

RBI - STATE BANK OF VIETNAM MOU (MAY 2026)

Key Facts:

- **Signatory Institutions:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and State Bank of Vietnam (SBV).
- **Date of Signing:** May 5, 2026 (Signed with Union Cabinet approval; official press release on May 29, 2026).
- **Signatories:** Deputy Governor of RBI and Deputy Governor of SBV.

OBJECTIVE & SCOPE

- **Digital Payments & Financial Innovation:** To strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of financial innovation and digital payments between the two nations.
- **Cross-Border Payment Linkage:** To develop payment system connectivity to enable cross-border, **QR Code-based merchant payments** between India and Vietnam.
- **Information Sharing:** Exchange of information on emerging market trends, standards, best practices in digital payments, regulatory frameworks, and technological innovations.

SIGNIFICANCE FROM AN EXAM PERSPECTIVE

1. SIMPLIFICATION OF CROSS-BORDER TRANSACTIONS:

- It will make cross-border transactions between the two countries **real-time**, transparent (upfront display of charges), convenient, and cost-efficient.
- It establishes a mechanism for cooperation in fast payment systems, messaging systems, and card switches.

2. BOOST TO FINTECH & TRADE:

- This initiative will help position India as a major global **Fintech Hub**.
- It will facilitate **Trade and Tourism** between the two countries, providing greater export opportunities for Indian businesses.

Potential Exam Questions (Sample Pattern):

1. In May 2026, the RBI signed an MoU with which country's central bank to link QR code-based cross-border merchant payments? (Answer: Vietnam - State Bank of Vietnam)
2. What is the primary objective of the recent India-Vietnam financial agreement? (Answer: To promote cooperation in financial innovation and establish cross-border digital payment connectivity)

COMMON LANDING PORTAL FOR UNCLAIMED FINANCIAL ASSETS (MAY 2026)

Key Facts:

- **Launching Authority:** Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- **Launch Date:** May 29, 2026.
- **Launched By:** Shri M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS).
- **Development Partner:** Developed in collaboration with **PSB Alliance**.
- **Official Website:** <https://www.unclaimedassetsportal.in>

OBJECTIVE & SCOPE

- **Unified Platform:** To provide citizens with a single, centralized online platform to search and trace unclaimed financial assets across the entire financial ecosystem.
- **Assets Covered:**
 1. Unclaimed Bank Deposits
 2. Insurance Claims
 3. Shares and Dividends
 4. Mutual Funds

ASSOCIATED CAMPAIGN

- This portal is a core initiative driving the nationwide campaign named “आपकी पूँजी, आपका अधिकार” (Your Money, Your Right).
- **Goal:** Driven by the DFS in coordination with financial sector regulators, banks, and stakeholders to facilitate public awareness, tracking, and the restitution (return) of unclaimed financial assets to their rightful owners.

SIGNIFICANCE FROM AN EXAM PERSPECTIVE

1. FINANCIAL INCLUSION & TRUST:

- By aggregating multiple search facilities into a single gateway, it significantly enhances citizen convenience, financial transparency, and public trust in the financial system.

2. ALIGNMENT WITH VIKSIT BHARAT 2047:

- The initiative promotes greater financial empowerment and inclusion, contributing directly to the government's long-term vision of a developed nation by 2047 ("Viksit Bharat 2047").

Potential Exam Questions (Sample Pattern):

1. Which department under the Ministry of Finance launched the Common Landing Portal for Unclaimed Financial Assets in May 2026? (Answer: Department of Financial Services - DFS)
2. The “आपकी पूँजी, आपका अधिकार” (Your Money, Your Right) campaign is aimed at which of the following? (Answer: Tracing and restitution of unclaimed financial assets like deposits, insurance, and shares)
3. The recently launched unclaimed assets portal was developed by DFS in collaboration with which entity? (Answer: PSB Alliance)

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2026 – NEW INITIATIVES

Key Facts:

- **Occasion:** World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) 2026.
- **Launching Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India.
- **Launched By:** Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary.

