

Schemes (3)

• Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification scheme

Body: Ministry of Coal; approved by the Union Cabinet in May 2026.
Detail: outlay Rs 37,500 crore; targets gasification of about 75 Million Tonnes of coal/lignite with up to 20% incentive on plant and machinery; supports the national target of gasifying 100 MT of coal by 2030.
Detail: gasification converts coal to syngas - a feedstock for fuels and chemicals - cutting imports of LNG, urea, ammonia and methanol; India holds about 401 billion tonnes of coal reserves (coal is over 55% of the energy mix).
Lineage: builds on the National Coal Gasification Mission (2021).
Exam hook: outlay figure / 100 MT by 2030 target / syngas use / 20% incentive.
 PIB 2260621 · 2026-05-13

• Mizoram Ginger Mission

Body: Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER); launched by Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia with Mizoram CM Lalduhoma.
Detail: outlay Rs 189.79 crore; a convergence-led initiative for ginger cultivation and value-chain development, leveraging Mizoram's GI-certified ginger cultivars.
Detail: converges schemes of Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Processing ministries with NABARD, ICAR and APEDA; GI tagging certifies geographical origin and protects niche regional products.
Exam hook: MDoNER as lead / outlay figure / GI ginger / convergence model.
 PIB 2260850 · 2026-05-13

• SEHAT agriculture-nutrition-health programme

Body: jointly launched by ICMR (apex biomedical research body) and ICAR (apex agricultural research body); also flagged by Ministers Nadda and Chouhan.
Detail: SEHAT = Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation - a national mission-mode programme converging agriculture, nutrition and health for measurable public-health outcomes.
Exam hook: SEHAT full form / ICMR (biomedical) vs ICAR (agriculture) / converging sectors.
 PIB 2259959 · 2026-05-11

Polity/Bodies (4)

• New Chief of Defence Staff (Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani)

Body: the CDS is India's senior-most uniformed officer, principal military adviser to the Defence Minister, and ex-officio Secretary, Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in the Ministry of Defence.
Detail: Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani (Retd) appointed CDS, succeeding Gen Anil Chauhan who completes tenure on 30 May 2026; Subramani was commissioned into 8th Garhwal Rifles in 1985 and served as Vice Chief of Army Staff.
Lineage: the CDS post was created in 2020 with Gen Bipin Rawat as the first holder.
Exam hook: CDS heads DMA (not Integrated Defence Staff) / first CDS = Bipin Rawat / who succeeds whom.
 PIB 2259242 · 2026-05-09

• New Chief of the Naval Staff (Vice Adm Krishna Swaminathan)

Body: the CNS heads the Indian Navy and chairs Naval Headquarters; appointee Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist.
Detail: succeeds Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi who retires on 31 May 2026; Swaminathan was the 34th FOC-in-C Western Naval Command and Vice Chief of Naval Staff.
Detail: has commanded aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, destroyer INS Mysore, and missile vessels INS Vidyut and Vinash.
Exam hook: specialisation (EW) / outgoing CNS = Tripathi / FOC-in-C Western Command.
 PIB 2259243 · 2026-05-09

• National Panchayat Awards 2025

Body: Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
Detail: district panchayats can receive awards up to Rs 5 crore, with a first prize of Rs 1 crore; awards span 17 States and UTs with Rank 1, 2 and 3 under each theme.
Lineage: themes aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (Localisation of SDGs); recognise gram panchayats and local bodies.
Exam hook: which ministry (Panchayati Raj) / SDG localisation theme / prize amounts.
 PIB 2259360 · 2026-05-09

• ECI Special Intensive Revision Phase III

Body: Election Commission of India (ECI), a constitutional body under Article 324.
Detail: Phase III of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 16 States and UTs, conducted in a phased manner; ECI asked political parties to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLAs) for each polling booth.
Detail: Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and party-appointed BLAs verify and purify roll entries.
Exam hook: ECI = Article 324 / SIR purpose / BLO vs BLA distinction / 16 States-UTs.
 PIB 2260955 · 2026-05-14

