

06/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Strength of the Supreme Court:*

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today has approved the proposal for introducing The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 in Parliament to amend The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 for increasing the number of Judges of the Supreme Court of India by 4 from the present 33 to 37 (excluding the Chief Justice of India).

More details on strength of Supreme Court:

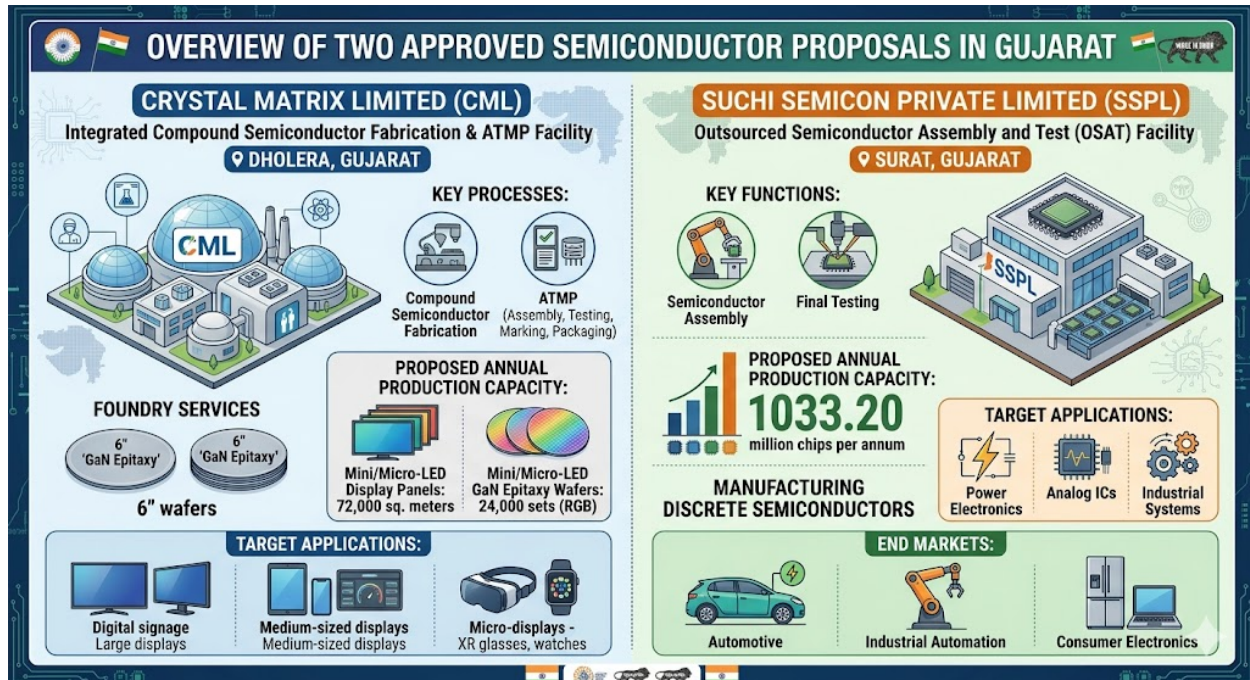
- ❖ Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 provides for increasing the number of Judges of the Supreme Court by 04 i.e. from 33 to 37 (excluding the Chief Justice of India).
- ❖ The expenditure on salary of Judges and supporting staff and other facilities will be met from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- ❖ Article 124 (1): Supreme Court to have CJI + up to 7 judges (initial provision).
- ❖ The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956: Strength fixed at 10 judges (excluding CJI).
- ❖ 1960 Amendment: Increased to 13 judges (excluding CJI).
- ❖ 1977 Amendment: Increased to 17 judges (excluding CJI).
- ❖ 1977–1979 (Cabinet decision): Working strength restricted to 15 judges (excluding CJI), later withdrawn.
- ❖ 1986 Amendment: Increased to 25 judges (excluding CJI).
- ❖ 2008 Amendment: Increased to 30 judges (excluding CJI).
- ❖ The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019: Increased to 33 judges (excluding CJI) (present strength basis).

2. *India Semi-conductor Mission (ISM):*

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved two more semiconductor projects under India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) which includes country's first commercial Mini/Micro-LED display facility based on GaN (Gallium Nitride) Technology and a semiconductor packaging facility.

