



CadetClub AFCAT Current Affairs

January 2026 to June 2026

AFCAT-focused current affairs | Verified, condensed and connected to static GK

JANUARY 2026



Must-Know Dossiers: January 2026

01. 77th Republic Day with EU chief guests

European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen were chief guests at India's 77th Republic Day.

- It was the first time leaders of the European Union attended India's Republic Day as chief guests.
- The parade highlighted 150 years of Vande Mataram and displayed India's military and cultural heritage.

EXAM LENS Know the two different EU offices: European Council and European Commission.

02. Padma Awards 2026 announced

The President approved 131 Padma Awards: 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri.

- The list included 19 women, six foreign/NRI/PIO/OCI awardees and 16 posthumous awards.
- Padma awards are announced on Republic Day eve and presented later at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

EXAM LENS Order: Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri.

03. Ashoka Chakra for Shubhanshu Shukla

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla received the Ashoka Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award.

- The award recognised his exceptional courage and service connected with India's human-spaceflight achievement.
- The President conferred it during the Republic Day ceremony at Kartavya Path.

EXAM LENS Ashoka Chakra is the highest peacetime gallantry award; Param Vir Chakra is the wartime equivalent.

04. India-EU FTA negotiations concluded

India and the European Union announced conclusion of Free Trade Agreement negotiations at the 16th India-EU Summit.

- The package included a Comprehensive Strategic Agenda, Security and Defence Partnership and mobility cooperation.
- The trade agreement promised preferential access for more than 99% of Indian exports by trade value while protecting sensitive agriculture and dairy sectors.

EXAM LENS Conclusion of negotiations is not the same as entry into force; signing and ratification follow.

05. Wings India 2026 at Hyderabad

Begumpet Airport hosted Wings India 2026, described as Asia's largest civil aviation event.

- The theme covered design, deployment, manufacturing, maintenance, inclusion, innovation, safety and sustainability.
- The programme included aircraft displays, conferences, business meetings, an aviation job fair and awards.

EXAM LENS Wings India venue: Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.

06. Sixth Khelo India Winter Games

Leh hosted the ice-sports leg of the sixth Khelo India Winter Games.

- Competition included ice hockey, skating and the newly added Olympic discipline of figure skating.
- Events were held at NDS Stadium, the Army rink and frozen Gupukh Pond.

EXAM LENS Edition sixth; host Leh, Ladakh; figure skating added.

07. Khelo India Beach Games in Diu

Diu hosted the 2026 Khelo India Beach Games, the first Khelo India event of the year.

- The programme promoted competitive beach sports and coastal sporting infrastructure.
- Karnataka topped the medal standings.

EXAM LENS Host Diu; overall leader Karnataka.

08. National Startup Day

India observed National Startup Day to mark the Startup India initiative launched in 2016.

- The observance was announced in 2022 to recognise entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Startup India is coordinated by DPIIT under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

EXAM LENS National Startup Day: 16 January; Startup India launch year: 2016.

09. 16th National Voters' Day

The Election Commission observed National Voters' Day on its foundation date.

- The Election Commission of India was established on 25 January 1950 under Article 324.
- The observance encourages enrolment, informed participation and ethical voting.

EXAM LENS ECI - Article 324 - established 25 January 1950.

10. Exercise Desert Cyclone-II

India and the United Arab Emirates conducted the second edition of their bilateral Army exercise in the desert environment.

- Training focused on sub-conventional operations, urban combat and interoperability.
- The exercise complements growing India-UAE strategic and defence cooperation.

EXAM LENS Desert Cyclone pairs India with the UAE.

11. MPATGM top-attack trial

DRDO successfully flight-tested the third-generation Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile against a moving target at KK Ranges, Ahilya Nagar.

- The fire-and-forget missile uses an imaging-infrared seeker and a tandem warhead for modern main battle tanks.
- Its top-attack profile aims at the comparatively less-protected upper surfaces of an armoured vehicle.

EXAM LENS MPATGM = man-portable anti-tank guided missile; trial location Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra.

12. Henley Passport Index 2026

Singapore topped the Henley Passport Index 2026; India was placed 80th with access to 55 destinations.

- The index ranks passports by the number of destinations accessible without obtaining a prior visa.
- It is based on International Air Transport Association travel data.

EXAM LENS Top passport Singapore; India rank 80 in the January 2026 edition.

13. 16th ADMM-Plus counter-terrorism working group

India hosted the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and a planning conference in New Delhi.

- India and Malaysia co-chaired the 2024-27 working-group cycle.
- ADMM-Plus connects ASEAN defence ministers with dialogue partners for practical security cooperation.

EXAM LENS India and Malaysia co-chair the counter-terrorism EWG; meeting venue New Delhi.

14. PSLV-C62 mission encounters anomaly

ISRO's PSLV-C62 mission carrying the EOS-N1 Earth-observation satellite encountered an anomaly during flight and did not achieve the planned orbit.

- The mission used the PSLV-DL configuration from Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
- ISRO initiated a detailed analysis, illustrating why launch outcomes and mission objectives must be distinguished.

EXAM LENS Mission pairing: PSLV-C62 and EOS-N1; the planned orbit was not achieved.

15. World Economic Forum annual meeting 2026

Global leaders met at Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, under the theme 'A Spirit of Dialogue'.

- The agenda covered economic fragmentation, technology, artificial intelligence, climate and resilient growth.
- The World Economic Forum is headquartered in Cologny near Geneva, Switzerland.

EXAM LENS WEF 2026: Davos; theme A Spirit of Dialogue.

16. Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026

The second Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue was held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi around National Youth Day.

- The programme connected selected young participants with national leaders through thematic presentations and competitions.
- National Youth Day on 12 January marks Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary.

EXAM LENS National Youth Day: 12 January; venue Bharat Mandapam.

