third India-Nordic Summit

CCUS: TWO PATHWAYS AFTER CARBON CAPTURE



Conceptual pathways at IIT Bombay; utilisation and storage need not occur in sequence.

Return to India's first integrated CCUS field laboratory

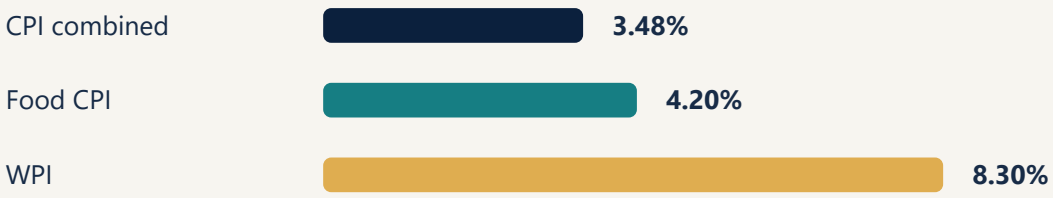
HYDROGEN TRAIN: CHEMICAL ENERGY TO MOTION



1	2	3
Stored hydrogen	**Fuel-cell system**	**Electric traction**
Refuelling facility at Jind	Hydrogen + oxygen generate electricity	Motors drive the ten-car trainset
Fuel on board	Water vapour at point of use	Pilot: Jind-Sonipat

Return to Hydrogen train approved for pilot route

APRIL INFLATION | MAY 2026 RELEASES



Year-on-year; different baskets. CPI base: 2024. WPI base in this release: 2011-12.

Return to Retail inflation: April data

Defence: names, places and roles

Keep the test date, development stage and operational role together.

System / platform	May milestone	Organisation / place
TARA	Maiden glide-kit flight trial | 7 May	RCI / DRDO + IAF | off Odisha
Advanced Agni + MIRV	Multiple independently targeted payloads | 8 May	DRDO | APJ Abdul Kalam Island
Scramjet combustor	Ground test exceeding 1,200 s | 9 May	DRDL | Hyderabad
ULPGM-V3	Air-to-ground + air-to-air trials completed	RCI | near Kurnool
Agni-1	Operational test | 22 May	Strategic Forces Command | Chandipur
ICGS Achal	Commissioned | 9 May	Coast Guard | Goa Shipyard
Sanghmitra	NGOPV launched | 20 May	Indian Navy programme | GRSE Kolkata

Leadership and exercises

Name / exercise	Match it with
General NS Raja Subramani	Third CDS; assumed charge 31 May
Admiral Krishna Swaminathan	Twenty-seventh Navy Chief; 31 May
Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar	Forty-eighth Vice Chief of Naval Staff; 29 May
Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan	Western Naval Command; 30 May
CINBAX-II	India-Cambodia | Kampong Speu | 4-17 May
PRAGATI	Multilateral Army exercise | Umroi, Meghalaya | 20-30 May

Reopen the corresponding news stories for official source links.

Economy and policy: key numbers

Identify whether the number is an approved outlay, a target, an estimate or a measured result.

Figure	Meaning / reference period
Rs. 2.55 lakh crore	ECLGS 5.0 target additional credit flow
Rs. 5,659.22 crore	Cotton Productivity Mission outlay | 2026-27 to 2030-31
Rs. 25,530 crore	SARTHAK-PDS central share | five years to March 2031
Rs. 37,500 crore	Coal/lignite gasification scheme outlay
Rs. 33,660 crore	BHAVYA industrial-parks scheme outlay
USD 1.5 bn / USD 1.4 bn	Maritime insurance pool / sovereign guarantee
Rs. 1.98 lakh crore	PSB aggregate net profit | FY 2025-26
376.563 MT	Foodgrains | 2025-26 third advance estimate
3.48% / 4.20% / 8.30%	April CPI / food CPI / WPI | May releases
5.2% / 55.0% / 52.2%	April UR / LFPR / WPR | age 15+, CWS
Rs. 2,441 per quintal	Common paddy MSP | 2026-27 marketing season
Rs. 365 per quintal	Sugarcane FRP | 10.25% recovery | 2026-27

Partnerships: keep the labels distinct

Partner	May outcome
Five Nordic countries	Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership
Netherlands / Sweden	Strategic Partnerships; roadmaps for 2026-2030
Norway	Green Strategic Partnership
Italy	Special Strategic Partnership
Cyprus	Strategic Partnership; defence roadmap 2026-2031

Sports and culture: recall grid

Separate the sport, age group and competition category before remembering a result.

Event / honour	Result / recipient
Thomas Cup | men's badminton	China defeated France 3-1
Uber Cup | women's badminton	Republic of Korea defeated China 3-1
Munich | women's 25 m pistol	Esha Singh | gold | 43 hits | world record
Munich | 10 m air pistol mixed team	Manu Bhaker + Samrat Rana | silver
Almaty | trap mixed team	Vivaan Kapoor + Neeru | bronze
U23 Asian wrestling | Da Nang	Freestyle: 9 medals / 4 gold; women: 10 / 6; Greco-Roman: 8
Taipei Capital Cup | skills	Muskan + Arjun Sumathi Vijayabashkar | silver medals
Cannes Palme d'Or	Fjord | Cristian Mungiu
Cannes Grand Prix	Minotaur | Andrey Zvyagintsev
Cannes Camera d'Or	Ben'Imana | Marie-Clementine Dusabejambo
Florence Nightingale Awards	Fifteen nursing professionals honoured on 12 May
Royal Order of the Polar Star	Sweden | conferred on Prime Minister Modi
UN Military Gender Advocate Award	Major Abhilasha Barak | announced in May

Institutions and technology

Name	Exam pairing
JNCASR | Bengaluru	CLEAR protein-imaging platform
CSIR-AMPRI | Bhopal	SODAR atmospheric monitoring
CSIR-IGIB | New Delhi	BIRSA 101 sickle-cell gene-therapy initiative
IACS | Kolkata	Founded 1876; Raman effect; 150-year celebrations
IIT Bombay	Integrated CCUS field laboratory
Sahasra | Bhiwadi	Rajasthan semiconductor ATMP/OSAT plant

May calendar

Recurring observances and the exam connections to revise. Select an observance to open its source.

Date	Observance	Exam connection
1 May	International Workers' Day	Labour rights and social protection
3 May	World Press Freedom Day	Freedom of expression and journalism
8 May	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	Humanitarian principles and Henry Dunant
11 May	National Technology Day	Pokhran tests of 1998; indigenous technology
12 May	International Nurses Day	Birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale
15 May	International Day of Families	Family well-being and inclusive development
16 May	Sikkim Statehood Day	Sikkim became India's twenty-second state in 1975
17 May	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Connectivity, digital inclusion and the ITU
18 May	International Museum Day	Heritage stewardship and public access
20 May	World Bee Day	Pollinators, food systems and biodiversity
21 May	International Tea Day	Sustainable production and rural livelihoods
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity	2026: Acting Locally for Global Impact
29 May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	2026: Invest in Peace; UNTSO began in 1948
31 May	World No Tobacco Day	2026: Unmasking the appeal - countering nicotine and tobacco addiction

REMEMBER THE TIMELINE

Major Abhilasha Barak's award was announced in May; the UN Headquarters presentation was scheduled for June. The IBCA summit was postponed. IMD's 90% of LPA figure was a forecast, not the final seasonal rainfall.