More details:

- ❖ With these two approvals, semiconductor ecosystem in the country would get a significant boost as the total number of approved projects under India Semi-conductor Mission (ISM) reaches 12, with cumulative investments of around Rs.1.64 lakh crore.
- ❖ The two approved proposals will set up semiconductor manufacturing facilities in Gujarat with a cumulative investment of around Rs.3,936 crore and are expected to generate cumulative employment for 2,230 skilled professionals.



About India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):

- ❖ Launch: Approved in 2021 to strengthen India's position in the global electronics value chain.
- ❖ Nodal Ministry: Operates under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ❖ Objective: Promote chip design startups, indigenous IP, R&D, and reduce semiconductor import dependence.
- ❖ Focus Areas: Establish chip fabs, packaging/testing units (ATMP/OSAT), support startups, and train skilled talent.
- ❖ Investment Goal: Attract global semiconductor manufacturers and investors to India.
- ❖ Semiconductor Fabs Scheme: Offers up to 50% fiscal support for semiconductor wafer fabrication units.
- ❖ Display Fabs Scheme: Provides up to 50% assistance for AMOLED and LCD display fabrication.
- ❖ Compound Semiconductors & ATMP/OSAT Scheme: Grants up to 50% support for compound semiconductors, MEMS, sensors, and packaging units.
- ❖ Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme: Supports chip design startups/MSMEs with funding up to ₹15 crore per company.

3. Mission for Cotton Productivity:

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Rs.5659.22 crore for Mission for Cotton Productivity (2026–27 to 2030–31) to address bottlenecks, declining growth, and quality concerns in India's cotton sector.

About Mission for Cotton Productivity:

- ❖ Mission aligned with 5F vision (Farm → Fibre → Factory → Fashion → Foreign).
- ❖ Focus on increasing cotton productivity through high-yielding, pest- and disease-resistant seeds.

- ❖ Emphasis on scaling modern crop technologies via states, KVKs, and SAUs.
- ❖ Ensures low-contaminant, high-quality cotton supply to industry.
- ❖ Aims to boost high-quality cotton exports.
- ❖ Implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Textiles.
- ❖ Involves Indian Council of Agricultural Research (10 institutes), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (1 institute), and AICRP cotton centres.
- ❖ Covers 140 districts in 14 states and ~2000 ginning/processing units initially.
- ❖ Focus on climate-resilient seeds, modern farming, and farmer training.
- ❖ Promotes quality improvement, traceability, and infrastructure development.
- ❖ Encourages sustainable fibres and innovation across the cotton value chain.
- ❖ Target: 498 lakh bales production (170 kg lint each) by 2031.
- ❖ Lint productivity to rise from 440 kg/ha to 755 kg/ha.
- ❖ Around 32 lakh farmers to benefit, enhancing self-reliance.
- ❖ Promotes Kasturi Cotton Bharat for traceability and certification.
- ❖ Aims for <2% trash content in cotton.
- ❖ Promotes alternative natural fibres like flax, ramie, sisal, milkweed, bamboo, banana.

4. *Vadinar Ship Repair Facility:*

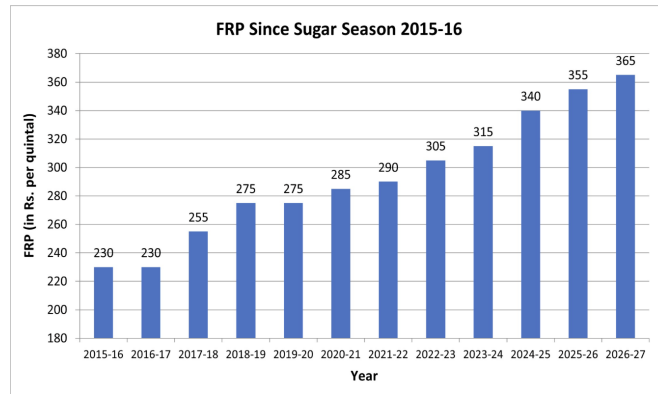
Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved the development of a state-of-the-art Ship Repair Facility at Vadinar, Gujarat, marking a major expansion of the national ship repair ecosystem.

More about Vadinar Ship Repair Facility:

- ❖ Project jointly implemented by Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) and Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) with ₹1,570 crore investment.
- ❖ Planned as a brownfield ship repair facility at Vadinar.
- ❖ Key infrastructure: 650 m jetty, 2 floating dry docks, workshops, marine support systems.
- ❖ Location advantage: natural deep draft + proximity to major ports like Mundra Port and Kandla Port.
- ❖ Strategically positioned near major global shipping routes.
- ❖ Focus on servicing large commercial and foreign-flagged vessels.
- ❖ Generates employment and skill development opportunities.
- ❖ Boosts MSMEs and maritime ancillary industries in the region.
- ❖ Addresses India's capacity gap in repairing vessels >230 m length.
- ❖ Enables repair of large vessels up to 300 m within India.
- ❖ Reduces dependence on foreign shipyards.