- **Event Venue:** Kartavya Bhawan, New Delhi (May 29, 2026).

1. TOFEI DIGITAL APPLICATION (PILOT PROJECT)

- **Full Form:** Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI) Application.
- **Nodal Programme:** Launched under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP).
- **Primary Objective:** To digitally strengthen the implementation, compliance, and monitoring of tobacco-free norms across schools and colleges in the country.
- **Key Functions of the App:**
 - Facilitating self-assessment and compliance reporting by educational institutions.
 - Monitoring the prohibition of the sale of tobacco products within a **100-yard radius** of educational institutions.
 - Ensuring mandatory implementation of tobacco control signage (warning boards) on campuses.
- **Pilot States:** In the initial phase, the application is being launched on a trial basis across **3 states**:
 1. Rajasthan
 2. Meghalaya
 3. Maharashtra

2. RELEASE OF SOP FOR TOBACCO PRODUCT SAMPLE COLLECTION

- **SOP (Standard Operating Procedure):** The Ministry released a comprehensive standard operating procedure manual for collecting tobacco product samples.
- **Objective:** To strengthen surveillance, enforcement of tobacco control laws, regulatory compliance, and quality assurance.
- **Mechanism:** It provides standardized and reliable protocols for the collection, handling, storage, transportation, and documentation of tobacco product samples across implementing agencies.

3. WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2026 THEME

- **Official WHO Theme:** "Unmasking the Appeal – Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction".
- **Focus Area:** Countering the predatory marketing tactics employed by tobacco industries (such as appealing flavors, trendy packaging, and digital/social media promotion) designed specifically to attract youth.

VALUE ADDITION FOR EXAMS (IMPORTANT CONTEXT)

- **Health Impact:** Tobacco use is a major driver of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like cancers, cardiovascular diseases, strokes, and chronic respiratory illnesses, which account for a major portion of mortality and disability in India.
- **Support Infrastructure:** Over **2,000 Tobacco Cessation Centres** have been established across India in district hospitals, medical/dental colleges, AYUSH institutions, and NCD clinics to assist individuals trying to quit.

Potential Exam Questions (Sample Pattern):

1. **What is the primary objective of the 'ToFEI' application launched by the Union Health Ministry in May 2026?** (Answer: To digitally monitor and enforce tobacco-free compliance norms in educational institutions)

2. **The Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI) app has been rolled out as a pilot project in which three Indian states?** (Answer: Rajasthan, Meghalaya, and Maharashtra)
3. **According to tobacco control guidelines, the sale of tobacco products is strictly prohibited within how many yards of an educational campus?** (Answer: 100 yards)
4. **What is the global theme for World No Tobacco Day 2026?** (Answer: Unmasking the Appeal – Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction)

IIMC LAUNCHES 'AI ACADEMY' FOR MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT (MAY 2026)

Key Facts:

- **Launching Institution:** Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi.
- **Academy Name:** AI Academy for Media and Entertainment (**AIME Academy**).
- **Inaugurated By:** Shri Chanchal Kumar (Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting).
- **Dignitaries Present:** Dr. Pragya Paliwal Gaur (Vice Chancellor, IIMC) and Dr. Manish Gupta (Senior Director, Google DeepMind India).
- **Venue:** IIMC Campus, New Delhi (May 29, 2026).

OBJECTIVE & THE FIVE-PILLAR FRAMEWORK

- **Primary Objective:** To pivot from traditional media training toward future-ready capabilities by strengthening AI-driven media education, research, and capacity building in the Indian media and entertainment sector.
- **The 5-Pillar Framework of AIME Academy:**
 1. Capacity Building
 2. Research
 3. Innovation and Incubation
 4. Responsible AI Policy Development
 5. Strategic Collaboration
- **Significance:** Developing India-specific regional language AI modules and ensuring that Indian realities – such as multilingual communication, public service broadcasting, rural audiences, and democratic diversity – are represented in the global AI discourse.

AI SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME

The graduation ceremony of a 10-week hybrid AI Skills Training Programme was celebrated alongside the academy's launch.