Rapid Revision

1. 77th Republic Day with EU chief guests | European Council President: **Antonio Costa**; European Commission President: **Ursula von der Leyen**
2. Padma Awards 2026 announced | total awards: **131**; Padma Vibhushan count: **5**
3. Ashoka Chakra for Shubhanshu Shukla | recipient: **Shubhanshu Shukla**; award: **Ashoka Chakra**
4. India-EU FTA negotiations concluded | summit edition: **16th**; partner bloc: **European Union**
5. Wings India 2026 at Hyderabad | host city: **Hyderabad**; airport: **Begumpet Airport**
6. Sixth Khelo India Winter Games | host: **Leh**; new discipline: **figure skating**
7. Khelo India Beach Games in Diu | host: **Diu**; medal-table leader: **Karnataka**
8. National Startup Day | date: **16 January**; nodal department: **DPIIT**
9. 16th National Voters' Day | constitutional article: **Article 324**; foundation date: **25 January 1950**
10. Exercise Desert Cyclone-II | partner country: **United Arab Emirates**; edition: **2nd**
11. MPATGM top-attack trial | trial location: **Ahilya Nagar**; guidance: **imaging-infrared seeker**
12. Henley Passport Index 2026 | top country: **Singapore**; India rank: **80th**
13. 16th ADMM-Plus counter-terrorism working group | co-chair: **Malaysia**; venue: **New Delhi**
14. PSLV-C62 mission encounters anomaly | launch vehicle: **PSLV-C62**; primary payload: **EOS-N1**
15. World Economic Forum annual meeting 2026 | venue: **Davos**; theme: **A Spirit of Dialogue**
16. Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026 | observance: **National Youth Day**; venue: **Bharat Mandapam**

FEBRUARY 2026



Must-Know Dossiers: February 2026

01. Union Budget 2026-27

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2026-27 in Parliament.

- The Budget continued emphasis on infrastructure, manufacturing, technology, employment and fiscal consolidation.
- Bharat-VISTAAR, a multilingual AI-based agriculture support tool, was among the technology-oriented announcements.

EXAM LENS Budget is presented under Article 112 as the Annual Financial Statement.

02. 16th Finance Commission recommendations

The 16th Finance Commission retained states' share in the divisible tax pool at 41% for 2026-27 to 2030-31.

- It introduced state GDP contribution as a factor in horizontal devolution and recommended no revenue-deficit grants.
- The Finance Commission is constituted under Article 280.

EXAM LENS 16th Finance Commission period: 2026-31; vertical devolution: 41%.

03. India AI Impact Summit 2026

New Delhi hosted the India AI Impact Summit to advance responsible, inclusive and development-oriented artificial intelligence.

- The summit brought governments, international organisations, industry, researchers and civil society together.
- Its focus included safety, access to compute and data, skills, public-interest applications and international cooperation.

EXAM LENS Host city New Delhi; organiser ecosystem led by MeitY and IndiaAI.

04. CPI base year revised to 2024

MoSPI released a new Consumer Price Index series with 2024 as the base year.

- The series uses updated household-consumption weights and modern data collection, including computer-assisted interviews.
- CPI is compiled by NSO under MoSPI and is the inflation measure targeted by RBI.

EXAM LENS CPI base: 2024=100; GDP base: 2022-23.

05. GDP base year revised to 2022-23

MoSPI released the new National Accounts series with 2022-23 as the GDP base year.

- The revision replaced the 2011-12 base and incorporated new data sources and classifications.
- Real GDP uses constant prices; nominal GDP uses current prices.

EXAM LENS Do not interchange the new base years: GDP 2022-23; CPI 2024.

06. Exercise Vayushakti-26

The Indian Air Force demonstrated integrated combat and support capabilities at the Pokhran range.

- Fighters, transports, helicopters, remotely piloted systems and air-defence assets participated.
- The demonstration covered precision strike, special operations, combat support and humanitarian-response roles.

EXAM LENS Vayushakti is the IAF firepower demonstration at Pokhran.

07. Dharma Guardian 2026

India and Japan conducted the seventh edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand.

- The bilateral Army exercise focused on counter-terrorism operations and interoperability.
- Japan's participating service was the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.

EXAM LENS Dharma Guardian - India-Japan - Army.

08. Vajra Prahar 2026

Indian and United States special forces conducted the 16th Exercise Vajra Prahar at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

- The exercise trains joint special operations, mission planning and tactical interoperability.
- It is distinct from Yudh Abhyas, the broader India-US Army exercise.

EXAM LENS Vajra Prahar - India-US special forces; 2026 venue Bakloh.

09. Third Future Warfare Course

HQ Integrated Defence Staff and CENJOWS conducted the third tri-service Future Warfare Course in New Delhi.

- The course covered AI, machine learning, robotics, quantum technology, hypersonics and multi-domain operations.
- It brought together service officers, industry, startups, MSMEs and defence public-sector participants.

EXAM LENS Future Warfare Course is tri-service and linked to HQ IDS and CENJOWS.

10. Australian Open 2026 champions

Carlos Alcaraz won the men's singles and Elena Rybakina won the women's singles at the Australian Open.

- The tournament is the first Grand Slam of the calendar year and is played on hard courts in Melbourne.
- Alcaraz completed a major career milestone with the title; Rybakina secured the women's crown.

EXAM LENS Men Carlos Alcaraz; women Elena Rybakina; venue Melbourne.

11. RCB wins Women's Premier League 2026

Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Delhi Capitals in the final to win its second WPL title.

- RCB chased 204, the highest successful chase in a WPL final.
- Smriti Mandhana was player of the match; Sophie Devine earned major season awards.

EXAM LENS Champion RCB; runner-up Delhi Capitals; final venue Vadodara.

12. Milano Cortina Winter Olympics

Italy hosted the 2026 Winter Olympic Games across Milan, Cortina d'Ampezzo and other northern Italian venues.

- The Games used a multi-city regional model and were followed by the Winter Paralympics.
- The International Olympic Committee is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.

EXAM LENS Host country Italy; branding Milano Cortina 2026.