5. *Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP):*

Context: Cabinet approves Fair and Remunerative Price of Rs.365/qtl for Sugarcane Farmers for season 2026-27.

About Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP):

- ❖ FRP (Fair and Remunerative Price) is the minimum price mills must legally pay farmers for sugarcane.
- ❖ Sugar mills can pay FRP in instalments if agreed with farmers.
- ❖ Delay in payment attracts up to 15% annual interest.
- ❖ Unpaid FRP can be recovered as arrears via property attachment by authorities.
- ❖ Governed by Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 under Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- ❖ Payment must be made within 14 days of cane delivery.
- ❖ FRP is recommended by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
- ❖ FRP is approved and announced by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- ❖ CACP is an advisory body under the Ministry of Agriculture; its recommendations are not binding.
- ❖ CCEA is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
- ❖ FRP determination is based on the Rangarajan Committee report on sugar sector reforms.

6. India's Steel Sector:

Context: India's steel sector, the backbone of India's growth story, continues to strengthen its march towards domestic reliance. India became the world's second largest steel producer in 2018 and has retained this position since then. Share of global crude steel production rose from 5.2% in 2014 to 7.9% in 2024. This reinforces India's position as a competitive and expanding global player.

More details:

- ❖ The country is also the 2nd largest consumer of finished steel as per the World Steel Association. India's finished steel consumption has witnessed a significant rise.
- ❖ It increased from 77 million tonnes (MT) in 2014–15 to 163.7 MT in 2025–26.

ROBUST STEEL SECTOR PERFORMANCE



As world's most widely used engineering and construction material, steel has been recognised as one of India's 'Sunrise Sectors'. It plays a pivotal role in driving domestic consumption and industrial growth.



Steel production in India continues to show strong and sustained momentum. In March 2026, steel output rose by 2.2% over March 2025. Meanwhile, the cumulative index for FY 2025-26 registered a robust 9.1% growth compared to the same period last year. This reflects enhanced production and demand base.



Steel is an alloy primarily composed of iron, carbon (< 2%) and manganese (1%), along with small quantities of silicon, phosphorus, sulphur and oxygen.

THERE ARE DIFFERENT FORMS OF STEEL AND IRON WHICH ARE VITAL FOR THE STEEL SECTOR. SOME OF THEM ARE:



CRUDE STEEL

First solid steel product formed upon solidification of liquid steel.



FINISHED STEEL

Product obtained upon hot rolling/ forging of semi-finished steel.



HOT METAL

Liquid iron produced in blast furnaces.



PIG IRON AND SPONGE IRON

Key forms of iron that constitute important categories within the steel industry.



CRUDE STEEL

Crude Steel is a raw material for other steel products. It registered production growth from 43.44 MT in 2004-05 to 88.98 MT in 2014-15 and 168.4 MT in 2025-26. This highlights India's resilience and steady expansion in the global steel landscape. The production of crude steel recorded a CAGR (Compounded Annual Growth Rate) of ~9% between 2021-22 and 2025-26. It also witnessed a 10.7% rise in production during FY 2025-26 from the corresponding period of last year.

CRUDE STEEL (IN MT)				
	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Production	127.2	144.3	152.2	168.4

HOT METAL, PIG IRON, AND SPONGE IRON

Hot Metal is the liquid iron produced in blast furnaces. It recorded a 7.3% increase in production during April to September, 2025-26 compared to the same period last year. Another direct output of the blast furnace is pig iron. It saw production rise by 6.6% in April to September 2025-26 vs April to September last year. For the similar period, Sponge Iron, or direct-reduced iron, likewise posted strong performance with a 9.1% increase in output. This reflects broad based expansion across the industry's core segments.

PRODUCTION OF STEEL CATEGORIES			
Categories	April-September 2024-25 (MT)	April-September 2025-26 (MT)	Growth (%)
Hot Metal	43.99	47.21	7.3
Pig Iron	4.04	4.31	6.6
Sponge Iron	27.00	29.46	9.1



FINISHED STEEL

The production of finished steel, which serves as a foundational material for modern infrastructure and manufacturing, stood at 160.9 MT, reflecting an increase of 9.7% during FY 2025-26 over the corresponding period of the previous year. With rising output, the consumption of finished steel also remained strong at 163.7 MT, marking a 7.6% growth and underscoring sustained domestic demand.

