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TODAY'S EDITION (MAY 29, 2026):

FY26 GDP Provisional Estimates with new **base year 2022-23** (NSO), the **International Day of UN Peacekeepers** with **two Indian soldiers honoured posthumously**, Odisha signs **substrate MoU with Intel + 3DGS** to close India's chip-packaging gap, **IAF-IIT Bombay predictive maintenance contracts** for Su-30 MKI fleet, US designates Brazil's **Comando Vermelho + PCC as FTOs**, IMD declares **SW Monsoon onset** with **92% LPA below-normal forecast**, and **Mount Everest 73rd anniversary** of the first ascent.

AT A GLANCE

#	HEADLINE	GS PAPER	READ MORE
1	FY26 GDP estimates — new base year 2022-23	GS3	Read
2	UN Peacekeepers Day — Indian honour	GS2/GS3	Read
3	Odisha-Intel-3DGS semiconductor substrate MoU	GS3	Read
4	IAF-IIT Bombay Su-30 predictive maintenance	GS3	Read
5	US designates Comando Vermelho + PCC as FTOs	GS2	Read
6	SW Monsoon 2026 — early onset, 92% LPA	GS1/GS3	Read
7	Mount Everest — 73rd anniversary	GS1	Read

1. FY26 GDP ESTIMATES — NEW BASE YEAR 2022-23

GS Paper 3 — Economy: On **May 29, 2026**, the NSO under MoSPI released the **Provisional Estimates of Annual GDP for FY 2025-26** alongside the first major output under the **revamped GDP series with base year 2022-23** (replacing 2011-12). Real GDP is estimated at **~7.6%** — the **fastest pace since FY22**. Key drivers: **private consumption** (+6.5%) and **gross fixed capital formation** (+9.2%). The new series uses **GSTN data, MCA-21 corporate filings, PLFS quarterly labour data, and Annual Survey of Industries 2022-23** — better capturing the digital economy, fintech, gig work and quick-

commerce. Services dominate at **~55% of GVA**; manufacturing **~17%**; agriculture **~14%**. Centre's FY26 fiscal deficit target is **4.4% of GDP**; capex is **₹11.21 lakh crore (3.1% of GDP)**. India's nominal GDP crossed **~USD 4.15 trillion** in 2026 (IMF April 2026 WEO).

2. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS — TWO INDIANS HONOURED

GS Paper 2 — IR / GS Paper 3 — Security: **May 29, 2026** marks the **International Day of UN Peacekeepers** (theme: **“Invest in Peace”**), with **UNGA Resolution 57/129 (2002)** as its anchor and **UNTSO's launch on May 29, 1948** as its date. UN Secretary-General **António Guterres** will posthumously confer the **Dag Hammarskjöld Medal** on **Lance Havildar Harbhajan Singh** (MONUSCO, DR Congo) and **Naib Subedar Sujit Kumar Pradhan** (UNMISS, South Sudan). India is currently **3rd–4th** among contributors of uniformed personnel (recent UN data: **~5,165**, behind Nepal, Rwanda and Bangladesh) — including **~155 women**. Since 1948, India has contributed **~290,000+ personnel** to **50+ missions**; **~180 Indian peacekeepers have died in service** — the highest from any nation. India's **Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK)** at the United Service Institution, New Delhi (est. 2000) trains personnel from across the world.

3. ODISHA–INTEL–3DGS SEMICONDUCTOR SUBSTRATE MOU

GS Paper 3 — S&T / Economy: On **May 29, 2026**, the **Government of Odisha** signed a tripartite MoU with US-based **Intel** and **3D Glass Solutions (3DGS)** to bring **advanced semiconductor substrate manufacturing** to India — a **key missing link** in the chip ecosystem. The pact complements 3DGS's **~₹2,000 crore Heterogeneous Integration Packaging facility** at **Info Valley, Bhubaneswar** (foundation laid April 2026): **70,000 glass panels/year + 50 million assembled units/year + 13,000 3DHI modules/year**. Substrates are the **packaging layer** between chip dies and circuit boards — and glass substrates enable next-gen **3D Heterogeneous Integration (3DHI)** for AI, telecom and aerospace. 3DGS originates from **Sandia National Laboratories'** Photo-Definable Glass technology. The deal is operationalised under the **India Semiconductor Mission** (₹76,000 crore, Cabinet approval December 15, 2021) which has now approved **10+ projects with ~₹1.6 lakh crore investment** (PIB YER 2025).