Economy (3)

• MSP for Kharif Crops 2026-27

Body: Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), on Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommendations.
Detail: raised MSP for 14 Kharif crops for marketing season 2026-27; highest absolute increase for Sunflower Seed (Rs 622/quintal), then Cotton (Rs 557), Nigerseed (Rs 515) and Sesamum (Rs 500).
Lineage: since 2018-19 MSP is fixed at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production.
Exam hook: CACP recommends, CCEA approves / 1.5x cost formula / which crop got highest hike.
 PIB 2260617 · 2026-05-13

• APEDA first ODOP honey export to USA (Baksa)

Body: APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority), under the Ministry of Commerce.
Detail: facilitated India's first-ever ODOP honey export to the USA - a 20-metric-tonne consignment flagged off from Baksa district (Bodoland Territorial Region), Assam; expected to give beekeepers about 43% higher returns.
Lineage: ODOP (One District One Product) promotes a signature product per district; Baksa is an Aspirational District under NITI Aayog's programme.
Exam hook: APEDA under Commerce / ODOP full form / Baksa = Aspirational District / 'first' honey-to-USA.
 PIB 2259436 · 2026-05-09

• EU restores India to aquaculture export list

Body: quality compliance driven by MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority) and the Export Inspection Council (EIC).
Detail: the EU's revised draft list (published 12 May 2026) re-includes India for continued export of aquaculture products from September 2026, correcting an earlier omission.
Detail: the EU was India's third-largest seafood export market in 2025-26, with exports up over 41% in value; shrimp is India's largest seafood export item.
Exam hook: MPEDA vs EIC roles / EU as 3rd-largest seafood market / shrimp top item.
 PIB 2260974 · 2026-05-14

IR/Diplomacy (6)

• Russian FM Lavrov calls on PM Modi

Body: India-Russia bilateral track; Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (in office since 2004) called on PM Modi on 14 May 2026.
Detail: briefed the PM on cooperation since the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit (December 2025); discussed Ukraine and West Asia, with India reiterating its preference for dialogue and diplomacy.
Lineage: relations framed as a Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership; the Annual Summit alternates between the two countries.
Exam hook: descriptor 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership' / 23rd summit Dec 2025 / Lavrov tenure.
 PIB 2261023 · 2026-05-14

• Chile FM leads delegation to India

Body: Chile's Foreign Minister H.E. Francisco Perez Mackenna led a high-level delegation for bilateral engagements in mid-May 2026.

Detail: both sides stressed complementarities between the Indian and Chilean economies; Chile is a key Latin American copper and lithium supplier.

Lineage: India-Chile have a Preferential Trade Agreement (signed 2006, expanded 2016), now being negotiated up to a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

Exam hook: PTA vs CEPA upgrade / Chile = copper and lithium / Latin America trade.

PIB 2260707 · 2026-05-13

• India-Canada CEPA second round

Body: trade ministries of India and Canada; second round held 4-8 May 2026 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.

Detail: Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) - a deep pact covering goods, services, investment and IP; next round scheduled July 2026 in Ottawa.

Lineage: negotiations resumed after a thaw in India-Canada relations; Terms of Reference signed by trade ministers on 2 March 2026.

Exam hook: CEPA scope vs FTA / Vanijya Bhawan venue / ToR date.

PIB 2259188 · 2026-05-08

• Kimberley Process Intersessional 2026 (Mumbai)

Body: Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (launched 2003); India is the KP Chair for 2026, hosting the Intersessional Meeting in Mumbai 11-14 May 2026, with KP Chair Shri Suchindra Misra presiding.

Detail: the KP curbs trade in 'conflict' or 'blood' diamonds that fund armed conflict.

Lineage: India is a major diamond cutting and polishing hub (Surat).