13. DAC clears Rs 3.60 lakh crore proposals

The Defence Acquisition Council granted Acceptance of Necessity for a major package led by multi-role fighter aircraft and maritime-surveillance requirements.

- IAF proposals included MRFA Rafale, combat missiles and air-ship based high-altitude pseudo satellites.
- Navy proposals included additional P-8I aircraft for long-range anti-submarine warfare and maritime surveillance.

EXAM LENS February 2026 DAC package: Rs 3.60 lakh crore; MRFA and P-8I are key anchors.

14. Draft Defence Acquisition Procedure 2026

The Ministry of Defence released draft DAP 2026 to replace DAP 2020 and accelerate capital acquisition.

- The draft reduced procurement categories and proposed stronger indigenous-content requirements.
- It introduced procedures suited to short technology cycles and spiral development of complex platforms.

EXAM LENS DAP covers capital acquisition and prioritises Buy Indian-IDDm.

15. International Fleet Review and MILAN 2026

Visakhapatnam hosted a major International Fleet Review followed by the multinational naval exercise MILAN 2026.

- The review assembled ships, delegations and naval leaders from partner countries under a maritime-cooperation theme.
- MILAN combines harbour exchanges with sea-phase drills covering air defence, anti-submarine and surface operations.

EXAM LENS Both events were centred on Visakhapatnam; MILAN is a multinational Indian Navy exercise.

16. INS Anjadip commissioned

The Indian Navy commissioned INS Anjadip, an Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft.

- The ship strengthens detection and engagement of submarines in coastal waters.
- The class is built in India with a high proportion of indigenous systems.

EXAM LENS INS Anjadip belongs to the Arnala-class ASW Shallow Water Craft programme.



Rapid Revision

1. Union Budget 2026-27 | constitutional article: **Article 112**; finance minister: **Nirmala Sitharaman**
2. 16th Finance Commission recommendations | states' share: **41%**; constitutional article: **Article 280**
3. India AI Impact Summit 2026 | host city: **New Delhi**; nodal ministry: **MeitY**
4. CPI base year revised to 2024 | new CPI base: **2024**; compiler: **NSO**
5. GDP base year revised to 2022-23 | new GDP base: **2022-23**; old GDP base: **2011-12**
6. Exercise Vayushakti-26 | service: **Indian Air Force**; venue: **Pokhran**
7. Dharma Guardian 2026 | partner country: **Japan**; venue: **Chaubattia**
8. Vajra Prahar 2026 | partner country: **United States**; edition: **16th**
9. Third Future Warfare Course | edition: **3rd**; organising headquarters: **HQ Integrated Defence Staff**
10. Australian Open 2026 champions | men's champion: **Carlos Alcaraz**; women's champion: **Elena Rybakina**
11. RCB wins Women's Premier League 2026 | champion: **Royal Challengers Bengaluru**; player of the match: **Smriti Mandhana**
12. Milano Cortina Winter Olympics | host country: **Italy**; IOC headquarters: **Lausanne**
13. DAC clears Rs 3.60 lakh crore proposals | approval value: **Rs 3.60 lakh crore**; maritime aircraft: **P-8I**
14. Draft Defence Acquisition Procedure 2026 | replaces: **DAP 2020**; priority category: **Buy Indian-IDDm**
15. International Fleet Review and MILAN 2026 | host city: **Visakhapatnam**; host service: **Indian Navy**
16. INS Anjadip commissioned | ship: **INS Anjadip**; class: **Arnala class**

MARCH 2026



Must-Know Dossiers: March 2026

01. India wins ICC Men's T20 World Cup

India defeated New Zealand by 96 runs in Ahmedabad to win the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

- India captured its third men's T20 World Cup title and became the first team to retain the trophy.
- The tournament was co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from 7 February to 8 March.

EXAM LENS Champion India; runner-up New Zealand; final Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.

02. DAC clears proposals worth Rs 2.38 lakh crore

The Defence Acquisition Council granted Acceptance of Necessity for major capability proposals across the three services.

- Army items included air-defence tracked systems, Dhanush guns, surveillance systems and tank ammunition.
- DAC is chaired by the Defence Minister; AoN is an early approval stage, not a signed procurement contract.

EXAM LENS DAC chair: Defence Minister; value: about Rs 2.38 lakh crore.

03. Madurai Airport declared international

The Union Cabinet approved international-airport status for Madurai Airport in Tamil Nadu.

- The decision supports regional connectivity, tourism, trade and access for the southern districts.
- Airport customs, immigration and international operations require coordinated infrastructure and notification.

EXAM LENS Madurai Airport - Tamil Nadu - international status approved March 2026.

04. Exercise Dweep Shakti

India conducted a tri-service exercise focused on coastal and island defence.

- The drill integrated maritime surveillance, amphibious response, air defence and joint command-and-control.
- It tested defence of island territories and sea lines in a multi-domain environment.

EXAM LENS Dweep Shakti was a tri-service island-defence exercise.

05. VSHORADS flight trials

DRDO completed consecutive flight trials of the indigenous Very Short Range Air Defence System at Chandipur, Odisha.

- VSHORADS is a man-portable air-defence missile intended against low-altitude aircraft, helicopters and drones.
- It uses a miniaturised infrared seeker and indigenous propulsion and control technologies.

EXAM LENS VSHORADS = man-portable, very-short-range air defence.

06. 11th Exercise Lamitiye

India and Seychelles conducted Exercise Lamitiye to strengthen joint tactical and interoperability skills.

- Lamitiye means friendship in the Creole language.
- The exercise involves the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces, with focus on counter-terror and field operations.

EXAM LENS Lamitiye pairs India with Seychelles.

07. PM E-DRIVE extended

The government extended the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement scheme to 2028.

- The programme supports electric mobility, charging infrastructure and selected categories of electric vehicles.
- It is administered by the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

EXAM LENS PM E-DRIVE nodal ministry: Ministry of Heavy Industries.