4. IAF-IIT BOMBAY PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR SU-30 MKI

GS Paper 3 — S&T/Defence: The **Indian Air Force** signed **three indigenous contracts with IIT Bombay** on **May 27, 2026** to deploy **predictive, prognostic and prescriptive maintenance systems** for the **Su-30 MKI fleet** — IAF's largest at **~260+ aircraft**. The systems use **sensor data + AI/ML diagnostics** to estimate Remaining Useful Life and forecast failures before they occur, shifting maintenance from **Time-Between-Overhaul** to **Condition-Based Maintenance Plus (CBM+)**. Target: **aircraft availability from ~60-65% to ~75-85%** and **maintenance cost reduction ~20-30%**. Indigenous

content is **100%**. Air Marshal **KAA Sanjeeb**, Director General (Aircraft), led the IAF side; IIT Bombay Director: **Shireesh B. Kedare**. Strategic relevance: IAF authorised strength is **42 squadrons**, actual ~31 — increasing availability of existing fleet is the fastest squadron-equivalent.

5. US DESIGNATES BRAZIL'S CV AND PCC AS FTOS

GS Paper 2 — IR: The **US Department of State** on **May 28, 2026** designated Brazil's two largest criminal organisations — **Comando Vermelho (CV, founded 1979, Rio de Janeiro)** and **Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC, founded 1993, São Paulo)** — as **Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs)** under **Executive Order 13224**, with **Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO)** status effective **June 5, 2026**. Brazilian President **Lula da Silva** criticised the move as US interference ahead of Brazil's **October 2026 presidential elections**. The designation extends a Trump 2.0 pattern of treating Latin American criminal groups (Sinaloa, CJNG, Tren de Aragua, MS-13 designated Feb 2025) under counter-terrorism frameworks. India's diplomatic instinct: **non-interference in domestic affairs; multilateral counter-terrorism under UN frameworks**, not unilateral lists. India and Brazil are co-members in BRICS, IBSA, G20, G77.

6. SW MONSOON 2026 — EARLY ONSET, BELOW-NORMAL FORECAST

GS Paper 1 — Geography / GS Paper 3 — Environment: The **IMD** declared the onset of the **Southwest Monsoon over Kerala on May 24, 2026 — 8 days earlier** than the normal date of June 1 (earliest onset since 2009). However, IMD's seasonal outlook places **2026 monsoon rainfall at 92% of LPA — Below Normal** — the first below-normal forecast since 2023. The LPA reference period is **1971-2020** with an LPA value of **87 cm**. Onset criteria: $\geq 60\%$ of 14 Kerala-Lakshadweep stations with ≥ 2.5 mm rainfall over 2 days + westerly winds at 600 hPa + OLR < 200 W/m². Below-normal forecast raises concerns for **kharif sowing (~50% of food production), hydropower (~47 GW installed), reservoir storage, rabi soil moisture, and rural inflation**. Key drivers: **ENSO (neutral to weak La Niña), IOD (weakly positive), MJO, Eurasian snow cover**. IMD was established in **1875** under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