Exam hook: KP = conflict/blood diamonds / India 2026 Chair / 2003 launch / Surat link.

PIB 2260137 · 2026-05-12

• NCGG trains Seychelles civil servants

Body: National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), an autonomous body under the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Detail: first capacity-building programme for 29 Seychelles civil servants began 11 May 2026 at Mussoorie (and New Delhi).

Lineage: NCGG also trains civil servants of Bangladesh, Maldives and several African nations - a tool of India's capacity-building diplomacy.

Exam hook: NCGG under DARPG / Mussoorie venue / 'first' Seychelles batch.

PIB 2260114 · 2026-05-12

• India to host ITU PP-2030

Body: International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN specialised agency for ICT, founded 1865, headquartered in Geneva; India secured hosting rights at the ITU Council 2026 session (28 April-08 May 2026, Geneva).

Detail: India to host the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2030 (PP-2030), the ITU's top policy-making body held every four years.

Exam hook: ITU founded 1865 / UN ICT agency / PP every 4 years / PP-2030 in India.

PIB 2261064 · 2026-05-14

Defence (6)

• Advanced Agni MIRV flight-trial

Body: DRDO; tested by Strategic Forces Command-linked range, launched from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.

Detail: MIRV = Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle - one missile delivers several warheads to separate targets; trial on 08 May 2026 tracked by ground and ship-based stations over the Indian Ocean Region.

Lineage: India first demonstrated MIRV under Mission Divyastra (Agni-5) in March 2024; Kalam Island was formerly Wheeler Island.

Exam hook: what MIRV stands for / Mission Divyastra-Agni-5 link / Wheeler=Kalam Island confusion.

PIB 2259380 · 2026-05-09

• DRDO scramjet combustor hypersonic test

Body: DRDL (Defence Research and Development Laboratory), Hyderabad; under DRDO (Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat).

Detail: Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor run over 1,200 seconds at the Scramjet Connect Pipe Test (SCPT) facility on 09 May 2026, using indigenous liquid hydrocarbon endothermic fuel; advances the Hypersonic Cruise Missile Development Programme.

Lineage: builds on an earlier 700-plus-second test in January 2026.

Detail: a scramjet (supersonic combustion ramjet) is air-breathing, burning atmospheric oxygen for sustained hypersonic Mach 5-plus flight rather than carried oxidiser.

Exam hook: which DRDO lab / scramjet vs ramjet vs rocket / test duration.

PIB 2259482 · 2026-05-09

• TARA glide weapon maiden trial

Body: Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, a DRDO lab; flight-tested with the IAF off the Odisha coast on 07 May 2026, with Development-cum-Production Partners (DcPP).

Detail: Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) is India's first indigenous glide weapon system - a modular range-extension kit adding fins and guidance to convert unguided 'dumb' warheads into precision stand-off weapons.

Lineage: conceptually analogous to the US JDAM glide kit; low-cost precision strike.

Exam hook: full form TARA / 'first indigenous glide weapon' / RCI as developer / JDAM analogy.

PIB 2258934 · 2026-05-08

• IOS Sagar at Chattogram, Bangladesh

Body: Indian Navy, under the IOS SAGAR 2026 deployment carrying multinational crews from Indian Ocean littoral states.

Detail: IOS Sagar arrived at Chattogram on 08 May 2026 and conducted a PASSEX with Bangladesh Navy ship BNS Prototy, escorted into harbour by BNS Ali Haider.

Detail: PASSEX = passage exercise, between navies meeting at sea to build interoperability.

Lineage: reflects India's SAGAR vision - Security and Growth for All in the Region.

Exam hook: SAGAR full form / PASSEX meaning / IOS Sagar multinational-crew concept.

PIB 2259442 · 2026-05-09

• INS Sagardhwani visits Vietnam

Body: Indian Navy oceanographic research vessel INS Sagardhwani; visited Cam Ranh, Vietnam, 04-08 May 2026.