- **Partnership:** Conducted by IIMC in partnership with the **Google News Initiative** and with training support from *How India Lives*.
- **Participating Institutions:** Professionals from Doordarshan, Akashvani (All India Radio), Press Information Bureau (PIB), Publications Division, and various private newsrooms.
- **Google AI Tools Covered:** NotebookLM, Gemini, AI Studio, and Pinpoint.
- **Key Statistics:** Over 110 professionals representing 10+ languages across 23 cities were trained, resulting in 170+ AI-powered projects and 50+ vibe coding applications.

SIGNIFICANCE FROM AN EXAM PERSPECTIVE

1. CORE DIRECTIVES BY THE I&B SECRETARY:

- AI must be leveraged as an assistant, not as a substitute for editorial responsibility. While it enhances speed and creativity, human judgment, accuracy, and authenticity must remain central.

2. ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL VISION:

- This initiative anchors directly into the Prime Minister's national direction of 'Make AI in India' and 'Make AI Work for India'.

Potential Exam Questions (Sample Pattern):

- Which premier institute launched the 'AIME Academy' in May 2026 to build future-ready AI capabilities in the media sector? (Answer: Indian Institute of Mass Communication - IIMC)
- The 10-week AI Skills Training Programme concluded at IIMC was supported by the news initiative of which global tech company? (Answer: Google - Google News Initiative)
- What is the central theme/motto driving India's national approach to AI readiness as highlighted by the Ministry of I&B? (Answer: 'Make AI in India' and 'Make AI Work for India')

REGIONAL WORKSHOP 'SEVA SE SAMRIDDHI' (MAY 2026)

Key Facts:

- Organizing Ministry:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India.
- Collaborating Partners:** Common Services Centre Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV) and the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development, Government of Assam.
- Workshop Theme:** *Seva Se Samriddhi: Panchayat-led Service Delivery.*
- Chaired By:** Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel (Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj).
- Venue:** Guwahati, Assam (May 29, 2026).
- Participating States (7):** Assam (Host State), Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, and Rajasthan.

CORE OBJECTIVES & FOCUS AREAS

- Primary Objective:** To improve doorstep service delivery and strengthen the 'Ease of Living' in rural India through empowered and responsive Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision:** To deepen the convergence between digital platforms (like CSCs) and local governance (Gram Panchayats) to establish effective hubs for public service delivery.
- Data Accuracy Enablers:** Emphasized the critical need to improve data accuracy across Aadhaar, bank accounts, and land records to prevent any eligible beneficiaries from missing out on transformative schemes like PM-Kisan.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS (GRASSROOTS EXCELLENCE)

The workshop felicitated outstanding Gram Panchayats and Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) for pioneering digital governance:

1. EXEMPLARY GRAM PANCHAYATS:

- **Suakati Gram Panchayat (Kendujhar District, Odisha):** Winner of the *Jury Award at the National e-Governance Awards 2025* for pioneering digital service delivery. It successfully digitized essential citizen services via the *OdishaOne* and *Seva Odisha* platforms.
- **Shivareddygudem Gram Panchayat (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, Telangana):** Recognized among the top-performing Gram Panchayats at the *National e-Governance Awards 2025* for building a highly transparent, citizen-centric, and tech-enabled model.

2. CHAMPION VILLAGE LEVEL ENTREPRENEURS (VLES):

Honored for their exceptional contributions to last-mile digital service delivery at the village level:

- Smt. Girija Nath (Assam)
- Smt. Sumitra Das (Odisha)
- Shri Amandeep Singh (Punjab)
- Smt. Surta Devi Saini (Rajasthan)

KEY STATE-LED SERVICE DELIVERY PLATFORMS DISCUSSED

As part of cross-state peer learning, the workshop highlighted flagship single-window delivery portals across various states:

- **e-Mitra** - Rajasthan
- **e-Sewa** - Punjab
- **Lok Seva Guarantee Portal** - Madhya Pradesh
- **Panchayat Secretariat** - Andhra Pradesh
- **Mee Seva** - Telangana
- **OdishaOne** - Odisha

TECHNICAL SESSIONS & GOVERNANCE TOOLS

- **New Award Category:** A dedicated category for *Gram Panchayat Service Delivery Innovations* has been officially introduced under the National e-Governance Awards to incentivize technological initiatives at the grassroots.
- **BHASHINI Portal:** Shri Amitabh Nag (CEO, BHASHINI) presented on the theme "*Language as Infrastructure*", showcasing how multilingual digital tools can break down barriers and deliver inclusive last-mile governance.

