

INDIA-NETHERLANDS BILATERAL RELATIONS (MAY 2026)

1. STRATEGIC ELEVATION

- **Key Development:** During the Indian Prime Minister's visit to the Netherlands in May 2026, bilateral ties were officially elevated to a "**Strategic Partnership**" (for the period 2026-2030).
- **Core Philosophy:** The partnership is defined as "**Innovation meets Scale**" – combining the Netherlands' frontier technology ecosystem with India's massive scale of deployment.

2. ECONOMIC AND TRADE FACTSHEET

- **Trade Destination:** The Netherlands is one of India's largest trade destinations in Europe. Bilateral trade stood at **USD 27.8 billion** (2024-25).
- **Trade Surplus:** India enjoys a substantial trade surplus of **USD 17.393 billion** (approx. ₹144,095 crores) with the Netherlands.
- **FDI Inflows:** The Netherlands is the **4th largest investor** in India, with a cumulative FDI of **USD 55.6 billion**.
- **Corporate Footprint:** Over 300 Dutch companies operate in India, and over 300 Indian companies are established in the Netherlands.
- **Trade Bodies:** The Netherlands India Chamber of Commerce & Trade (NICCT) and the Indian Business Chamber (IBC) actively promote these economic ties.

3. DEFENCE & ADMINISTRATION

- **Customs Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement:** Signed to facilitate legitimate trade, reduce transaction costs and delays, and enhance information sharing for efficient customs enforcement.

4. SECTOR-WISE CORE OUTCOMES (17 KEY TAKEAWAYS)

A. TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING

- **Semiconductor Collaboration:** A landmark partnership was forged between India's **Tata Electronics** and the Dutch semiconductor giant **ASML** to support India's semiconductor fabrication facility in **Dholera, Gujarat** under the India Semiconductor Mission.
- **Critical Minerals:** Cooperation established to secure resilient supply chains for strategic minerals, boosting India's clean energy and advanced manufacturing sectors.

B. ENERGY TRANSITION

- **Roadmap on Green Hydrogen:** A joint initiative to accelerate the production, consumption, and export of green hydrogen as a clean energy source.
- **Joint Working Group (JWG) on Renewable Energy:** Established to foster industrial partnerships and knowledge exchange in green hydrogen, bioenergy, circular feedstocks, and battery storage.
- **Capacity Building:** Renewal of the Joint Statement of Intent between India's **NITI Aayog** and the Netherlands for deep knowledge sharing on sustainable energy transitions.

C. WATER MANAGEMENT & AGRICULTURE

- **Kalpasar Project (Gujarat):** India will leverage Dutch water-management expertise for this massive infrastructure project, which proposes a freshwater reservoir across the **Gulf of Khambhat** for tidal power, irrigation, and transport.
- **Floriculture (Flower Cultivation):** Establishment of an Indo-Dutch Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Flowers in **West Tripura** to boost regional rural livelihoods.
- **Dairy Training:** Setup of an Indo-Dutch Centre of Excellence in Training in Dairy at the Centre of Excellence for Animal Husbandry (CEAH) in **Bengaluru**.

D. EDUCATION, CULTURE & DIASPORA

- **Restitution of Chola Copper Plates:** The Netherlands returned 11th-century **Chola Copper Plates** (royal charters inscribed in Tamil and Sanskrit recording the grant of Anaimangalam village to a Buddhist Vihara in Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu) to India.
- **Academic Institutional Tie-ups:**
 - Partnership between **Nalanda University** (India) and the **University of Groningen** (Netherlands) for joint academic and research programs.
 - Collaboration between **Leiden University Libraries** and the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** for historical research on the Chola period and archival preservation.
- **Diaspora & Mobility:** Streamlining visa access for skilled professionals and students. (Note: The Netherlands hosts Europe's second-largest Indian diaspora after the UK, numbering around **240,000**, which includes 20,000 Hindustani-Surinami members).

E. HEALTHCARE

- **ICMR and RIVM Partnership:** Collaboration between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) to research infectious diseases, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), digital health, and climate-health impacts.

HIGH-YIELD POINTS FOR MCQS (QUICK REVISION)

1. **Strategic Partnership Timeline:** 2026–2030.
2. **ASML Origin:** Netherlands (Partnered with Tata Electronics for the Dholera semiconductor fab).
3. **Kalpasar Project Location:** Gujarat (Gulf of Khambhat).
4. **Indo-Dutch Dairy CoE Location:** Bengaluru (CEAH).
5. **Indo-Dutch Floriculture CoE Location:** West Tripura.
6. **Returned Artifact Inscription Details:** 11th-century Chola Copper Plates detailing the grant of Anaimangalam village.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA 2026 - COUNTDOWN PROGRAMME

1. CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

- **Key Development:** As part of the 32-day countdown to the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026, a specialized holistic wellness programme focusing on women's health was organized in Kerala.