Detail: coincided with a decade of the India-Vietnam Strategic Partnership; Cam Ranh Bay is a strategic deep-water naval base.

Lineage: India-Vietnam ties elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016; a Vietnam People's Navy ship took part in International Fleet Review 26 and MILAN 26 at Visakhapatnam (Feb 2026).

Exam hook: Sagardhwani = research/oceanographic vessel (not warship) / Cam Ranh location / 2016 CSP year.

PIB 2259584 · 2026-05-10

• India-Australia Defence Policy Talks (10th)

Body: Ministries of Defence of India and Australia; 10th edition held in New Delhi on 08 May 2026.

Detail: reaffirmed the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and looked ahead to the first India-Australia Joint Staff Talks later in 2026.

Lineage: ties elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2020; an annual Defence Ministers' Dialogue was set up in 2025.

Detail: both are Quad members along with the US and Japan.

Exam hook: CSP year 2020 / Quad membership / 'first' Joint Staff Talks upcoming.

PIB 2259170 · 2026-05-08

Environment (1)

• IBCA Summit 2026 and Asiatic Lion

Body: International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), launched by India in 2023; first-ever IBCA Summit in New Delhi on 1-2 June 2026 under PM Modi's chairmanship.

Law: Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) is Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and CITES Appendix-I.

Detail: Greater Gir landscape lion population rose to about 891 individuals in 2025, a 32% increase over 2020; 'Lion' Species Spotlight inaugurated at Sasan Gir on 14 May 2026.

Lineage: IBCA covers seven big cats - Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, Puma; Project Lion launched 2020, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary being developed as a second home.

Exam hook: seven IBCA big cats / Schedule-I + CITES App-I / Barda as second home / 2023 launch.

PIB 2260908 · 2026-05-14

Sci/Tech (4)

• IMD AI-based monsoon forecast

Body: India Meteorological Department (IMD, founded 1875) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES); co-developed with the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune; launched by Dr Jitendra Singh.

Detail: IMD's first-ever AI-driven 'Forecast of Monsoon Advance' plus a 'High Spatial Resolution Rainfall Forecast for Uttar Pradesh' at 1-km-resolution pilot; covers 16 states and over 3,000 sub-districts with localised forecasts up to 10 days ahead.

Exam hook: IMD under MoES (not Earth Sciences confusion) / IITM Pune partner / 1-km UP pilot / AI 'first'.

PIB 2260258 · 2026-05-12

• India hosts ISO space subcommittee

Body: International Organization for Standardization (ISO); relevant body ISO/TC 20/SC 14 on 'Space Systems and Operations', hosted by India for the first time, with ISRO and IN-SPACe participating.

Detail: brought together national standards bodies, international space agencies, industry and academia in May 2026.

Lineage: reflects India's growing role in the global space economy via ISRO and IN-SPACe.

Exam hook: ISO/TC 20/SC 14 / 'first' India hosting / IN-SPACe as regulator.

PIB 2259005 · 2026-05-08

• CEL 200 MW solar module line

Body: Central Electronics Limited (CEL), a PSU under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR); 200 MW Solar Module Manufacturing Line dedicated by Dr Jitendra Singh on 14 May 2026.

Lineage: CEL pioneered India's first indigenous solar cell in 1977.

Detail: framed as a step towards India's net-zero-by-2070 target, announced at COP26 (Glasgow, 2021).

Exam hook: CEL under DSIR / 1977 first solar cell / net-zero 2070 at COP26.

PIB 2261005 · 2026-05-14

• Global Innovation Index ranking

Body: Global Innovation Index (GII) is published by WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization); cited on National Technology Day (11 May).

Detail: India's GII rank improved from 80 to 38; India noted as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem.

Lineage: National Technology Day (11 May) commemorates the 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests (Operation Shakti); key missions cited - National Quantum Mission, IndiaAI Mission, ANRF.