FINISHED STEEL (IN MT)				
	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Production	123.2	139.2	146.7	160.9
Consumption	119.9	136.3	152.1	163.7

MARCH 2026 (YOY)	
EXPORTS	↑ 29.1%
IMPORTS	↓ 9.5%



TRADE STORY OF STEEL

India's steel trade performance reflects a strengthening and increasingly competitive domestic industry. Exports of steel rose by 29.1% in March 2026 (year-on-year), while imports declined sharply by 9.5%. This signal enhanced domestic capacity and reduced reliance on foreign supply. The positive shift underscores India's emergence as reliable global steel supplier. It also demonstrates the country's improved ability to meet rising domestic demand.



India has also established itself as a leading exporter of iron and steel alloys. Rising exports of steel and related products contribute to higher foreign exchange earnings. This, in turn, helps improve the trade balance. It supports the broader vision of a self-sustained and resilient industrial ecosystem under Atmanirbhar Bharat.



Top destination for India's finished steel exports in March 2026 were Vietnam, Belgium and Taiwan. Together, they comprise of more than 50% of India's total finished steel exports.



Besides, exports of finished steel increased by 35.80% in FY 2025-26 compared to the same period last year. Meanwhile, imports declined by 46.47% during the same period.

GOVERNMENT REFORMS SUPPORTING STEEL SECTOR

The Government has implemented several measures to strengthen raw material availability, ensure global market access, and reduce import dependence. These steps have lowered production costs, driven growth in the steel industry, and supported MSMEs and small steel producers.



Ensuring availability of key raw materials like coal, iron ore and limestone.



Imposing safeguard duties on steel imports to protect domestic industry.



Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with key countries to boost exports.



Reforms in the steel scrap policy to ensure availability of quality raw material.



Promoting technology upgradation and energy efficiency.



Supporting MSMEs and small steel producers through various schemes.

MT: Million Tonnes | Note: 2025-26 - Provisional

Source: Ministry of Steel, Government of India

7. South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR):

Context: The Union Government will notify the South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR), with headquarters at Visakhapatnam, on 1 June 2026. The zone will become India's 18th railway zone and will cover railway administration in Andhra Pradesh through a new organisational structure.

About South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR):

- ❖ The SCoR zone will primarily cover Andhra Pradesh, along with parts of Telangana and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The South Coast Railway Zone will include the existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions from South Central Railway.
- ❖ It will also include a newly created Visakhapatnam division, which was earlier part of the Waltair division under East Coast Railway.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet gave ex post facto approval for the creation of the zone on 7 February 2025.
- ❖ As per Item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, Indian Railways was required to examine the feasibility of a new railway zone.

8. *Pulitzer Prize:*

Context: Indian illustrator Anand RK, freelance investigative journalist Suparna Sharma, and Natalie Obiko Pearson of Bloomberg won the 2026 Pulitzer Prize in the Illustrated Reporting and Commentary category on 4 May 2026. The winning work, titled trAPPed, is a visual investigation into India's digital arrest scam.

About Pulitzer Prize:

- ❖ The Annual Pulitzer Prize is an esteemed set of awards presented annually by Columbia University in New York City.
- ❖ Pulitzer Prizes were established by Joseph Pulitzer, a Hungarian-American journalist and newspaper publisher, who left money to Columbia University upon his death in 1911.
- ❖ It recognizes outstanding achievements in journalism, letters, and music.
- ❖ It was first awarded in 1917.

9. *BrahMos missile:*

Context: India may discuss the sale of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile to Vietnam.

About BrahMos missile:

- ❖ The BrahMos missile, an Indo-Russian joint venture, has a range of 290 km and is the fastest cruise missile in the world with a top speed of Mach 2.8.
- ❖ BrahMos is named for the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.
- ❖ It is a two-stage (solid propellant engine in the first stage and liquid ramjet in second) missile.
- ❖ It is a multiplatform missile i.e., it can be launched from land, air, and sea and multi capability missile with pinpoint accuracy that works in both day and night irrespective of the weather conditions.
- ❖ It operates on the "Fire and Forgets" principle i.e it does not require further guidance after launch.

10. *Teesta water sharing agreement:*

Context: In the wake of the Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in the West Bengal Assembly election, Bangladesh has issued an urgent call to consider the long-pending Teesta water sharing agreement under

the “current circumstances.” Outgoing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has long been seen as a hurdle in efforts to resolve the dispute between India and Bangladesh.