08. Gujarat adopts Uniform Civil Code

Gujarat enacted a Uniform Civil Code framework, becoming the second state after Uttarakhand to do so.

- A UCC seeks common civil rules for matters such as marriage, divorce and inheritance, subject to stated exceptions.
- Article 44 in the Directive Principles asks the state to endeavour to secure a uniform civil code.

EXAM LENS UCC Directive Principle: Article 44; first implementing state Uttarakhand.

09. First BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting

India convened the first BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting of its 2026 chairship in virtual format.

- India's BRICS 2026 theme emphasised resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability.
- Youth engagement forms part of the people-to-people pillar of BRICS cooperation.

EXAM LENS 2026 BRICS chair: India.

10. 98th Academy Awards

'One Battle After Another' won Best Picture and six Oscars, including Best Director for Paul Thomas Anderson.

- Michael B. Jordan won Best Actor for 'Sinners'; Jessie Buckley won Best Actress for 'Hamnet'.
- The ceremony was held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles and hosted by Conan O'Brien.

EXAM LENS Best Picture: One Battle After Another; ceremony number: 98th.

11. India awarded 2028 World Indoor Championships

World Athletics selected Bhubaneswar to host the 2028 World Athletics Indoor Championships.

- It will be India's first hosting of the global indoor athletics championship.
- World Athletics is headquartered in Monaco.

EXAM LENS 2028 host city: Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

12. Inflation target retained at 4%

The Government, in consultation with RBI, retained the CPI inflation target at 4% for 2026-31.

- The tolerance band remains 2% to 6% under the flexible inflation-targeting framework.
- The target is notified under Section 45ZA of the RBI Act, 1934.

EXAM LENS Target 4%, tolerance plus/minus 2%.

13. Contracts for ALH Mk-III and VL-Shtil missiles

The Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth Rs 5,083 crore for six maritime-role ALH Mk-III helicopters and VL-Shtil surface-to-air missiles.

- The helicopters are for the Indian Coast Guard's surveillance, interdiction and search-and-rescue roles.
- VL-Shtil missiles strengthen point and area air defence for Indian Navy warships.

EXAM LENS ALH Mk-III maritime role: Coast Guard; VL-Shtil: Navy air defence.

14. BEL contract for indigenous mountain radars

The Ministry of Defence signed a roughly Rs 1,950 crore contract with Bharat Electronics for two mountain radars for the Indian Air Force.

- The radar was designed by DRDO's Electronics and Radar Development Establishment.
- Mountain radars improve air surveillance in difficult high-altitude terrain.

EXAM LENS Designer LRDE-DRDO; manufacturer BEL; user Indian Air Force.

15. Exercise Sea Dragon 2026

India joined the United States-hosted multinational anti-submarine warfare exercise Sea Dragon at Guam.

- Participating maritime patrol aircraft trained in tracking and prosecuting simulated submarine targets.
- Guam is a US territory in the western Pacific and a major strategic base location.

EXAM LENS Sea Dragon is an anti-submarine warfare exercise hosted from Guam.

16. India-Japan USD 75 billion currency swap renewed

The Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Japan renewed their bilateral swap arrangement for another three years.

- The arrangement permits exchange of local currencies against US dollars up to USD 75 billion.
- Currency swaps provide a liquidity backstop and reinforce financial cooperation.

EXAM LENS India-Japan swap ceiling: USD 75 billion; counterpart central banks RBI and BOJ.

17. CE20 cryogenic engine sea-level hot test

ISRO conducted a sea-level hot test of the CE20 cryogenic engine used on the LVM3 upper stage.

- The test supported engine qualification and restart-related improvements for future missions.
- Cryogenic propulsion uses very low-temperature propellants, including liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen.

EXAM LENS CE20 powers LVM3's cryogenic upper stage.



Rapid Revision

1. India wins ICC Men's T20 World Cup | champion: **India**; runner-up: **New Zealand**
2. DAC clears proposals worth Rs 2.38 lakh crore | value: **Rs 2.38 lakh crore**; approval stage: **Acceptance of Necessity**
3. Madurai Airport declared international | city: **Madurai**; state: **Tamil Nadu**
4. Exercise Dweep Shakti | exercise type: **tri-service**; focus: **island defence**
5. VSHORADS flight trials | test site: **Chandipur**; developer: **DRDO**
6. 11th Exercise Lamitiye | partner country: **Seychelles**; meaning: **friendship**
7. PM E-DRIVE extended | extended to: **2028**; nodal ministry: **Ministry of Heavy Industries**
8. Gujarat adopts Uniform Civil Code | constitutional article: **Article 44**; first state: **Uttarakhand**
9. First BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting | chair country: **India**; format: **virtual**
10. 98th Academy Awards | Best Picture: **One Battle After Another**; Best Director: **Paul Thomas Anderson**
11. India awarded 2028 World Indoor Championships | host city: **Bhubaneswar**; year: **2028**
12. Inflation target retained at 4% | target: **4%**; tolerance band: **2%-6%**
13. Contracts for ALH Mk-III and VL-Shtil missiles | contract value: **Rs 5,083 crore**; helicopter user: **Indian Coast Guard**
14. BEL contract for indigenous mountain radars | manufacturer: **BEL**; contract value: **Rs 1,950 crore**
15. Exercise Sea Dragon 2026 | warfare area: **anti-submarine warfare**; venue: **Guam**
16. India-Japan USD 75 billion currency swap renewed | ceiling: **USD 75 billion**; partner country: **Japan**
17. CE20 cryogenic engine sea-level hot test | engine: **CE20**; launch vehicle: **LVM3**

APRIL 2026



Must-Know Dossiers: April 2026

01. Income-tax Act, 2025 comes into force

The Income-tax Act, 2025 replaced the Income-tax Act, 1961 from the start of financial year 2026-27.

- The law simplifies structure and terminology, including use of a single 'tax year'.
- Administration remains with the Central Board of Direct Taxes under the Department of Revenue.

