

7. Short News

1. Geocells (Sustainable Road Construction)

CSIR-CRRI and Bharat Petroleum were recognized for building the first road using geocells made from end-of-life plastic.

What they are: 3D honeycomb structures that stabilize soil and strengthen ground surfaces.

Function: They confine soil/aggregates to improve load distribution and durability.

Material: Usually made from HDPE; this project specifically used recycled plastic waste.

Benefits: Supports a circular economy, reduces erosion, and lowers maintenance costs.

2. Technical Textiles

Highlighted due to their use in the Geocell road project.

Definition: Specialized fabrics designed for function (strength, filtration, insulation) rather than aesthetics.

Sectors: Used in healthcare, defence, agriculture, and infrastructure (roads/bridges).

Significance: A high-growth sector under "Make in India."

Examples: Geotextiles, medical masks, bulletproof vests, and fire-resistant fabrics.

3. Rusty-Spotted Cat

Spotted for the first time with a kitten in the Aravali landscape (Faridabad), confirming breeding outside protected areas.

Status: One of the world's smallest wild cats; nearly 80% of its global population is in India.

Appearance: Reddish-grey fur with rusty spots; often called the "hummingbird of cats."

Conservation: Listed as Near Threatened (IUCN) and Schedule I (Wildlife Protection Act, 1972).

Behaviour: Nocturnal, elusive, and highly agile hunters found in forests and scrublands.

4. TARA Glide Weapon System

DRDO and the IAF successfully conducted the maiden trial of this indigenous weapon system.

Function: A modular kit that converts conventional unguided bombs ("dumb bombs") into precision-guided weapons.

Technology: Uses wings and navigation instead of continuous engines to "glide" to a target.

Purpose: Increases the range and accuracy of low-cost bombs while keeping aircraft at a safe distance.

Developer: Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad.

5. Bilqan 1 (B1) Bridge

Emerged as a symbol of Iranian resilience after being damaged in military strikes in April 2026.

Location: Karaj, Iran (near Tehran); it is the tallest bridge in the Persian Gulf region.

Strategic Role: A key transport corridor connecting Tehran to northern regions and trade routes to Russia.

Economic Impact: Critical for logistics, industry, and regional connectivity.

Current Status: Under rapid reconstruction using local Iranian engineers.

6. SACHET & Cell Broadcast Technology

Smartphones across India recently received "Extremely Severe Alerts" as part of a nationwide test of the SACHET system.

What is it: A technology that sends emergency messages simultaneously to all phones in a specific geographic area.

Mechanism: One-way communication from cell towers to handsets; bypasses network congestion.

Privacy: Does not require phone numbers or personal data; no subscription or app is needed.

Features: Alerts can override "Silent" or "Do Not Disturb" modes and include loud alarms/vibrations.

7. India Aircraft Leasing & Financing Summit (IALFS 2.0)

Held at GIFT City, Gujarat to position India as a global aviation finance hub.

Fleet Growth: India's commercial fleet is expected to reach 2,250+ aircraft by 2035.

PIAO Act 2025: A new law to align India with the Cape Town Convention, making it easier for lessors to repossess aircraft.

Government Support: Announced caps on fuel prices and 25% reduction in landing charges.

GIFT City Role: India's first IFSC, offering tax holidays and special structures for aircraft leasing.

8. Gross State Value Added (GSVA) Guidelines

MoSPI released new guidelines with a revised base year (2022–23) for calculating state economies.

Definition: GSVA measures the total value of goods and services produced in a state minus intermediate costs.

Formula: $\$GSDP = GSVA + Net \setminus Taxes \setminus on \setminus Products\$$.

Purpose of Revision: To capture data from emerging service sectors and align state data with national estimates.

Significance: Helps in fiscal planning, budgeting, and comparing economic performance between states.

9. ISO TC 20/SC 14 Meeting

India hosted the 35th plenary meeting on "Space Systems and Operations" in New Delhi for the first time.

Organizer: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

Focus: Developing global technical standards for space design, safety, and interoperability.

Membership: ISO is an independent body (HQ: Geneva); BIS represents India.

Impact: Helps Indian private space startups align with international quality and safety standards.

10. Maharana Pratap Jayanti

Tributes paid by the Prime Minister on his birth anniversary (May 9).

Legacy: 16th-century Rajput ruler of Mewar known for resisting Mughal expansion (Emperor Akbar).

Battle of Haldighati (1576): Famous for his heroic resistance against the Mughal forces led by Man Singh I.

Battle of Dewair (1582): A turning point where he successfully recovered most of his lost territories.

Title: Referred to as the 'Leonidas of Rajasthan' by British historian Col. James Tod.

11. Project Freedom

The US paused this initiative following the blockage of the Strait of Hormuz.

The Crisis: Iran blocked the waterway (where 20% of the world's oil passes) after US-Israeli strikes in Feb 2026.

The Mission: A US-led operation to secure and guide thousands of merchant ships through the strait.

Scale: Involved 100+ aircraft, destroyers, and 15,000 personnel providing 24/7 security.

Current Status: On pause as of the latest regional developments.

12. RBI Capital Adequacy Norms

RBI relaxed rules for how banks calculate their financial strength (Capital Adequacy).

The Change: Banks can now include quarterly profits in their core capital (CET1) without needing to meet previous NPA (bad loan) conditions.

Condition: The quarterly financial statements must still undergo a full audit or limited review.

CRAR: This ratio measures a bank's ability to absorb losses; the move helps banks show higher capital levels.

Impact: Simplifies the regulatory process and provides more flexibility to banks.

13. International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

Contextualized by India hosting the Space Systems subcommittee meeting.

Nature: An independent, non-governmental body established in 1947, headquartered in Geneva.



Mission: Develops voluntary, consensus-based international standards (e.g., ISO 9001 for Quality).

Membership: Comprises national standards bodies from over 160 countries.

Indian Body: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the sole representative for India.

14. Hybrid Rose 'Tribhuvan'

A new rose variety was unveiled as a tribute to the late Tribhuvan Prasad Singh.

Who was he: A 1936-batch ICS officer and India's first full-time secretary of the Planning Commission.

Contributions: Served as Finance and Agriculture Secretary; key policymaker in post-independence India.

Significance: The flower symbolizes excellence in public service and nation-building.

Event: Unveiled during Founder's Day 2026 at The Tribhuvan School.