- **Organizing Bodies:** Jointly conducted by the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY)** under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), Kalathipady.
- **Venue:** Kottayam, Kerala.

2. THEME & CORE FOCUS

- **Programme Module:** “Yoga for Menopause – A Holistic Wellness Module”
- **Objective:** To highlight the combined role of Yoga and Ayurveda in managing the physical, emotional, hormonal, and metabolic changes associated with menopause, thereby enhancing women's quality of life and stress reduction.

3. CORE OUTCOMES & CONCEPTS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

A. INTEGRATED HEALTH APPROACH

- **Holistic System:** The module seamlessly integrates classical yogic practices, pranayama, relaxation techniques, and mindfulness-based interventions with traditional Ayurvedic principles.
- **Therapeutic Benefits:** Focuses on balancing the nervous system, managing psychological stress, alleviating sleep disorders, and serving as a preventive and promotive health tool.

B. NOTEWORTHY YOGIC & PRANAYAMA PRACTICES

(Highly relevant for art & culture, traditional health systems, or general science sections)

- **Asanas (Postures) Introduced:**
 - Tadasana
 - Baddha Konasana
 - Balasana
 - Setu Bandhasana
 - Viparita Karani
 - Shavasana
- **Pranayama Techniques (Breathing Exercises):**
 - **Nadi Shodhana** and **Bhramari** (specifically emphasized for nervous system balance and mental well-being).

C. AYURVEDIC PERSPECTIVE ON MENOPAUSE

- **Core Diagnosis:** The programme addressed menopause through the lens of traditional Ayurveda, characterizing it as a phase of **Vata imbalance** and **Dhatu Kshaya** (tissue depletion).
- **Mitigation:** Emphasized specific supportive dietary and lifestyle modifications to counteract these structural changes in the female body.

HIGH-YIELD POINTS FOR MCQS (QUICK REVISION)

1. **Nodal Agency:** The Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) is an autonomous organization under the **Ministry of Ayush**.
2. **Event Location:** Kottayam, Kerala hosted this specific IDY 2026 countdown wellness module.
3. **Ayurvedic Terms:** *Vata imbalance* and *Dhatu kshaya* are the foundational concepts linked to menopause in Ayurvedic medicine.
4. **Classification:** Nadi Shodhana and Bhramari belong to the category of *Pranayama* (breath regulation), not Asanas.

INAUGURATION OF THE INDIAN WAR MEMORIAL IN SOUTH KOREA

1. CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

- **Key Development:** As part of the commemorative events marking the 75th anniversary of the Korean War, the **Indian War Memorial** was inaugurated at **Imjingak Park in Seoul**, the capital of South Korea.
- **Inaugurated By:** Jointly inaugurated by India's Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) **Shri Rajnath Singh** and the Republic of Korea's (RoK) Minister of Patriots & Veterans Affairs, **Mr. Kwon Oh-eul**.
- **Significance:** The memorial stands as a tribute to the unmatched bravery, ultimate sacrifice, and humanitarian services rendered by the Indian Army's **60 Para Field Ambulance** and the **Custodian Force of India (CFI)** during the war.
- **Historical Venue:** The memorial has been constructed in the exact location where the CFI had established '**HIND NAGAR**' in September 1954. This camp housed nearly 22,000 prisoners of war until their peaceful repatriation.

2. CORE CONCEPTS: HISTORICAL LINKAGE FOR MCQS

A. 60 PARA FIELD AMBULANCE

- **Commander:** This medical unit was commanded by **Lt Col (Dr) AG Rangaraj**, who was awarded the **Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)**.
- **Title Received:** Due to their exceptional medical service in treating thousands of wounded soldiers and civilians, they were affectionately given the title '**Maroon Angels**' by the local population and soldiers of RoK.
- **Note:** The Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs of South Korea has dedicated this entire month (May 2026) to honor Colonel Rangaraj.

B. CUSTODIAN FORCE OF INDIA (CFI) & NNRC

- **NNRC (Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission):** Established after the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement in 1953 to supervise and facilitate the humane repatriation and custody of prisoners of war.
- **Indian Leadership:** India chaired the NNRC under the distinguished leadership of **Lt Gen KS Thimayya**. His diplomatic acumen and professional execution of this sensitive task earned widespread international recognition.