Exam hook: GII by WIPO / 11 May = Pokhran-II/Operation Shakti / rank 80 to 38.

PIB 2259847 · 2026-05-11

Infra (6)

• India's first mega greenfield shipyard (Thoothukudi)

Body: tripartite MoU among HD KSOE (Korea), NSHIP-TN and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd, under the India-Republic of Korea 'VOYAGES' framework.

Detail: India's first Mega Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu; planned capacity 2.5 Million Gross Tonnage with about 15,000 direct jobs; signed during ROK President Lee Jae Myung's State Visit.

Lineage: advances Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, targeting a top-5 global shipbuilding rank with 4.5 Million GT output per year by 2047; local port is V.O. Chidambaram Port Authority.

Exam hook: 'VOYAGES' India-ROK framework / Thoothukudi site / Vision 2047 shipbuilding target.

PIB 2260712 · 2026-05-13

• Indian Railways' first semi-high-speed line (Ahmedabad)

Body: Ministry of Railways; approved by the CCEA in May 2026.

Detail: new line in Ahmedabad District, Gujarat, adding about 134 km; Indian Railways' first semi-high-speed project planned with indigenously developed technology.

Detail: semi-high-speed in India typically means 160 km/h-plus operation, as run by Vande Bharat trainsets.

Lineage: distinct from India's first true high-speed line, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.

Exam hook: semi-high-speed (160 km/h, Vande Bharat) vs high-speed (bullet train) / 'first' indigenous semi-high-speed.

PIB 2260624 · 2026-05-13

• Nagpur Airport PPP upgrade

Body: Union Cabinet approval; Nagpur International Airport, Maharashtra, to be upgraded via a long-term licence with a private partner under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Detail: Nagpur is being developed as a major aviation and cargo hub under the MIHAN project.

Lineage: PPP airport concessions follow the model used for Delhi, Mumbai and other metro airports.

Exam hook: PPP licence model / MIHAN project link / Nagpur location.

PIB 2260629 · 2026-05-13

• National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026

Body: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; conferred by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on International Nurses Day (12 May).

Detail: awarded to 15 nursing professionals; each award carries a certificate, Rs 1,00,000 cash and a medal; eligible categories include nurses, midwives, ANMs and Lady Health Visitors.

Lineage: International Nurses Day (12 May) marks Florence Nightingale's birth anniversary; 2026 theme 'Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives.'

Exam hook: which ministry / who confers (President) / 12 May = Nurses Day / number of awardees.

PIB 2260185 · 2026-05-12

• Repatriation of Chola bronzes

Body: US Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art returned three temple bronzes to India; provenance research by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Detail: a Chola-period Shiva Nataraja (c. 990 CE), a 12th-century Somaskanda (Shiva and Uma), and a 16th-century Vijayanagara-period Saint Sundarar with Paravai; all originally from Tamil Nadu, found illicitly removed in the mid-20th century.

Lineage: the Nataraja depicts Shiva as the cosmic dancer, an icon of Chola bronze (lost-wax) art.

Exam hook: which museum (Smithsonian) / ASI provenance role / Chola Nataraja dating / Vijayanagara Sundarar.

PIB 2260755 · 2026-05-13

• Buddha relics exposition in Leh

Body: Ministry of Culture; 14-day Sacred Exposition of the Holy Relics of the Tathagata (Lord Buddha) in Leh and Zaskar, Ladakh.

Detail: over 1.18 lakh devotees paid obeisance; concluding ceremony at the Dharma Centre, Choglamsar coincided with the Monlam Chenmo (Great Prayer Festival) and was attended by LG Vinai Kumar Saxena.

Lineage: relic expositions are a soft-power and cultural-diplomacy initiative; Ladakh has been a Union Territory since 2019.

Exam hook: Tathagata = Buddha / Monlam Chenmo festival / Ladakh UT since 2019 / Ministry of Culture.

PIB 2261214 · 2026-05-14