

Polity/Bodies (3)

• **NITI Aayog reconstituted — A.K. Lahiri Vice-Chairman**

Body: NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India); Chairperson = PM; replaced Planning Commission on 1 Jan 2015.
Detail: NITI Aayog reconstituted; Shri Ashok Kumar Lahiri appointed VICE-CHAIRMAN; new Full-Time Members: Rajiv Gauba, Prof. K.V. Raju, Prof. Gobardhan Das, Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Dr M. Srinivas.
Exam hook: NITI Aayog is an executive resolution body (NOT constitutional/statutory); Vice-Chairman holds Cabinet rank; new VC = A.K. Lahiri.
PIB 2255594 · 2026-04-25

• **Census 2027 — India's first digital census**

Body: Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, MHA; Census Act, 1948 (Census a Union subject, 7th Schedule entry 69).
Detail: Census 2027 = India's FIRST digital (mobile-based) census; 16th Census overall, 8th since Independence; Rs 11,718.24 cr outlay; reference date 00:00 hrs 1 March 2027; Phase-I houselisting Apr–Sep 2026, Phase-II population enumeration Feb 2027; caste enumeration included (CCPA decision 30 Apr 2025).
Exam hook: Reference moment = 1 Mar 2027; first census to enumerate caste beyond SC/ST since 1931; Section 15 = data confidentiality.
PIB 2255461 · 2026-04-25

• **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report released**

Body: Ministry of Panchayati Raj; released on National Panchayati Raj Day (24 Apr 2026), for FY 2023–24.
Detail: India's first nationwide data-driven GP-performance index; 150 indicators / 230 data points across 9 LSDG themes; 97.3% participation; 3,635 GPs = 'Front Runners' (Grade A); 5 grades Achiever(A+)→Beginner(D). West Bengal did not onboard.
Exam hook: PAI maps to Localization of SDGs (LSDGs); National Panchayati Raj Day = 24 April (commemorates 73rd CAA, 1992).
PIB 2256616 · 2026-04-29

Economy (1)

• **India 4th globally in wind energy (56.1 GW)**

Body: Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).
Detail: India added 6.1 GW wind capacity in 2025–26; total over 56.1 GW installed; India ranks 4th globally in wind power.
Exam hook: Wind rank = 4th (after China, USA, Germany); overall renewables target = 500 GW non-fossil by 2030.
PIB 2254626 · 2026-04-22

IR/Diplomacy (2)

• **India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement signed**

Body: Ministry of Commerce & Industry; signed by Piyush Goyal & NZ Trade Minister Todd McClay.
Detail: India–NZ FTA signed 27 Apr 2026; negotiations announced 16 Mar 2025, concluded in a RECORD 9 months (fastest Indian FTA); eliminates duty on 100% of Indian exports; USD 20 bn NZ investment over 15 yrs; India protects dairy/agriculture; new 5,000-visa skilled pathway. NZ = India's 2nd-largest Oceania trade partner.
Exam hook: Fastest-concluded Indian FTA (9 months); India shielded DAIRY; first NZ Post-Study-Work-Visa annex with any country.
PIB 2255963 · 2026-04-27

• **SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting, Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)**

Body: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO); Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh led Indian delegation.
Detail: India at SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; RM invoked Operation Sindoor on cross-border terrorism; held bilaterals with Kyrgyz, Kazakh & Belarusian counterparts.
Exam hook: SCO HQ = Beijing; 2025 chair/host = China; Kyrgyzstan capital = Bishkek; India full SCO member since 2017.
PIB 2256148 · 2026-04-28

Defence (6)

• **NASM-SR maiden salvo launch (DRDO + Navy)**

Body: DRDO (Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad) + Indian Navy; range work at ITR Chandipur.
Detail: Maiden SALVO launch of Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Short Range (NASM-SR) — two missiles fired in quick succession from a Navy HELICOPTER off Odisha coast, Bay of Bengal; first salvo of an air-launched anti-ship missile; solid booster + long-burn sustainer, fibre-optic-gyro INS, jet-vane control; demonstrated waterline-hit capability.
Exam hook: NASM-SR = air-launched anti-ship (helicopter), NOT surface/sub; salvo = same platform, two missiles; lab = Research Centre Imarat.
PIB 2256722 · 2026-04-29