About Teesta river:

- ❖ The Teesta River originates from the Pahunri (or Teesta Kangse) glacier in the Eastern Himalayas in the state of Sikkim, India.
- ❖ It flows southward through the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal, eventually entering Bangladesh.
- ❖ In Bangladesh, it merges with the Brahmaputra River (known locally as the Jamuna River).
- ❖ Major tributaries: Rangpo River, the Rangit River, and the Great Rangit River.

Details of Teesta water sharing agreement:

- ❖ 1983 Teesta Agreement: Ad-hoc sharing formula—Bangladesh 36%, India 39%, 25% unresolved; never fully implemented.
- ❖ Ganges Water Treaty: Established a precedent for India–Bangladesh cooperation on transboundary river water sharing.
- ❖ 2011 Teesta Agreement Attempt: Proposed sharing—Bangladesh 37.5%, India 42.5%.
- ❖ Opposition to 2011 Deal: West Bengal government opposed it citing potential harm to state agriculture.

11. *Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971:*

Context: Cabinet gives nod to make insult to Vande Mataram an offence The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 will have to be amended to bring the move into effect and add clauses on punishment.

More details:

- ❖ The Union Cabinet on Tuesday gave the go-ahead to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 to make any insult or obstruction to the singing of National Song Vande Mataram a punishable offence.
- ❖ At present, insults to the National Anthem Jana Gana Mana, the National Flag and the Constitution is mentioned in the 1971 Act and is punishable by imprisonment of up to three years or a fine or both.
- ❖ Vande Mataram, the salutation of India imagined as a mother, was written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published with his novel Anandamath in the early 1880s.
- ❖ In 1937, leaders of the Congress, which was leading the national movement, decided to use the first two stanzas at its gatherings, and the Constitution of the modern Republic of India accorded it the status of the National Song.

12. *UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access InforMation) portal:*

Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that 30 banks have been integrated into its centralised web portal, UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access InforMation), to enable legal heirs to trace funds belonging to deceased account holders.

About UD GAM portal:

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India 'UD GAM' Portal: Centralised platform to help the public search unclaimed deposits across multiple banks
- ❖ Developing Agencies: Built collaboratively by Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd, Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services, and participating banks
- ❖ Objective: Enables users to locate, claim, or reactivate their unclaimed bank deposits
- ❖ User Registration: Customers register using a mobile number on the portal
- ❖ Search Facility: Allows search using name along with identifiers like PAN, Voter ID, Driving Licence, or Passport
- ❖ Claim Process: Retrieval requires completion of KYC formalities at the respective bank branch
- ❖ For Deceased Depositors: Nominees must submit required documents to claim the deposit
- ❖ Unclaimed Deposits Definition: Funds in savings/current accounts inactive for 10 years or FDs not claimed within 10 years from maturity

Quick Bites:

- ☐ India's defence production reached ₹1.54 lakh crore recording 174 % rise in one decade, while defence export growth rose to ₹23,622 crore recording 34 times rise in one decade.
- ☐ Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare today inaugurated the 2-day National Conference on Rare Diseases in New Delhi, being held on 5th and 6th May 2026, marking a significant step towards strengthening India's response to the challenges posed by rare diseases.
- ☐ NASA's NISAR satellite observations revealed rapid land subsidence in Mexico City due to excessive groundwater extraction. The NISAR is the first joint Earth observation satellite mission between ISRO and NASA launched in 2025 aboard GSLV-F16 into a sun-synchronous polar orbit with a mission life of 5 years. It is uniquely designed as the first satellite to operate both L-band and S-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) from a single platform, enabling advanced Earth observation through fully polarimetric and interferometric data.
- ☐ Recently, four mountain bongos were relocated to Kenya from a zoo in the Czech Republic as part of conservation efforts to reintroduce them into their native forests. The **Bongo Antelope** is the world's largest forest antelope, recognized by its reddish-brown coat with distinctive white vertical stripes and long spiral horns. It has two subspecies—the Western bongo and the rarer Eastern (Mountain) bongo—both adapted to dense forest habitats and facing conservation challenges due to habitat loss and hunting.
- ☐ The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has launched Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) as a market instrument for gold trading in India. EGRs are electronic records that represent ownership of gold stored in a vault or approved depository system.
- ☐ Yash Khandagale totalled 309kg to finish overall second and take the men's 71kg category silver at the World junior weightlifting championships in Ismailia, Egypt.

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