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NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY 2026 – VIGYAN TECH AT BHARAT MANDAPAM

India observed the **28th National Technology Day** on May 11, 2026, with the three-day **Vigyan Tech 2026** showcase at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, commemorating the **Pokhran-II nuclear tests of May 11, 1998 (Operation Shakti)**.

Key Points

- Pokhran-II: three simultaneous detonations at Pokhran, Rajasthan, May 11, 1998
- National Technology Day declared in **1999** by PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- Theme 2026: **“Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth”**
- Vigyan Tech 2026: 3,000+ stakeholders, 500+ technologies, 14 scientific ministries, 9 DST-backed deep-tech showcases
- Focus areas: AI, quantum computing, green hydrogen, semiconductors – aligned with Viksit Bharat@2047

May 11, 1998; 3 devices on Day 1, 2 more on May 13; led by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam (DRDO) and Dr R Chidambaram (DAE). India declared a nuclear-weapon state. Sanctions imposed; lifted 2001-2008. National Technology Day instituted 1999.

CJI LAUNCHES “ONE CASE ONE DATA” AND AI CHATBOT SU-SAHAYAK

On May 11, 2026, **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant (52nd CJI)** launched **“One Case One Data”** – a unified case-data platform – and **Su-Sahayak**, an AI chatbot, under **eCourts Phase III**.

Key Points

- **“One Case One Data”**: automates retrieval and verification of case information across Supreme Court, High Courts, district and taluka courts; reciprocal data access between HCs
- **Su-Sahayak**: NIC + Supreme Court Registry developed AI chatbot, assists citizens accessing case status and SC services

- Part of **eCourts Phase III** – 2023 Cabinet-approved, Rs 7,210 crore outlay
- Builds on earlier National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and e-filing platforms

Phase I (2010-2015); Phase II (2015-2023); Phase III approved 2023 with Rs 7,210 crore. NJDG: National Judicial Data Grid – pendency dashboard. Article 39A: Equal justice and free legal aid. CJI Surya Kant: 52nd CJI, in office since 2025 (assumed office November 24, 2025).

SUPREME COURT DIRECTIVES ON EXPEDITIOUS BAIL DISPOSAL

*A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi on May 11, 2026 issued directives for **expeditious bail disposal**, observing that “nothing is more important than bail” given the **Article 21** right to personal liberty.*

Key Directives

- Fresh bail pleas: listed within a week or on alternate days
- Status reports filed before first hearing
- Counsel must serve advance copies on the Advocate General
- High Courts urged to set outer timelines and institutionalise weekly/fortnightly listings; automatic listing every two weeks
- Anchored in Article 21 jurisprudence on liberty

“Bail is the rule, jail is the exception” – State of Rajasthan v. Balchand (1977). Article 21: Right to life and personal liberty. Section 480 BNSS, 2023 (in force since 2024, replacing the old Section 437) governs bail in non-bailable offences. Undertrials = ~75% of India’s prison population (NCRB Prison Statistics).

VB-GRAMG ACT NOTIFIED – REPLACES MGNREGA FROM JULY 1, 2026

*The Centre on May 11, 2026 notified the **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-GRAMG)**, which will **replace MGNREGA from July 1, 2026**.*

Key Features

PARAMETER	MGNREGA (2005)	VB-GRAMG (2025)
Days guaranteed	100 per household	125 per household
Centre-State share	75:25 (wages 100% Centre)	60:40 (NE/Himalayan higher; UTs 100%)
Source of works	Gram Sabha shelf	Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan
Budget 2026-27	–	Rs 95,692 crore
Tech features	Aadhaar-linked, NMMS	AI fraud detection, GPS, biannual social audits

- Seasonal pause permitted up to 60 days (sowing/harvest)
- Critics: budget inadequate for 125 days; legal guarantee diluted; burden shifted to states

Enacted 2005; right to work; 100 days; Schedule 9 wage notification by Ministry of Rural Development. VB-GRAMG: passed Parliament December 18-19, 2025; effective July 1, 2026. Article 41: State to secure right to work (DPSP).

SOMNATH AMRIT MAHOTSAV – 75 YEARS OF RECONSTRUCTION

*Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the **Somnath Amrit Mahotsav** on May 11, 2026 at **Prabhas Patan, Gir Somnath district, Gujarat**, marking **75 years since the temple was reopened** on May 11, 1951 by President Rajendra Prasad.*

Key Points

- Reconstruction driven by **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** post-Independence
- Original temple destroyed by **Mahmud of Ghazni in 1026 CE**; repeatedly rebuilt
- One of the **12 Jyotirlingas** of Shiva
- PM performed **Mahapuja, Jal Abhishek, Dhvaj Puja**; released a **commemorative stamp and coin**
- **First-ever Kumbhabhishek** ceremony of the present temple
- **IAF Suryakiran Aerobatic Team** display

Prabhas Patan, Gir Somnath, Gujarat; first of 12 Jyotirlingas; Maru-Gurjara (Chaulukya) architecture. Reconstruction: K M Munshi led the trust; reopened May 11, 1951 by President Rajendra Prasad. Somnath Trust formed 1949. Mahmud of Ghazni's raid: 1026 CE.