• **DRDO Advanced Armoured Platforms (Tracked & Wheeled)**

Body: DRDO Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (VRDE), unveiled at Ahilyanagar (formerly Ahmednagar), Maharashtra by DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat.
Detail: Tracked + wheeled platforms with indigenous 30 mm CREWLESS turret + 7.62 mm PKT, ATGM-capable; STANAG Level 4 & 5 protection; amphibious via hydro-jets; 65% indigenous content (target 90%). Made by TATA Advanced Systems + Bharat Forge.
Exam hook: Developer = VRDE; venue Ahilyanagar; STANAG 4/5 = blast/ballistic protection standard.
PIB 2255538 · 2026-04-25

• **IN–SLN DIVEX 2026 (India–Sri Lanka diving exercise)**

Body: Indian Navy + Sri Lanka Navy; under MAHASAGAR vision.
Detail: 4th edition of bilateral DIVING exercise IN–SLN DIVEX, Colombo, 21–28 Apr 2026; India fielded INS Nireekshak (Diving Support & Submarine Rescue Vessel); mixed-gas dives over WW-era wrecks SS Worcester & SS Perseus; dives beyond 55 m. Two BHISM 'Aarogya Maitri' health cubes handed over.
Exam hook: DIVEX = with SRI LANKA (not a land exercise); INS Nireekshak = submarine-rescue/diving-support vessel; MAHASAGAR = Mutual & Holistic Advancement for Security And growth Across Regions.
PIB 2256710 · 2026-04-29

• **INS Sudarshini — maiden Indian Navy visit to Canary Islands**

Body: Indian Navy Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini, deployment 'Lokayan 26'.
Detail: First-ever Indian naval ship visit to the Canary Islands (Las Palmas, Spain), 23 Apr 2026; sailed from Kochi Jan 2026 via Oman, Egypt, Malta, France, Morocco; bound for trans-Atlantic 'Sail 250' events for USA's 250th Independence Day. Theme: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.
Exam hook: Sudarshini = SAIL TRAINING ship; deployment name = Lokayan 26; first Indian ship to Canary Islands.
PIB 2255252 · 2026-04-24

• **Project DANTAK (BRO) — 66th Raising Day in Bhutan**

Body: Border Roads Organisation (BRO); ceremony at Thimphu, Bhutan.
Detail: Project DANTAK marked 66th Raising Day (estd April 1961, ~65 yrs of service in Bhutan); built Bhutan's first motorable road, East–West Highway (Trashigang–Thimphu), Paro & Yongphula airports; >1,500 km road laid.
Exam hook: DANTAK operates in BHUTAN (BRO's oldest foreign project); Project Vartak/Himank/Setuk are other BRO projects — don't confuse.
PIB 2255292 · 2026-04-24

• **11th India–Egypt Joint Defence Committee, Cairo**

Body: Ministry of Defence (India) + Egypt; meeting in Cairo.
Detail: 11th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting; builds on the India–Egypt defence-cooperation MoU signed Sept 2022; agreed to expand scope/complexity of military exercises and defence-production collaboration.
Exam hook: India–Egypt air exercise = 'Cyclone'; bilateral defence framework = Joint Defence Committee.
PIB 2254773 · 2026-04-23

Environment (2)

• Shekha Jheel — India's 99th Ramsar site

Body: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change; Minister Bhupender Yadav; under Ramsar Convention (1971, Iran).

Detail: Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) designated India's 99th Ramsar site; raises UP's tally to 12 (most in India); a stopover on the Central Asian Flyway for Bar-headed Goose, Painted Stork.

Exam hook: 99th Ramsar site; UP now joint-most Ramsar sites; Ramsar = wetlands of international importance (signed Ramsar, Iran, 1971).