3. BILATERAL RELATIONS & STRATEGIC COOPERATION

- **MoU Signed:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by both ministers aimed at cooperation for honoring Korean War veterans and strengthening bilateral cultural/military exchanges.

- **Special Strategic Partnership:** This shared history and mutual sacrifice serve as the core foundational bedrock for the modern India-Republic of Korea **Special Strategic Partnership**.
- **Conclusion of Visit:** With this inauguration ceremony, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh successfully concluded his four-day official tour to Vietnam and South Korea.

4. HIGH-YIELD POINTS (QUICK REVISION TABLE FOR MCQS)

Core Subject	Exam Fact
Where is the newly built Indian War Memorial located?	Imjingak Park, Seoul (South Korea)
Which Indian unit was known as the 'Maroon Angels'?	60 Para Field Ambulance
Who chaired the NNRC during the post-armistice phase?	Lt Gen KS Thimayya
What was the name of the camp established by India in 1954?	Hind Nagar (HIND NAGAR)
Who was the Maha Vir Chakra recipient commander of 60 Para?	Lt Col (Dr) AG Rangaraj

79TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (WHA): 'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN HEALTH' KEY HIGHLIGHTS

TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS, GOVERNANCE, AND SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (UPSC, SSC, BANKING, STATE PSCS)

1. CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

- **Key Event:** A special side event was organized as part of the **79th World Health Assembly (WHA)** held in Geneva.
- **Theme:** "Artificial Intelligence in Health: Laws, Ethical Oversight, Research and Equity."
- **Indian Representation:** Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda (J.P. Nadda)**, addressed the gathering.
- **India's Vision:** He emphasized that India believes not merely in "Artificial Intelligence," but in "**All-Inclusive Intelligence.**"

2. CORE CONCEPTS FOR EXAMS: DIGITAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE

A. SAHI (STRATEGY FOR AI IN HEALTHCARE FOR INDIA)

- **Launch:** Launched during the 'India AI Impact Summit' in **February 2026**.
- **Significance:** It is the **first comprehensive healthcare AI strategy** to emerge from the Global South (developing nations).
- **Objective:** To guide the adoption of AI in healthcare in an ethical, transparent, and people-centric manner.

B. BODH (BENCHMARKING OPEN DATA PLATFORM FOR HEALTH AI)

- **Definition:** An open data platform specifically designed for health AI.
- **Function mechanism:** It ensures that AI solutions deployed in India are tested and evaluated (benchmarked) against real-world domestic datasets.
- **Purpose:** Keeping in mind India's vast population of 1.4 billion and 22 official languages, its main objective is to ensure that AI performs safely and equitably for every citizen.

3. TIMELINE OF DIGITAL HEALTH IN INDIA

The following milestones are crucial for multiple-choice questions (MCQs):

- **2015:** Launch of the 'Digital India' initiative – establishing the technology foundation.
- **2017:** 'National Health Policy' – envisioned an integrated, inclusive, and interoperable digital health ecosystem.
- **2021:** Launch of the 'Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission' (ABDM) – enabling consent-based digital health data and health IDs.

4. HIGH-YIELD POINTS (QUICK REVISION TABLE FOR MCQS)

Core Subject	Exam Fact
Where was the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA) held?	Geneva, Switzerland
The SAHI strategy is related to which sector?	Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare
Which is the first health AI strategy from the Global South?	SAHI (Strategy for AI in Healthcare for India)

Core Subject	Exam Fact
Which Indian platform benchmarks the performance of health AI?	BODH (Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI)
In which year was India's National Health Policy launched?	2017

SAIL AND MDI GURGAON SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

TOPIC: GOVERNMENT POLICIES, AGREEMENTS, AND PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS (UPSC, SSC, BANKING, STATE PSCS)

1. CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

- **Key Event:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Management Training Institute (MTI) of Steel Authority of India Limited (**SAIL**) and the Management Development Institute (**MDI**), Gurgaon.
- **Venue:** The agreement was signed on May 20, 2026, at the SAIL Corporate Office in New Delhi.
- **Primary Objective:** To collaborate on "Executive Education Programmes" aimed at building future-ready leaders within SAIL.

2. CORE CONCEPTS FOR EXAMS: FRAMEWORK OF THE AGREEMENT

- **Partnership Approach:** This collaboration aims to combine academic knowledge with real-world application through tailored corporate interventions.
- **Key Components:**
 - Customized leadership programmes and learning modules driven by strategy and innovation for SAIL executives.
 - Action learning formats designed for measurable business impact.
 - Overseas learning programs to align organizational capabilities with global best practices.
 - Joint research initiatives, consulting assignments, and customized case studies.
- **Signatories:** The MoU was signed by Shri Sanjay Dhar, Executive Director (HR-L&D), MTI, SAIL and Prof. Sumita Rai, Dean-Industry Connect, MDI, Gurgaon.

