

6. Short News

1. FSSAI Norms on Analogue Paneer

In April 2026, FSSAI issued a public notice to stop the mislabelling of "analogue paneer" (made from vegetable fats) as dairy paneer.

Definition – Analogue paneer uses vegetable oils and starches instead of milk but mimics the texture of real paneer.

Mandatory Labeling – Establishments must clearly disclose the use of analogues on menus and display boards.

Enforcement – Regulatory officers are directed to conduct 100% inspections of manufacturing units.

Health Concerns – High consumption of processed vegetable fats in analogues is linked to obesity and cardiovascular diseases.

Nutritional Gap – Unlike real paneer (a complete protein), analogues lack essential amino acids and high-quality dairy protein.

2. Punjab Farm Stay Policy, 2026

The Punjab government introduced this policy in May 2026 to boost rural "experiential tourism."

Eligibility – Any farmer with at least one acre of agricultural land can register a farm stay.

Experience-Based – Operators must offer at least two rural activities (e.g., tractor rides, dairy visits, or farm tours).

Fast-Track Approval – Registration is handled online via a single-window portal within 21 working days.

Self-Certification – Initial registration lasts 5 years; renewals are based largely on self-certification to reduce "Inspector Raj."

Green Mandate – Units must adopt solar energy, rainwater harvesting, and organic farming practices.

3. Vadinar Ship Repair Facility (Gujarat)

The Union Cabinet approved ₹1,570 crore for a modern ship repair hub at Vadinar in May 2026.

Project Nature – It is a brownfield project (built on existing industrial land) implemented by Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard.

Infrastructure – Includes a 650-metre jetty and two large floating dry docks capable of servicing vessels up to 300 metres long.

Strategic Edge – Vadinar offers a natural deep draft and is close to major shipping routes and Mundra/Kandla ports.

Forex Savings – It aims to reduce India's dependence on foreign shipyards and stop the outflow of foreign exchange.

Economic Impact – Expected to generate roughly 290 direct and 1,100 indirect jobs.

4. Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2026

Announced on January 23, the 2026 awards recognize excellence in disaster management.

Institutional Winner – The Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority for training 1,185 "Aapda Mitras" and managing the 2023 Teesta floods.

Individual Winner – Lt Col. Seeta Ashok Shelke for her leadership during the 2024 Wayanad landslide rescue operations.

Nature of Award – An annual national award by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Cash Prize – ₹51 lakh for institutions and ₹5 lakh for individuals.

Objective – To honor those involved in disaster risk reduction, relief, and rehabilitation.

5. JANANI Portal

Launched in May 2026, this digital platform streamlines maternal and child healthcare.

Full Form – Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care.

Core Function – An upgraded version of the RCH portal that creates a longitudinal health record from pregnancy to young childhood.

Digital MCH Cards – Provides QR-enabled cards for easy portability and access to health records anywhere in India.

Smart Alerts – Sends automated reminders for immunizations and identifies high-risk pregnancies in real-time.

Integration – Interoperable with U-WIN (immunization) and POSHAN (nutrition) platforms.

6. Article 26(b) and Excommunication

The Supreme Court is currently (May 2026) hearing a nine-judge bench reference regarding the Dawoodi Bohra community's power to excommunicate.

Article 26(b) – Grants religious denominations the right to "manage its own affairs in matters of religion."

The Conflict – Petitioners argue excommunication is a "civil death" that violates an individual's fundamental rights (Article 21 and 25).

The "Essentiality" Test – The court is examining if excommunication is an "essential religious practice" protected by the Constitution.

Judicial Reform – The bench is debating if constitutional morality can override traditional religious practices that infringe on human dignity.

Doctrine of Proportionality – Judges are questioning whether the state can intervene when a religious practice causes severe social boycott.

7. School Management Committee (SMC) Guidelines 2026

The Ministry of Education issued new national guidelines in April 2026 to decentralize school governance.

Universal Scope – SMCs are now mandatory for all schools, including secondary levels up to Class 12.

Parental Control – 75% of members must be parents/guardians, and at least 50% must be women.

Inclusivity – Mandates proportionate representation for SC, ST, OBC, and Children with Special Needs (CwSN).

Financial Power – SMCs can execute civil works costing up to ₹30 lakh and must manage a separate joint bank account.

Development Plan – Each SMC must create a three-year "School Development Plan" to track infrastructure and learning outcomes.

8. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) & Kudankulam

In May 2026, AERB granted permission for "major equipment erection" at Units 5 and 6 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP).

AERB's Role – India's apex regulatory body (est. 1983) for nuclear safety, functioning under the Department of Atomic Energy.

Milestone – This approval shifts the project from civil construction to the installation of core components like the reactor pressure vessel.

The Technology – Units 5 and 6 use Russian-designed VVER-1000 reactors (Pressurized Water Reactors).

Capacity – Each of the six units at the Tamil Nadu site has a 1000 MW capacity.

Safety Review – Permission was only granted after a rigorous "multi-tier safety review" involving international benchmarks.

9. Ship Repair Market & Maritime Vision

The Vadinar project is part of a larger push to capture the global ship repair market.

Market Share – India currently holds less than 1% of the global ship repair market despite its strategic coastline.

The Opportunity – Approximately 7–9% of global shipping traffic passes within 300 nautical miles of India.

Infrastructure Gap – India previously lacked the capacity to repair vessels over 230 metres; the new facility bridges this gap.

Ancillary Growth – The project is expected to boost local MSMEs and maritime engineering sectors.



Strategic Vision – Aligned with Maritime India Vision 2030 to make India a top-tier global maritime power.