Potential Exam Questions (Sample Pattern):

1. **Where did the Ministry of Panchayati Raj organize the regional workshop titled 'Seva Se Samridhi' in May 2026?** (Answer: Guwahati, Assam)
2. **Which Gram Panchayat from Odisha won the Jury Award at the National e-Governance Awards 2025 for its digital delivery via the OdishaOne platform?** (Answer: Suakati Gram Panchayat, Kendujhar District)

3. **What is the primary role of the 'BHASHINI' infrastructure in rural digital governance as discussed at the MoPR workshop?** (Answer: Overcoming language barriers by acting as a multilingual digital platform to ensure accessible and inclusive governance)
4. **Which new category has been introduced under the National e-Governance Awards to recognize rural local body achievements?** (Answer: Gram Panchayat Service Delivery Innovations)

FUTURE OF INDIA'S SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY ROADMAP (MAY 2026)

Key Facts:

- **Roadmap Title:** "Future of India's Semiconductor Industry".
- **Released By:** **Frontier Tech Hub** of NITI Aayog.
- **Unveiled By:** Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman (Union Minister of Finance) and Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister for Electronics & IT).
- **Timeframe:** A comprehensive 10-year strategic blueprint (2026 - 2035).
- **Target:** To build a **USD 120-150 billion** semiconductor value chain in India by 2035.

THE 5 MUTUALLY REINFORCING PILLARS

The roadmap is anchored on five strategic pillars to deepen India's semiconductor ecosystem:

1. **Pioneering Frontier R&D and Design IP:** Aiming to create more than 100 advanced semiconductor design Intellectual Properties (IPs).
2. **Policy and Investment:** Mobilizing long-horizon capital to sustain the capital-intensive industry.
3. **Production:** Focusing heavily on advanced packaging, OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test), and compound semiconductors.
4. **People:** Developing talent across the entire semiconductor skills pyramid to ensure a future-ready workforce.
5. **Partnerships:** Building strategic collaborations with trusted nations and global industry leaders.

STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE FOR EXAMS

- **Ecosystem Shift:** Marks India's transition from a major chip consumer/market to an indispensable global node in the semiconductor value chain, reducing high import dependence.
- **Alignment with ISM 2.0:** Directly reinforces the priorities of the **India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 (ISM 2.0)** announced in the Union Budget 2026, where '**Chip Design**' has been designated as the top priority.
- **National Vision:** Acts as a foundational layer for technological sovereignty and strategic autonomy, directly driving the mandate of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

ABOUT NITI FRONTIER TECH HUB

- **Nature:** Established as an '**Action Tank**' for Viksit Bharat.
- **Objective:** To anticipate emerging mega-technology shifts and shape India's preparedness to harness frontier technologies for economic growth, societal outcomes, and strategic resilience.

Potential Exam Questions (Sample Pattern):

1. **Which organ of NITI Aayog released the 10-year roadmap titled "Future of India's Semiconductor Industry" in May 2026?** (Answer: Frontier Tech Hub)
2. **What is the target valuation set by NITI Aayog for India's semiconductor value chain to reach by the year 2035?** (Answer: USD 120–150 billion)
3. **Under the India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 (ISM 2.0) highlighted in the roadmap, which segment is designated as the number one priority?** (Answer: Semiconductor/Chip Design)
4. **What are the specific advanced manufacturing segments focused on in the production pillar of the newly released NITI Aayog roadmap?** (Answer: Advanced packaging, OSAT, compound semiconductors, and wide-bandgap materials)

Exam
Champs