ONE YEAR OF OPERATION SINDOOR – DOCTRINAL CONSOLIDATION

The Armed Forces held an anniversary press conference in Jaipur on May 11, 2026 reviewing **one year of Operation Sindoor** (May 7-10, 2025), with the Government framing it as the new template for **sub-conventional offensive deterrence**.

Key Points

- Trigger, as background since 2025: Pahalgam attack, April 22, 2025 (Baisaran meadow, 26 civilians killed)
- 9 terror sites struck across Pakistan and PoJK
- Targets included **JeM HQ Bahawalpur** and **LeT HQ Muridke**
- Weapons: Rafale + SCALP, HAMMER PGMs, drones, electronic warfare; tri-service
- One-year review: institutionalisation of cross-domain coordination, EW + ISR investments

Launched in 2025 (May 7-10, 2025); 9 sites; 4-day kinetic phase; Rafale + SCALP / HAMMER PGMs deployed. Bahawalpur (JeM) and Muridke (LeT) HQs struck. Ceasefire since 2025: via DGMO call, May 10, 2025, 17:00 IST. Pahalgam attack as background since 2025: April 22, 2025; TRF (LeT proxy) claimed.

INDIA'S FIRST MLFF BARRIER-LESS TOLLING LAUNCHED

Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** launched India's first **Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF)** barrier-less tolling system at the **Chorayasi Toll Plaza** on **NH-48 (Surat-Bharuch), Gujarat** on May 1, 2026 – with the MoRTH this week confirming the **2026-end MLFF rollout target** across the National Highway network.

Key Points

- Combines **Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)** + **FASTag**
- Day-1 throughput: ~41,500 vehicles
- Phase 1: 25 NH plazas in 2026; Phase 2: ~200 plazas in FY 2026-27
- **E-Notice** system for missed payments

- Implementing agency: **NHAI**
- Benefits: travel time, fuel, emissions, no queueing

Multi-Lane Free Flow tolling; no barriers; ANPR + FASTag (RFID, NPCI-managed). NH-48: Delhi-Mumbai golden quadrilateral spur (was NH-8). NHAI: established under NHAI Act, 1988; under MoRTH. FASTag: launched 2014; mandatory pan-India since 2021.

HANTAVIRUS OUTBREAK ON MV HONDIUS – INDIA’S SURVEILLANCE RESPONSE

A **Hantavirus cluster aboard cruise ship MV Hondius** in the Atlantic prompted WHO and US CDC alerts; India’s ICMR-NIV stated through May 11, 2026 that **two Indian nationals** aboard remain asymptomatic and under observation.

Key Points

- 8 cases, 3 deaths (as of May 8, 2026); 6 lab-confirmed as **Andes virus (ANDV)**
- Transmission: rodent (especially *Sigmodontinae*) excreta inhalation; limited person-to-person for ANDV
- India NIV chief: “no immediate public health threat”
- **VRDL Network**: 165 labs nationwide doing RT-PCR
- India: hantavirus strains circulate in rodents but human cases rare

Family Hantaviridae; rodent reservoir; causes HPS (Americas) and HFRS (Eurasia). Andes virus – only hantavirus with documented person-to-person spread. ICMR-NIV Pune: India’s apex virology lab. VRDL: Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories; 165+ under DHR-ICMR. International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005: governs WHO alerts.

10TH INDIAN OCEAN DIALOGUE – SAGAR AT A DECADE

The **10th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD 2026)** – decadal milestone – was held in New Delhi on **May 7-8, 2026**, themed “**Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World.**”

Key Points

- Organised by **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)** and Ministry of External Affairs
- Aligned with **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** – announced 2015

- Focus: maritime security, blue economy, **IORA** cooperation, climate resilience
- Preceded by the **56th Sapru House Lecture** by Vietnamese President To Lam (May 6, 2026)
- Reinforces India's role as **net security provider** in the IOR

*Indian Ocean Rim Association; founded 1997; 23 member states; HQ Mauritius. **SAGAR**: vision announced March 2015 by PM Modi at Mauritius. **ICWA**: India's oldest IR think-tank; founded 1943 by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. Sapru House: ICWA's New Delhi HQ.*

TOPIC	KEY FACT
National Technology Day	Pokhran-II May 11, 1998; Day declared 1999; Theme: Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth
One Case One Data + Su-Sahayak	CJI Surya Kant; eCourts Phase III (Rs 7,210 cr); NIC + SC Registry
SC Bail Directives	CJI Surya Kant + J Bagchi; fresh pleas within a week; Article 21 anchor
VB-GRAMG Act	Replaces MGNREGA from July 1, 2026; 125 days; 60:40 share; Rs 95,692 cr
Somnath Mahotsav	75 years of 1951 reopening; PM Modi Mahapuja + Kumbhabhishek; commemorative stamp + coin
Operation Sindoor anniversary	May 7-10, 2025; 9 sites; Bahawalpur + Muridke HQs; Rafale + SCALP / HAMMER
MLFF Tolling	Chorayasi NH-48, Gujarat; ANPR + FASTag; 25 plazas Phase 1 in 2026
Hantavirus MV Hondius	8 cases / 3 deaths; Andes virus; 2 Indians asymptomatic; VRDL 165 labs
IOD 2026	10th edition; ICWA + MEA; SAGAR vision; theme "IOR in a Transforming World"

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