3. BACKGROUND LINKAGE: STATIC GK PROFILE OF SAIL

Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are frequently targeted in competitive exams. Key structural facts include:

- **SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited):** It is a central public sector enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel, Government of India.
- **Status:** It holds the prestigious **Maharatna** status, giving it significant financial and operational autonomy.
- **Establishment:** Incorporated in 1954, it is one of the largest steel producers in India.
- **MTI (Management Training Institute):** Located in Ranchi (Jharkhand), it serves as the apex corporate training institute for SAIL.

4. HIGH-YIELD POINTS (QUICK REVISION TABLE FOR MCQS)

Core Subject	Exam Fact
With which institute did SAIL sign an MoU for Executive Education?	MDI, Gurgaon
Where is SAIL's apex Management Training Institute (MTI) located?	Ranchi, Jharkhand
SAIL functions under the administrative control of which Union Ministry?	Ministry of Steel
What tier classification status does SAIL hold among CPSEs?	Maharatna Company

FIT INDIA SUNDAYS ON CYCLE: 75TH MEGA EDITION (CWG SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS)

TOPIC: GOVERNMENT SCHEMES, SPORTS SECTOR, AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES (UPSC, SSC, BANKING, STATE PSCS)

1. CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

- **Key Development:** As part of the ongoing nationwide fitness drive, the highly prestigious **75th Mega Edition of 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle'** will be organized across the country on May 24, 2026.
- **Special Occasion:** This landmark edition is being celebrated as '**Commonwealth Games Day**'. It serves as a grand tribute to India's sporting future and the upcoming **2030 Commonwealth Games** in Ahmedabad.
- **Primary Venue:** Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, along with Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Shri Harsh Sanghvi, will lead the nationwide celebrations from the Sabarmati Riverfront in **Ahmedabad** (the host city for CWG 2030).
- **Ahmedabad Edition Theme:** "A New Icon for a Fitter India – Pedalling to 2030".

2. CORE CONCEPTS FOR EXAMS: KEY SPORTS DEVELOPMENTS

- **Significance of 2030 Commonwealth Games:** The 2030 Games in Ahmedabad hold massive historical importance as they will mark the **100th (Centenary) edition of the Commonwealth Games**. India successfully won the hosting rights for this historic event.
- **Sportspersons and Public Participation (Jan Bhagidari):**
 - The Ahmedabad flagship event will feature Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana alongside prominent athletes like Rajani Etimarpur, Gurjit Kaur, Sonika Tandi (Hockey), Ankur Mittal, Anjum Moudgil (Shooting), and Trupti Murgunde (Badminton) acting as torchbearers.
 - Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse will lead the celebrations in **Guwahati**, former wrestler Babita Phogat in **Dharamshala**, and former hockey star Saba Anjum (the inspiration behind the movie 'Chak De! India') in **Mumbai**.
- **Digital Youth Platform:** To drive grassroots engagement, the central government is leveraging the '**MY Bharat**' (**Mera Yuva Bharat**) platform, hosting national quiz competitions, reel-making contests, and torch design challenges.

3. BACKGROUND LINKAGE: EVOLUTION OF 'FIT INDIA SUNDAYS ON CYCLE'

The following operational milestones are vital for statement-based questions in competitive exams:

- **Launch:** Envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the broader Fit India Movement, this cycling initiative was launched on **December 17, 2024**.
- **Core Motto:** It anchors around the Prime Minister's popular fitness slogan, "**Fitness ka Dose, Aadha Ghanta Roz**" (A dose of fitness, half an hour daily).
- **Cumulative Impact:** Across its preceding 74 editions, the movement has scaled to over 3.07 lakh locations, mobilized more than 50 lakh cyclists, and engaged over 7 crore Indian citizens through ground-level and digital activities.

4. HIGH-YIELD POINTS (QUICK REVISION TABLE FOR MCQS)

Core Subject	Exam Fact
On which date is the 75th Edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle scheduled?	May 24, 2026
Which city is the host for the 100th (Centenary) Commonwealth Games in 2030?	Ahmedabad, India
In which month and year was 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle' launched?	December 2024



Core Subject	Exam Fact
Who is the current Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports?	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
Which portal is hosting the digital youth engagement activities for CWG 2030?	MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat)