EXAM LENS Enacted in 2025; effective 1 April 2026.

02. Census 2027 houselisting rollout

Field operations began for the Houselisting and Housing Census, the first phase of Census 2027.

- Census 2027 is India's first digital census and offers self-enumeration.
- The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

EXAM LENS Houselisting precedes population enumeration; Census is a Union subject.

03. Jan Vishwas Amendment Bill passed

Parliament passed the second Jan Vishwas reform package to decriminalise minor procedural offences across central laws.

- It amended hundreds of provisions across dozens of Acts, replacing many jail terms with graded civil penalties.
- The objective is ease of living and ease of doing business while retaining criminal sanctions for serious harm.

EXAM LENS Jan Vishwas means decriminalisation of minor technical and procedural defaults.

04. Urban Challenge Fund guidelines

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched operational guidelines for the Rs 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund.

- The fund supports cities as growth hubs, creative redevelopment and water and sanitation projects.
- It was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 and uses challenge-based financing.

EXAM LENS Urban Challenge Fund - Rs 1 lakh crore - MoHUA.

05. AI governance bodies constituted

MeitY constituted the AI Governance and Economic Group and the Technology and Policy Expert Committee.

- AIGEG is the apex inter-ministerial steering group chaired by the Electronics and IT Minister.
- TPEC is the expert advisory body chaired by the MeitY Secretary.

EXAM LENS Hierarchy trap: AIGEG is apex; TPEC advises it.

06. India-New Zealand FTA signed

India and New Zealand signed a Free Trade Agreement after negotiations concluded in nine months.

- New Zealand offered duty elimination on Indian exports and committed an investment pathway, while India protected sensitive dairy and agriculture sectors.
- New Zealand is India's second-largest trading partner in Oceania after Australia.

EXAM LENS Fast negotiation, dairy protected, partner New Zealand.

07. India-Republic of Korea strategic vision

President Lee Jae Myung's state visit produced a Joint Strategic Vision for the India-ROK Special Strategic Partnership.

- Outcomes covered shipbuilding, maritime logistics, sustainability and energy-resource security.
- The sides agreed to resume work on upgrading the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

EXAM LENS India-South Korea trade pact is called CEPA.

08. INS Taragiri commissioned

The Navy commissioned INS Taragiri, a Project 17A Nilgiri-class stealth frigate, at Visakhapatnam.

- The ship was built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.
- Project 17A improves stealth, automation, sensors and weapon integration over the earlier Shivalik class.

EXAM LENS Project 17A = Nilgiri class; Taragiri builder MDL.

09. PFBR reaches first criticality

The 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam achieved first criticality.

- The sodium-cooled reactor is operated by BHAVINI and uses mixed-oxide fuel.
- It marks the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear-power programme.

EXAM LENS PFBR - Kalpakkam - BHAVINI - Stage II.

10. First semiconductor fab SEZ notified

The government notified Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing's facility at Dholera, Gujarat as India's first chip-fabrication plant.

- The project is associated with an investment of about Rs 91,000 crore.
- A front-end fab manufactures chips on wafers; it differs from assembly, testing, marking and packaging units.

EXAM LENS Dholera = fab; Sanand Micron = ATMP.

11. Shekha Jheel becomes 99th Ramsar site

Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh became India's 99th Ramsar site.

- The wetland is an important stop on the Central Asian Flyway.
- The Ramsar Convention on wetlands was adopted in Ramsar, Iran in 1971.

EXAM LENS 99th site: Shekha Jheel, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.

12. India-born cheetah produces wild litter

An India-born female cheetah gave birth to four cubs in the wild at Kuno National Park.

- It was the first wild litter by a female born in India after cheetah reintroduction began in 2022.
- Kuno National Park is in Madhya Pradesh.

EXAM LENS The milestone is specifically an India-born mother's wild litter, not India's first cheetah birth after reintroduction.

13. INS Sunayna sails under IOS SAGAR

INS Sunayna visited Male under the Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR initiative to strengthen maritime cooperation with Indian Ocean partners.

- The deployment supported joint training, capacity building and professional exchanges.
- It aligns with India's MAHASAGAR vision and Neighbourhood First policy.

EXAM LENS IOS SAGAR is a cooperative Indian Ocean deployment; INS Sunayna is an offshore patrol vessel.

14. IMD launches multi-hazard decision-support system

The India Meteorological Department introduced the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System under Mission Mausam.

- The platform integrates weather and hazard information for faster, location-specific decisions.
- It was developed with in-house and open-source technology to strengthen disaster-risk reduction.

EXAM LENS MH-EWDSS was developed by IMD under Mission Mausam.

15. Exercise Cyclone-IV

Indian and Egyptian special forces conducted the fourth edition of Exercise Cyclone at Anshas, Egypt.

- Training focused on counter-terrorism, reconnaissance, close-quarter battle and interoperability.
- Cyclone is the bilateral special-forces exercise between India and Egypt.

EXAM LENS Cyclone-IV: India-Egypt special forces; venue Anshas.

16. Exercise DUSTLIK-VII

India and Uzbekistan conducted the seventh edition of joint military exercise DUSTLIK in Uzbekistan.

- The exercise included Indian Army and Air Force elements for counter-terrorism and joint tactical drills.
- DUSTLIK means friendship and is the principal India-Uzbekistan bilateral military exercise.

EXAM LENS DUSTLIK pairs India and Uzbekistan; seventh edition in 2026.

17. Project DANTAK marks 66th Raising Day

The Border Roads Organisation's Project DANTAK marked 66 years of infrastructure partnership with Bhutan.

- Established in 1961, DANTAK has built roads, bridges and strategic connectivity across Bhutan.
- The project is one of the most visible symbols of India-Bhutan development cooperation.

EXAM LENS Project DANTAK: BRO, Bhutan, established 1961.