PIB 2254357 · 2026-04-22

• MoEFCC–NBA grassroots biodiversity project (TN & Meghalaya)

Body: MoEFCC + National Biodiversity Authority (NBA, statutory body under Biological Diversity Act, 2002; HQ Chennai).

Detail: 5-year project to strengthen grassroots biodiversity governance via Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and People's Biodiversity Registers in Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya.

Exam hook: NBA = statutory, HQ Chennai; BMCs operate at local-body level under Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

PIB 2255611 · 2026-04-26

• Sacred Exposition of Holy Relics of Tathagata Buddha (Ladakh)

Body: Ministry of Culture (International Buddhist Confederation); relics taken to Leh, Ladakh.

Detail: Sacred exposition of the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha (Kapilavastu relics) in Ladakh; received with ceremonial guard of honour by Ladakh Police; part of India's Buddhist-heritage soft-power diplomacy.

Exam hook: Buddha's relics curated by IBC under Ministry of Culture; Kapilavastu relics normally housed at National Museum, Delhi.

PIB 2257009 · 2026-04-30

• Raghu Rai passes away — PM condoles

Body: PMO condolence; field = photography.

Detail: Renowned photojournalist Raghu Rai passed away; Padma Shri (1971) awardee, protege of Henri Cartier-Bresson, member of Magnum Photos; known for Bhopal-gas-tragedy and India documentary photography.

Exam hook: Raghu Rai = photographer (NOT a painter/film-maker); Padma Shri 1971.

PIB 2255754 · 2026-04-26

Sci/Tech (2)

• Space labs in universities; India GII rank 39

Body: Dept of Space / IN-SPACe (Chairman Dr Pawan Goenka); Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh.

Detail: Plan to set up SPACE LABORATORIES in universities/colleges — 7 labs in first phase — covering satellite manufacturing, launch-vehicle systems, space cybersecurity, tied to IN-SPACe Technical Centre, Ahmedabad. Separately: India's Global Innovation Index rank improved from 81 to 39.

Exam hook: IN-SPACe = single-window space regulator/promoter under DoS; HQ Ahmedabad; current GII rank 39.

PIB 2255657 · 2026-04-26

• Indigenous Silicon Photonics solutions launched (ISM)

Body: India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) / MeitY; centre at IIT Madras.

Detail: Indigenously developed silicon-photonics technology solutions launched, incl. a Universal PPIC (Photonic-Programmable IC) Test Engine — an automated characterisation platform for photonic chips.

Exam hook: ISM = India Semiconductor Mission under MeitY (Digital India Corporation); silicon photonics = light-based chips.

PIB 2255322 · 2026-04-24

Infra (4)

• Ganga Expressway inaugurated (594 km, Hardoi UP)

Body: UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA); inaugurated by PM Modi at Hardoi.

Detail: 594-km access-controlled greenfield GANGA EXPRESSWAY inaugurated 29 Apr 2026; UP's/ India's longest green-corridor expressway; spans 12 districts (Meerut → Prayagraj); built in <5 years.

Exam hook: Ganga Expressway = Meerut to Prayagraj, ~594 km, UP's LONGEST expressway; implementing body = UPEIDA.

PIB 2256590 · 2026-04-29

• Jammu–Srinagar direct rail; Vande Bharat extended to Jammu Tawi

Body: Ministry of Railways; Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off.

Detail: Jammu directly linked to Kashmir by passenger train for the FIRST time — Srinagar–Katra Vande Bharat extended to Jammu Tawi (8→20 coaches), 30 Apr 2026. Enabled by USBRL incl. Chenab Rail Bridge (world's highest railway arch bridge, 359 m above riverbed) and Anji Khad (India's first cable-stayed rail bridge).

Exam hook: Chenab Bridge = world's HIGHEST railway bridge (over Chenab, Reasi, J&K); Anji Khad = India's first cable-stayed RAIL bridge; line = USBRL.

PIB 2257073 · 2026-04-30