7. MOUNT EVEREST — 73RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ASCENT

GS Paper 1 — Geography: **May 29, 2026** marks the **73rd anniversary** of the first successful Mount Everest summit by **Edmund Hillary (NZ)** and **Tenzing Norgay** (Indian-born Sherpa, Indian citizen) at **11:30 AM IST on May 29, 1953**. The British expedition was led by **Col. John Hunt**; the route was via the **South Col on the Nepal side**. Everest's official height is **8,848.86 m**, jointly revised by Nepal and China on **December 8, 2020**. Names: **Sagarmatha** (Nepali, "Forehead of the Sky"), **Chomolungma** (Tibetan, "Goddess Mother of the World"). First measured in **1856** by **Andrew Waugh** in the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India; named after **Sir George Everest** in **1865**. First Indian to summit: **Avtar Singh Cheema (May 20, 1965)**; first Indian woman: **Bachendri Pal (May 23, 1984)**. The Himalayan Mountaineering

Institute (HMI) Darjeeling was founded in **1954** with Tenzing Norgay as founding Director of Field Training. The HKH cryosphere — with **~54,000 glaciers** supporting **~1.6 billion** people — is losing mass **65% faster (2010-19) than the previous decade** (ICIMOD 2023).

BRIEF — OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

Kolkata to Host Main International Day of Yoga 2026 Event

GS Paper 1/2: Union MoS (I/C) Ayush **Prataprao Jadhav** announced at Yoga Mahotsav 2026 in **Khajuraho** (Western Group of Temples — UNESCO WHS) that **Kolkata, West Bengal** will host the main **11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026** on **June 21**. The 2026 theme is “**Yoga for Healthy Ageing**” — linking yoga to India’s demographic transition and **WHO’s Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030)**. IDY was adopted by **UNGA Resolution 69/131 (December 2014)** following PM Modi’s UNGA address in September 2014; observed annually on **June 21** (longest day in Northern Hemisphere) since **2015**. Nodal body: **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY)**, Ministry of Ayush.

Core Sector Output Grew 1.7% in April 2026 — Energy Drag

GS Paper 3 — Economy: The **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** grew at a subdued **1.7% YoY** in **April 2026**, with five of eight sectors contracting. Growth: **cement (+9.4%), steel (+6.2%), electricity (+4.1%)**. Contraction: **coal (-8.7%), fertilisers (-8.6%), natural gas (-4.3%), crude oil (-3.9%), refinery products (-0.5%)**. The ICI has a **combined weight of 40.27%** in the IIP. Released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, **DPIIT**. Eight sectors (by weight order): Refinery products, Electricity, Steel, Coal, Crude oil, Natural gas, Cement, Fertilisers. The print signals construction-led growth amid weakness in fossil-energy production.

Dhanendra Kumar — First CCI Chairman — Passes Away

GS Paper 2 — Polity: **Dhanendra Kumar**, the **first Chairman of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, died at AIIMS Trauma Centre after a fire — suspected to have been triggered by an AC blast — at his Hauz Khas Enclave residence in South Delhi. He was 80. A **1968-batch IAS officer** of the **Haryana cadre**, he had also served as India’s Executive Director at the World Bank before becoming CCI’s founding chairman in **2009**. CCI is a statutory body under the **Competition Act, 2002**, which replaced the **MRTP Commission**. Parent ministry: **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**. Latest major amendment: **Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023** — introduced settlement/commitment regime and deal-value threshold for M&A.

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National accounts methodology + base year revision	GS3	Foundational for all macroeconomic analysis
India's UN peacekeeping legacy	GS2/GS3	Soft-power, UNSC permanent seat claim
Semiconductor sovereignty — back-end packaging	GS3	Atmanirbhar Bharat in critical tech
AI in defence MRO	GS3	Force-multiplication via tech-academic fusion
FTO regime — unilateralism vs multilateralism	GS2	Sovereignty norms, Global South solidarity
Monsoon variability + climate change	GS1/GS3	Agriculture, water security, fiscal-monetary path
Himalayan cryosphere	GS1/GS3	South Asian water security frontier

Watch for IMD's June 1 monsoon advance update, Parliament's response to the FY26 GDP print, and any RBI commentary on the growth-inflation balance ahead of the June MPC.

Sources: PIB, The Hindu, Indian Express, IMD, UN Peacekeeping, US State Department

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