Rapid Revision

1. Income-tax Act, 2025 comes into force | law replaced: **Income-tax Act, 1961**; administrator: **CBDT**
2. Census 2027 houselisting rollout | phase: **Houselisting and Housing Census**; nodal ministry: **Ministry of Home Affairs**
3. Jan Vishwas Amendment Bill passed | core objective: **decriminalisation of minor offences**; institution: **Parliament**
4. Urban Challenge Fund guidelines | fund size: **Rs 1 lakh crore**; nodal ministry: **MoHUA**
5. AI governance bodies constituted | apex body: **AIGEG**; expert advisory body: **TPEC**
6. India-New Zealand FTA signed | partner country: **New Zealand**; negotiation period: **9 months**
7. India-Republic of Korea strategic vision | visiting president: **Lee Jae Myung**; trade agreement: **CEPA**
8. INS Taragiri commissioned | project: **Project 17A**; builder: **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders**
9. PFBR reaches first criticality | location: **Kalpakkam**; capacity: **500 MWe**
10. First semiconductor fab SEZ notified | location: **Dholera**; promoter: **Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing**
11. Shekha Jheel becomes 99th Ramsar site | site: **Shekha Jheel**; Indian sequence: **99th**
12. India-born cheetah produces wild litter | national park: **Kuno National Park**; state: **Madhya Pradesh**
13. INS Sunayna sails under IOS SAGAR | ship: **INS Sunayna**; initiative: **IOS SAGAR**
14. IMD launches multi-hazard decision-support system | developer: **India Meteorological Department**; mission: **Mission Mausam**
15. Exercise Cyclone-IV | partner country: **Egypt**; venue: **Anshas**
16. Exercise DUSTLIK-VII | partner country: **Uzbekistan**; edition: **7th**
17. Project DANTAK marks 66th Raising Day | country: **Bhutan**; organisation: **Border Roads Organisation**

MAY 2026



Must-Know Dossiers: May 2026

01. First anniversary of Operation Sindoor

India marked one year since Operation Sindoor, highlighting joint operations and indigenous weapon performance.

- The operation followed the Pahalgam terror attack and targeted terrorist infrastructure across the border.
- Official reviews stressed air-defence integration, precision strike, intelligence and tri-service coordination.

EXAM LENS Operation Sindoor began in May 2025; distinguish it from evacuation operations.

02. Agni missile MIRV flight trial

India conducted a flight trial of an advanced Agni strategic missile configuration using multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle technology.

- MIRV technology allows one missile to deploy multiple re-entry vehicles toward separate targets.
- Strategic Forces Command and DRDO are central to operational testing of India's strategic missiles.

EXAM LENS MIRV expands payload distribution; it is not the same as a conventional cluster munition.

03. Scramjet combustor hypersonic milestone

DRDO demonstrated a long-duration active-cooled scramjet combustor, advancing indigenous hypersonic propulsion.

- Scramjets burn fuel in supersonic airflow and are suitable for sustained hypersonic flight.
- Unlike rockets, air-breathing engines draw oxygen from the atmosphere during powered flight.

EXAM LENS Scramjet = supersonic-combustion ramjet; hypersonic generally means Mach 5 or more.

04. TARA glide weapon maiden trial

DRDO carried out the maiden flight trial of the indigenous TARA long-range glide weapon.

- A glide weapon uses aerodynamic lift to extend stand-off range after release from an aircraft.
- The test supported indigenous precision-strike and air-launched weapon development.

EXAM LENS TARA is an air-launched glide weapon, not a surface-to-air missile.

05. Lt Gen N. S. Raja Subramani appointed CDS

Lieutenant General N. S. Raja Subramani was appointed Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.

- The CDS is the principal military adviser on tri-service matters and promotes jointness.
- The Department of Military Affairs functions within the Ministry of Defence.

EXAM LENS CDS also heads DMA; the President remains Supreme Commander.

06. Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan becomes Navy chief

Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan was appointed Chief of the Naval Staff.

- The Chief of Naval Staff holds the four-star rank of Admiral.
- The appointment followed Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.

EXAM LENS Navy chief rank: Admiral.

07. First Exercise PRAGATI

India hosted the first Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region exercise at Umroi, Meghalaya.

- The multilateral Army exercise brought together regional partners for peace support, interoperability and disaster-response training.
- PRAGATI expands India's security cooperation across the Indian Ocean Region.

EXAM LENS PRAGATI first edition venue: Umroi, Meghalaya.

08. ULPGM-V3 flight trials

DRDO completed trials of the third-generation Unmanned-Launched Precision-Guided Missile.

- The system is designed for launch from unmanned aerial platforms against armoured and other high-value targets.
- Its imaging seeker and precision guidance support stand-off engagement.

EXAM LENS ULPGM-V3 is a drone-launched precision missile.

09. AMCA Flight Testing Centre foundation

India laid the foundation for a dedicated flight-testing centre supporting the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft programme.

- AMCA is India's planned indigenous stealth multirole combat aircraft.
- The programme involves ADA, DRDO, the Aeronautical Development Agency ecosystem and production partners.

EXAM LENS AMCA is a stealth combat-aircraft programme; LCA Tejas is a separate light-fighter family.

10. India-Italy Special Strategic Partnership

India and Italy elevated bilateral relations to a Special Strategic Partnership.

- Cooperation areas include defence, connectivity, energy, science, technology, culture and education.
- The partners also agreed to celebrate 2027 as a Year of Culture and Tourism.

EXAM LENS Italy capital Rome; 2027 India-Italy Year of Culture and Tourism.

11. Third India-Nordic Summit

India joined Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden for the third India-Nordic Summit in Oslo.

- Talks covered green transition, Arctic and polar research, innovation, maritime cooperation and resilient supply chains.
- The Nordic countries are separate from the five-member Nordic Council's associated territories.

EXAM LENS Host city Oslo; five Nordic partner states.

12. National Technology Day 2026

India observed National Technology Day to commemorate the 1998 Pokhran-II tests and technology achievements.

- The date also recalls the first flight of the indigenous Hansa-3 aircraft and a Trishul missile test in 1998.
- The Technology Development Board under DST leads the national observance.

EXAM LENS National Technology Day: 11 May; linked to Pokhran-II, 1998.

13. Mission Drishti OptoSAR satellite

GalaxEye advanced Mission Drishti, an Indian multi-sensor Earth-observation satellite combining optical and synthetic-aperture radar data.

- Optical sensors provide rich visual information, while SAR can image through clouds and at night.
- The dual-sensor approach supports defence, agriculture, disaster response and environmental monitoring.

EXAM LENS OptoSAR combines optical and SAR sensing.

14. Mission for Cotton Productivity

The Cabinet approved a Rs 5,659.22 crore mission to raise cotton productivity, quality and textile-sector competitiveness through 2030-31.

- The programme supports improved seed, pest resistance, farm technology and cleaner cotton supply chains.
- It aligns with the 5F vision: Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.

EXAM LENS Cotton mission outlay Rs 5,659.22 crore; remember the 5F value chain.

15. Surface coal and lignite gasification scheme

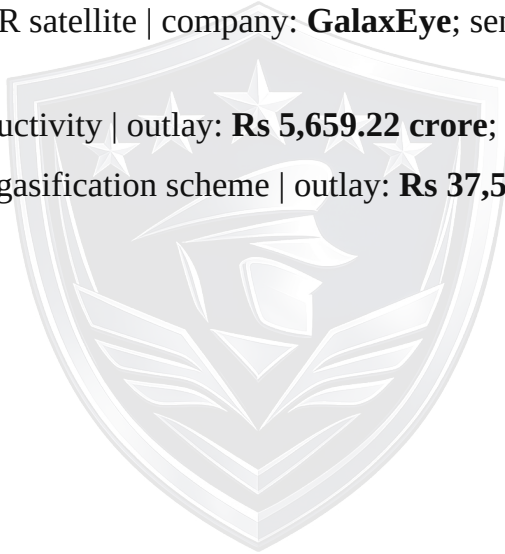
The Cabinet approved Rs 37,500 crore to promote surface coal and lignite gasification projects.

- The scheme supports the national target of gasifying 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030.
- Coal gasification produces syngas that can substitute imported methanol, ammonia, urea feedstock and other fuels.

EXAM LENS Outlay Rs 37,500 crore; gasification target 100 million tonnes by 2030.

Rapid Revision

1. First anniversary of Operation Sindoor | operation: **Operation Sindoor**; anniversary: **first**
2. Agni missile MIRV flight trial | technology: **MIRV**; developer: **DRDO**
3. Scramjet combustor hypersonic milestone | engine: **scramjet**; hypersonic threshold: **Mach 5**
4. TARA glide weapon maiden trial | weapon type: **glide weapon**; developer: **DRDO**
5. Lt Gen N. S. Raja Subramani appointed CDS | new CDS: **N. S. Raja Subramani**; department: **Department of Military Affairs**
6. Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan becomes Navy chief | new Navy chief: **Krishna Swaminathan**; four-star rank: **Admiral**
7. First Exercise PRAGATI | venue: **Umroi**; region: **Indian Ocean Region**
8. ULPGM-V3 flight trials | launch platform: **unmanned aerial platform**; developer: **DRDO**
9. AMCA Flight Testing Centre foundation | aircraft programme: **AMCA**; feature: **stealth**
10. India-Italy Special Strategic Partnership | partner country: **Italy**; culture year: **2027**
11. Third India-Nordic Summit | host city: **Oslo**; edition: **3rd**
12. National Technology Day 2026 | date: **11 May**; historic event: **Pokhran-II**
13. Mission Drishti OptoSAR satellite | company: **GalaxEye**; sensor combination: **optical and SAR**
14. Mission for Cotton Productivity | outlay: **Rs 5,659.22 crore**; target year: **2030-31**
15. Surface coal and lignite gasification scheme | outlay: **Rs 37,500 crore**; 2030 target: **100 million tonnes**



JUNE 2026



Must-Know Dossiers: June 2026

01. UN honour for Major Abhilasha Barak

Major Abhilasha Barak became the first Indian woman to receive the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.

- The award recognises implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in UN peacekeeping.
- UN Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, is the landmark Women, Peace and Security resolution.

EXAM LENS First Indian woman recipient; UNSCR 1325.

02. New AOC-in-C Central Air Command

Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry assumed command of the Indian Air Force's Central Air Command.

- Central Air Command is headquartered at Bamrauli, Prayagraj.
- The IAF has five operational and two functional commands.

EXAM LENS Central Air Command HQ: Prayagraj; AOC-in-C rank Air Marshal.

03. Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth becomes Army chief

Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth assumed office as Chief of the Army Staff, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi.

- The Army chief holds the four-star rank of General.
- The President is Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces under Article 53(2).

EXAM LENS COAS rank General; new chief Dhiraj Seth.

04. First NDA women cadets commissioned

The first batch of women cadets trained at the National Defence Academy was commissioned into the armed forces.

- Women entered the NDA from 2022 after the 2021 Supreme Court decision opened the academy to female candidates.
- NDA is the tri-service academy at Khadakwasla near Pune.

EXAM LENS NDA location Khadakwasla; women inducted from 2022.

05. Record defence production and exports

India reported defence production of Rs 1.78 lakh crore and defence exports of Rs 38,424 crore for FY 2025-26.

- Private-sector production contributed about Rs 42,000 crore.
- Policy drivers include DAP 2020, positive indigenisation lists, iDEX and the corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board into seven DPSUs.

EXAM LENS Hold both figures together: production Rs 1.78 lakh crore; exports Rs 38,424 crore.

06. Exercise Khaan Quest

An Indian Army contingent joined the 23rd multilateral Khaan Quest peacekeeping exercise at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

- The exercise trains United Nations peacekeeping procedures and multinational interoperability.
- Mongolia hosts Khaan Quest; Ulaanbaatar is its capital.

EXAM LENS Khaan Quest - Mongolia - UN peacekeeping.

07. First indigenous Coast Guard hovercraft

The Indian Coast Guard inducted the first of six indigenously built Air Cushion Vehicles in Goa.

- The hovercraft were built by Chowgule and Company for shallow-water and coastal missions.
- The Indian Coast Guard was established in 1978 and functions under the Ministry of Defence.

EXAM LENS ACV = hovercraft; service Indian Coast Guard; builder Chowgule.

08. Three naval platforms commissioned at Kolkata

INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray were commissioned together at Kolkata.

- Dunagiri is a Project 17A stealth frigate; Sanshodhak is a Survey Vessel (Large); Agray is an ASW Shallow Water Craft.
- All three were built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers.

EXAM LENS Match each platform to its role; common builder GRSE.

09. India's 100th Ramsar site

Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary at Kanwar Lake in Bihar became India's 100th Ramsar site.

- Kanwar Lake in Begusarai is a large freshwater oxbow lake important for migratory birds.
- India joined the Ramsar Convention in 1982; the convention was adopted in 1971.

EXAM LENS 100th Ramsar site: JP Narayan Bird Sanctuary, Bihar.

10. Project GIB captive stock reaches 94

Three new chicks raised the captive Great Indian Bustard population under Project GIB to 94 birds.

- The Great Indian Bustard is Critically Endangered and is Rajasthan's state bird.
- Major conservation challenges include habitat fragmentation and collisions with overhead power lines.

EXAM LENS GIB scientific name *Ardeotis nigriceps*; status Critically Endangered.

11. India's space economy projection

The government projected India's space economy could grow from about USD 8-9 billion to USD 40-45 billion over the next decade.

- India had more than 400 space startups by early 2026.
- IN-SPACe regulates and promotes private participation; NSIL is ISRO's commercial arm.

EXAM LENS IN-SPACe and NSIL have different roles.

12. BRICS heads of space agencies meet

ISRO hosted the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies meeting in Bengaluru under India's 2026 BRICS chairship.

- The meeting explored remote sensing, disaster management, space-economy cooperation and shared applications.
- Participants represented the expanded BRICS membership.

EXAM LENS Host Bengaluru; chair country India; host agency ISRO.

13. UPI goes live in Greece

UPI acceptance was launched in Greece through cooperation involving NPCI International and Eurobank.

- The rollout allows Indian travellers to pay participating Greek merchants through compatible UPI apps.
- NPCI International Payments Limited takes UPI and RuPay acceptance partnerships abroad.

EXAM LENS European country Greece; partner bank Eurobank.

14. Financial powers of field commanders increased

The Defence Minister approved a major revision of delegated financial powers to speed operational and revenue procurement.

- Financial ceilings were raised by up to 100% or more in selected cases.
- Powers for indigenisation and military research and development were doubled, with new provisions for lead-Service joint procurement.

EXAM LENS This reform concerns delegated revenue powers and faster field-level decisions.

15. 52nd G7 Summit at Evian

France hosted the 52nd G7 Leaders' Summit at Evian-les-Bains.

- The agenda covered international security, economic imbalances, technology and global coordination.
- France held the 2026 G7 presidency after Canada hosted the 2025 Kananaskis summit.

EXAM LENS 2026 G7: France; Evian-les-Bains; 52nd summit.

16. 12th International Day of Yoga

The 2026 International Day of Yoga used the theme 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing'.

- The United Nations proclaimed 21 June as International Day of Yoga through Resolution 69/131 in 2014.
- The theme connected yoga with mobility, independence and well-being across the life course.

EXAM LENS 2026 theme: Yoga for Healthy Ageing; edition 12th.

17. QS World University Rankings 2027

IIT Delhi remained India's highest-ranked institution in the QS World University Rankings 2027, rising to 118th globally.

- IIT Bombay and IIT Madras were the other Indian institutions in the global top 200.
- The edition is labelled 2027 although released in June 2026.

EXAM LENS Top Indian institution IIT Delhi, global rank 118.



Rapid Revision

1. UN honour for Major Abhilasha Barak | recipient: **Major Abhilasha Barak**; UN resolution: **UNSCR 1325**
2. New AOC-in-C Central Air Command | commander: **Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry**; headquarters: **Prayagraj**
3. Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth becomes Army chief | new Army chief: **Dhiraj Seth**; constitutional article: **Article 53(2)**
4. First NDA women cadets commissioned | academy location: **Khadakwasla**; first intake year: **2022**
5. Record defence production and exports | production: **Rs 1.78 lakh crore**; exports: **Rs 38,424 crore**
6. Exercise Khaan Quest | host country: **Mongolia**; host city: **Ulaanbaatar**
7. First indigenous Coast Guard hovercraft | vehicle type: **Air Cushion Vehicle**; builder: **Chowgule and Company**
8. Three naval platforms commissioned at Kolkata | common builder: **GRSE**; frigate: **INS Dunagiri**
9. India's 100th Ramsar site | site: **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary**; state: **Bihar**
10. Project GIB captive stock reaches 94 | conservation status: **Critically Endangered**; state bird: **Rajasthan**
11. India's space economy projection | projected size: **USD 40-45 billion**; startup count: **more than 400**
12. BRICS heads of space agencies meet | host city: **Bengaluru**; host agency: **ISRO**
13. UPI goes live in Greece | country: **Greece**; bank: **Eurobank**
14. Financial powers of field commanders increased | increase: **up to 100%**; focus: **operational efficiency**
15. 52nd G7 Summit at Evian | host country: **France**; host city: **Evian-les-Bains**
16. 12th International Day of Yoga | theme: **Yoga for Healthy Ageing**; edition: **12th**
17. QS World University Rankings 2027 | top Indian institution: **IIT Delhi**; global rank: **118th**